



# BALTIC HERITAGE NETWORK

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## IN MEMORIAM - DALĖ TERESĖ LUKAS

Dalė Lukas, an active member of The Lithuanian Scouts Association and the chair of the Lithuanian American Archives Committee, passed away peacefully on December 11, 2014 from cancer.

Dalė was born on May 10, 1937 in Marijampolė, to the family of Apoloniija Kondrotaitė and Artūras Koklys. The family did not stay long in Marijampolė, and shortly after their daughter's birth moved to Panevėžys, near Šeduva. When the Soviets occupied Lithuania, the Koklys family moved to Germany. One of the most vivid of Dalė's recollections was associated with the Soviet occupation. Her father, a member of the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union, was warned about a compiled list with his name on it of future deportees to Siberia.

The family lived in Germany until 1951. In the same year, they immigrated to the United States. While in the high school, Dalė wanted to become a journalist, but her parents were against it. They believed that given the circumstances it would be wiser to turn to a more practical career, that of a scientist. Dalė chose chemistry, which she studied at the Mount St. Joseph's College in Cleveland, Ohio. Although Dalė worked in the field of chemistry for a very short time, she acknowledged the benefits of a science later while looking for a librarian position (she earned her MA in Library Science at the University of Maryland). For many years, Dalė had worked for the National Library of Medicine, at the National Institute of Health.

In her early years, Dalė was a passionate leader in the Lithuanian Girl Scouts Association. Later, she devoted herself to the Lithuanian-American Community where she served as chair of the Lithuanian Cultural Affairs Council and then chair of the Lithuanian American Archives Committee. During her long career in the Lithuanian American Community, Dalė also supported the Lithuanian arts, organising many exhibitions and performances of art, music and dance. She was also a board member of the Lithuanian Foundation, Lithuanian Research and Studies Centre, and Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Science.

In her later years, Dalė dedicated herself to the Lithuanian archives in North America. She regretted that Lithuanians living in the US and Canada are not very attentive to their historic treasures – archives and libraries. "I do not want to be dramatic, but when we talk about our collections and preservation of archives, we really are at the eleventh hour", she said during one interview. "[After all] the main source for the future generations to draw

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## A Note from the Editor:

The submission deadline for the next issue is 15 May 2015. We welcome news articles, conference information, calls for papers, new publication information, and images. Please send articles in English with high quality images to:

Kristina Lupp  
kriss.lupp@me.com

The Non-Profit Association Baltic Heritage Network was founded in Tartu on January 11, 2008. NPA BaltHerNet was established to foster cooperation between national and private archives, museums, libraries, and institutions of research, public associations and organizations collecting and studying the cultural heritage of the Baltic diaspora. It aims to facilitate the preservation and research of the historically valuable cultural property of the Baltic diaspora, as well as to ensure accessibility of these materials to the public.

NPA BaltHerNet is also committed to the organising of conferences, seminars and workshops, and to developing and administering the electronic information website Baltic Heritage Network, a multilingual electronic gateway for information on the cultural heritage of the Baltic diaspora.

The Baltic Heritage Newsletter is distributed quarterly, on-line. The newsletter is compiled and edited by Kristina Lupp. Please send all related enquiries and submissions to Kristina Lupp: kriss.lupp@me.com  
www.balther.net  
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conclusions about emigration, our national identity and its maintenance abroad will be our archives only". Therefore, Dalė had tirelessly gathered archives from various Lithuanian organisations and parishes in the US.

Although she saw the misery of local archivists and the lack of funds, Dalė was convinced that it was necessary to preserve the archives. As chair of the Lithuanian American Archives Committee, she held a number of workshops for archivists working in archives, museums, and cultural centres in North America. The last such event was held in May 2014, at the Youth Centre, in Chicago.

