

Francysk Skaryna was a Belarusian **1)** (**HUMAN**), scholar, translator and one of the first book printers in Eastern Europe. In 1517, Francysk Skaryna published a book of Psalms in his native Belarusian (Old Ruthenian), thus laying the ground-work for the **2)** (**DEVELOP**) of the modern Belarusian language. Two years later, he translated the Bible.

Born in 1486 in Polotsk, Skaryna lived an outstandingly varied life. As a young man, he went to Italy and became the first Eastern European **3)** (**SCIENCE**) who earned the highest academic titles – Doctor of **4)** (**MEDICINE**) Sciences and Doctor of Liberal Arts. Over a 40-year career, Skaryna tried his hand at medicine, philosophy, art and even garden design.

And yet Francysk Skaryna devoted his life to the publication of the biblical texts. He dreamt of making the Bible more accessible (*доступной*) to the common people and wrote it in an easy language to help them “learn about the wisdom and science”.

Being a **5)** (**PUBLISH**) and translator of the first biblical books, author of **6)** (**ORIGIN**) forewords and commentaries to the books, Skaryna contributed greatly to many spheres of **7)** (**CREATE**) work: from the **8)** (**FORMATION**) of literary traditions of the written language and book printing to the history of civilization and society, as well as the philosophy and politics of his time. He believed that a society could progress and develop only in a peaceful and harmonious environment.

The name of Francysk Skaryna is of great importance in today's Belarusian culture and **9)** (**NATION**) conscience (*сознание*). In Belarus **10)** (**NUMBER**) monuments, streets as well as Gomel university bear his name. Also two Belarusian awards bear his name: the Medal of Francysk Skaryna and the Order of Francysk Skaryna.