



Baltic Cities Bulletin

3/2000

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Culture in Baltic Cities



UBC has 99 member cities!

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Baltic Cities Bulletin



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COVER PICTURE

*Concert of medieval music
in ruins, Visby, Gotland
photo by Lars Hasselrot*

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Dear UBC Friends,

This issue of the bulletin is devoted to Culture. Even if only a minor part of the city spending is for culture, it is nevertheless an important and strategic issue. Culture is important for the well-being of our citizens, and for the development of the city. A city without an attractive cultural life will not attract much needed business or skilled work force in the new economy – on the contrary, the city will slowly suffocate without intellectual stimulation from culture. So I am happy that this issue gives a rather bright picture of the culture in the cities!

The year 2000 is soon ended. It has, among others, been characterised by an increased recognition of the role of local authorities in the enlargement process in Baltic Sea Region. The voice of UBC is heard and it also gives results.

We have for some time argued for the need of financing of small and medium sized co-operation projects between local and regional authorities. Three years ago there were a lot of such programs, but there has been very little such EU programs since then. We have also argued for better co-operation between Phare and other EU programs.

There has been a need for a better adaptation of the rules for cross-border co-operation with maritime borders. The lack of land borders in the Baltic Sea Region has been a serious disadvantage for our region when creating cross-border co-operation projects.

The latest news from Brussels is that very much of our demands have been partly met in the coming Interreg III. There will be a facility for small and medium sized projects for the Baltic Sea Region within Interreg III B. This means in practice that EU has adapted to the lack of land-borders in the Baltic Sea Region. And there are signals about better co-ordination between Phare and cross-borders programs of EU.

But we are not alone in the arguing. BSSSC has experienced similar needs among the regional authorities, and has argued in Brussels for similar things. The matter has been brought up in many meetings in connection with CBSS, where the EU Commission is a member. The response from CBSS has been very positive. This shows that co-operation and co-ordination pays.

UBC has for some years now argued for an increased co-operation among the actors in our region in order to get a stronger voice, especially in the light of the enlargement process. Council of Baltic States has emerged as kind of an umbrella organisation for this process. It is probably needed since I have a feeling that the EU Commission looks at our region with wonder and perhaps a little of confusion. The level of co-operation in our region is unique in Europe and even in the world. I have for example met the idea that the organisations in our region should merge in order to decrease the number of voices from our region.

Of course this cannot be done. Our organisations represent their own interest and each of them are needed. But it is also true that some co-ordination is needed in order to give strength to our arguments and opinions. We have to co-operate in order to be successful.

The Nordic Dimension will be an important issue the next year. Today it is rather unknown and abstract among our cities, but I believe that we will notice it more and understand it better in the coming year.

The next UBC General Conference will take place in October 2001. The city of Rostock is already well ahead with the plans. The theme will be "Social Justice in the new Millennium". It is very important that we bring up the social issues on such a high level as our General Conference. It is important, not only for the sake of solidarity, but also for continuing stable political and economic development in the Baltic Sea Region.

I wish you all a very pleasant Christmas and a fruitful New Year!

With Baltic Sea Greetings

Anders Engström

UBC President

Kalmar, December 2000

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"Flying over water"



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I. CULTURE IN BALTIC CITIES

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF UBC COMMISSION ON CULTURE

ESPOO. It is inspiring to find touches of other Baltic cultures in your own culture - maybe in the everyday language or in the name of some place in your near environment. In Finnish language you can find very old loans from other languages of the Baltic Sea area.

Today the UBC gives us an instrument for cooperation and feeling of togetherness. For many cities the motivation for the membership might be environmental or economic cooperation, but the union offers also a wide forum for cultural, educational and other cooperation.

In many aspects of culture there are good reasons to expect the Baltic Sea cooperation

SZCZECIN. The last decade witnesses a series of distinguished cultural initiatives in the BSR. Five Baltic cities have been European Culture Capitals. Many cities are celebrating anniversaries, each time recalling Baltic and European links. The Hansa cities gather to present the cultural potential of the BSR. There are countless cultural initiatives on the Baltic scene, like:

- ARS BALTICA grants its logo to ambitious projects (Baltic Triennial of Photography, Probaltica Music Festival, Biblioteka Baltica, JazzBaltica and others)

- ArtGenda - a network of 18 Baltic Sea cities with its basic project "Baltic Biennial of Young Artist", organized in Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki.

TARTU. When I was a small boy, there was a map of the world in our house. In those days opportunities to travel were scarce. Sometimes a postcard from abroad reached us, or a traveller brought a souvenir. I had never met a foreigner.

In my imaginary world, I travelled far and wide on the map. In Africa there were huge black men with rings in the noses. In remote Canada Eskimos were hunting for seals. But the closer neighbours were equally unknown. In Norway there were genuine Vikings. Finns raced teams of reindeer along the Polar Circle.

Culture around the Baltic Sea is so varied,

will become a rising trend in the next few years. There exists the traditional cultural cooperation between the Nordic countries and also channels for cooperation with cultural institutions and cities in the European Union. In my opinion there is combination in creating a new future and "back to the roots" in the cultural cooperation in the region.

For example music and art education is an issue with different traditions and good practices in many countries. The next annual meeting of the Commission on Culture in Finland September 2001 will concentrate on this topic. Another favourite is choir music.

- Partnership for Culture Project for artists, politicians and intellectuals from the Baltic Sea Region, Belarus and Ukraine
- Activities of the UBC through its Commission on Culture (Culture and Art Festivals, Baltic Contemporary Art Biennial, MARE ARTICUM).

The Nordic Council of Ministers, Like Danish Cultural Institute and Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art support the same pro Baltic Sea policy. Sweden has promoted the idea of Gotland as a Baltic Sea cultural center and started two dynamic institutions: The Baltic Center for Writers and Translators and the Baltic Art Center. Gdansk is an important actor of the Baltic cultural scene with its Baltic Sea Culture Center.

but at the same time so similar. Many similar circumstances, primarily wars, conquests of land and the trading routes have shaped the history of the countries and the peoples.

If you can find your way out of the air-conditioned airports, fast food restaurants and hotels with international TV channels, you will discover that our neighbours are similar to us - we have the same worries, joys and values.

Our prime aim in the UBC Cultural Commission could be establishing a network of cooperation between people and their cultural activities. It is essential

The cultural phenomena reflect the time when they have been developed. A most important question is which kind of cultural heritage our children and grandchildren will receive and which kind of possibilities for creativity there will be. The culture of young people can also be very different to the culture of older generation.

Today it's easier than ever before to create new contacts and to find financial support to different projects. The natural conclusion is: *carpe diem!*

Dr. Riitta Hurme

Vice-Chairperson of the CoC

A lot of independent networks have also appeared, like the Baltic Music Network or NICE. The cyber space concentrates a lot of cultural activities like the Baltic Interface Net. Szczecin's Baltic experiences cannot be overestimated. They enabled Polish inhabitants settled after 1945 to gain better identification and knowledge of the city's.

The end of the century has brought new relations into the region, where the ideology and weapons were replaced by peaceful tools and proposals. The Baltic Sea collaboration by the artistic and cultural circles seems to have long and positive perspectives.

Mr Sławomir Szafrański

Chairman of the CoC

for people working in the field of culture to have contacts and friends in other countries to whom we can write, give a call - to receive helpful advice.

Friendly relations between people grow into a cultural cooperation between nations and cities. Then we can tell our children and grandchildren who are standing at the map how interesting and exciting the life of our neighbours can be. Somewhere far from us is another child asking his or her father the same questions about our country.

Mr Hannes Astok

Member of the CoC Board



Visby. The anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss wrote that the real contribution of a culture is not a list of all its productions, but the qualities that distinguish it from other cultures.

Culture tells who you are and to where you belong. It makes it easier for others to communicate with you. Innovative works of art represent an artist's stand in a context of tradition and cultural diversity and are of universal interest because they may give new images of life today, or tomorrow, even if created in a very personal process.

UBC is a very useful network for collegial contacts and for learning from

each other. I hope that this issue of the UBC Cities Bulletin will be well spread.

An important event is the Session next year about cultural education. It is important that young people and producers of art will have more influence on international cooperation. They need stimulation and can often mirror cultural currents as few others.

Our Commission is the only international, neutral forum for culture in the Baltic region. Its network of cultural officials stimulates to meetings of cultural expressions and joint cultural adventures. This could make us all more conscious and tolerant, and let our friendly and

stimulating neighbourhood expand.

