



*BaltHerNet summer school participants in Haapsalu in 2016.
Photo: P. Noorhani*

8TH BALTHERNET SUMMER SCHOOL "ESTONIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ABROAD"

JUNE 26-29TH IN TARTU AND KOKE

This year we will be celebrating 10 years since the first BaltHerNet summer school. For this occasion we will be going back to where we started -- to the Koke Guesthouse. However, we will spend the first day in Tartu visiting the Estonian National Museum's new building at Raadi and Noora, the brand new building of the National Archive. The theme for this year's summer school is photo collections. The summer school will be held in Estonian and is directed toward Estonian archive volunteers abroad and other members of the Estonian communities abroad who are interested in preserving their heritage.

We have discussed our work with photo collections at previous summer schools. However, at the summer school in 2016 it became clear that participants were interested in paying some more attention to photos. On June 26th in Tartu we will be able to see how the Estonian National Museum and National Archive work with their photo collections. Their modern storage and work spaces are suitable for learning practical skills.

On the evening of June 26th, we will travel to Koke where the next two days will be filled with lectures, workshops and discussion groups about collecting, describing, classifying, and digitizing photos and photo databases. The use of photos in printed material, exhibits, documentaries, and associated copyright and privacy questions will also be addressed. We will also be introduced to photo related websites

IN THIS ISSUE:

- BaltHerNet Portal Has a New Look!
- New Exhibit in Toronto Showcases Dramatic Life Stories of Baltic-Canadian Seniors
- Anne Valmas' Book "Estonian Books Abroad 1944-2010" Released
- New Title in Series "Lithuanian Studies without Borders"
- A Century of Lithuanians in Springfield, Illinois: A Chronicle of One Lithuanian Community in the US
- Virtual Exhibition "The Lithuanian Writers' Association: Seven Decades of History"
- Web Documentary on Current Issues of Migration

The Baltic Heritage Newsletter is distributed quarterly, on-line. The newsletter is compiled and edited by Kristina Lupp. **The next deadline for submissions is 15 May 2017.** Please send all related enquiries and submissions to Kristina Lupp: kristinailupp@gmail.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.

www.balther.net

ISSN 2228-3390

and crowd-sourcing campaigns created to invite large groups of users to collect and describe photos. Representatives of Estonian archives abroad will have the opportunity to introduce their photo collections and associated activities, which will be followed with discussion and analysis.

The Annual NGO Meeting will also be held during the summer school.

Similar to previous years, if a prior agreement is made, those who are interested in further study on other topics will have the opportunity to participate in archive and library workshops either before or after the summer school at Estonian memory institutions in Tallinn and Tartu.

Official registration for the summer school begins March 20th at: <https://www.balther.net>

BALTHERNET PORTAL HAS A NEW LOOK!

At the very end of the year 2016 we were happy to announce that the BaltHerNet portal has a new look. You can see it at: <https://www.balther.net>

An electronic gateway balther.net was launched eight years ago and it has become an invaluable resource that provides information on the archival, library and museum collections of the Baltic



BALTHERNET CELEBRATES!

Prior to the Republic of Estonia's 99th birthday, President Kersti Kaljulaid presented state decorations as an act of thanks to 113 people, who have made Estonia a better place through their dedicated work in their profession or local community. BaltHerNet members Maie Barrow and Riina Reinvelt are among those who have received this honourable recognition from Estonia's President. Congratulations!

