



BALTIC HERITAGE NETWORK

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IN MEMORIAM LINAS SALDUKAS

On September 1, 2014, we lost our dear colleague and friend Dr. Linas Saldukas, a historian and a founding member of the Baltic Heritage Network.

Linas was born in Kaunas, May 1, 1970. In 1988, he graduated from J. Aleksonis High School in Kaunas. In 1989, he entered the newly restored Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. In 1994, Linas started to work at the Lithuanian Emigration Institute, where in 2004 he wrote and defended his doctoral thesis on the subject "The Cultural Life of Lithuanian DPs (displaced persons) in 1945–1950".

Linas was an active member of the academic community and National Lithuanian student organisation Korp! Neo-Lithuania. He was the vice-president of the Kaunas History Society Board, and an active member of the Santara-Sviesa Federation.

As a meritorious diaspora researcher, Linas was one of the founding members of the Baltic Heritage Network. He was vice president of BaltHerNet from 2008-2012. During those years, he was the primary contact in Lithuania. With his calm and friendly support, many conferences and seminars were organised in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Linas's unjustly early departure is a huge loss for the Baltic diaspora researchers' family. BaltHerNet mourns a good colleague and friend. We offer our sincere condolences to Linas' family and relatives.

2015 BALTIC HERITAGE NETWORK CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE IN RIGA

The next Baltic Heritage Network conference "Tracing the Baltic road to independence in diaspora archives" will take place next summer in Riga. Tentative dates are June 30- July 2. More information including the call for papers will be available in the next newsletter.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- BaltHerNet Summer School Values Audiovisual Heritage
- Gintė Damušytė visits National Library of Lithuania
- 17th Reunion of Latvians in Trinidad and Tobago, 15-25 June
- The first Jane's Walk of VEMU - Estonian Studies Centre
- Assistants from Estonia at the Immigration History Research Centre and Archives
- Diaspora conference and oral history day in Tallinn
- Hoover Institution Library & Archives Fellowships

A Note from the Editor:

The submission deadline for the next issue is 1 November, 2014. We welcome news articles, conference information, calls for papers, new publication information, and images. Please send articles in English with high quality images to:

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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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BALTHERNET SUMMER SCHOOL VALUES AUDIOVISUAL HERITAGE

BaltHerNet Summer School 2014 "Estonian Cultural Heritage Abroad" took place from 26-30 June in Tallinn and Viinistu. The sixth annual meeting of heritage preservers emphasised, in particular, the value of film and audiovisual material, its storage and use as research material. Over 40 people from eight different countries took part in the four-day programme.

Courses took place in Tallinn on the opening day of the summer school, where specialists from the National Archives explained concerns over documents, films, photos and audio collections. Also introduced was an Internet database which is currently being developed, but is already being used in some Estonian archives abroad.

The following three days brought the focus to film: how to handle film as a historical source, how to preserve important films, process, digitise and use, how expatriate Estonian documentaries are born, as well as how to find and unlock hidden private collections. The latter ties in with biographies and memoirs, along with contemporary visual recordings, which have become easy to access and in part, become part of mass culture. An overview of the Estonian Memory Institutions' project "Attacks and Migrations" was given by Kadri Viies (Museum of Occupations). The emotional film by Eric Soovere was inspired by this project. Gerd Raassalu (Estonian National Museum), Ivi Tomingas (National Archives), and ..., and Anu Korb (Literature Museum) spoke about different sections of



Mai Raud-Pähn from Stockholm was very lucky at this year's Summer School. She became an honorary member of BaltHerNet. She also won free participation at next year's conference. Congratulations Mai! You deserve it!

Photo: P. Noorhani

ongoing work with audiovisual materials in Estonian memory institutions.

The floor was given to researchers and filmmakers. Leeni Langebraun presented the Caucasian Estonian heritage and called to create a common platform for photographic materials within the Estonian communities. Helga Merits spoke about the documentary "Class of 1943". Marko Raat highlighted the troubles and joys of putting together a documentary film about Edgar Väär (aka Fast Eddy) who worked as a reporter in Canada and apart that also captured thousands of hours of film regarding expatriate Estonian events. Reet Mae from Toronto introduced the illuminating documentary "Keepers of the Loom", and Jaanis Valk told the fascinating story of Ahto Valter, the first Estonian to travel around the world, seeking to follow the traveller in his footsteps, to produce a unique documentary film through oral tradition, archival finds and information from private collections.