Nowadays the cultural life is as among the most decisive factors for economy, creativity, social life, tourism, and even health. The cities of the UBC are important for regional development as centers for cultural education, institutions and events. Many successful processes on Gotland have been initiated by cultural workers and enthusiasts, with rich imagination, sensitivity and competence in the languages of cultural expressions. Such initiatives should be supported in order to enhance development.

Mr Olov Gibson

Member of the CoC Board

COMMISSION ON CULTURE - ITS PAST AND PRESENT

Since its very beginning in 1993 the UBC Commission on Culture, CoC, has focused on inspiring and coordinating culture and art projects in the Baltic Sea Region. Main spheres has been promotion of contemporary art and artists, diversity of historical and cultural traditions in the Baltic countries, stimulation of new networks, and provision and dissemination of information on cultural activities in the region.

In 1993-2000, the CoC organised or coordinated the following events:

UBC Art & Culture Festivals

1993 and 1994 in Kaliningrad (Russia).

Folk art, music and handicraft

1995 in Szczecin (Poland). Title 'Horizon Line', contemporary visual arts

1996 in Szczecin. Title 'Ars Musica', jazz, rock and pop music.

1997 in Gdynia (Poland). Classical chamber music.

Working sessions of the Commission on Culture since 1995

1995 (Szczecin), Cultural cooperation among the UBC members, resulting in the UBC Catalogue of Cultural Institutions.

1996 (Visby), 'Freedom of Expression Information Library' which witnessed the starting point of the UBC Library Network.

1996 (Szczecin). The implementation of the new Baltic Art Magazine and establishment of the MARE ARTICUM editorial board

1998 (Szczecin), The Choir Music Forum accompanying the 1st International Choir Festival. The leading theme was 'Choir Music in the UBC Cities - problems and possibilities'.

1999 (Kalmar), discussion about possibilities of development of on-going projects, involvement of new CoC members in current and future projects, improvement of networking between the member cities.

2000 (Szczecin), election of the new Commission board and discussion of the commission's future strategy.

2001 (Espoo & Helsinki) meeting with the topic 'Artistic Education in the Baltic Cities'.

On-going projects co-ordinated by the Commission on Culture:

MARE ARTICUM - the Baltic contemporary visual arts magazine.

Originated in 1996. Since then MARE ARTICUM developed a net of currently 14 associated editors from nine BSR countries. Seven issues has focused on interesting phenomena in the BSR art (artists, events and places). MARE ARTICUM editors initiated a series of exhibitions, seminars and public promotion sessions of the magazine in Szczecin, Gdańsk, St. Petersburg, Riga, Stockholm, Visby and Frankfurt a.M.

Baltic Biennial of Contemporary Art

The first two editions were organised in Szczecin in 1995 and 1997, the third edition was on show in Szczecin, Visby and Riga in 1999-2000 under the title N.E.W.S. During its 5 year history, the works of more than hundred artists from



Participants of the 4th session of the UBC Commission on Culture, Szczecin, 9 June 2000

all BSR countries have been presented and gained attention of numerous art critics who participated in the accompanying theoretical seminars. The next Biennial will be organised in Oct. 2001.

International Choir Festival

organised since 1998 every second year by Pomeranian Dukes' Castle in Szczecin. Each edition of the festival gathers around 500 participants from the BSR countries and all the world.

In order to encourage the UBC member cities to take an active, a new commission board was elected in June 2000. Beside re-elected Szczecin and Visby, new members are Bergen, Espoo and Tartu.

Election of 5 board cities opens a new chapter in the Commission's activities. The first joint event will be the 5th annual CoC session, to be held in Espoo and Helsinki, September 8-10, 2001 on the theme 'Artistic Education in the Baltic Cities'

By Sławomir Szafranski

Chairman of the Commission on Culture



WEST - CULTURE AS A POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Culture in Nordic Cities has increasingly become a factor for cities to keep and attract qualified people and business. It is becoming important in order to create a good living environment and to boost the development of cities. Contrary to general belief, culture did not suffer from the cutting in public spending during the economic crisis in the early nineties.

In Sweden, the local authorities spend about nine million Euro on culture, and the proportion is about the same in the other Nordic Countries. The two largest fields are Libraries and "General Cultural Activities", i.e. theatres, orchestras and museums. The municipal Music Schools (Art Schools in Finland) are the third largest recipients.

The Music Schools (Art Schools) play a special strategic role. Sweden, as an example, has been able to create many internationally successful rock and popular music artists and groups, so music is now one of the main export commodities of Sweden, which in value is far larger than export of Volvo cars. The municipal Music Schools are one of the

main reasons for this achievement.

The municipal cultural activities have had a positive development during the last 5-10 years. Many cities have created culture policy action plans of good quality. The concept of Culture has been widened. Municipal cultural policy has become more cross sectoral and not just a supply of cultural services. Culture is an important ingredient in many fields, like social policy or urban planning.

The EU accession has also had some impact on the cultural policy of cities. The international contacts have increased very much. The cultural program of EU, Culture 2000, has contributed with around 3 million Euro to Sweden for cultural projects. However, the Structural funds have contributed with more than 32 million Euro on culture related projects.

The future looks also promising in many aspects for municipal cultural policy in the Nordic Countries. The importance of culture increases as city politicians become increasingly more aware of the role of Culture as a factor giving good

quality of life for the citizens and creating attractive prerequisites for working places in the expanding sectors of the new economy.

A general future perspective is that the concept of Culture is more difficult to distinguish as a separate municipal field of activity. It is mixed into other fields of policy and can sometimes become an inseparable part of other municipal activities.

One interesting aspect is youth issues. Young people consume culture differently than the middle age or older generation. The municipalities cannot support only the traditional culture if they want to attract also the young generation. Possibly this is the greatest challenge for culture in the years to come.

*By Juhan Janusson
UBC EU Co-ordinator*

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Association of Local Authorities
Mr Ismo Porna, Kuntaliitto, Finland
Ms Kirsten Abild, Department of Culture,
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EAST - STRONG CULTURE TRADITIONS

Visitors from the Nordic Countries to former socialist countries, often say that the cultural sector can inspire their cities more than any other municipal sector or activity. Cultural activities, performances and institutions are very often at a very high quality level, and the citizens are often deeply engaged in cultural matters.

One reason for this tradition is that culture was cherished as a means to keep the cultural identity against the communist system. But the communist system also supported culture in a rather high degree. People working in the cultural sector had a higher status than their counterparts in the western countries.

Many Houses of Culture were built during the communist regime, even in small communities. They played, and still play, an important role as a framework for all kinds of cultural activity.

The strong cultural tradition is prevailing today in the former communist countries, even if the western McDonald's-culture has spread and gained very much terrain in the last years. The situation in culture can be described as rather bright. The years immediately after the independence were

to some degree dominated by technical problems, like renovating the Houses of Culture and putting a new organisation in place, but now the efforts can again be more concentrated on the activities.

The tendency during the last years has been that various local cultural organisations have gained in importance on the expense of activities organised by the Houses of Culture. People organise activities by own initiative. Cultural organisations have been created in various fields, and the authorities do not dominate culture any more in the same degree.

The cultural expressions differ somewhat in the former communist countries and the Nordic countries. The "classical" culture, like art exhibitions, poetry, theatre, folk dancing and choirs are relatively stronger in the east, compared to the Nordic Countries.

Side by side with these traditional cultural manifestations, there exists a strong avant-garde, absurd and surrealistic tradition in all post-communist countries. The Communist Party had difficulties controlling such cultural expressions and thus there was a relatively free cultural space. Also the kind of activity differ.

Collective efforts are more common in the east, and often festivals engage many local residents as volunteers, especially in smaller communities.

The economic engagement of local authorities is difficult to compare, but 10-12 % of the municipal budgets in Estonia goes to the cultural sector.

Culture is not a very controversial political matter in municipalities - there is a rather strong consensus that culture is important. The future of municipal spending on culture is generally rather bright. There is, however, a tendency that support for special events and independent culture will grow, perhaps on the expenses of the activities organised by the Houses of Culture. The municipalities support the increasing role of NGO's. In this way more levels of the citizens are active in culture.

By Juhan Janusson

*Valuable comments by:
Mr Jaan Löönik, Director, East Virumaa
Local Authority Association, Estonia
Ms Karin Kaźmierczak, Head of
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EUROPEAN CITIES OF CULTURE 2000



BERGEN

Bergen is famous for its medieval and early modern wooden city centre with an UNESCO world heritage site. The city takes pride in rich and concentrated cultural life, and the traditional art forms are all well represented by museums, theatres and the internationally known philharmonic orchestra. Bergen is especially known for its vibrant contemporary scene, amongst them the bit 20 ensemble, the national contemporary dance company, carte blanche, and the experimental Bergen international theatre.