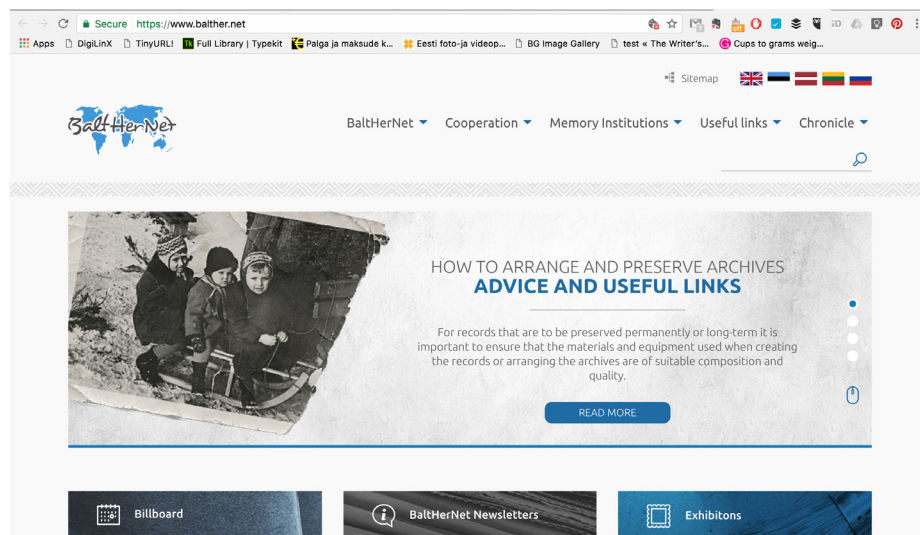
diaspora and other relevant activities to preserve the cultural heritage of Baltic communities across the world. The web portal has helped us build up an active international community of national and private archives, museums, libraries, institutions of research, public associations and the Baltic diaspora. The web portal has also been a great tool for reaching out and informing the broader public about our activities.

The portal now has a new structure and modern design.

Using the updated content map the new website has been developed to adapt to any screen size (responsive design) and also consider the additional opportunities that smart phones provide. The new version of the portal is based on the Wordpress content management platform.

We would like to thank Kala Ruudus Ltd and URL Ltd for the portal's modern design and programming work. Many thanks to the members of the working group of the Estonian archives abroad (VAT) and our Baltic partners for helping to create the new portal content structure. Heartfelt thanks also go to Karin Kiisk, Kadi Kuivits and Marika Mayfield, who helped transfer the information collected over many years from the old portal to the new web environment.

We also thank the Compatriots Program and the Ministry of Culture and Education of Estonia for being our main sponsor since the portal was launched eight years ago.



We welcome everyone to visit our new portal! Your input and news are always welcome on the portal!

Piret Noorhani

NEW EXHIBIT IN TORONTO SHOWCASES DRAMATIC LIFE STORIES OF BALTIC-CANADIAN SENIORS

Through photos, documents and life stories, *Sharing our Stories: The Baltic Diaspora at Home in Canada* profiles the age-old story of people forced to leave their homeland due to war and political oppression and start a new life elsewhere. This exhibit is based on a series of interviews with seniors from Ontario's Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Baltic German communities. Their personal 'snapshot stories' shed light on what it means to be Baltic, and on the universal experiences of migration and settlement.

"Seniors are keepers of cultural history and the generation of post-war immigrants in Canada is rapidly aging. We are at a critical moment for capturing and sharing the rich cultural knowledge that this generation has to offer," says Petra Grantham, president of the Canadian Baltic Immigrant Aid Society.

The exhibit was launched on Saturday March 4, 2017 at 2pm at VEMU/Estonian Studies Centre. Almost 200 people from all four Baltic groups attended the opening reception, among them were the directors of Baltic central organizations, Multicultural History Society of Ontario representatives Kathy Leekam and Elizabeth Price. Canadian



From the left: curators Piret Noorhani (VEMU), Ženija Vitols (Canadian Latvian Archive and Museum), Petra Grantham and Susanne Burkhardt (Canadian Baltic Immigrant Aid Society), Danguole Juozapavičius (Lithuanian Museum-Archives of Canada). In the back Uno Ramat, designer of the exhibit.

MP Rob Oliphant also attended and brought along well wishes from the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The exhibit curators Piret Noorhani, Petra Grantham, Danguole Juozapavičius and Andris Kesteris via Skype from Ottawa all addressed the visitors. The short film of interviews collected during the project created by Kaisa Pitsi was also screened.

The exhibit can be viewed at VEMU from March 4 – March 29. From there the exhibit will travel across North America and then to the Baltic countries. The exhibit celebrates Canada's 150th birthday and Estonia's, Latvia's, and Lithuania's 100th birthdays.

