



NEW ALBANIA

1969
No. 6



Comrade Enver Hoxha, speaking about the victories of the Albanian people during these 25 years of the people's power, November 28, 1968.

On the occasion of the great jubilee, of the 25th anniversary of the liberation of our fatherland, and of the victory of the people's revolution, on the 28th of November 1968 a festive meeting was held in Tirana. Hundreds of distinguished workers of different enterprises and institutions, cooperative farmers, army-men, parents of fallen martyrs, veterans of the National Liberation War, who have come here from all the parts of the country as well as many citizens of the capital filled the hall of the Palace of Sports.

In this grand meeting were also present numerous dear friends of ours: the delegation of the Communist Party of China and of the Government of the People's Republic of China, headed by the member of the Political Bureau of the CC of the Communist Party of China, Vice-Prime Minister of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Comrade Li Hsien Niou, and the alternate member of the Politbureau of CC of the Communist Party of China, member of the Military Council attached to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Deputy Commander of the great military district of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of Anhwei Province Comrade Li Teh Sheng, the delegation of the

Workers' Party of Vietnam and of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, headed by member of the Politbureau of the Workers' Party of Vietnam and Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Comrade Hoang Van Tuan; the delegation of the National Front for Liberation and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, headed by the member of the Central Committee of the National Front for Liberation and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Vietnam, Comrade Nguyen Thi Binh; the delegation of the Marxist-Leninist Communists of France; the delegation of the Communist Party of New Zealand; the delegation of the Communist Party of Brazil; the delegation of the Communist Party (M-L) of Italy; the delegation of the Communist Party of Indonesia; the delegation of Non-Lao-Nakha (Lao), the delegation of the Communist Party (M-L) of Britain; the delegation of the Communist Party (M-L) of Ecuador; the delegation of the Communist Party of Ceylon; the delegation of the Communist Party of Peru; the delegation of the Communist (M-L) Party of Spain; the delegation of Marxist-Leninist Party of Austria; the delegation of the Marxist-Leninist Party

of Holland; the delegation of the Communist Party (M-L) of Belgium; the delegation of the Communist Party (M-L) of Germany; the delegation of the Communist Organization of Switzerland; the delegation of the Communist League (M-L) of Sweden; the delegation of the Communist League (M-L) of Denmark.

Besides the above mentioned delegations at the meeting were also present: the delegation of the All-African Trade Union; the delegation of the Federation of the Trade Unions of Palestine; the delegation of the Trade-Union of the Liberation Front of the Somaliland; the delegation of the General Federation of the Trade Unions of Iraq; the delegation of the Complete Socialist Youth Union; the delegation of the General Union of the Students of Palestine; the delegation of the Student Federation of Black Africa in France; the delegation of the Women's Union of Palestine; the delegation of the Women's Union of South Yemen; the delegation of the Italy-Albania Friendship Society; the delegation of the Iceland-Albania Friendship Society; the delegation of the Japan-Albania Friendship Society; the delegation of the Cyprus-Albania Friendship Society; the delegation of the Austria-Albania Friendship Society.

Present at the meeting were also repre-

sentatives of our Albanian brothers living in the USA, Argentina, Turkey, Rumania, Bulgaria, France, Syria, Austria and a group of our brothers from heroic Kosovo as well as many other personalities, friends of Albania, from France, Turkey, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Venezuela.

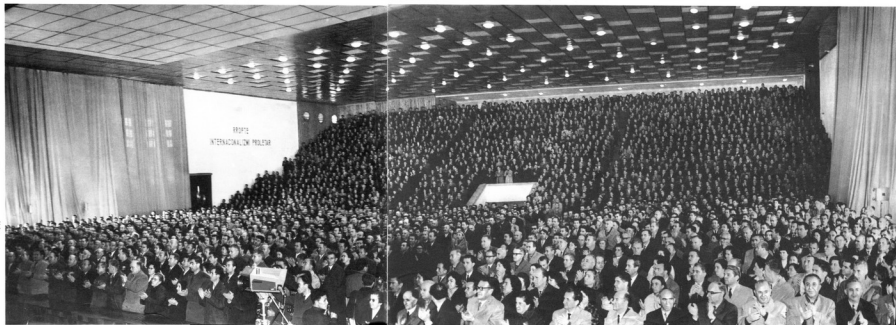
Those present at the meeting enthusiastically cheered and applauded when Comrade Enver Hoxha and other leaders of the Party and Government entered the hall.

Among cheers and applause for the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, the member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Party and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PR of Albania Comrade Mehmet Shehu declared the meeting open.

After that the national anthem was played by the band.

Among cheers and applause of those present, the floor was given to the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the P.L.A. Enver Hoxha who delivered a speech dedicated to the socialist struggle and victories of our people during those 25 years under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania.

A FESTIVE MEETING DEDICATED TO THE GREAT JUBILEE



A view from the solemn meeting dedicated to the 25th anniversary of liberation.

Brilliant Manifestation of Strength and Unity of the People Around the Party

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the liberation of the fatherland, and of the triumph of the people's revolution, a military parade and a manifestation of the working masses of the capital, took place in Tirana.

In this grandiose manifestation, our People's Army equipped with all the modern means, necessary for the defence of our socialist fatherland, demonstrated its high readiness. Educated and led by our Party of Labour, it undauntedly stands guard for the defence of the socialist gains of the people.

The parade was opened by a group of former partisans of partisan brigades, who 25 years ago, came out victorious over the occupantists. Their breasts were adorned with numerous medals. They transmit, their traditions to the young generation, which is an insurmountable barricade against the enemies.

The working class of our capital-city showed its brilliant victories in the field of industrialization. Though young, our working class is able to build and run mills, factories, and plants equipped with the most modern machines, which adorn today all the parts of our country.

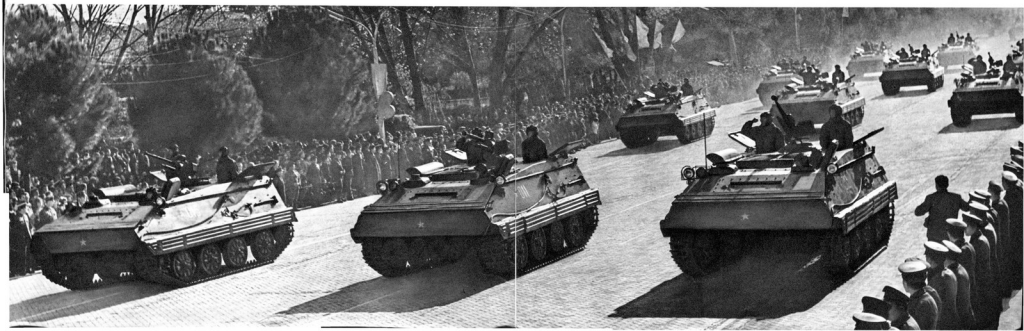
Like an impetuous river, the working people of our capital paraded before the leadership of the Party and of the State. They expressed their boundless love for the Party, headed by the beloved leader Comrade Enver Hoxha. The manifestation was another expression of the unshakable faith that our people have in the Party, which following a correct Marxist-Leninist line, is leading our country towards the full building of the socialist society, towards communism.

The great parade dedicated to the 25th anniversary of liberation, was opened by the participants of the partisan brigades.





Our army is equipped with the most modern means for the defence of the socialist fatherland.



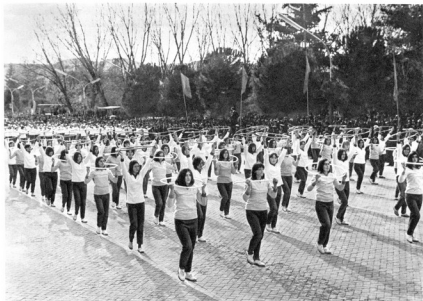


If the need arises, our youth is ready to defend the Fatherland, rifle in hand.



A view from the manifestation of the working masses of the capital.

Middle-school pupils parading.



Exhibition on the Achievements of the Socialist Construction of the PR of China



Comrade Enver Haxha and other leaders of the Party and of the State, visiting the exhibition.



Comrade Mahmut Shehu, member of the Politburo of the CC of the PLA and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PR of Albania, cutting the ribbon.

Respected Friends Among Us

A delegation of the Party and State from the People's Republic of China headed by Comrade Li Haien Nien, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Vice-Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, came to Albania to attend the celebrations of the great jubilee of the 25 anniversary of the liberation of Albania and the victory of the people's revolution.

The Albanian people are honoured to celebrate this glorious anniversary together with their close comrade-in-arm,

the representatives of the great 700 million Chinese people. The participation of the dear friends from friendly China in our celebration is for our people a great honour and another high expression of the everlasting revolutionary friendship and of the unbreakable militant unity bounding up our two peoples, our two parties and our two socialist countries.

During its stay in Albania the delegation was received by the beloved leader of our people, Comrade Enver Haxha; it attended the military parade and the enthusiastic celebration of the people of the capital; it visited the construction-site of the Yan I Devis Hydro-Power Station which bears the name of the great leader of the Chinese people and the best friend of the Albanian people, Comrade Mao Tse-tung; it witnessed the monumental work of the immortal Albania-China friendship.

It also visited the therm-station and the nitrate fertilizer plant in Fier, symbols of the great China-Albania friendship as well as the oil-processing plant. The representatives of the fraternal Chinese people were everywhere welcomed a warmly revolutionary welcome expressing the pure feelings of the boundless fraternal friendship that our people and Party cherish for the 700 million Chinese people, for their glorious Communist Party as well as for their great leader, the dearest friend of the Albanian people, the distinguished Marxist-Leninist, Comrade Mao Tse-tung.



November 20, 1968. The whole people of Tirana expressed their joy and enthusiasm on the day of the great celebration.



**J.V. Stalin—
Lenin's Faithful Disciple
And Comrade-in-Arms**



... Throughout his theoretical and practical activity J. V. Stalin was and remains one of the most outstanding leaders and personalities not only for the Soviet Union and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union but also for the internationalist and worker's movement, one of the most fervent defenders and one of the greatest theoreticians of Marxism-Leninism. His great historic merit lies in that he, for many years in succession, was a faithful disciple of Lenin, his determined comrade-in-arms in the struggle to overthrow Tsarism and for the triumph of the great October Socialist Revolution. While after Lenin's death, being at the head of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, he loyally defended Leninism from all the savage attacks of the Trotskyites, Bukharinites, Zinovievites and other enemies and defeated them ideologically and politically. J. V. Stalin, ... further developed Marxism-Leninism on a series of important questions concerning the Soviet socialist society, the building of socialism and communism, he made a valuable contribution to the strengthening of the socialist camp and of the international Communist movement, ... to the exposure of modern revisionism, ...

(Excerpt from Comrade Enver Hoxha's speech delivered at the festive meeting dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the founding of the PEA and the 41st anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution—1961)



V.I. Lenin and J.V. Stalin
Museum in Tirana attracts many visitors from the capital and from the whole of Albania.
Photo by S. Xhillari

Stalin has been and will always be in our hearts as well as in the hearts of the revolutionaries the world over. In the photo: The monument to Stalin in the main boulevard of Tirana.

On the eve of the 29th anniversary of the liberation and of the victory of the people's revolution, the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania decided to carry out a series of important measures, beginning from November 8, 1969, which aim at raising the people's welfare.

LOWER PRICES

- The price of sugar is reduced by 11.1 percent.
- The prices of a number of various textile articles, fabrics, and stockings etc. are reduced from 11.8 percent to 31.1 percent.
- The prices of some construction materials such as cement, nails, glass etc. have been reduced from 11.8 percent to 14.7 percent.
- The reduction of prices for household utensils, plastic articles, glassware, chinaware etc. ranges from 18 to 15 percent.
- The reduction of prices for 174 medicines including antibiotics and vitamins range from 58 to 85 percent.
- Prices were also reduced for 31 kinds of insecticides and farming machines.
- The railway transport ticket prices were also reduced.

**THE COUNTRY WITHOUT
ANY TAXES**

In order to free the incomes of the working people from any cut the system of taxation on the people has been completely abolished in the People's Republic of Albania.