NEWS

DIASPORA CONFERENCE AND ORAL HISTORY DAY IN TALLINN

This fall the Baltic community is commemorating the 70th anniversary of the great escape that took thousands of Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians to the West. In affiliation with that, the Estonian Diaspora Academy in collaboration with Tallinn University Institute of History and Expatriate Estonian Literature Centre is organising a conference for migration and diaspora researchers as well as archivists and museologists who are active in the field. The event will take place in Tallinn University on September 18-19 2014. On September 20th an oral history day will be held in collaboration with the Estonian Museum of Occupations. There the floor will be given to representatives of the Estonian diaspora who can share their memories, life experience and opinions.

A detailed programme will be made available on www.balther.net

LATVIAN ARCHIVISTS IN TORONTO



This summer was eventful for Latvian archivists from the National Archives of Latvia. They got a chance to visit Latvian diaspora communities in Toronto and Hamilton, celebrate the XIV Latvian Song Festival in Canada, and participate Latvian Welfare Association "Daugavas Vanagi" Board meeting. Special thanks to Roland Weiler for an exciting tour in the Estonian Studies Centre in Toronto and inspiring us for future work!

Piret Noorhane and Kadi Kuivits presented film heritage at the Museum of Estonians Abroad/Estonian Studies Centre. Liisi Eglit spoke about the Stanford University video interview project. Anna Hints, representative for the Estonian project “Kogu Me Lugu” gave an eloquent talk about the importance of telling our stories. She said: “Everyone’s story is valuable, everyone can make a movie or write a book, everyone has an obligation to their loved ones to tell their story, and why not make it in an audiovisual manner, which can easily be passed down from generation to generation”. With the help of “Kogu Me Lugu”, some stories were even recorded at Summer School.

As with every summer, the NPA Baltic Heritage Network held their annual general meeting. Along with practical activities, lectures, and film screenings, Julia De Sotto’s (Canada) show “I Remember Mama” was also shown. There was a walking excursion with Jaan Manitski through Viinistu’s centre and an excursion to Mohni Island.

The NPA Baltic Heritage Network thanks everyone who took part and helped, as well as the Viinistu Culture and Conference Centre for hosting the Summer School. Thank you as well to the Compatriot’s Programme for their monetary donation.

■ Birgit Kibal (NPA Baltic Heritage Network / National Archives)

AMB. GINTĒ DAMUŠYTĒ VISITS NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA

Gintė Damušytė, ambassador and director of the Department of Lithuanians Living Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



From left to right: Gintė Damušytė, Ambassador and Director of the Department of Lithuanians Living Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania; Jolanta Budriūnienė Director of the Lituanica Department at the Lithuanian National Library of Martynas Mažvydas, Aušra Dumbliauskienė, Specialist at the Department of Lithuanians Living Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania



Opening of the Courlandian monument in Plymouth, Tobago. 25 June 1978. Guests and flags of the participating countries. *State Archive of Latvia*

of the Republic of Lithuania visited the National Library of Lithuania Lituanica Department on 16 June. During the visit, Jolanta Budriūnienė, director of the Lituanica Department, and Dr. Giedrė Milerytė, a senior specialist at the Department, introduced the ambassador to the Department’s field of work, discussed future collections projects, publishing, and publicising information about Lithuanians living abroad. Ambassador Damušytė pointed to multiple possibilities of inviting Lithuanian diaspora communities to become partners of future projects, thus consolidating the potential of organisations working in the same field abroad. She also introduced the representatives of the Lituanica Department to the most important events and dates planned by her Department and invited the Lituanica Department to participate.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, together with its diplomatic missions abroad, is responsible for the Lithuanian Government’s policies regarding relations with Lithuanians living abroad. The Department of Lithuanians Living Abroad consists of two sections: Global Lithuania and Relations with Communities and Information. The ambassador Damušytė took office in 2013.

■ Jolanta Budriūnienė

17TH REUNION OF LATVIANS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 15-25 JUNE 2014

The legacy of the Duchy of Courland (1561/1562–1795) has a peculiar role in the history of Latvia. The colonies and trading stations of Duke Jacob in Gambia and Tobago have drawn the attention of historians and artistic professionals.

