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A UNIQUELY HISTORICAL SUMMER

The summer of 2022 is history, and for BaltHerNet, it was uniquely historical. At the end of June and beginning of July, Estonian members and friends of BaltHerNet came together at the summer school in Hiiumaa. We hadn't been able to meet since 2019! We had slightly fewer participants this time; many still didn't want to risk travelling with Covid-19 around, and some feared the war in Ukraine and decided not to participate. Those who did make it thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful weather and picturesque Suuremõisa manor and park. We were overjoyed to see old friends again and form new connections. Being able to exchange ideas with colleagues and the time spent together was a much-needed energy boost for us all. Thank you to Helgi Põllo and the Hiiumaa Museum, who made our stay on the island a truly enjoyable one! A huge thanks go to all the performers from near and far and to our incredible Estonian archives abroad working group, whose ideas and combined energy fuel BaltHerNet's events. Of course, we also thank the Estonian government for their financial support, which is distributed to us through the Ministry of Education and Research and the National Archives of Estonia.

What do the new season and future hold? More work and activities, of course, but new challenges as well. How will memory institutions deal with the energy and economic crisis? How will the brave Ukrainian fighters endure? We have to hope for the best and do all that we can so that the best outcomes can be realized.

Best wishes to everyone for the start of the new academic year!

Piret Noorhani

BALTHERNET'S 10TH SUMMER SCHOOL "THE SEA AND ISLANDS" IN HIUMAA

Baltic Heritage Network has had a long-term partnership with the Estonian Literary Museum in gathering material for Estonian diaspora archives, maintaining and organizing them, and doing further contributive research. The idea to create BaltHerNet began to form in 2005 in Piret Noorhani's office, who was the director of the Estonian Cultural History Archives at that time. Currently, she is the director and chief archivist at the Estonian Museum Canada/VEMU in Toronto and still

continues to be the leader of and driving force behind the network.

BaltHerNet's main mission is to allow for an exchange of information between three Baltic countries - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - in pertinence to the diaspora communities of those three respective nations and their cultural heritage. An equally important goal is trading archival experiences, facilitating and improving the availability of archives, and researching and researching them. The latest BaltHerNet summer school was already the 10th and took place from 28.06-1.07.2022 in Hiiumaa. It was dedicated to the stories of the Great Escape of 1944 and bore the title "The Sea and Islands."

The school began in Tallinn on June 28th, where historian Sander Jürisson introduced the Estonian Maritime Museum's new exhibit titled "Juminda's Hell" at the Seaplane Harbour. The exhibition depicted the evacuation of Tallinn on August 28th, 1941 and the resulting mass demise of ships in the mine-laden Gulf of Finland.

Summer school presentations took place in Suuremõisa, Pühalepa municipality in Hiiumaa, at a beautiful and historically rich, 250-year-old manor where the Hiiumaa Vocational School currently operates. School participants were provided overnight accommodations in the vocational school's student dorms. A trip brought the summer school to a fitting conclusion, where the legendary Helgi Põollo, the former long-term director and current educational director of the Hiiumaa museum, acted as a fantastic and informative tour guide.

Since many of the refugees who reached the shores of Finland or Sweden were from the islands and shores of Estonia, the central theme of "The Sea and Islands" summer school was the stories of fugitives who escaped by boat in the fall of 1944. Presentations from the collections of Haapsalu, Saaremaa, and Hiiumaa museums gave a good overview of what kinds of materials and items can be found in those respective collections and how collection work takes place. For example, Piret Hiie-Kivi from the Saaremaa Museum introduced the personal archives of artist Eerik Haamer and Eve Oststavel

from the Foundation of Haapsalu and Läänemaa Museums presented the archive of Sir Arvi Parbo from Australia. Katriina Sofia Päts, master's student at the University of Tartu, discussed Toronto-based Estonian Museum Canada/VEMU's video collections, and Piret Noorhani introduced unique boat stories that will be displayed in VEMU's future permanent exhibit. Krislin Kämärä talked about her experiences designing an exhibition at the Seaplane Harbour focusing on the Great Escape of 1944. Riina Reinvelt from the Estonian National Museum spoke about the museum's permanent exhibition that featured stories of escape from 1944 told through videos. Helgi Põollo's presentation theme was "How Do People and Things Travel? The Collections of Estonians of Hiiu Background Abroad at the Hiiumaa Museum". Mirja Anshav presented online lectures from Sweden ("The Materiality of the Great Escape - Boats and Belongings From an Archaeological Perspective") and Dwight Storring from Canada ("Making the Documentary "Anna Kaljas: The Untold Story").