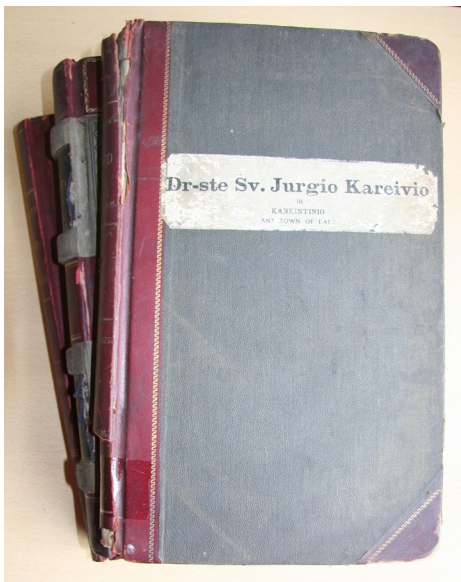
In support of a vision proposed by Robertas Vitas, chairman of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Centre, a few years ago, Lukas pressed on the idea of establishing a centre, suitable for all Lithuanian archives in the US. Dalė believed that such a centre would be an ideal solution to keep and preserve Lithuanian archives and other cultural treasures in the US. She also believed that if there were a vision, the opportunities to fulfil it would arise.

■ Dalia Cidzikaitė

## THE FIRST LITHUANIAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES: THEIR IMAGE IN THE JUNGLE BY U. SINCLAIR VS. DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE OF THEIR CULTURAL-PUBLIC LIFE AT MARTYNAS MAŽVYDAS NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA.

Lithuania has recently seen the release of the sixth edition of the *Jungle*, a novel by the American novelist Upton Sinclair, portraying early twentieth century Chicago and the slaughterhouses in its suburbs in which emigrants from across Europe worked. The main characters in the *Jungle* are Lithuanians working in Chicago's slaughterhouses. They immigrated to the United States along with their large families and usually took hard and exhausting jobs, facing harsh living conditions. This novel is often presented as based on true events, claiming to be an authentic account of the history of Lithuanian emigrants, which reveals their quest for a better life and a better-paying job in a foreign land, which is relevant even today.

This latest edition of the *Jungle* includes a discussion between Sigita Pūkienė, the director of the publishing house "Aukso



Documents from Lithuanian expatriate societies.

Žuvys" that brought the book to light, Giedrius Subačius, Lithuanian scholar and professor at University of Illinois, Chicago; Aurimas Švedas, the associate professor and historian at Vilnius University, and Valdas Adamkus, former President of the Republic of Lithuania. In this discussion, Valdas Adamkus, who had spent many years in the United States shared the following thoughts: "While reading this book, you will have a chance to experience the 'primitive conditions' which surrounded the Lithuanian community of that time. By 'primitive conditions', I primarily mean the overall cultural-intellectual level".

However, an abundant collection of documents relating to Lithuanian expatriates dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, compiled by Aleksandras Račkus, a Lithuanian physician, numismatist, prominent cultural and public figure, kept in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of Martynas Mažvydas National Library, allows us to see the life of Lithuanian emigrants in the United States from a slightly different angle. The collection contains a number of documents from expatriate associations (over 800 document folders) including protocols, finance accounting books, receipt books, postcards, envelopes with associations' emblems, and other marks, correspondence of the societies, and so on. The chronological range of the documents extends from 1892 to 1939.

Aleksandras Račkus, who had an avid interest in numismatics and museology, founded the Museum of the Lithuanian Society of Numismatics and History in 1917 in Chicago. Among the collectibles were documented Lithuanian records from the life of the Lithuanian emigrant community in the United States. In 1935, a part of the collection was donated to Lithuania. The

## ESTONIANS IN RUSSIA: LIVES AND HISTORIES. ESTONIAN SETTLEMENTS VI.

Compiled by Anu Korb

Estonian Literary Museum, 2014.

With the book *Estonians in Russia: Lives and Histories* we continue publishing the memoirs of Estonians in Russia. The anthology presents ten stories. This time, the study encompasses Estonians who have settled in regions that are located rather close to their ethnic homeland: north western Russia (Saint Petersburg, Pskov and Novgorod governorates), the Volga region (Simbirsk Governorate, which is now Ulyanovsk Oblast), and the vicinity of Oparino (present-day Kirov Oblast) in North Russia.

Of the texts included in the anthology, seven have been written down by Estonians born in Russia and they are based on memories from childhood or youth and/or on stories heard from their parents and grandparents. Three texts in the anthology were combined from sound-recorded interviews with respondents.