Latvians from Germany, Latvia, United Kingdom, the US, and Venezuela participated in an event that took place in Trinidad and Tobago. Guntis Svītins, a specialist from the State Archives of Latvia presented a poster exhibit entitled “Records of Tobago in collections of the Latvian National Archives”. The collection of the National Archives of Latvia (NAL) contains documents relating to Tobago. These include documentary evidence dating back to various points in time and are found in various forms. The NAL collections feature 17th century maps and drawings of Tobago, photographs depicting the reunion of Courlandians in 1970 and 1980, minutes of participants’ meetings, a programme of an event organised by the government of Trinidad and Tobago, an invitation, letters, postcards, publications, and video material. This exhibition offers general insight into documents that bear witness to events associated with past Courlandians in Tobago, as well as present-day Courlandian reunion events.

This was very interesting programme for participants, as well as for visitors

to Trinidad and Tobago; it was also a opportunity to learn more about the history of Courlandians and Latvians in these islands. The visit with the President of Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona was a very notable experience for everyone. His interest in our history was real and the President had many questions and comments after looking at the exhibition of the NAL.



Visit with the President of Trinidad and Tobago His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona.
Photo: A.Moora

We had a formal visit to the Scarborough Public Library, which shelves books about Latvia as well. Guntis Svitins spoke with Glenda Rose Layne, co-ordinator for culture in the Tobago House of Assembly, about the possibility of an art exhibit exchange between Tobago and Latvia. There were many trips through the national parks, rainforests, and coral reefs of Trinidad and Tobago. The final event for the Latvians was the celebration of the Summer Solstice "Ligo" in Great Courland Bay, near Plymouth on 23 June.



The ten days passed quickly. When participants returned to their respective homelands, everyone was filled with wonderful impressions and the understanding that our history is rich and interesting. We must pay special attention, especially us –memory institution specialists.

■ Guntis Svitins

THE FIRST JANE'S WALK OF VEMU/ESTONIAN STUDIES CENTRE

Photos: Taavi Tamtik & Piret Noorhani

On Sunday May 25th, the Estonian Studies Centre hosted its first Jane's Walk, "Estonian

Architects and Their Buildings in Midtown Toronto". The walk, led by Toronto Architect Kābi Lokk, was an excellent sample of Estonian architecture in Toronto's Annex and Yorkville neighbourhoods.

During the walk, we looked at the work of four Estonian architects who fled their occupied homeland in the late 1940s. These architects have had a tremendous influence on Toronto's postwar architectural style and midtown Toronto.

The pioneer of this group was Mihkel (Michael) Bach. Bach studied architecture in Berlin before the Second World War. In 1949, while living in Sweden, he met a visiting professor from the University of Toronto's School of Architecture. The professor encouraged Bach to come to Toronto to join the faculty of modern architecture, which was still in it's formative years. Bach brought a modernist architectural style from Western Europe to Toronto and is said to have played an important role in the design of Victoria College's Wymilwood Residence.

Bach would also recruit another Estonian architect with a modernist Scandinavian style, Ants Elken to the University of Toronto. Elken would teach architecture at the University for 33 years. Unfortunately, while Bach had some significant influence on modernism in Toronto in the 1950s, he



struggled with personal issues and faded from the Toronto architectural scene in the early 1960s.

However, many Estonians followed Bach and Elken to the University of Toronto School of Architecture in the 1950s, including Uno Prii, Elmar Tampõld, and Henno Sillaste, whose buildings Lokk highlighted during our walk.

Uno Prii graduated from the University of Toronto in 1955. Prii's imaginative buildings are often described as "Space Aged," and have been recognized by many architects today for their uniqueness. The City of Toronto named 13 of Prii's buildings to to the Inventory of Heritage Properties in 2004, including 20 Prince Arthur Ave.

FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Hoover Institution Library & Archives are pleased to offer competitive fellowships of \$2,500 to support research based on our collections. Fellows will be expected to spend a minimum of five days in the Library & Archives; stipends may be used towards transportation, living, and other expenses.

Eligibility:

Graduate and undergraduate students from the US and abroad. University faculty from the US and abroad. Independent scholars.

Requirements:

- Application form
- Resume or CV
- A proposal of fewer than 750 words describing your project, including the names of Hoover collections you plan to consult and why they are necessary for your project.
- The names and email addresses of two individuals who will complete recommendation forms.