The project partners are the Canadian Baltic Immigrant Aid Society, VEMU/Estonian Studies Centre, Lithuanian Museum Archives of Canada and the Canadian Latvian Archive and Museum (Latvian National Federation in Canada), who are working together as a collaborative known as Baltic Canadian Imprints. The 'Snapshot Stories:

Learning and Legacy Through Visual and Oral History' project is funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program.

Piret Noorhani

ANNE VALMAS' BOOK "EESTI RAAMAT VÄLISMAAL 1944-2010" (ESTONIAN BOOKS ABROAD 1944-2010) RELEASED

On March 2nd the retrospective Estonian national bibliography volume of "Eesti raamat välismaal 1944-2010" (Estonian Books Abroad 1944-2010) was presented at the Tallinn University Academic Library.

Anne Valmas began compiling the bibliography ten years ago with the goal of adding to her extensive book catalogue "Eestlaste kirjastustegevus välismaal 1944-2000" (Estonian Literary Activities Abroad 1944-2000), which she published to accompany her doctoral thesis. The original catalogue included over 4000 publications and registered Estonian books published by publishers, organizations, and individual publishers abroad.

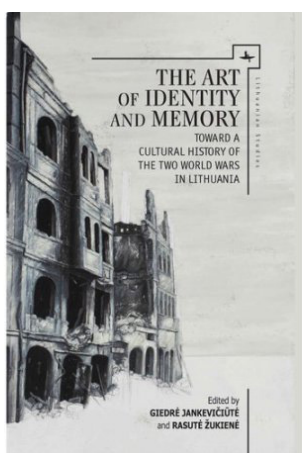
The brand new bibliography includes 9273 publications that have been published by Estonians living in exile or by their descendants. The bibliography describes many monographs,



dissertations, textbooks and other publications that have been published by Estonian scholars in universities, research institutions and publishing houses all over the world. There is also a large amount of fiction, which makes up about 25% of the registered publications.

The Compatriots Program and the Cultural Endowment of Estonia have supported the compilation and publication of this book.

NEW TITLE IN SERIES “LITHUANIAN STUDIES WITHOUT BORDERS”



A new book *The Art of Identity and Memory: Toward a Cultural History of the Two World Wars in Lithuania* in series “Lithuanian Studies without Borders” came out in August of 2016. The book edited by Giedrė Jankevičiūtė & Rasutė Žukienė consists of wide-ranging set of articles. It is a forceful demonstration of how much the experience of East-Central and Eastern Europe, largely neglected until now, needs to be integrated into evolving scholarship on the era of the world wars.

The collection diagnoses the challenge of achieving an enlarged historical and artistic perspective, and then goes on to meet it. Themes that are universal (exile, loss, trauma, survival, memory) and the undying subjects of art and artistic efforts at representation, here find specific

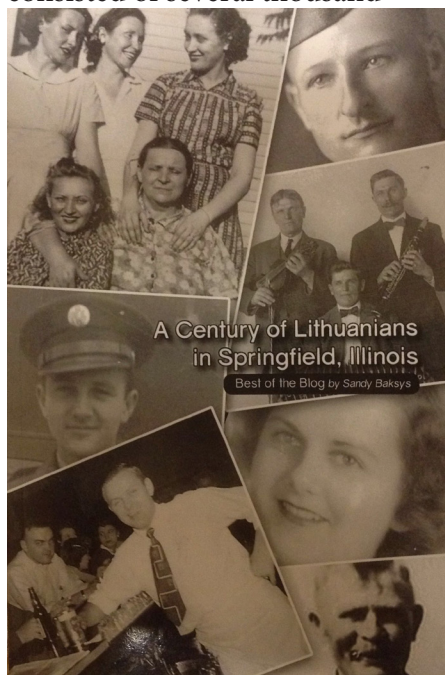
expression. The case of Lithuania and its diverse populations is revealed in its full significance for a modern European history of the impact of the age of the world wars.

The book is the first title in a new series dedicated to Lithuanian Studies. Other two books that came out in December of last year are: *Spatial Concepts of Lithuania in the Long Nineteenth Century* (ed. Darius Staliūnas) and *The Creation of National Spaces in a Pluricultural Region: The Case of Prussian Lithuania* by Vasilijus Safronovas.

