



THE BALTHERNET SUMMER SCHOOL IS COMING UP "THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF ESTONIANS ABROAD. IX. ART AND CULTURE COLLECTIONS"

Although the ESTO Festival (<http://estofestival.com/>) is taking place in Finland and Estonia, we have tied our summer school program into the ESTO events taking place in Tartu and Tallinn. The main topic for the summer school is beautiful art – we will discuss cultural and art history collections. At the request of a number of Estonians abroad, we will also discuss family history research on the first day of the summer school.

On June 30 in Tartu, the seminar "Searching for My Roots" will take place at the National Archives' new building Noora. The seminar will introduce the necessary archives resources, databases, and methods for conducting family history research. On the morning of July 1, we will take a bus from Tartu to Tallinn. We will spend the afternoon at the Estonian Theatre and Music Museum, where we familiarize ourselves with the museum collections and exhibitions, discuss collections on the topic of cultural history abroad and in the homeland, and examine research projects associated with music and theatre history abroad. The NGO Annual Meeting will take place. On July 2, we will spend the morning at the Adamson Eric Museum, where we will look at art collections, collecting and preserving art by Estonians abroad in the homeland and abroad, as well as research and exhibit projects. After lunch, we will drive to Laulasmaa to visit the Arvo Pärt Centre, which was opened last fall.

Summer school participants will be able to register on the website balthernet.net as of mid-March. Participants are guaranteed transportation from Tartu to Tallinn on July 1, from Tallinn to Laulasmaa and back on July 2, coffee breaks, and lunch on July 2. The registration fee does not include lunch on July 1 or accommodation; participants are responsible

IN THIS ISSUE:

BOOK "INVENTED IN LITHUANIA: THINGS, IDEAS, AND PEOPLE"

THE BOOK ABOUT ESTONIAN ARCHITECTS IN TORONTO HAS ARRIVED AT VEMU

MSTISLAVAS DOBUŽINSKIS AND LATVIA

LECTURE-CONCERT CELEBRATING THE UPCOMING ESTONIAN SONG FESTIVAL'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

A MEETING WITH ESTONIAN ARTIST PEETER LAURITS

REINFORCING THE FIELD OF CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

HEINRICH TIIDERMANN'S GIFT TO ESTONIA 120 YEARS LATER

2019 IS DECLARED THE YEAR OF WORLD LITHUANIANS

LITHUANIAN WRITERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL GATHER IN VILNIUS

UNSUNG HEROES

Editor-in-Chief: Piret Noorhani

Editor: Kristina Lupp

Designer: Kristina Lupp

The Baltic Heritage Newsletter is distributed quarterly, on-line. The next deadline for submissions is 15 May 2019. Please send all related enquiries and submissions to Piret Noorhani: piretnoorhani@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 administrating the electronic information website Baltic Heritage Network, a multilingual electronic gateway for information on the cultural heritage of the Baltic diaspora.

www.balthernet.net

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to find accommodation on their own in Tartu and Tallinn. As of mid-March, the summer school website will have some recommendations for accommodation.

Anyone who would like to participate in the ESTO events that are not included in the summer school program, must purchase their own ESTO pass (<https://secure.estravel.ee/esto2019/>) or tickets (<http://estofestival.com/>).

BOOK “INVENTED IN LITHUANIA: THINGS, IDEAS, AND PEOPLE”



Photo: Dr. Giedrė Milerytė-Japertienė

When did the first invention take place in Lithuania? Did Lithuanians have their own Thomas Edison? Why one magazine called the transatlantic flight performed by Darius and Girėnas a technical invention? Has anything changed in the world of inventions after Lithuania's Independence in 1990s? What inventions do Lithuanians are famous for today?

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the restored Lithuania and the 90th anniversary of the Republic of Lithuania Patent Law (passed on

14 May 1928), the monograph about inventions invented by Lithuanians was published in 2018. The book written by six historians tells a story about Lithuanian inventors and inventions—from pagan times and tribal Baltic society to the present day. The book also contains a chapter written by Dr. Giedrė Milerytė-Japertienė on inventions of Lithuanian scientists who lived and worked in exile.

THE BOOK ABOUT ESTONIAN ARCHITECTS IN TORONTO HAS ARRIVED AT VEMU

In fall 2018, the book “To the New World: Estonian Architects in Canada” was published. The book is a continuation of the exhibit with the same title, which was on display at VEMU in the fall and winter of 2017, as well as in Tallinn at the Museum of Estonian Architecture in the spring of 2018.

The book was compiled by the exhibit curator Jarmo Kauge from the Museum of Estonian Architecture and it contains articles in Estonian and English by Estonian and Canadian authors including: Piret Noorhanni (Estonians – A Tough People in Canada), Graeme Stewart and Evan Manning (Toronto Modern: Architecture and a New Civic Identity), Jarmo Kauge (The Legacy of Estonian Architects in Toronto), Thomas Tampöld (Reflections on my Father, the Architect), and Alfred Holden



The work of the architect Uno Prii in Toronto, 44 Walmer Road.

Photo: Kaido Haagen.

(Let's Have a Little Fun. Sculptor, Painter, and Bon Vivant Uno Prii Applied the Principle He Lived by to the Architecture He Created). The forward was written by the Director of the Museum of Estonian Architecture Triin Ojari.

The book was launched in November 2018 in Tallinn. The official launch in Toronto took place on March 7, 2019 with the opening of the photography exhibit dedicated to Uno Prii's work at Tartu College.

MSTISLAVAS DOBUŽINSKIS AND LATVIA

What do we know about painter Mstislavas Dobužinskis's links with Latvia? According to philosopher Antanas Andrijauskas, before leaving for Western Europe Dobužinskis visited Riga with exhibitions [1]. What he did not mention was that the artist not only visited Riga, he lived there!

On 6 March 1924, opera “Eugene Onegin” featuring Dobužinskis's scenography and costumes was performed in Dresden Opera. After the performance, the artist instead of Kaunas travels to Riga. While in Riga, he visits K. Bauls Photo-Studio located on Alexander St. 17 and orders a stack of photo postcards featuring his sets from the Dresden performance.

In the same year, Dobužinskis opened a huge personal exhibition in Riga's City Art Museum (Pilsētas Mākslas Muzejs) featuring 170 works. Bibliographer Vytautas Steponaitis retained a tiny catalog of the exhibition written in two languages, Latvian and French: M. Dobužinska darbu izstāde: 1924–1925. Rīgas Pilsētas Mākslas Muzejā, Rīga: “Latvju Kultūras” Spiestuve, [1925].



Dobužinskis's Society of Latvian-Lithuanian Unity membership card.

Photo: Rare Books and Manuscript Unit at the National Library of Lithuania

Dobužinskis exhibited watercolours, oil paintings, lithographs, drawings and other graphics, mostly depicting Russia, especially St. Petersburg and Moscow. There were also Lithuanian motifs in the exhibition. For example, two Vilnius watercolours: "Old Church" (1902) and "Ruins of the Castle" (1912) and six recent paintings of Kaunas and Vilnius (1923).

At the beginning of 1925, the Lithuanian State Theater in Kaunas invited Dobužinskis to work on Pyotr Tchaikovsky's opera "The Queen of Spades." Most of the time, he stayed with Liudas and Bronislava Girai. It seems that the artist worked on opera's costumes and scenography in both cities. Separate notes and sketches in Dobužinskis's notebook attest to that.

The premiere which took place on 22 May 1925 was a great success. However, the Dobužinskis family did not intend to live in Kaunas, because of the shortage of apartments with amenities at the time. Besides, the artist felt the insincerity and jealousy of Kaunas intellectuals [3].

In 1925 Dobužinskis became a member of the Society of Latvian-Lithuanian Unity founded in Riga in 1921. He paid the entrance fee and the membership fee for a total of 2 lats and 20 santimi. On 16 of December 1925 the Lithuanian Consul in Riga Kazimieras Vizbaras asks Riga's Prefecture to grant Dobužinskis, who was a citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, and his family a free visa to Lithuania.

Starting in 1926, Dobužinskis lives and creates in Western Europe. In 1929 the Dobužinskis family moves to Kaunas and spends a decade there. He also retains his connections with Riga and Latvia. In 1920s-1930s he gives public lectures in Riga: "The Italian Magnet (Italian Cult in European Art)" and "Art and the Mechanization of Modern Culture" [4].

A photo postcard featuring Dobužinskis's sets from his Dresden performance in 1924.

Photo: Rare Books and Manuscript Unit at the National Library of Lithuania



In 1930 the second exhibition of Dobužinskis's works takes place in Riga. It was accompanied by a catalog, M. Dobužinska darbu izstāde: Rīga: "Latvju Kultūras" Spiestuve, 1930. This exhibition is smaller than the first one, consisting of 'only' 61 works. Four of them are dedicated to Lithuania and Latvia: views of Jieznas and Skaruliai churches and Riga Old Town, and "House on the Embankment" [Mājas krastmalā].