Another noteworthy event was the screening of Jaak Lõhmus' 1991 film "The Escape" and the following post-film discussion with the director.

What I found to be the most interesting was the presentation titled "Boat Stories from the National Archives in Image and Text," during which Tiiu Kravtsev and Ivi Tomingas brought forth data from Arvo Horn's archive, for the first time, about how the Estonian Relief Organization provided aid in September 1944 by helping organize the boats and ships that were sent to Estonian refugees in Sweden. In addition, Gabriel Doherty provided an enthusiastic lecture based on the current Ukrainian war titled "Victory's Story: Estonians and a Voyage to Ireland and Beyond." Throughout the presentation, the author drew attention to Ireland's issues when it took in refugees in 1949.

BaltHerNet's organizational partner for the 10th summer school was the Hiiumaa Museum, which has done a superb job of gathering information and stories of Estonians of Hiiu background living abroad. The summer school

BY SUPPORTING THE NGO BALTIC HERITAGE NETWORK, YOU ARE SUPPORTING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF BALTIC PEOPLE ABROAD!

Your donation to the NGO Baltic Heritage Network supports:

- + *the preservation of the cultural heritage of Baltic people abroad*
- + *the ability to make this material accessible through the portal balther.net*
- + *training of volunteers dedicated to preserving their own heritage and providing consulting services to community archives*
- + *the implementation of educational programs (seminars, summer schools, day trips, conferences)*
- + *creating awareness and popularizing the field*

The success of our organization relies on the dedicated work of our volunteers; however, the implementation of a successful program requires financial resources. We have received these resources through the Estonian Compatriot's Program and member fees. Your help is crucial in our efforts to perform our tasks and to reach larger audiences and organizations.

We welcome both one-time and ongoing donations. Any amount makes a difference!

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.



aimed to inspire historical memory organizations and communities to consolidate and investigate materials of Estonians abroad by specific regions that diaspora Estonians are from. Helen Kõmmus from the Estonian Folklore Archives has done just that. Her presentation titled “The Love Story of the Century in Hiiumaa: The Escape to Sweden in 1944 and Return to Hiiumaa in 1947” about her grandfather Jegard’s family story was a dignified representation of the Estonian Literary Museum.

BaltHerNet’s summer school isn’t all presentations, and it’s also about gaining new contacts and the fantastic company of the participants. Besides people from historical memory institutions, we also had voluntary archivists from the Stockholm Estonian House and participants from younger generations of Estonian communities in the United States and Canada.

The summer school was supported by the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research.

Marin Laak

The Estonian Cultural History Archives

This article has appeared in *Estonian in the Estonian Literary Museum’s newsletter*.

Translated by Kati Kiilaspea

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA TO INTEGRATE LITHUANIAN DIASPORA IN UKRAINE ARCHIVES

On August 11, Dalia Makarova, the Chairperson of the Ukrainian Lithuanian Community, visited the National Library of Lithuania. The guest discussed the fate of the archives created by the Lithuanian Community in Ukraine and the possibilities of its digitization. The digitization of the documentary heritage and its integration into the portal Eaveldas.lt would open up more opportunities for users interested in the Ukrainian-Lithuanian diaspora and allow the diaspora itself to better preserve its documentary heritage.

For more than three decades, the National Library of Lithuania has been in contact with the members of the Lithuanian community living in Ukraine. The Ukrainian Lithuanian

Community was established only in 2004, even though it has been active in different regions of the country since Ukraine’s independence in 1991. By the outbreak of the war in 2022, around 7,000 Lithuanians have been living in Ukraine. When the war broke out, some community members moved to safer countries. However, some of them returned to Lithuania.