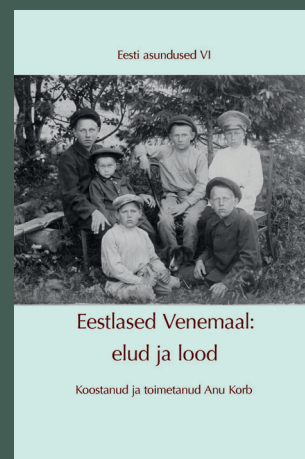
The stories from three different regions in Russia, gathered between the covers of a single volume, cannot certainly give a complete overview of the life of Estonians in Russia, but they give some idea about the choices, opportunities and moments of acting upon them that Estonians faced there.

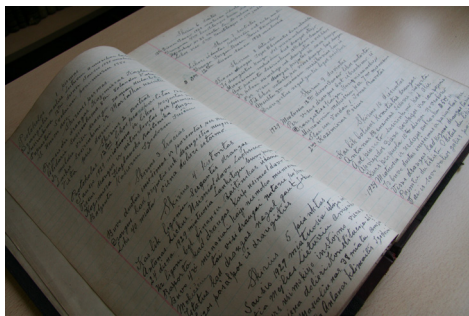
Supported by the Ministry of Education and Research IUT 22-4

National programme "The Estonian Language and Cultural Memory", project "Estonians in Russia: Settlements History and Cultural Heritage"

Compatriots Programme

Cultural Endowment of Estonia





Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Aleksandras Račkus manuscript fund (F63)

personal stamp of A. Račkus as well the hand-written inventory number identifies the ownership of the aforementioned documents.

The first wave of immigrants from Lithuania to the United States in the late 19th century sought not only better-paying jobs or a better place to live, but also the opportunity to speak, read, and pray freely in their native language, and to join clubs of like-minded people. Lithuanians settling in a free country became actively engaged in cultural and civic activities and joined many different associations and societies. In Pennsylvania State alone, a total of 150 Lithuanian societies were active in the period between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Meanwhile, there were 25 Lithuanian societies in Chicago in the period portrayed in U. Sinclair's novel. The majority of the first Lithuanian societies can be described as Catholic benevolent societies. It may partly be explained by the Lithuanian emigrants' wish to help one another to settle in a foreign country, to provide and to receive financial aid in case of a disease, funeral or other circumstances.

Protocols of society meetings and finance books are one of the sources that help identify the financial situation of Lithuanian emigrants as well as their activities. The documents from Lithuanian expatriate societies contained in the Aleksandras Račkus collection provide an opportunity to extend the scope of the studies of the history of expatriate communities in the late 19th and early 20th century, to clarify existing information and to gain a fresh look at the history of Lithuanian emigrants.

■ Alma Masevičienė - Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

**SENIOR RESEARCHER OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA BECOMES THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, INC. IN LITHUANIA**

In December 2014, the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. appointed Dr Dalia Cidzikaitė, a senior researcher at Lituonica Department of the National Library of Lithuania, as its new representative in Lithuania.

Among other things, Dr Cidzikaitės' activities will include representing LAC at various events, meeting with the LAC members visiting Lithuania, and communicating with the Lithuanian media.



Dr Dalia Cidzikaitė

In the last days of December, the new LAC representative in Lithuania already attended two events. Together with the LAC Board treasurer, Juozas Kazlauskas, and the LAC Lithuanian International Student Services Committee member, Julius Medutis, Dr Cidzikaitė visited the Presidential Palace and delivered an invitation to the Lithuanian Song Festival to the President, which will take place in Chicago in July.

On December 30, Dr Cidzikaitė attended the ceremony for the Global Lithuanian Awards, where the most outstanding Lithuanian scientists, entrepreneurs, artists, and public figures living abroad were recognised by Global Lithuanian Leaders for their accomplishments, achievements, innovations, and for helping shape a positive image of Lithuania in the world.

**MEETING WITH THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE LITHUANIAN CANADIAN WEEKLY**

On November 14, 2014 Ramūnė Sakalauskaitė-Jonaitienė, the editor-in-chief of the Lithuanian Canadian weekly Tėviškės žiburiai (The Lights of the Homeland), visited the Lituonica Department at the National Library of Lithuania. The newspaper, established by the Lithuanian Catholic Canadian Cultural Association Žiburiai (The Lights) in Toronto, has been published since 1949.

