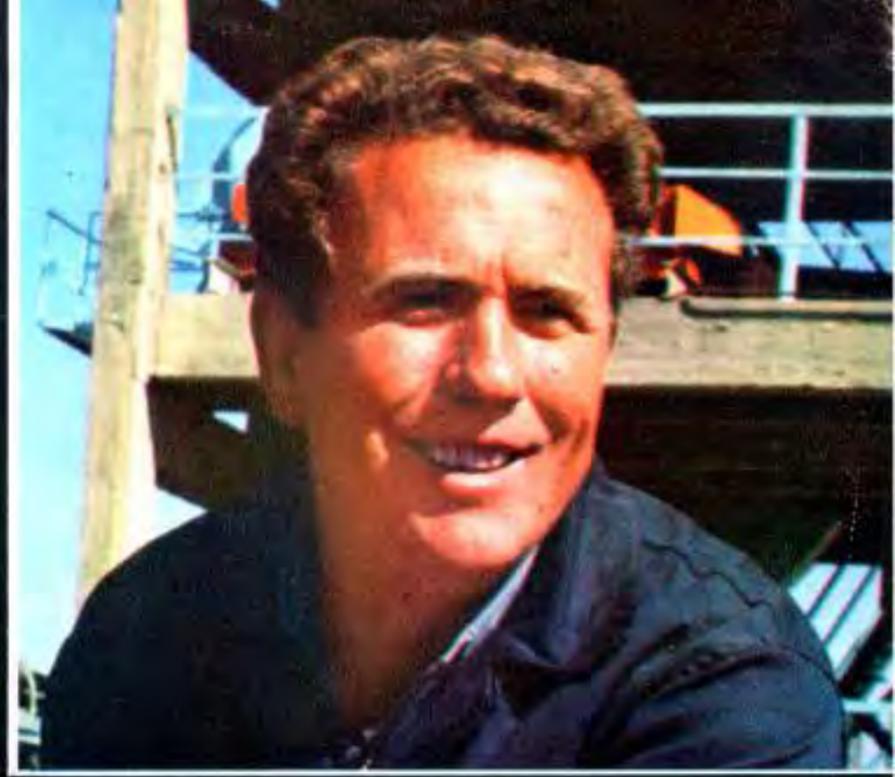


**For Protecting and Strengthening
The Health of the People**



Travelling in the Future



A Resting House at Dherm



**The School
and
Production**

**Dexterous
Hands**



NEW ALBANIA

1972

№ 1

YEAR XXVI

NEW ALBANIA

YEAR XXVI

1, 1972

Back cover: View of the town of Kruja
photo by R. Veseli

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“NEW ALBANIA”

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TRAVELLING IN THE FUTURE

Work has begun on the building of the Black Metallurgical Plant in the City of Elbasan in Central Albania. This industrial complex is one of the major industrial projects that will be set up in our country in the course of the 5th Five-Year Plan.

How will the city of the metallurgists look like? Writer Behxhet Cerma imagines the Metallurgical Works completed and takes the reader four or five-years ahead.

... Viewing the city from the terrace of the ten-storeyed building of the Tourist Hotel, one gets a clear picture of the contrast between the new and the old worlds. A few years ago, next to a shabby old building hardly standing on its feet, new foundations were being laid, bulldozers rumbled along levelling the ground before this big hotel which has already been completed and filled to the brim with visitors from the outlying districts and from abroad. Around it has now been created the center of the new socialist city with a whole ensemble of cultural and administrative institutions and a large plot of verdure of 5,000 square meters planted to varieties of rare ornamental bushes and trees.

Green patches embellish also the new city quarters, the principal boulevards, playgrounds, precincts of moving picture theaters and clubs. The new 33-meter wide avenue stretches from the center to the southernmost part of the city. How befitting is this verdure to the industrial environment of Elbasan, what colour and light it casts on the new features of my home town! The shades of the old "Bezistani" plane tree which used to fall over the old market-place of handicrafts has now become an extinct legend. The lull of the time of indolence and despondency has yielded its place to the song of hot metal, the ding-dong of bells and the whistle of locomotives as they roll along pulling wagons loaded with ferro-nickel ore mined at Prenjas or coke from coal mines which are unloaded inside the Metallurgical Plant where they are loaded with millions of tons of finished products every year. From the nearly 1 km-long pile the mineral, coke and other raw materials are taken to the furnace.

Loud speakers are on and everybody's astir.

The limestone mined on the Metaj Mountain is hauled in wagons run by steel cables down to the lime kiln near the Bessemer converter. Further away stands a whole complex of other auxiliary buildings as well as the most powerful electric substation of the country fed directly by the high-tension cables of power and hydro-power stations. What a lot of power is consumed by this colossus! Nearly thrice as much as our whole country consumed in 1968 or 200 times as much as during the pre-liberation period.

Passing through the plant one cannot help feel the pulse of the smelting factory. Its gigantic furnaces are capable of smelting 800,000,00 tons of mineral a year. But what attracts one most is the enthusiasm and creative genius of the workers who are hard at work to continually increase production by raising work productivity and by setting up new lines of production of turning out steel products. The apparatus, including the electronic apparatus, function accurately speedily and in complete harmony, directing the various technological processes. The steel prepared at the converter or in electric furnaces which serves as a half-finished product is passed to the various factories where they are turned to thin and semi-thin sheets, tubes, etc. The technological processes of these large factories are of a perfection. Boys and girls operate the commandeering apparatus in which everything is made of glass, porcelain or plastic material. They watch carefully the parameters on the switchboard, follow the visual and acoustic signals and make corrections. These are our young engineers and technicians. A young woman pushes a button. At once the metal-

heating furnace opens its jaws of fire and spits out the red forms of the metal dazzling like the particles of the sun which run at lightning speed from one set of machinery to another. This is a battle in itself. The metallurgists, shrouded in their typical apparel and equipment stand on the forefront of this battle. The country demands iron and steel. And they exert their efforts to cope with fire and metal and win the battle. The metal and the machines are under their orders. Many of them, having come from the other metallurgical plants of the country, have long been accustomed to the hot billows of furnaces others, the younger ones who have just come from their institutes of learning direct also the pulse of these machines with equal dexterity.

From one factory to another one feels the deep and ever more intensive enthusiasm of work. Passing through the various factories of the combine one can not help being attracted by the skilful way the workers operate these huge presses and soldering machines. They turn out various types of steel in addition to galvanized, black or anti-acid sheet metal.

At the combine, one is struck also by the complex of the main machine tool making plant with its huge and most up-to-date metal milling and cutting machines and lathes, turning out details and spare parts mainly for our steel works.

A whole complex of stately buildings are used for administrative, social and cultural purposes as dining houses, public baths, moving picture theaters, clinics and polyambulances, the Institute of Scientific Research, public library and others. Shifts of metallurgists come and go. Whole groups of



Fitter Kimet Gjyli, one of the veterans at the work site of the future combine.



excursionists visit the large hall where the various products of this combine are exhibited. A group of ciceroni help these visitors to get acquainted with the history of the steel works, with the life of the workers and their heroism. This combine which stretches over an area of nearly 200 hectares and which employs thousands of workers and specialists, serves the rapid development of our economy. As regards the complexity of its mechanized process of work and the products it turns out, this combine stands out as one of the up-to-date ones of its kind. In details and spare parts, the machine tool mak-

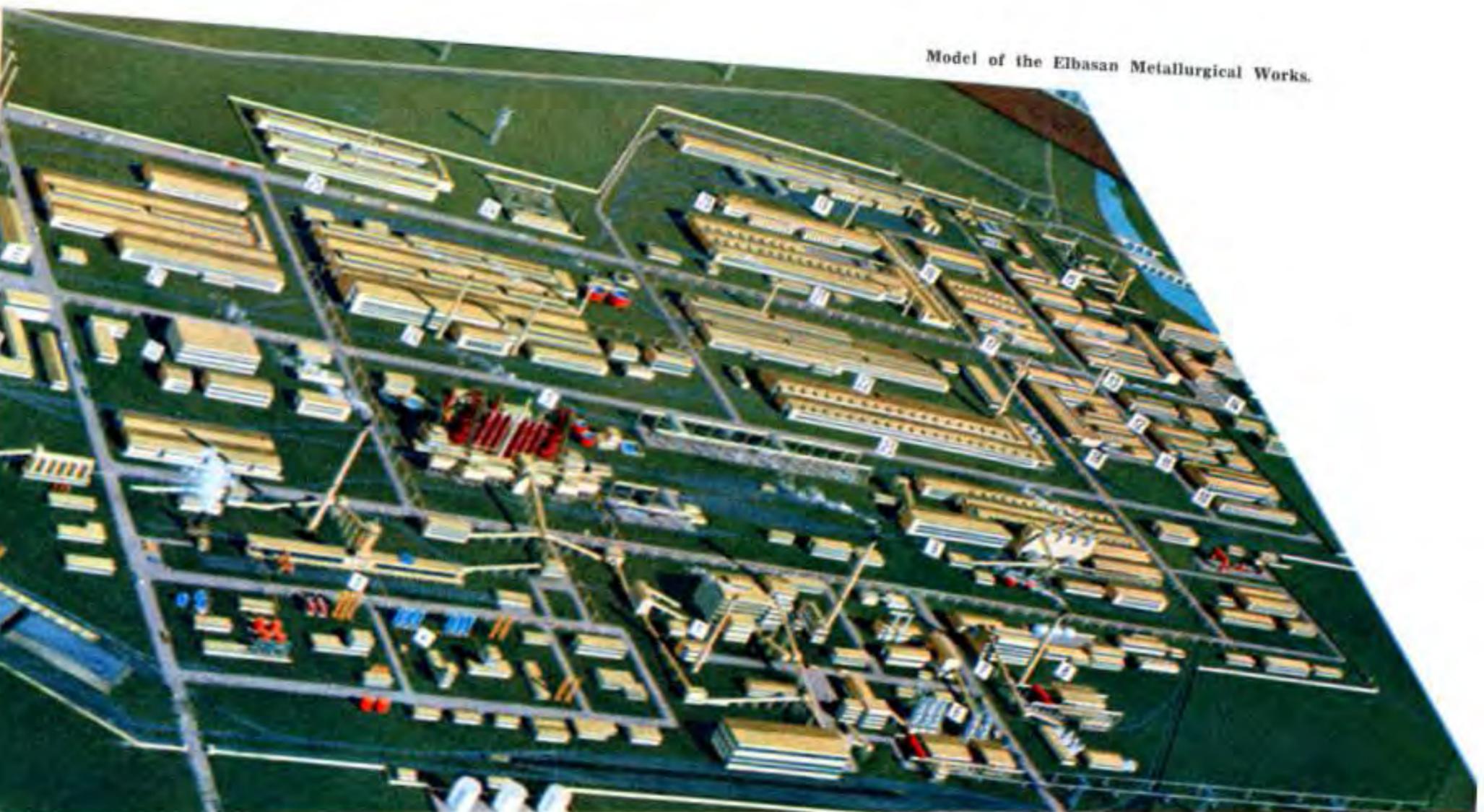
ing plant alone turns out more than the whole machine tool making industry of the country turned out in 1966.

Its warehouse with its loading and unloading docks is the largest one in the country. Hundreds of signals, traffic signs and sirens direct the locomotives and motor vehicles which hurry to be loaded and then roll along to various destinations in the country and at dawn, the lambent flames of heated metal fall on our new Elbasan. And in this fantastic light one discerns the silhouettes of our men, the metallurgists of socialist Albania.



Work has begun on setting up the complex of buildings.

Photo by S. Xhillari



Model of the Elbasan Metallurgical Works.

For Protecting And Strengthening The Health of the People

Prof. Llambi Ziqishti —
Minister of Health

The fundamental principles of our health service are a clear expression of the correct and far-sighted policy pursued by the Party of Labour of Albania who, as Comrade Enver Hoxha has pointed out, "looks upon the care for the protection and strengthening the health of the people as an integral part of its policy for the uplift of the people's material welfare".

In the process of work for the protection of the health of the people prophylactic is comes to the fore as a means for preventing the occurrence and spreading of the diseases. In the conditions of a socialist state, prophylaxis means to carry into effect the ideas of socialist humanism together with the requirements of the fundamental economic law of socialism which stipulates the ensurance of the ever increasing material and cultural needs of the society. Prophylaxis and particularly hygiene as an indispensable part of it, go to show the social aspect of our health service. They aim at taking the necessary measures that will



Often, it is necessary to employ urgent means of communication in order to come to the aid of patients, particularly in remote mountain regions. In such cases, helicopters are placed at the disposal of the patients and physicians.

Photo by S. Zhara

enable our men to enjoy good health and live a long and active life.

The orientation of our people's health service along these lines i.e. putting prophylaxis to the fore is a logical result of the dialectical-materialistic scientific understanding of the mutual links and the independence existing between man's body and the environment; this means to accept the decisive role played by the social conditions in strengthening the health of the people.

The prophylactic measures we have been taking, such as the care shown for the mother and the child, the labour protection laws, the mass-scale construction of dwelling-houses and social-cultural amenities, the mechanization of work in industry and agriculture etc. have all contributed to the raising of the people's well-being. One of the significant indexes of the dynamics of this process is the average span of life in our country. It is now 68 years instead of 66 years it was in 1965 or 38 years in 1938.

Diseases like malaria, syphilis, thuracoma etc. that in the past took a heavy toll of the population, have now been finally swept out.

The struggle for a strict hygiene across the country, especially in the countryside has been a long protracted struggle which started immediately after the people's power was established. During the recent years, it has been particularly extended and made more effective. The last Five-Year Plan (1966-1970) marked a very important stage in this respect. Very strict precaution measures were taken to prevent many catching diseases which in the past broke out in the form of epidemics. With the work done for the prevention of the catching diseases by discovering their causes and doing away with their centres, their index, but for some isolated sporadic cases, has been perceptibly reduced more often to a range from 3 to 20 times.

A big success has been made in the fight for the extermination of the small-pox epi-



demics. By carrying out a mass vaccination, at the beginning of the epidemics about 900,000 people were prevented from catching the diseases.