Bergen 2000 is a spectacular celebration of culture. As a European City of Culture, it focuses on its rich traditions and the openness of new artistic tendencies in a European context. The City of Culture is more than suitable for establishing contacts and identity for other parts of the country. The County Council wants to promote the city centre as a meeting place, as well as involve the surrounding municipalities. Bergen 2000 has been used as a tool in achieving long-term cultural objectives of permanent worth, relating to new expertise, new audiences and spectators, new network and a more visible cultural life.

The City's Department of Culture aims at promoting diversity, creativity and spiritual values, at the same time ensures preserving Bergen's historical heritage and identity. The focus is on further development and promotion of a high quality art and museum programme, as well as on arranging culture and leisure facilities that are desired and important for the personal development and commitment of the inhabitants. In the year of culture and in the future, the necessity of providing the cultural offer to children and young people has particularly been pointed out.

The Bergen City Council has agreed with the recommendations formulated in "the plan of action for art and artists in Bergen city of culture". It has further decided that the plan of art is to be used in the long term planning of the cultural area of Bergen. Additionally, the plan has been the basic tool in the planning of



Bergen as European City of the Year 2000. This event is also a tool for reaching the city economic development goals, city renewal and educational strategies, environmental, etc. The City Council also plans to form a Norwegian arts profile for building up of tourism. In this way, Bergen will continue being a leading city of culture, and a centre of creative arts.

Further information:

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City of Bergen
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HELSINKI

In the last decades culture has become an important element in urban development campaigns in European cities. Helsinki woke up in the early 90's when a recession struck the country and urged the city to reposition itself in the global marketplace.

In 1995 Helsinki received its nomination for European City of Culture 2000. It was clear that the main target of this year was not to create a one-year festival. What we are really striving for is the enhanced quality of life for the inhabitants and increased international awareness of the Finnish culture. The idea was to find culturally enriching



projects, new talents and ways of operating, and to present them to new audiences.

The final programme consisted of some 450 events. Classical music and art exhibitions were among the more traditional offerings, science fiction and comics, and Finnish specialities like sauna and a church built of snow were also featured. Many of the events were made by the inhabitants themselves. Schools, kindergartens and homes for the elderly also staged Year of Culture events. As a Baltic city Helsinki also wanted to spotlight the arts and culture of its nearest neighbours, Tallinn and St Petersburg. In a conference for university cities around the Baltic Sea the cultural content of European Northern Dimension was explored.

As early as in October 2000 it is too early to say how exactly the Year of Culture achieved its ambitious goals and identify permanent effects. Much research on these topics is to be published the year after. But what we already know is that the events certainly found their audience. By the end of September the attendance was ca. 4,5 million visitors, with Finland having a total population of 5,2 million inhabitants. More tourists also found their way to Helsinki.

As for the competition between the Cities of Culture the question was soon out of the agenda as the cities started to co-operate in ways that have proved beneficial. The fact that three cities in the North – Bergen, Reykjavik and Helsinki - three cities in Central Europe – Brussels, Cracow and Prague – and three cities in the Mediterranean region – Avignon, Bologna and Santiago de Compostela – presented the diversity of European culture gave a totally new dimension to the basic idea of the cultural year institution. The networks created between the cities and their cultural institutions, universities and tourist authorities will hopefully be one of the permanent effects of the Year of Culture.

Further information:

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SINGING ISLAND

Estonia is the land of singing and song festivals. The tradition of song festivals on Hiiumaa island began in 1926. This year's festival was like a cultural trip through Kärđla. Two old ladies who took part in the first song festival of Hiiumaa: Agnes Tarning (91) and Elsa Nurmik (90) were invited, too.

The festival was opened in the Town Park by song festivals' stone. Afterwards choirs gave concerts in church and park. Singers, dancers and other participants made a procession through the town to the Museum of Hiiumaa. In front of the museum the procession became a merry party of joking liked by the inhabitants of Hiiumaa. From the museum the procession went to the beach of Kärđla where folk dancing party began. The flare made up of burning raft in the sea lighted the last dancers in beautiful summer night...

Further information:
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Project leader
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KULTURBRO 2000

Kulturbro 2000 - a biennial for art and culture in the Øresund region - is a unique example of two countries joining forces in the production of a world class cultural event. The first Kulturbro began on September 15th, running to December 15th 2000. Its aim is to create a cultural identity in a cross national region.

The Øresund bridge between Denmark and Sweden opened in July 2000 and the visions of developing the Øresund region into a European epicentre have, in many ways, already materialised. But the future of the region depends on the creation of a mutual Danish and Swedish cultural identity. Realising that a region is not born of economical investments alone, it was a political vision to use culture as a bridge "entrepreneur" to lay the



Peter Grenaway presenting the exhibition "Flying over water"

foundations for the Kulturbro 2000 Fund, whose purpose is to create a Swedish Danish cultural event of a high artistic standard.

Meeting the other side of the sound

Kulturbro 2000's ambition is to become a recurring international cultural event, contributing to a dynamic exchange between Denmark and Sweden. Unique working relations between business life, public authorities and cultural institutions have now been established. What is really good, however, is that Kulturbro 2000 has made both Danes and Swedes aware of the wealth of exciting cultural offerings to be found in the neighbouring country across the sound. Major international names have drawn many guests across the water on a visit to Copenhagen or Malmø. But smaller exhibition venues have also, with the support of the Kulturbro 2000 Fund, put on sensational exhibitions, which have drawn a whole new audience to the area.

One outcome of Kulturbro 2000's ambition has been that many citizens in the region have expanded their "local" area to encompass the cultural landscape on the other side of the bridge. In addition, the international reaction to the Kulturbro 2000 biennial has been overwhelmingly positive, making everybody confident that it will contribute significantly to the continuous development of the region. The theme of Kulturbro 2002 has yet to be settled on, but Kulturbro 2000 has shown that the region can produce a programme of the highest artistic standards. And most important, Kulturbro 2000 has shown how art contributes to fruitful meetings

between Danish and Swedish people – meetings that create understanding, insight and new relations.

Further information:
Ms Stine Nissen
Kulturbro 2000 Fund
City of Copenhagen
Tel. +45 33 88 20 00
www.kulturbro.com



INNOVATION IN GLASS

A retrospective exhibition of Eric Hoglund's works was held in Karlskrona from 8 October till 5 November 2000.

Eric Höglund is a unique Swedish artist carving in glass. At the art exhibition hall at Båtsmankasernen in Karlskrona, we were proud to show several pieces of art from his lifelong production. Not only had he revolutionised the art of Swedish glass, he also created a great number of public works of art in architecture. Furthermore, he successfully combined his glass work with iron, wood and paintings. Whatever material he used to create, he made a personal brilliant interpretation and stretched the material and his own creativity with astonishing result.



Glass sculpture "Bullhead"

The exhibition shown in Karlskrona, where he was born 1932, is the last chance to see the collection before it is permanently moved to Färgfabriken in Stockholm.

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ROADS TO LIBERTY

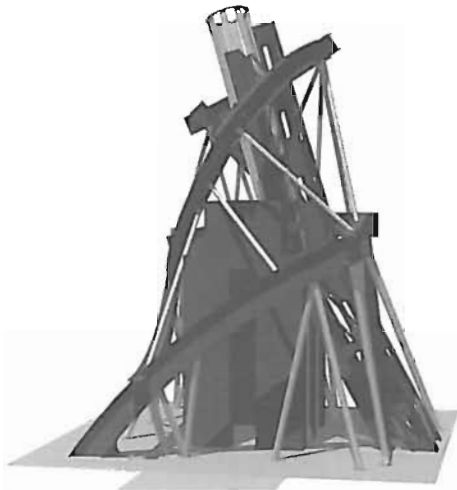
The exhibition entitled "Roads to Freedom" is shown on the premises of Gdansk Shipyard, commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the day when the so called "Gdansk Agreement" was signed. The bottom line of the project is to remind the society of the role which Gdansk events played in the abandonment of the Communist ideology and further geopolitical transformations in Eastern Europe.

The exhibition has been initiated and organised by the Municipality of Gdansk which asked the Centre of Contemporary Art Łaznia (Bathhouse) to co-ordinate and realise the project. The visual message of the exhibition is devoted mostly to the history of the "Solidarity" movement, as well as remembering the events of 1956, 1968, 1970 and 1976, along with records of 1980 and the time of martial law, until the years closed by 1989.