**IN FAVOUR OF THE
AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES**

- The state grants to the agricultural cooperatives of the mountainous and hilly regions:
 - All the credits given to them since 1966 till November the 31st 1969 for buying beasts of burden and production.
 - Half of the credits given to them for ploughing the land by the M75 (motor tractor) machines.
 - Not yet paid credits time-limited till March 1969.
 - Not yet paid credits given to the inhabitants of the frontier villages and of the mountainous and hilly regions for improving their housing conditions.
 - The tax on the yearly incomes of the agricultural cooperatives of the mountainous and hilly regions is completely abolished.
 - The tariffs have been reduced for the work of the motor tractor stations done in the agricultural cooperatives of the mountainous and hilly regions.
- In order to increase the incomes of the peasantry especially of the mountainous and hilly regions the state will buy from them at higher prices (the rise ranges from 4 to 25 percent) dairy products and 20 kinds of tanning-bearing and medicinal herbs. The annual profit of population from this will amount to 145 million leka.
- The adoption of these measures is due to the constant strengthening of our people's economy. The national incomes in 1969 compared with those in 1950 will grow by 8 times. At present Albania has its own modern industry with an advanced technique which produces 26 times more than in 1950 or 14 times more than in 1959. The total agricultural production in 1962 was 2.8 times greater than that of 1950.
- During the period from 1951 the per-capita production grew 2.3 times whereas the growth of population was 1.7.

Prices Reduced

Albania

— the Country Without Taxes

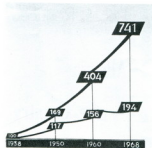
During the 25 years of the people's state power the working people of Albania have witnessed only successive reductions of commodity prices.
Photo by S. Xhillari



The population of our country increases on an average of 1.4 per cent annually.

In 1969 Albania counted 21 million inhabitants, or 73 persons per square kilometer.

— In 1968, the population of Albania was twice as large as in 1938. The national incomes in the same period increased 1.3 times; the total industrial output—3.2 times; the retail goods turnover and public catering nearly 9 times. The diagram of the national incomes and that of the population during this period are as follows:

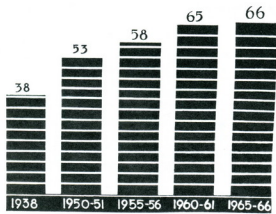


What Do You Know About the Population of Albania?

— Before liberation 15 per cent of the population lived in cities. At present this figure has reached 22 per cent. The number of males is about 5% greater than that of females. The population of work age constitutes 47 per cent of the whole population. The population under age constitutes 14 per cent.

The death rate in 1938 was 18.3 people out of 1,000. In 1960 the death rate was reduced to 6.1 people out of 1,000.

The average life-span in 1938 was 38 years. In 1965-66 the average life-span the population of our country was 66 years. 69 for males and 67 for females.



The Korça plain situated in a height of 870 meters above sea level and surrounded from all sides by mountains, is one of the most fertile areas of the country. Apart from the growth of grain crops and sugar beets, there grow apples as well. The Korça apples are well known not only in the national market but also in foreign markets. All the agricultural co-operatives of the Korça District have set up patches of apple trees alongside with other agricultural crops. A few kilometers southward of Korça City, you may see the plantations of the state agricultural enterprise of Dvorani. This enterprise founded in 1924, it covers an area of 1,389 hectares and chiefly planted with apple trees of different varieties. There is also a nursery which covers seventy hectares and supplies other agricultural cooperatives of Korça and other districts with saplings. You may choose among the 19 varieties of apple trees. The farm is newly created one, only 30,000 apple trees yield fruits, while 52,000 are still growing. They reaped good harvests this year. In some sectors they reaped 840 quintals of fruits per hectare. In some cases, a fruit tree has given 7 quintals of apples, whereas an apple weighs 600 grammes. The increase of the fruit trees cultivated entails the raising of the qualification of the workers and the mechanization of work will make possible the doubling and the tripling of production in the years to come. For the training of the necessary cadres and the qualification of the workers a two-grade school is opened as well as one-course schools for training masters of production without suspending their work. The enterprise has now 14 tractors, ten pumps for irrigating the trees, four automobiles and a machine shop for its needs. These reservoirs are set up for irrigation. The enterprise of Dvorani supplies with apples not only the Korça City but the whole republic. Work is going on for setting up a new sector which will cover 120 hectares mainly built which will be planted with cherry plums, quinces and apples of the best varieties: "starling", "goblet delicious" and "stark delicious". For the workers there have been created all the necessary conditions for work and education. The enterprise has set up kindergartens, dining-rooms, shops etc.



The Dvorani Apples

Thousands of quintals of apples are produced in these plantations, which some years ago were covered by the waters of the swamp and lagoon.
Photos by N. Kodheli





That day Maria lost her father, but she was never left orphan. She will preserve this photo as some thing very dear. Comrade Enver Hoxha, the beloved leader of our people, went to the house of Bardok Biba at that time and personally took care of his family.

August 7, 1949. A band of traitors had laid an ambush at the Valmeri Slope in the Mirdita Region. (At that time there still existed some enemy hands which were aided by foreign imperialists.)

Bardok Biba the First Secretary of the Party for Mirdita District, together with a group of volunteers who were going to participate in the construction of the Karl-Marx Hydro-Power Station were descending the Valmeri Slope.

Bardok Biba was accompanying the volunteers. The enemies hidden behind the bushes shot him dead. They killed the beloved son of the people, Bardok Biba. He left his wife and his three-year-old daughter, Maria.

The Party stood by his family. Comrade Enver Hoxha himself, as you see in the photo, went to Bardok's house; He holds Maria in his arms and with a father's love caresses her.

Maria had to be happily and brought up.

Many years elapsed and Maria finished her studies at the two-grade institute in Shkoder for biological sciences. She was nominated



Now Maria has become a polytechnic. She is vice-director of the 12 year school of Mirdita in the centre of Mirdita Region.

She Did Not Remin Fatherless

teacher in Roshen, in her district.

May 23, 1968. The Mirdita people are living a festive day. Comrade Enver Hoxha, the beloved leader of the people is visiting them. He is again visiting Maria and her mother. Maria is elected the youth secretary of the young girls of the district. She is a good worker and a good pupil in putting into life the Party teachings, and a good fighter in the cause her father died for.

Comrade Enver Hoxha presented Maria his first work with this inscription: 'the daughter of my beloved comrade.' 'I read this book to Maria Biba as a souvenir of my stay in Roshen. I wish Maria a happy and joyful life on the enlightened Party road for which Bardok Biba, her father, fought and heroically fell'.

Roshen-Mirdita 29 May 1968. ENVER

We recently met Maria in Roshen. Now she is the vice-director of the middle school which bears the name of her father, Bardok Biba. Two days ago she had been accepted as a Party candidate.

The Found Child

At that time he was not four years yet. He dimly remembers the explosion, the blazes of the bombs, the heavy smoke and the flames. Then he grew up and began to call things by their proper names. These were the days when the fascists were bombing the villages in between Mostegje and Perretit. Each bomb caused death and destruction. His house, too, had this fate. It was reduced to ashes when the house was bombed the child happened to be in the street. Thus it was only he who was survived from his family. Soon three men approached the child.

—What is your name dear child?

The child is so surprised that he does not know what to answer.

—What is your name?

The child did not speak. Those men were unknown to him and that added to his anxiety.

One of them said:

—Let us take him to our town... or else his life will be in danger. Ever since he was made the son of the platoon, the partisans were not able to learn even his name and family name. The child of course must have had both the name and family name. Somebody suggested to give the child a short name that could be easily recalled to that. Yes, Pal had nothing in the world but his life. One of the partisans remarked that this child was more proletarian than any other proletarian. This is how the family name of the child came into being. Since that day the son of the platoon was named Pal proletarian. This is the name he bore during his life. This is the name he bears nowadays.

... One of those three men who found Pal in the street that day kept him close to himself. And Pal, though bound by friendship with all, felt closer to this man. This man was the people's hero Asim Zeneli. One day they brought him some biscuits. Then he had news he was broken to him.

—Asim was killed.

Pal recalls how he found the biscuits and went out into the street to find Asim who had been killed by his father. The partisans took standing around a man lying on the ground. The man had been killed by a big nail. Pal fell on him. Two strong hands pulled him up. Pal was not able to take off the coat and uncover the man.



This was how he departed with Asim not being able to see his face for the last time.

The grief overwhelmed all the partisans. Pal forgot his innocent childhood joy. Within those few days he seemed to grow up so quickly and look like a man. In order to relieve him from the anguish the partisans related to him various stories and gave him many presents. For then he was not only the son of the platoon but also Asim's last will.

The partisans washed and dressed him. Each would call him "my son". Each looked after him like he looked after his gun, like he looked after the red star on his cap and after the flag. The liberation day came. It found Pal proletarian as we described him.

Then he felt the love of all for him at the orphan's home. He would often go to the young pioneer camp where he was known as the bugler. In 1951 he filled an application he wanted to join as the bugler in the red star on it. When he was a child he had always the wish to go to the "Scanderbeg" Military School. His desire was fulfilled. Thus Pal made a start towards new horizons.

He was so warmly welcomed at the school as no one had been before him. All had read an article on the newspaper which spoke about his life. All wanted him to speak. This was his first "press interview".

Pal was a good pupil. He was very warm and friendly towards his comrades.

In 1952 the name of Pal proletarian was added to the list of the members of the Party of Labour of Albania. A year later he entered the central military school which he finished after three years. So he became an officer.

We met Pal proletarian a few moments ago. He was talking a walk with his wife and two children. His son made a daring movement towards the flowers.

—Asim! Don't touch the flowers!

The little son immediately slowed down his pace and smiled. He was looking at those happy children and on hearing the name of Asim I could not help remembering the road travelled by Pal proletarian; of that Pal who was brought up by the partisans love who was made such by the care of the Party and who lives up to the Party ideals like a determined revolutionary.



And years elapsed... It is through those years that Pal proletarian was brought up. Today he is not only a firm fighter but also a careful parent.

This photo has been taken during the stormy years of National Liberation War; when little Pal was the son of the partisan unit.

Unbelievable? No, It's True



She is Natasha Merko. In her look we notice not only the joy of new days but also her faith in future.

What we are telling you is not only the history of a man but also the history of our people who have generation after generation fought to win freedom. This is the history of a place steeped in blood for centuries on end. This better expresses the unending truth of the Albanian.

The student Natasha Merko studies in the faculty of the economic sciences. She is a third grade student. She was born in 1948, a month after her father captain Bektesh fell during the fight against the Greek monarchy-fascists, in the southern frontier of the country. Natasha is the fourth generation that has not known a father.

Her grandfather was killed in the fight against the Turkish invaders nearly at the beginning of this century.

The dislocated villagers to the bays and foreigners would find shelter in Panairi. Those were men of freedom. They would till land and even less bread. Although, the highlanders would give their blood for a revolver. The revolver was for them the symbol of power and freedom.

In 1898 the Turks besieged Panairi. They wanted the first of these newly created units to surrender to them. More than 400 Turks came from Zaimis, Berat and Manastiri. The fight was very fierce. The highlanders were fighting in every house, in every bush. The Turkish artillery did what it could—everything was raised to the ground. But the determination of the revolted highlanders was more powerful than the shells of the invaders.

The Turks withdrew towards Berat. Meanwhile the Panairi held the mournful ceremony for its martyrs. Bektesh Meko, a young man and the only boy of the family was among the martyrs. On those days his wife gave birth to a child. In his father's honour the little boy was called Bektesh. Bektesh the young was rapidly growing as if hurrying to join the ranks of the unit to replace his father. He was still very young when he grasped the gun. He replaced his father. From 1913 to 1917 he fought in the same unit which was led by Caku Panairi against the Greeks who would attack Panairi and the adjacent villages of the region. Young Bektesh fought everywhere... He was born and died with gun in hand. He was killed in the Miroka battles. A few days after his death, his wife gave birth to a child. History was repeated... The little boy was brought up by the villagers. He was called Bektesh too. When he grew up, he became a brigadier. Bektesh the third worked very hard. When the partisan struggle broke out, Bektesh the third turned the paper cap into the partisan cap with a red star on it. After liberation he graduated from the officers school.

On August 2, 1949 the Greek monarchy-fascists attacked the southern frontier. The order was given to his battalion to move from Delvina to Bilisht. The bloodshed of his encounters tempted him to attack. The counter-attack of our frontier troops was like the rushing of the mad waves. But their commander fell. A shell exploded beside him.

Bektesh the third too could not see the child his wife was expecting. A month after she gave birth to a child. She was the first child. She is called Natasha Merko. She is the fourth generation of this family with a tragic and heroic history. Natasha was born and brought up in the Albanian. Her destiny is not the same as her forefathers. Natasha is elected the secretary of the youth organization of the Party.