The good results achieved so far in this sector of health service comprise an important mainstay on which to base our future work. Sanitary propaganda by further livening the work of the medical cadres and by using better and more effective means will make possible that norms of hygiene and of a cultured way of life enter in every family, production centre, school and everywhere. The material base, technical and laboratory equipment will be expanded for the sanitary anti-epidemics centres so as to turn them into real scientific calls of prophylactic medicine.

In collaboration with the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology they will make further more profound studies on many professional diseases so as to properly define other necessary measures to be taken for health protection while at work.

During the previous Five-Year Plan, the number of health institutions grew considerably. There were built and put under exploitation many new health institutions like the Research Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, the clinical hospital of infectious diseases, the Institute of Oncology, the Pediatric Hospital in Durrës and Shkodra, the policlinic-hospital in Saranda, Erseka, Pogradec, etc. Special attention has been paid to the health of the mother and child by increasing the number of maternity houses and wards. According, about 3,000 midwives were trained for the needs of the countryside. A series of measures were taken in order to ease the burden of women and facilitate their participation in work. By the end of 1970, 55,000 children went to nurseries of them 30,000 were countryside children. The figure is five times more than that of 1965.

Important achievements were also made in the training of medical cadres. The target set by the 5th Party Congress to have one physician for each 1,200 people was fully reached. At present our medical faculty graduates annually two and a half as many doctors as the whole of Albania had in 1938. In the years of the 5th Five-Year Plan the number of doctors will grow by 58 per cent i.e. there will be one doctor for each 750 people. A good job has also been done for raising the ideo-professional and scientific level of the medical cadres. Consequently the quality of medical aid in all its specialities. Our curing and prophylactic institutions have been equipped with the most up-to-date diagnostic and therapeutic apparatus. New profiles have been established in many aspects of health service both in the grown up and little ones wards.

Today we perform surgical operations of the most complicated kinds such as those on the heart, on the nerve system etc. Big progress has been made in the field of reanimation as well as in the development of nuclear medicine etc.





Health service in the Countryside.
Photo by S. Xhillari

Different studies made in the realm of medicine speak of the constant growing maturity of our medical workers and cadres, of the development of creative thought in our medical science. The contribution and experience of our men of science have found their expression in many symposiums and scientific conferences. They have been reflected in a series of written works such as textbooks, monographs, articles etc., some of which due to their great use and significance have been awarded the prize of the Republic.

Besides this an important place is occupied by foreign literature and materials which are regularly made use of and help our medical workers in their formation and qualification. For this purpose many cadres go through qualification courses, get specialized training abroad, or attend congresses and other scientific activities.

During the years of the current Five-Year Plan (the 5th Five Year-Plan) the network of health institutions will witness a further growth. The number of beds in 1975 will reach the figure 10.4 beds per 1,000 people as against 6.9 beds per 1,000 people that was the figure in 1970. A particularly big change is going to take place in the countryside. Each agricultural cooperative will have its health service center, an ambulance, maternity ward, consulting ward for mothers and children, a dentist's cabinet and a pharmacy.

During this Five-Year Plan special attention will be paid to the extension and perfection of the mobile medical service and of the laboratory work so as to create better conditions for the treatment of a greater number of patients at home. This measure will reduce the number of those hospitalized unnecessarily and will also shorten the average hospitalization period.

Now specialized sectors will be set up in the central medical institutions. There will be established concentrated service of urgent medical surgical cases equipped with the modern technique of reanimation and intensive therapeutics, nuclear medicine, burn surgery, transplantation surgery etc.

The stomatologic service is being extended both to town and country. The prophylactic measures against dental cariousity especially among children of young and school age are being organized better.

In the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the fund of investment will increase by 78 per cent, 50 per cent of this fund has been assigned to technical equipment for improving the state of the existing institutions especially of the new health institutions in the country.

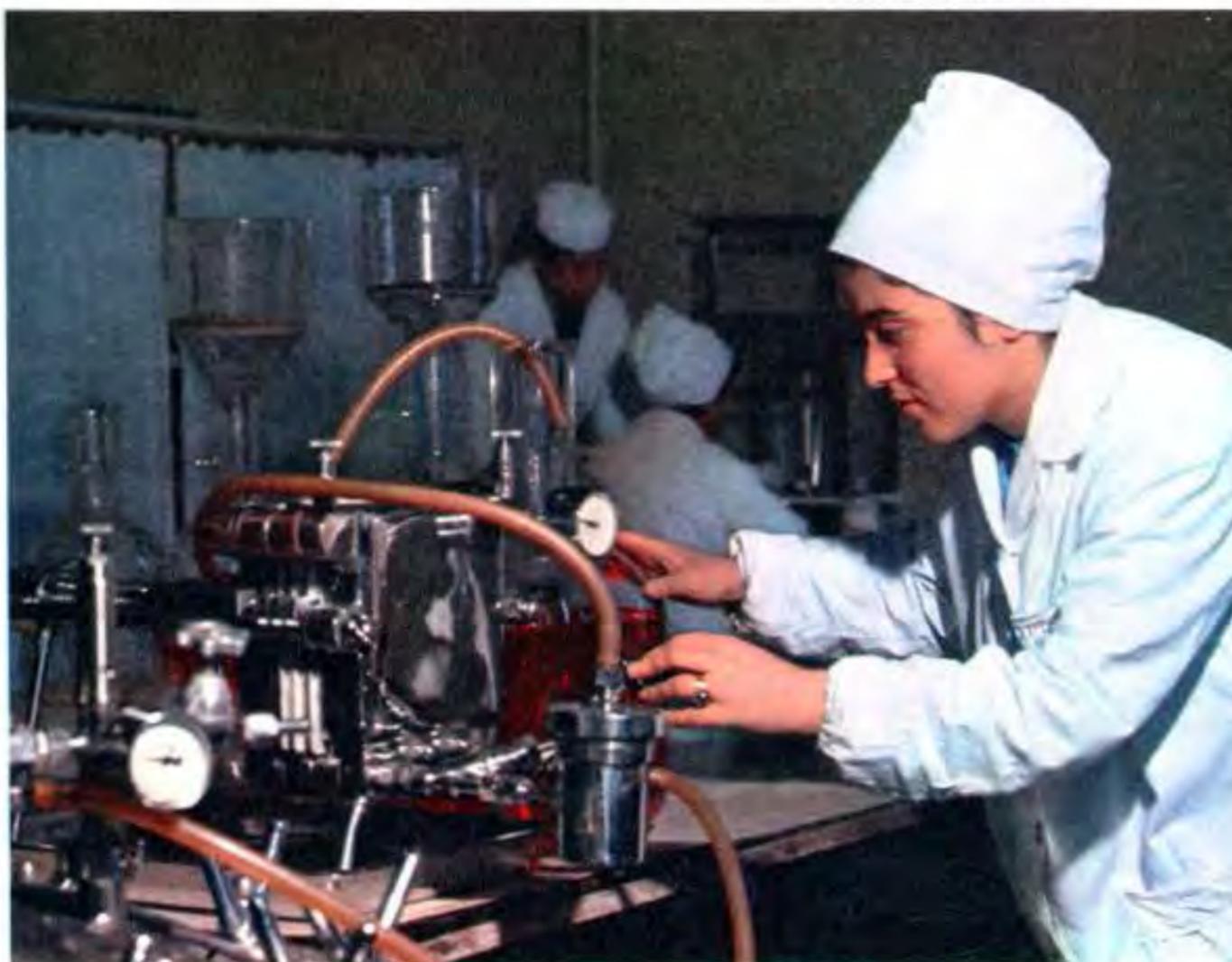
Among the new important objects to be built during these years, mention may be made of the urgent cases hospital, the clinical internal diseases hospital in Tirana, the hospitals and polyclinics in Peshkopi, Kukës, Vlorë, Skrapari, Permeti; the pediatrics hospitals and wards in Korça, Fieri; the maternity house hospital in Mirdita, Librazhd, Tropoja, the psychiatric settlement in Durrës etc.

The problems having to do with the further improvement of the mothers and children's health will occupy a dominant position in the activity of our health service organs. It has been envisaged during the current Five-Year Plan to have pediatrics wards in about medical centres of the agricultural cooperatives. The number of beds in the nurseries will reach the figure of 94,000 in 1975 as against 55,000 beds in 1970. Here also the increase will be mainly in the countryside.



The state industrial enterprise of pharmaceutical products meets the greater part of the needs of the country for medicaments.

The Tirana Radiological Plant, specialized in turning out medical apparatus, has recently begun producing new apparatus in order to supply with them the hospitals and ambulances of the country. Photo by S. Xhillari





The establishment of the Pediatrics Research Work Institute will undoubtedly play an important role in further carrying out the studies on the proper upbringing of children and the studies connected with their health protection.

Great are the prospects opened up before the sector of the pharmaceutical products. One of the major projects in this direction will be the construction of the anti-biotic factory.

Research work will also assume larger proportions. Our research workers of the medical faculty together with those of other research institutes, clinics, experimental centres and laboratories will set grater store by the solution of those theoretical and practical problems that preoccupy today our health service such as the professional diseases, dystrophy and reachitis among children, cardiovascular diseases etc.

Our medical workers are conscious of the heavy tasks lying ahead, but they know that their fulfilment will bring about great changes in the achievements for protecting the health of the people.

From Experimental

— During the period of the 5th Five-Year Plan, the State will spend considerable funds in order to extend and improve the quality of public health service. These funds will be about 78% larger than those spent during the preceding five-year period. More than 50% of these funds will be used for up-to-date apparatus and equipments for public health institutions particularly for the newly set up institutions in the countryside.



Surgical Operations on the Heart

A number of medical problems are now being tackled at our public health institutions. In the Tirana Hospitals Nr. 1 & 2, these important problems have passed from the stage of clinical-statistical and experimental studies to the stage of practical clinical operations.

Recently, a difficult surgical operation on the heart was successfully made by a new hypodermic method. This bold initiative of the team of surgeons headed by the renown Petrit Gaçe was the result of persevering study and experimental work to master the modern scientific method. The success is due to many successful experiments carried out before.

The main objective of these experiments carried out on animals (about 30 such experiments) was that, by applying the method of operation through hypodermic injections and extra-corporal circulation of the blood, to succeed in curing many inherited and acquired heart diseases which were not operated in our country before.

And only when the surgeons became fully convinced that they had completely mastered the new method, did they take the bold initiative to apply it on man.

The success achieved by our surgeons was not casual but the result of the persistent work of a big team of clinical workers, the result of the perfect organization and coordination of the work of all the specialists. In their conversation and on every occasion, our clinical workers express their deep gratitude for the help given to them by the Chinese specialists who have come to the clinic.

In the future, too, the collective of this clinic will continue their experimentations to master new

①

① A village drugstore.

② A seminary for public health servicemen in the remote mountain regions of the country.

②



— In 1975 the number of public health institutions will be 70-72 per cent higher than in 1970.

About 12 major hospitals will be set up in towns and in the countryside.

— By the end of the 5th five-year period we will be having 104 beds for every 10,000 inhabitants as against 69 in 1970.

— The 6th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania laid special emphasis on the task of extending public health service in the countryside.



①

to Clinical Operations

methods and to apply the methods of transplantation of the heart.

The Return of Hearing

Otosclerosis is a disease attacking the ear and affecting the sense of hearing leading gradually to complete deafness. This problem which, even in big and technically advanced country has only been tackled a few years ago, has now been taken up by Dr. Anesti Bocka. This devoted specialist has been working at the laboratory for a number of years now. He has always enjoyed the support and aid of the personnel of the clinic, in particular of their chief, Dr. Spaso Trimceev, his colleague, Dr. Adnan Këlliç, of the colleagues of the pathological service of the hospital as well as of those who prepared the necessary instruments which were used in the laboratory and in the clinic.

After nearly a hundred experiments in the laboratory, the conclusion was reached that a surgical operation could be made on the patient. Dr. Anesti Bocka and his collaborators undertook also a demonstrative experiment in the presence of the collective of physicians.

The first successful operation was made on a young worker who had almost lost his sense of hearing. When still on the operation table the patient felt the return of his sense of hearing. Young worker Omer Malka's joy was shared also by Dr. Anesti Bocka. The worker can now hear again the sounds of life. And this success resounds among other patients suffering from this disease. This operation paves the way to the solution of many other problems connected with the function of the ear, to the development of the micro-surgery on the ear.

— The new equipment producing plant which will be set up during the years of the 5th Five-Year Plan will turn out a series of medical apparatus and instruments, complex radiological apparatus, E.K.G. apparatus.

— At present, in our country there are produced a wide range of vaccines against contagious diseases like those against small pox, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, mumps, the B.C.G. vaccine. Vaccines against grippe and influenza will soon be produced in our country.

②

① Mothers come to their rural physicians.

② What does the microscope show?