The exhibition, meant as the inauguration of the Solidarity Centre, will be shown for three years, then it will be supplemented and transferred to the future Solidarity Centre. The majority of exhibits will be audio-visual, comprising of slide shows with commentary and film projections using fragments of documentaries and archival materials, as well as amateur films and photographs.

The historical material is illustrated with visual documentaries from that time, arranged according to entries available in the computer programme. The material is divided into eleven thematic groups: the underground state, Polish United Workers' Party, secret service, propaganda, important dates, daily life in PRL, the Church, democratic opposition, culture, censorship, and emigration. Each entry gives short information on basic facts from the history of a selected issue.

The other part of the exhibition consists of a spatial project composed of two gates linked with a ramp. The first of the gates is shaped like the ship bow, its shape submerging symbolizing the fall of the communistic Polish People's Republic. From the outside, the construction retains the rough character of a wall of unpainted, corroded steel. The other gate



Installation "Gates to Liberty"

makes references to an unrealised project of the Monument to the Third International by a Russian Constructivist Vladimir Tatlin. It is a contemporary re-interpretation of the Utopian ideas formulated on the surge of leftist movements, incorporated and exploited by the ideologies of the 20th-century totalitarian systems. The outer structure of the composition symbolises the collapse of and departure from totalitarian, unifying ideologies.

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YOUNG CITY

Today Espoo is known as a high-tech city with many technology companies. Espoo has also a lot to offer in culture - visual arts, theatre, literature and music. The world famous Tapiola Choir started more than 30 years ago as a school choir in Tapiola garden city. The city of Espoo is a member of the Helsinki Year of Culture 2000 organisation.

It is a music city with outstanding choirs. Music education is a background for cultural life. The biggest music event

in this year, the fourth Choral Espoo Festival is held from 2 to 10 December 2000. The festival programme offers many outstanding ensembles of the international choir world from The Hilliard Ensemble to Prague Chamber Choir, Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and others, of course also Tapiola Choir. In addition, the festival offers several courses, lectures and demos.

The annual Espoo April Jazz Festival is hosted by the Espoo Big Band and is the most significant jazz event in the Helsinki area. The city orchestra of Espoo, the Tapiola Sinfonietta, is also an established part of the musical life of the Helsinki metropolitan area. The orchestra is built as a typical Viennese classical orchestra, and it is one of the finest chamber orchestras in the Nordic Countries thanks to its individual approach, its high musical quality and its interesting concepts.

In the field of visual arts Espoo is known as the home of Gallery Otso, an excellent forum for contemporary art and media art. The Espoo school of visual arts offers education in painting, drawing, sculpture, graphics etc. for more than 1200 children and young people. The Akseli Gallen-Kallela Museum arranges changing exhibitions in the former studio-home of one of Finland's best-known artist.

The children's theatres represent one important feature of the young profile of the culture. One of the two main theatres for children is Teatteri Hevosenkenkä, which has performances in Finnish but also in several immigrant languages. The other, Unga Teatern, plays mostly in Swedish, sometimes also in Finnish. For adult population the Espoo City Theatre offers classical programme like Shakespeare as well as new Finnish and international programmes.

The increasing population rates in Espoo guarantee busy times for all those working with culture, but also the glad feelings of experiencing the importance of the culture for new and old inhabitants of the city.

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RUSSIAN SONGS



"Soudarushka" is very popular in Baltiĵsk

What is Baltiĵsk at the beginning of a new Millennium? A city of culture and folk traditions? Indeed, it is.

The Fair of Local Producers is worthy of your attention. The city enterprises presenting their produce took part. Bakery

produce, sweets and culinary cookies from local cafes, nice and bright soft toys, hats from the local hatter, equipment for shop window design and other goods were presented. But the most unforgettable and bright show was the performance of musical groups of the House of Culture. The participants and the guests of the city were greeted by clowns. The guests of the holiday took part in different shows, games and contests.

The Russian song

"The music inspires the whole world, gives the soil the wings, promotes the flight. Music gives life and joy to all beings... It could be called the incarnation of everything that is beautiful and sublime." These Plato's words wonderfully suit the activity of the

ensemble of the Russian song «Soudarushka». The brilliant group loves Russian songs, keeps the best traditions of folk singing. For the first time the dwellers of Baltiĵsk had a chance to meet the group «Soudarushka» 15 years ago. Bright emotional concerts don't keep the public indifferent. The catching repertoire, their best singing skills are the group's greeting card. The group takes part in all-round city and region celebrations. Among their songs are heartfelt folk songs such as "Ryabina" (Rowan), joyful Cossack song "Shashku beri!" (Take the sabre!), lyrical and folk songs, composed by the members of the group. The singers perform their songs with profound passion.

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ICE SCULPTURE FESTIVAL

Jelgava is fourth largest city after Riga, Daugavpils and Liepāja. According to the historical documents Jelgava received the town rights in 1573. It is located in the southern part of Zemgale Plain.

Culture has a very special place in Latvian hearts. So it is in Jelgava. Culture rests in national and amateur art, but more often we surprise City Council with interesting new projects. Since 1998 Jelgava is famous for three festivals: "Wine festival", "Ice Sculpture festival" and rock festival "We for Tower". This summer already 7th hard rock concert "We for Tower" was organised. As only best Latvian groups were invited, now the city is called hard rock & metal city in Latvia.

In 1998 Culture Center of Jelgava organized the 1st "Ice sculpture festival" and decided that the festival should be arranged every year. Such festivals are very popular in many countries, but unique in Latvia.

The festival organizers decided about its future development. The idea was to invite ice sculptors from Nordic Countries. In 1999 Ice sculpture festival was 3 days long, when artists from Denmark, Sweden, Latvia created 16 sculptures ! They



Can you sculpture in ice?

competed for "The best sculpture". The task was to create one of fairy tales' characters and the other sculpture up to artist's choice. The representation of the jury and sculptors were astounded by great interest and original solutions. From big ice blocks the tale characters were created: "Princess on the Pea", "Little Water – nymph", "Medusa" or "Alient". The created sculptures formed the unique garden, which was attended by thousands of people.

During the Baltic State Year, the Culture Centre decided to invite ice sculptors from Estonia, Lithuania and Sweden to please festival guests with their art. Themes of ice sculptures will be – "Ice flower" and "The symbol of 21st century". Attention of the mass media, spectators interest proves the necessity of the festival. Remember the date – 17th of December – and come to Jelgava !

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SEA SONG FESTIVAL



The purpose of the Sea song Festival is to revive and promote the nearly lost tradition of sea song culture and to create new traditions. The XXII Sea song Festival to be held during Kotka Maritime Festival is open to all performers and performing groups. The competition program consists of old and new sea songs.

Series A is for unaccompanied choirs and song ensembles and Series B is for choirs and song ensembles with accompaniment. The soloists' Series C is for a single singer, who may have three accompanists at maximum. If the soloist accompanies for himself, he is counted as a member of the accompanying group and the accompaniment group may not provide harmony vocals. Series D is for seamen working in the trade, retired or studying the trade. The soloists in series D may have a maximum of three accompanists, who do not have to be working in the trade. The use of synthesiser is allowed within the restriction of the series. The use of background recordings is not allowed at all.

The competition will be held at the Kotka Concert Hall on 27-28 July 2001. Duration of the performances is maximum 10 minutes in series A and B and maximum 5 minutes in series C and D. The number of the songs allowed is two.

The winners of the series are obliged to perform during the Kotka Maritime Festival on 26-29 July 2001. The prizes are: FIM 11.000 for series A and B, FIM 8.000 for series C and FIM 7.000 for series D. The prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. The Rose of Kotka Challenge Cup will be presented to the best winner in the series.

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THEATRE FESTIVAL

The Jurmala Theatre has a pleasure to inform you that the 4th International Theatre Festival "Skatuve Jurmala - 2001" will take place in Jurmala from 18th to 21st of July 2001. The aim of the festival is to get know creative researches of theatres of different countries and to accentuate theatre as the most democratic art in the international communication.

The next festival "Skatuve Jurmala 2001" will last for four days. Like in previous years the theatre troupes will show their performances, watch the productions of other participants, take part in the creative workshops and will establish new contacts during the different activities of the festival. As usual, all performances will be observed by group of theatre professionals.

Theatres from 8 countries will take part in 10 performances during the festival. The genres of the performances are going to be different - starting with the classic up to the modern dramaturgy and absurd.

In the previous year the participants were from Latvia, Lithuania, England, Russia, Germany, Poland, Finland and Denmark. The professionals who observe all performances brought forward following nominations:

- the most interesting stage direction - Imants Jaunzems, Ventspils, Latvia;
- the best actress - Badria Timini, Theatre "West", England;



The scene from "The Maids" spectacle by Jeant Genet

- the best actor - Andris Lasmanis, Ventspils Theatre, Latvia.

During the festival the meetings for directors and theatre managers were organised to enable them discussions and debates over performances. The participants could also take part in the creative workshop "The structure and architecture of the mise-en-scene".

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SACRAL MUSIC

Every year in August and September Gdynia Municipal Government organises the Sacral Music Festival. This year for the third time, it took place on four subsequent Saturdays starting on 26th August and finishing on 16th September. The place of music performances was Franciscans' Church in Gdynia.

The notion of "sacral music" was broadly understood, which allowed for the performance of music associated with four main churches on the European continent, that is, Catholic, Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox. During one of the

concerts listeners could also appreciate Jewish music performed by the Polish only synagogue choir, as well as Gospel music sang by a university choir.

Among pieces performed during the festival there were compositions by Bach, Sir Charles Standford, G. P. da Palestrina, G. Martini and many others.

The festival was an ideal occasion to get acquainted not only with the music of the old days but also with the melodies of Jewish and Afro-American cultures.

We invite all the interested cities to participate in the festival next year.

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PAZAISLIS MUSIC FESTIVAL

"Your small country has the capacity of the world level and it surprises that this small country may influence the global music culture" said Lord Yehudi Menuhin during his visit to Kaunas Pazaislis Music Festival. The Festival is the Lithuanian record-breaker in terms of duration and abundance of performers.



Festival opening at Pazaislis Monastery

The festival lasts three months - starts at the end of May and finishes at the end of August. Many performers of world-wide level participate in this event. The festival is organised in the chef-d'oeuvre of European architecture, the churchyard of Pazaislis St Kazimieras Congregation Monastery Church. The sound of music in the corner of beautiful nature and art surrounds the festival with the unique beauty. This music festival became not only a traditional annual event but also the event of European art. Life. In 2000, this event was organised for the fifth time

already. The production of national drama performance on the occasion of the State Day (July 6th) in the open air in the Kaunas castle, is a very important part of this festival, beloved among the spectators.

Another event of great importance is an annual four-day jazz festival "Kaunas Jazz", attracting performers from all over the world. This event celebrated the tenth anniversary this year. The inspirer, organiser and soul of the festival is Jonas Juèas, an extraordinary character in the political life of the City and State, City Councillor and the Parliament member.

In May 20, 2000, Kaunas celebrated city birthday – the City Day. It is expected that this festival with art and sport events will become a beautiful event that will attract thousands of inhabitants. Festival of sport dances "Amber Couple" organised by tireless enthusiasts is world-wide known, too.

The autumn season is marked with Kaunas County Days. People from the villages bring the products they cultivate in the fields and produce in agricultural enterprises. The festivity is ornamented with many dance and song activities. The end of year for past 30 years is crowned with the competition of folk groups "Grok Jurgeli!". The festival, which was previously organised only in Kaunas attracted the spectators from Vilnius as well.

This article gives you a short guidance over the few most vivid international festivals of the city. You are always welcome to visit these wonderful events and enjoy the time in our city!

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FLAMING TORCHES AND KNIGHTS

Medieval Festival

The last Friday and Saturday in August next year (24-25.08.2001) will witness the centre of Horsens plunged 500 years back in time. The square by Our Saviour's Church, along with the Town Hall Square, Søndergade and the Abbey Church will be transformed into an immense medieval market place which will spill over into the other courtyards throughout the town.

Fire and Darkness

To set the scene, the town will be blackened out from sunset onwards. Flaming torches, open fires and candles will provide the only light for the many stalls in the market place and for the bustle of life in the streets.

Knights in shining Armour

Pay a visit to the Town Hall Square and watch the knights on horseback in fierce combat, jousting with swords and lances. You can also tour the military camp set up nearby.

Refreshments

Wine and beer from nearby small venues will be available in abundance. You'll be able to nibble suckling pig, lamb, and whole oxen roasted on split, or try special sausages of the kind once favoured by Queen Margrethe I. For the still hungry, there will be traditional gruel, pork or seafood including oysters, mussels and fresh or smoked fish. Also a "High Table" will serve traditional hot and cold Danish dishes.

Music, Theatre and Entertainment

The centre of Horsens will be packed with stalls, busy workshops, music, theatre and street entertainers. Medieval music and plays will be performed on large stages while street entertainers, fire-eaters, drunks and beggars will mingle with the crowds. Pilgrims, purveyors of indulgence and ladies of ill reputation will all be there to give dubious advice, sell



their goods and offer their services. Visitors can call at the old churches and hear Gregorian evening song (vespers), view a medieval wedding or listen to a concert.

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RENAISSANCE DAYS

To walk over the drawbridge into Kalmar Castle during Renaissance days is like travelling back in time. Leaving the present behind you will find yourself taking part in the 16th c. castle life; with beautiful noble women, courageous knights, clever jesters, skilled craftsmen and many others who will demonstrate their skills during this weekend festival.

'Renaissance Days' is an historical event that makes the 16th century heydays of Kalmar Castle come alive. For three enchanted days the walls awaken to relive their glorious past. Invited children of all ages can discover, enjoy and participate in a historical yet fantasy filled life that, for many, can only be found in the imaginations of childhood.

The aim is to recreate a genuine picture of the renaissance and develop a greater interest and understanding of our history. At the same time the event may be an attractive party for the entire family. Visitors take an active part in the history and there are activities and entertainment for both young and old, experts and novices. The event has grown each year and is now one of the biggest historical

events in Sweden. Participants, musicians, dancers, jesters, tournament knights, soldiers, food and crafts people, as well as many others, come from the near and far to contribute with their knowledge and skills.

The event organiser is the Renaissance Guild, a non-profit association that arranges activities throughout the year to illustrate different aspects of the 16th century. The flagship event is Renaissance Days.

Next year it is planned to apply for the European money. The goal behind is to make it possible for people within the Baltic Sea region and for those who are active in fields relating to the 16th century to participate in this event. The forum where participants from different countries have the opportunity to exchange knowledge, experiences, create contacts and at the same time show their skills is planned. Children and youth



groups are especially welcome. It is hoped to revive an interest in our common cultures, histories and traditions and to create a network of skilled groups and individuals from different countries in order to preserve the knowledge. There are also plans to recreate a renaissance opera during the event with participants from different Baltic Sea countries.

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DANISH CENTRE FOR SILVERWARE

Koldinghus Museum is under the process of extending its collection of silverware. The aim is to create a major exhibition of Danish silver produced from 1550 to the present day.

The museum, founded in 1890, has worked to collect silverware produced both locally and nationally. Local silversmiths such as Holger Kyster and Hans Hansen are, however, a natural focal point for the museum's collections. The museum has also been conducting research and arranging exhibitions for the past ten years, resulting in a series of publications and exhibitions dealing with the Danish silverware unmatched by any other museum in Denmark. The emphasis on the XX century silver is in part the result of the nature of the museum's existing collection. It is also important to note that the XX century is the period during which the production of silverware

in Denmark ceased to be a local affair, and became a matter of national concern. In fact, it was during the course of this century that Denmark became a major player in international silver production.

The Silverware Collection will be extended so as to constitute a national collection of works dating from the Renaissance to the present day. This collection will include a representative selection of pieces by silversmiths from all parts of Denmark, and examples of all types of silverware, including items made for daily use and for more ceremonial purposes. The collection will consist not only of hollowware, but also of silver cutlery and jewellery. In addition, the collection will illustrate geographical and temporal similarities and differences, as well as show developments in style and - at least in the case of earlier works - general developments in the cultural

history that forms the backdrop to these works.

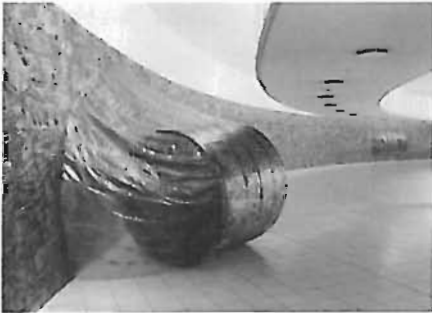
The Collection is to be extended by means of purchases, loans and items placed there on permanent loan. The primary aim is to create a comprehensive collection of Danish silverware. The museum will promote and inspire active participation in research relating to Danish silver, both in-house and in general. The museum will also play an active role in documenting the craft of Danish silverware production by collecting design archives, as well as photographs, film, video and audio tape recordings of silversmiths at work.