This year she went to Pragerad on the occasion of the foundation of the XXVth brigade to stand among the partisans of this brigade instead of her father.

If tomorrow the fatherland needs her, she will take up arms and fight like her father, like her grandfather, like her great grandfather...



Sirt Blazhorri in his workshop.

As a deputy to the People's Assembly, his get-togethers with the electors take an important part in the activities of Sirt.



men, like a barometer to see the construction progress of the whole country. The more the construction front is expanded the greater the demands from this plant. So a bright idea flashed into the mind of the person I was searching for. The idea was to make a machine for turning out metric bolts of rich dimensions. He had a tough time and again he won over the difficulties. The machine he created is not a big one yet its production is big. In a month it turns out twice the annual production of the metric bolts.

We were passing another workshop.

— This is the sewing needles production line. Yes it was here where the first Albanian needles were produced. The guide shows me everything.

— Who created this line?

Again, among the other names mentioned, I heard the name of the person I was looking for. His name became like a refrain which I heard in every new shop and production line.

The feeling of the curiosity to know this man grew in me. When I came out of the plant there outside I saw a big glass frame. The photographs of the model workers of the plant were shown there. "There are quite a number of them..." I said. The picture of the person you want to meet is not here. He himself doesn't like to have his photo displayed... Recently he has been thinking of and working on something new. Let us wait and see what this will be.

He was smiling, when all of a sudden he made an abrupt movement and said:

— Here he is at last... Now I'll introduce him to you.

We stepped forward while the man I had been looking for approached us wearing a smile on his face: His light blue eyes too were smiling.

— Sirt Blazhorri — he introduced himself and warmly shook my hand as if he had known each other long before this. I am awfully sorry to have kept you waiting. I was meeting some of my constituents.

The worker Sirt Blazhorri has been elected representative to the People's Assembly — our country's highest state organ.

THE GREATEST REWARD

I had heard much about this man. Now that I came to the Kavaja nut and bolt producing plant I wanted to meet him.

— He is out, they said, but he'll soon be back. Meanwhile you may have a look round the workshops of our plant.

Just like a drop of water may reflect the sun this plant reflects the road of Albania: In a few years it grew bigger and bigger and is

now striding ahead with the pace of modern plants. That is why Kavaja people are so eager to show the guests their plant.

— A few years ago this nut and bolt production line suspended work for the simple reason that there came no comb supplies needed for making screw ridges. Without combs this line could do nothing. The technicians

were facing a heavy task. Among the names

they mentioned was that of the person I was after. This hard job had cost him so many nights without having a trinket of sleep...

days in succession filled with worries. He had experimented, failed, experimented again... till he succeeded. Finally the ridge making combs were produced. The production line was revived.

The nut and bolt producing plant is, in a



Meloje Metani speaking at the national meeting of the most distinguished young girls.



There is not even a sign left in the flat of



Varvara to remind us of what had happened.



Liria Pese during the first days of her work.

A Fresh Start On the Century-Long Road

Is it the beginning or the end of a road? Well, we may say, it is at the same time the one and the other. It is the end of the old road and the beginning of a new one. The girl you see in this picture is Meloje Metani. She is a girl. Her brothers, her grandfather and father were born and brought up, wandering in the streets. This is also how Meloje spent the years of her childhood. She saw the world first there where she was born: in the street, in the open. Half naked and wrapped in rain her porringer bowl dangled through the big basket she lay in on a horse back. From inside it looked at the sun. Sometimes she sat a dinner on the road or at the star-lit sky. Under the rhythm of the jingling horse gallop the stars looked as if they were dancing.

This is how the years passed while the roads stretched endlessly towards the horizon. In an end. The family of Meloje Metani settled down in Fieri. Those were the first steps stamped on the new road. It was the first time Meloje saw herself in a beautiful house as she had seen other people. So they had the new flat instead of the shabby tent, the stove instead of the hearth (1) and the couch instead of the hay. The former gypsy wanderers who have embarked on a new path.

Meloje was very shy and felt awkward when she joined the children of her age. She walked around timid past the school gate before she entered it. It seemed to her that all knew about her past and therefore they would despise her. But on the contrary she was warmly received. She could not fail to notice the smile and warmth in their faces, to feel the love of the teacher for her. Meloje began to cheer. She looked like a flower in the class-room.

How time flies! The years passed like in a dream. And she had a taste of her low music they love their teacher. What a happiness to love this life. But Meloje will part with her beloved pupils. She will soon create her family herself. It will be in another town where her husband lives and works. He is a veterinary doctor. But she is sure that where she will go she will meet with other pupils who will be so dear to her. She will go on with the teaching work. Whatever she will be looking she will be happy for she feels she is a soldier in the big army of our people's intelligentsia.

The fate of Meloje Metani is the fate of all the gypsy people in our country. They wandered for centuries across the land and contented chased them together with the bear and horses they used to pull along. This made them confine to their narrow world which was filled with signs and traditions. It was only the liberation of our country that opened to them new prospects till then shut. But it was not easy for them to win over the past. A real deal made place in their interest. It was a deal between the past centuries and the years of their liberation, the years of new Albania. The latter seem as they were years revived with fresh blood—the parents and grandmothers. Thus, abandoning their tents, the gypsies abandoned poverty and traditions. They go to work, and now they live in new quarters. Only optimistic notes ring in their songs nowadays.

Varvara's Smile...

She is Varvara Vrabetti. These last days of December she, too, is looking back at the bygone days of this year which is coming to an end. The year of 1969 was for Varvara that of a misfortune: her house burnt down. After this, things so happened that in her mind stuck not the sad memory of the misfortune but the great care shown to her by people and by the state organs.

... One day the bus where Varvara works as a conductor was driving along the "Kongresi i Permetit" Road in the capital. Suddenly the attention of the passengers was attracted by the smoke and flames coming out of the windows of an apartment. Varvara too looked out of the window. She was stunned by the sight and she saw: her apartment was on fire. "The children"—this thought flashed in her mind. She looked at her watch. It was the time her children were at school. This second thought relieved her greatly.

In spite of the prompt assistance of the firemen to quench the fire it caused heavy damage to the house. The window frames, the doors and all their belongings were reduced to ashes. The walls had become stained with soot.

But at the very first moments after the misfortune Varvara did not feel alone. Her

neighbours came promptly to see her, so did the comrades of the executive committee of the 8th quarter, the leading comrades and colleagues from her enterprise and from her husband.

In the afternoon of the same day the carpenters came. They put new window frames and doors. The next day the builders and paperhangers came. So within two days, Varvara's apartment was thus repaired that it looked better than in the past. Soon the enterprise where Varvara's husband works furnished their bedroom free of charge. With the money raised by the collective of the enterprise where Varvara works and by their quarter's inhabitants they bought all the other necessary things.

No one can say now that this house was once burnt. The flat looks new and everything in it is new.

Varvara Vrabetti and her folk can never forget this experience. What they remember now is not the misfortune they sustained but the warm feelings of solidarity shown to them by the working collective where Varvara and her husband work, by their neighbours and by the organs of the people's power in the quarter they live.

She Met Her Dream Too

There is no one who has no ideals. There is no life without dreams. So it was with the young girl Liria Pese. As soon as she began to meditate on life, she dreamt,—of becoming a doctor. Perhaps, it was because she had heard her parents' stories about the state of medicine in the pre-liberation Albania. We found Liria happy in a mood which she enjoys when one's dream is realized. She works in her native town as an adult. Before receiving her medical diploma in July this year, she was asked to stay as a teacher in Tirana. But she chose the path that led to the hospital. It's there in the hospital, where the people need her knowledge, where she would have to tackle with the difficulties that would expand her knowledge horizon as a doctor. The hospital is a broader university enriches one's experience just as life itself does.

And look! This young girl who has a strong passion for her profession comes daily across difficulties and the joy of life. Her first patients have recovered. Warm and sincere words are extended to the young girl. She is painstaking in work and in life. She recalls the stories of her parents and compares them with the life her family living today.

But dark darkness be compared with light! Once, her father was a waiter. And now she feels happy to live up to the path opened to his children to his three boys and two girls. Three of the boys finished High school: one of them gained a diploma as an oil-engineer, the other in construction and the third is a teacher of foreign languages.

Liria became a doctor this year, whereas her sister is still studying at the mechanical school. We parted with Liria carrying with us a deep and pleasant impression for the destinies of these five children of a waiter.



Sali Shijaku: "People's hero Vajo Kushi". (This composition was awarded the 1st prize in the contest.



Nexhmëdia Zajmi "The dam of Drin". (To this group of portraits was given the second prize in the contest).



The exhibition of fine arts dedicated to the 25 anniversary of liberation.

The painter Sali Shijaku was born in 1931. He is the author of many paintings, dedicated to the National Liberation War and to the socialist construction. In the year 1956 he was given the republic's prize on creation. Among his best works are: "Stonecarvers", "The oil worker" etc.

The painter Nexhmëdia Zajmi was born in 1916. He is given the prize of the republic for the painting "A story from the war", in 1952. Many of his paintings are found today in the arts gallery, among which are: "The refugees", "The portrait of the painter Bajram Cesi", etc.



The Revolutionary Spirit in Albanian Painting and Sculpture

The most important manifestation in the field of the Albanian figurative arts is the national exhibition which, as a rule, is held once in two years. This year its motto was the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Albania and it opened on the eve of this jubilee day.

The artists' creative work in socialist Albania has been constantly expanding. We have now a great number of painters and sculptors who are not only professionally trained but have also proved their creative artistic capability. There is side by side with them a big army of amateur artists who are also able to make their contribution to the new socialist art. The Party of Labour of Albania has always paid special attention to the development of literature and arts, its main concern being that art should reflect the life of the people, that it should militate for communism, that it must have a revolutionary content. Our art which is realistic and deliberately tendentious finds this revolutionary content in the very reality of our socialist life.

The national exhibition of figurative arts is of special interest from the point of view of the reflection in art of the all-round revitalization of our society. The Albanian painters and sculptors have drawn inspiration from the life, work and thought of the working class of present-day Albania, the leading class of the revolution. In big tableaux which sometimes assume monumental proportions and character such as Vilson Kllica's tableaux "The workers", Cilrim Coha's painting "The technical scientific revolution" there have been delineated in bright and light colours characters of workers in moments of their life and work in factories and plants. The painters have shown less interests in the single everyday fact than in the great thought, which is inclined towards epiphany, that the working class who is mastering theory and technique and who is the master of this country has reached the high peaks of science and is marching forward confident in its own strength. Joyful and fully optimistic is the life in our collectivized countryside as painted in Jusuf Sulovari's tableau "The harvesters".

The new look of socialist Albania which is forging ahead has inspired the painters to create beautiful landscapes, no more of an exotic character, but of a modern country which lives a happy intensive life. We see this in the landscape "99 new flats" painted with compactness of style by Skënder Topi.

The National Liberation War holds the main place in the creative work of the Albanian painters and sculptors. The more so would be the case with this exhibition.

In one of the main halls one's eye is struck by "The people's hero Vajo kushi" painting by Sali Shijaku. The painter has been inspired by an event of the National Liberation War known to everybody. It is the moment when Vajo kushi entreated with his three other comrades by the fascists in one of the Tirana slums before laying down his life for the freedom of the people through himself upon a tank hurling a grenade to it. The painter's image of the hero is that of a legendary figure amidst flames;

his red shirt fluttering up like a banner which will remain such for centuries. Many paintings, sculptural groups, portraits and busts evoke moments, historic events or prominent figures of the glorious struggle of our people. Such is for example, the painting "The order from the staff" by Hasan Mallari which delineates the fighting and unyielding spirit of a brave partisan unit.

The revolutionary spirit prevailing nowadays over Albanian life, the great actions of the youth who are tempered while working for the construction of big projects, the selfless spirit to serve the people whenever and wherever need be, the high patriotic spirit to be ready to defend the fatherland from all enemies, all these lofty virtues inscribed in our people during this quarter of a century could not but find their reflection in the works created by the Albanian artists. Shkurte Pal Vela was a very young volunteer girl from the highlands who died bravely at her post while working for the construction of the Rrugëhina-Fieri railway. Her enthusiastic and romantic portrait has been lyrically and dynamically portrayed by the sculptor Muntaz Dhrami. Another valiant patriotic woman who had one commended the fighters in the struggle against the foreign invaders and who fought all her life for the freedom and independence of the fatherland, is Shote Galica whose vivid and brave portrait we see cast in bronze by the sculptor Kristaq Rama. Likewise, the joyful life of our youth who are moulded in the great actions they undertake for the development of the socialist fatherland has been reflected in rich colours in the tableau "The return of the youth brigade" by Dhimitraq Trovicka.