New Social- Cultural Constructions



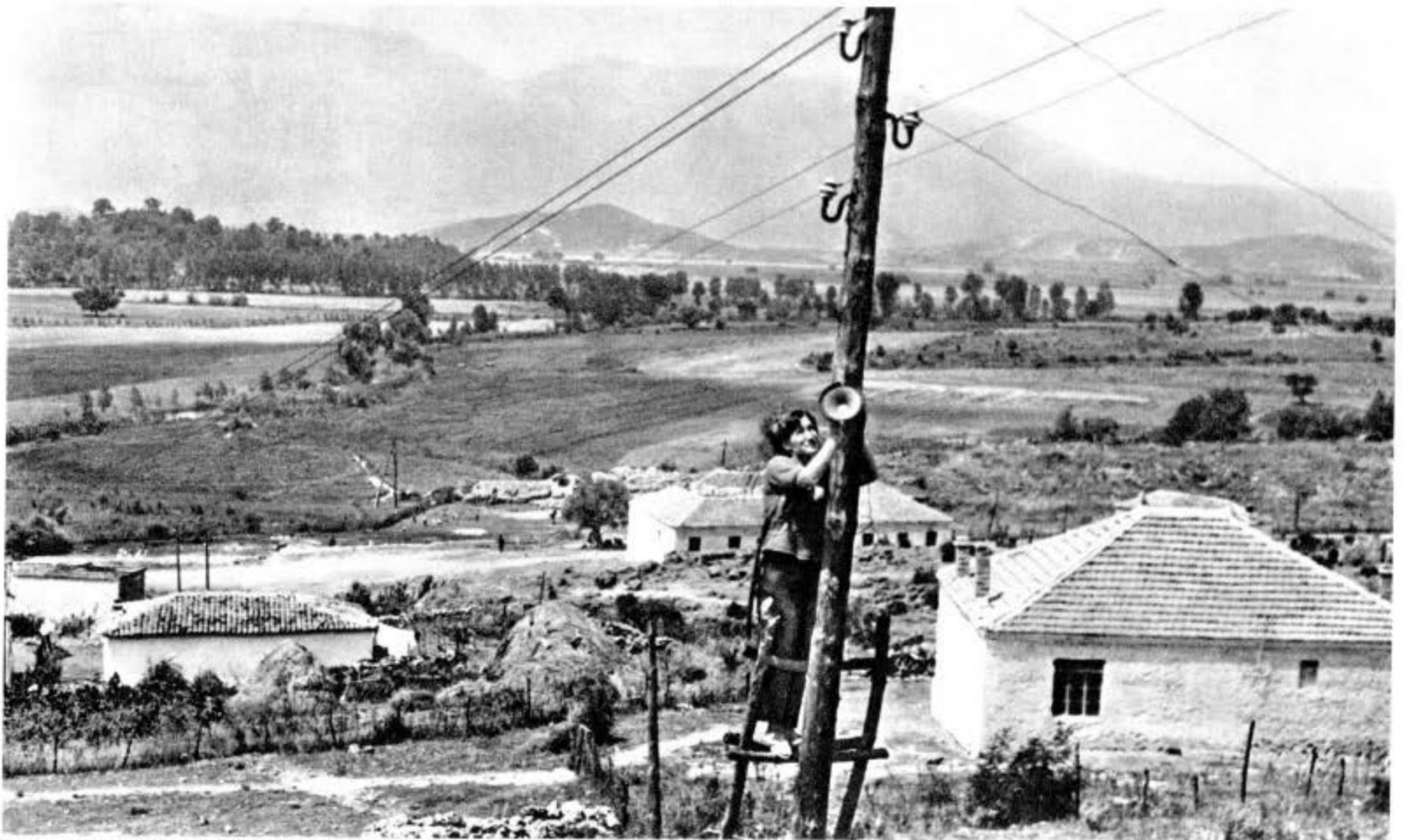
This new club house is built in the village of Borsh in Southern Albania.



Workers resting house at Dhermi by the Himara seaside.



The Cultural Home at the "Ylli i Kuoq" Village of the Lezha District in Northern Albania.
Photo by R. Veseli



State Aid for the Electric Reticulation Of Our Rural Areas

— On October 21 last year our press organs published the decision taken by the Party Central Committee and Government to write off the credits accorded to the agricultural cooperatives for the complete electric reticulation of the rural areas of our country.

In connection with this important decision for the further development of our countryside, the editor of our magazine talked with the Assistant Director of the General Directorate of Municipal Economy, Engineer Pavlo Azdurian who said:

Taking electricity to our countryside and to the remotest of its dwelling places opened up brilliant possibilities and prospects for a more rapid development of our agricultural economy, for raising the standard of living and the general welfare of the cooperative members.

For carrying out this major action of the electric reticulation of our rural areas, the State placed at the disposal of our cooperative peasants considerable material and financial means and accorded large credits to them. This credit amounted to 130,000,000 leks.

In less than three years electricity was brought to 1,759 villages.

The electric reticulation of these villages involved the installation of 6,423 km of high-tension cables, 14,151 km of low-tension cables, the construction of 1,995 transformation cabins, about 100 hydro-power and Diesel stations as well as 17 electric substations.

In addition to the major state investments and the material base for electrification, the State accorded to the cooperative peasants a bank credit of 130,000,000 leks in order to create facilities for agricultural cooperatives. By special decree the State wrote off this credit to the peasants. Thus, the State met

about 80% of all the funds this major action of the electric reticulation of the countryside required.

At present (more than one year after electrification) the peasants use electricity not only for lighting purposes but also for mechanizing a number of processes of work as in flour mills, incubators, mechanical shucking and milking devices and in hotbeds.

At the same time, the introduction of electric power in the countryside has stepped up the production of handicraft articles which go to meeting the needs of the agricultural cooperatives for agricultural tools etc.

Radio and TV sets which have been penetrating peasant homes in an ever increasing number have helped raise the ideological and political level of the workers and invigorate cultural life in the countryside, narrowing down the essential differences between urban and rural centers.

Availabilities for the use of electric power are continually increasing and, as a consequence, the consumption of electric power by the rural areas has also increased. In 1971, the consumption of electric power by the peasantry has been 30% higher than in 1970. During 1972 the Albanian countryside will consume 6 times as much electric power as that consumed by the whole country of

Albania in 1939.

In July 1971, the price of electric current used for productive purposes was reduced by 60%. This measure of major economic value steps up the technical-scientific and cultural revolution in the countryside, bringing about a radical turning point in increasing production by the agricultural economies and saving manpower.

Through its municipal organs, the State handles the administration, utilization, keeping the 6-10 kw high tension cables and transformation cabins which supply electricity to the rural areas.

Service points on the basis of zones have been set up for villages away from industrial centers and towns. The distribution of electric current and the upkeep of the network of low-tension cables for the rural centers is supervised by the village electrician. As to furnishing remounts to electric lines supplying the villages with electric power, the State invests large sums for their reconstruction. It's worth pointing out that the reconstruction of high and low tension cables is done by a wide use of centrifugally pressed posts.

With such an organization it is possible to upkeep and utilize the cables and cabins well and to supply the country regularly with electric power.



The Electric reticulation of the Albanian rural areas brings not only light but also the radio and TV sets, washing machines and many other devices which go to making the living conditions of the peasants more cultured and richer.



Luciano Menegatti On Albania

The Italian reader has got in his hands two first volumes of the book "Socialist Albania" written by Luciano Menegatti. In the first volume the author gives an historic and political panorama of Albania, and in the second one he presents some of Comrade Enver Hoxha's main speeches.

Menegatti presents himself through these volumes on Albania, as a scrupulous, realistic and objective researcher and student, as a revolutionary militant who thinks that the presentation of socialist Albania to the readers is needful.

Menegatti has set himself the task of introducing the experience of the Albanian working class and of the Party of Labour to the public opinion of his own country and of the other countries letting known not only how the revolution is gained but how it also can be defended and advanced as well.

On the present conditions, when the imperialist bourgeoisie has sharpened the point of its sword to degenerate communism and the revolution more than ever, at a time when the modern revisionists have distorted Marxism-Leninism and plunged into the bog of social-imperialism, Menegatti puts forth his positive opinion about the Albanian revolutionary experience, as well as his objective appreciation.

Though in the first volume, viewing it from historical and political angle, the author does not seem to delve deeply in crucial problems, he makes a clear analysis which is characterized by a correct interpretation of the revolutionary, Marxist-Leninist line of the Party of Labour of Albania.

A deeper study and analysis of some of the crucial problems of the socialist revolution and transformations in Albania, the author will make in his third volume which will be out soon.

The author has got an agile style and a concise thought. He writes in such a way that you find something new in every page. That reader who knows nothing of Socialist Albania will find in Menegatti's volumes a true and attractive presentation of this country. He who knows a little will find a broad horizon and a successful attempt on Menegatti's part to go deep into Albanian questions. But that is not all. Menegatti has done such a generalization that, through the Albanian experience he throws light on many sharp, crucial and current problems of the present workers world movement.

The National Name by Which the Albanians Have Been Known

Prof. Eqrem Cabej

The Albanians are one of the few peoples of Europe, if not of the other continents as well, who are known by two national names, one for internal use, that is, the name by which they call themselves, and the other by which they are known in the outside world. Just as the German calls himself *Deutsch* but is known as *Allemand* by the French and German by the English, just as the Hungarian calls himself *Magyar* but is known by others by his former name too and, in Asia, the Armenian has long been known by this name while he himself calls the member of his people *Hay* (plural, *Haikh*), so does the Albanian call himself *Shqiptar* and his own country *Shqipëri-Shqipni* while, he, has long been known as *Albanais*, *Albanese* etc. and his country as *Albanie*, *Albania*. This twofold appellation has its own reasons. It is connected with certain circumstances of an ethnographic nature, typical of Albania and its historical past.

Proceeding from facts, it is noticed first and foremost, that, while in Albania itself the national name prevailing today is *Shqiptar* and that of the country *Shqipëri-Shqipni*, these names are unknown to the Albanian settlers in Italy and Greece. The Albanian settlers in Southern Italy and Sicily, descendants of the early emigrants from Albania, mainly during the first wars they waged under George Gastriot, alias, Scanderbeg's colours in the XV and XVIth centuries and who continue to preserve the language of their forefathers to this day in nearly 50 communities, call themselves and, in general, the people of their motherland *Arbëresh* and this their former homeland, *Arbër-Arbër*. These names are used today also by the descendants of those Albanians who had migrated somewhat earlier, during the XIV and XVth centuries, from Albania to Greece who do not use the name prevailing in Albania today either but use *Arbëresh* for "Albanian", *Arbërishte* for the "Albanian language", *Arbërishte* for Albanian, in the Albanian language *Turkisht e Arbërisht* "Turkish and Albanian". These data are a clear indication that the present name of *Shqiptar*, *Shqipëri Shqipni*, had not yet appeared during Scanderbeg's time or, at least, had not become widespread and this, in any case, is of more recent origin than the first. This implies that the old national name of our country and people has been *Arbën*, *Arbër*, *Arbënes*, *Arbëresh*. And since this name, as noticed at first sight, is identical with the above-mentioned *Albania*, *Albanese* etc. it follows that the Albanians in the Middle Ages had called themselves by the same name that they are now called by other peoples.

This ethnographic view finds its confirmation and substantiation in former and more recent data collected in Albania and in evidence given by the languages of the neighbouring peoples of the Albanians as well as in the names of Albania and the Albanians in various European documents of the Middle Ages.

Thus, as far back as the latter half of the last century, the old name of the country has been preserved not only in the Albanian colonies abroad but also in Albania itself. A tract of lowland in the western part of Central Albania, extending from Kurbini to the Tirana and Durrës Plain, that is, the plain between the Mati and Erzeni Rivers, is called *Arbën* to this very day and the phrase *mal e arbën* is used by the people there to designate "mountain and plain". A village to the west of the Shkodra Lake is called *Arbënes* and *Arbënes* a name by which are known the Albanian settlers who had migrated during the first half of the XVIIIth century from the surroundings of the above-mentioned village. *Arbanë* is the name of a village in the vicinity of Tirana. *Prroji i Arbanës* (The Arbans Creek) is in the locality of the ruins of Zgërdhesh in the vicinity of Kruja. On the other hand, in the southern part of the country, *Arbër* and *Arbëri* are the names of various mountain regions of Labëria between the cities of Vlora, Gjirokastra and Delvina, and *Arbëresh* and *Arbëror* are called the people living there. In other regions of Albania, the same name in various forms (*Arbën*, *Arbër*, *Arbënes*, *Arbëresh*, *Arbnuer*, *Arbëror*) is in use by the people in an ethnic sense to distinguish the Albanian from the Wallachian or from the member of any other Balkan peoples. As can be seen, though in the course of time, the old name has been superseded by the new name of *Shqiptar* and *Shqipëri*, it has nevertheless survived to this day in various regions of the country. That it has been in use on a national scale throughout the territory of the Albanian languages is confirmed 'inter alia' also in folk songs like "*Dalën zotat arbëreshe*" (The Arbëreshi Ladies. . .) in the Kosova Region. On the other hand, historical documents of the country substantiate this view also as concerns the past. In the literary monuments in archaic Albanian of the XVI and XVIIth centuries, the country is normally referred to as "*Arbënë*" the people as "*Arbënes*, *Arbëruer* and their language as *Arbënisht*".

These internal sources connected with the national name of Albania and its people correspond to the external source, to the evidence of the languages of other peoples of the Balkan Peninsula. This name exists also there, having been radiated in the course of time from Albania to those peoples. In the Serbo-Croatian folklore, the Albanian is called *Arbanas*, in the medieval documents of that language *Arbanasin*. Among the Bulgarian people he is called *Arbananu*, in archaic Rumanian he is called *Arbanas* while among the Wallachians of Albania and Macedonia, *Arbines*, *Arbinezi*, all of them reflecting the Albanian *Arbënes* and its variants. Following up the historical documents of the Middle Ages, in documents written in Latin of the western countries of the period prior to the dynasty of the D'Anjou who maintained political relations with certain regions of Albania, the Albanians were

called *Arbaneuses* and later, *Albaneuses* and their country, *Albania* just as today.

Summing up these internal and external evidences, it results that the early national name of the Albanian people and of their country is *Arben*, *Arbër* in all its variations and that this name has prevailed in Albania up to the early centuries of Ottoman domination. Meanwhile, the roots of this name lie as far back as the times of antiquity. It is known that, in his world map published during the second century of the new era, astronomer and geographer Claudius Ptolemaeus of Alexandria in Egypt marks the name of an *Albanoi* tribe with its *Albanopolis* city in the region of Central Albania, approximately between the present Durrës and Dibra and east of Lezha. The Albanian, *Arbën*, *Arbër* originate from this word, another proof that the Albanians are native to the territory they occupy today having a continuity, a conformity of language at least as far back as the times of antiquity. From *Arbën*, as already mentioned, in the final analysis the name of Albania and the Albanians has spread to the other peoples of the Balkan Peninsula and of the other parts of Europe. On the basis of the joint evidences of Ptolemaeus, of mediaeval document of various countries and of its spread among the people of present-day Albania, historically this name has belonged to a region and population of a region of present-day Albania, having then emerged as a national name for the whole country prior to the time of Scanderbeg.

