

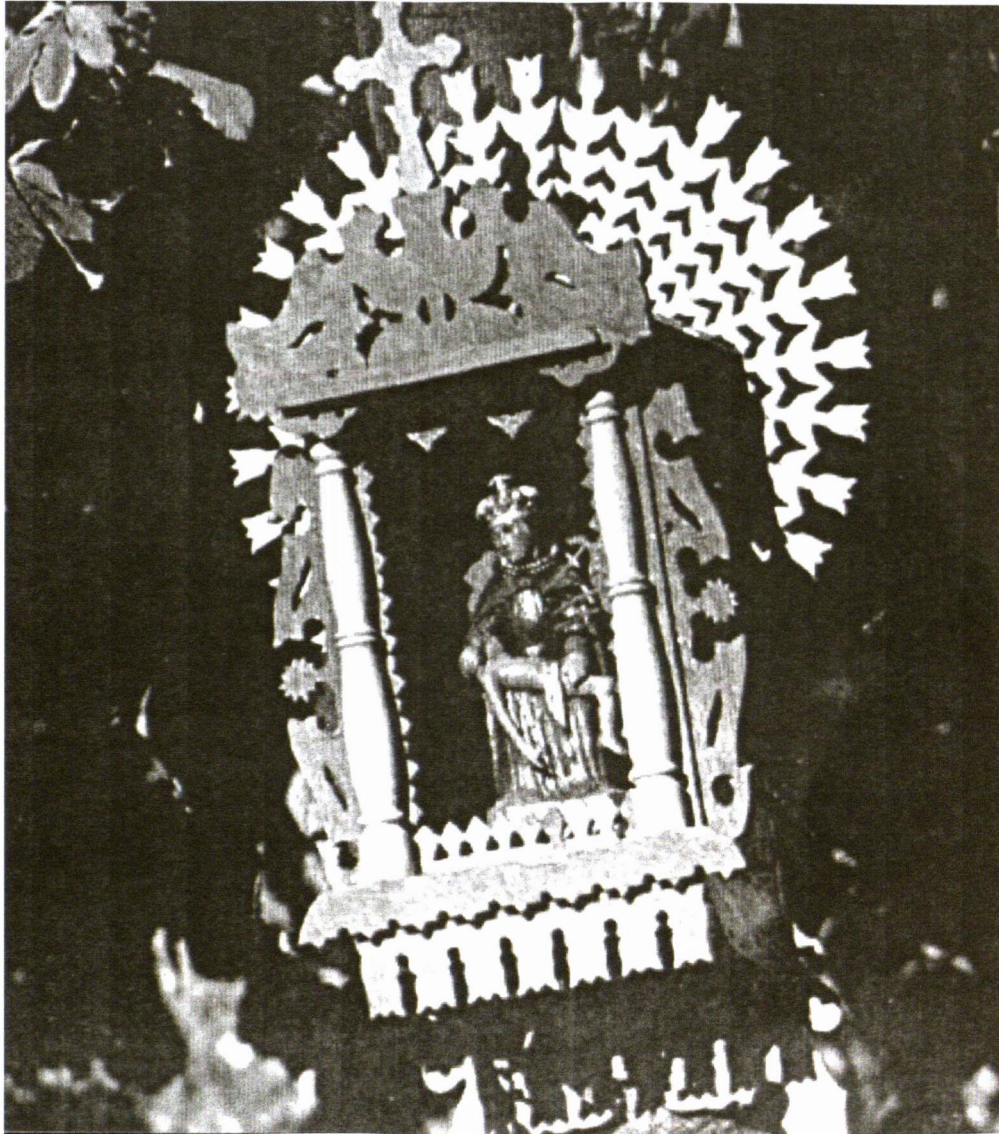
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BRIDGES

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Changes in Lithuania...Univ. of Washington Baltic Studies...Marija Gimbutas on film

P E R S P E C T I V E S

It is said that things come in threes...be it accidents, events, whatever. No sooner had I written last month's column about the Chicago Lithuanian Youth Center's imminent closure, I received more news regarding the Church's decision to close two Lithuanian community's churches and their parishes.

I am sure that we are not the only ethnic group in the nation that is feeling the brunt of the Church's legal entanglements and their need for money to pay these off. Yet we have always been the "unknown" among the many groups with quiet, industrious individuals always traditionally working for the sake of our Church. Now it is time to defend the hearths that have nurtured many of our youth and perpetuated our love of country and God.

From Boston, we received this news... "St. Peter Lithuanian Church is among the parishes that Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley ordered closed in the Archdiocese of Boston, a list that includes two other Lithuanian parishes: Immaculate Conception in Cambridge and St. George Church in Norwood. The closings will leave only one Lithuanian parish in the archdiocese: St. Casimir Parish in Brockton... O'Malley suggested in his letter to Father Stephen Zukas of Saint Peter's Lithuanian Church that there might not be a need for a Lithuanian ministry."

From Elizabeth, New Jersey, we received similar news... "Because of the announcement of the possibility of a merge or link of Sts. Peter & Paul R.C. Lithuanian Church with Immaculate Heart of Mary/St. Patrick, we are in the process of presenting our case to the committee on why our parish should not be merged or linked."

The effect of these closings...and what may be only the beginning... is already starting an upheaval never before imagined by strong Catholic Lithuanians. In one news report, it was stated that, "some parishioners talked of leaving the Catholic Church, or cutting off contributions. And at a meeting at St. Peter Lithuanian Church in South Boston, about 150 parents voted by a show of hands to try to make the parish school independent and remove it from the archdiocese's control."