Many other aspects of our life have also been touched by the painters and sculptors. The national exhibition of the figurative arts is a manifestation of the flourishing of all kinds of plastic art starting with monumental painting and ending with various graphics. With its more, the 189 works displayed here and created by 119 artists have been selected among hundreds of works presented by authors of the whole country. The artists have not hesitated to face the difficulty of the work over big tableaux or big sculptural groups, which thing has been dictated to them by the themes, thoughts and great epic ideas of the time they wanted to reflect. What is important is that they express themselves clearly by using such artistic means as are communal, sensitive and understandable for the broad masses. Having their creative activity on the best traditions of the people's art, by using a realistic style and guided by the revolutionary and optimistic tone of the life of their socialist fatherland, the painters and sculptors have created dynamic works, using various complex forms as well as rich and bright colours.

The works of this exhibition are the fruit of the socialist realism method far from any other decadent form content, or sickly subjectivism as is the case with the bourgeois and revisionist art. They are works which communicate with the people and whose aim is to serve the people and socialism.



The painter Vilson Kiliça was born in 1932. He is the author of many paintings—portraits and compositions. He was given the prize of the Republic of the 11th degree. Among his best paintings are: "The portiers", the composition "December 1907", "The portrait of Lenin" etc.



Vilson Kiliça: "The workers" (This composition was rewarded with the first prize in the contest).



The painter Danish Jakuhi was born in 1911. In 1959 he won the first prize with the portrait "The poet". His most important works are: the composition "The builders", the portrait "The partisan" etc.

Danish Jakuhi: "In the light construction site".



The painter Clirna Ceka was born in 1941. He is the author of some graphics having as a theme the work of the working class. The work we are printing here is his third composition in painting.

Clirna Ceka: "Work and learn".



The National Congress Of Elbasan

(By F. Paj)

The struggle for education and culture has been closely associated with the whole historic development of the Albanian people. The national Congress of Elbasan convened at an important time, when the liberation movement of the Albanian people was growing. The Albanian newspapers and magazines, which were published abroad, and which liberally entered Albania sharply criticized the oppressive policy of the Istanbul government. The Albanian organs published abroad openly spoke against the policy of the Great Powers, against their imperialist aims towards our country. Some of these newspapers severely criticized the traitorous or wavering stand of the Albanian boys, who even at this important period of the anti-Turkish movements continued to serve the Ottoman Empire, which was suppressing the liberation movements of our people, and of other oppressed peoples. The broad masses of our people gravely felt the broad masses of our people gravely felt the need for a change of the situation in Albania. In November 1943 the democratic patriots founded in Manastir an Albanian Committee under the name: For the Freedom of Albania. The aim of this committee was the spread of education and culture in Albania as well as the overthrowing of the Turkish yoke. The persecutions of the Turkish government were increasing, and becoming fiercer month by month, and therefore the committee of Manastir moved its headquarters to Bucharest, while the patriotic detachments in Albania started a new uprising.

When in 1948, the Sultan was forced to proclaim the Constitution, the demands of the Albanian people and of the other oppressed peoples for freedom and independence increased. However "The Young Turks" bourgeoisie nationalists who were tried to confine the popular manifestations, they declared to the non-Turkish peoples included the Albanian people every national right.

At this time were founded a number of democratic organizations, which became hearths of education and culture and which were an integral part of the struggle of the Albanian people for freedom and national independence.

In November 1948 on the initiative of the administrative club called "Unity" in this city was convened a Congress, which decided on the use of a general Albanian alphabet.

During that time the demands for spreading education and culture in a national spirit were increasing more and more.

Nine months after the Congress of Manastir, the National Congress for schools was convened in Elbasan. In its sessions from the 2-nd to the 9th of September 1948, the Congress solved important problems concerning the spread of education and culture among the people. It spoke against the backwardness, which was the result of the Turkish feudal oppression. The delegates to the Congress, imbued with the principles of enlightenment of our national regeneration and



The pupils of yesterday: the first teacher's school pupils, year 1949.



The pupils of today, of the former teachers' school of Elbasan.

inspired by the liberation movements of the country, integrated their educational and cultural activity with the political and economic development of Albania.

Therefore, at the very beginning they analyzed the problem of schools, they decided that schools in mother-tongue be opened, moreover they decided to open a school which would train teachers who were to teach in the spirit, the society, of the time asked for. The Congress decided about the foundation of a pedagogical school in Elbasan and about the creation of a school-society under the name "Progress", which was to take care of the progress of the schools. It is noteworthy to mention here too, that in this pedagogical school the education for the pupils was free of charge, and this decision for that time was of great importance, because it shows the progressive character of the proceedings of that Congress.

The school, which today bears the name "The Lezhi Gramoski Pedagogical School" became a hearth in which new teaching methods were used methods in a national spirit. That school was training teachers who later on became the missionaries for the spread of education and culture among the people. The Congress analyzed the problem of clubs in which the political and cultural activities of the Albanian patriots were con-

ducted. It decided that all the clubs founded in different districts be united and have a common programme. The Congress discussed some important aspects of the liberation movement of our country too. It went on record against the interference of the Great Powers in the home-affairs of Albania, against the policy of the "Young Turks" Committee called "unity and progress" which followed a reactionary policy, desiring in the non-Turkish people every national right, it raised also the problem of relations with the liberation movements of the neighbouring countries. The Congress asked from the Sultan that the political prisoners be released at once.

The Congress of Elbasan was of great importance to the struggle of the Albanian people for freedom and independence, to brotherly relations with the peoples, who were fighting to overthrow the Turkish yoke and to spread education and culture among the people's masses.

The desire of our people for freedom, education and culture, for social progress, were fulfilled once and for ever by the National Liberation War led by the Party of Labour of Albania. With the establishment of the people's power the light of education shows even in the most remote villages of Albania and culture belongs now to the masses.

"...GREETINGS FROM VITHKUQI"

... When we got the "New Albania" magazine and newspaper our hearts so throb with joy that we are moved to learn. Now allow me to introduce myself. I was born in Vithkuqi and I take pride in this for it was in Vithkuqi, if I am not mistaken, that the first brigade was founded. My name is Thoma Nago Xeka; I am 72 years old. I have emigrated here ever since 1912; I returned to Albania twice: once it was in 1919, then in 1925. It was the time of King Zog's reign then.

My reverence goes with you for the courage you have shown and for all you've done to make Albania beautiful and progressive. Long live the people! Long live the Party of Labour. It is my great desire to see on the pages of the "New Albania" magazine a picture of my village-Vithkuqi. My wife and I would be really grateful if you were able to take the picture from the bank of the commune where our Grestias Street is clearly seen. (There are three main streets in Vithkuqi: Grestias, Dakas and Sarag)

The "New Albania" magazine is attractive among others of its kind; Reading it is a great pleasure and looking at its pictures makes us feel really happy. For this we say "bravo" to you. Long life to you. Long life to the Government of the Republic of Albania!

Thoma Nago Xeka
47 Central St.
Southbridge-Mass 01500-USA

In order to satisfy the desire of our reader and compatriot Thoma Nago Xeka we send two correspondents of our magazine to Vithkuqi. Following is the reportage they sent us:

In these moments we are in the sitting-room of a Vithkuqi house. Face to face with us are a group of presents and a picture.

The picture and these people are bound by an emotion we have never experienced. The picture is yours, dear reader Thoma Nago Xeka. It is one of those pictures you

have taken together with your wife, children and some other aged villagers who remember you still. We showed them your letter, they showed us your picture. That's why these were moments of reminiscences and emotions.

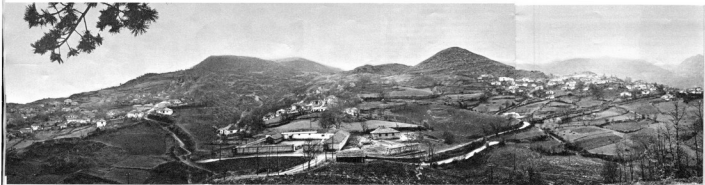
The peasants relate to us their memories while we write them down, now and then looking out of the window at the colours of autumn.

Spire and the other villagers have much to tell us. During 60 years of their life they



All the pupils of the village finish the 8th year school. Many of them will attend the middle school and the university. They do not pay anything for their education.

Photos by S. Xhillari



Three wards of Vithkuqi Village.



A young couple. Photo by P. Nache.

have lived part of the Vithkuqi history which is a lot of the history of Albania.

We say to the villagers: "Your native villager wants us to depict the present day Vithkuqi and the Grestias Street as seen from the commune hill. Where is this hill?"

"Better ask where was it, says one of the peasants lying. The houses in the Grestias Street are no longer those of the past. Today on that hill there is a hospital, maternity home, dentist's clinic and pharmacy. Vithkuqi like Lebnia and Garsel fought for the liberation of our country. 138 young girls and boys joined the partisan army when the fascist and Nazi invaders could do nothing to the partisans they burnt down the villages. The soil blacked the stones and walls."

"During the first years of the people's power the houses were rebuilt.

They were made more beautiful in the years of the people's power. Lebnia once a poor village with straw huts in which men and animals lived together has now changed so much that one can hardly reckon its beautiful houses lit by electric light."

Together with your brother spiro, with the chairman of the locality Gape Kiza and Vangjo Ito Kartiqi-Vragole's nephew whom you remember well, accompanied by Jorgja

Strati, Valentina Erimini and others we went sightseeing along the streets of Vithkuqi from one hill onto another so as to see the new Vithkuqi and describe it for you. The motor-oad goes past the houses. We followed that road. In the afternoon the streets were thronged with school-children of the 8-year school the people of the agricultural vocational school (middle school) what an animation we saw in the village streets. Almost in every stop we met people who shined us a house or a memorial or related to us a story.

"You see that valley over there, they tell us, Vithkuqi people would cross whatever they went to Korce, some of them took firewood and charcoal to sell there so that they could buy bread, salt and oil. Some of them were brick-layers, carpenters who could not earn their living in Vithkuqi and emigrated to other places. They emigrated to far off places and some of them remained there never coming back. "Today not only that we have become self-sufficient in bread grains but our cooperative sells the state 2,000 quintals of surplus grain. We produce all this grain in our mountains. Our village Gape remembers Lazo, Pasha e Madhe, Saragjati and Deket, 5,000 quintals of potato are produced yearly there. So we don't buy vegetables in Korce now as we did in the past."

"—What is this?" we asked.

"—A number of partisans were killed at this place in an encounter with the Germans. Ljaci Koci Kiza too was killed here. This memorial has been put up to honour their heroic deed. There are other memorials. That is the monument of the first partisan shock brigade which was formed in Makres . . ."

The memorials to our martyrs and the grand monuments of a beautiful optimistic architecture which have been erected in our valleys and mountains are an inseparable part of our panorama. One can see everywhere concrete poles of the electric network, new houses and shops. Vithkuqi boasts of its big school, hospital, club, restaurant and hotel. Near the village centre is the network of the artisan shops: Shoemakers, barbers, tailors, carpenters'. Today the villagers satisfy all their demands in the village. But Vithkuqi people can go to town whenever they like so there is a bus line service to Korce twice a day. You don't know about these things, our dear reader, because they did not exist in the past. "They did not exist, says Tati Kivraj maybe you remember him because the age of the Party of Worker Ranks began only after November 1944. We've done much but we'll do more. . ."

We went to see the shops which differ

very little from those of town. We many Vithkuqi people leading herries with furniture to their homes. In the club we drank a goblet of Korce cognac. In the shops, in the club we met women and girls from Vithkuqi. They are modest and indolent and very friendly at that. Seeing those women and girls a vivid discussion ensues. It was about the Vithkuqi women and girls. All the roads of life are open to them now. They go to school and enjoy equal rights with men playing a big role in the progress of their village.

Uncle Tati's was married these days.

"How was your son married, we asked. —He loved the one he married. It was not an engagement with a go-between. The young couple used to work together. They know each other and loved each other. The talk grew more and more interesting. We had to congratulate Tati and clinked our glasses.

"Happy life to the new couple, uncle Tati!"

"—Thank you. My best wishes to all of you. I also propose to drink this to the health of our village Thoma Xeka!"