As regards the name *Shqiptar*, *Shqipëri*, *Shqipni*, it turns out, as argued above, that they were introduced as names of the people and of their country during the time of Ottoman occupation following the emigration of the Albanians to Greece and to Italy. Its adoption as a national name replacing the old one, is probably linked with the ethnical and social movements of the people during the Middle Ages and in the early period of Ottoman occupation, with local migrations, with the formation of new tribes at that historical period, except that tangible motives for such substitutions cannot be traced. Only one thing can be said that most likely the word *Shqip* has originally referred to the language. As such, it may have been used at the early times parallel with *Arbën*, *Arbër* as an ethnic name and may have later designated also the name of the people and of the country.

In the oldest writing in Albanian known so far are those of Gjon Buzuku (1555) in which we find both *ndë Arbanit* for "in Albania" and *shqip* for "in Albanian"; likewise in Pjetër Budi's writings (1621) we find *shqip të na e thotë* and in Pjetër Bogdani's (1684), *nji gramatikë latin e shqip* (= A Grammar in Latin and Albanian). The ethnical use of this name dates as far back as about 1700 because in the minutes of the Provincial Council in 1706, in addition to *Arbëni* (Albania) and *i Arbëneshi* (the Albanians), we find also *gjuhë e Shqipëtarëve*

(the language of the Albanians). The idea that the name *Shqiptar* (Albanian) may have existed in Northern Albania as far back as the XIV century and that it may be identical to the family name *Schipudar*, *Schepudar*, *Schapudar*, *Scapudar* of an inhabitant of the city of Drishti in the Shkodra District which is mentioned during the period of 1368-1402 in the archives of the city of Ragusa, remains a hypothesis which deserves further study.

Finally, as to the origin of the two names *Arbën* and *Shqip* it must be borne in mind that many historically known names of people, old and new, remain with an unknown meaning and origin. An essential preliminary condition in this field of research work is to find the stem of the name concerned. As far as the old national name of the Albanians is concerned one can say with certainty that of two of its forms, *Arb* and *Alb*, the former is the accurate one as the local evidences and those of the people of the Balkans have it. Thus, looking for the root *Alb* in what is pretended to be from "mal" (mountain) and comparing it with the typical names of *Alba* in Italy and other regions, with the name of Alps, etc. has no solid basis.

As concerns the name *Shqip*, *Shqiptar*, *Shqipëri-Shqipni* with its derivatives *Shqipëllorj*, "spjegorj", *sqarorj* in popular usage, its origin is doubtful. The idea that it may have sprung from the word *Eagle*, and that the Albanians have their name from this bird from the time of Scanderbeg and, linking this with Plutarch's assertion that after the victory he had scored in his battle with the Macedonians, Pyrrhus was crowned with the epithet "Eagle" seems unlikely to be able to resist criticism if we look into the forms of these two names. As a matter of fact, the word *Shqip* used by the old Albanian writers written in this form, is distinct from the name of this bird which they usually write *Shqype*, which goes to show that these are two different names. Equally unconvincing is the relation of this word to *cipi* (*haystacl*) implying an earlier meaning of "the multitude, the people". Doubtful are also the other interpretations of this name as "cave dwellers, mountaineers" and as "snipers" from the new Greek word *Skippetto(n)* "rifle" (from the Italian *schioppetto*) a word which is first used in Greek during the VI-XVII centuries. Finally, unconvincing is also the explanation of the word *shqip* by the Latin word *excipio*, for the Latin word does not mean "I understand" as it has been interpreted but "I take, I put aside, I exclude, I accept". Thus, in winding up, the origin of the word *Shqip* remains an open question.



Njazi spends most of his leisure time in company with children.



Hero of Socialist Labour, Njazi Ago, at work.

Man of the Light

Man's life is not measured by years. You may traverse a short way but might have a great life.

Such is the life of the man about whom we are writing in the following. His name is Njazi Ago. He is an assembly worker.

— You will become a good electrician! — Tuk Hasa an experienced master had said to Njazi.

Then, Njazi was only fourteen years old. His father had just died. This shocking blow made the young man take life very seriously. He had his mother and younger brothers to look after.

Thus he set to work as an electrician, abandoning the field where he used to play.

His neighbour, an engineer of electricity instilled in him the love for the profession. Albania had just come out of the war and had entered into the second year of the liberation.

The engineer told him about the great perspective of this branch in our country.

Thus, Njazi set to work seriously. You could say that this young man was brought up and matured in a few months. The encouraging words of the experienced master became not only an instigation but also a refrain in his life. Even today, after 25 years, they sound as such. How powerful a good word is, encouraging it is!

One year later he was promoted to the category. He was no longer an apprentice, but an electrician.

Tirana was exhausted from the war. She was full of wounds: buildings and streets ruined, electric cabins half destroyed. Besides this, Njazi's home town had inherited the darkness — One would meet with the dark in every living quarter, in every path. Only the houses of the rich were lit before liberation. To the poor, the electric light was a luxury, for the installation was too expensive to be afforded. But times had changed for the better when Njazi started work: Electricity had to be sent to every house. A very low price was set for its installation.

You would see Njazi Ago from one roof to another. . . . He would start working early in the morning and finish at late hours of the evening.

— Here is the man of the light! people said at Njazi's appearance. And the young man felt undescribably happy that he and the light had become synonyms. At present, Njazi is happy of the progress of Tirana. Today, one living quarter alone consumes

much more electricity than the whole of the city of those years. In 1969 Njazi started the marathon of the light throughout Albania. He made his first stop at "Lenin" Hydro-Power-Station in the vicinity of Tirana.

The past had left over only a few generators. To the electrician this spring was a great test.

You could find Njazi everywhere.

The high tension poles, copper wires substations and hydro-power stations became passages of Njazi's life. When talking with him, it seems as if we unfold the pages of an album about the march of Albania. From the roofs of houses, from the smallest power-stations we pass to the timber combine of Elbasan, to the electric substations of Cerrik, of Stalin City, of Marinëz, of Shkozë, of Lac, of Shijak, to the pump stations of Fieri and Mamurras, to the Copper Enriching Factory of Kurbesh, to the works of our chemical industry, to the "Karl Marks" Hydropower Station and elsewhere. It's just recently that he has returned from the "Mao Tsetung" Hydropower Station of "Vau i Dejës". You can find Njazi's traces everywhere he has worked as an assembly worker.

You can find there, where he has worked real masters trained by him. He has shed his sweat, leaving very good memory in his fellow workers.

All these constitute the life of this man.

We found Njazi Ago at home. It is not easy to find him indoors. This time he expected visits by his fellows who came to congratulate him on a great event in his life: he was granted the high title "Hero of Socialist Labour".

He was with his mother, wife and two children, Mirëllinda and Adhurim. He sat next to his daughter who was preparing her lessons. She is one of the best pupils of the second year of the elementary school.

He never says a word about his own life. For 25 years he has been working hard at various works. He is a simple and good-natured man. He has worked at so many works that he can hardly remember.

But, the future is more important to him. The Fifth Live-Year Plan is full of gigantic works never experienced in the history of our country. "A part of these works — Njazi says — is my concern". He does not mind the difficulties and the great distance.

At the age of forty he is prepared to write even more brilliant pages about his life.

This year, the Albanian scholars have extended their field of research work to the archives of the Socialist Republic of Rumania.

From this point of view Rumania provides special interest. The Rumanian archives and libraries are of interest both because of their long standing existence as well as their rich documentary and bibliographical materials.

Not only that, but being one of the earliest countries to secede from the Ottoman Empire and form its own autonomous and subsequently independent country, Rumania turned into an important center to absorb a good part of the emigrants of the Balkan peoples who were still writhing under the Ottoman yoke.

Especially during the XIX century, a large number of Albanians migrated for economic and political reasons to Rumania. This went a long way to increasing the contacts of our two peoples and strengthening their ties of friendship. The Albanian settlers in Rumania did not only secure their means of subsistence and help their parents in their motherland but found favourable conditions to work to benefit their enslaved homeland.

It was in Rumania that one of our veteran men of the period of national revival, Naum Veqilharxhi, lived and worked, that the first primers of the Albanian language were printed, that patriotic societies were founded, that school books, newspapers, magazines etc., were published in the Albanian language?

From a perusal of the catalogues of documents in Turkish and Greek and of the documentary materials in the central historical archives in Bucharest as well as from a passing view of the regional archives at Braila, Brasov and Constanta, it turns out that the materials of the Rumanian archives contain important documents on the history of our people during the period of Ottoman domination, in general, and on the Albanian National Revival, in particular.

During this year, we consulted and utilized mainly the materials referring to our National Revival. They enrich the documentary fund of this period of historical importance throwing light on a number of problems of this period as: the activity of the Albanian colony in Bucharest, particularly, of the Albanian "Drita" Society led by Nicola Naçe; the political trends and orientations in the ranks of this society; the favourable attitude of the Rumanian Government towards the patriotic movement of the Albanian emigrants; the relations of the Albanian colony with the various Rumanian political and scientific personalities, etc.

Of the materials we consulted of greater interest were those con-



Facsimile of one of the documents.

Albanian Scholars Have Access To Rumanian Archives

Prof. Hysni Myzyri

Of the State University of Tirana

nected with the "Drita" Society, of the Royal Court, of the Ministry of Public Instruction, etc.

In addition to studies conducted at the archives, we worked also at the Library of the Rumanian Academy, especially in the sector of manuscripts and of the Albanian press organs appearing in Rumania.

In the sector of manuscripts we found new and interesting materials though in a lesser volume. They enlarge our knowledge on the activity of our men of the National Revival, especially, of Nicola Naçe who had established contacts and exchanged correspondence with many Rumanian personalities like V.A. Urechie, D.A. Sturza, Ion Gjika and others.

In the sector of manuscripts we found two works written in Greek by Teodor Kavalioti, teacher at the Voskopoja Academy during the XVIII century, one on Logic and the other on Physics.

This library contains almost all the Albanian press organs published in Rumania during the period of our National Revival. Thus, we consulted the "Drita" Newspaper published at Braila in 1887 and "Albanezul" (The Albanian) published in Bucharest during the 1895-1896 period, which we had known only by name since they were not found in Albania. This library contained also all the issues of the "Shipëtari" published without interruption in Bucharest during the 1888-1903 period, the "Shqipëria" Newspaper published during the 1898-1899 period, "La Renaissance Albanaise" of the year 1903, "Schkëndia" of the 1936-1938 period, etc.

In addition to carrying on research work in the Rumanian Archives and libraries, the Albanian scholars came in contact with Rumanian scholars of various scientific institutions in Bucharest. The talks our scholars had with them on many problems of the history of our two peoples especially, during the Ottoman domination were another positive aspect of our work there.

Of course, what we did this year is only the beginning of the research work in the archives and libraries in the Socialist Republic of Rumania. The work begun in finding and studying the documents related with the period of our National Revival must be continued and specialized through to the end; it should comprise also the period before and after our National Revival; it must be continued at the Central Historical Archives in Bucharest, at the regional archives, at the other archives in Bucharest and at the Rumanian libraries, so that the history of our people may be enriched, the contacts, the ties of friendship of our people with the other neighbouring people may be better studied.

ALBANIAN PAINTING IN THE 19TH CENTURY

By Dhora Dhamo — Art historian

During the Renaissance Albanian painting was raised for the first time to the level of an original secular art. The painters of that period courageously seized on the new themes suggested by the reality and the national patriotic feelings, rejecting every medieval restriction.

Contact with life and the progressive ideas of the time became the main source of the birth of realism in our painting. A secondary source was the positive influence of the different schools of art, in which, since there were no local schools, the Albanian painters were obliged to learn the mastery of painting.

The national features of our art sprang from the close relations between the painters and the people, and their experience of the peoples sufferings.

A special characteristic of the Renaissance painting is the almost parallel development of two lines: the historic-patriotic line, and that with its themes from the current reality. For the former, which is characterized by a highly romantic notes the figure of the National Hero Scanderbeg became the source of inspiration. His figure was evoked as a call to the struggle for freedom and independence. The latter turned its eyes towards the common man, towards his sorrows or his rare joys.

The first painters of the Renaissance who treated the historic theme, were all self-taught illustrators. As such they could not break away immediately from traditional methods. Learning from models they were influenced by European art and especially by engraving. These influences can be observed not only in the earliest portraits, but also in these of Spiro Xega, painter of the romantic-heroic cycle, composed of eight works, dedicated to Scanderbeg.

Spiro Xega managed to create a work with an entirely original atmosphere in the composition recognized as his masterpiece, entitled "Shahin Matraku's band".

Through a silver-light and the typical Albanian landscape, the painter feelingly

portrays the romance of outlaws of the rebellions. The artist himself, was Shahin Matraku's secretary, and knew the members of his unit intimately. However the main value of the painting lies in the landscape and not in the detailed figures.

The whole structure of the Albanian painting of the Renaissance period is profoundly democratic. The works of art comprised a call to patriotism addressed to the whole people. The historic and patriotic theme did not cease to be the central theme after the proclamation of independence (1912). It continued to inspire artistic creation during the National Liberation War, and even today, but with certain changes in the ideo-emotional treatment, conditioned by the time and the rising level of art itself. At the beginning a special care and respect was shown for the rich and original creativeness of the Albanian people through the treatment of ethnographic folklore themes. This was a natural interest for an art which through centuries had been denied the right to reflect the beauties and original customs of its people freely and directly.

One of the earliest works of this kind is "The Shkodra wedding" (1884) by K. Idromeno. The wedding has been treated like a merry scene, without going into the social problems. The painter's desire has been to reflect as accurately as possible with variety of the folk costumes through colour, and detailed treatment of the features and peculiarities of the dresses.

Close connection with and careful study of folk creativeness helped the painting of the late Renaissance to pass to a deeper analysis of the Albanian character.

Instead of simply reflecting some of the concrete external features, the painting becomes engaged in a psychological and social analysis of the subject. In the painting "Sister Tone" by K. Idromeno (1886), one of our most beautiful paintings with regard to its variety of line and colour, rendered with masterly care, we find a particularly fine embodiment of this development.