The Archdiocese of Newark calls its plan to merge/link/close selected parishes as the "New Energies" program. It is supposed to stimulate growth and giving in the newly reorganized parishes. The Lithuanian community has successfully accomplished this on its own in recent years. Sts. Peter & Paul Church has experienced a renaissance — exhibited by a blossoming Lithuanian school, choir, dance group, sports club, and weekend events.

Although this may seem to be a "sit and wait situation" for many Lithuanian-Americans, it is time for them to be proactive because they may hold the key to a solution for other Lithuanian parishes ready to be put on the chopping block.

Rasa Ardys-Juška

Editor

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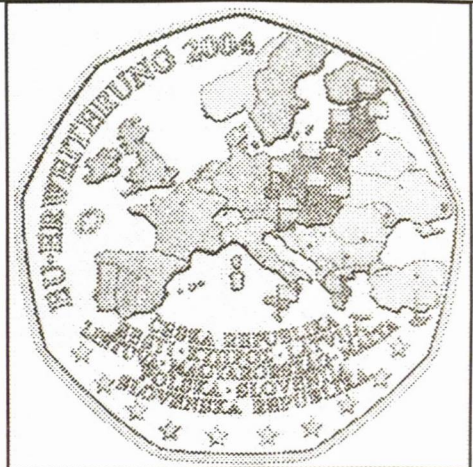
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With a flip of the coin...

The Austrian Mint has issued a .800 silver UNC 5 Euro coin to commemorate the enlargement of the European Union. The coin has a diameter of 28.5 mm. and a weight of 8 grams. 100,000 pieces were produced.

The name "LIETUVA" appears on the reverse of the coin along with the names of the other new EU member countries, as well as a map and flags. The Lithuanian flag appears to be originating from a location just south of Klaipėda on the coin.

For more on the coin, go to website www.eurocollections.com.

**On the cover:****The Pieta...**

This photo from the past comes from *Lithuania* by Vytautas Augustinas (Brooklyn, NY: 1955).

—from *The Knight* (The Lithuanian Numismatic Association newsletter)

From Lithuania...

Elections highlight June 2004

June 11 marks the start of the European Parliament election campaign in Lithuania. The elections will take place on June 13.

According to the law on the European Parliament election, the political parties running in the polls have the right to use free of charge the national mass media for campaign purposes. The National Radio and Television (LRT) will use state budget funds to broadcast campaign programs.

The thirteen political parties of Lithuania participating in the European Parliament elections have already drawn lots to find out the number of their candidate lists. There will be 244 candidates competing for thirteen seats in the European Parliament.

Along with the European Parliament election, Lithuania will hold the early presidential polls. The list of candidates registered for the presidential election were announced on May 18, the day when the presidential election campaign began. Former Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskienė and Social Security and Labor Minister Vilija Blinkevičiūtė have been registered as presidential candidates, along with Acting Parliamentary Speaker Česlovas Juršėnas, Former President Valdas Adamkus and Lithuania's former chief EU membership negotiator Petras Austrevičius. What the candidates are doing...

The election campaign of Vilija Blinkevičiūtė, the presidential nominee of the ruling New Union, is making the camp of her rival Česlovas Juršėnas nervous. Juršėnas, the candidate of the Social Democrats – the New Union's coalition partner, has found fault with the “public utterances” of Blinkevičiūtė, who is

social and labour minister, about her contributions to pension reform. The Social Democrats believe that Blinkevičiūtė is taking too much credit for herself and neglecting the role of the government or Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas, head of the Social Democrats, according to *Lietuvos Rytas*.

The daily quoted some political analysts who guess that reasons behind the Social Democrats' anger could stem from the most recent public opinion polls. Their findings show that more people plan to vote for Blinkevičiūtė than Juršėnas.

Lietuvos Rytas also reported that the five candidates for president employ different techniques to attract supportive votes. Before polls, the politicians battling for the office of the head of state increasingly resemble Santa Claus. At regular meetings with the electorate, the candidates are making things to please the people. Some contenders bring sweets, while others give voters books, pennants, pens, or T-shirts. Social Democrat Česlovas Juršėnas, himself wearing eye-glasses, has offered Internet users a 250 litas (72 euros) worth prize of eyeglasses.

According to *Respublika*, none of the five presidential candidates appeals to voters. Actually almost three-quarters of the Lithuanian population dislike Valdas Adamkus, though he is at the top of the candidate line-up. Social Democrat Česlovas Juršėnas appears to be disliked by nearly 93 percent of voters, MP Kazimiera Prunskienė by 91.5 percent, former chief euro-negotiator Petras Austrevičius by 87.6 percent, and Social and Labour Minister Vilija Blinkevičiūtė by 85.6 percent, according to a public opinion survey conducted by the

SOURCES include The Press Service of the President of Lithuania and news dailies from Lithuania.

firm Spinter.

Valdas Adamkus has more volunteer aides than his rivals, *Lietuvos Žinios* announced. Adamkus has 618 volunteer campaign workers. Petras Austrevičius only has one, Vilija Blinkevičiūtė has 98, Česlovas Juršėnas has

95, and Kazimiera Prunskienė has 54 volunteers. Adamkus's team also features famous pop music and opera singers, writers and figures of the entertainment world who, according to the presidential candidate, offered their services themselves. ♦

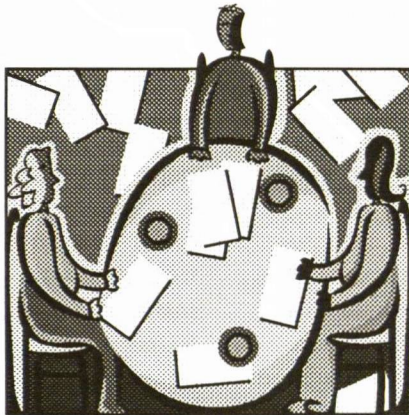
Acting Lithuanian President meets with U.S. Assistant Secretary Jones

Acting President of the Republic of Lithuania Arturas Paulauskas received the United States Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Elisabeth B. Jones on May 25th for discussions focusing on future plans regarding both countries.