And we drank the toast. In proposal The clink of the glasses was heard and with it we sent to you our greetings from Vithkuqi, from Albania!

During the spare time in this new club one can see a film or hear a concert, one can read books . . .

Foreigners About Albania

AN INSPIRATION TO ALL



Janna Seymer
Secretary of the "New Albania"
Society of Britain

As the Secretary of the "New Albania" Society of Britain established to promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of Albania and Britain, I travelled many hundreds of miles across Albania at the invitation of the Albanian Committee for Friendly and Cultural Relations with the Outside World.

The great changes taking place throughout the country under the leadership of the Albanian Party of Labour are a great inspiration to all progressive people in the world. The rapid development in industry, the building of schools, universities and palaces of culture and the technical learning

schools as well as the opportunities for advancement in the fields of art, music, literature and science to all sections of the population, establishes Albania as the most enlightened country politically and ideologically in Europe today.

To see first hand the vigour of the youth volunteers and enthusiastically building railways across the country and with pride taking their full part in the development of New Albania will long be remembered. Perhaps one of my greatest impressions has been to meet personally young women engineers holding responsible positions in modern industries and the high technical skill of women workers throughout every section of engineering in general where only men worked before. One may truly say that there exists equality for all in Albania.

In the name of the chairman and the members of the "New Albania" Society of Britain I wish the Albanian fraternal people success in their development towards socialism.

I Have Been in Arkadia (1), Too

By Kh. Makalashvili

Now I may say that I, too, now have been to and bright Albania.

The master-hand of man has begun to carve the mountains, to drain the swamps, to build railroads on the rocks, to build everywhere strong industrial socialist projects, in order that the land of eagles breathe the fresh air of its proud morning, while the national independence was with so much blood and sacrifices is defended valiantly by the strong and industrious hand of the brave Albanian people, that has always through examples shows a lofty and ardent patriotism. The Albania of today stands on the forefront of great transformations which can be seen everywhere, because work is honored more than anything else. The Albanian worker today in his home, not being in need to take the way of emigration to foreign countries to earn his daily bread.

Emigration knows to this country is a bitter reminiscence of the dark past, of that history full of sufferings, blood and sweat from where the prestige of a patriotic people deeply connected with its motherland was to spring up.

The thing that touches one today is especially the fact that Albania belongs to a great and great existence to the youth. And that it happened to be good because in Albania there is still much more to do in order to make this



wonderful country flourish. Here it was often necessary for everything to start from the scratch. For this reason I respectfully congratulate the great contingents of the youth which qualify in different industrial professions, the enthusiasm of the youth in the big construction sites, the will of the youth in the reclaiming of new fertile virgin lands as well as the ways of the development of national science and culture.

Science and culture in today's Albania have at their disposal strong and creative talents in the full meaning of the word, who have overcome great difficulties and have achieved astonishing successes in every field. Many of the branches of science and culture are still waiting for the scientific and research workers who are consistently and continuously prepared to a great extent in the schools and faculties of the university of Albania.

The big questions of the history of the ancient Albanian people ask for a greater work and for an interpretation of the phenomena of the modern and contemporary history because the prestige of the past events has passed beyond the borders of the country. The magnificence of the events of the heroic

past of this people clearly shows the creative energies of our time raising high not only for achieving greater victories through which the ever growing vitality of this industries, meet and leave people which inhabited this land from the oldest time of the history of mankind be reflected.

As a Rumanian historian especially interested in the albanological studies, I have always been troubled by the feeling of finding the persuasive means for the reciprocal nature of the friendship traditions and the mutual struggle of the Rumanian and the Albanian peoples and I have been happy to find out that the same treatable in the same measure is to be found in the Albanian colleagues too.

Certainly I can't conclude this few lines without having pointed out once more to the existence of some old traditional relations of the Rumanian-Albanian friendship. In the course of history the desire of one two peoples for cooperation in sincere relations for common aims has been proved by documents.

In those days when Albania has put on her robe of history of great events in her history when the efforts of the working collectives are crowned with successes in all indicators of the plan to which they have pledged themselves in honour of the celebration of this quarter of a century of the liberation of the fatherland, let it be allowed to me to join myself in expressing my heartfelt congratulations for the development and happiness of Albania and the Albanian people.

(1) Arkadia a beautiful city in ancient Peloponnesus. Here the author means Albania.



Good-bye Albania

Pippo Mazini

A tour to Albania for an old Italian Communist is an enthusiastic future, a verification of our principles, assurance of the tomorrow's world, it's an indictment against those who have betrayed and given up these principles.

I had seen Albania in 1967 and I saw her again now. Perhaps, I'm in ideal-life conditions for an objective judgment about the present rates, the concrete achievements, the possibilities of the future and such a judgment is of a surprising admission, and this is a testimony to what can be achieved when the chosen path is correct and when the people have the determination and the will to pursue this path through to the end.

I know what Albania was like 30 years ago through my countrymen who can hardly believe in the present Albania. But the reality fully stretches before us: a small proud people, oppressed by century-long slavery, exploited by capitalists of various countries, intrigued by clergymen of various religions found in a certain period of their history the power and the will of the struggle under the light of the great October Revolution of Lenin and Stalin: And through the struggle the Albanian people found in Comrade Enver Hoxha and his comrades the vanguard that added to the struggle a revolutionary content so that yesterday's world be ruined from its foundations. The liberation from foreign occupation was only the premise of the struggle against other enemies called fascism, ignorance, old customs and backward religious views. But the Albanian people did away with these and engaged in the construction of the new state power. And yesterday's Italy, land, crops, iron, oil, coal are coming out; very soon the powers of Fiat, Elsan and Leda plants came into being; And still younger Dytli, Meti, Bistritza which stamped their way before the giant dams of the hydro-power stations which will supply with light by 1970, even the remotest towns of Albania. The first and the last example in Europe.

In this grandeur of power and the will of the Albanian people are ignored by the capitalists and revisionists, for it bears a name, which they fear socialism.

If I had to give a review of present-day Albania I should think of including here the youth volunteers and their enthusiasm and their being. I saw in their red banners, the inmost march of present-day Albania. I shall say a message of confidence to my friends in Italy, so that this be our reality tomorrow, as good.

I leave for Italy with a touching love and great: really Albania and a loving-hood!



How I Found Albania

Dimitri Polena

I left Albania about thirty years ago, and visited it twice for very short periods before liberation. Now I was given the chance to see my hometown again and the whole of Albania. I have always been interested in my country. I have read and still read; I have talked and asked about the great changes that have taken place in Albania. Before I left for Albania I met a friend of mine who had recently been there. He proudly told me that I would speak differently to him when I had seen Albania.

I arrived in Tirana first. The Sanderbeg Square, the clock, the mosque and the buildings next to them helped me to take my bearings for the time being. I looked for the old bazaar, the narrow and curved roads, the small shops and the low houses but did not find them. I found new and high buildings, the palace of culture, new streets and boulevards, instead. The new Tirana has completely replaced the old one. The capital has greatly expanded. All the cities and towns are taking a new shape, a modern shape, and some of them preserve their own picturesque character. The old Korça has been rebuilt, old face has been done away with. I expected to see there two nice streets in the entrance of the city. Before me were stately buildings, appeared and different enterprises. I tried to find those tall and beautiful buildings Korça boasted of once which I well remembered. It could hardly distinguish them among the new buildings. In the other, on the centre of the city had turned into a big building site. Then I had to ask: what is this? I went through my eyes, were wide open. I took the turn that led to the river, I looked for the squares I used to play when a child. I found hospitals, houses and enterprises which stretched to the adjacent valleys.

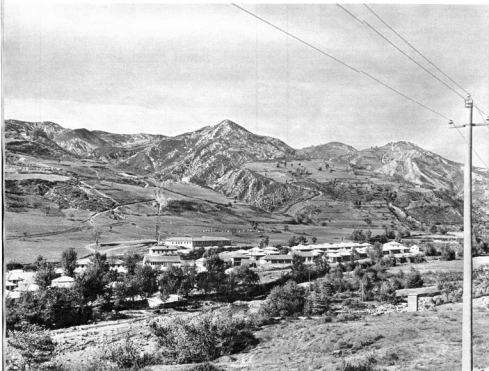
The river banks and hills, the mountain or the Guri that have been planted with woods. The new local factory on the quarter of the city where the old one had completely changed to many new beautiful and modern buildings.

All the main roads of Albania are tar sealed and beautifully constructed. One is to see a surprising experience to drive from the Tirana-Bloze or Shkoder, many accidents occurred. I tried in vain to see the Malisj swamp which the capital was once a swampy area.

The Myzeqeje swamp, the Durris swamp and many other are no longer in existence, as if swallowed... by the earth. The sea has been ploughed by tractors and traversed by irrigation and dry canals indeed. Here and there prosperous farms and agricultural cooperatives have been founded.

The Party of Labour of Albania shows great care for men. Medical treatment is free of charge. In cities and in the countryside hospitals, sanatoriums, maternity houses and ambulances are erected, new cadres have been trained. The achievements of the Albanian people that are happy every Albanian heart about that longs to see the successes and brothers.

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

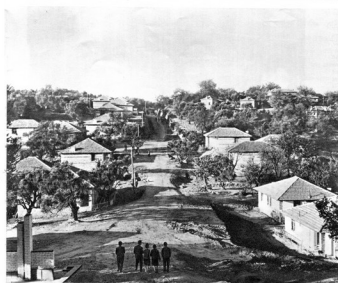
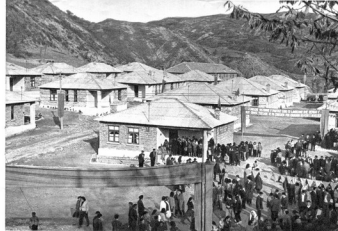


The new socialist village of Ivory whitening from the new houses.
Photo by F. Cui

On April 3 and 8, 1969, a part of the villages of Fieri, Tepelena, Vloza, Berati, Shkrapari and Pirmeti Districts were touched by heavy earthquakes. The inhabitants of these areas sustained heavy damages, especially, in dwelling houses. The Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania took a series of immediate and urgent measures and rendered a

great help to the earthquakes damaged areas. The liquidation of the aftermath of the earthquake became a matter of the state and the whole people. Putting into practice the slogan of the Albanian Party of Labour "all for one and one for all", specialists and building materials flooded in from all over the country. All the necessary measures for provisional

housing of the families that became homeless for the giving of an immediate help of articles of clothing, furnitures and for the repair and building of the damaged houses were taken at the state's expenses. It was also decided that some of the damaged villages be set up newly. The Council of Ministers set up sources for the using of the building materials, trans-



port, articles of mass consumption and specialists as well. As a result of the great work done so far, 6,516 buildings and houses were built up and repaired, out of which, 751 dwelling houses, 91 new schools and social-cultural buildings were set up in the damaged areas. 1,618 heavily damaged houses whereas 4,233 houses and 14 schools and social-cultural buildings lightly damaged were repaired. 7 new villages and hamlets with 322 apartment houses and 67 social and cultural buildings such as schools, clubs, kindergartens, polyclinics, drug-stores, maternity homes, bath rooms, laundries, bakeries, dining houses, kitchens, department stores with all the necessary equipments and accessories were set up. The new villages were built up according to a designed plan with planimetry, streets, sewers, aqueducts and with electricity etc. For doing away with the earthquake consequences and for the setting up the equipments the state alone spent over 40 millions leka.

Our photo-reporter visited some of the newly built up villages.

Festival in the center of the Babina Village. The old inhabitants of the new village thank the specialists and volunteers who have come from various regions of the country, for their fraternal aid given in the building of the village.

A new site begins in Saho Hymeri's new house (Korçepaj)

Everything built from the very beginning in the new socialist village of Saho (Korçepaj) dwelling houses, schools, trade net, etc.

The fourth national festival of the drama theatre was recently held in Tirana. The festival was a marked event for our socialist realism theatre, for the new Albanian drama. For all the creative and interpreting fibres of the stage art.

The festival showed that the Albanian theatre is constantly growing, it is crystallising its national and socialist physiognomy.

By carrying further the best traditions of the amateur art of stage especially during the people's revolution period our theatre has made remarkable achievements. Our militant theatre is evening with its performances a monument to the heroic deeds of our people. Just like the partisan theatre endured the hours of the freedom fighters after the fierce battles with the enemy on the mountains the present day theatre, too, has become a big tribune of conversation with the working people, it has become an auditorium for the masses filled with the revolutionary atmosphere of the day. Being close to the life of the people and drawing its inspiration from the living labour of the masses, lauding the artistic figures on the native Albanian soil, our theatre has gained new features in content and form. It has become more understandable and democratic and is branded with the national stamp.