In the meeting organised by the Lituonica Department, the guest talked about the origins of the newspaper, discussed the past and the present-day challenges. Since last year, the newspaper is also available

on-line; nevertheless quite a number of readers still prefer to subscribe to a paper format. Most of Tėviškės žiburiai readers are older, not everyone is able or willing to use the computer, and Ms Sakalauskaitė-Jonaitienė predicts that the newspaper will be printed on paper for another five years or so. However, she is convinced that the time will come when the only Lithuanian newspaper in Canada will be available only on the Internet.

Those who are interested in Tėviškės žiburiai can find it in the reading room of the Lituonica Department. And those who are unable to visit the library, can access it on-line through [www.epaveldas.lt](http://www.epaveldas.lt) website. This became possible a few years ago when the National Library of Lithuania signed a cooperation agreement with Tėviškės žiburiai.

■ Lituonica Department

**RIINA REINVELT AND MAIDO SELGMÄE WIN ANNUAL FOUNDATION AWARD FROM THE CULTURAL ENDOWMENT OF ESTONIA FOR THE EXHIBITION "1944. BY SEA TO THE WEST"**

On 5 February, the Cultural Endowment of Estonia's annual awards were presented in Tallinn. The annual Folk Culture Foundation Award went to Riina Reinvelt and Maido Selgmäe, the curators of the exhibition "1944. By Sea to the West". Memories of the Estonians' Great Flight. Congratulations!

The exhibition was organised in June 2014 at the Estonian National Museum and it marked the passing of 70 years since the great flight during which about 70,000 people fled Estonia. With the help of effectively and innovatively used modern audiovisual technology, the broad emotional spectrum of the stories of flights was brought to life and these old stories were forcefully delivered to today's museum visitors. Thorough fieldwork in Sweden, the U.S. and Canada preceded the exhibition.



Photo: AS Postimees

The Compatriots Programme of the Ministry of Education and Research and the Cultural Endowment of Estonia supported the exhibition.

**THE EXHIBITION BY JESSIE ANNELI VIIRLAID MCNEIL “OUTSIDER INSIDE” OPENED AT VEMU/ESTONIAN STUDIES CENTRE IN TORONTO**

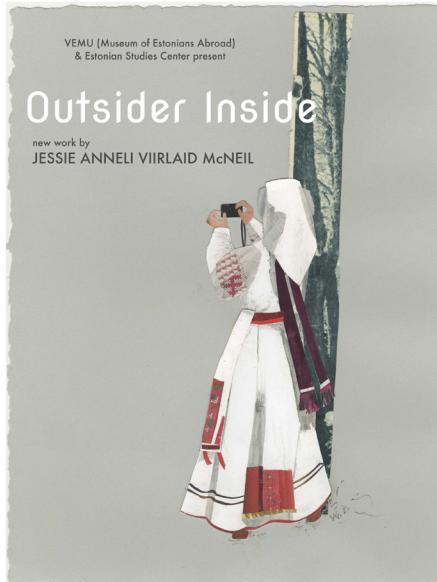


Photo: Private Collection

On Wednesday, February 18th 2015, the exhibition by Jessie Anneli Viirlaid McNeil Outsider Inside - A Collage Series of the Estonian Song & Dance Festival 2014 opened at Tartu College, Toronto.

Jessie Anneli Viirlaid McNeil is a working artist and cultural events coordinator in her hometown, Vancouver, BC. Her heritage (Scottish and Estonian) has brought her to many places that inspire her work today. With her curatorial projects, collage, publications and miniature sculptures, McNeil addresses themes of place, collective and personal memory, tourism, language and value with an emphasis on cultural history and identity. Prior to participating in her first Laulupidu, McNeil spent two months last year as a resident artist at the Estonian Printing Museum in Tartu, and has been tirelessly exhibiting work in Vancouver since she's been back.