At the meeting, the Ms. Jones congratulated Lithuania on successful accession to the European Union and NATO and thanked the country for its firm position to remain with the international coalition forces in Iraq as well as for Lithuania's support and contribution to the fight against terrorism.

Ms. Jones informed Paulauskas about the U.S. initiative to step up co-operation between the United States, the Baltic states, and the Nordic countries, as well as expressed an interest to step up the dialogue in strengthening the relations between the Euro-Atlantic community and the Eastern neighbors.

Paulauskas reiterated the readiness of Lithuania to actively co-operate with the countries in the East and to support democratic and economic reforms in the new neighbors. He



also voiced belief that the U.S. and the European Union members could make better use of Lithuania's experience in the area.

After Paulauskas inquired about the possibility of a visa-free regime for Lithuanian citizens to travel to the U.S., Ms. Jones said that the introduction of a visa-free regime is a long and complicated process but

that the U.S. is happy to open consultations on the issue.

Arturas Paulauskas thanked the U.S. Administration for their strong support in Lithuania's integration with the EU and NATO and expressed belief that Lithuania will further seek to maintain a vigorous relationship between the two countries as well as contribute to the Europe-U.S. co-operation and strengthening of democracy in the region. ♦

Guntis Šmidchens

Ten Years of Baltic Studies at the University of Washington: Glancing Back and Gazing Forward

Ten years! A decade of Baltic Studies at the University of Washington is now history. So much about this program makes us proud. Thinking back to 1994 when the program opened its doors, it almost seems as if we were actors in that classic American film, "Field of Dreams," where a voice echoes in the dreamer's head, "If you build it, they will come!" Except we weren't actors, and the story is real.

We did build the Baltic program, and students have come. More than 200 persons have studied Estonian, Latvian or Lithuanian language to date, and another 200 besides these language students have taken courses taught in English about the Baltic countries. A continuous series of lectures, conferences, and concerts at the UW has ensured that knowledge about Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia continues to grow, on campus and off.

We are particularly proud that so many people worked together to make this program a success. There continue to be two main partners behind the UW Baltic Studies Program: the University on the one hand, and the off-campus community on the other hand. The University has funded the "startup costs" and day-to-day operations of the program, while the community donated money to ensure a permanent source of funds for the program.

The UW's total contribution is difficult to

quantify, but a portion of the picture develops if we count dollars that the University spent on Baltic courses, students, and books. Since 1994, for example, the UW has spent about \$405,000 on instructors for the Baltic languages, history, and culture. Another \$140,000 went toward fellowships for outstanding graduate students who studied the Estonian, Latvian, or Lithuanian language.

The UW Library spent about \$140,000 to maintain its growing collection of new books from the Baltic. The Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI), a national project also founded by the UW in 1994, has cost an additional \$228,000. The money used by the UW to start up the program, totaling a bit under one million dollars over ten years, came from sources that are not permanent. Federal grants and "soft" money in the UW's budget could be allotted from year to year, but not forever,

This is where the community (or more precisely the three Baltic communities and their friends) stepped in. In 1996, a committee of community representatives was established to begin raising money for an Endowed Fund for Baltic Studies at the University of Washington. Endowments are a permanent source of money because the donations are not spent but invested. A portion of the earnings is then available for the program each year; the rest is reinvested to make sure the endowment grows to

GUNTIS ŠMIDCHENS is a faculty member of the Department of Scandinavian Studies, UW Baltic Studies Program and is the Director of the Baltic Studies Summer Institute.

keep up with inflation.

The minimum amount needed to start a UW endowment back in 1996 was \$25,000, but in the first round of donations, the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian communities responded with over \$50,000! We want to ensure that our children's children will have a place where they can study their heritage; we want our cultures and languages to be equal to others taught at American universities; we want to ensure that Americans don't confuse 'Baltic' and 'Balkan'. Such were some of the ideas expressed in 1996 by Professor Vidmantas Raišys, who signed the endowment agreement on behalf of the Baltic communities. The ideas are as current today as they were back then.

The Baltic communities rolled their sleeves up and set to work, and have since been organizing a continuous series of auctions, benefit dances, dinners, book club meetings, and other fundraising events. The Baltic Program's total endowment today is nearing one million dollars!

The Baltic communities inspired Seattle Swedes, Norwegians, Finns, Icelanders, and Danes. Scandinavians and Balts soon began meeting to discuss how together they could help raise the UW Scandinavian and Baltic programs to "the next level." Their answer — a super-endowment of thirteen million dollars that would enhance and expand the Scandinavian and Baltic presence in the university, in the Pacific Northwest region, and in the nation as a whole. (The Baltic portion of this target is three million, of which we already have almost one million). We are already national leaders in the study of Scandinavia and the Baltic, but we want to do even better. Please watch for updates on the future "Scandinavian and Baltic Center' at the University of Washington.

As we glance back at all that we have accomplished in the UW Baltic Studies Program's first ten years, we build confidence to look into the future. What is in the works?

