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### **The Historical and Cultural Aspect of the Naming of Streets in the Contemporary City of Brest**

*Historyczno-kulturowy aspekt nazewnictwa ulic współczesnego miasta Brześć*

*Гісторыка-культурны аспект намінацыі урбанонімаў сучаснага горада Брэста*

#### **Abstract**

The city of Brest, which is approaching its thousandth anniversary, throughout its history was part of several states: Kievan Rus', the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and in 1795 was incorporated into the Russian Empire. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the city was part of Poland (1919–1939), part of the Soviet Union (1939–1941) as a newly formed regional centre of the BSSR; it was under German occupation (1941–1944), part of the Soviet Union (1944–1991), and since 1991 has been part of the independent Republic of Belarus.

This paper uses a cultural-historical approach to study the names of intra-city linear objects of present-day Brest. The research data were 51 street names coined in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which were subjected to semantic analysis. The obtained results indicate that nominators continue to use the 'nominal' model popular in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In particular, the names of recent toponyms commemorate people who had glorified Brest and its region during the 1941–1944 military actions (Ju. Vinnik, V. Puganov, M. Kryštofovič), as well as such a significant for the city historical event as the battle of Grünwald in 1410. The modern streets have been named after the persons whose fates had been closely connected with the city as their place of residence or with other activity for the development of the post-war Brest (V. Machnovič, V. Hadzietski). There is also a group of street names commemorating surnames: of Belarusian writers (N. Zasim, V. Kaliešnik, I. Melež) and Russian writers (S. Esenin, A. Platonov, A. Griboedov) as well as the Polish historian and social activist (J. U. Niemcewicz).

The 19<sup>th</sup> century urban street names include various ecclesiastical names, motivated either by names of church buildings (*Ilinskaja St.*, *Irininskaja St.*, *Pakroŭskaja St.*) or by proximity to a nearby confessional object (*Hieorhieŭskaja St.*, *Raždzestvenskaja St.*, *Serafim Saoŭskaja St.*). For the first time anthroponymic names commemorating Orthodox Christian saints appeared on the map of Brest (Boris, Vladimir, Tatiana).

The second attempt to revive the Belarusian language (1991) led to recording official names both in Belarusian and in Russian. Since then, only one name in Belarusian, *Starazytnaja Street* (Belarusian: *Starazhytny* – Russian: *Ancient*) has replenished the list. This name precisely reflects the character of the city, which has witnessed several centuries of complicated history.

**Keywords:** the city of Brest, street names, historical and cultural aspect, commemorative name, ecclesiastical names, Belarusization

### Abstrakt

Miasto Brześć, którego historia liczy tysiąc lat, wchodziło w skład Rusi Kijowskiej, Wielkiego Księstwa Litewskiego, Rzeczypospolitej, a od roku 1795 – Imperium Rosyjskiego. W XX w. miasto było częścią Polski (1919–1939), wchodziło w skład Związku Radzieckiego (1939–1941) jako centrum nowo utworzonego obwodu brzeskiego Białoruskiej Sowieckiej Socjalistycznej Republiki (BSSR), znajdowało się pod niemiecką okupacją (1941–1944), ponownie znalazło się w granicach ZSSR (1944–1991, od roku 1945 – BSSR), a od 1991 roku należy do suwerennej Republiki Białoruskiej. Niniejszy artykuł poświęcony jest historyczno-kulturowemu aspektowi nazewnictwa ulic współczesnego miasta Brześcia. Analizie semantycznej poddanych zostało 51 jednostek powstałych w XXI w. Zaprezentowany materiał pokazuje, że w procesie nominacji kontynuowany jest, często stosowany w XX w., model nadawania ulicom nazw pamiątkowych, służący upamiętnieniu postaci zasłużonych dla miasta Brześcia i dla obwodu brzeskiego w czasie działań wojennych w latach 1941–1944 (J. M. Winnik, W. P. Pugańow, M. J. Krysztofowicz), jak również upamiętnieniu znaczących dla miasta wydarzeń historycznych (na przykład bitwa pod Grunwaldem w roku 1410). Najnowsze ulice zostały też nazwane na cześć osób, których losy związane były z miastem przez miejsce zamieszkania bądź też inną działalność na rzecz rozwoju powojennego Brześcia (W. D. Machnowicz, W. I. Goździeckij). Jest też grupa nazw ulic upamiętniających nazwiska mistrzów pióra: białoruskich (N. Zasiń, W. A. Kolesnik, I. P. Mieleż), rosyjskich (S. A. Jesienin, A. Płatonow, A. S. Gribojedow) i polskiego pisarza, historyka i działacza społecznego (J. U. Niemcewicz). Nazwy ulic nadane w pierwszym dwudziestolecu XXI w., utrwalają ponadto nazwy obiektów sakralnych (*ulica Iljinskaja, Irininskaja, Pokrowskaja*) bądź bezpośrednio nawiązują do usytuowanej na ulicy budowli kultu religijnego (*ulica Gieorgijewskaja, Roźdiestwienskaja, Sierafima Sarowskiego*). Po raz pierwszy na mapie miasta pojawiły się nazwy motywowane imionami świętych Cerkwii prawosławnej (Borys, Włodzimierz, Tatiana). Próba odrodzenia języka białoruskiego w roku 1991 doprowadziła do tego, że nazwy urzędowe były zapisywane w języku białoruskim i rosyjskim. Najnowszy spis brzeskich ulic wzbogacił się o jedną nazwę pochodzenia białoruskiego – *Starazytnaja ulica* (biał. *старажытны* – ros. *древний*, pol. *starożytny*). Oddaje to charakter miasta, świadka skomplikowanej historii.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Brześć, nazwy ulic, aspekt historyczno-kulturowy, nazwy pamiątkowe