One of the positive features of this year's festival was that it showed that our dramatics is capable of meeting the needs of our theatre together with the spiritual and aesthetic needs of our public. It is fully capable of having its own say which is spontaneous and emotional. The drama theatre troupes of Tirana, Shkodra, Durres, Korca, Vloera, Elbasan and Gjirokastra participated in this festival with 12 new dramatic works by our authors written and staged during the last theatre season. All the works are dedicated to the revolutionary education of the masses. Their authors bring to stage various aspects of our reality.

The development of dramatics during these recent years by raising to the level of stage the problems of the day has helped the actors and stage directors to improve their interpretation making it ever more realistic and able to communicate with the spectators. While acting on stage the role of the hero of our days the actor has been himself educated and has enriched the working people.

The features of our new man are becoming ever more evident on our stage and the national physiognomy and people's character of the theatre are crystallising daily. The efforts of the working collectives of the theatres have been directed towards a realistic and lifelike interpretation more understandable for the masses, highly emotional and inspiring. This goes to show that our actors and stage directors are finding new ways of interpretation, they are forging ahead strongly basing themselves on the Party documents and national soil. It is only natural that on this road the development of our theatre and dramatics has shortcomings have been overcome but the line of remains pure, healthy and militant. This festival further enriched the hitherto experience. It is another help to make new achievements in realistically reflecting life.

The fourth festival of the drama theatre was very fruitful in another aspect. Along with the performances creative discussions were held daily about these performances. In them the experience was exchanged and conclusions were drawn. Included in the program of the festival were also the discussions about plays presented at the content sponsored on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the liberation of the fatherland. There were also held meetings with representatives of mass organizations various institutions and departments.

The festival showed that our art and literature of socialist realism as well as the art of stage are taking an active part in the great struggle of the Party and people for the further revolutionisation of the life in the country.



A Marked Day For the Albanian Theatre

A scene from the comedy "The council of godmothers"

Photo by P. Kauri



Tirana in feast

Tirana Is Awarded the Titles Of "Hero-City" and "People's Hero"

New Heroes of Socialist Labour

Highly appraising the merits and the contribution that the people have made to the building of socialism in our country, the Presidium of the People's Assembly of P.R. of Albania conferred the title of heroes of socialist labour on 110 workers of different branches. Among them 44 are miners and industrial workers, 11 of them are members of the agricultural cooperatives, 17 are managers of various economic enterprises and institutions, 23 of them are chairman of agricultural cooperatives, 11 are production engineers and technicians and 4 working in the art and culture sector.

Among 110 new heroes of socialist labour 21 are women.

By a decree of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania the capital-city of our country, Tirana, was awarded the title of hero-city. The decree of the Presidium of the People's Assembly stresses among other things that "Tirana was changed into a focal point of the Communist and anti-fascist movements, it became the cradle in which the glorious Communist Party of Albania today the Party of Labour of Albania was born which led with maturity and a lofty revolutionary determination, with an unprecedented heroism . . . the Albanian people in the great national-liberation struggle. The population of Tirana with an unheard-of heroism espied with the wild terror of fascism, nazism and reaction; it never bowed before the unprecedented atrocities committed by the enemies and it never gave up the revolutionary struggle, it never weakened its loyalty to the Party and its steel-like unity could the Party in the National Liberation Front, Tirana of the heroic resistance, Tirana of the barricades, this factious of the liberation struggle, has become today a bastion of socialism, an example for all the working masses of the country to follow in the struggle for the full building of the socialist society and for the defence of the fatherland.



of the Tirasna suburb represents a green ring. This ring is formed by the iron belts as well as by other plants such as the vast tracks of vineyards which ensure the capital thousands of tons of grapes yearly. Part of this ring is also the "Ylli I Kog" State Agricultural Enterprise in Kamna. This enterprise is specialized mainly on animal husbandry.

The demands of the capital are daily growing along with the growth of the population. In order to ensure abundant supplies of milk to the capital a new livestock complex is under construction. It will be a real milk producing factory.

The first section of the modern complex as it can be seen in the sketch we are publishing here, are placed in a circle shape. They come closer together as they reach the square where the mechanical milking centre will be constructed. Nearby there will be a reservoir. Here there will also be built a maternity stable for the prolific stable and stable, the fur for the just born calves. Besides, the complex will have its veterinary clinic, the place where the animals' food is prepared, the artificial breeding station, the electrochemical centre and the main collector where the urine and droppings will be stored. The cleaning of the droppings from the stables, the feeding and watering of the animals will all be mechanized and automated. Each stable will have its special rest place for cows as well as two greentree deer stabling places.

The high level of mechanization of the complex makes it possible to work here only one fifth of the labour power that would have been needed for 200 mechanized stables with one thousand cows so the rest of the milk they will get from this centre will be lower. They'll get about 4500 litres of milk annually from each cow here. The food will be prepared taking into consideration their biological value, the combination of the necessary elements such as vitamins, proteins, fats, mineral substances, carbohydrates according to modern zootechnical norms.

In these conditions the cows of this complex will have higher productivity which means that our capital-Tirana will be supplied yearly with about 45,000 quintals of milk more.

We met some of the workers of this complex. Phile Jazpi was one of them. We found her looking at a thermometer Phile had come



Even the plots of the Kamna State Farm seen as if being embraced by the skillful hands of a careful housewife. Photo by P. Ciri



A LINK IN THE GREEN CHAIN

here a night before in order to see a cow which was ill.

Most of those who work here are women and girls. They are hard working and very conscientious. We met Quirine Topallari who started to work here not long ago. Phile Jazpi as an experienced worker helps her with her advice.

Here we got acquainted with one of the vets. He is Zaqo Malaj. He is young and is very fond of his job. We met here at the entrance of a stable among the herdsmen with whom she is having a discussion about the hygienic and veterinary conditions of the cow herd giving her occasional advice. Phatime Xhakroza did not notice us at once. She was absorbed in feeding a cow. One must see her at work to be convinced how passionately she does her work.

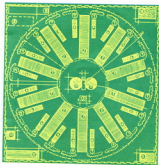
A new recreation centre is being built here for the workers. They will have all commodities for a cultured rest here.

We learnt that all the workers have 8 year school education and are now pursuing their studies at the 4-year zooveterinary vocational school in Kamna not suspending their work. The herdswomen told us that many of them had finished special qualification courses before they busied themselves with the animal husbandry. In these courses they were taught about the ways of catering for the animals, the hygiene of animal breeding and some general knowledge on how to detect diseases in animals.

—But having finished this course only is not enough to work in this complex. "Therefore it is needed to study more and more in order to fill ourselves to the demands of our time".

Those words said by the breeder Vala Bushiti express the desire of all her fellow workers to become efficiently specialized in the field of their work.

In the mechanical milking center of the husbandry section of Kamna. Photo by S. Xhillari



The scheme of the new husbandry complex of the Kamna State Farm. 1.—Maternity stable; 2.—Water depot; 3.—Veterinary clinic; 4.—Feeding place; 5.—Fire extinguisher's depot; 6.—Urine collector; 7.—Silage; 8.—Urine depot; 9.—Fertilizer depot; 10.—Rest for herdsmen; 11.—Concentrations craftshop; 12.—Veterinary hospital; 13.—Working bridge; 14.—Hay-depot; 15.—Restalator.

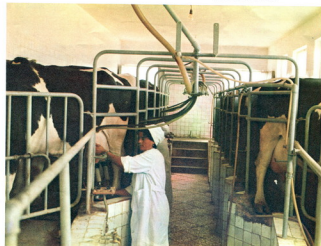




Photo: by R. Veseli



A general view of the Berat City.

Photo by P. Sulo

The history of Berat as a fortified centre and later on as a city begins from early ages. It was founded as a settlement of the Illyrian tribe of the Dassareoi. A testimony to this are fragments of Illyrian walls which date back to the IV and III centuries B.C. The Illyrian fortress was destroyed by the Romans. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Justinian in the VI century it was rebuilt. It was rebuilt again in the XIII century by Mikhal Engjëlli Komneni. The Berat fortress preserves even now its grandeur and serves as an important document which sheds light upon the ancient history of our people.

In the early Middle Ages city life developed within the surrounding walls. The growth of the cities brought about the founding of the first quarters without the stone walls whose inhabitants, in times of difficulty, took shelter in the fortresses. Here have been outside city quarters in Berat ever since the XIII the century. At that time the economy and stronger. During the XIIIth century there began to be constructed in Berat some buildings of a great architectural value painted in fresco. The works of the distinguished Albanian painters of the XVIII century Çufo and Nishitza have been preserved in these churches. Some of them such as the Trinitas Vilahernes and St. Mihali church are well

kept even nowadays. They have been made monuments of culture. The XVII century during which the Albanian-Turkish wars took place hampered the development of the cities. It was only in the middle of the XVIII century that the economic life began to revive and the handicraft and commerce to develop. The Turkish traveller Evlia Çelebi gives about a big and prosperous Berat. He speaks of a XVIII and XIX centuries Berat became an important economic centre of Albania. The handicraft and trade that were so typical of the city's economic life did have influence upon the architectural features of the city. There are, at present, in Berat valuable ensembles of architecture which belong to the XVIII and the end of the XIXth century. Berat architecture. The Berat dwelling house with an upstairs veranda constructed at last in the middle of the XVIIIth century is a voluminous two storied construction of stone walls. The first story is occupied by vaults and other siding rooms. The stone staircase leads to the upstairs veranda. Directly connected with the veranda are the living rooms. This type of dwelling house which is found also in the other cities of our country was designed based on the village-house architecture as the villagers were those who populated Berat during the centuries of its rapid growth.

The Berat-type house is rich in beautifully designed wood carvings which are so attractive especially in the sitting-rooms. The artistic taste in making these decorations, the carved ceilings, shelves and side frames fine carvings are those to be found in the Berat Cathedral.

There are some very picturesque ensembles in Berat such as that of Mangalem constructed in one single style of architecture and with a compactness which produces the impression that it is one gigantic building. A striking feature of the Berat architecture is that it is well balanced horizontally composed and the terrain has been masterly exploited to the maximum so as to create as big a dwelling area as possible. The Berat architecture is very pleasant and not unedifying quiet. All this has been created by the hand of the folk master with a delicate taste. Today Berat is constructed and expanded in harmony with the museum part of the city: the Kala, Mangalem and Gortos quarters.

These previous architectural works are preserved and restored. The Institute of Monuments of Culture works yearly to preserve and restore these works which are a living testimony of the values of the museum city of Berat.

Cities-Museums

What Early Ages Tells US...

Enlis Bina



The bridge of Berat which links the two wards of the city.

The new novel "The Castle" written by İsmail Kadare, shows, how in the 19th century, the Albanians under the leadership of Skanderbeg, dared to take up arms and fight against the Greatest Power of the time, against the Ottoman Empire.

The plot centers round a castle, where the enemies have erected their camp. They do all they can to take over that castle, using all their means, starting with blackmail and arms and ending up with the third and bigger blockade. Their attempt but fail.

Here we are publishing the 5th chapter of the novel, in which are described the events of the night after the first assault of the Turks against the castle:

The writer himself was born in 1928. He has published many poems, stories, long poems and novels. "The Castle" is his latest creation. He has been rewarded twice with the Order of the Star. He has worked as a journalist for a long time.

The superintendent was absent-minded and did not answer at once.
—What did you say Meriçli Celali? he said.
—Do you know what is the number of those killed?

The superintendent thought for a while.
—From the fury of the attack and from the time it lasted, I believe it to be up to some ten thousand—be helped in an equanimity as if he was speaking about a flock of money.

Another group of spear-troops passed. There were only a few exact accounts the superintendent said. "Thought only one thing is known—he added after a while—that this was a great defeat."
By that time the army had arrived at the camp.

All the streams and tents and everything there, was filled by its heavy and tired breath, by the gloomy noise of thousand steps, by the countless rooms. They too stood on the side of the road and looked at the thousand shadows, that moved slowly in the darkness. At that time the moon rose. Her light touched at first the towers of the castle, swept then down to the high walls and lastly like a wide stream it swept everything; the field, the camp and the tents.