More about the series: <http://www.academicstudiespress.com/lithuanian-studies/>

A CENTURY OF LITHUANIANS IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS: A CHRONICLE OF ONE LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY IN THE US

The vast majority of current Lithuanians living in Springfield, IL (USA) come from Lithuanian miners who arrived to America from Lithuania in the early 20th century. In 1914, the Lithuanian community of Springfield consisted of several thousand



Lithuanians. The records of Lithuanian St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Springfield show that year, over 500 Lithuanian families belonged to the church, and between 1909 and 1919, 1,063 Lithuanian babies were baptised there. However, these figures do not indicate the actual number of Lithuanians, because quite a number of them were socialists and did not belong to the church or visited other Catholic churches in the city, such as St. Aloysius, St. Peter and Paul and St. Joseph.

Today, when one comes across such names as Sitki, Nevitt, Yoggerst, Ulak or Chesnut, he or she can hardly tell that these people could be of Lithuanian descent. The reality is that the fourth generation of Lithuanians in Springfield does not speak Lithuanian and does not follow Lithuanian customs. Moreover, they are often unaware that their ancestors came from Lithuania.

With each year the number of Lithuanians in Springfield is declining. It is believed that today only 2,000 or so of the first wave of Lithuanian immigrants' descendants live in Springfield and Sangamon County of 20,000. Therefore, the book, *A Century of Lithuanians in Springfield, Illinois* by Sandy Baksys that came out in 2015 is particularly valuable for its genealogical and ethnographic information.

The stories in the book are accompanied by photos which the author obtained from Lithuanian families or individuals depicted in the book. According to the author, the photos appeared because she did not want the book to be just the family genealogical tree. In her opinion, the photos provide an extra glance at Lithuanian life, customs and history of that time.

Dalia Cidzikaitė



*The participants of the first congress of
Lithuanian Refugee Authors' Association.*

Photo by Don Šulaitis. Lithuanian Research and Studies Center Archives.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION "THE LITHUANIAN WRITERS' ASSOCIATION: SEVEN DECADES OF HISTORY"

The Lithuanian Writers' Association (LWA), established at the Faculty of Humanities of the Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas on February 21, 1932, is the first independent organization uniting Lithuanian writers, translators, literary researchers, and critics. Active in Lithuania until 1944, the organization was restored in Germany in 1946 by Lithuanian WWII refugee writers who fled their homeland, escaping the second Soviet occupation, and was renamed the Lithuanian Refugee Authors' Society. From 1950 until the present, the Association remains active in the United States of America.

The exhibition shows the history of the LWA through a wide variety of documents stored at the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in Chicago, such as letters, minutes of meetings, announcements, bulletins, and

other documents related to the Association's day-to-day business, as well as photos and audio clips. These are complemented by material housed at the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania Archive. We thank the Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum in Kaunas and especially Virginija Paplauskienė, head of the Diaspora Literature Department, for providing useful information about Paulius Jurkus' presidency.

The exhibition was prepared by Lithuanian Studies Department of the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. The exhibition's partner – the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, Chicago, USA.

The exhibition is also available in English: <http://parodos.lnb.lt/en/exhibits/show/the-lithuanian-writers-associa>

National Library of Lithuania

WEB DOCUMENTARY ON CURRENT ISSUES OF MIGRATION

In fall of 2016, senior researcher of Lithuanian Studies Department at

the National Library of Lithuania, Dr. Dalia Cidzikaitė, took part in a web documentary on contemporary migration "La Crise Migratoire et Nous" (in French and Lithuanian) created by French Institute in Lithuania.

Sixteen participants, from various walks of life, such as historians, a writer, a journalist, a lawyer, a philosopher, and others, shared their ideas about the history of migration, past and current events and lessons we should learn and remember in the future. The conversations which were filmed in France, Lithuania and Canada offer a broad view on current migration crisis in the world.

Please visit website http://www.institutfrancais-lituanie.info/migration/#Sommaire_FR (in French) and/or http://www.institutfrancais-lituanie.info/Migracija/#Sommaire_LT (in Lithuanian) to listen to the participants talk about migration and its challenges.

