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SPECULATION ON GAGARIN'S FLIGHT

There is more and more speculation that the much-publicized and breath-taking space flight by the Soviet Major, Yuri Gagarin, might be a Soviet propaganda stunt rather than a reality.

In his press interview and in his first statement upon his alleged return to earth, Major Gagarin made several statements which are being challenged by space experts.

Furthermore, there is also substantial uncertainty regarding the timetable of the Soviet spaceship as disclosed by Moscow.

Still the greatest speculation derives from The Daily Worker's article dealing with the Soviet space flight.

Congressman Pucinski suggested that Major Gagarin's accounts about seeing fields might indicate that he had parachuted from the space capsule and then claimed to have disembarked from the spaceship.

Whether the story of Major Gagarin's flight into space is a hoax or not, Soviet scientists have much to explain.

But, there is also a theory that the Gagarin story is a gigantic stunt for propaganda purposes.

Khrushchev, like his predecessor Stalin, believes in these tactics and he had good reason to believe in his political sorcery as it has yielded to him and to the USSR some powerful advantages.

SIMPLY CONFUSION

Memoranda have been written, speeches have been uttered and articles have appeared in print throwing light on the geography and history of Eastern Europe.

We have before us a recent copy of the widely-read, and well-informed Time Magazine, Canada Edition.

In writing about Lutsiv, Time says the following: "The first Russian ever to lead a Canadian symphony orchestra, Lutsiv is only 30, but has been a musician for 24 years."

First of all, the Ukrainian city of Lviv, once the capital Western Ukrainian Republic is pronounced "Lvov" in Ukrainian.

Time does not state what nationality were Lutsiv's parents, but since he was born in Lviv in 1931, and since he is still a resident of that city which is located some 200 miles south of the Russian border, in Ukraine, it becomes somewhat difficult to guess what made the Time's writer say that Lutsiv is "the first Russian ever to lead a Canadian symphony orchestra."

One may expect the man on the street to be confused about "all them countries east of Rhine," but surely an informative, reliable, and much respected weekly newsmagazine could avoid this confusion on its pages by looking into some basic reference books, such as an atlas and an encyclopedia.

BOOKS MAKE IDEAL GIFTS. LOOK OVER THE SELECTION IN THE "SVOBODA" BOOK STORE. INQUIRIES BY MAIL ARE WELCOMED.

THE SOVIET SPACE FLIGHT

The world was startled to hear on April 13, 1961 of the Russian success in putting a manned space ship into orbit and in bringing back the occupant alive and in apparently good condition.

Gagarin made a conventional speech. He stressed his peasant origin and attributed his good fortune with profuse thanks to the Communist Party and above all to that friend and protector of the "Soviet people," Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev.

There seems to be no disposition to doubt that the flight took place substantially as depicted. In fact there is a strong possibility that it was detected by some of the satellite tracking stations around the earth.

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THE NAME "SLAV"

Department originally delivered this survey as a presidential address at an Annual Meeting of the American Name Society.

The origin of the name "Slav" is a controversial subject as this brief survey shows. In the eight pages devoted to the topic there are over a dozen possible etymological derivations of "Slav" summarized.

The third explanation is the topographic or toponymic (geographic place-name) origin. Suggestions for this source are from an ancient Slavic capital Slatava, from a root meaning "hill, mountain," or another meaning "lowlands."

Another interesting suggestion is that the common ending "-slav" in names such as Yaroslav, Mstislav and Myroslav expanded into the name of the people.

Prof. Rudnycky concludes that there is no unanimous agreement on the etymology of the word "Slav" although the topographic explanation seems to be the most convincing.

It may be mentioned that K. Mozynski in Original Extension of the Pre-Slavic Language, (Wroclaw: Polish Academy of Sciences, 1957) suggests yet another view not touched on in this survey.

He gives this etymology: from the "Latin cluo (I clean), Greek kluzo (I wash, purge) kludon (striking of waves), Old High German hluttar (clean, clear), Old Nordic hler (lake, sea), Lithuanian slavu, sluoti (to sweep) (originally to clean, compare the Slav word čistiti, which in Ukrainian, Bulgarian and Serbo-Croat assumed a secondary meaning 'to sweep')"

In the English language the word "Slav" has been used in many forms. It has finally distilled down to three interchangeable forms: Slav, Slavic and Slavonic.

A useful feature of Prof. Rudnycky's monograph is the extensive list of bibliographical footnotes. This will guide the student to a wealth of sources on the subject.

Also included in this Onomastica issue is an article, "Ten Years of Onomastica (1951-1961)" by M. H. Seargill. It is a history of this topographic and anthroponymic series edited twice a year by J. B. Rudnycky.

Although brief, this survey is a real contribution because it makes available to the English reader the basic theories on the origin of the word "Slav."

Andrew Gregorovich McMaster University Hamilton, Ont.

INSURANCE IS A GOOD THING

Insurance policies, or certificates, or contracts, are not difficult to understand if the holder would take time to study them thoughtfully.

Other UNA members do not even go to the trouble of writing for information, but quietly cease paying dues and allow the insurance to lapse; they do not realize the insurance has value even after payment of dues has ceased.

There are cases, however, where the insured died after the expiration date of the extended insurance and no benefit was paid.

Occasionally a suspended member does not ask for information about his insurance and the branch officers neglect to tell him about the option privileges, or the member ignores the information when it was presented to him.

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Editor's Correspondence

As I read your newspaper I wonder why Ukrainian students, those who have already completed their schooling, do not run for the Senate or the Congress, and this goes both for the boys and girls.

Especially those who have come here from the old country, have big talents, but one plays a big shot, the other pitches a ball, still another batters peoples' faces.

We should send off our learned men to Washington, just as other nationalities are doing. We must have representatives in Washington who can make a lot of noise and who can speak about Ukraine, her resources, and be able to describe her borders and show them on the map.

The author asserts that such an interpretation of the revolution in 1917 is a rank distortion and accuses The Ukrainian Quarterly of falsifying the "historical facts."

The article is also replete with attacks against Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker for his world-famed statement on the enslavement of the Ukrainian and the Baltic peoples by Communist Russia.

\* According to USSR Magazine (Feb. 7, 1961), published by the Soviet Embassy in Washington, the Orenburg fortress has been renamed "Shevchenko Fort" by the Soviet government.

IRA ALDRIDGE, AMERICAN NEGRO AND TARAS SHEVCHENKO, POET OF UKRAINE

EDITOR'S NOTE: In October 1939 Marie Tromer-Trembecka published this article in the American Russian Review, and we are indebted to Mr. Volodymyr Trembecky for bringing it to our attention at this time. The article is reprinted below in full, with minor stylistic changes.

By MARIE TROMER

Studying at the Academy, Shevchenko began to write poetry and in 1840 his first collection of poems, The Kobzar, was published. In his poems Shevchenko expressed his grief and anxiety for his people who were still in bondage.

They began to meet regularly. Shevchenko used to come in early. He was engaged in drawing a portrait of Aldridge, and while waiting would sharpen his pencils and arrange the lighting effects. Aldridge was always late. He would rush in, take off his cloak, and inquire: "Is the artist here?" Shevchenko impatient to see his model used to reprimand him for being late.

Communist Press Attacks

From Page One printed an allegation to the effect that prior to the October Revolution in Russia there developed two independent from each other processes.

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