ESTOCAST – A FRESH TAKE ON ESTONIAN CULTURE

VEMU (Estonian Museum Canada), Estonian Music Week (a project of VEMU), and Eesti Elu (Estonian Life) newspaper have come together and taken a dive into the vast sea of podcasts, finding our own island - we call it EstoCast! Delve into the layered dimensions of Estonian culture with us as we explore what it’s like being an Estonian here in North America. The importance of Estonian art, music,



The Chairperson of the Ukrainian Lithuanian Community visited the National Library of Lithuania.

*Photo: National Library of Lithuania/
Vygaudas Juozaitis*



books in our lives – and what this forward-thinking nation has to offer to us and the entire world. If you've ever wanted the latest in Estonian books, music, art, history, science, and other key news and cultural topics, but in a convenient on-the-go format, EstoCast is perfect. EstoCast is also ideal for those simply curious about any of the above topics and searching for something fresh, exciting, inspiring, and educational to listen to.

EstoCast started as a simple idea in early 2022 to create a podcast where we could talk at length about this country that we call our home away from home—Estonia. According to the 2016 Canadian census, over 24 thousand people of Estonian origin live in Canada. Perhaps you're one of them! Perhaps, you've visited Estonia once. Maybe you have a friend from there. Or maybe you've just heard about Estonia's tech industry from the news and are wondering what the country is all about. No matter what your connection is, we're glad to have you check us out and give us a listen. EstoCast alternates between English and Estonian every other episode so that there's something for everyone; those wanting to learn or practice either language also have the perfect chance for that!

EstoCast has eight episodes in both languages, spanning topics from literature to music and the latest cultural news and hottest happenings. Listeners from all over the world tune in to brush up on their Estonian and English, stay in touch with current goings on and culture in Estonia, delve deeper into their Estonian roots, or just learn more about the country itself! We've got the world catching our episodes from Australia and New Zealand to Canada

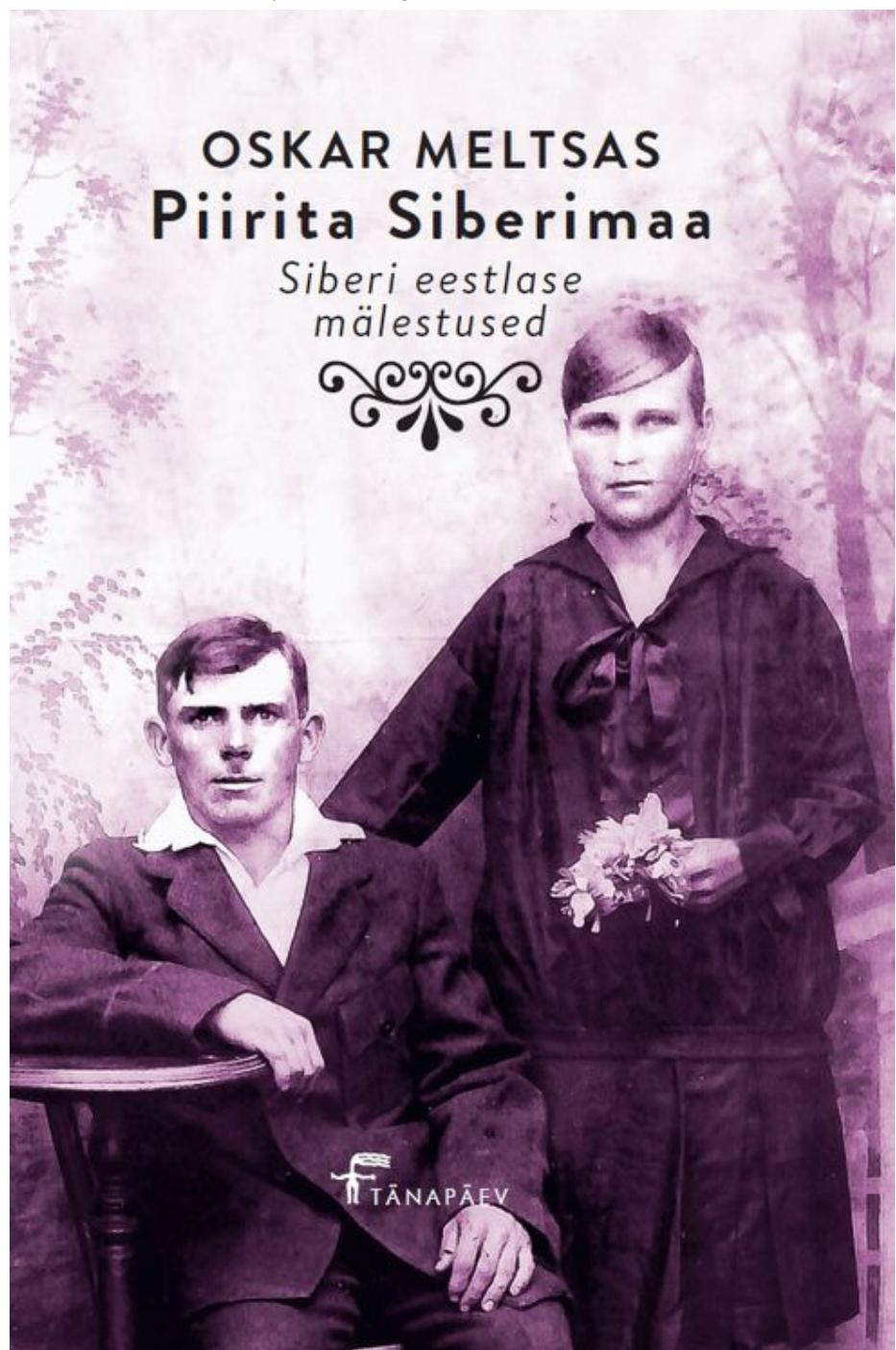
and Greece. Various guests have already stopped by, including electro-folk band Etnosfääär, author and professor Dr. Tiina Kirss, and Ukrainian-Estonian band Svjata Vatra.

In the future, we plan on extending our reach to topics like politics and stories of people in our diaspora Estonian communities in Canada and worldwide. Hosts Vincent Teetsov and Kati Kiilaspea, along with occasional guest hosts, will continue to take you through the exciting world of Estonian culture at large. We also have some tantalizing new guests coming up soon, so stay tuned; you won't want to miss what's in store in the future! You can find EstoCast here on major streaming

platforms like Spotify and Apple Music, as well as at our website: <https://estocast.buzzsprout.com/> Happy listening!

OSKAR MELTSAS. PIIRITA SIBERIMAA. SIBERI EESTLASE MÄLESTUSED. (SIBERIA WITHOUT BORDERS. MEMOIRS OF AN ESTONIAN IN SIBERIA) TĀNAPĀEV 2022, 183 P.

The memoirs of Oskar Meltsas have now made it to readers, a genuine glimpse into how an Estonian community in Western Siberia, Zolotaja Niva (est. 1895), came to be while also telling the story of what day-to-day life was like



in the village from its formation to the First World War.

Oskar Meltsas, born in 1909, documented these stories passed on through word-of-mouth but wasn't able to actively take part in the experiences himself, instead he relied on the tales told by forefathers and other village inhabitants. Despite his lack of education, he could document the stories of his ancestors in a primarily humorous manner, in beautifully written Estonian. The accounts have been put on paper much later than the experiences occurred, towards the end of the 1970s.

These memoirs can also be read as a reflection of an Estonian's arrival in Siberia, wherein the fates of exiles and emigrants intertwine.

Accompanying the recollections are forewords by Hetti Meltsas, Anu Korb, and Urmas Bereczki, along with numerous photos.

A VISIT BY LITHUANIAN WRITERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

On June 30, a group of writers, translators and literary critics from dozens of countries around the world visited the National Library of Lithuania for the Second Lithuanian World Writers' Congress. It was a return visit—in 2019, the participants of the first congress were also the Library's guests.

The National Library hosted a discussion with the Lithuanian publishers: Lolita Varanavičienė, head

of the publishing house Tyto alba, Sigita Pūkienė, founder and head of the publishing house Aukso žuvys, Juozas Žitkauskas, director of the publishing house Slinktys, Giedrė Pūrienė, head of the publishing house Juoda ant balto, and Laimutė Grikiškienė, head of the Publishing Department of the Lithuanian Centre for Research on Genocide and Resistance, and the Lithuanian Genocide Resistance. Among other things, the participants expressed a wish to pay more attention to the content of the books of the Lithuanian writers living abroad, the role of a literary agent, and the development of social relations.

