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THE SLAV ENLIGHTENERS AND BIELARUS

*(Summary)*

In his research the author uses archive and rare press materials to prove that Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius were widely known in Bielarus in the 19th century. Solemn celebrations were held in their honour in 1885 in Minsk, Vitebsk, Lepel, Polotsk, Rechitsa, Grodno, Moghiliov, Belinichy. The Beilorussians drew the faces of the first Slavonic teachers on icons, medallions, named churches and monasteries after them, carved the Cyrillic alphabet on objects of everyday use. Every school at the time had been provided with the portrait of Sts Cyril and Methodius and every child had been given their hagiography.