

## Francis Skaryna Library and Museum: 2024 Highlights

2024 was a transformative year for the Francis Skaryna Library and Museum in London. One of the major achievements was the reconstruction and expansion of the museum space, which now includes a newly developed area in the building's former attic. This additional space will house the Historical Museum of the Belarusian Revival, dedicated to presenting Belarus's cultural and historical identity – from the era of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to the national revival of the 20th century. The exhibition highlights the fluidity of borders, languages, and traditions, reflecting the shared identity of the peoples who lived on these lands.

Complementing the physical museum, the virtual museum made significant progress this year. Its development aims to enrich the visitor experience and provide remote access to the library's unique artefacts.

### Archival Work and Collection Development

Archival organisation was a central focus in 2024. Substantial work was undertaken to systematise existing archives and improve the archival room to ensure the physical safety and accessibility of the collections.

Thanks to the generosity of Dr Alan Flowers, the library acquired the Vera Rich collection and began its initial processing.

Work also continued on the extensive archive of the library's founder, Bishop Ceslaus Sipovich, whose 110th birth anniversary was marked in December. In addition to being a distinguished church leader – the first Belarusian Greek-Catholic bishop since the early 19th century – Bishop Sipovich played a vital role in Belarusian civic life and maintained close ties with prominent Belarusian and British figures within the diaspora.

The music and audio archives saw major advancements as well. Under the leadership of conductor Halina Kazimiruskaja, the archive of composer Mikola Kulikovic was digitised. This effort culminated in a concert by the Concordia Choir at the Belarusian Church of St Cyril of Turau, where Kulikovic's works were performed publicly for the first time.

New acquisitions included rare books from the private collection of the late Belarusian-Polish historian Jury Turonak and traditional puppets for the *Batlejka* puppet theatre.

Our work on cataloguing the library's extensive book collection, along with its maps and postage stamps, continued with the support of our volunteers, who are professional librarians and subject specialists. A significant portion of the collection has now been catalogued by one of these volunteers, who developed a custom classification system aligned with current international standards and has begun implementing it. Nevertheless, much work still lies ahead!

### Building Partnerships

The library expanded its partnerships through collaborations with esteemed academic and cultural institutions. A cooperation agreement with the University of Warsaw's Institute for Intercultural Studies established a Research Centre for Belarusian Studies, enabling scholarly

exchanges. The inaugural event – a symposium on the legacy of the 25 March 1918 Act – examined questions of Belarusian national identity.

The library also partnered with the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies and the Ostrogorski Centre for the annual Belarusian Studies conference. Preparations are already underway for the 2025 conference, which will mark the 60th anniversary of the *Journal of Belarusian Studies*. Additional engagements this year included participation in the Herder Institute's summer school and the Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian roundtable in Augustów.

Among notable publications were *Vaclaŭ Łastoŭski's 1928 Expedition: A Preserved Heritage*, featuring photographs from Łastoŭski's ethnographic journey. A facsimile edition of Larysa Hienijuš's manuscript poetry collection is also nearing completion.

## Cultural Events and Visitors

The library hosted a rich array of cultural events, welcoming researchers, writers, and artists. Notable visitors included historians Joanna Getka, Piotr Cichoracki, and Tatsiana Astrouskaya, as well as poets Valzhyna Mort and Taciana Niadbaj. Recitals, literary meetings, and presentations enlivened the annual calendar, while new internships organised in cooperation with Bright Belarus provided young Belarusians with valuable professional experience.

Key commemorations included the centenary of Vasil Bykaŭ and the Night of (Un)Executed Poets, honouring the victims of Stalinist repression. Traditional folk celebrations and the 70th anniversary of the Anglo-Belarusian Society further highlighted Belarusian cultural heritage.

## Looking Ahead

The Trustees look forward to continued growth in 2025, strengthened by the unwavering support of volunteers and well-wishers around the world. With major projects on the horizon, the Francis Skaryna Library and Museum remains a vital centre of Belarusian culture, scholarship, and community.

## Receipts and Payments Accounts

made on 29 January 2025, approved by the trustees with small corrections on 30 January 2025