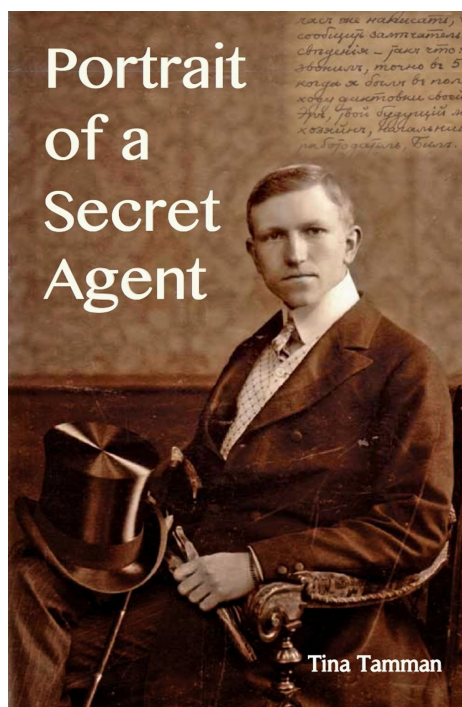
The collage series Outsider Inside delivers us back to the Estonia of 2014's Tantsupidu and Laulupidu (Dance and Song Festival). While walking or parading down the streets of Tallinn, in modern and traditional dress (often a gracious and tactful mixing of the two), visitors and residents from all walks of life were immersed in a celebratory environment of the festival week. During her time in Tallinn, McNeil captured this sensation with her camera, and then later, assembled the collage re-representations in her studio. The series exhibited at VEMU this spring explores the perspective of a



Canadian-Estonian during the festival, from moments of mundanity to emotional highs. While expressing themes of memory and experience, McNeil's collages in "Outsider Inside" pose the complex question, "What is an Estonian today?"

The medium of collage has historically challenged ideas about art making. It is an instantaneous, graphic and intuitive medium that typically uses materials from the everyday environment of the artist. However, the meticulous collages of Outsider Inside are of a figurative nature and are produced meditatively over months rather than minutes. McNeil makes her collages with the eye of a street photographer while fulfilling her need to cut, paste, smudge and assemble. [www.jessiemcneil.ca](http://www.jessiemcneil.ca)

■ VEMU



Tina Tamman

**PORTRAIT OF A SECRET AGENT**

Two years ago I made a major breakthrough in my research: I found the personal papers of Major C.K.O.B. Giffey. Not in the UK where he had died in 1967, but in Sweden, in the home of a kind relative who unfortunately was able to give me just three days to look at the collection. None of the Baltic Heritage Network lessons had prepared me for what I found on arrival: a large pile of unsorted paper. I spent three adrenalin-filled days in the living-room of the relative and among other things discovered that the major had been promoted to lieutenant colonel and that friends and family called him Brian. The personal papers form the core of the biography that was published last year as Portrait of a Secret Agent who Knew Kim Philby.

Brian Giffey's biography is really a book about belonging, loyalty and identity. Brian wrongly believed that he was Welsh, but his mother was actually Canadian and his father German. Born illegitimate as Otto Chester Kurt Brian Petersen in London in 1887, he was brought up in Germany. On his return to Britain he obtained a degree from Oxford and, with the help of an unscrupulous lawyer, a military career became possible. Brian joined the Worcestershire Regiment in 1911. His intelligence career with MI6 started in 1928; he served in Tallinn, London and Baghdad. In 1944, however, he was mysteriously dismissed from the secret service, and in post-war years he represented Britain in Berlin on the denazification committee and, back in London, worked for the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain.

Brian was a specialist in Soviet affairs who knew the notorious Kim Philby. His biography helps us to understand how the Soviets used the information obtained for them by Philby. The book is also relevant today as Russia flexes its muscles. What happened in Crimea in 2014 is reminiscent of the annexation of Estonia in 1939-40 experienced first-hand by Brian.

The book is also an unusual and moving love story. How was it possible for this middle-aged womaniser to fall in love with an inexperienced and immature Estonian girl, Anni Oras, to whom he remained faithful for the rest of his life?

A paperback copy of the book is available from [www.ypdbooks.com](http://www.ypdbooks.com) or from Amazon. There is also an eBook.

■ Tina Tamman

## VEMU HERITAGE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN: “MUSIC IN THE LIFE OF ESTONIANS”

2014 was the year of the song festival. Eight song and dance collectives from Canada travelled to Tallinn to the festival and had a peak experience of music and togetherness. As if carried along by this powerful emotion, the year 2015 has been designated the Year of Music in Estonia. It is hoped that this will focus more attention on the multi-faceted musical life of Estonia, introduce the creators and performers of this music, promote enthusiasm about music, and increase the role of music in people's lives. The slogan for the year is “Kõlab hästi” (“Sounds good”).

Music not only sounds good to our ears, but it stimulates our thinking and feeds our souls. As Estonians have developed and maintained their national culture, music has played a central role in these processes. Both the movement of the national awakening in the 19th century and the restoration of independence at the end of the 20th century were reinforced by the people's love of music and participation in musical activities in their leisure time. Famous composers and performers are our calling card on the international scene, as well as a source of national pride. Music has always drawn us together as a people, in communities, and subcultures.