### Анатацыя

Горад Брэст, гісторыя якога налічвае тысячу гадоў, уваходзіў у склад Кіеўскай Русі, Вялікага княства Літоўскага, Рэчы Паспалітай, а з 1795 г. – Расійскай імперыі. У XX стагоддзі горад быў часткай Польшчы (1919–1939), уваходзіў у склад СССР (1939–1941) як цэнтр новаўтворанай Брэсцкай вобласці БССР, знаходзіўся пад нямецкай акупацыяй (1941–1944), зноў апынуўся ў межах СССР (1944–1991, з 1945 года – у складзе БССР), а з 1991 года належыць да суверэннай Беларусі.

Дадзены артыкул прысвечаны гісторыка-культурнаму аспекту назваў вуліц сучаснага горада Брэста. У семантычным плане прааналізавана 51 адзінка, утвораная ў XXI ст. Прыведзены матэрыял сведчыць пра тое, што ў працэсе намінацыі працягвае ўжывацца папулярная яшчэ ў XX ст. мадэль прысваення вуліцам памятных, мемарыяльных назваў (мемаратываў) для ўвекавечвання памяці абаронцаў Брэста і Брэсцкай вобласці ў час ваенных дзеянняў 1941–1944 гг. (Ю. Віннік, В. Пуганаў, М. Крыштафовіч), а таксама значнай для горада гістарычнай падзеі, якой была Бітва пад Грунвальдам у 1410 г. Найноўшыя вуліцы атрымалі свае назвы ў гонар вядомых асоб, якія пражывалі ў горадзе. Альбо ўнеслі значны ўклад у развіццё пасляваеннага Брэста (В. Махновіч, У. Газдзецкі). Існуе група найменняў вуліц, якія ўвекавечваюць прозвішчы беларускіх (Н. Засім, У. Калеснік, І. Мележ) і рускіх мастакоў слова (С. Есенін, А. Платонаў, А. Грыбаедаў), а таксама польскага пісьменніка, гісторыка і грамадскага дзеяча (Ю. У. Нямцэвіча).

Назвы вуліц, нададзеныя ў першым дваццацігоддзі XXI ст., адлюстроўваюць назвы сакральных аб'ектаў (*вуліца Ільінская, Ірынінская, Пакроўская*) альбо непасрэдна ўказваюць на размешчаны на вуліцы царкоўны храм (*Георгіеўская, Раждзественская, Серафіма Сараўскага*). Упершыню на карце горада з'явіліся назвы, матываваныя імёнамі святых праваслаўнай царквы (Барыс, Уладзімір, Таццяна).

Спроба адраджэння беларускай мовы ў 1991 г. прывяла да таго, што афіцыйныя назвы сталі фіксавацца на беларускай і рускай мовах. Найноўшы спіс брэсцкіх вуліц папоўніўся адной беларускамоўнай назвай – рус. *Старожытная улица*, бел. *Старажытная вуліца*. Дадзеная назва добра адлюстроўвае характар горада, які стаў сведкам складанай гісторыі на працягу многіх стагоддзяў.

**Ключавыя словы:** Брэст, назвы вуліц, культурна-гістарычны аспект, мемаратывы

The modern city of Brest (bel. *Брэст*) is an ancient Slavic settlement – the administrative center of the Brest region and district, located in the South-West of the Republic of Belarus near the state border with Poland, on the Muchaviec river at its confluence with the Western Bug. It is one of the oldest cities of modern Belarus (the third after Polotsk – bel. *Полацк*, first mentioned about 862 as *Полотеск, Полотьск, Полтеск*, in the written monument *Повесть временных лет / The Tale of Bygone Years* (Pospelov, 2002, p. 335.) and Turov – bel. *Тураў*, first mentioned in the chronicles *Повесть временных лет*<sup>1</sup> about the year 980 (Kalenda, 2004, p. 225).