Lithuanian Studies Department of National Library of Lithuania

THE ESTONIAN MARITIME MUSEUM IS COLLECTING MATERIAL ABOUT SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION DONE BY ESTONIANS ABROAD

In 2018 the Republic of Estonia will be celebrating its 100th birthday. For this jubilee year, the Estonian Maritime Museum will be opening an exhibit at the Seaplane Harbour on February 23, 2018 about ships that have been related to significant Estonian historical events on both sides of the Iron Curtain. We would like to invite everyone to share artefacts and stories about shipping and navigation done by Estonians abroad.

Many of the various events that have taken place since the birth of the Republic of Estonia 100 years ago have been preserved and belonged to the stories of ships built in Estonia. We would also like to introduce the people who have worked, studied or travelled on these important ships.

As a result of the Second World War, many Estonian ships and sailors remained abroad. Estonian ship ownership was continued by the descendants of businesses that had been established in Estonia during the time of freedom. The businesses that continued abroad include: Tallinna Laevähiisus, B. Sergo, A. Jürgenthal, ESTOCO, KONnel, Seatrans and many others. The continuity of Estonian sailors organizations were held by Eesti Meremeeste Union, Eesti Laevaomanike Koondis, and Estonian Shipping Agency. Any artifacts, photos or stories associated with these businesses and people working on Estonian ships are a valuable part of our maritime cultural heritage and would find an honourable place in our museum's themed exhibits and collections.

For example, we are looking for model ships, ship flags, chimney signs, tools used on the ships, paintings of ships, sailor uniforms, memorabilia that belonged to sailors, items and seals with the symbols of businesses or organizations, drawings of ships, and photos that depict the work and everyday life on a ship. It is important for the museum that every artefact or photo is accompanied by as much additional information as possible: time and place of creation or use, user and/or owner, stories and legends.

The Estonian Maritime Museum is very grateful for the opportunity

to use any addition artefacts, photos and stories for the "100 Estonian Ships" exhibit. We invite all the generous contributors and donors to attend the opening of "100 Estonian Ships." They will also receive a free one year membership to visit all the permanent exhibits at the Estonian Maritime Museum.

The "100 Estonian Ships" exhibit will be open at the Seaplane Harbour from 23.02.2018-12.01.2019.

We will be accepting information about artifacts and stories until September 1, 2017.

Contact and info:

Teele Saar, Scholar (Exhibit Curator)

teele@meremuuseum.ee

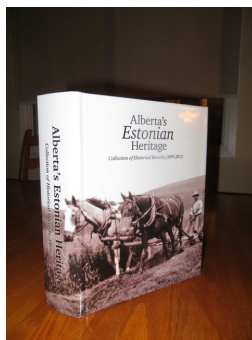
Tel: +372 56 618 664

Ruth Ristmägi, Curator

ruth@meremuuseum.ee

Tel: +372 51 358 61

ALBERTA'S ESTONIAN HERITAGE: COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL RECORDS, 1899-2012



It is mostly a 1,057-page paper copy of the Alberta Estonian Heritage Society's heritage website content, with some added material. Various major archives and libraries requested this format as electronic technology is changing so fast, there is a danger that a website could become unusable if not constantly updated to newer technology. They want a

format that will last and does not need electronics to use.

The book is not intended as a normal reading book; rather, it is useful as a reference when/if the website is unavailable.

Grant funds contributed by the National Archives of Estonia and the Estonian Foundation of Canada resulted in the printing of 30 copies, which will be distributed to major libraries and archives in Alberta, in the Toronto area in Ontario, and in Estonia.

Thanks to Dave Kiil and Eda McClung for compiling the book's contents and Janet Matiisen for cover design.

Helgi Leesment

DP EXHIBITION "NO HOME TO GO TO" SUCCESSFULLY TOURS AMERICA

The exhibition is put together by Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, as well as Latvian and Estonian communities in Chicago (curator Irena Chambers). On March 9, the exhibition was opened in Arlington, Virginia. The opening was attended by three ambassadors of the Baltic States to the US: Lithuanian ambassador Rolandas Kriščiūnas, Latvian ambassador Andris Teikmanis and their Estonian counterpart Eerik Marmei.

Photo: Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture