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CITY GALLERY

What is the connection between Kiel, the capital of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany's most northerly state, and the cities of Scandinavia and the Baltic? The answer is, of course, their location on the Baltic Sea and the commercial contacts. But they also enjoy a lively artistic and cultural exchange. For years Kiel has given an impetus to exhibitions from the Baltic region.



Exhibition "Conjuncture"

International art from the Baltic region is a programme which the City Gallery has been following since it was opened in 1998. Accommodated up to the end of

1999 in rooms of unusual architectural design inside the "Sophienhof" Shopping Centre, the gallery is now in the "New Town Hall" complex.

Contemporary art from the Baltic

The first exhibition in City Gallery was "Riga – Latvian Avant Garde", of 1989. This was followed in the same year by "Structure / Metaphysics – Perspectives of Contemporary Art from Estonia". Further high spots in this series were "Face to Face", the first Ars Baltica exhibition of 1994; "Pictures have Memories – Contemporary Photography from the Baltic" (1993); "Self Identification – Attitudes in St. Petersburg Art from 1970 to the Present Day" (1994); "Escape – Absence – Disappearance. Conceptual Art from Moscow" (1996); "NOR • A • WAY – Young Norwegian Artists" (1997); "Adventure into the Unknown – Attitudes in Contemporary Art from Finland" (1998); and photographic installations by Lena Liv (1998). "Can you hear me?" was the title of the Second Ars Baltica photography triennial, held in December 1999.

"Wonderful Copenhagen – Current Art from Denmark" is running in November, and this exhibition is a continuation of earlier work focusing on particular countries.

ArtGenda

Involving artists from Kiel in "ArtGenda", the biennial festival for young artists in the main artistic centres of northern Europe, is another line which the City Gallery has been following since 1996. As part of the City's Cultural Department, it sees international exchanges as an essential ingredient in the encouragement of art. Kiel was represented at Copenhagen in 1996, and at Stockholm in 1998. This led to "ArtGenda Retro", an exhibition featuring selected works of artists from a number of countries who had taken part in Stockholm, which the City Gallery showed in the same year. This year has seen a multi-media project in Helsinki, produced jointly by creative artists, video artists, actors and a dancer.

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SUMMER DYNAMICS

Throughout centuries people have sailed to open waters and had international contacts. A modern marina is one of the sea-gates to Kuressaare. When taking a walk on its streets, sooner or later you end up at the seaside.

In 1997 the Saaremaa Maritime Culture Society initiated the Maritime Days in Kuressaare that has become a popular festivity gathering thousands of people in the beginning of August. Maritime music performances, recreational water activities, a Viking village, a fair of maritime antiques are just a few events worth visiting.

In the same year the tradition of Park Music, originally initiated in 1841, was restored under the name of Summer Music. The main idea is to offer people orchestral music of different styles. On this occasion, a small symphony orchestra, consisting of professional musicians convenes. In July the Orchestra performs classical music every Sunday. The Orchestra is funded

by Kuressaare Municipality and since 1998 also by the Estonian Culture Foundation.

Moreover, the exhibitions of Art Summer offering a unique experience are organised each summer. The art exhibition "10 PAAR" by Estonian and Flemish artists tried to identify parallels in the art from the turn of the century of the two small countries. Both countries were represented by 10 artists, displaying the major directions in the contemporary art of their countries in twin towns, first in Kuressaare, then in Kuurne. This project was not just an international art event. It played an important role in fostering relationships between people.

In the end of July the yard of Kuressaare Castle is transformed into an open air opera theatre. The Kuressaare Opera Festival attracts performers and visitors both from Estonia and from outside. Year 2001 promises four days full of fabulous opera music. Rossini and Verdi are to be presented by outstanding artists from the



"In July the orchestra performs classical music every Sunday"

Latvian National Opera and the St. Petersburg Maria Theatre. If you are an opera lover, tender summer nights in Kuressaare on 26-29 July 2001 are waiting for you. Everyone is welcome to attend Kuressaare 7th Chamber Music Days in August 2001 to enjoy some of the best musicians of Europe.

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FESTIVITY OF MARINE SOULS

Among events in Lithuania, the Sea Festival stands out not just for its old tradition, but mainly for a particularly wide range of performance genres to satisfy the demands of all age groups. For over 40 years it has been held on the last weekend of July. During three days people are invited to almost two hundred events. About half a million of citizens from large cities, provincial towns and abroad answers the call for romantic "marine souls" to come together and celebrate. The organisers treat colourful crowds of people as the main personage of the festivity, while the attractions, events and decorations are only the ground to express their creativity.

The old town, the centre of the Festival, was adorned by original decorations: this year "Soul catchers", half humans half sea monsters with hovering traps settled on the roofs. A golden 5m high and 1,5m wide



nail was "hammered" to the bridge over the Dane river. When approaching it, it reflected you. It meant – you are the one most significant here. "The pole of shame", a monumental sculpture placed on one of centre crossroads attracted mostly adults, tempting all to touch it, climb it, ring its bells, take photographs, perpetuate oneself by cutting initials on its old metal and to watch the procedure of tying up those who did not want to support the festival. Besides, J.S. Bach's music invited admirers of the classics to

midnight concerts in the open air. The most outstanding opera singers and symphonic orchestra performed by the Curonian lagoon and on board the floating ships.

The aim of the organisers is not just to create an impressive fiesta, but also to propagate marine traditions, protect the Baltic and encourage young people to get interested in the sea. Since 1934, every year during the Festival, ships go to the open sea and lay wreaths to commemorate those who perished in the sea. The popularity of the Festival can be illustrated by the fact that owners of a company from South Korea render rather substantial financial support for the festival and come to it every year.

The tradition of the Sea Festival is a dear wealth and pride of Klaipėda population. A few years ago the Parliament declared the last Sunday of July to be included into the list of red-letter days.

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CRYPTIC MESSAGE FROM ANCESTORS ?

With the extension of the railway along the west coast of southern Sweden, archaeological excavations at Tågerup in the Landskrona district have revealed the unique 8 500 year settlement. The City Department of Culture plans to exhibit the unique findings at Landskrona Museum. The abundant findings, which originate over a very long period of time, provide the opportunity to mirror mankind's cultural development during the Stone Age. For a long time archaeological research has regarded the hunters of the Mesolithic period as a homogenous group. The findings allow us to refute earlier theories promoting such a stereotype picture of our ancestors.

Tågerup is situated on a sandy hillside at the meeting place of the Saxån and Braån rivers. During the Atlantic period the sea reached up to this point, while the two rivers provided the site with fresh water. It was thus an ideal settlement with ample food at hand. Between 6 500 - 4 500 BC Tågerup

was an all-the-year-round settlement. Unique conditions have kept all material extremely well preserved, even wooden objects and baskets of plaited grass.

Houses, food scraps, tools and graves tell the story of ancient life. The combination of dwellings, waste deposit and grave-field being gathered at one and the same site makes it possible to follow the Mesolithic cultural landscape's development and changes throughout over 2 000 years. It is even possible to follow a noticeable change in mentality through the unique chance to study people who have lived under similar conditions and at the same place for such a long period of time.

The permanent exhibition has been planned for 2002. Life at Tågerup will be presented on exciting displays with an extensive collection of objects. The differences in the cultures will be emphasised. The proud, correct, calm, resource-aware and aesthetically-aware

Kongemose people will be contrasted with the stressed, mass-producing, functionally-aware, territorially defensive and conflict-prone Ertebölle people. The graves, including a twin grave, will be displayed in their own room where the spiritual life will also be in focus. It is probable that the Kongemose and Ertebölle peoples both shared a belief in the life after death. Burial gifts and rituals suggest a preparation for and assistance in the afterlife. Sacrificial rituals were performed in an attempt to control the forces of nature. Amongst the findings there is an ornamented axe-handle of red deer horn. The ornaments are unique and no parallel to others in Northern Europe. Could this be an over 8,000 year old cryptic message from our ancestors?

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BUDDENBROOK HOUSE

The year 2000 will be a milestone in the history of the Buddenbrook house in Lübeck. In this house you can go back to the family-roots of the two famous writers and brothers Thomas and Heinrich Mann who were grown in the Hanseatic city. In his first novel "Buddenbrooks" Thomas Mann describes the decline of an old traditional family of tradesmen. Through the generations they start to lose interest in the family's business and develop a fascination for religion, philosophy, literature and music. The novel is full of autobiographic allusions. In his grandparents house most parts of the



novel are situated. Therefore we call it Buddenbrook house.