<sup>1</sup> The Tale of Bygone Years.

In 2019, it is expected to celebrate its 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The city of Brest was first mentioned in the Novgorod First (Synodal) Chronicle in about 1017 (Žukov, 1962, vol. 2, p. 715). However, the generally accepted date is 1019, when *Берестье* / Berestyje was mentioned in the editions of *Повесть временных лет* – the Laurentian and Ipatiev Chronicles – in the context of a narrative about the struggle of the Duke of Turov, Svyatopolk Vladimirovich, for the grand ducal throne of Kiev, with his brother, Yaroslav Vladimirovich (Yaroslav the Wise), who was the Novgorod Duke at that time (Šamâkin, 1987a, p. 13).

One of the founders of Russian toponymy, N. I. Nadezhdin, in his work *Опыт исторической географии русского мира*<sup>2</sup> (1837) stated that most of the names of ancient cities contain a characteristic of their geographical location – an indication of the river or tributary of a large river on which the city is located (Pospelov, 1996, p. 18, 36–37). The names of Belarusian cities formed from the names of nearby rivers are examples of that principle: *Бобруйск* / Bobruisk is located on the *Бобруйка* / Bobruika river (earlier *Бобруя* / Bobruja) (Pospelov, 2002, p. 71), *Витебск* / Vitebsk – is located on the *Витьба* / Vitba river (at its confluence with the Western Dvina) (Pospelov, 2002, p. 99), *Пинск* / Pinsk – on the *Пина* / Pina river, the left tributary of Pripyat (Pospelov, 2002, p. 350), *Полоцк* / Polotsk is named for its location on the *Полота* / Polota river (Pospelov, 2002, p. 335).

However, this does not apply to Brest. Its ancient name, *Берестье* / Berestyje, is a phytoookonym, formed perhaps from the word *береста* / beresta ‘birch bark’ or from the name of a tree species, the old Russian *берест* / Berest ‘elm, Ulmus’. The connection of the city name with these appellatives is indicated by both Russian (Neroznak, 1983, p. 20; Pospelov, 1996, p. 25, 2002, p. 81) and Polish researchers (Ślowski, 1952, vol. 1, A–J, p. 47; Staszewski, 1948, p. 53; Lehr-Splawiński, 1961, vol. 1, A–E, p. 166; Rymut, 1980, p. 44; Citko, 2006, pp. 345–355), as well as Belarusian toponymist (Žučkevič, 1974, p. 36). The formal structure of the first name of modern Brest includes the proto-Slavic suffix *-bj(e)*. This opinion is unanimously held by Polish scientists (including Rospond, 1972, p. 31, 1984, p. 41; Rymut, 1996, vol. 1, A–B, p. 376; Malec, 2003, p. 49), as well as Russian linguist (Neroznak, 1983, p. 20). The modern name of the city, in turn, goes back to the proto-Slavic lexeme *\*berstь* (Neroznak, 1983, p. 20) and is probably its West Slavic (Polish) reflex.

This article, which fits into the mainstream of the researches on the urbanonymy of Polish-East-Slavic frontier<sup>3</sup>, has two main objectives: first, to introduce the facts relating to urbanonymic picture of the modern city of Brest into the scientific use, and, secondly, to determine the main trends of intra-urban nomination on that basis, taking into account the historical and cultural aspect. It is necessary to emphasise that the

<sup>2</sup> Experience of Historical Geography of the Russian World.

<sup>3</sup> The onomasticon of the region examined, including the city of Brest, became the object of research in the works of many authors who focused on certain aspects of hodonymy. See: Famielec, 2016, p. 193.

study of the urbanonymic picture, developed in the border city at the beginning of the 21th century, would be impossible without taking into account historical, political and extra-linguistic factors.

During its existence, Brest was part of various state entities: Kievan Rus, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Republic of Poland / Rzeczpospolita, and the Russian Empire after the Third Partition of Poland in 1795. During the World War I, Brest was under German occupation; from 1919<sup>4</sup> to 1939, it belonged to Poland; from September 22, 1939 to 1941, it was part of the Soviet Union as the centre of the newly formed Brest region of the BSSR; then, from June 1941 to 1944, it was occupied by Nazi troops; from June 1944 to September 1991, the city functioned within the USSR (since 1945 – as part of the BSSR). Finally, since September 1991, it has been part of the sovereign Republic of Belarus. All these historical events are reflected both in the name and re-naming of the city itself (Akubuk, 2003; Famielec, 2006; Kondratiuk, 2007) and in the names of Brest streets and squares (Famielec, 2006, 2008, 2009; Famielec, 2007). At the end of 2018, the author of this article published a monograph *Урбанонимы города Бреста XX в.*<sup>5</sup>, which explores the issues of names of linear objects of the city of Brest in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Famielec, 2018).