After Idromeno, we find his style of realism in portraiture carried further by Nd. Martini, Z. Kolombi, A. Rushi, S. Kaceli, N. Zajmi etc.

The work, "The peasant of Zadrime, depicting the man crushed by his burden of toil, gazing into the distance, sadly and with longing, but not without a courageous expression, seems to come within this category.

In other portraits like "The Shepherd" by A. Kushi, and "The old man" by S. Kaceli, one can feel the same love for the sorrowing common man, who expresses regret more than revolt.

In portraiture, as an important genre dealing with living man gloomy colours dominate, in contrast to the cheerful bright colours of embroideries, carpets, and dresses into which the people pour their optimism, talents, and their most beautiful dreams about life.

The painters did not use these bright colours in pointing the portraits of their contemporaries, because they painted only within their studies, because life itself was not bright and cheerful.

The landscape portrayed with a feeling of love for soil of the motherland, is the exception, and this is a result of their direct contact with nature itself.

This genre developed greatly after the proclamation of national independence. In a number of landscapes and portraits of those years the influence of impressionism, a trend which affirms objective beauty, made itself felt and to a lesser extent expressionism too. But these were not deep influences, and did not have a profound effect on the general realist road of our figurative arts as the formalist or folk trends had. The tendency towards a more profound realism is one of the most valuable features of our figurative arts, which expressed itself strongly in the 1930's especially in the field of sculpture, in the works of its most outstanding representative O. Paskali.

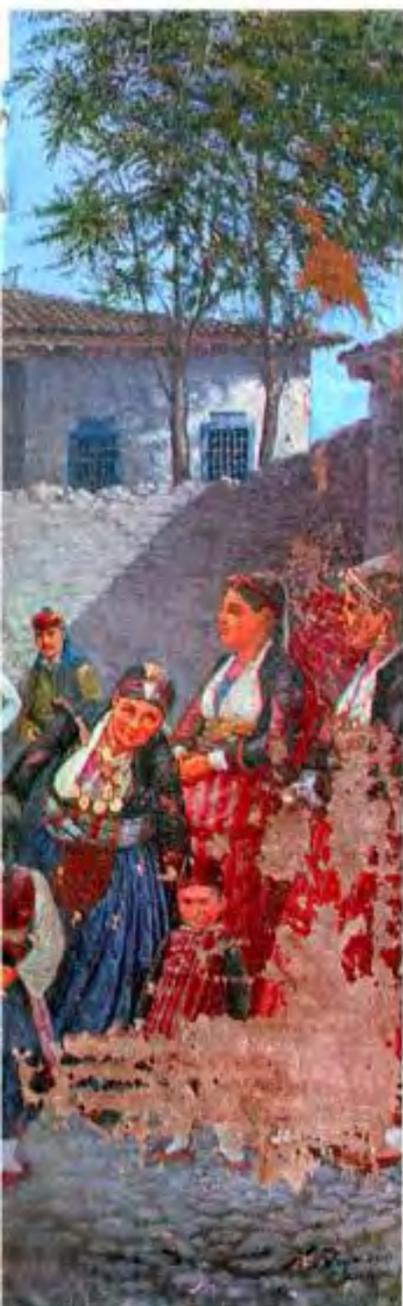


Kolë Idromeno (1860-1939) "Motra Tona" (Sister Tona) — Gallery of Arts in Tirana.



Kolë Idromeno (1860-1939) "Dasmë Shkodranë (Shkodra Wedding).

Spiro Xega (1863-1953)
"Ceta e Shahin Matraku"
(Shahin Matraku's
fighting unit) — at the
Gallery of Arts in Tirana.



Andrea Kushi (1884-1959) "Bari
me shkop" (The shepherd
with his staff) — at the
Gallery of Arts in Tirana.



THE HEIGHTS

By Dhimitër Xhuvani

Sadush used to spend all his free time after work on the pavement near the club now dubbed "the tourist centre" by the local people. Only a couple of years ago, the "tourist centre" was nothing more than an ordinary roadside cafe at the entrance to the locality, a cafe for travellers and drivers, because three national roads linking that locality and its factory with two other important cities, and the railway station, met there. Five hundred yards away from the crossing, was the centre of the locality, the lived somewhere else. They could be found around the junction. And Sadush would be there, too, although he and his wife lived in the town, sitting at one of the tables on the pavement watching each passing car, keeping an ear open, waiting dully for the last whistle of the train at the station, and that whistle is always to be heard whether the night is calm or not.

—Who is that chap, bus drivers began to ask seeing him always in the same place.

—That's Julika's husband.

—Julika's husband!—they would exclaim surprised that the husband of such a lovely girl should stay so late and seem so indifferent.

—What's wrong with him?—they asked the waiter, who only shrugged his shoulders.

—"I have noticed him too," said the carter from the neighbouring cooperative who had come to pick up the bread for the next day—"who is he?"

—Julika's husband, can't you hear, replied the bus driver.

—No, no the beautiful Julika's husband!

—Yes!

—What a woman, en?

—They don't come any prettier.

—At one time everyone had a good word for her, but you never hear her mention now.

—By whom inquired the driver.

—The locals, the people. . . .

—By god, I'll smash the face of anyone who runs Julika down. She's wonderful; and she's very good with the people. You don't find many shop assistants like her said the driver, tossing off the last of his beer as he left.

—I am off too, said the carter.

Slowly the crowd thinned as people drifted away, until peace and, quiet vagued over the empty junction.

Sadush called the waiter, paid the bill and left for home.

Julika would have gone to bed—to sleep he hoped,—she was lying back on the pillow, her arms outside the bed clothes, looking at her husband, but saying nothing. Sadush undressed and got into bed, felt a surge of pain and resentment that he had climbed into bed, without speaking or even looking directly at her. She had decided to say something, to ask him, but now she changed her mind—what was the use? Sadly, she moved against him laying her head on his chest and tried to lose herself in sleep. Sadush responded to his wife's movements, cuddled her to him, and closed his eyes.

They lay in silence, half an hour, may be an hour, then he said, quietly but friendly, "Julika, I'm going away. You mustn't be angry—I can't go on like this.

—Thank god, you're spoken at last—she whispered.

—Try to understand me Julika, this life is killing me. I can't change, turn myself into someone else, give up my dreams. . . .

—How many times have you told me this!

—Tonight will be the last time.

—But what about me—what am I to do?

—Come with me. Shop assistants are needed everywhere—you won't be out of a job.

—Don't be so selfish—you only think about yourself. Why should I trail around after you from one construction site; to another simply because you like to work on

—Why don't you answer—she asked—why don't you think about me as you think about yourself? Or is it only you who has dreams, desires? Come on tell me—why don't you say something?

—Because I don't know, what you want from life, what your ambitions are.

—What you don't know, she cried, trying to contain her tears.

"No, I don't" replied Sadush calmly. "Now don't get angry don't get yourself worked up for nothing. You are young. May be later on, you will find out where you want to go, but this kind of life we are living is suffocating me".

—"But not me", she wailed. "We were so happy at first, when we got to know each other and when we were married", whispered Julika, a little more calmly.

She turned right round to him, took him in her arms and kissed him. Her embrace tightened as she kissed him fiercely, again and again.

Sadush only smiled a little sourly at his wife's efforts, and broke away from her.

—"What's wrong?" she asked feeling offended for the second time that night.

Sadush took a deep breath. Now he would tell her, pour out all the troubles gnawing at his heart, but no words came.

"She won't understand" he said to himself, sadly and lay silent wrapped in his own thoughts.

Nervous and irritable, Julika moved as far as possible to her own side of the bed. In the semi-darkness of the room and in the stillness of the night she could clearly hear two noises: the far off dull roar of the vacuum column, and a few inches away the irregular nervous breathing of her husband. I can't understand it, she started to think, "What's got into him? What does he lack?"

He has everything a house, plenty to eat and drink, nice clothes.

—Julika!—called Sadush, softly.

—What is it?—she asked, turning round.

—Why don't you come with me? what is it you like about this place?

—Everything! This room, these curtains, the store, the whole town. Why are you so difficult, why don't you try to get used to this life? You have a job, you earn enough money—you are not short of anything to make you happy.

Sadush did not answer at all. He had said to himself that she would never understand him, and now he regretted having spoken again.

—Why don't say something? Julika cut in.

—That means, you don't want to come eh?

—Where?—she asked stubborn in her anxiety.

—Wherever they have gone.

—Who?

—My comrades, my brigade.

—And just where are they? she asked in a sarcastic tone, as though she would not put up with much more of this.

Sadush flared up and he answered angrily.

—Wherever, they are, you know they don't write to me any longer—When they invited us, you made me reply to them to forget us, as I was supposed to have started a new family life and to be happy.

—Why, aren't you happy?—Julika asked.

—Because apparently you are a liar.

—Yes—said Sadush sadly. For two years now, I have been lying to myself, to you and to my comrades. Tomorrow I am leaving. When I am gone, perhaps you will understand me.

—I won't let you go—cried Julika. I love you.

—And I love you too,—said Sadush, but with some hesitation.

—Why do you say it that way?

—How?

—As if you regretted it. May be you don't love me any more.

—I love you, Julika, but I can't live this way any longer. I just can't. There is nothing in it for me, no pleasure at all. It seems as if my hands have been cut off.

—Oh—you've started on about your hands again. Well' I'm sick of hearing about them. Now I suppose you'll start telling me about all the chimneys you have built with those hands.

Sadush did not reply although it was, indeed, the chimneys he was thinking about—the big chimney at Laç, the one at Kurbnesh, at Gjegjan, the chimney of the Fertilizer Plant in Fieri.

All those chimneys from end to end of the country entered and passed through Sadush's memory even come right inside that very room with the roar of the vacuum tower which could clearly be heard. Yes, he and his comrades had built that too. That was the time when he met the beautiful Julika. Everybody had been envious of him then, even the comrades of the brigade. . . . Yes. . . . since that time. . . . three years ago, a new life had begun for him, a life that should have been really happy and beautiful.

He fell in love with the girl in the shop. From that time on Sadush and his brigade

had stormed the shop once a fortnight buying tooth paste, tooth brushes, razor blades, buttons, thread, needles, and when they came out they would all be singing the praises of this lovely girl.

This went on for two or three months, until that day when she blushed and shyly said "Yes". At that moment she became the most beautiful girl in the world. Sadush felt he had . . . to fly from the top of the Vacuum tower.

— Watch out — teased his comrades — if you fall, you will never see Julika again.

— Before you fall — at least bequeath us the little shop assistant and all the buttons.

Sadush laughed at their jokes and climbed higher with each passing day, going skywards with the gigantic tower, battling the north wind and the winter frosts.

He would reach the top, hook on his safety belt, and start to assemble the steel-work. Then he would climb higher, higher, towards the sky.

The day the girl in the store gave him her answer, the brigadier would not allow Sadush to go up.

— You work down here today.

— Me?

— Yes.

— Down here?

— Yes.

— Today?

— Yes, today you are not in your senses.

— Oh, no! Not today. I'll work down here any time you like but not today!

— You need your wits about you up there.

— Look, today I'll do two norms, one for me and one for Julika I want to touch the stars.

Not today, said the brigadier curtly, starting to climb himself instead of Sadush, but he only took the first step. He saw Sadush's eyes brimming with tears and his lower lip trembling with emotion.

— What's wrong? — asked the brigadier and stepped down again.

— To hell with you all — Sadush cursed, — with you and her too! My place is up there — I left some details not properly tightened and if you stand on them you may fall. I am responsible for everything that might happen up there even though you are the brigadier. I'm in charge of that sector.

The brigadier was silent a moment, then he lifted his head clapped him on the shoulder and said laughingly:

— I want to work up there today, too. Come on, let's work together.

They were married the day the plant was officially opened. It all send like a dream to Sadush when he looked at the new built town, so joyful, so festive. So much was happening within 24 hours. The opening ceremony, the wedding, and finally the departure of the brigade of cities; who were now so well known in the locality. The local authorities made quite a ceremony of their farewell when the bus started. Sadush and Julika cling to each other as if they were frozen there, while the smoke and dust slowly settled around them. They were the last to, leave the junction, a profound emptiness pervading their souls in place of their earlier elation.

— What's the matter? — asked Julika.

— Nothing — answered Sadush, pressing her tight to him, as if to fill the void in his bosom.

— Well, I have a strange feeling.

— It's the break — their going away, Sadush replied calmly.

— You look a bit pale, she said.

— No, no, You're imagining it, answered Sadush quickly, to cover the pain and sadness that had seized him.



Drawing by Musa Qari.



Snapshots from the film "Debatik".
Photos by S. Xhillari

Bekim Gaçe

In the history of Albania the early years of the fifth decade of this century mark the beginning of major transformations, of new and brilliant courses of action.

These very same years mark also some outstanding events in the history of our Albanian youth, some beginnings in the springtide of life.

One of these outstanding events is that of February 10, 1942.

What happened on this day?

A group of young boys, alarmed by the fascist enslavement that had beset our country, came together on one of the hills in the outskirts of Tirana, pledged themselves to fight the enemy and founded their clandestine organization under the name of DEBATIK (short for Union of Boys, Members of Communist Ideas).

It was the great event of autumn 1941 1/ which had awakened the imagination of the youngsters and had prompted them to unite in an organization, it was the example set by their parents and older brothers and sisters which had taught them to take this wise initiative and it was the great struggle of the people against the invaders and local traitors that had inflamed the hearts of these children. And those years of the great struggle had prompted these youngsters to put aside their toys and games and take part in the fight which made them feel more grown up and more mature than their age. Those years marked the beginning of a new life for our children, the beginning of their organized life devoted to the lofty ideals of freedom and socialism.

1/— The Albanian Communist Party was founded on November 8, 1941 The Organization of the Albanian Communist Youth was founded on November 23, 1944.

What happened in Tirana happened also

AT THE SPRINGTIDE OF LIFE



in many other towns and districts of our country paving the way to the inauguration of the organization of the young pioneers of our country at the springtide of life christened in battle.