After the discussion, the guests were invited to visit the exhibition of books published by Lithuanian diaspora authors in recent years. The exhibition was prepared by the staff of the Lithuanian Studies Unit of the Library. The guests also visited the exhibition of photographs by American-Lithuanian Edis Jurčys "The Anxiety of Being."

Jūratė Caspersen, Chairperson of the Cultural Commission of the Lithuanian World Community, presented the Library with a copy of the almanac, Egzodika 2 (Vilnius: Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, 2022) with the signatures of the participants of the congress and their best wishes.

The next congress is planned to take place in 2025. There is little doubt that Lithuanian writers from all over the world will again meet at the National Library of Lithuania.



A GIFT FROM THE HONORARY CONSUL OF LITHUANIA IN N. AUSTRALIA



The book Remembering Horton St / Clarke St Lithuanians depicts the life of the Lithuanian community in Australia.

Photos: National Library of Lithuania/ Vygaudas Juozaitis

Eglė Garrick, the Honorary Consul of Lithuania to Northern Australia, visited the National Library of Lithuania this summer. During the visit, she presented a gift, a book *Remembering Horton St / Clarke St Lithuanians* by Kristina Surkaitė-Hitchon. "After World War II, about 10 000 Lithuanians came to Australia. There was a large Lithuanian community in Sydney, with as many as forty families settling on Horton and Clarke Streets. The book presents the stories and photographs of these families and reflects the life of the Lithuanian community in Australia," Eglė Garrick said about the book.

A SENSATIONAL NEW BUT OLD OPERA, HAMLETS, WAS LIVESTREAMED FROM THE LATVIAN NATIONAL OPERA AND BALLET (LNOB)

HAMLETS was first produced in Latvia in 1936 to rave reviews, then co-opted by the Nazis in the early 1940s, and subsequently shuttered by the communists during the fifty-plus years of occupation. On September 17 at 7 pm, this major mainstage work by the Canadian/Latvian composer Jānis Kalniņš was screened for the first time in Canada at the Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre. The music was avant-garde at the time, with hints of jazz

The Library hosted a discussion with the Lithuanian publishers.

Photos: National Library of Lithuania/ Vygaudas Juozaitis



KLAIPĖDOS APSKRITIES
IEVOS SIMONAITYTĖS
VIĘSOJI BIBLIOTEKA

KL
LIETUVOS
KULTŪROS
TARYBA



KLAIPĖDOS
SAVININKŲ
TARYBA

EDIS JURČYS. BŪTIES NERIMAS

Paroda. Balandžio 14 d. – birželio 29 d. Parodų salė, III a.

and Prokofiev; it deserves to be heard beyond the borders of Latvia. In January 2022, the LNOB staged a contemporary take on the same music.

Gunta Dreifelde

AMERICAN-LITHUANIAN PHOTOGRAPHER EDIS JURČYS' EXHIBITION

The exhibition “The Anxiety of Being” by American-Lithuanian photographer Edis Jurčys that ran at the National Library of Lithuania from April to the end of June includes a series of photographs entitled “The Power of Death and Life” (2021). The exhibition (curator Danguolė Ruškienė) was organized by Ieva Simonaitytė Public Library of Klaipėda County and financed by the Lithuanian Council for Culture and Klaipėda City Municipality.

The work of Edis Jurčys is relatively well known in Lithuania. Although he has lived in the USA for over three decades, he always presents his latest works in his home country first, to which he returns almost every year. At the end of 2021, the artist donated a part of his photo archive to the Ieva Simonaitytė Public Library.

The exhibition “The Anxiety of Being” is the photographer’s reaction to today’s world. The author delves into the issue of climate change, the very pronounced changes in the climate of individual regions, leading to negative

consequences. Jurčys’ photographs show the fires in California, devastating entire villages and towns, destroying lives and killing people. But, according to the artist, his current works are not local but touch upon global themes. He calls them visual diaries in photography. They are important because they act as a warning and signal a threat. Jurčys plans to continue working on climate change in the future, visiting the same places where villages have burnt down but people have already started to return.

Edis Jurčys was born in 1957 in Klaipėda. He started taking photographs while still at school. After graduating, he started cooperating with the Society of Photographic Art of the Lithuanian SSR (since 1989, Lithuanian Photographers’ Union). Soon after, he travelled to work in Moscow, and in 1989, he emigrated to the USA. He currently lives and works in Portland.