A new page in the modern history of both the country and the city of Brest opened on September 19, 1991, with the formation of the independent Republic of Belarus. Even before that (in January 1990), the country adopted a law stipulating that the Belarusian language was the official language. It pursued a state policy of belarusianization, carried out from 1991 to 1994, as the second attempt to revive the Belarusian language during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first (1906–1928) – was associated with a number of factors: the liberalization of life after the revolution (1905–1907), the collapse of the Russian Empire and the formation of the Belarusian People's Republic (1918), later the BSSR (1919). The second movement was due to the new crisis of the Empire and the formation of the sovereign Republic of Belarus (1991) (Mečkovskaâ, 2011, p. 2).

The revival of the Belarusian language was a very active undertaking. Language teaching was conducted in kindergartens, schools, universities. Teachers, employees and officials were enrolled in free courses, seeking to learn the language at a communicative level. The Belarusian language was increasingly used in visual information, office work, or official correspondence. The number of Belarusian editions of newspapers, magazines and books soared. As a result, the names of linear objects appeared in the state language, attested in documents, as well as in the form of plaques on city buildings, remaining to this day. However, practical learning of Belarusian language proved excessive for most people, which was exacerbated by the fact that Belarusian did not become the official language in major institutions such as courts, police, trade

<sup>4</sup> This date is considered conditional, since 1919 the names of streets in Polish have been attested. See GABO-1, GABO-2.

<sup>5</sup> Urbanonyms of the City of Brest of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

points or banks (Mečkovskaâ, 2011, p. 6). A referendum held in May 1995 gave the Russian language a status equal to Belarusian (83.3% voted in favor). Since then, the country has had two official languages, and the importance of the Belarusian language has decreased significantly (Mečkovskaâ, 2011, p. 2). The official title of toponyms began to be recorded in Russian in parallel with Belarusian.

The material for this study was the list of *Названия улиц Бреста*<sup>6</sup>, approved by the decision of the Brest City Council of Deputies (from 24 December 2008) and the most current (since 2014), located on the web page<sup>7</sup>. The list includes 709 titles in Russian and Belarusian. This paper will focus on the names in Russian. For this analysis, we have identified 51 toponyms. This group, in our opinion, points to the connection with the historical and cultural context, which is a significant factor for the perception of the city not only as a place of residence and implementation of current practical activities, but also as an organism with a rich history.

The 'в честь...' / 'in honor...' and 'в память...' / 'in memory...' model, very popular in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is actively used in the nominative practice of the modern city of Brest. N. V. Podolskaya defines this group of toponyms as 'a memorial name, or a commemorative, or a name-dedication – a name given in memory of someone or something' (Podol'skaâ, 1978, p. 124). Names of this type had a socio-historical connotation, often political as well. In the early 1940s, toponyms which still formed the urbanonymic cityscape appeared on the map of Brest, inscribed in the central part of the city. It should be emphasized that June 1833, due to the decree of Nikolay I, Emperor of Russia, marks the time when the Brest fortress was built on the site of the ancient Berestye, then Brest-Litovsk. The new city was built two kilometers to the east of the old one and covered an area five times larger than the old city (Bešanov, 2005, p. 19). The names of the streets of the Central part of modern Brest were changed along with the changes of the political situation. Since the establishment of the Soviet power (in 1939), with minor changes introduced during the Nazi occupation (Famielec, 2007), the following toponyms have been recorded, for example: *улица Будённого* / *Vidyopny street*, *Воровского* / *Vorovsky*, *Гоголя* / *Gogol*, *Горького* / *Gorky*, *Дзержинского* / *Dzerzhinsky*, *Кирова* / *Kirov*, *Куйбышева* / *Kuibyshev*, *Леваневского* / *Levanevsky*, *Ленина* / *Lenin*, *Карла Либкнехта* / *Karl Liebknecht*, *Карла Маркса* / *Karl Marx*, *Маяковского* / *Mayakovsky*, *Орджоникидзе* / *Ordzhonikidze*, *Пушкинская* / *Pushkin*, *Тельмана* / *Telman*, *К. Цеткин* / *K. Tsetkin*, *Ф. Энгельса* / *F. Engels* (Famielec, 2006). These models, developed in Soviet times, as it was rightly noted by M. V. Golomidova (2017, p. 198), firmly fit into the cultural (and ideological) context of the era and often became clichés. Toponyms as symbols of the socialist epoch are always present on the city map of Brest: *Баррикадная* / *Barricade*, *Депутатская* / *Deputy*, *Интернациональная* / *International*, *Коммунистическая* / *Communist*, *Комсомольская* / *Komsomol*, *Красногвардейская* / *Red Guards*, *Краснознамённая* /

<sup>6</sup> Street Names of Brest.