Application deadline: November 1, 2014
Award notification: by December 19, 2014

Term of residency: anytime between January 5 and December 18, 2015

All awards are subject to the availability of funds and the ability to secure appropriate visa arrangements. Until the fellowship competition opens this fall, all deadlines and conditions are subject to change.

For more information: www.hoover.org/library-archives/fellowships

Also well known, but perhaps not as celebrated are the works of Elmar Tampõld, who graduated from the University of Toronto in 1953. Working with his firm Tampõld and Wells, he was involved with numerous projects along Bloor Street West. These include the brutalist Senator David Croll apartments and Tartu College, both near Spadina and Bloor. Tartu College remains a centre for Estonian cultural life in the city and is a major student residence.

The Senator David Croll apartments, formally know as Rochdale College, are infamous. As the nexus of hippy culture and later drug culture in the late 1960s and early 1970s the building has become an important cultural landmark.



While I was familiar with both Tartu and the David Croll apartments, I was unaware of Tampõld's connection to the Colonnade Building, a luxury mixed-use building along the "mink mile".

The building was one of the first significant mixed-used projects in Toronto and perhaps Canada. The Toronto's Star's architecture critic, Christopher Hume, nicely summarizes what makes the building such an innovation,

"What lifted the Colonnade above the modernist orthodoxies that homogenized the face of cities around the globe was its deep sensitivity to context. A two- and three-storey podium runs along Bloor, which means a continuous streetscape, a critical element in this heavy shopping environment. It also connects Bloor to the open green space behind and Charles St."

Most of the Estonians on the tour who grew up in Toronto during the 1960s fondly remembered the Colonnade and its Estonian confectionery Amjärv. The store apparently once occupied the same space that is now home to Cartier.

During our tour we also took a look at 1132 Bay Street, which was designed by Henno Sillaste, who graduated from the University of Toronto in 1960. 1132 Bay Street was a condominium built in the 1980s. While not a remarkable building, Sillaste was a well known as an expert in curtain-wall systems.

In one of those great examples of how immigration influences both the host country and country of origin, Sillaste introduced the curtain-wall system to Estonian architects in the 1990s. As a result, the curtain wall is known as a Kanada sein (Canadian Wall) in Estonia.

Lokk ended our tour by discussing a more recent vision to raise the profile of Estonians in Toronto and preserve the legacy of the

Birgit Nurme (right) and Pille Aguraiuja admiring a job well done.



first generation of the community. The Centre for Estonian Studies is planning a Museum of Estonians Abroad (VEMU), which would be built as an addition to Tartu College.

The museum and archive could be part of the cultural corridor that stretches along Bloor from University Avenue to Bathurst Street and includes the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, Royal Ontario Museum, and other cultural centres such as the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. Thomas Tampõld, Elmar's Tampõld son, designed the proposed addition to Tartu College. An excellent example of how a second generation of Canadian-Estonian Architects are now making their mark on midtown Toronto.

■ Eric Sehr

ARCHIVISTS FROM ESTONIA AT THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE AND ARCHIVES

For the past five years the IHRC/A (Immigration History Research Centre and Archives) at the University of Minnesota, the National Archives of Estonia, and BaltHerNet have been working on improving access to archival materials of Estonian diaspora in the U.S. Every spring, two archivists from the National Archives spend one month at the IHRC/A organising and describing Estonian collections. A substantial part of the collections from the Estonian Archives in the U.S. in Lakewood, New Jersey is being preserved in Minneapolis, with a majority of it lacking sufficient descriptions. The project was funded by the Estonian governmental Compatriot's Program via BaltHerNet, by the National Archives of Estonia, and by the University of Minnesota. This year, in May of 2014, Birgit Nurme and Pille Aguraiuja spent four weeks at the IHRC/A with the goal to describe the collections of Estonian

congregations in U.S. and the collection of Estonian DP camps.

During the month, collections from 19 congregations were organised and described, including collections from Estonian churches in Sweden, Canada, and Australia, as well as the archives of two Estonian deaneries in the U.S. and a small collection about churches in Estonia. The most intriguing archive was the oldest Estonian church in the U.S., founded in New York by Hans Rebane already in 1898. Although it was the largest collection, almost six linear meters, the earliest records started in fact from 1949. It also became apparent that as the matter of fact none of the collections contained church books. They can most likely be found at active congregations or deanery archives that might also contain books and documents from closed down congregations. However, collections in the IHRC/A contain many lists and various kinds of information about congregation members.