I'll mention three specific projects and three big goals ("projects" are nearing completion in the coming months, while 'goals' are open-

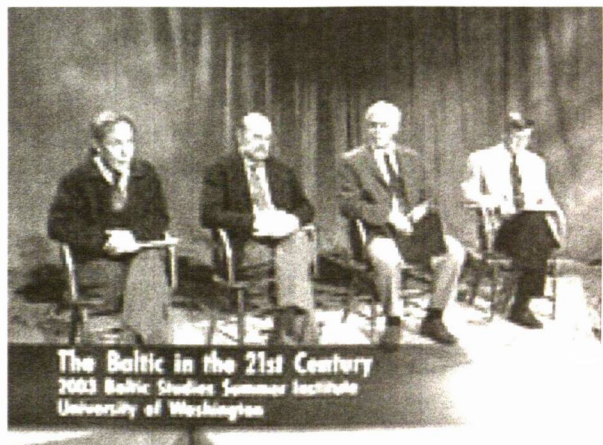
ended activities that will continue to grow and expand).

Project Number 1: Online Lithuanian Language Textbook

Over the past two years, Rimas Žilinskas, currently the Lithuanian language instructor at the UW, has been developing an online course for Lithuanian language learners. Plans are to have the course posted on the Lithuanian language website in the summer of 2004. For information, write to rimas@u.washington.edu.

Project Number 2: TV broadcast, "Baltics in the 21st Century"

Four leading specialists on the Baltic States met last summer to discuss their visions of where the Baltic is headed in the coming century. We filmed this panel in the UW TV studio. The result was edited down to fit a one-hour broadcast slot on the Research Channel for airing in April 2004. (Here in Seattle it would have aired on the Research Channel – Comcast Cable channel 76). The film will also be broadcast online and available in the Research Channel Video Library, <http://www.researchchannel.org>.



Panel speakers: Toivo U. Raun, Indiana University; Walter C. Clemens, Boston University; Juris Dreifelds, Brock University; and Saulius Sužiedelis, Millersville University.

Project Number 3: The Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI)

Intensive Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian language courses will again bring students of all ages and backgrounds to Seattle this summer, June 19 to August 20. For the first time in its eleven-year history, BALSSI will offer intensive Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian language courses on two levels: basic and intermediate. "Basic" is for anybody, but "Intermediate" is particularly well suited for persons who have some skills, but need to review grammar, reading, and writing, and practice conversation (somebody like YOU?).

A series of cultural events and guest lectures will add cultural enhancement for the language students; these events will also be open to the public. Please watch for announcements or visit the BALSSI website for updates: <http://depts.washington.edu/baltic/balssi/>.

As much as we'd like to keep BALSSI here forever, this is our last summer to host it for a while. In 2005-2006, it will move on to Indiana University, which is one of the ten American universities that sponsor the annual event. UW will continue to contribute money to BALSSI when it moves to Indiana, then to UCLA after that, and we plan to host it again in 2013!

Goal Number 1: A leader in teaching about Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

Ours is the only American university to regularly teach all three languages: Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian. This will always be the core of our program. We feel very strongly that language is critical for a student to gain a complete picture of a Baltic country "from the insider's point of view". Results of this training for students are gradually emerging: The UW Baltic Studies Program's students have already written four dissertations on Baltic topics, and four more are currently in process. Our students have produced fifteen Masters Theses and fifteen undergraduate theses. Student by student, research project by research project, we are building up American knowl-



*BALSSI Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian classes
June 27, 2003.*

Photo: <http://depts.washington.edu/baltic/balssi/>

edge of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Goal Number 2: The UW Library – A national resource for knowledge about the Baltics

We believe that we have a responsibility, not only to our own students but also to all Americans who want information about the Baltics. The UW Library already boasts the largest American university collection of new Baltic books; these books are made available to thousands of libraries nationwide through the Interlibrary Loan program.

The past year has seen expansion into two new areas: film and music. In the summer of 2003, the library acquired 25 recent Estonian and Latvian films, with plans to expand and build a Lithuanian collection, too. No other American library is collecting Baltic films. Choral music is another frontier. Although Baltic composers and choirs are world leaders in their field, their works are difficult to find in American libraries. We plan to change that.

Goal Number 3: A bridge to the Baltics

The year 2000 saw our first experiment in

bringing a group of students to experience the Baltic firsthand, as the 40-member UW Chamber Singers toured and performed in six Baltic cities. The Singers plan to return to the Baltic in 2005. Soon after that, a class of UW students will spend a semester of study there. The UW Office of International Exchanges is working on plans to start bringing more students to Seattle from Baltic universities, too.

“What is / what can be”

The UW College of Arts and Sciences recently adopted a new logo and motto: “Understanding what is / Imagining what can be.” Ten years ago, when we “imagined” that there could and should be a Baltic Studies Program at the University of Washington, we did not foresee all that has now become a reality. There was no comparable program anywhere in the world to show us what we needed to do. Today, this program “is” here. There also “is” an Endowed Fund that was donated by many people who imagined that the program could and should be permanent. The endowment will support the core of the program – Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian language courses – in perpetuity.

Many of the projects and goals I discussed in this article go beyond the core of language courses. They are current examples of the University of Washington “imagining” what can be, and then mobilizing as many resources as possible to see if it can be done. But it is the Baltic Studies Endowed Fund which will ensure that all aspects of the program continue permanently. As the endowment grows, it will be able to support parts of the program that currently depend on non-permanent money: courses taught in English about the Baltics; scholarships for students studying Baltic lan-

guages; library acquisitions; the Baltic Studies Summer Institute; and much more.