And now, a lapidary is raised on the spot where the DEBATIK had been created 30 years ago. The Tirana children go there often, recall their comrades of the war days and promise to follow in their tracks. On these days they gather there and listen. . . .

. . . The fascists intended to win these children over to their side, to waylay them, to alienate them from the ideals of freedom. They sent some of them to spend their vacation in Italy, gave the children clothes free of charge, distributed free food, organized clubs, games, and entertainments for them, enlisten them in their fascist Balila organization and brought over specialists. . . . But our children preferred the theatrical, cultural and sport activities of the DEBATIK-s for in them they felt the powerful spirit of patriotism, the call for freedom. . . .

. . . . Wherever powerful demonstrations broke out one would find the DEBATIK members followed by other children, wherever leaflets were distributed one would find also these brave youngsters, wherever the tracks of the enemy came to a standstill, one would find tyres punctured by them, wherever weapons, bombs and ammunition were seized from the enemy, one would find these youngsters taking part and over 1,200 young partisans took to the mountains laying down even their lives, two of whom have been proclaimed heroes of the people.

. . . . During the most critical days of the war, under very savage curfews, it was the DEBATIK members and younger children who, through their ingenuity and courage, established communications between

the clandestine bases and who, whenever caught, tortured and deported stood with their tongues tied before the enemy. . . .

The children of Albania have written golden pages also after the liberation of the country, during the period of reconstruction in the struggle against subversive elements, saboteurs and kulaks, in the collectivization of agriculture, in the great ideological battle for the formation and tempering of the new man proceeding further ahead along the tracks they had followed during the years of the great struggle.

Now, the young pioneers of our country sit in school benches in order to master the rudiments of knowledge and science, they take part in the production of material goods, side by side with the grown-up workers and cooperative peasants, in order to temper their minds in the processes of production work, they gain proficiency in technique and in the process of real production, inhaling the sound moral breath of our workers engaged in production work. They are growing up among our soldiers, our armaments in order to be always prepared, now and more so when they have grown up, to defend the achievements of our revolution.

When looking at our children today, one cannot draw a comparison between them and those who began this course thirty years ago. But a brilliant thread runs through all these younger generations and join them into a united and hand some group like a great common ideal, the ideal of freedom of country and socialism.

DEBATIK came into being at the threshold of spring and that spring now rearing their age-companions of the present full of health and cheer, invigorating and imbuing them with lofty virtues.





Drawing by Naxhi Bakalli.

Commemorative Remembrance Of Fan S. Noli

Prof. Aleks Buda

In January 1972, the Albanian world of culture comprising the broad masses of workers, commemorated the 90th anniversary of the birth of the most eminent son, poet and scholar, thinker and statesman of the Albanian people Fan S. Noli.

Fan S. Noli was born in 1882 and died seven years ago, on March 13, 1965. Forced by the vicissitudes of life, Fan S. Noli lived but for a short time among his people, yet his thoughts and heart beat for these people to whom he was bound by thousands of threads which no distance could ever cut. Nevertheless, it would not be a mistake to say, like every great and universal personality, Fan S. Noli belonged as much to the Albanian as to world culture.

It is hard to portray in a few pages a life so great and complex with its contradictions, the many-sided significance of the production of a man of letters and thinker, to assess the activity of a statesman who occupied posts of major responsibilities during one of the most critical and decisive periods when the destiny of the homeland was in the balance.

Theophan, as his full name runs, started the course of life in one of the villages round the city of Adrianople.

And at once the question arises: "How was it possible for a young man who, at great sacrifice, received his schooling in foreign languages in Adrianople and Istanbul, having had no contact with the distant homeland of his progenitors and the events taking place there, could, in the early days of his life, establish links with the Albanian national movement and become one of its most prominent champions?" In his autobiography, Fan S. Noli himself answers this question when he describes the typical environment of the village he was born in, the indelible impressions he had received from this world and, especially the influence his grandmother had exerted on, inculcating in his heart the love for the mother tongue, the traditions and everything held dearest and most typically Albanian by the inhabitants of this Albanian 'oasis' surrounded by alien land. But a second powerful factor that goes to explain this is the growth, towards the end of the XIXth century, of the Albanian national movement the rays of which reached also this young man from a humble village in Trance. Under its influence, young Theophan decided, as far back as the early of the XIXth century, to devote his life to the cause of his people. In pursuance of this ideal, he betook himself to Egypt and later

to far-away America, experiencing the hardship of the exploited factory workers, becoming a newsman and writer and, in 1908, putting on the garb of ecclesiastical vestment. Subsequently, as the founder of the independent Albanian Orthodox Church, as a representative of his people to international conferences during critical moments of history, as an eminent man of letters and statesman and, finally, as the Prime Minister of the 1924 Revolutionary-Democratic Government, Fan S. Noli raised his voice on behalf of and exerted his efforts in the service of the most vital problems facing the long-suffering Albanian people, in the service of the struggle for gaining and defending freedom and national independence, the integrity of the sacred soil of the Fatherland, the cultural and social uplift of the people. The years of work and struggle up to 1924 alone would suffice to fill the life of a man, to make Fan S. Noli's life a great and exemplary one, a source of inspiration for the coming generation of Albanian youth.

But life had reserved not only victories to Fan S. Noli. He witnessed the heartbreaking defeat of the Albanian democratic movement in 1924 and this shattered all the hopes he had cherished to lead Albania towards constitutional evolution which would make

(“ an advanced European prosperous country governed by law for the good of the people not for the benefit of foreigners or the whims of the intriguing and bloodsucking bravados”.

He had to take the bitter course of political emigration, to experience misery and despair. But as every prominent progressive person in history, he drew his lesson from his defeat and his conviction and confidence in the new social forces to whom final victory would belong, from the temporary triumph of the most obscure forces. Thus, 1924 became a year of an important turning point not only in the life and work of Fan S. Noli but also of all the Albanian democratic movement.

The idea of a revolutionary character which the Albanian democratic movement would assume runs through all the activity of Fan S. Noli after 1924. It leads him to head first the Republican National Committee and then, The National Liberation Committee, making him hail the First Workers and Peasants Government, the Soviet Union in 1927, contacting him with George Dimitrov, Maxim Gorky, joining Henri Barbusse and Albert Einstein in 1929 to attend the Anti-fascist International Congress in Berlin and heading the “Republika” anti-Zogite newspaper in 1930. Even when Fan S. Noli withdrew from political life, his heart never ceased beating for his people. During the critical days of fascist occupation, when the Albanian people under the leadership of the Albanian Communist Party rose up in arms for liberation and effected its people’s revolution, in his heart Fan S. Noli was not and could not be detached from “the bravest of the brave who liberated Albania from the fascists, nazis and landlords” and turned Albania “from the land estate of the boys to the land of peasants and workers which stands head erect and will give the bravados what they deserve” as he wrote in 1946. In the victory of these young fighters he rightly hailed the realization at a higher degree of that which had formerly dared to aspire.

The same consistent life of development runs through also in Fan S. Noli’s literary and scientific works. Side by side the national themes prevailing in his early speeches and poems, his efforts to give Albanian culture some of the masterpieces of the world literature in general, like Shakespeare’s Othello, Longfellow’s Scanderbeg Edgar Allan Poe’s lyrics, after 1924, both in his original poetical works as well as in his translations, there appears with growing stress the motif of the war on a social level, of the conflicts of new forces to whom even if they lose the first battle, belongs the future in battle with the old decrepit forces who try to keep their ground by violence and by whatever means. In a number of masterful poems of the years from 1925 to 1930 written in an extraordinary powerful linguistic style and symbols taken from the Bible or from antiquity, one finds the highest embodiment of the fundamental artistic theme of the times, the necessity of revolutionary violence, the problem of the relations between the revolutionary leader and the masses. Rising above the pangs caused by the 1924 defeat and the loss of his intimate Comrades, F. S. Noli, in his elegies dedicated to his comrades in arms, L. Gurakuqi and Bajram Curri, carved for life the monumental figures of the “giant liberator”, the “legendary Antheus”, who, though fallen, remain unbowed.

In his masterpieces “By the Riverside”, suppressing all temporary anxieties and de-

spair, he burst forth in unforgettable and unparalleled lines reflecting the conviction and confidence of militant democrat F. S. Noli in the unconquerable force of the common struggle of the rank and file, in the triumph of revolutionary ideas. With ingenious intuition Fan S. Noli considers the struggle against tyranny and obscurantism, against oppression and reaction as the domination idea also in his interpretation of the masterpieces of world literature he has translated Hamlet, Julius Caesar, Macbeth, Enemy of the People, etc. which, by his masterful translation, have become part of our Albanian culture. In their Albanian garb Omar Khayam’s “Rubaiyat” and “Mancho’s” “The Knight”, in Noli’s hand have become also fighters for freedom of thought, fighters against the petty and obscurant “lordling” headed by A. Zogolli.

This great mine of development is met with also in historiography one of the founders of which in our country can be considered Fan S. Noli. Through its high artistic style, Noli’s “History of Scanderbeg” published in 1921 became a very popular book among old and young. But it was more of a literary than of a scientifically based work, with attempts to give a scientific interpretation of this historical phenomenon, the Albanian-Ottoman struggle during the XVth century. However, in its revised edition published in 1947, in which serious attempts are made to delve deeper into the forces and social environment which brought to the fore that great personage known by the name of Scanderbeg, we have an analysis which does not conceal the influence of historical materialism in sizing up historical phenomena. As a consequence, the hero is not a “superman” or a “demi-god” as in the 1921 edition, who transcends from on high among his people, but on the contrary, it is the people who granted to him their inexhaustible powers, making possible this magnificent period—the Albanian fourhundred. As original and, at the same time, as deep and convincing is, on the other hand, Fan S. Noli’s analysis in his very interesting book “Beethoven and the French Revolution”, of the direct and indirect links of this genius of music with the echo of that great event of world history which is known by the name of French Revolution. It is not casual that this book of the Albanian historian and musician attracted the attention of such eminent thinkers of the time as Bernard Shaw and Thomas Mann.

But Fan S. Noli’s activities extend to other fields as well. He is a musician and composer at the same time, he is the author of the orchestral poem “Scanderbeg” and of the “Byzantine Overture”, works that bespeak the universality of this great creative thinker.

His powerful poems, the enrichment of our literary language with his talented translations, his “History of Scanderbeg”, his inspiring oratory, his activity as a keen literary critic and historian of art and fine artist, the powerful impulses he imparted to the progressive political and social movement, make Fan S. Noli a great teacher and educator of the people, carrying on and, at the same time, concluding the work of our men of National Revival. . . .

Fan S. Noli’s work is immortal; it will live forever in the stock of Albanian arts and culture, as an enlightened part of the highest cultural, patriotic and revolutionary traditions of our people.



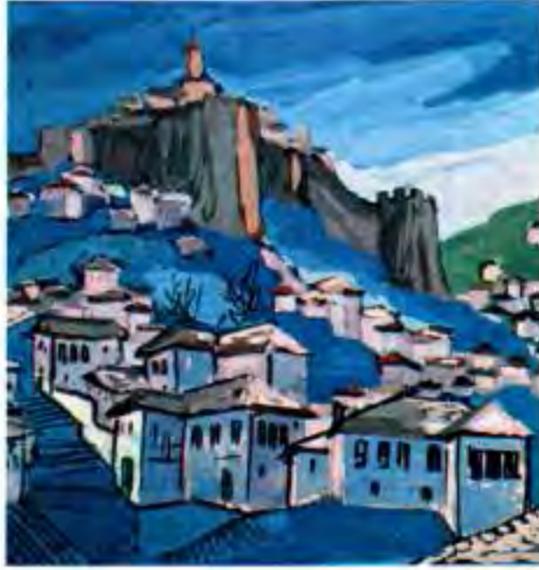
A New Political Periodical In Foreign Languages

A new political and informational periodical began to be published in Tirana these recent days in English, French and Spanish. It is called “ALBANIA TODAY”. This periodical will portray the continuous qualitative changes taking place in all the fields of socialist construction in Albania. In it there will be published the principal materials and documents of the Party of Labour of Albania, various political and ideological articles appearing in the Albanian press organs as well as articles and comments on events and problems of the international life.

At the beginning the “ALBANIA TODAY” periodical will be published once in two months.

For all those who wish to get acquainted with the various aspects of socialist construction in Albania and with the Albanian view on international problems, this periodical in foreign languages will be a necessary assistant.

Subscriptions to the “ALBANIA TODAY” periodical are made at the Central Office of the Distribution of Books, Rruga “Konference Pezës, Tirana, ALBANIA.



The City of 2,000 Stairways

The city in question is the City-Museum of Gjirokastra in southern Albania. It has attracted the attention of many foreign visitors for its location and structure. One writer has described it as "by far, the most exotic city in Albania. . . . Viewing it from its citadel, this city built of stone has enchanted me. Never have I set my eyes on such an extraordinary and quaint town as this".

A publicist has written: "Gjirokastra astounds and pleases me, at the same time. It can't give me the idea of something "known" or of a city of my "dreams" whichever way I turn, it is the same silver city I see . . . it is here and it is there clustered round its citadel in a capricious way. I look at it and I never get tired of looking at it over and over again".



The First Issue of the First Newspaper in Albanian

The "Arbereshet e Italisë" ("Albanian Settlers in Italy") newspaper came off the press on February 22, 1848. Its circulation at first was a limited one but very soon it gained popularity among the masses of readers both among the Albanian settlers in Italy and among the Italian readers themselves. This was due to the fact that it published for the first time specimens of Albanian literature and news about the powerful movement of Cozenca and of the other parts of Italy directed against the ruthless regime of Ferdinand II of Naples, in which movement many Albanian settlers in Italy set their personal example in the struggle against the odious monarch.

This paper published also news on the resistance movement of the Albanian against Ottoman rule.