### The Francis Skaryna Belarusian Library and Museum (registered charity under number 1161434)

for the period 1 January – 31 December 2024

Section A:	Receipts and Payments	
A1: Total receipts:  - Income: <b>£72,794.06</b>	(a) Rent and contribution to utilities from the flat at 37 Holden Rd:  <b>£12,885.78</b>	Jan: £1000.00, Feb: £1000.00, Mar: £1000.00, Apr: £1000.00, May: £1,000, June: £1,000; July – 1,000; £164.00. £284.50; Aug - £1,000, £437.28, Sept: £1000, Oct: £1000, Nov £1000, Dec: £1000
	(b) banking interest/ income from investments: <b>£151.01</b>	Jan: £17.84, Feb: £20.22 , Mar: £17.27 , Apr: £14.88 , May: £9.21 , Jun: £12.33, Jul £1.81, Sept £22.08, Oct £15.28, Nov £11.65, Dec £8.44  <i>Banking interest on the savings acc.</i>  <i>Income from Fidelity investment is reinvested</i>
	(c) Donations and grants:  <b>£55,117.27</b>	Jan: <u>£1,006.12</u> (£480.00, £10.00, £41.06, £95.06, £10.00, £10.00, £350.00, £10.00);  Feb: <u>£185.26</u> (£85.26, , £10.00, £50.00, £10.00, £20.00, £10.00]  Mar <u>£1500.36</u> (£80.36, £10.00, £10.00, £1400.00)  Apr <u>£550.4</u> (£10.00, £9.64, £60.76, £10.00, £100.00. £350.00. £10.00]  May <u>£12,530.76</u> (£6,000.00 (grant). £60.76, £10.00. £6000.00 (grant), £20.00, £350.00, £80.00, £10.00]  June <u>12,510.76</u> (£6,000 (grant), £6,000 (grant), £350, £80, £10, £60.76, £10)  July <u>£1,425.42</u> (£10. £10, £10, £10, £28.02, £80.00, £350.00, £110.40. £817.00(grant))  Aug <u>£18,190.70</u> (£10, £60.70, £17,750 (grant), £10, £350, £10)

		<p>Sept <u>£170.70</u> (£80, £10, £60.70, £10, £10)</p> <p>Oct <u>£865.20</u> (£80, £10, £35.20, £10, £700, £20, £10)</p> <p>Nov <u>£780.78</u> (£80, £10, £18.58, £232.20, £10, £350, £80)</p> <p>Dec <u>£5,400.81</u> (£10, £10, £232.20, £10, £3,878.61, £350, £10, £900 (ABGB grant))</p>
	(d) interest free loan: <b>£4,000</b>	June: £4,000
	(e) Other: <b>£640</b>	Jan: Refund from LB of Barnet £640.00
A2: Total asset and investment sales: <b>£30,000</b>		Aug £30,000 (Fidelity assets)
A3: Total payments (expenditure): <b>£106,708.88</b>	(a) BT (internet): <b>£526.73</b>	Direct Debit: £40.02(Jan), £40.02 (Feb), £40.02 (March), £40.02 (Apr), £45.62 (May), 43.18(Jun); £43.18 (Jul), £43.18 (Aug), £43.95 (Sept), £49.18 (Oct), £49.18 (Nov), £49.18 (Dec)
<u>Receipts and asset sales less payments: £</u> <b>(3,914.82)</b>	(b) Utilities, cleaners, council tax and insurance: <b>£12,441.48</b>	<p>Jan: <u>£228.12</u> (British Gas (£174.28), Castle water (£53.84))</p> <p>Feb: <u>£193.20</u> (£139.36 (British Gas), £53.84 (Castle Water))</p> <p>Mar: <u>£3,750.9</u> (£3,492.21 (Opus), £204.85 (Opus), £53.84 (Castle Water))</p> <p>Apr: <u>£1,335.71</u> (£24.95 (Barnet Council), £84.73 (Castle Water), £146.13 (Opus Energy), £1,008.00 (estate agent's fees) , £71.90 (British gas))</p> <p>May: <u>£358.97</u> (£52.69 (Castle Water), £161.28 (British Gas), £145.00 (Opus Energy))</p> <p>Jun: <u>£1,266.47</u> (£45.24 (castle water) £1,221.23 (Opus))</p> <p>July: <u>£214.24</u> (£44.65 (Castle water), £22.84 (British Gas), £146.75 (Opus Energy))</p> <p>Aug <u>£744.22</u> (£7(DD); £45.24 (Castle Water), £13.68 (British Gas), £678.30 (Opus Energy))</p> <p>Sept <u>£135.76</u> (£45.24 (Castle Water), £30 (cleaner), £30.52 (British Gas), £30 (Cleaner))</p> <p>Oct <u>£2,211.54</u> (£30 (cleaner), £2,062.99 (insurance), £30 (cleaner), £44.65 (Castle Water), £43.90 (British Gas))</p> <p>Nov <u>£1,166.49</u> (£106.86 (Castle Water), £72.01 (British Gas), £987.62 (EDF Energy))</p> <p>Dec <u>£835.86</u> (£52.70 (Castle Water), £95.27 (British Gas), £687.89 (EDF Energy))</p>