Music has an important place in Estonian lives. However, each of us has a very personal and intimate connection with music. What is this exactly? What role does music play in the lives of Estonians living abroad? To find out about this, VEMU is promoting a heritage collection campaign, “Music in the Life of the Estonian”.

We invite free-form written texts on the following topics:

- How does an Estonian find a connection to music?
- What is the role of music in Estonian homes?
- What kind of musical education do Estonians receive?
- What are Estonians' musical hobbies?
- What kinds of musical genres do Estonians prefer?
- Do Estonians mix their own national musical traditions with the traditions of other peoples? If so, how?
- In what kind of collective musical groups do Estonians participate?
- Who have been the most important musical figures in the Estonian diaspora?
- What has been the role of these musical figures in Estonian society and for you personally?
- What kinds of musical events have been organised by Estonians abroad?
- How have these events been brought about?
- What connection do Estonians have to choral singing?
- What has been the role of song festivals in the lives of Estonians?
- What is the nature of musical production by the Estonian diaspora?
- Music and the Estonian language
- Music and identity
- Music and politics
- Music and spirituality
- Generationality and music

- Music and contacts with Estonia
- Other peoples who enjoy practicing Estonian music
- Life as a musician in the Estonian diaspora
- Career challenges for musicians in the Estonian diaspora
- The repertoire of music in the Estonian diaspora
- We also welcome
  - -Audiotapes, vinyl records, cassettes, CDs, films, which reflect the musical activities of Estonians abroad;
  - -Printed materials (songbooks, sheet music, programs of musical events, posters, etc.);
  - -Interviews (audio or video) with Estonian musical figures or those with music as a leisure-time activity;
  - -Photographs of musicians and musical events.

The deadline for submissions is 1 February 2016. Please send your submissions to: VEMU/Estonian Studies Centre, 310 Bloor Street West, Toronto ON M5S 1W4. Submissions to the competition should be placed in an envelope with a code word, along with a sealed envelope bearing the code word and containing information about the author: name, age, address, telephone number, e-mail address.

The best submissions will receive monetary awards and books!

Further information: Piret Noorhani, [piretnoorhani@gmail.com](mailto:piretnoorhani@gmail.com). T. 416 925 9405, [vemu.ca](http://vemu.ca)

## HOW PUPILS LIVE, INTERPRET AND SHARE THEIR MEMORY-CULTURE – IMPRESSIONS FROM THE BALTIC SEA REGION

(Organisational committee: Geert Franzenburg (D), Dzintra Ilisko (LV), Piotr Kopec(PL))

### Abstract

We all are part of history and history and culture makes up part of our identity. One needs to be aware of one's past, traditions, and culture in order to appreciate the freedom and the existence we all enjoy today. One key to facilitate opportunities for such experiences is the combination of individual, group/communicative and cultural memory, together with the orientation at cultural core-events and places. Such context is embedded in a certain order of social challenges and knowledge-transfer, and depends on interests, experiences, stereotypes and purposes of the actors. In order to explore the influence of the framework on human memory-attitudes, it is helpful to evaluate how pupils from Germany, Latvia and Poland are coping with memories from the past, which they remember from their own biography, from family, school and society. It also intends to facilitate opportunities for young people to make autonomous research and intercultural encounters. The study presents a parallel analyses of questionnaire data related to the aspects of remembrance of a nation's cultural and historical events as gathered from school students aged 15 - 19, and aged 10 - 14; participants from different regions of Germany, Latvia, and Poland. The data gained from a questionnaire reflects the significance the past events as viewed by pupils.