Musical Instruments Used by the Illyrians

The Illyrians are known not only as fighters but also as musicians and dancers. The archaeological monuments, primarily, the reliefs and sculptures help us to get a glimpse at the musical instruments of these people. Some of these monuments have flutes, lyres etc. carved on them and lyres and panpipes were used mostly in slave owner towns and centers. The Illyrian slave owners had also slave musicians.

Excavations carried out on the sites of ancient Illyrian towns have brought to light relics of public buildings like odeons and theaters where musical performances used to be given.



What Do the Kruma Tombs Show

In their excavations at the Village of Plata in Kruma in northern Albania, our archaeologists have discovered some tombs which have yielded some very interesting archaeological materials. The relics found in them go to show that the builders of these tombs were Illyrians. Hence, the attempts of certain foreign archaeologists to chop up Illyria into smaller units of separate cultures and, consequently, of different ethnic origin, hold no water.

The material discovered in the Kruma tombs do not differ from those discovered in the other regions of our country and abroad. Therefore, we have to deal with one single Illyrian people and with one single Illyrian culture.

MOSAICS

MOSAICS



The Acropolis of Apollonia (Požani)

The ancient city of Apollonia, believed to have had up to 40,000 inhabitants, was situated on a hill, sloping down in terraces towards the sea. On the summit of the hill, 101 m. above sea-level, the acropolis (citadel) was situated. This summit, which even today looks as if it has been made by the hand of man, was surrounded by a special wall.

The wall of the acropolis was discovered during recent excavations.

It was built in the V-th century B. C., at the time when the city of Apollonia began to build strong surrounding walls for defence against attacks from abroad.

The Victory at "Uji i Bardhë"



In July 1457, the invading Ottoman troops, 50-80 thousand strong, under the command of Isa Bey Evrenoz attacked Scanderbeg's forces. As the Turkish troops were led by Hamza Kastrioti, who had been one of Scanderbeg's closest collaborators but had turned traitor Scanderbeg decided to use a completely new military tactics. The Albanian fighters retreated in such a way, as to give to enemy the impression that they had been routed. But when the Turkish army was resting carelessly in the meadow named "Uji i Bardhë", near Mamurras, Scanderbeg organized a surprise attack striking the enemy from all sides. The manoeuvre was crowned with success: it was a debacle for the Turkish troops. Among the captives was Hamza Kastrioti.

The War That Lasted 250 Years



The Romans started their campaign to occupy Illyria about the year 229 B.C. To break the resistance of the Illyrians, they had to wage a protracted war. When they occupied one Illyrian region, the inhabitants of another arose. Revolts followed one after another. The Roman writers described the Illyrians as "invincible, thanks to the geography of the country and the mountains, their fierce nature, and their amazing skill in fighting."

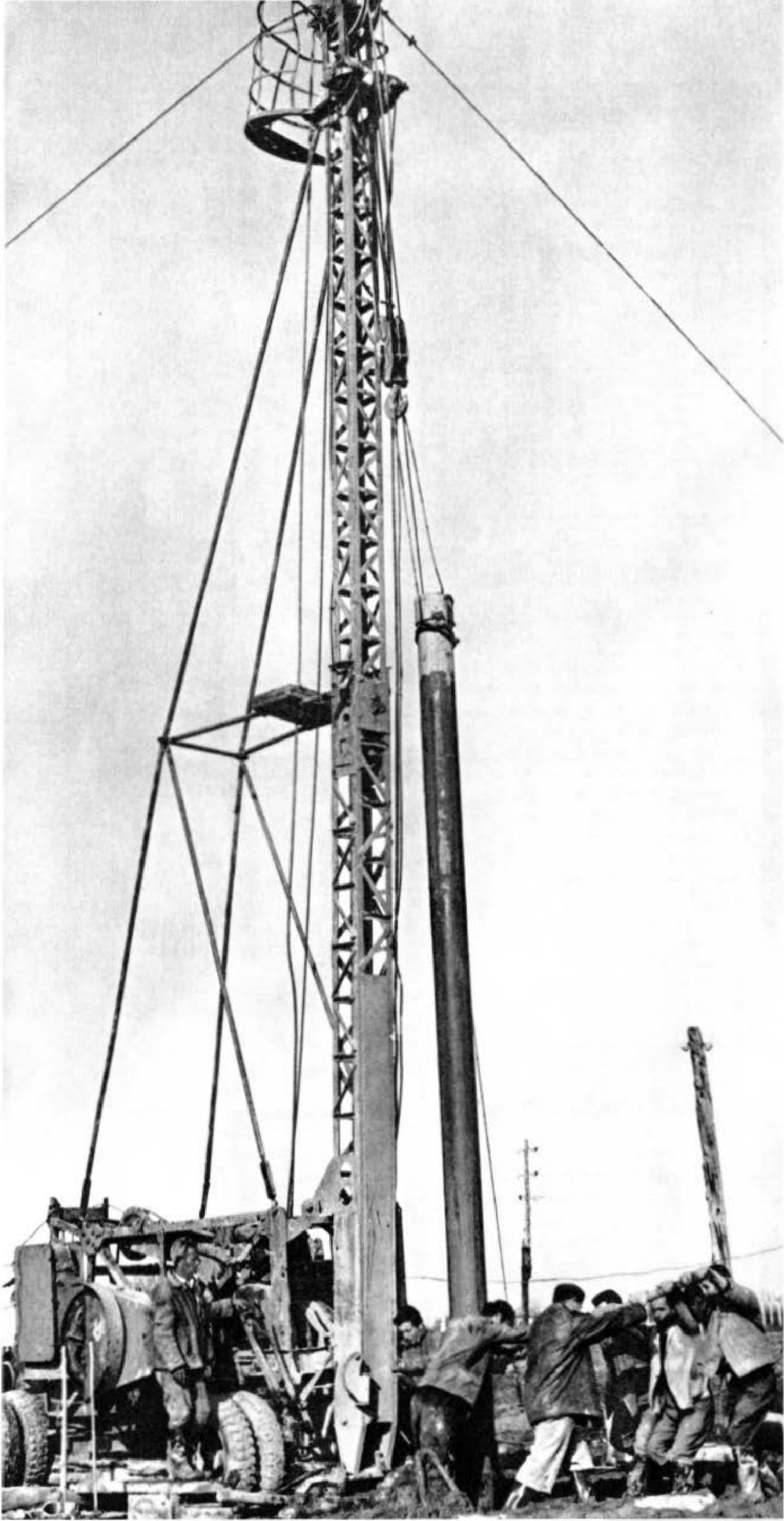
When the great Illyrian uprising was crushed in the years 6-9, A.D., after a war lasting almost 250 years, even then the Roman historians were forced to say that Illyria had been only partly subdued.

Drawing by N. Progrl.



An Undeciphered Inscription

In the Public Museum of the city of Shkodra there is a stone $13 \times 24 \times 3$ cm which has been unearthed at the village of Dobraq situated 3 kilometers away from Shkodra. The stone is a fragment and burned by a strong fire as the traces indicate. Nevertheless, the lines inscribed on it are distinct. One is struck by the fact that letters have no resemblance to either Latin, Greek and much less to Slav scripts.



It may sound odd but only some three decades ago, there were water-sellers in some cities of Albania. They were usually young lads who roamed the centre of Tirana or other cities, during the hot summer months carrying a pitcher and an aluminium cup, selling water; ordinary drinking water taken from the wells or from any water source on the city's outskirts. The situation was no better in the villages, where the inhabitants, and especially the women, had to walk miles to fetch water.

Therefore the securing of drinking water and water for industrial purposes was one of the most urgent problems after the establishment of the people's power.

In solving that problem, important tasks were set before the hydrogeological service.

This is a special enterprise engaged in the study of underground waters, their origin, formation their extent and distribution, and the relationship between the waters and geological formations surrounding them; the calculation of the reserves and the definition of the conditions for utilizing them.

The big industrial objects, like the textile combines, fertilizer and engineering plants, the extension of the existing cities and the new ones, the drainage and irrigation of fields all these required water. When this water was not to be found in sufficient quantities on the surface, then it had to be found and brought up from under the ground.

Underground Water

By Xhavid Sheganaku

Within a relatively short space of time, the workers of the hydrogeological service, who inherited nothing from the past carried out studies of the general hydrogeological conditions of underground waters in about 20 water bearing basins. The most important of these are that of Fushë-Krujë at Thumana, and that of Bradashesh-Vidhasi at Elbasan. The latter will provide the water for the Metallurgical Plant in Elbasan. Parallel with the research work practical work has been carried on bringing the reserves discovered into use. More than 18 cities, large and small, hundreds of villages, agricultural economies, mines etc. now re-

Hydro-geological research in the Shkodra District has yielded very good results.

ceive water for drinking or industrial purposes from the sources discovered. During the last three years alone, more than 300 villages have been provided with water. The towns of Kavaja, Lushnja, Fieri, Laçi, Fush-Kruja, Peqini Rrogozhina, were short of drinking water in the past, while now they have ample supplies from hydrogeological sources. The cities of Tirana, Durrës, Vlora, Korça, Shkodra, Berat etc. have supplementary artesian water supplies.

The further development of our people's economy and agriculture, during the Fifth Five-Year Plan, faces the hydrogeological service, with even greater and more difficult tasks. The Metallurgical Plant of Elbasan alone will require 1,700 litres of water per second, but this is only one of the many projects of this Five-Year Plan. The VI-th Congress of the PLA set the task of providing every village of our country with drinking water. The hydrogeological service will make its contribution to this task.

The scope of our service is being expanded from year to year. If at the beginning we had to solve quite limited, immediate problems, now we have to cope with bigger problems, concerning the future.

During the last few years work of hydrogeological surveys on the scales of 1:50,000 and 1:100,000, has been intensified.

Important studies have been conducted by our workers during prospect drilling near the sources of chrome, iron-nickel and copper ores and coal. Recently the first steps have been taken towards observing the rise and fall of underground waters. For this purpose several observation stations have been built in different water-bearing basins.

The central laboratory for studying waters has started its work. In that laboratory studies are conducted to define the macro and micro elements of our subsoil waters.

1971, the first year of the V-th Five-Year Plan was a year of new successes for our workers.

Some of the main directions of the work of the hydrogeological service have been to ensure water for industrial and social-cultural projects, villages, farms, etc.; to extend the 1:100,000 hydrogeological survey, hydrogeological research studies of the mines; the application of new methods for the extension of the water laboratory, especially for extending the range of determination of the elements contained in the underground waters.

In the years to come the field of study and work of the hydrogeological service will be expanded; new problems with a more distant perspective will be put before it in this field such as: the gathering, study and summing up of the materials on the plains and the 1:100,000 survey, the carrying out of complex studies and work on several important sources of artesian water, the study in depth of the qualitative and quantitative changes of underground waters, drawn from observations. This will be the main material on which our hydrogeologists will base themselves in compiling the Hydrogeological Map of the People's Republic of Albania on the scale 1:200,000 at the end of this Five-Year Plan.



One of the rich water sources discovered recently at the Kryekuqas Region.

The new town aqueduct is fed by the waters from this fountain spring.

Photos by I. Frashëri





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**From
The School
To the Work Bench**



①② Students of the "7 Nëndori" Polytechnicum at work.

③ One of the halls of the workshop.

④ The students learn how to assemble also TV sets.

①



③

④



The "7 Nëndori" Secondary Industrial School in Tirana is the biggest school of its kind in our country. This year it commemorates the 25th anniversary of its founding.

Its student body is composed of 2,000 persons, 700 of whom are girls. Upon graduation they receive the degree of medium technician in one of its departments, namely, general mechanics, electromechanics, electric engineering and communications.

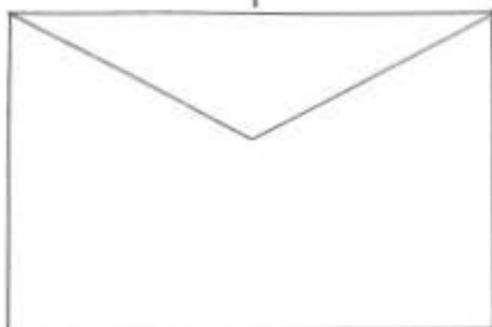
As everywhere else in Albania, the students pay no tuition fees, the expenses being met with by the State. Some of them are boarding students coming from various districts of the country.

The teaching staff of this school is composed of 95 professors giving general and vocational lessons and 50 instructors giving practical training.

The school is equipped with a good material basis to link teaching with practical work: its machinshop, smithy, foundry, assembly room, lathe, soldering, galvanizing and other facilities, as well as the electric department with its branches of communication and repair and assembly of radio and TV sets.

During the 25 years the school has trained 3,975 medium technicians of various profiles, a good number of whom have pursued higher studies and have received their degrees in engineering.

OUR MAIL BAG



OUR MAIL BAG

Mr. and Mrs. Donzo — France

Through the "New Albania" Magazine we send our warm and friendly greetings to the Government of the People's Republic of Albania led by the distinguished Comrade Enver Hoxha; we congratulate you on the patient persistent and finally decisive and historic activity of the Delegation of Socialist Albania in the United Nations Organization over the re-establishment of all lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in this international organization, and for the expulsion of the representatives of the Chang Kai-shek clique. In this way a European country of 2 million inhabitants led everyone in the introduction of 750 million people into UNO.

Christian Candan — France

Since I am a teacher in a secondary school, I take great interest in your "New Albania" Magazine which is of great documentary value to my classes and enables me to keep in touch with various aspects of life in Socialist Albania.

I should be very grateful if you would send it to me regularly. Thanking you in advance, please accept this expression of my warmest regards.

Alejandro Gonzales Ramirez — Cuba

Being greatly interested to learn about your country I am writing you from Cuba in the hope that you can send me some material about Albania. I would like to learn something about the life, industry, trade, trade unions, etc. etc.

I am impelled by my keen interest in learning about the successes of socialism in Albania. I happened to see issue Nr. 6/1970 of your Magazine. Of course, I would like to get a reply in Spanish, if not, in English will do. I hope you understand how interested I am to learn about Albania.

