atives are arranged in alphabetical order and provided with full explanations. There is also a special study of semantic groups and the geographical distribution of basic words used in the formation of place-names. This part of the book will appeal to a wide circle of readers with an interest in Byelorussian toponymy but with no particular linguistic qualifications.

The second part is of a more specialised nature. It is a study of various types of place names according to the manner of their formation. The author considers the names with no affixes, then the names formed by means of various suffixes, prefixes or both, and an important class of place names having the plural form. Particular attention is paid to the types of word formation which are characteristic of toponymy in general, and to oikonymy in particular.

It is a very good little book, based on a mass of concrete material and written with a profound knowledge of the subject. Although it is addressed in the first place to the philologist, it can be recommended to anyone interested in Byelorussian toponymy.

A. Nadson


Lexicology, once the Cinderella of Byelorussian linguistics, at last comes into its own with this important publication by the Institute of Philology of the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences. The first monograph ever to be devoted to the discipline, it is a collective work and makes use of the vast quantities of material collected (at present in a card index) for the long-awaited Historical Dictionary of Byelorussian.

After an introduction by A. I. Žuraŭski, which presents a frank review and assessment of work in the field of lexicology to date, there follow seven major sections dealing chronologically with the principal aspects of the Byelorussian lexicon (loan-words, basic resources, neologisms, enlargement and contraction of semantic groups etc.) from Common East Slavonic (starazâtnaruskaja leksika) to the present day, and including a short review of phraseological developments. The seven sections are as follows: 'The Common East Slavonic Vocabulary as the Basis for the Old Byelorussian Lexical System' by A. M. Bulyka (pp. 9-51); 'The Original Byelorussian Lexicon' by U. V. Aniĉenka (pp. 52-80); 'Borrowed Words in the Old Byelorussian Language' by A. I. Žuraŭski (pp. 81-160); 'Thematic Characteristics of the Old Byelorussian Lexicon' by A. M. Bulyka, A. I. Janoviĉ and Z. K. Turceviĉ (pp. 161-227); 'The Development of the Lexical System of the Byelorussian Language in the 19th Century and at the Beginning of the 20th Century' by I. I. Kramko (pp. 228-65); 'Changes in the Byelorussian Lexicon in the Soviet Period' by A. Ja. Bachaňkoŭ (pp. 266-92); and finally 'Byelorussian Phraseology' by A. S. Aksamitaŭ (pp. 293-330).

The contributions are, without exception, solid, although there are some small inaccuracies, inevitable in a work of this size and complexity, particularly in the chronological pinpointing of first usages. To take two fairly random examples, ukaz (p. 239) and chaŭrus (p. 240) were not introduced to Byelorussian at the beginning of the 20th century: chaŭrus occurs once in a poem of Hurynoviĉ, whilst ukaz is found in the work of a number of 19th-century writers (Duńin-Marcińkiewiĉ, Kalinoŭski and Blüs) and anonymous texts (Schod, Biasieda starahõ volnika z novymi pra ičnajje dzieło). Errors of this type will undoubtedly continue to be made until a great deal more fundamental lexicographical work has been published. It is to the credit of the contributors of this volume that they are not more frequent.

Altogether, this is an excellent piece of work, although an index of words and a general bibliography are, as usual, irritating omissions. The list of Middle Byelorussian texts given at the end of the book, however, will serve as a valuable guide, since the majority of them are either in manuscript or else in editions that have long been bibliographical rarities. Histaryčnaja leksikal-tohija
bietaruskaj movy is not only a landmark in its own right, but also represents a happy augury for the eagerly awaited Historical Dictionary now being prepared (with evident care) by the scholars of the Institute of Philology.

| Arnold B. McMillin |


The years 1969 and 1970 have witnessed the publication of an exceptional number of dialectal dictionaries. The most important of them, however, I. K. Bialkievič's Krajoyu slošn̄ik uschodniay Mahiloŭśčyny, was conceived and realised in a period of even greater activity in the field of lexicography, the years of Inbiekult. In the early 1920s it was projected that in addition to normative, literary dictionaries of the Byelorussian language there should also be compiled dialectal dictionaries of the ten regions comprising what was then Eastern (Soviet) Byelorussia. Of these ten dictionaries only three were completed: Kaspiarovič's Viciebski krajoyu slošn̄ik (Mater'jały) (Viciebsk, 1927), Saternik's Krajoyu slošn̄ik Červieńścyny (Minsk, 1929) and a Slošn̄ik Mazyrśčyny which remained in manuscript and was lost during the Second World War. Bialkievič's work was not completed until 1959 owing to the unfortunate circumstances of his life, although the majority of the 20,000 words it comprises were collected in the latter part of the 1920s.

Unlike the majority of dialectal lexicographers, Bialkievič did not describe his native dialect. He was born in 1883 in Varonici near Slonim in the Hrodna region, and after studying and teaching in Śvislač, Varonici, Slonim and Minsk, only in 1925 moved to Mišcišłaŭ in the eastern part of the Mahiloŭ region where he joined the staff of the newly opened teachers training college. The next five years must have been exceptionally active ones, for in 1930 he was compelled to leave Byelorussia for ever, spending the rest of his life in various enterprises such as forestry and steel production in regions far removed from Mahiloŭ, notably the Mari republic, the Azov — Black Sea region and Doneck. Bialkievič died suddenly in 1960, and it is greatly to the credit of Biryla and Kryvicki, two senior scholars of the Jakub Kotas Institute of Philology, that the work has at last achieved publication.

The dictionary covers an area bounded on the west by Slaušarad, on the south by Bialynkavič and on the east by Mišcišłaŭ and Mitaslavič; to the north it extends a little beyond Drybin. Reading this excellent work, one cannot but regret that the immensely valuable activity of Inbiekult was so short-lived. The publication of such a milestone as Bialkievič's dictionary inevitably induces wistful thoughts of what might have been.

Another important work in an unusual genre (dialectal synonymics) is Jurčanka's Narodnaja sinonimika, a study of 440 groups of synonyms from his native Mišcišłaŭśčyna. Altogether they comprise some 4,000 words (from a wide semantic spectrum), the majority not having appeared in the author's earlier dialectal dictionary (Dyjalektny slošn̄ik (Z havorak Mišcišłaŭśčyny), Minsk, 1966 — see JBS, I, 3, 1967, pp. 249-50). Each synonymic group is furnished with a wealth of examples, and special attention is paid to the words' use in various phraseological groupings. The author's care in collecting such a mass of interesting material, much of it hitherto unrecorded, demonstrates to the general reader the great variety of Byelorussin lexical resources, and provides for specialists a useful primary source for the study both of the relationship between the literary and dialectal lexicons and of the history and formation of the vocabulary as a whole.

The first two volumes (vypuski) of