	<p>(c) Library acquisitions and projects: <b>£29,008.76</b></p>	<p>Jan: <u>1,446.88</u> (£99.99 (toner), £137.54 (archive equipment), £96.95 (hard drive), £1,112.40 (collection development))</p> <p>Feb: £500.94 (archive equipment)</p> <p>Mar: <u>£1,268.29</u> (£1206.00 (collection development) £62.29 (collection development))</p> <p>Apr: <u>£9,412.53</u> (£55.30 (conference exp refund), £143.13 (conference exp refund), £8,853.00 (music collection digitisation), £83.25 (catering expenses) , £277.85 (book acquisition))</p> <p>May: <u>£268.40</u> (£18.40 (book acquisition ) £250.00 (Lastouski album))</p> <p>June: <u>£1,207.60</u> (£ 64.07 (book acquisition), £75.23 (equipment for collection), £1,068.30 (collection devel work))</p> <p>July <u>£877.74</u> (£777.75 and £15.00 (internship cost)): £84.99 (PCloud– Sumup))</p> <p>Aug <u>£1,762.97</u> (£682.50 (cataloguing), £35.65 (catering), £21.99 (displ cab equip), £30 (book acquis), £992.83(computer aquis)</p> <p>Sept <u>£3,588.91</u> (£1,043 (Soutron software), £229 (applecare cover), £240 (cataloguing), £244.62 (archival supplies), £24.98 (adapter), £23.78 (event catering), £817 (internship cost), £66.53 (Books acquisition), £900 (collection management))</p> <p>Oct <u>£2,337.25</u> (£493.25 and £15 (archivist) , £585(cataloguing), £250(museum puppets), £960 (museum design), £34)</p> <p>Nov <u>£3,672.28</u> (£855 (cataloguing), £2,565.91 (cataloguing), £15, £55.23 (Microsoft), £181.14 (Archival equipment))</p> <p>Dec <u>£2,664.97</u> (£930(cataloguing), £108.98 (conference exp), £8.99, £1,617 (collection management))</p>
	<p>(d) Building/ garden maintenance and extraordinary expenses: <b>£60,731.91</b></p>	<p>Jan:, £413.40 (building work)</p> <p>Feb: <u>£1099.20</u>(£499.20 (shelves for periodicals), , £200.00 (shelves assembly), £400.00 (structural engineer))</p> <p>May: £15,000.00 (museum building work - M&amp;G Home Improvement)</p> <p>June: <u>£18,049.99</u> (£18,000.00 (museum building work - M&amp;G Home Improvement) , £49.99(Ring system))</p> <p>July: <u>£485.26</u> (£331.26 (kitchen appliances for rental flat), £154 (own for rental flat - Sumup))</p> <p>Aug: <u>£15,972</u> (£14,172 (museum building work), £1,800(display cab))</p> <p>Sept <u>£8,362.21</u> (£3,000(museum work), £3,728.40(museum work), £283.81 (museum lighting), £350 (museum aircon), £1000(museum decoration))</p>

		Oct <u>£1,105.87</u> , £711.43(museum decor), £394.44 (museum decor))  Nov £43.98 (museum lights)  Dec: £200 (museum curtains)
	e) £4,000 Interest free loan repayment (see A1(D))	Aug: £4,000
A4 Total asset and investment purchases: <b>£0</b>		£0
A5 Transfers between funds: <b>£0</b>		£0
A6 Total cash funds last year end (31 Dec 2023): <b>£19,045.81</b>	(a) Treasurers account 01310798: <b>£1,852.56</b>	
	(b) Business instant account 07272081: <b>£16,883.57</b>	
	(c) SumUp Account: <b>£309.68</b>	
Section B:	Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period (31 December 2024)	
B1: Total closing cash funds at year end (31 Dec 2024): <b>£15,130.99</b>	(a) Community account 01310798: <b>£3,239.72</b>	
<b>Yearly cash balance difference (B1 - A6): £3,914.82</b>	(b) Business instant account 07272081: <b>£11,820.58</b>	
	(c) SumUp Account: <b>£70.69</b>	
B2: Other monetary assets: <b>0</b>		

B3: Investment assets:	(a) Assets managed by Fidelity: <b>£78,000</b>	<i>Approximate value as of December 2024</i>
	(b) self-contained rentable flat at 37 Holden Rd: <b>£0</b>	no separate capital value assigned– an income generating asset
	(b) self-contained rentable room at 37 Holden Rd: <b>£0</b>	no separate capital value assigned– an income generating asset.  <i>Note: the room is reserved for academic guests/ library visitors, not permanently let</i>
B4: Assets retained for the charity's own use	37 Holden Rd (freehold): <b>£1,000,000</b>	current estimated market value, no formal valuation has been undertaken
B5: Liabilities	<b>£0</b>	

*Note: the accounts do not show the following balance-neutral entries:*

- *various transfers between the current and interest-bearing savings accounts of the Library;*
- *returned direct debits with OPUS;*
- *returned payment to Yaroslau Kryvoi*
- *account-testing micro credits and refunds with Ebay*



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

The Francis Skaryna Belarusian Library and Museum

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 December 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1161434

Set out on pages

One page

+

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ('the Trust') for the year ended

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

*S. Piatkevich*

Date: 07.02.2025

Name:

Mr. S. Piatkevich

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Economist

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