N.L. Jackel — South Australia

... I can say without reservation that your "New Albania" Magazine is a wonderful publication. I only wish more people could see this magazine so that they could learn what is happening in your small and beautiful country. The printing quality and the fine colour in your publication are first class, and the absorbing articles, which are, the truth of the great socialist development, are an eye-opener. Your country is absolutely magnificent from the tourist point of view as well. Many people in Australia are almost ignorant in regard to Albania, but through your magazine they are learning what has been and is being done in your country.

C.M. Navaranam — Ceylon

By reading your magazine "New Albania" I have learnt about the fine happy life of the Albanian people after the revolution led by the Communist Party and the beloved leader of the people, Comrade Enver Hoxha.

The greatness of Albania lies not in her size, but in the fact that she has never bowed her head and has never submitted to her enemies, but has always achieved victories by following the correct Marxist-Leninist line.

I am very interested to learn about Albania, its people, its leadership.

Said Chellal — Algeria

I am very happy to learn and get information about anything to do with your country. I would like to have young Albania pen-friends and to receive post cards from them.

Bigemi Mozaard — P.R. of the Congo

I received your letter by which you informed me of the result of the competition. I was pleased. I want to repeat what I have said before.

There are friends of Albania who though very far away support your cause, who read the books you send them, very carefully, for, these books are full of examples of brilliant, truly socialist struggles and actions. They are a factor to help us despise the imperialists and revisionists.

Cosimo Tinelli — Italy

We were pleased to receive "New Albania" Magazine published in Italian. It will be a very good means to propagate the achievements of the socialist construction in Albania among the broad Italian masses.

Could you please also send us publications in Italian about Naim Frashëri.

Johan Solomos — England

For a long time I have been trying to get information about Albania, and finally I have it through your magazine "New Albania".

Your development has impressed me greatly, the character of your people in particular.

Now I am preparing to enter the university, so your articles, especially those about the student youth have been of special interest to me.

Saleem Gadri — A Pakistani living in England

Your "New Albania" Magazine is a beautifully illustrated political magazine which tells the reader a great deal about Albania, its hard-working people. I like the pictures which show the Albanians at work and play, and I like all the various articles.

Peng Shih-Chan — P.R. of China

I was glad to see my name among the winners of the competition of the "New Albania" Magazine. Allow me to express my thanks for this honour.

I love Albania and the Albanian people. I love the Party of Labour of Albania and its great leader Comrade Enver Hoxha. Today, Albania is a strong bulwark that supports the revolutionary peoples of the world in their struggle for liberation. My imagination carries me to the country of the eagle, to the country which stands like an invincible fortress and like a shining torch of socialism on the Adriatic coasts. There, the heroic Albanian people, introducing scientific knowledge to the revolutionary upsurge led by the Party, are marching ahead, regardless of the difficulties they may encounter on their way. . . .

“PRINCESS ARGJIRO”

Many cities and towns in Albania have their own citadels of ancient or medieval times and each of them has its own history as well as one or more legends connected with it.

Such a one is that of Gjirokastra with its legend of “Princess Argjiro”.

Taking his theme from this legend, writer Ismail Kadare has offered his young readers a poem, fragments of which have given Lumturi Dhrami the inspiration for the drawings that follow. The legend runs like this:

Under Princess Argjiro’s command, the garrison defending the citadel offered heroic resistance to the frantic attacks of the Ottoman Turks. Dizdar Galop, an officer in the service of Argjiro, having killed her husband, the Prince, on the sly with the intention of marrying her, betrayed and showed the enemy the secret passage to the citadel. The Albanians fight most heroically but treason has its way. From the top of the stronghold Argjiro sees the last of her soldiers fall. Traitor Galop clambers up to the fort to seize his prey, but Argjiro shoots him dead and, with her baby in her arms, hurls herself down the abyss rather than fall into the hands of the enemy.



①

I. From below a voice is heard:
“I’m a courier from the front,
Fellow fighters, lead me quick
To the Princess on the fort!”



②

II. “Sleep, my mother’s darling, sleep!
Sleep my son, alack a day!
Dense and gloomy shades are
falling
And surrounding us tonight!”



③

III. Bloody battles rage nonstop
Streaks of blood that stain the
walls
Gushing down the mountain top
Look like banners yet unfurled.



④

IV. With her baby in her arms
Takes the Princess her first flight,
And forever she remains
Like pennant from the sky.



THE ALBANIAN CARPETS

The Albanian reserves one of the best rooms of his house to receive his guests. The Albanian drawing room presents in itself a small exhibition of the folk art. But the most noticeable among its various objects is its covering. The Albanian room coverings, worked as they are with selected material, perfect technique, and a richness of vivid colours, nicely harmonized among them, present artistic works of high quality.

The usage of coverings is closely linked with the various ways of sitting.

Our people, who have been subject for centuries to a strong influence from the peoples of Orient, have strong the custom of sitting on the ground. The material of the room coverings has been used in compliance with the economic sources. So simple husbandry products like wool were used in highlands, while vegetable products like hemp were used in the lowlands.

After liberation, the Albanian room coverings continued to be made by mixed cotton and wool material, thanks to the development of textile industry.

In general, the room coverings used by our people have a rectangular form with sweetly harmonized sides. After liberation, the traditional forms of the room covering were preserved, but their size has been changed, fitting the rooms of the flats.

The artistic presentation of the Albanian room covering is of a high level, with harmonious combinations of colours expressing decorative and figurative motives. Their decorative side reflects the power of the artistic taste and the distinguished talent of execution of our people.

The motives are put within the frame of the covering ranked according to their importance. These motives, harmonized, with an unparalleled scale of different colours and combined among them as they are, form a symmetric unity with stylized forms and a sharp artistic taste.

Our people devise the coverings according to the technique they are worked. Technically seen the Albanian coverings fall into three divisions:

Carpets, rugs and rest called traditionally "coverings".

The carpets are usually used in Korça, Luma, Dibra, Labëria, Tirana Highlands, Krasniqe and round the Ionian Sea Districts. Characteristic feature of Korça carpets is their high artistic quality. The motives are placed on the red or blue covering horizontally or vertically. The Luma carpets are artistically very rich too. Separate motives harmonize among themselves to form an organic unit on the whole covering. Motives of different colours, in vertical and horizontal direction, but often with a central motive do nicely harmonize the rosy colour of the covering.

Dibra District carpets have a characteristic artistic expression. On the red covering motives with a short vertical and horizontal direction are produced as a result of the use of different colours. The form is a geometric one. The motives are not simply decorative but figurative as well. These carpets are really beautiful to look at.

The carpets of Labëria District are generally small. Of great interest are the motives expressed on these carpets. Their style is geometric and in their contents one can find birds, eagles, flowers, the sun etc.

The Tirana Highland carpets, though primitive in their forms, are distinguished for their elegance as well as for the combination of different colours on red field.

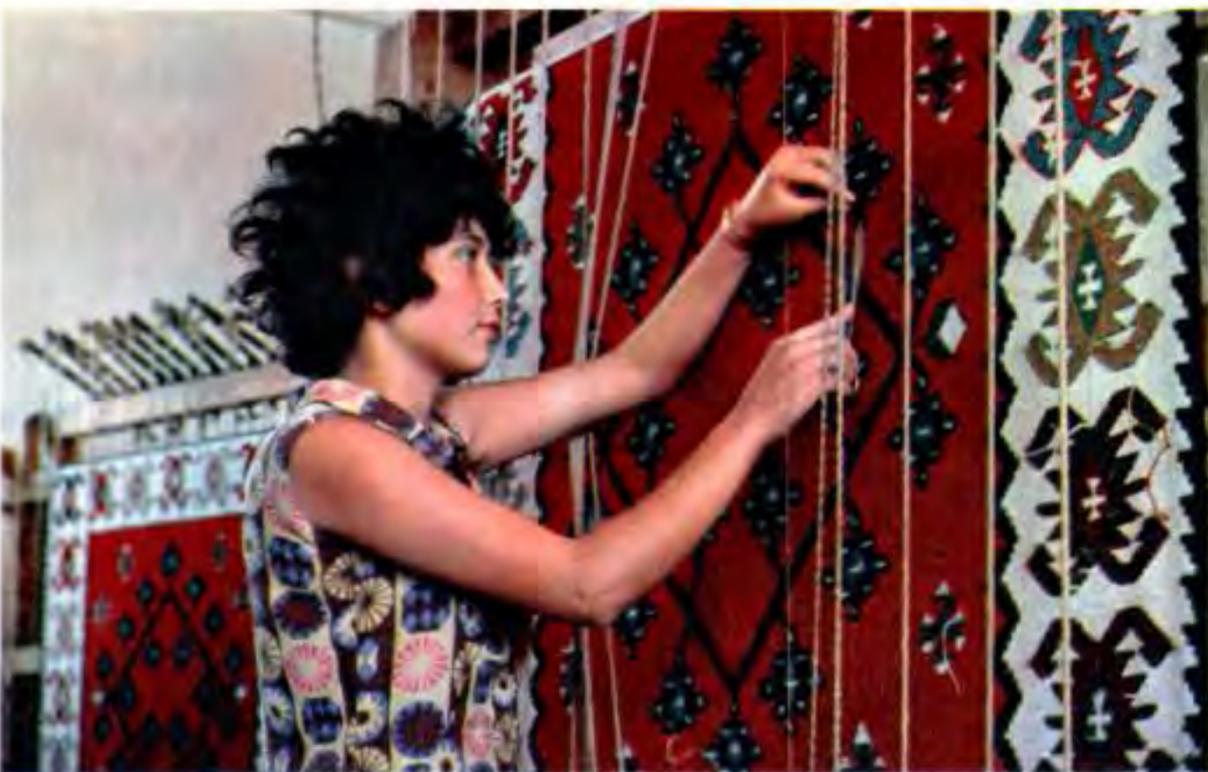
After the liberation, as handicraft was organized into the socialist system of production, wool-processing cooperatives were set up in many cities of our country. In these factories, special workshops were created to produce coverings.

Using modern means the production increased greatly. Today one can find in each shop coverings of a high quality.



One of the best known centers of the country where rugs are manufactured is that of the cooperative of arts and crafts in the City of Kavaja.

Photos by S. Xhillari





Besim Tabaku — "The Woman Cooperativist".

One of the Buildings Of the City-Museum

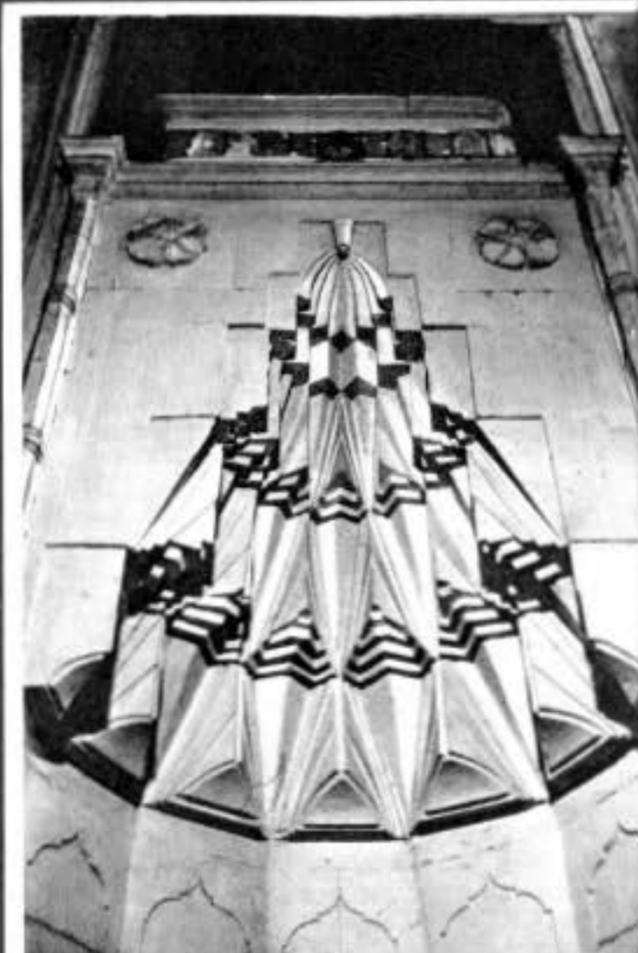
Stilian Adhami

Few cities in the Balkans and probably in Europe can be of as much interest to studies of the past as our ancient city of Berat. This museum-city stands out not only for its being one of the earliest places of habitation of Albania and for the typical houses of its three museum-quarters but also for the great number of monuments of architectural and artistic value which it preserved from the past.

The Monastery of the Helveti (a Moslem religious sect) is one of the monuments of this museum-city of special significance both from the point of view of its outer architecture as well as for the artistic values of the interior. This monument is one of the most beautiful works of Islamic art in Albania built during the latter half of the XVIIIth century. Its construction is connected with the name of one of the most powerful feudal chieftains of Central Albania, Ahmet Kurt Pasha who is at the same time the builder of the Gorica Bridge that spans the Osum River in the City of Berat. These and the other buildings of this time go to show that Berat enjoyed a period of special prosperity as a result of the economic development of this land during this period.

This structure is built of stone with a

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- ① Mirabi.
- ② General view.
- ③ Partial front view.
- ④ Rosette on the ceiling.
- ⑤ Ceiling details.

③

series of arches on the front and gabled windows. The building is rectangular. The outer walls are overlaid with limestone hewn into rectangular and even polygonal forms on the framework of the southern windows. The beautifully and carefully chiselled stone of the façade add to the architectonic value of this building which resembles the Greek Orthodox basilica churches of the time. A slate is set over the main portal on which is inscribed the name of the builder and the date 1782 when it was built. The whole ceiling is a marvellous specimen of ornamental wood carving. Both the walls, the ceiling and the cupboards are beautifully painted. Some straight parts are sculptured. Among the colours used in painting the woodwork that strikes one's eye for its density is that of gold. Painted woodwork was widely used not only in the interior of buildings of this kind but also from the XVIIth to the XVIIIth century in the interior of the houses of the well to do people. In this branch of the art of wood carving, the Albanian masters had reached a rare artistic perfection and craftsmanship which transcends even the boundaries of our country.



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⑤