The study is based on different educational approaches, which concern aspects of collective memory or collective identity, such as Holocaust-education, amnestic education, ethics of remembrance, and heritage education. For the research and facilitated educational concepts, the models of retrospective anticipation, of discovery learning, autonomous research (real, virtual), intergenerational and intercultural commemoration, of sustainable education and media education, are crucial. Therefore, all educational efforts are based on the reservoir of past events, and on the way, how young people experience, interpret and use them to follow their interests and develop their attitudes. The adults (researchers, teachers, educators) only facilitate the framework and material and assist them in initiating, making and evaluating their own projects. Because memory-cultures in Europe are a plural(istic) phenomenon, and an educational chance and challenge, based on common collective memories, ritualised in society, community, family, and focused

on the process-like nature of culture by de- and reconstruction, the common cultural memory over centuries, the common cultural factors and elements, such as the confrontation-memory of aggressor and victims or the trauma of holocaust and war, of deportation and expulsion, have to be recognised, as well as the challenge of political, cultural, ethical and social transition, and the resource of common interests and of an analogue emotional and religious framework, exemplified in narrations, rituals and attitudes.

The first empirical overview (about 400 answers from three countries) mostly confirms the theoretical considerations, and motivates wider research and development of appropriate environments and concepts for autonomous research.

Therefore, we invite researchers, teachers, educators, students, and pupils to join this project and to contribute to it by cooperation, participation, ideas, and comments.

Please contact the Coordinator: Geert Franzenburg (gfranzen@kk-ekvw.de; 0049-251/92266845)

## NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

The submission deadline for the next issue is 15 May 2015. We welcome news articles, conference information, calls for papers, new publication information, and images. Please send articles in English with high quality images to:

Kristina Lupp  
kriss.lupp@me.com



## BALTIC HERITAGE NETWORK CONFERENCE

### “TRACING THE BALTIC ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE IN DIASPORA ARCHIVES”

30 JUNE-2 JULY 2015 IN RIGA, LATVIA

A quarter of a century has passed—or is soon to pass—since the breakthrough events which led to the restoration of the independence of the Baltic States: the “phosphorite war”, the Heritage Movement, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact AEG movement, the “Singing Revolution”, the Baltic Way, the August putsch.

The path to independence did not begin at the end of the 1980s. The political struggle of the Baltic diaspora communities for the independence of the Baltic States, in opposition to the recognition of the Soviet occupation lasted throughout the period of exile, and received new momentum in the new winds that were blowing in the homelands at the end of the 1980s. Up until the present, interest in Baltic diaspora archives and museums has mostly coincided with interest in wartime and post-war Baltic exile. However, the Baltic diaspora archives, museums, and libraries also enable research with respect to the history of the Baltic States themselves, particularly their road to restoring their independence and the state building and reconstruction in the post-occupation period.

- What was the contribution of countrymen living abroad to the maintaining of the de jure recognition of Baltic States in the West, to restoration of the independence of the Baltic States, their political and economic rebuilding?
- What kinds of campaigns were organised to preserve historic heritage and to create public interest in the Baltic cultures and history? What kind of contacts were initiated, responded to, and maintained with the homeland?
- How was the strive for freedom and the following restoration of the independence of the Baltic States reflected in the media abroad?
- Which archival collections of the Baltic diaspora might pique historians' interest in conducting research on topics of recent history?
- What kinds of historical sources connected with the restoration of the independence of the Baltic States should we be actively collecting today than we have before? How could this be accomplished most effectively?

We look forward to presentations on the following (but not limited to these) topics from representatives of Baltic memory institutions and communities in the diaspora, from professionals representing the memory institutions of the Baltic States and host countries, and from academic researchers. The deadline for submission of abstracts is April 1st, 2015.

The conference organisers are the NGO Baltic Heritage Network and the Academy of Sciences of Latvia in cooperation with the Latvian National Archives.

The working languages of the conference will be English and Latvian.

Please submit your presentation abstracts (up to 1 page) in English and/or Latvian by April 1st, 2015. Send your abstract, along with your contact details (name, address, e-mail and phone number) to karin.kiisk@gmail.com or by regular mail to Baltic Heritage Network, Vanemuise 42, 51003 Tartu, Estonia.

The deadline for submitting complete presentations (in English/or Latvian) is the 15th of June (presentation length 20 minutes). The complete presentation texts are needed for the interpreters.

Conference participation fees (includes conference folder, lunches, reception and cultural programme):

30€ (Baltic Heritage Network members)

50€ (non-members)

For more information, please see: [www.balther.net](http://www.balther.net), or contact the conference organisers at the following addresses: Kristine Bekere [kribek@inbox.lv](mailto:kribek@inbox.lv), [piretnoorhani@gmail.com](mailto:piretnoorhani@gmail.com), [karin.kiisk@gmail.com](mailto:karin.kiisk@gmail.com)