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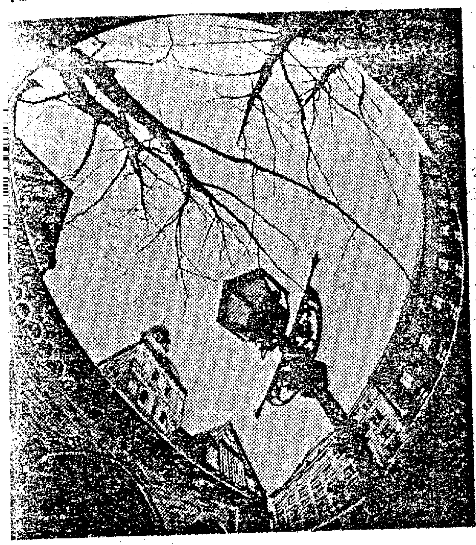


NEW IMAGE OF OLD RIGA

l Riga, which shows, in most of its parts, the medieval y of the city, is now being restored by the architects of a.

rk has been completed on a master plan for the recon- ion of the ancient part of the Latvian capital, which is 2,000 years old. On an area of only 50 hectares are ntrated many structures of the past centuries. The rn age, particularly the last war, have changed the ap- nce of many of them. But this process is reversible, as eople of Riga have proved, and again the chimes of the red Saint Peter's church (12th century), which was oyed by the nazis during the occupation of Riga, ring over the old city. The spire of the 17th-century church h was also damaged during the years of occupation, has been restored.

e colour scheme of the 15th-17th century streets is being red. The former merchants' and artisans' guild buildings house the Philharmonic Society and the Cultural Centre ade unions.

w tourists and organ music devotees are allowed to e square, with its famous Dome Concert Hall and museum lex of the 13th-16th centuries. According to the recon- tion plan, the old city will be closed to traffic.

TAL LACEWORK

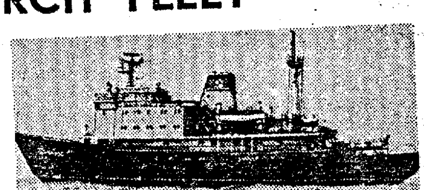
llage of Novchim in the tonomous Republic has n famous for its talented iron workers, and this is still alive and flour- Novchim's craftsmen are fulfilling an important rom Moscow for the Games, and the first consignment of decorative cast pig iron fencing for the Olympic projects has already been deli- vered.

The factory which turned out these fine products was founded in the middle of the 18th century and has full training facilities.

R ARCTIC RESEARCH FLEET

Otto Schmidt icebreaker, a new addition to ty of Soviet research vessels, will soon set er first working cruise in the severe con- l the Arctic.

e being an icebreaker the *Otto Schmidt* is me time a special floating institute designed ct investigations in the little-studied and naccessible ice-bound regions of the Arctic



IZES AND TITLES SOVIET SPECIALISTS

Science

SPACE DISCOVERY USED IN INDUSTRY

A discovery by a group of Moscow and Kiev scientists in space chemistry has been en- tered into the USSR State Roster of Discoveries. They have ex- perimentally proved that the tiniest particles of iron, titanium and silicon which are found embedded in the surface layers of space bodies, particularly, in the friable lunar ground, do not get corroded in the terrestrial atmosphere. The results of this research are already being used in industry to raise the resis- tance to corrosion of metal pro- ducts.

THE SOUND OF THE OCEAN

Infrasonic waves made by the tidal movements can now be re- corded, for example, in Siberia, a thousand kilometres away from the nearest coast. This is pos- sible thanks to a special device designed at the ~~Institute of the Earth's Magnetism in~~ Irkutsk. The infrasonic waves too low to be picked up by the human ear are emitted by oceans and seas. Very like the sound waves gen- erated by active volcanoes, earthquakes, hurricanes and meteorites when they hit the Earth, these waves last for long periods and can travel several times around the globe. Their recordings are of practical im- portance since infrasonic waves affect the upper layer of the Earth's atmosphere, the iono- sphere, which greatly influences the reliability of radio telecom- munications.

IN THE WAKE OF ANCIENT MEDICINE

"There is nothing on earth that could not serve as a medi- cine," said the ancient Oriental doctors, having in mind the boundless healing properties of nature. Scientists at the Buryat Branch of the Siberian Depart- ment of the USSR Academy of Sciences have deciphered old medical cures so that now they can be used on a wider scale.

The scientists discovered that ancient doctors knew very many natural healing methods. They were composed of between twenty and several dozen pre- parations of plant, animal or mineral origin.

The Buryat scientists are now studying the properties of some 200 species of plants mentioned in ancient prescriptions.