As I glance back into ten years of history, I feel proud of what we – the University and the community – have accomplished. But I can’t look back too long, because my gaze is continually drawn to the possibilities of the future. Won’t you join us? Let’s all imagine where we want the UW Baltic Studies Program to go, and then let’s all work together to make our dreams become reality! ♦

University of Washington
Baltic Studies Program

From Belili Productions

A FILM ABOUT MARIJA GIMBUTAS - LITHUANIAN ARCHEOLOGIST

Marija Gimbutas, the late Professor Emeritus of Archaeology at UCLA and author of the ground breaking book on Neolithic religion, *The Language of the Goddess*, is the subject of a recently-released documentary film, *Signs Out of Time*, filmed and produced by Donna Read and Starhawk. Together, Read and Starhawk are Belili Productions. The film is narrated by Olympia Dukakis with traditional Lithuanian folk songs and original music by Stellamara.

According to the Belili Productions' film description literature, the film "weaves together interviews, archival footage, photographs, and narration to portray the scope of Marija's life and work. Using animation, artifacts, interview footage of Marija herself, and both her supporters and critics, her studies, excavations and publications, the depth and breadth of her scholarship, and the controversy around her theories are explored."

"The documentary traces her life story, the high regard in which she was held in the early part of her career, and the controversy that erupted when she dared to interpret her findings about the peaceable, Goddess centered cultures of early Europe. Gimbutas became a major influence on the feminist spirituality movement, on artists, poets, philosophers and social thinkers. And if her theories are correct, then peace, reverence for the earth and the honoring of life are not only human capabilities,

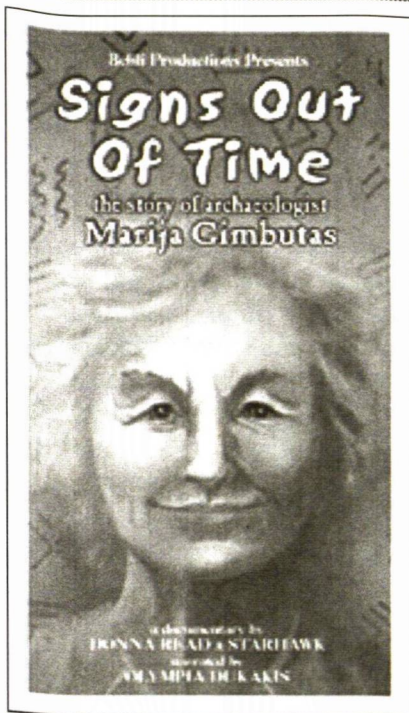


they are the very underpinnings of European civilization itself." (Belili)

A LITTLE ABOUT PROF. GIMBUTAS...

"Marija came to her understanding of the past out of the rich and tumultuous experience of her own life, refracted through the lens of a rigorous European education and interdisciplinary scholarship. Born in Lithuania, a country much invaded but still preserving many of its ancient traditions and beliefs, she fled with her family during World War II and eventually came to the United States. She was a Peabody Fellow at Harvard throughout the '50s, when two libraries were still closed to women. Later she became a professor at UCLA, where she founded the department of Indo-European studies and directed five major excavations in Eastern Europe." (ibid)

BELILI PRODUCTIONS is a collaboration between Starhawk, author of many books, and Donna Read, director of the Women and Spirituality series at the National Film Board of Canada..



“Gimbutas grew up steeped in that country's rich folk tradition of stories, songs and mythology. Her education, pursued in Lithuania and as a refugee in war-torn Europe, included a broad range of languages, linguistics and archaeology. In the United States, she originally concentrated on the Bronze Age of Eastern Europe and was widely acknowledged as an expert in this area. When she turned to the Neolithic era, Gimbutas brought unique interdisciplinary skills to her reconstruction of culture and religion. Not content to simply catalog data, she insisted that archaeology must tackle questions of meaning and interpretation.” (ibid)

“When Marija Gimbutas died in 1994, she was already considered by many to be one of the most influential and controversial archaeologists of this century. At a time when most scholars of ancient history confined themselves to recording and describing data, she dared to look for meaning. Her interpretations engage fundamental issues: Is war inevitable? Have men always dominated women? What are the

true roots of Western culture?” (ibid)

“Gimbutas' findings reveal an ancient widespread culture which flourished throughout Europe between 6500 and 3500 BCE, in the era historians call the Neolithic. This civilization was radically different from images of kings, warriors, and conquering gods that previously dominated our view of the past.” (ibid)

“Her excavations and interpretations show, at the dawn of civilization, a society stretching across Europe from the Danube to the North Sea in which women had high status and power along with men. Egalitarian and peaceful, “Old Europe” existed for thousands of years without war. Hundreds of female figurines were found. Paintings, sculptures of birth-giving goddesses, pottery figures of bird headed deities and sacred serpents all honored the regenerative powers of nature.” (ibid)

“Gimbutas' descriptions of the life affirming culture of Old Europe have sparked enormous controversy. Her theories have been widely acclaimed by feminists, by women and men in the growing earth-based spirituality movement, by artists, dancers, novelists, and by many historians and archaeologists. But they have also been attacked by other scholars, her methods criticized, and her interpretations denied.” (ibid)

“The debate is of far more than mere historical interest, for Gimbutas' work cuts to the heart of basic questions about human nature and possibilities.” (ibid)

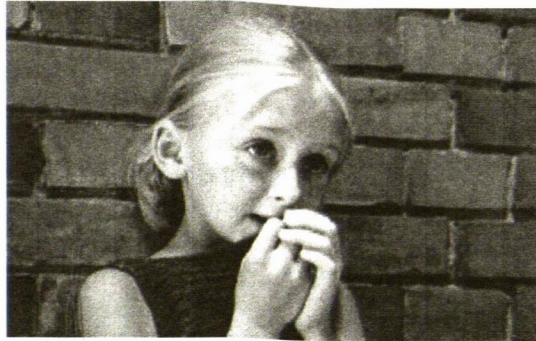
To learn more about ordering this film, please go to page 17 for more information. ◆

The History of Lithuanian Cinema

The first public movie show took place in Lithuania, Vilnius, in 1897, two years after the legalization of the official date of cinematography. In 1905, the first cinema theatres were founded; by about 1911, there were about 30 of them all over Lithuania. Films shown came from Italy, Russia, after the First World War - America, a bit later - Germany.