<sup>7</sup> <http://brestcity.com/blog/ulicy-breata> (accessed: 28.04.2018).

*Red Banner, Краснофлотская / Red Navy, Пионерская / Pioneer, Пролетарская / Proletarian, Рабочая / Workers', Республканская / Republican, Советская / Soviet, Трудовая / Labor.*

As for the newest names, the Brest hodonymicon of the 21<sup>st</sup> century was replenished with the names motivated by the surnames:

1) of Belarusian writers, scientists and cultural figures: poet *N. Zasim* (1908–1957)<sup>8</sup>; literary critic, prose writer, scientist *V. A. Kolesnik* (1922–1994) – head of the Department of Belarusian literature (1956–1988) of the Brest Pedagogical Institute (now Brest State A. S. Pushkin University) (Tišuk, 2016, p. 58); a novelist, playwright, publicist *I. P. Melezh* (1921–1976) – a laureate of the Yakub Kolas Literary Prize (1962) and Yakub Kolas BSSR State Prize (1976)<sup>9</sup>;

2) the Belarusian and Polish composer, pianist, teacher, writer, artist, sculptor *Napoleon Orda* (1807–1883) (Paškoŭ, 2001, p. 313);

3) the Polish writer, historian and public figure *Ju. U. Nemtsevich* (1758–1841), a native of the estate Skoki, Brest Povet (region) (Paškoŭ, 2001, p. 312);

4) Russian writers: poet *S. A. Yesenin* (1895–1925) (Starikova, 2007, p. 173); writer *A. Platonov* (1899–1951) (Petrozolin-Skowrońska, 1987, vol. 4, p. 920); a diplomat, poet, playwright, pianist and composer, state councilor *A. S. Griboyedov* (1795–1829)<sup>10</sup>.

At this point, it is worth emphasising that the linear objects in Brest: *улица Якуба Коласа / Yakub Kolas street* (real name K. M. Mickiewicz)<sup>11</sup>, *улица и переулок Янки Купалы / Yanka Kupala street and lane* (I. D. Lutsevich)<sup>12</sup> – are named in honor of Belarusian Soviet poets, novelists, playwrights, publicists, founders of modern Belarusian literature and the Belarusian literary language; as well as *набережная Франциска Скорины / the embankment of Francisk Skorina*, perpetuating the memory of the Belarusian and East Slavic first printer, scientist, philosopher, humanist, translator and writer of the Renaissance<sup>13</sup>, were named much earlier and have been recorded in the hodonymicon of Brest all the time.

Brest streets from the new century bear the names of people who participated in various military operations, often on the territory of the city and the Brest region. This is a continuation of the direction of the state policy aimed at memorialisation, manifested in various forms of representation, including the name of inner-city objects (Famelec, 2015, pp. 395–396). These hodonyms have been given in honour of:

1) participants of the Great Patriotic war, including heroes of the Soviet Union: *V. D. Makhnovich* (1924–2007)<sup>14</sup>, *Yu. M. Vinnik* (1923–1995), the defender of the Brest

<sup>8</sup> [https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Засим,\\_Микола](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Засим,_Микола) (accessed: 28.04.2018).

<sup>9</sup> [https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Мележ,\\_Иван\\_Павлович](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Мележ,_Иван_Павлович) (accessed: 28.04.2018).

<sup>10</sup> <https://dimasugonyaev.livejournal.com/4335.html> (accessed: 28.04.2018).

<sup>11</sup> *Yakub Kolas street* was named in 1956. See: Šamâkin, 1987a, pp. 235–236.

<sup>12</sup> The street received its name in 1972. See: Šamâkin, 1987a, p. 244, 394.

<sup>13</sup> The name was given in 1990. See: Šamâkin, 1987b, p. 552.