A year later, in 1931, the editorial board of Latvian Encyclopedia (of Culture, Society and Education) asked Dobužinskis to fill in a questionnaire about his life and works. The questionnaire indicated the current Dobužinskis's address: Maironio 5, Kaunas. Dobužinskis started to fill out the questionnaire before his work at the Lithuanian State Theater, because he refers to himself as a painter-artist and not a painter-scenographer. The card filled out by the editorial board specifies Dobužinskis's profession in more abstract and precise way; it states that he is an artist (mākslinieks).

In 1931-1934, Dobužinskis studied Latvian ornaments and worked on combining Lithuanian and Latvian ornaments. He also created symbols for the Society of Latvian-Lithuanian Unity.

[1] <http://tekstai.lt/zurnalas-metai/7147-antanas-andrijauskas-amziaus-dvasia-pazinau-butent-cia?catid=743%3A2013-m-nr-01-sausis>

[2] Воспоминания о Добужинском, составление, предисловие и примечания Г.И. Чузунова, Санкт-Петербург : Академ. проект, 1997, 1997, p. 281.

[3] Antanas Andrijauskas, Amžiaus dvasią pažinau būtent čia. Mstislavas Dobužinskis ir jo įnašas į Lietuvos dailės raidą. Interaktyvus, žiūrėta 2018.11.19: <http://www.tekstai.lt/rss/743-2013-m-nr-01-sausis/7147-antanas-andrijauskas-amziaus-dvasia-pazinau-butent-cia>

[4] М. В. Добужинский, *Воспоминания*, подготовил Геннадий Иванович Чугунов, Москва: Наука, 1987, p. 323.

Dr. Jurgita Kristina Pačauskienė

LECTURE-CONCERT CELEBRATING THE UPCOMING ESTONIAN SONG FESTIVAL'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY



Viljandi St. Paul's Congregation Mixed Choir

Photo: Piret Noorhani

Although the Song Festival in Estonia will celebrate its 150th anniversary this coming summer, festivities began early at Tartu College on October 10, 2018. Conductor Külli Salumäe led the Viljandi St. Paul's Congregation Mixed Choir in a beautiful concert with readings by Mart Salumäe to remember the long history of the Song Festival. Those who were unable to attend the concert at Tartu College also had the opportunity to hear the choir sing in Hamilton over Thanksgiving weekend.



A MEETING WITH ESTONIAN ARTIST PEETER LAURITS

On November 8, 2018 the internationally renowned Estonian artist Peeter Laurits joined guests at Tartu College to share his work and world view, and answer questions presented by audience members. Laurits arrived in Canada at the end of October to participate in the European artist exchange program organized by the Cotton Factory in Hamilton. During his stay in Canada, Laurits gave lectures in not only Toronto, but Hamilton, Montreal, Ottawa, and Buffalo. He also visited the Toronto Estonian Supplementary School students and participated in a panel discussion at the Art Gallery of Hamilton regarding the Estonian film "November."

REINFORCING THE FIELD OF CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

On January 22, 2019 Jurgis Giedrys, former cultural attaché of the Republic of Lithuania to Ukraine, visited the National Library of Lithuania. During the meeting with the representatives of Library, Mr. Giedrys donated numerous documents, booklets and books which he collected during his term in Ukraine, from 2015 to 2018.

More than 200 events were organized in Ukraine during Mr. Giedrys' four-year term of office. People of Ukraine met with more than 700 Lithuanian artists. Events were advertised and written about by over 400 traditional or e-media outlets, as well as social media. The events dedicated to Lithuania and Lithuanian themes attracted more than 100,000 people.

The National Library of Lithuania has been increasing its activities in cultural diplomacy. It promotes the dissemination of Lithuanian culture abroad, supports the efforts of foreign embassies, cultural centers and institutes in Lithuania to present



Books and booklets donated by cultural attaché Giedrys.

Photo: National Library of Lithuania

projects reflecting the world's cultural diversity. The Library carries out its exclusive mission by collecting the Lithuanian documentary heritage created abroad.