Many of the researchers think that the pioneer of Lithuanian cinematography is Kaunas photographer Vladislovas Starevičius, who in 1908-1909 founded the fundamentals of volumetric animation (that is questionable, because Starevičius is considered a Russian, Polish, French (he lived in these countries after 1919) creator. Cameraman Antanas Račiūnas, a Lithuanian American, filmed the sights of his native village for the Lithuanian immigrants. His films had big success in the colonies of Lithuania's emigrants in the States

During the years of independent Lithuania, individuals who showed their talents included talented cameramen and filmmakers Stepas Udzonas, Stasys Vainalavičius, Antanas Žibas, and brothers Kazys and Mečys Motūzai from



Inga Mickyte in "The Beauty", 1969, Žebriūnas's film.

America. In 1926, film studios "Lietfilmas" and "Eye" were founded.

With independence came freedom to experiment and produce many memorable films. Several short films included a farce "A Doctor Under Compul-

sion" (1927) and patriotic film "Soldier - Defender of Lithuania" (1928). A full-length film "Onytė and Jonelis" (1931) agitated the youth to stay in villages rather than travel to the big cities. The first Lithuanian sound-film was "Fatty's Dream" (1938), directed by Henrikas Kačinskas.

A great number of these films were lost. Some ideas of the serious Lithuanian culturists, Juozas Vaičkus and Borisas Dauguvietis, to create a valuable full-length feature film – such projects as "Slaughter of Kražiai", "Birutė's Song" – were never realized.

After the Second World War, the distribution and production of films was in the hands of the too ideological Soviet authority. The screens of cinema theatres and, popular in that time, itinerant cinema were flooded with the Soviet propaganda films. Film production in the first post-war years was limited to these same propaganda chronicles. Nevertheless, in

SAULIUS MACAITIS AND JURGA VERIKIENĖ originally wrote this article for Home of Lithuanian Art at www.culture.lt. Photos from archives at <http://teatras.mch.mii.lt/Kinas/Kinas.en.htm> (The Lithuanian Theatre, Music and Cinema Museum).

the topical newsreel of Viktoras Starožas and Liudgardas Maciulevičius "The Liberated Land" (1945) there were valuable slips in the historical point of view.

The first feature film, advertised as a Lithuanian one, is "Marytė" (1947), which had nothing in common with Lithuania except the landscape and the Lithuanian names of the characters. This was produced by Moscow film studio "Mosfilm" with Russian film director Vera Strojeva. The film's only aim was to prove that Lithuanian people looked forward to the Soviet rule. The same could be said about the film "Dawn near Nemunas" (1953, dir. Alexandr Faincimer), which, with the help of kitsch, eulogized the collectivization in Lithuanian villages. There were some more such films, which were made basically by Russian film directors of the second echelon.

The first generation of Lithuanian national film directors succeeded, because they came to cinema production after Stalin's death, working under "détente" conditions. The first was film director Vytautas Žalakevičius (1930-1996), graduating from the Institute of Cinematography, Moscow (the only educational institution allowing to acquire a professional filmmaking degree).

In time, Žalakevičius managed to consolidate a group of like-minded people. The initial stage of Lithuanian film directors' unification was revealed very vividly in the film "The Living Heroes" (1960), which was not only awarded the regional and international prizes at Karlovy Vary Film Festival, but, most importantly, consolidated different direction styles into the art ensemble: the social realism of Marijonas Giedrys, the poetical manner of Arūnas Žebriūnas, the inclination for heroic dynamic of Bronius Babkauskas, and the inclination for analyzing psychology of Žalakevičius.

All the Lithuanian directors' heroes of the majority of their films were children, and here began the tradition of Lithuanian cinema. While talking about the subtle child's world, it was possible to avoid the cavils of Soviet cen-



Director and script writer Vytautas Žalakevičius during the shooting of "That Sweet Word -Freedom!".

sorship. This tradition is followed in Žebriūnas's many films, in Algirdas Araminas's "When I Was a Child" (1968), "A Small Confession" (1972), and "Andrius" (1980). This was notable also in a later films by directors Romas Lileikis and Stasys Motiejūnas, "I Am" (1990, the Grand Prix at Costa do Estoriljo, Portugal Film Festival) and in Raimundas Banionis's "I Don't Remember Your Face" (1989) and "Children from "America" Hotel" (1990).

Other themes of Lithuanian feature films were life in a post-war village, and struggles between patriots and procommunists. Under the conditions of Soviet rule, the latter had to win both physically and morally; nevertheless, many films of the "détente" period attempted to show the polysemantic dialectics of that struggle.

In the artistic point of view, these films were different: the dynamic epos "Nobody Wanted to Die" (1965, dir. Žalakevičius), the psychological "A Staircase to the Sky" (1966, dir. Raimondas Vabalas), a detective story "Wounded Silence" (1979, dir. Algimantas Kundelis), a tragicomedy "Moon's Lithuania" (1997, dir. Gytis Lukšas), but all of them are linked with their themes. They were "masculine" films, which in some sense spread the myth about the Lithuanian cinema school,



Director Raimundas Banionis and the performer of the main role Eleonora Koriznaitė during the shooting of "My Little Wife", 1984.

popularized Lithuanian actors abroad, and did not allow for actresses to show up on the screen.