<sup>14</sup> V. D. Makhnovich (1924–2007) was a native of the village of Berezovsky district, Brest region. In 1944, in the battles near Warsaw, he was seriously wounded. In 1950 he came to work in the con-

fortress (Kisâlëŭ, 2001, p. 151), *V. P. Puganov* (1901–1941)<sup>15</sup>, the participant of the Civil War; *N. D. Svinaruk* (1920–1944), who distinguished himself in the battles for the liberation of Brest (Kisâlëŭ, 2001, pp. 153–154), *General Timofeev* (1897–1978), whose division was one of the first to enter Brest on July 28, 1944 (Šamâkin, 1987a, pp. 354–355);

2) defenders of the Brest fortress – *V. I. Bytko* (1907–1941) (Kisâlëŭ, 1997, p. 514), and *N. V. Nesterchuk* (1901–1941) (Kisâlëŭ, 1997, p. 530);

3) the Soviet and Belarusian border officer, participant of the Afghan war – *I. P. Barsukov* (1948–2001), the head of the Brest Red Banner border detachment named after F. E. Dzerzhinsky<sup>16</sup> from 1991 to 1993;

4) the figure of the Polish, Belarusian and international revolutionary movement *V. A. Vrublevsky* (1836–1908)<sup>17</sup>;

5) the political and military figure of the Republic of Poland, leader of the national liberation uprising of 1794 against the Russian-Prussian occupation of the country, national hero of Belarus, Poland and the United States, honorary citizen of France – *Andrzej Tadeusz Bonawentura Kosciuszko* (1746–1817) (Tišuk, 2016, p. 64);

6) the Soviet officer and partisan, commander of the Pinsk partisan detachment named after N. A. Shchors – *P. V. Pronyagin* (1916–1997)<sup>18</sup>;

7) the chief of the linear secession militia station Brest-Litovsk A. *Ya. Vorobyov* (1902–1941) – a militia lieutenant; participant of the heroic defence of the Brest station on 22 June 1941<sup>19</sup>;

8) a member of the revolutionary movement in Western Belarus, one of the organizers of the partisan movement and anti-fascist underground in the Brest region *M. E. Kryshstofovich* (Kisâlëŭ, 2001, p. 641).

One of the newest linear objects of Brest *улица Грюнвальдская / Grunwald street* (named in 2014) commemorates the historical battle of Grunwald (15 July 1410), considered to be a great victory of the medieval Lithuania. The battle of Grunwald, fought between the Teutonic order and Poland allied with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania proved decisive in the Great War (1409–1411). The battle took place near the villages of Grunwald and Tanenberg in the territory of the order (now Warmia-Masuria Province of Poland). This motivation is justified by the fact that the secret meeting of the Polish king Jagiello and the Grand Duke of Lithuania Vytautas, during which they developed

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struction trust No. 8 of the city of Brest; three years later he headed a comprehensive construction team. He was awarded two orders of the Red Banner of Labor, the order of the Patriotic War of the 1st degree, medals, including – ‘For Courage’. Honored mentor of working youth of the BSSR (1981), honorary citizen of Brest (1978). Access mode: <https://city-brest.gov.by/махнович-василий-данилович/> (accessed: 28.04.2018).

<sup>15</sup> <http://brestcity.com/blog/v-chest-kogo-nazvany-ulicy-breŭta> (accessed: 28.04.2018).

<sup>16</sup> <http://brestcity.com/blog/v-chest-kogo-nazvany-ulicy-breŭta> (accessed: 28.04.2018).

<sup>17</sup> <http://brestcity.com/blog/v-chest-kogo-nazvany-ulicy-breŭta> (accessed: 28.04.2018).

<sup>18</sup> <http://brestcity.com/blog/v-chest-kogo-nazvany-ulicy-breŭta> (accessed: 28.04.2018).

<sup>19</sup> <http://brestcity.com/blog/v-chest-kogo-nazvany-ulicy-breŭta> (accessed: 28.04.2018).

a strategic plan of preparation for this battle, was held in the Berestey castle (8–10 December 1409). Along with the Polish and Lithuanian forces, the Beresteysk Banner department participated in the battle and was victorious (Tišuk, 2016, pp. 33–34).

Brest streets are named after people whose fate is connected with the city. Thus, in memory of the first leaders of the Brest Electromechanical plant (Брестский электромеханический завод – БЭМЗа) – Director V. A. Salnikov and chief engineer M. E. Ekelchik<sup>20</sup> *улица Сальникова / Salnikov street* and *улица Екельчика / Ekelchik street* were named. One of Brest streets was named after a native Brest citizen V. I. Gozdetsky (1929–2010) – the head of the Brest Construction trust No. 8 (now ‘Stroytrest No. 8’); an honoured builder of the Belarusian SSR, a honorary citizen of the city of Brest (Tišuk, 2016, p. 28). On the list of Brest streets, there is a toponym perpetuating the name of a brave Brest resident D. V. Gvishiani (1978–1999) – a cadet of the Military Academy of Belarus, who saved hundreds of people in a burning train ‘Brest-Minsk’, on which he was traveling to the capital to study<sup>21</sup>.