VIEWPOINT

Multinational Soviet music

By Fikret AMIROV, composer, People's artist of the USSR

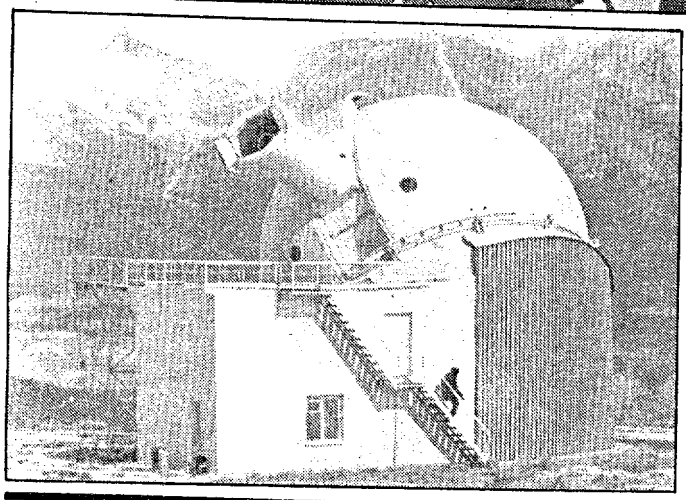
I took part in the 6th Con- gress of USSR composers that has just been held, and the many professional discussions and meetings there are still fresh in my mind. The Congress presented multinational Soviet music on the broadest possible scale. Every year more and more music-makers from all na- tions of the Soviet Union are joining our composers' unions— as was said at the Congress, these unions are rapidly growing in the Ukraine, the Transcauca- sian Republics, Central Asia, Kazakhstan, the Baltic Republics, Byelorussia and Moldavia. The composers' unions have been set up only recently in such Autonomous Republics as Ud- murtia, Tuva, Komi and Yakutia which means that national mu- sical schools are developing there too. The national com- posers' unions are growing not only numerically but artistically as well. Works of music, rec- ognized by our people and that have also gained popularity abroad, have been composed in many places of our country.

I'm glad that Azerbaijan com- posers have made a great con- tribution to Soviet music. All the musical genres have been mastered by the composers of our Republic, which had prac- tically no professional musicians before the Great October Rev- olution. It is quite different now! Who here, in this country, and for that matter, who in musical circles abroad, has not heard of Kara Karaev, the Azerbaijan composer, disciple of the great Shostakovich? The names of Dzhovdzhet Gadzhiev, Niyazi, Dzhangir Dzhangirov, Rauf Gad- zhiyev, Akshin Ali-Zade and many other Azerbaijan com- posers are well known both in our country and abroad.

The blossoming of national music in Azerbaijan, the same as the rapid development of music in all national areas, is the result of the Leninist na- tional policy—fraternal mutual assistance between all nations in our country. Soviet multination- al musical culture will go on developing against a background of active interaction and mutu- al enrichment of national cul- tures.

From this point of view our Congress gave a [illegible] in- depth analysis of the achieve- ments of composers in the vari- ous Republics, with the under-

SUN-WATCH IN THE SNOWS



NEARLY 7,000 feet up in the East Siberian mountains, this solar coronagraph keeps regular watch on the activity of the outer layers of the Sun.

Operated by the Siberian Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, Ionosphere and Wave Propagation, the instrument is used to investigate the correlation of solar activity and changes in weather, radio reception and other phenomena on Earth.

As well as co-operating with the socialist countries in these investigations, the institute maintains regular exchanges of information with all the major capitalist countries. The institute has also hosted major international conferences to discuss progress in this field.

Top and left: Keeping an eye on the Sun up in the Sayany mountains, East Siberia

Spider farm's valuable crop

A SPIDER farm in Alma-Ata, capital of Soviet Kazakhstan, produces only 30 grammes of poison annually, but this is enough for several medical establishments in the country and for export.

The farm has some 16,000 scorpions, tarantulas and spiders. Each of them live in a separate vessel, since spiders are such outrageous individualists.

A spider's poison is more valuable than that of a snake: one gramme is worth 20,000 roubles and it is used in preparing medicines, vaccines and serums.

To get just one gramme of poison it is necessary to "milk" 8,000 scorpions.

New voyage for non-magnetic ship

ONE of the world's few completely non-magnetic ships, the Leningrad schooner *Zarya*, has started a voyage to probe mysteries of the Earth's magnetic field.

The *Zarya* is built mainly of wood and has had all its metal parts carefully de-magnetised to enable scientists to measure tiny variations of magnetic field.

The first part of the present voyage is an examination of the "centennial variation" of the magnetic field in the southern Baltic, sponsored jointly by the science academies of the Soviet Union, Poland and the German Democratic Republic.

Later, the schooner will sail to the Mediterranean to investigate magnetic anomalies in the area between Italy, France and Africa.

The results may help to solve the problem of whether the Mediterranean is the remnant of an ancient ocean squeezed between the rock platforms of Africa and Europe or whether it is a new ocean in the process of formation.

Cure for stammering