Lithuanian life in the Soviet period was revealed far less vividly. Here it could be mentioned some sharp, psychological films "The Chronicle of One Day" (1963, dir. Žalakevičius) and "Summer Starts in June" (1969, dir. Vabalas). Since their destiny was very difficult and full of conflicts, Lithuanian film direction avoided this dangerous medium for a long time. In the last years of the Soviet State, the Lithuanian cinematographers were choosing safe foreign themes and adapting the works of Western classical literature.

Purely national and patriotic notes were already penetrating the formed, distinctive Lithuanian documentary school in Soviet years, alongside the official line.

The Rebirth fell on Lithuanian cinematographers unexpectedly. Being financed all the time (if they succeeded to evade the barriers of censorship) by Moscow, they, at least the older generation never worried about the economical and financial side of film production. As it

turned out, to change psychologically under new conditions was very difficult or even impossible. The more so, as there began competition, new creators made their debuts.

Small film studios were founded; the most serious of which seems to be "Kinema". It let a number of talented creators out to the world. The Lithuanian Film Studio lost its monopoly position and now exists more as the basis, rendering services for foreign cinema and television teams. The State, responding to the purposes of the Culture Ministry, is able to finance two or three features and about ten documentaries per year. In Soviet times, they produced five to seven features and about twenty documentary films.

The younger generation of cinematographers, who came to work under these conditions, is strengthened from their first steps in the art. They are educated in different cinema schools (not only that of Moscow, but at FAMU, Prague; Lithuanian emigrant Mekas's Cinema School, Tbilisi; and the Lithuanian Academy of Music). It is too early to talk about their achievements or the direction of today's cinema. There are some remarkable individuals, but their works are not well known in Lithuania yet.

Since the system of film distribution lost the monopoly also (there remains only one subsidized firm "Lietuvos Kinas" – "Lithuanian Cinema"), the screens of cinema theatres now are overloaded with American productions. In many instances there is no place for European and, especially, national films. ♦

C U R R E N T E V E N T S

Baltic states get highest ratings for freedom of speech

The non-profit, non-partisan organization Freedom House has released its annual report on freedom of speech in Europe, which also covers the former USSR countries. The report, Nations in Transit 2004, gives the Baltic states the highest evaluation of all former USSR republics.

Freedom House's ratings are based on a scale of 1 to 7, and assigned depending on a country's democratic development, electoral processes, civil society, corruption, and constitutional, legislative and judicial frameworks.

Rating 1 represents the highest level of democratic development, and 7 the lowest.

According to the Freedom House data, the freedom of speech situation is the worst in Russia and Belarus - 5.25 and 6.54 points, respectively. Ukraine received a rating of 4.88 points, Moldova - as many. The best situation has been noted in the Baltic countries - Estonia (a rating of 1.92 points), Lithuania (2.13) and Latvia (2.17). ♦

Klaipėda to join Baltic Sail regatta

The Lithuanian seaport of Klaipėda signed a contract with the committee of the international regatta Baltic Sail on its admission to the league of host cities.

After Klaipėda was not included on the list of Baltic ports hosting the prestigious regatta Tall Ship's Races 2007, the city sought alternative ways of attracting sailing vessels to Lithuania. The mayor of the German city of Rostok offered Klaipėda the opportunity to join Baltic Sail and organize it during the city's annual Sea Festival.

The first regatta of Baltic Sail took place in 1997, with four host ports: Helsingor, Denmark; Gdynia, Poland; Karlskrona, Sweden; and Rostok. The list eventually extended to include Lubeck, Germany and Norrköping, Sweden. ♦

Lithuanians want to use EU money to create more jobs

Lithuanians want to use the money from the European Union Structural and Cohesion funds to create more jobs, expand social support for pensioners, encourage small business, finance the health sector, and construct new roads.

Member of Parliament Vytautas Kvietauskas and a candidate in the election for the European Parliament commented on the results of a survey called "How to best use EU fund money?" The survey was conducted by Vilnius Television and the Žinių Radijas program Europulsas. Several hundred people from Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Panevėžys, and other cities participated in the survey.

According to Kvietauskas, the residents of Lithuania participating in the survey also sug-

gested additional funding for law enforcement, the expansion and creation of ecological zones, and the education of youth.

Kvietauskas says that Lithuania should receive about 10 billion litas (2.898 billion euros) over a period of three years (2004-2006) from European Union Structural and Cohesion funds. Lithuania will receive financial support in the future as well.

"It is important to consider the wishes of the people when distributing the fund money... They have the right to express their opinion concerning where to direct that money," Kvietauskas, the host of the radio program Europulsas, told ELTA. ♦

—News from The Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians.

Events for the summer...

PICNICS...

July 25, Sunday — Immaculate Conception Convent, 630 Liberty Highway, Putnam, CT

On the Lithuanian Sisters' beautiful convent grounds. Lithuanian food, dark bread baked by the Sisters, lottery, crafts, Lithuanian decorations for the home, Lithuanian CDs and cassettes, etc.

Visit Mindaugas' castle, apartments managed by the Sisters for senior citizens, also Matulaitis Nursing Home managed by the Lithuanian Sisters.