In the modern history of the city, one street was named after M. N. Ptashuk (1943–2002) – the Soviet and Belarusian film Director, author of the films *Чёрный замок Ольшанский*<sup>22</sup>, *Знак беды*<sup>23</sup>, *В августе 44-ого*<sup>24</sup>, etc.; the people’s artist of BSSR, the native of the Brest region<sup>25</sup>. The list of Brest streets also includes the one named in honour of V. M. Bekhterev (1857–1927) – a neurologist, psychiatrist, one of the founders of Russian neurology (Starikova, 2007, p. 58).

As an attempt at the revival and strengthening of the Orthodox Church, the latest map of the city includes toponyms derived from the names of Church architectural facilities: *улица Благовещенская / Blagoveshchenskaya street*, *Васильевская / Vasilyevskaya*, *Ильинская / Ilyinskaya*, *Ирининская / Irininskaya*, *Николаевская / Nikolaevskaya*, *Павловская / Pavlovskaya*, *Петровская / Petrovskaya*, *Петропавловская / Petropavlovskaya*, *Покровская / Pokrovskaya*, *Троицкая / Troickaya*, *Успенская / Uspenskaya*. The connection with the Church located next to the street is indicated by the names: *улица Георгиевская / Georgiyevskaya street* (named after the Svyato-Georgiyevskaya / St. George Church situated in the street), *улица Рождественская / Rozhdestvenskaya street* and *1-2-й Рождественский переулок / 1-2 Rozhdestvensky lane* (named after Svyato-Khristo-Rozhdestvensky / the Holy Christ-Christmas Church located in the micro district of the city, Vulka), *улица Свято-Афанасьевская / Svyato Afanasievskaya street* (from the Svyato-Afanasievsky man’s convent situated in the street; St. Athanasius, Abbot of Brest, Saint of the Russian Orthodox Church, patron of the city of Brest (Tišuk, 2016, p. 87). In the Arkadia micro region, there

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.vb.by/society/6348.html> (accessed: 28.04.2018).

<sup>21</sup> <http://brestcity.com/blog/podvig-dmitriya-gvishiani-vspominayut-v-breste-video> (accessed: 28.04.2018).

<sup>22</sup> The Black Castle Olshansky.

<sup>23</sup> A Sign of Trouble.

<sup>24</sup> On August 44<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>25</sup> <http://brestcity.com/blog/v-chest-kogo-nazvany-ulicy-bresta> (accessed: 28.04.2018).

is улица Монастырская / *Monastery street*, located perpendicularly to the Свято-Афанасьевской / *Svyato Afanasyevskaya* and Свято-Никифоровская улица / *Svyato Nikiforovskaya street*, adjacent to улица Монастырская / *Monastery street*. The name улица Серафима Саровского / *Seraphim of Sarov street* hints at its location near Svyato Seraphimovskaya / *the St. Seraphim Church* situated in the street. The saints of the Orthodox Church are mentioned in the names of streets: Борисовская / *Borisovskaya*, Владимирская / *Vladimirskaya*, Романовская / *Romanovskaya*, Татьянанская / *Tatyaninskaya*.

Interestingly enough, the wave of belorussization of 1990s saw the names of the streets Волошковая / *Voloshkovaya* – from the name of the flower – валюшка / *valoshka* (rus. василёк / *cornflower*), Житняя / *Zhitnaya* – from the name of the cereal жыта / *zhyta* (rus. рожь / *rye*), Журавинная / *Zhuravinaya* – the name of the berries журавина / *zhuravina* (rus. клюква / *cranberries*), Суничная / *Sunichnaya* (bel. суніца – rus. земляника / *wild strawberries*), Сябровская / *Syabrovskaya* (bel. сябар – rus. друг / *friend*). Only one name, Старожитная улица / *Starozytnaya street* (bel. старажытны – rus. древний / *ancient*), has been added to this list recently. It seems that this onym correctly describes the character of the city, witnessing an interesting, complex and turbulent history for many centuries.

Summing up, it may be concluded that:

1. Even a small fragment of the urbanonymic portrait of the city of Brest at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century reflects both the cultural and historical heritage and its development.

2. In the abovementioned onyms, it can be seen that the names assigned to the new (21<sup>st</sup> century) streets often have not lost their ideological basis and still perpetuate the memory of the defenders of the Brest fortress (V. I. Bytko, Yu. M. Vinnik, N. V. Nesterchuk), participants in the defensive battles for the city of Brest and the region (D. N. Svinaruk), as well as the peacetime border guard officer (I. P. Borsukov), etc. In addition to onyms significant for the memorialisation of the Great Patriotic War, the map of Brest includes the names of Belarusian, Polish and Russian artists (A. S. Griboyedov, V. A. Kolesnik, J. U. Niemcewicz, M. N. Ptashuk), as well as other people who contributed to the development of the post-war Brest (V. I. Gozdetsky, M. E. Ekelchik, V. A. Salnikov).