In 2000 Lübeck celebrates Thomas Mann 125th birthday, as well as the centenary of "Buddenbrooks" for which he received the Literary Nobel Prize. In June 2000 the Buddenbrook house reopened new exhibitions. It was possible to discover the boundaries between the real Hanseatic world and fiction. Reality and fiction merge together. The visitors

can follow the trail of world literature upon previously unknown ways and come across allusions to the fascinating novel. The atmosphere of "Buddenbrooks" can be found anywhere in the city, in the Buddenbrook house, of course, with the

reconstructed "Bel Etage". The main living rooms are modelled after the descriptions in the novel. Thus literature becomes reality. Based upon a large library you will get new information about the Nobel-prize-winning novel and its background. Also, in the city you can find traces of the novel in the external stations that will lead the visitor to the Town Hall, mediaeval churches, Thomas Mann's school and even to Travemünde, the Baltic Sea Spa town. A wide range of events will highlight the summer of 2000 in Lübeck.

The Buddenbrook house also presents a new documentary exhibition on the Mann-family. You can follow the traces of this fascinating family via sound and film, as well as see many previously unpublished photographs and documents.

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THE PIANO STARS

The Symphony Orchestra and its conductor Imants Resnis started the festival "The Piano Stars". Recognised pianists of all generations and schools from all over the world participate in this unique festival. Each pianist participates in two concerts – one with the symphony orchestra and one solo concert. The choice of program is up to the participants. Thus, it is a splendid possibility to get acquainted with different styles and schools of music from different countries.

The first festival "The Piano Stars" was held in 1993 and it was aimed at introducing the best Latvian piano players to the general public. Already the second festival welcomed internationally recognised pianists. In 1996 the fourth festival had become a truly international forum. The participants had come from many regions. Gradually the festival won international interest. Over the years celebrities from Japan, South Korea, Sweden, USA, France, Israel, Switzerland, Finland, Russia, Poland, as well as from Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia have taken part in the festival.

The festival is known for its warm atmosphere that is highly appreciated by pianists, the public and mass media representatives. The Liepāja Symphony Orchestra has become famous for its professional and emotional performance during the concerts. This festival has helped Liepāja to become a part of the international cultural life.

The Amber of Liepāja

The music festival "The Amber of Liepāja" is the oldest festival in Latvia. Its history started as early as in 1964. Over the years the festival was criticised and praised in turns. Yet, it survived ambitions, Soviet regime restrictions or financial difficulties. And, no matter what, each year in the beginning of August it gathered thousands of people. The first festival had only 2279 spectators. Later this number grew to 30 000. During the Soviet regime this was a wonderful opportunity for bands to get away from their usual environment where they were

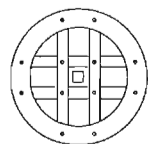


The Symphony Orchestra of Liepāja

not allowed to play the music they wanted. Now there are no restrictions and the festival has become more colourful. Latvian musicians successfully compete with their counterparts from Germany, Sweden, Finland, France, Estonia, Lithuania, Russia, Denmark and other countries.

The place of the festival - open-air concert hall has become "the cradle" of many popular Latvian musicians and bands. Over the years the festival has retained its unique aura and style and continuously attracts people of all ages.

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DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

Schools in Nacka, from pre-school to upper secondary school level, collaborated on a wide project on documentaries during the school year 1999-2000. The project incorporated in-job training for the school personnel. This included film presentations, showings for pupils, and the possibility of working practically in school with the help of preparatory and supplementary material. The Documentary Festival, organised at 2-9 May 2000, was the culmination of the year 2000 documentary project "Curious About Reality and Tales from Life" which took place in all schools in Nacka during the year 99/00.

The project was initiated in 1999 with a series of lectures and seminars for teachers. There ensued several days of study when pupils were able to see and hear documentaries and learn to use a variety of technical equipment. The pupils also came in contact with a number of documentary filmmakers and their work. This procedure was adapted to the varying age groups. The project was a collaboration between Culture Nacka, the Centre for Development, schools, Film Centre,



The Documentary Festival was held in Forum Nacka

Film Consultants and Stockholm County Council. Among 80 productions, 50 of them were video films, 5 radio and 25 photo documentaries. Some of the latter consisted of more than simple photographs; the works had been augmented with painting, construction and speech.

The festival took place over a four-day period and all the productions were shown. The intention was that pupils should show their films to other pupils and that author and audience should initiate a debate. The journalist, Erik Haag, presented and led the discussions.

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MRAVINSKI

In history few individuals are gifted with a wealth of artistic talent. Fewer still influence their culture and society with that gift. Jevgeni Mravinski was one of such men.

Most of Mravinski's life was spent in St. Petersburg. Yet, like many residents of that beautiful city, he spent his summers in small but very popular resort town of Narva-Jõesuu. For Mravinski, Narva-Jõesuu was a place for rejuvenation of the mind and the body. Though this town was conveniently nearby both to his home city and Scandinavia, it provided him with the opportunity of surrounding himself and communicating with nature that appealed to him most. In the resort, Mravinski could detach himself from the routines of everyday life, and allow the beauty of the region to bear impact on his creative energy. It was there where Mravinski's artistic gifts translated into his greatest works.

To honour and commemorate Mravinski's visits to that region the Narva Municipality has, since 1995, organised a music festival in the historic Narva Castle. The guest of honour at the festivals has been the widow of Jevgeni Mravinski, the acclaimed artist of Russia, Aleksandra Vavilina-Mravinskaja. She is president of the Jevgeni Mravinski Association in St. Petersburg while simultaneously holding the position of professor at the St. Petersburg Conservatory.

In the festival's concert of chamber music and symphonic choirs, musicians from Estonia, Russia, and other nations are represented. The artistic leader of the festival is the conductor of Narva's renowned symphony orchestra, Anatoli Schtschura. The elegance and richness of Mravinski's contribution to his art is celebrated and enjoyed by appreciative audiences that make the festival a yearly success.

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RECAPTURE OF VIBORG CASTLE

In contrast to Tyrgils Knutsson's capture of Viborg in 1293, this was a peaceful invasion in the form of an exhibition by 24 artists from Viborg's Swedish twin town Nyköping.

Twinning between Viborg and Nyköping was set up in 1997, and has so far resulted in a number of projects ranging from school democracy, women's role in politics, humanitarian aid and co-operation between schools and young people. A couple of projects have also been cultural. Recently, 14 Russian musicians took part in performance of Brahms Requiem together with the Nyköping Philharmonic Society. Another cultural project is the exchange between Russian and Swedish artists. Last autumn, a group of artists from Viborg exhibited at Nyköping Town Hall and, in return, Swedish artists have now been invited to show their works at Viborg castle.

After careful preparations at home, a

Nyköping delegation travelled in advance to hang pictures and arrange sculptures, designs, tapestries and photographs in the best possible way. Helped by Russian artists, the result looked great in time for the opening. The works of art showed up well in the beautiful Great Hall, and the exhibition "Art in all Forms" seemed a highly suitable name. The exhibition was opened by the consul-general May Andersson from the Consulate General of Sweden in St Petersburg, after speeches by Viborg's deputy mayor Alexander Kostenko and Lasse Hedlund from the Nyköping local authority. Around 80 appreciative Viborg citizens attended the opening, together with representatives from TV, radio and press.

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GULLICHSEN COLLECTION

The Pori Art Museum was opened in 1979. The old warehouse was converted into a modern art museum respecting cultural values. Today two decades later the art museum has again a reason for celebration. In the spring 2000 the newest exhibition building called "Wing" was opened. The building is situated south of the old art museum in the oldest planned district of the city, founded in 1558.

The opening exhibition of the "Wing" displayed the life-work of prof. Maire Gullichsen. Thanks to her, known as the most important person of Finnish modern art and culture and as the international spokesman of her institutions like Artek, Free Art School and Modern Arts Association, which influenced in the breakthrough of modernism, developed in Finland. Villa Mairea in Noormarkku, designed by Alvar Aalto, was completed



New wing of Pori Art Museum

in 1939 for the private home of Gullichsen's family. Nowadays, it is one of the most well-known buildings of the Finnish modernism.

In 1971 Mrs Gullichsen donated a collection of over 300 works of art to the foundation named after her for the basic collection of the new art museum. She had a clear opinion on the art "I hope that the outline of the collections of Pori Art Museum will be based on abstract art as such collections would be unique in our country."

In January 2001, the exhibition will start with Czech painter Frantisek Kupka. Kupka belongs to the first representatives of the abstract art and to the most important pioneers of modern art in Europe. The collection will get an own Museum in the old town of Prague during year 2001.

The exhibition of a young Swedish artist Peter Johansson, whose works have aroused a large discussion last year, will be next. The basis for his art is based by culture-identity and national symbolism, as well as encountering of material culture and spiritual values. Johansson handles serious basic questions of existence in the unconstrained, almost humorist way.