Program performed by 100+ Lithuanian campers from Camp Neringa, Vermont. Be one of the several thousand Lithuanians who will be at the picnic that day! ♦

July 25 (Sunday) 12 Noon

Annual picnic, bring your friends too! Lake County Forest Preserve Shelter A, Route 21, Half Day, Illinois. ♦

LAUNA Basketball and Volleyball Sports Meet (women's, youth, and men's teams)

Sponsors: Lithuanian American Chapter of Bridgeport and Lithuanian Sports Club of Connecticut at the H. Hubbell Gymnasium and Wheeler Recreation Center, University of Bridgeport
126 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, 06601
June 18, Thursday, 7:00 pm
June 19, Friday, all day
June 19, Saturday, 7:30 pm – Concert by Aidas Kupčinskas and his "Small Farm Animals" group from Boston. Teams and spectators will be from the U.S., Canada, and Lithuania. ♦

*LAUNA - Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America

Newly published...Lithuanian-English/English-Lithuanian Dictionary & Phrasebook

Written by Jurgita Baltrušaitytė, this compact *Dictionary & Phrasebook* will prove an indispensable reference. A compact grammar section and a pronunciation guide are included, along with a phrasebook designed for travelers, businesspersons, students, and diplomats. The bilingual dictionary designates part of speech and case declension, and gives crucial everyday vocabulary.

The author, Jurgita Baltrušaitytė, was born in Vilnius, Lithuania. She has taught Lithuanian both as an assistant and as an instructor. She obtained her master's degree in English literature from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and is currently working towards a doctorate degree in business administration at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Highlights of this *Dictionary & Phrasebook* include:

- ♦Comprehensive grammar section that explains the basic elements of the Lithuanian language, including case declension,
- ♦Compact and easy-to-use pronunciation guide provided,
- ♦More than 6,000 total dictionary entries,
- ♦Crucial vocabulary and phrases for business, leisure, and everyday use,
- ♦Listing of parts of speech and case declensions where necessary,
- ♦Practical cultural information for travelers, businesspeople, and students.

The book is published by Hippocrene Books. Publication date is April 2004 and costs \$11.95 paperback. It can be ordered by telephone – 212-685-4371, by email: orders@hippocrenebooks.com, or by writing to Hippocrene Books, Inc., 171 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. ♦

The Gimbutas film can be ordered

The film, "Signs Out of Time", at present, is on tour at select cities and can be ordered directly from Bellili Productions. The 60-minute video is available as either a DVD or VHS tape in North American NTSC format, priced at \$29.85. It is available as VHS tape only in European/Australian PAL format, priced at \$39.85. California orders must include 8.5% sales tax.

Shipping and handling will be added based on the amount of purchase, and videos will be shipped parcel post. Orders over 4 tapes will be shipped as separate orders. [Shipping and Handling Rates (Parcel Post): \$4.00 (one item); \$6.00 (two items); \$7.00 (three items); \$8.50 (four items)]

The mail order form is at the bottom of this article. It should be filled out and mailed to:

US and other orders -- please send form from below and check or money order (made payable to):

Belili Productions

742 Treat Ave
San Francisco, CA 94110
Phone: 415-641-5872

Canadian orders -- please send form and check or money order (made payable to):

Great Atlantic and Pacific Film Company
Box 2733
Morin Heights, Quebec JOR 2H0, Canada

For more information or to contact Bellili, email: info@belili.org or go to their webpage at: <http://www.belili.org> OR <http://www.gimbutas.org>. ◆

Quantity	Title	Price
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	<i>Signs Out of Time</i> VHS -- N. American NTSC	\$29.85
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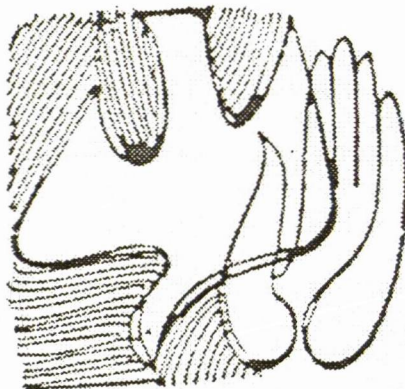
Sr. Margarita Bareikaitė

Celebrating Pentecost... Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Easter is over, our most important feast as Christians — believers in the Resurrection, but our Easter joy continues. In the Middle Ages, the feast of Pentecost was modeled on the solemnity of Easter; it honors the Holy Spirit as well as the Birthday of the Church.

During the Sundays of Easter we read the Acts Of the Apostles written by St. Luke telling us about the work of the Holy Spirit in the early Church and about the conversions that happened when the apostles and early missionaries spoke under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

The Church begins in the heart of a person who comes to believe in Jesus. Sometimes we forget that the Church is not so much an institution as a community of believers. At the Last Supper, Jesus said to His disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments..." Jesus is speaking here of the person who truly loves God and in turn is loved by God, thus forming a tiny community of love. There are many references in Holy Scripture about the very intimate presence of Christ within the person who believes and is filled with grace through the work of the Holy Spirit. In His parable of the vine and the branches, Je-



sus gives us an image of that very personal, very intimate communion: "Abide in me and I in you."

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of Jesus and of the Father. He (or She, since "spirit" is feminine in Hebrew) is a creative force who fills the whole earth and renews it. The Holy Spirit, then, is a life-giving

force that changes from within: changes people, changes families, changes nations — if we open ourselves up and allow it to work in and through us.

The Holy Spirit consecrates both the body and soul of the individual Christian making each of us a temple or shrine dedicated to God. St. Paul liked to use this image in his preaching: "You are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you."

The presence of the Holy Spirit within us makes us able to be witnesses for Christ in everything that we do. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to truly love one another, to forgive and to act like Christians in an unchristian world. The Holy Spirit opens up the Word of Scripture for us and makes us understand it with our hearts. He leads us to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and to abide with Him, just as the disciples did after the Resurrection. ♦

SR. MARGARITA BAREIKAITĖ belongs to the order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Lithuanian order in Putnam, CT. and is the chairperson of the Religious Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

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