3. For the first time, the Brest hodonymicon includes a name given in honour of a battle – the battle of Grunwald in 1410.

4. *Kosciuszko street* / улица Костюшко, attested in archival documents of 1919–1939 (See GABO-2, GABO-3, GABO-4), when Brest belonged to Poland, returned to the city map in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Since the establishment of Soviet power (1939), Kosciuszko street was renamed into улицу Гоголя / *Gogol street*, listed in the modern list of urbanonyms of Brest. The new Kosciuszko street is located on the right side of the exit from the city in the East direction (Tišuk, 2016, p. 64).

5. The process of nominating hodonyms which appeared in the 21<sup>st</sup> century includes a retro-nomination process regarding ecclesionymic onyms. This is motivated

either by the names of Church buildings (Ilyinskaya, Pokrovskaya) or by a connection with nearby churches (Rozhdestvenskaya, Seraphim Sarovsky). For the first time, the names of the Brest streets honour the saints of the Orthodox Church (Boris, Vladimir, the Romanov family, Tatiana).

6. The latest toponyms show a lack of interest in belorussification, which is noticeable in the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Translated into English by Marharyta Svirydava*

### List of sources

- GABO-1 – *Cirkuljary, dekrety i rasporyażeniâ komissara Brest-Litovskogo pov. (podlinniki i kopii) i perepiska s nimi ob otkrytii torgovo-promyšlennyh predpriâtij, vzimanii nalogov s naseleniâ i dr. hozjajstvennym voprosam; svedeniâ o posevah sel'skohozjajstvennyh kul'tur i okrestnosti gor. Bresta v 1918–1919 gg. Spiski kommunal'nyh predpriâtij i ulic gor. Bresta. Spisok pereimenovannyh magistratom ulic g. Bresta s ukazaniem ih dovoennyh nazvanij 26 VI 1919. Wykaz nazw wszystkich ulic w Brześciu Litewskim z wyszczególnieniem zmiany nazw poprzednich na teraźniejsze*. In: Gosudarstvennyj arhiv Brestskoj oblasti. F. 5, inv. 1, d. 2, p. 186. [Циркуляры, декреты и распоряжения комиссара Брест-Литовского пов. (подлинники и копии) и переписка с ними об открытии торгово-промышленных предприятий, взимании налогов с населения и др. хозяйственным вопросам; сведения о посевах сельскохозяйственных культур и окрестности гор. Бреста в 1918–1919 гг. Списки коммунальных предприятий и улиц гор. Бреста. Список переименованных магистратом улиц г. Бреста с указанием их довоенных названий 26 VI 1919. Wykaz nazw wszystkich ulic w Brześciu Litewskim z wyszczególnieniem zmiany nazw poprzednich na teraźniejsze. В: Государственный архив Брестской области. Ф. 5, оп. 1, д. 2, л. 186].
- GABO-2 – *Ukazanie Brestskoj gorodskoj rady o blagoustrojstve gor. Bresta; Reglament Brestskoj gorodskoj bojni i ustav vodoprovodno-kanalizacionnyh predpriâtij (14 avgusta 1919 g.)*. In: Gosudarstvennyj arhiv Brestskoj oblasti. F. R-5, inv. 1, d. 4, p. 2. [Указание Брестской городской рады о благоустройстве гор. Бреста; Регламент Брестской городской бойни и устав водопроводно-канализационных предприятий (14 августа 1919 г.). В: Государственный архив Брестской области. Ф. Р-5, оп. 1, д. 4, л. 2].
- GABO-3 – *Zaâvleniâ žitelej goroda Bresta o vydače svidetel'stv na pravo vladeniâ dvižimym i nedvižimym imušestvom s priloženiem poslednih (16 fevralâ 1921–16 oktâbrâ 1921)*. In: Gosudarstvennyj arhiv Brestskoj oblasti. F. 5, inv. 1, d. 22, p. 35. [Заявления жителей города Бреста о выдаче свидетельств на право владения движимым и недвижимым имуществом с приложением последних (16 февраля 1921–16 октября 1921)]. В: Государственный архив Брестской области. Ф. 5, оп. 1, д. 22, л. 35].
- GABO-4 – *Plan goroda za 1941 g. Načato 27 noâbrâ 1930 g. Szkie m. Brześcia N/Bugiem 'Przedmieście Kijowskie'*. In: Gosudarstvennyj arhiv Brestskoj oblasti. F. 5, inv. 1, d. 859,

p. 2. [План города за 1941 г. Начато 27 ноября 1930 г. *Szkic m. Brześcia N/Bugiem „Przedmieście Kijowskie”*. В: Государственный архив Брестской области. Ф. 5, оп. 1, д. 859, л. 2].

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