Congregational archives predominantly consist of correspondence, board and council minutes, information letters and congregation bulletins, song sheets and quite a lot of accounting documents. Thereat the minutes and correspondence provide a good overview of the activities of congregations as well as of everyday life of the Estonian diaspora in general. Occasionally the arrival of Estonians to the U.S. in the 1950s is reflected in these documents, as churches often collaborated with other Estonian organisations to assist them and facilitate acclimation in the new environment. For that reason and because of intertwined functions with other organisations, many different creators can be found from church archives (local Estonian societies, Estonian houses, hobby groups, women's movements and so on). Pastors and members of board or church councils were often active in various fields, therefore articles, studies, statements and publications on significant political,

economic, social, and, of course, on topics related to historical events are also often preserved by congregations.

About 16 linear meters of church records were organised and described altogether.

The collection of Estonian DP camps is organised into two series – the first series reflects various aspects of DP camps and the second consists of almost 51,000 cards with personal data of Estonians in camps. The entire collection was put on microfiche in the EAU, Lakewood in 1993 and organised during the process. Until now, the information about the contents of first series was only possible to go through at the archives on-site. The current project covered translating the record level descriptions of the first series and adding these to the database. The first series consists of about eight linear meters of documents, or in other words, more than 600 records.

The first series of preserved documents is organised by control zones and camps. Two major camps of Augsburg-Hochfeld and Geislingen form a separate sub-series. In addition, there is also a thematic sub-series “Gold Fund” (perhaps Estonian national gold reserves in western banks, frozen in 1940) which reflects the use of assets in Estonian DP camps. The collection of Estonian DP camps reflects everyday life diversity and governing the camps by including correspondence, circulars, memorandums, bulletins, regulations, reports and more. Thorough information regarding schools in DP camps can also be brought forth. There are also documents from the POW camp in Uklei with 2828 personal cards.

Information and descriptions of the church archives, as well as of the Estonian DP camps collection can be found in detail on the IHRC/A website in addition to the work from previous years. Improving descriptions and on-line search tools will hopefully continue in the IHRC/A.

■ Birgit Nurme & Pille Aguraiuja



THE SECOND LATVIAN ARCHIVE, LIBRARY AND MATERIAL CULTURE CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR THE SECOND LATVIAN ARCHIVE, LIBRARY AND MATERIAL CULTURE CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON DC IN SEPTEMBER 2014!

THE CONFERENCE WILL PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LATVIAN ARCHIVES IN RIGA, THE LATVIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY, THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS - EUROPEAN DIVISION, MAJOR UNIVERSITY BALTIC COLLECTION CURATORS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER HISTORICAL REPOSITORY ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA AND LATVIA.

ATTENDEES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW BALTIC HERITAGE MATERIALS HOUSED IN THE READING ROOMS OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, INCLUDING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF BALTIC MAPS, MUSIC, AND FOLKLORE.

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2014

WHERE: WASHINGTON, DC: THURSDAY AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; FRIDAY AT THE LATVIAN EMBASSY; SATURDAY AT THE AMERICAN LATVIAN ASSOCIATION MUSEUM IN ROCKVILLE, MD.

CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY: THE AMERICAN LATVIAN ASSOCIATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS EUROPEAN DIVISION, AND THE EMBASSY OF LATVIA TO THE UNITED STATES.

GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE:

- * TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION INITIATED AT THE FIRST CONFERENCE ON LATVIAN ARCHIVES, HELD IN APRIL 2012, ON PRESERVATION, CATALOGUING AND HOUSING OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL MATERIALS FROM THE LATVIAN DIASPORA.
- * TO PROVIDE AN INFORMATIVE FORUM FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE LAYPERSON AND REPRESENTATIVES OF REPOSITORIES IN LATVIA AND THE US.
- * TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT DIGITALIZING, “WEB ARCHIVING”, AND ACCESSING MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.

DISCUSSION WILL BE IN ENGLISH AND LATVIAN.

REGISTRATION:

REGISTRATION AND LODGING INFORMATION AVAILABLE: WWW.ALAUSA.ORG

WE ANTICIPATE A BROAD RANGE OF DISCUSSION TOPICS, AND INVITE YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT POINTS OF INTEREST AND SPECIFIC CONCERNS REGARDING COLLECTIONS AND MATERIALS!