HEINRICH TIIDERMANN'S GIFT TO ESTONIA 120 YEARS LATER

By the end of 2017, we were on the eve of Estonia's centenary, and there was a call by EV100 for Estonians and friends to celebrate "in any manner that you see fit". Taavi Siitam really liked the openness of this invitation, but wondered how he, a second generation Canadian, could contribute. Then, he recalled an old photo album passed between Siitam family members over the years and hearing his elders say things like: "These are special photographs.... He's a famous photographer... Oh, how wonderful!" After locating it, he learned it was an album made up entirely of original photographs taken by the legendary





Estonian photographer, Heinrich Tiidermann. Tiidermann was one of the pillars of early Estonian photography. That's when light bulb went on.

Taavi thought "I think my third, great-grand uncle, Heinrich Tiidermann, took his photographs of the Estonian people, folk culture and landscapes, 120 or so years ago, with the purpose of them being shared on an occasion like the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Estonia". With the help of VEMU in Toronto, the album was digitized, thus preserving the deteriorating images, but also allowing them to more accessible.

In February 2018, Taavi began posting images from the Tiidermann album on a weekly basis on Instagram. "Many of Tiidermann's photos can be seen in photography museums in Estonia. Where I hope this project can add value is by providing zoomed-in close-ups of areas of a photo that show details never seen before - in faces, clothes, items held in hands."

His one-year EV100 project ends in February, but it has provided countless people the pleasure to see some amazing and rare images from pre-Republic Estonia. With satisfaction, he adds "The legacy

of this project is that Tiidermann's images and these 'new' close-ups are out there now - for anyone to see, at anytime. Documenting the Estonian folk culture is the gift that Tiidermann wanted to give to his people... Giving his photos a modern platform, at such a time, is my small gift to him."

Visit the [heinrichtiidermann.ev100](https://www.instagram.com/heinrichtiidermann.ev100/) project at:

<https://www.instagram.com/heinrichtiidermann.ev100/>

2019 IS DECLARED THE YEAR OF WORLD LITHUANIANS

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Lithuanian Charter, which established the Lithuanian World Community. The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania declared this year the Year of World Lithuanians.

The resolution passed by the Lithuanian Parliament states that the activities of the Lithuanian World Community, Inc. in preserving Lithuanian history, language, culture, science, heritage, traditions, and national identity abroad have contributed to the creation of a modern Lithuanian state. The document also emphasizes Community's contribution to the restoration of an independent state of Lithuania and its integration into the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the United Nations, UNESCO, NATO and the European Union.

Stasys Tumėnas, the member of the Lithuanian Parliament and the initiator of the proposal, noted that the declaration obligates Lithuanian government to create conditions and opportunities for Lithuanians to maintain contacts with Lithuanians and Lithuanian communities abroad; to maintain historical consciousness and expand historical knowledge



Chicago Lithuanians gathered in downtown to celebrate the Lithuanian Statehood Day.

Photo: Organizer

about Lithuanian diaspora; to promote reflection and dissemination of national identity; to support Lithuanian education and Lithuanian culture abroad; to promote initiatives preserving cultural heritage and its contemporary interpretation abroad; and to mobilize Lithuanian diaspora in becoming more active player in Lithuania's statehood and its democratic processes.

According to the latest data, approximately 1.3 million Lithuanians or people of Lithuanian origin currently live outside Lithuania.



LITHUANIAN WRITERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL GATHER IN VILNIUS

The Lithuanian World Community, Inc. together with the Lithuanian Writers' Union and the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore is organizing the first congress of world Lithuanian writers in Vilnius. The event, which will take place on 5-7 May, 2019, will host 50 Lithuanian writers and/or writers of Lithuanian origin who currently live outside Lithuania.

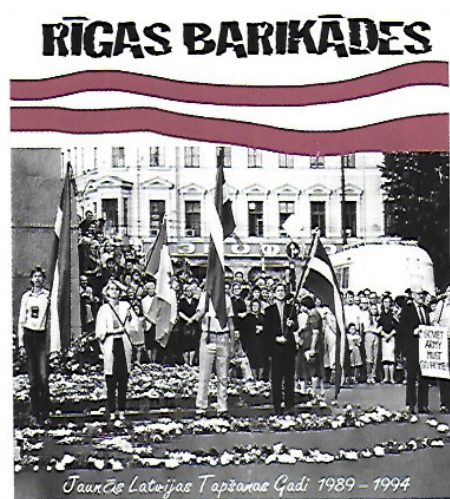
During the event, the participants will meet with Lithuanian writers. They will visit the Lithuanian Writers' Union, the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore and the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. Readings will take place during the event. At the end of the congress, an almanac of the participants' fiction and poetry will be published.