The soldiers passed uninterceptedly. Many of them were assisted by their comrades. Many others were even carried on the back by their comrades. Most of the wounded groaned lightly, but here and there one of them would give a terrible scream. It was difficult to distinguish between the stains of blood and those of bitumen, as it was difficult to distinguish in the moonlight the red turbans of askanushka from the white turbans of janissaries. Everything was mixed on these exhausted heads and backs. As they passed by to another place, they were among turbans, black and char. Some of them as soon as the battlements were reached fell on the ground like dead. Others whose wounds were more serious, were brought to

the tents which served for medical treatment, where hundred of physicians, assisted by old-women of Bumella, were quickly putting plasters on the burned places and were sewing wounds.

The superintendent stopped for a moment. The battalions passed on and he never took off his eyes from them, and to the chronicler it seemed as if he was calculating something in his mind. In his eyes he noticed that bright metallic light, which appeared time and again.

Some of the battalions must have lost one third of their troops—so he said.
The chronicler did not know what to say. Some of the battalions must have lost half of their troops—continued the other looking at the long column.
To Celali it seemed as if the unit of deathless were passing by row. He had never before witnessed the formation of the troops after a defeat, therefore it was difficult for him to know it after such a change.

The sergeants—the superintendent said in a strange voice. The chronicler trembled as if he was told something about ghosts. How is it possible, he thought. To them it is forbidden to turn back. Sure enough, they will be executed now.
There? he asked in a dying tone.
The superintendent had stretched his hand before. His hand pointed to a cart. The chronicler looked in wide-eyed astonishment. On the cart were thrown many flags, with faded colors, almost in black. No one followed them.

Meriçli Celali understood it. When the cart passed before them, he noticed that the flags were burned and blood-stained. A least was formed in his throat, and he knew that he was dying.

They remained silent for a long time. Then some of the battalions were passing and the soldiers Meriçli Celali, noticed the astrologer who was walking deep in thoughts. The

group of Sanjakbary, who during the whole time of the attack stayed behind the back of the Commander-in-chief, dispersed as soon as the Pasha left.

The superintendent together with Meriçli Celali remained silent for a while. Darkness had fallen all around. Now the castle was almost invisible. At the moment of the trumpet sounded for the withdrawal of the troops, and the pouring down of naphtas and bitumen from the walls above stopped, it seemed as if suddenly the castle hid itself in the body of the night, or if some witchcraft was practiced to it. The battle cries were now explained by a dead commotion, low like a gigantic whisper. It seemed as if a thousand-lined big animal was slowly and continuously wrapping itself on the surface of the earth. The army was withdrawing.

The superintendent sighed deeply. Let us go—Meriçli Celali— he said.
The chronicler followed him without a word.

They took the main road through the camp.
Behind them, like a ghost followed the sergeant of the superintendent. The camp was dark and silent. Most of the tents were empty. After a while they were to be filled, but now they looked so in that silence of their.
They walked silently through the camp for a while. Here and there the out of the chronicler was catching some other noise: some one giving orders, some soldiers started for somewhere. Two couriers mounted on horses passed before their noses. The cracks of the wheels of many carts was heard,

and further there one could hear the noise of hundred steps.

—What is happening—Meriçli Celali said to himself.
—It is giving them orders? Has not everything come to an end?

A courier mounted on a horse passed like wind near them. Meriçli Celali was heard the hoofs of quick horses and some anxious voices that gave orders.
Between the captivities and despair by which the chronicler was wholly exhausted, he sensed a strange feeling. That was something between a sob and admiration. These orders and movements in the night showed that even at the black hour there were strong men who give orders, who lead.

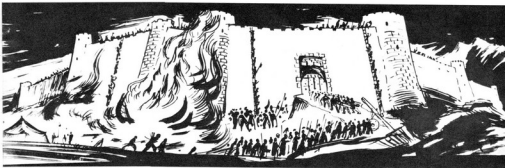
The voice of the carts came very near. The backside of each cart was a small

trench attached. They passed in files by hundred.

The tents were followed then by a unit of ten. When that unit marched beside them Meriçli Celali surprisingly noticed, that the carried to towers in their hands, as if seemed to him at first, but instead they were carrying sticks and staves.

They are the super-troops—the superintendent added in a very strong tone to dig out the great pile to bury those killed.
In the burial he laid place waiting.
Sincerely it has been ordered so. In such cases the burials take place at once even at night.
After a while another group of spear-troops passed before them. What is the number of those killed?—the chronicler asked reproachfully.

THE CASTLE



A drawing by Q. Prezenti

Who was thinking that this castle would resist the glorious army.

—Curse castle.
—Letter say—curse inhabitants of the castle.

You saw them during the talk Meriçli Celali. What was special or extraordinary about them?
—Nothing—said the chronicler.

Full of sorrow they looked at the endless column of the soldiers. It was plain that they were those, who were kept tired and exhausted. Probably they were those who carried the leaders on their backs and who had broken the main door open.

The soldier Say Oshan—the astrologer cried suddenly. The janissary lifted his head. He had other wounds not bloody stains.
—He had only a scratch on the forehead.

He was holding someone by the arm.
—What do you say now—said the chronicler said. What about this wretch? what is he pointing at the man whose janissary held. His eyes were bound by a piece of cloth torn from the turban. His face was black from the bitumen. His hair was wholly scorched.

—Alas!—he began to weep—said the chronicler said in a broken voice.
The Oshan-shook his head.
—He has become blind—he said. His eyes have been completely burned.

Only when his kindling of the eyes was over, and at the moment they struck him by his arm to bring him to his tent, his face had become quite white.
—I saw him when he was in the tent, he fell into a deep sleep.

They went out again. For a long time they were without saying a word, among the numerous silences.

They saw him rush in again in the middle of the fighting within the yard. He kept coming to them as he happened to be on the forehead. The voice of Tur Oshan was tired and a little bit hoarse.

—For the second time, when my eyes caught him, his hand was still on the forehead.

He was crushed from all sides.
—What? I doubted and with many difficulties, because of the crowd, I approached him—the janissary explained indifferently.

When I was near him, I saw that from his cheeks blood dripped bitumen.

They.
—Then I caught him by the hand and with much difficulty I got him out of that hold.
Sadness stood like petrified. If he were not clanking on his feet, they would have doubted whether he was alive or not.

I am remembering him to the doctor—said the janissary said. As for the eyes there is no hope, but at least the pains can be mitigated.

He got something with his eyes.
The four of them went silently towards the tents of medical treatment. The tents erected a day-own, were changed by now into a slaughter-house. Hundreds of abandoned, and quickly bound strange wounds and burnings.

They wanted a long time before Sadet's turn came. The treatment did not last for long. The poet neither screamed nor he sang. Only when his kindling of the eyes was over, and at the moment they struck him by his arm to bring him to his tent, his face had become quite white.

—He has become blind—he said. His eyes have been completely burned.

The janissary looked exhausted. They

waited for a long time, about what he was to say, but the janissary said nothing. Only after having walked in silence for a while he murmured something as if he was speaking to himself.

—They were terrible.
—What?

—They—he said, stretching his hand as the chronicler had stretched in some moments ago. They again they walked for a while in silence.

Where are you going?
Silence.

How beautiful it was last night—the astrologer said. Shadows of soldiers were moving from all sides. No one spoke in loud voice. Everything seemed to whisper, to escape, to go aside.

—I can't forget his eyes—said Tur Oshan suddenly. How they sparkled last night when he spoke!

He wanted to write a great poem about this battle—said the chronicler, thinking last the same time about his chronicler.

Sincerely it is why he reached first in, to witness with his own eyes how the door would be broken—the astrologer said.
How his eyes glittered—said Meriçli Celali—he was talented and courageous!

—It is a pity—replied Meriçli Celali—he was talented and courageous!
—It is a pity—replied Meriçli Celali—he was talented and courageous!
—It is a pity—replied Meriçli Celali—he was talented and courageous!

them and was speaking freely as if they were part of the attack he did not feel shy before old friends.

I shall look to the astrologer said. It seems as if they are always moved by a wild wind. I think he had a headache and fever, therefore it seemed him by the stars would fall down. Don't fall my star! He had said these words somewhere. They had continued in his head, behind his feet forehead. These words had especially furnished at the moment the attack began. They were my star, my star. He had pronounced a great deal of hope in this campaign. If he were dead, his star would be pronounced to be a higher spot. It was even proposed for him to be appointed the astrologer of Subutok court. And they said this was the most important campaign of the last year. The whole Empire was directed to his eyes towards these mountains arranged in a line from the ledgers from the sky to one after the other, half-shaded as they were, it was to him as if his eyes were a great light. You stretch, he said to himself. This was the first like a nail into his brain.

Last night we were four, said Molla Cobi thoughtfully. Now we are three.

Three? Further down one could hear the creakle of the wheels of the cart. It was coming from the nose the wheels made some time ago when the carts started to move towards the walls, nor their voice was heavier and dead. It was clear that they were being pulled.

Let us go and watch the burial of the troops—the chronicle said.

Without a word, they started towards the place from where the noise of the wheels came.

They walked for a long time until they reached the carts. The carts moved slowly in an endless column. They walked behind their wheelmen. In the moon light one could see the corpses thrown one upon the other.

Some carts were heavily loaded, some others not so. A corpse fell from a cart without causing any noise. The cart that followed stopped and someone lifted the corpse and threw it on the cart.

Others from the empty carts were empty. They were unloaded and went back to be unloaded. They were unloaded and black from the blood. Now they noticed that the wheels had sprinkled with blood.

You lost your horse, the astrologer said to Molla Cobi.

No, I must see the burial of the soldiers, because I have to describe them in my chronicle. When they had arrived there the astrologer had already said that they were the remains. Now they were digging out four others. The carts stopped behind the pits and the corpses of the killed after being quickly controlled by a group of physicians, were hurled into the pit. The first pit was filled to capacity and the super-troops had to leave to cover it with earth. The main-pit was not continuously on the ground, bringing handfuls of earth into the big grave that was being covered. The second pit was slowly filled.

Unarmed divisions were hurled into the covered up to the elbow, were catching the corpses quickly by arms and legs and threw them into the pit. The carts were also empty one after the other. The horses troubled by the smell of blood, were left to be on their own. The main-pit-piters pruned continuously from time to time the planks were throwing some corpses on one side. Those who suffered from starvation, whose names were taken for dead were by mistake thrown into the pit.

The chronicle, the January Tur Okcan, and the astrologer stayed there until the fifth night to be covered. The men were opening their new pits. They turned up the camp. All along the main-pit opposite there came carts loaded with corpses.

The camp was ordered to be dismantled. They supposed that by now everything had fallen asleep. But it was not. On the roads, among the tents and near the pits, there were movements. Some and again in pits that were there were some horses that were audible.

What is this movement? the January said. The guards have been strengthened.

The more they penetrated into the depth of the camp the more anxiety was felt.

As it seems an attack by Scanderbeg is expected—said the January Tur Okcan.

Yes, I heard two officers speaking about it in a loud voice.

My be—the astrologer said. The guards are loaded everywhere. They listened and nervously. Someone mounted on a horse passed quickly.

—If he attacks the chalybians—are to confront him! said Tur Okcan. They have not fought yet.

Again doubted guards—said the astrologer. The chronicler was thinking that that soldier was shouting. A man in a black night of default like this. There are some who are not to be trusted. He said to himself. You can't catch them by their hands. As at their different movements they do not sleep, they are not afraid. This time, Molla Cobi felt, that his admiration was embodied into a pleasant surprise.

What that Scanderbeg is terrible in his night attacks—said the astrologer. Many a time he has captured a castle. A lot of variants were suggested, burning time and again to the first variant, discussing its details. A member of the council faintly because of the sound and the officer who was called immediately, brought him to his tent.

At the very end of the meeting it was clear that all the members were for the variant of the sword and the officer who was proposed at the very beginning by the chronicler.

Turan Pasha winked at the architect. The architect produced from his big bag a number of papers full of drawings. He left the corner of the tent and came to the center. He started to draw a counter and started explaining. They were not attentive to his work, words which they would not understand even if they were attentive. With their eyes they followed the hand that moved over the strange drawings wondering as usually about the fact that how a real toucher and massive thing such as a castle, could be represented by mere pool thin lines, which showed not only the visible but also the invisible ones beginning with the stairs to the roof.

The hand of the architect moved continuously over the drawing. He was drawing the strata and the hardest strata of the ground and the castle, calling them by the name of the opening of the ditch the soil strata of the ground were called, explaining them in a loud voice while the hand strata is dug out with the earth, words which they would not understand.