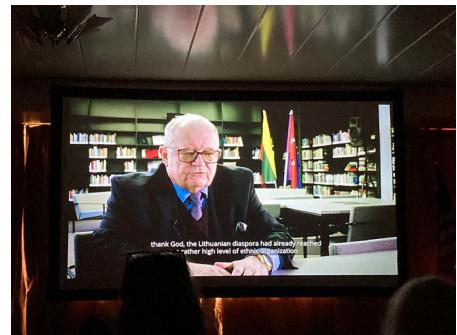
Jurčys has created over 20 photographic series on highly topical social issues, held over 30 solo exhibitions in Portland, Seattle, Lithuania, Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand and elsewhere, participated in group exhibitions, and has received awards and recognition.

THE NEW FILM ABOUT LITHUANIAN-AMERICANS

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the United States

recognition of Lithuanian independence, Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago, USA, invited to the premiere of the new Lithuanian documentary film. “Lietuvos Laisvės varpas” (Lithuania’s Liberty Bell; director Arvydas Renekis) tells a story about the efforts of the Lithuanian-Americans to support Lithuania’s independence a hundred years ago.

The film features unseen archival footage from the first Lithuanian-American congresses in the early 20th century, visits to the USA by the signatories of the Independence Act of the Republic of Lithuania, and commentary by contemporary scholars. It is the story about the Lithuanian-Americans efforts to achieve statehood for Lithuania and the efforts to raise financial support for war-torn country. The Lithuanian Liberty Bell, financed by Lithuanian-Americans, travelled



*A scene from the documentary film
“Lithuania’s Liberty Bell.”*

*Photos: Balzekas Museum of
Lithuanian Culture*

around the USA for some time and was used to collect donations, and later was gifted to Lithuania. It remains one of the most important symbols of Lithuania's freedom to this day.

The film was supported by Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

MEETING WITH TEACHERS FROM LITHUANIAN SCHOOLS ABROAD

On July 22, the National Library of Lithuania hosted a meeting of Lithuanian language school teachers from different parts of the world, even from as far away as Chile, who had come to Vytautas Magnus University for intensive Lithuanian studies. At the Library, they listened to lectures presented by the researchers of the Library's Documentary Heritage Research Department, visited current exhibitions, and had interesting discussions.

The first two lectures were held in a hybrid format, with some of the audience joining virtually. Prof. Dr. Dainius Vaitiekūnas, Head of the Lithuanian Studies Unit, gave the lecture entitled "Lithuanian Ads as a Material for Lessons." Dr. Ilona Strumickienė, Head of the Statehood Centre at the Library, presented a lecture on the topic of recent challenges in Lithuanian history.

In the afternoon of the same day, the guests took part in two more lectures. The lecture-tour of the exhibition "I Will Save You by Horseshoe, Cross, and Raven" was led by the curator of the exhibition, Jadyga Misiūnienė. Dr. Viktorija Vaitkevičiūtė-Verbickienė, Head of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Unit, presented the lecture tour on old prints and manuscripts held at the Rare Books and Manuscripts Reading Room of the National Library of Lithuania.



The teachers got a chance to visit all three exhibitions currently held at the Library.

*Photos: National Library of Lithuania/
Vygaudas Juozaitis*



Photo by Peeter Põldre ©2022

It was not the first time teachers of Lithuanian language schools abroad visited the National Library of Lithuania. Their visits have become a welcome summer tradition.

LATE SUMMER ESTONIAN MUSIC WEEK EVENTS IN TORONTO

In August, quirky folk duo Puuluup from Estonia returned to Canada for another tour. Drom Taberna, an already well-known Eastern European pub, served as their main performance location in Toronto, followed by a smaller show the next day at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Of course, you can't resist dancing at their shows, and the audience didn't hold back in showing their moves at both performances. Whereas Drom Taberna had mostly Estonians shaking their hips, ROM had many non-Estonians, including children, dancing along since the event was included within the free ticket program directed towards families.



Members of the Lithuanian World Community gathered at the National Library of Lithuania.

*Photo: National Library of Lithuania/
Vygaudas Juozaitis*