UNSUNG HEROES

2018 was significant in Latvian history: 100 years earlier, on the 18th of November 1918, Latvia declared its independence; 30 years earlier, in 1988, the formation of the Popular Front of Latvia (*Latvijas Tautas fronte*) was the beginning of the Singing Revolution, which culminated on the 4th of May, 1990 when the Supreme Council of Latvia declared restoration of Latvia's independence. Full independence was confirmed on the 21st of August, 1991 and acknowledged



The Baltic Way



The Riga Barricades

internationally the following day, with Iceland being the first country to formally recognize Latvia's restored independence.

This bloodless revolution is unique in world history. Much has been written about the insurgency within the Baltics, including the Baltic Way and the Barricades in Riga.

Much less has been written about the contribution of Latvians in exile, particularly the younger generation. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Latvia's independence, the Canadian Latvian Archive and Museum (KLAM) has created a Power Point presentation UNSUNG HEROES/NEAPDZIEDĀTIE VAROŅI – a tribute to the Latvian youth, many born in Canada, who valued their Latvian culture and who participated in various protest actions in Canada and elsewhere to remind the free world of the brutal Soviet occupation of Latvia and the other Baltic States, Estonia and Lithuania.

The first notable event was to take place in 1968 in Berlin, West Germany at the World Congress of Latvian Youth.



The so-called "Forbidden Congress" was organized by the Worldwide Latvian Youth Association to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Latvian state and to protest against the occupation of the Baltics. The USSR ambassador in East Berlin protested against the Congress and its goals, and called for it to be banned. The West surrendered to USSR pressure, and the day before

the opening of the Congress, it was banned, and so the venue was moved to Hanover.



Latvians who had not gone on to Berlin welcomed the organizers and participants as heroes at Hanover Airport.



On October 25th, 1971, Baiba Bredovska and Verners Cinis (in bear costume) were participants in a demonstration at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto during a visit by Alexei Kosygin, Premier of USSR.



On November 18th, 1985, in Washington D.C., at the commemoration of Latvia's Independence Day, two of the six Latvian youth who chained themselves to the fence of the USSR Embassy in Washington were from Toronto – Alberts Vitols and Haralds Ozols.

The Baltic Peace and Freedom Cruise on the Baltic Star, was a round-trip three-day cruise from July 1985 departing from

Stockholm just after midnight on the 27th, traveling along the Baltic coast, stopping in Helsinki on the 28th along the way and returning to Stockholm on the 29th.



The Baltic Peace and Freedom Cruise ship Baltic Star in Stockholm harbour.



From Toronto: Baiba Rubess, Uve Hodgins, Elmārs Tannis.

The Berlin Wall built to stop people escape from East Germany to the West Berlin. In time the West Berlin side became the “largest canvas in the world” as one of the painters, Gundars Jēgers said.



In 1986, a group of Latvian youth, after the Song Festival in Münster, traveled to Berlin and helped paint the Wall; Torontonians Alberts Vītols applied the white background to the Gundars Jēgers “canvas” seen above.



1989: members of the rock groups Skandāls from Toronto and Jumprava from Riga, correct the sign at the Estonia/Latvia border by removing the letters PSR (English, SSR).

The sign now reads LATVIJA
WE DID IT!!!



May 4th, 1990: The Supreme Council of the Latvian SSR voted to adopt the Declaration “On the Restoration of the Independence of the Republic of Latvia”.

August 21st, 1991: at 13:10, the Supreme Council of Latvia adopts the Constitutional Law on the Restoration of the Republic of Latvia.

August 22nd, 1991: the start of international recognition of the restoration of Latvia's

independence. Iceland is the first country to recognize Latvia's renewed independence.

References: “Nyet, Nyet Soviet!” – a book published in 2018 by “Latvieši Pasaule” – muzejs un pētniecības centrs (“Latvians Abroad” – Museum and Research Centre);

Participants' personal archives.

Ervīns Jākobsons, “Baltiešu tribunāls un Brīvības un miera kuģa brauciens 1985. gada jūlijā/ Baltic Tribunal and Baltic Peace and Freedom Cruise”; www.laikmetazimes.lv.

Project supporters:



Latvian National Federation in Canada



World Federation of Free Latvians



Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia



Canadian Latvian Archive and Museum

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[Ženija Vītols -Director of the Canadian Latvian Archive and Museum.](#)