He was explaining the depth of the ditch at its beginning, what would the depth be under the foundations of the castle and how then it was to be devised into two branches in case there was a failure to exit on one side, the other branch was kept in reserve. They went on explaining how long would it take to dig up that ditch and how long would it take to fill the ditch with the rubble of the castle.

He did not understand many of things he spoke about and they did not even try to understand him because they knew that no one could give him the correct answer to the depth of the ditch. They kept gazing only at one line of the red arrows which pointed somewhere outside the castle and stretched itself into the ground. They were not to be disturbed of the case under a door and then came a door, a door, a door, a door, a door, a door. In the eyes of them all was reflected only one question: what this pointed arrow meant to prove into the belly of the castle. The meeting came to an end after midnight and the meeting Tur Okcan was warned them all to keep the secret. He said that he would not say anything to anyone that no matter what rank or post he occupies.

We could not capture this castle when we attacked like hawks from above—the said in a loud voice.

Now we have to creep into it from down ground and then we will capture it. We are not. For a moment a brilliant passed on the superintendent's head.

attack especially now. They said that if the camp was like the castle, the army with itself the danger of reducing the army by half and lower complexity its morale. They said that it was an inferior idea. There was no castle which could resist the army of the illustrious Ghazis and the army was proved time and again but on the other hand, the castle that they had built before them now, was as it seemed a special castle, because a terrible attack like that of today an attack that otherwise would have caused the death of all the army to them.

Therefore, they expressed the opinion, that for the time-being they should try to seek new ways to achieve that which was missed in the castle.

They said that the crown of glory of an army is achieved by the precious stones of victory, not taking into consideration the means used to reach them.

Until the middle of the night the members of the war council discussed about everything, they were not to be disturbed by anything or about everything they had heard conversations about capturing a castle. A lot of variants were suggested, burning time and again to the first variant, discussing its details. A member of the council faintly because of the sound and the officer who was called immediately, brought him to his tent.

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In Front of the Map of Albania



50 Lakes in a District

The Albanian lakes sit at the beauty of the magnificent landscapes. The main lake, as you may know, are frontier lakes, namely those of the Illyrians, Pogradec and Prepsa. There are tena Shkoder, and there are others situated in mountains which exhaust you with their rare beauty.

There are about 30 lakes in the Durrazo area, each prettier than its neighbour. Many of these lakes are surrounded by thick woods where oak predominates. The lake of Bolsh is among the

3,500 Varieties of Plants.



Few are the places of the world possessing as many varieties of plants and of six different origins, as Albania.

The greatly varying climatic, geological and zoographical characteristics are responsible for the country's multiplicity of flora and fauna. In Albania there grow about 3,500 species of different plants, which not only represent the greater part of the Italian Peninsula's flora, but are also related with the plants of most distant lands.

Forests in Albania occupy 43 per cent of its surface, thus classifying it third in Europe, directly after Sweden and Finland.

Albanian flora differs according to the regions, depending on their distance from the seas and their altitude. Thus, for example, the meadow flora is of the Mediterranean type and is chiefly represented by evergreen Mediterranean bushes. In this zone predominate the olives, vines and such fruits trees as figs, oranges, and lemons.

The representatives of the bruiates flora of the coastal zone are: the heather, the valonia, the cork, the cyprus, etc. But food products and industrial crops such as cotton and tobacco also grows in this zone. Whereas in the inner hilly and mountainous regions of Albania predominates the flora of Central Europe. Widely spread in this zone are also such fruit trees as oak, apple, pines, ginkgos, plums, grapes, etc. whole forests of chestnut trees are to be met with in Northern Albania.

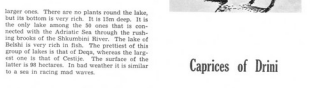
Of the Albanian flora, the medicinal herbs are of numerous kinds and widely grown. Our country now exports about 65 varieties of medicinal herbs.

this great and distant oceans.

In the early Middle Ages, the Arlians moved the centre of their kingdom from Korçeri to Shkoder, where they enjoyed better conditions for developing of sailing. Three exiled many afterwards along the coast of the Shkoder Lake.

The Illyrian mariners worked at 50 lumber mill for the fleet of Phillip of Macedonia.

A great maritime power that later on occupied the Adriatic, was calmly being developed in the coastal area of the Shkoder Lake.



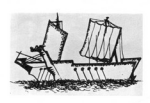
Caprices of Drini

It is said that rivers have their own caprice. Or Drini River the longest one in Albania, is capricious river. Its long history is famous for its dramatic and incessant character. The Venetian maps of the XV century show the direction of the Drini flow toward Lake. But, in 1876, Drini, for it got "snored" rushing along the old bed took a new line and began flowing into the Buna River, a little southeast of Shkoder.

Thus, during a 120 year long period from time to time Drini has been flowing towards Shkoder and Lake. Its incessant character was managed by the people's force partly in 1894 and definitely in 1962. The "named" Drini now flows only towards Shkoder.

In ancient times along the banks of Drini River many will known Illyrian towns had been flourishing, like that of Komran, Leni and Vlas.

In the Middle Ages in the vicinity of Vlas i Dejës there was the town of Dajia, the fortress of which became known at the time of the battles fought by Scanderbeg. In the former Dajia, the biggest hydro-power station in Albania is today being erected.



Masters of Sailing

Many Illyrian coars beer, besides other figures, also some figures of sailing men.

The fact that Illyrians had been skilled sailors given proof in this along the coast of the Shkoder Lake, the Illyrians had a long shop for producing their water transport means. The surface of the lake was thus a ground for the



Tracing Back the Early Albanian Artists

Andrea Aleksi — A Distinguished Sculptor Of the XV Century

Ramadan Sokoll

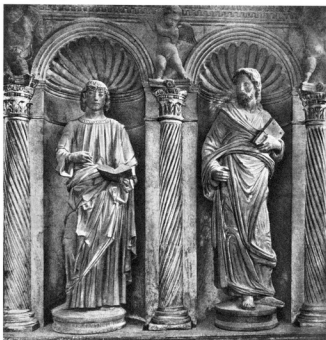
After the darkness of the Middle Ages a new important era began for Dalmatia in the history of art and culture. Just at that time a big number of Albanian masters and humanists went to Dalmatia where they carried on an all-round activity from the end of the XIV century to the second half of the XV century. Among the figures of that time with a high reputation is the sculptor and architect Andrea Aleksi from Durazzo who created many works of art on both shores of the Adriatic Sea.

Several historians and critics have written about the life and works of this Albanian master. As far as this brief article allows it, we shall try to depict here in rough lines his main activity.

Andrea Aleksi was born in Durres about the year of 1423 and grew up at a time when the coastal cities of the Adriatic were prospering.

His main inclination was sculpture and architecture but he took interest also in painting. The humanists trend of tracing back the works of the ancient times such as statues and sarcophagi, arches and epulides, columns and mosaic monuments and other ancient remains did help greatly in shaping the inclinations and the artistic personality of Andrea Aleksi.

The epula of St. Catherine in Shibenik (1448) is known as Andrea's first work. Then we know that he worked on the communal palace of Split (1512). At a certain time he was honored with the title of "Cristian ab emerito" and was donated a plot of land for building a house for himself. Handicraftsmen were very busy in those days, busier more than others. The demands which were great then for builders and architects opened up vast fields of activity for Andrea Aleksi. In 1402 he worked on St. Nicholas' basilica in Bari. A year after he succeeded work there and went to Brace and Ancona in Italy to aid the Italian master Giorgio Orsini. It was not strange that a well-known artist would temporarily work as an assistant of another artist as in those days too two or more authors could cooperate on a work of art.



A view from the Orsini...

In 1494 Andrea Aleksi came back to Split. His crafty hand turned out ever more perfect works. About the year of 1486 he completed the baptistery of Zadarina. The efforts of the artists of the 1400 were spent mainly on public buildings such as the municipality house, the cathedral with the bell tower, baptistery etc. — as these were places around which city life revolved. In 1488 Andrea Aleksi was invited at Trogir to work on the baptistery of the cathedral. All were amazed at the beauty of his carvings and drawings.

Meanwhile he was thinking of repairing the epula of Gjon Orsini. This work was entrusted to Andrea Aleksi and the Italian master Nicola Fiorentini. They both undertook the building of the separate monument of Ivan Sobotić (1489), the palace of Jak Terzić (1470) the palace of the humanist Karlović Cipilo (1470) the portal of the municipality house. The two masters cooperated together for a long time till they were deported in 1475.

Since 1374 Andrea Aleksi stayed in Split. In 1488 when the city was being threatened by the Turks Andrea Aleksi — the famous artist of those beautiful works and masterpieces, set to work for the reconstruction of the old city walls.

The 80-year-long activity of Andrea Aleksi which began in the fourth decade of the XVth century and lasted till the first years of the XVI century shows about the greatness of this artist. If we were to present the rhythm of his work graphically it would be a curved line which tends to go up till it reaches the climax where it remains for a long time and goes down only at the end of his life time. From 1468 to the beginning of 1509 Andrea Aleksi's name is mentioned in the office acts of Split only about matters of ownership. In 1507 his name does not exist in the list of the city's inhabitants.

Andrea Aleksi's most important works are to be found in the small city of Trogir. There one can see the beautiful baptistery with three statues and bas-reliefs so nicely loved. There also are to be found other works on which he worked together with Nicola Fiorentini such as the grand

statue of Ivan Sobotić, the episcopal palace of Jak Terzić, the Gothic-style palace of the humanist Karlović Cipilo with three statues, arcades, doxals and statues, the portal of the city hall, the sculptures decorating at Sabaudijska church. Above all of them stands Gjon Orsini's basilica which is regarded as the artist's masterpiece of all Dalmatia. Traces of their fruitful cooperation can also be found in Zadar — some remarkably well executed portals and windows; in Trogir — some stone statues lunettes and festoons of the front part of St. Mary church.

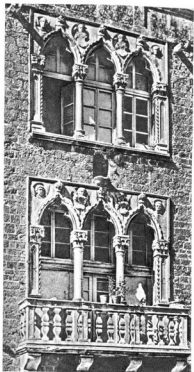
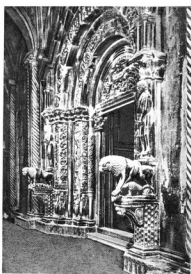
The artistic personality of Andrea Aleksi was moulded in practice and through experience. Like many other artists of that time he carefully studied the works of the ancient times but it should be said that he did not adopt a passive stand towards classical art. He did not blindly imitate old models.

Long before the art principles of the European Renaissance were finally established there existed a tendency to perform a happy blending of the forms of the Middle Ages with those of the ancient times. Thus some works which were created in between 1430-1460 represent a sort of blend of Gothic style with classical style. Then the proportions become more complete more refined towards a monumental unity. Generally speaking Andrea Aleksi's architecture is very elegant even when it is burdened with remains of Gothic style. Whereas in sculpture he did away with the abstract tendencies.

Andrea Aleksi is one of those figures which written or down but outlive when it remains for a long time and goes down only at the end of his life time. From 1468 to the beginning of 1509 Dalmatia and Italy but his name was not forgotten, his glory did not fade. Any letter or other writings he wrote bear his name and family as well as his birth place. His signature always reads: Andrea Aleksi da Durazzo. This shows that he was born Durres, that he was born and died in Albania. The work of this greatest honoree the name of his workmanship on both shores of the Adriatic sea.

The entrance to the "Šibenik" Cathedral.

The windows of the "Cipilo" Palace.



HUMOUR



Illiteracy:
You, take it. The first letter of the alphabet is quite enough for you.



The first exercises of the new year.

I'm asking for a job!
We have no jobs at present. Come after a year.



What are you looking at in the sky?
At the prizes.



Condensation.
The capitalist: Don't worry, the hand shows that you'll become rich.



The Jangler in the new year's night.

The force of the habit (cartoon by Bardhyl Fio)



FRONT COVER: Comrade Erver Hoxha greeting the participants of the manifestation on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of liberation. Tirana, November 29, 1969. Photo by P. Kumi

BACK COVER: November 29, 1969.—The sportsmen while parading. Photo by S. Xhillari

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SPORT

An aspect from the match between the teams of the "Vllaznia" and "Dinamo" clubs. Photo: by E. Shkambi



National competition, organized on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of liberation. Photo by S. Xhillari