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*"Art Noveau of Riga" – contest winner,
by Stefānija Vektere, 13 years old*



INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

As Riga's 800 anniversary is approaching, one of the most excellent ways of widely presenting the opinions of Riga City's young people is an art exhibition. The Organisation of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) has initiated an international drawing contest "City of Culture for Peace". Participants were invited to make a drawing, illustrating how this theme inspired them in relation to their own city and its heritage.

Mayors were invited to organise city's own contest-round. The result of the children's work was seen in a beautiful exhibition that thanks to financial support of the City Council was a unique event of Riga's cultural life. The Culture Dept entrusted the Riga School of Arts to organise this exhibition and to form its graphical setting: poster-booklet with the information about the convention of World's Cultural and Environmental Heritage protection and Manifesto 2000 which stands for peace and non-violence culture. The exhibition was opened on 8th Sept.– the day of World's Cultural Heritage. The first place went to Stefānija Vektere – a student of Riga Hanza school and Riga School of Arts (RMS). The second prize went to Roberts Čikuls and the third prize to Ginta Petraškevica and Veronika Šešeņina who also got the UNESCO Commission in Latvia special prizes.

The works of the laureates were sent to the international contest, where the international jury will call the international winner at the end of 2000.

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SOCIETY OF SLAVIC CULTURE

At the end of the 19th century Sillamäe became a resort popular among St. Petersburg intellectuals. The history of industrial town began in 1946 when it was decided to locate a large metal plant there. This resulted in an increase of foreign population: technical intellectuals, teachers, doctors and many other specialists from different regions outside Estonia.

Nowadays the city has a music school, children's creative art house "Uley", two libraries with 105 thousand books, a Cultural Centre, Sillamäe historic and cultural museum, as well as an exhibition hall. There are also choir, theatre, dancing groups and many children groups as well.

The Society of Slavic culture was established in 1991. The purpose of this Society is preservation of the Slavic cultural traditions, as well as teaching of Estonian and world culture and preservation of contacts with all cultural establishments. Every year the society arranges Town Festivals of Slavic Culture, which is held in connection with the day of saint Cyril and Metody - the creators of Slavic written language. The Slavic Festivals are big events in which invited guests and all creative groups in the town take part.

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FROM RICHARD WAGNER TO TINA TURNER

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Sopot is not only a well-known health resort, but also a centre of culture. BART - Baltic Artistic Agency - is one of the municipal culture institutions. The agency manages the famous Forest Opera and organises Sopot Festival. Each year Polish fans can admire their favourite idols on the stage such as for example: Bryan Adams, Texas, or Italian stars. This year BART started to organise culture events on the area of Sopot Hippodrome. Everybody has heard about a successful concert of Tina Turner. Fifty five thousand of fans came to meet Tina in the hippodrome and millions of them watched her on TV.

Forest Opera in Sopot was built in 1909 to stage Wagner Operas. It became very famous as a Wagner music centre and in that time Sopot was called "Northern Bayreuth". The Festivals ended at the beginning of the Second World War. In 1998 the Festival was brought back to

the Forest Opera. This year we admired the magnificent Richard Wagner's "Tannhäuser" accompanied by Middle Age picnic and George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" with famous black singers and great jazz musicians.

Near the Forest Opera there is a newly built Concert Hall which belongs to the Polish Chamber Orchestra. Conducted by Wojciech Rajski, Polish Chamber Orchestra is renowned for its professional performances in the whole Europe.

Sopot is also very famous of its art. Because of its beauty and unique climate, a lot of artists chose Sopot for their homes. The charm of little towers and verandas and the delicate wind from the sea creates specific atmosphere which let artists create in peace. A chamber centre of culture is situated in Sierakowski Manor House, the seat of Friends of Sopot Society. The Society organises small art

exhibitions, chamber classical music concerts and jazz concerts. Sopot Molo Jazz Festival is organised each summer. A lot of very good Polish jazz musicians come to Sopot to give concerts, some of them settled there as well. Sopot is also famous for its theatre - Atelier theatre presents the original mixture of Polish, German and Jewish works, art and songs.

In 1901 Sopot received city rights. Next year we will celebrate a Hundred Birthday of Sopot. The calendar of anniversary events is under preparation. A name of a music mega-star to visit Sopot in 2001 is kept secret...

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CULTURE CENTRE

Šiauliai is called the cultural centre of North Lithuania. Although Šiauliai does not have the traditional Old Town, there is still a lot to look at: original Pedestrian Boulevard, well-managed and green dwelling areas, the Sundial Square, Renaissance masterpiece – the Cathedral, and the Hill of Crosses.

Art Gallery

One of the famous places in Šiauliai is Art Gallery, known as the Palace of Exhibitions and one of the main centres of Fine Arts. The exhibitions include works of pictorial art, sculpture, graphics art, photography, installations, applied arts, video art and others. There are also the interdisciplinerial projects, performances, and shows of vanguard fashion and concerts of different music. The Gallery organises also the discussions, concerning the particular subject f.ex. publications, etc. One of the most important events in the Gallery is a project of visual art and music "Zuvys". The annual festival of the Alternative Art and Fashion called "Virus" also takes place there.

Festivals

The festival of the country musicians and countryside orchestras "Ant Rubeziaus" racketed for the first time on 2-3 of June. The record number of 400 participants was gathered. The festival was diversified with a new merriment: the longest table of town-dwellers. To everyone's joy the competent jury measured the table, and it was announced that the previous record of 126 meters was beaten – the length of the table was 159.8 meters. The organiser became the farmstead of the accordion players – countryside musicians from all around of the country made their accordions to cry dancers exercised their feet, and folk-artists organised their concert – evening-party.

Another festival of air balloons "Gubernijos Cup - 2000" took place on the 16-17 June.



"Ant Rubeziaus" Festival in Šiauliai

On the 23-25th of June the very first in history of Šiauliai Aviation Joninės started with the flights of the town-dwellers. Hundreds of Šiauliai town-dwellers had a possibility to inspect war aircraft's and watch acrobatic feats. The culmination of the festival was the flight of Jurgis Kairys, the outstanding pilot in the world. His "cobras" riveted attention of everyone.

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BALTIC HOUSE

The Theatre-Festival "Baltic House" does a great work of developing cultural ties with the BSR countries, namely exchange tours, the Days of National Cultures, performances staged in conjunction with other theatres. However, more attention is given to international festivals focusing mainly on the BSR countries. The Festival organises international events such as the festival of mono-performances "Monocle", the festival of free arts "Solstice" and the festival "Baltic House".

The "Baltic House" Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. About 100 theatres participated in it from the beginning. All these years St. Petersburg was a host. "Baltic House - 2000" exceeded the frames of St. Petersburg and became common for Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The theatre wave went through the three Baltic republics and gave a start to the St. Petersburg "Baltic House", having united Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in an indissoluble ring. A special



Emil Kapelush getting Best Scenography Prize

delegation consisting of international theatre workers, critics and journalists participated in this "ring". Memorial medals of the festival were presented to theatre workers from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia who made a significant donation in formation and development of the "Baltic House" festival.

Organisers of the festival hope that the initiated idea of the "Baltic Ring" will be continued, new creative contacts, as well as theatre net of the Baltic Region may be started.

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ORGAN FESTIVAL

Tallinn International Organ Festival has run since 1987. The City of Tallinn has been the main sponsor and the Festivals are one of the most important artistic events of the year. The main stage of the Festival is St. Nicolas Church, now functioning as the museum and the concert hall. It is situated in the heart of the Old Town, not far from the Town Hall Square. St. Nicolas Church holds a large amount of medieval art. One of the most unique exhibits of the church is a fragment of an original "Dance Macabre" (1446) by Bernt Notke from Lübeck. Besides St. Nicolas Church, concerts have been held in the other Tallinn churches and around Estonia. There are many unique organs in the Estonian churches. All these wonderful instruments have been sounding during the festivals.

The 14th Tallinn International Organ Festival was held July 28 - August 08, 2000 and was dedicated to the greatest composer of the world history John Sebastian Bach. The opening day of the festival commemorated his death on July 28, 1750 with his main work - Matthew Passion performed by Latvian Radio Choir and Hortus Musicus academic orchestra conducted by Andres Mustonen. In the next ten days all the organ works by Bach were performed by European organists. The festival ended with Bach's Mass B-minor, performed by Stuttgart Chamber Choir with well-known soloists and the Baroque Orchestra conducted by Frieder Bernius. It was remarkable to hear to the Bach's last cantata - "Bauernkantata" performed twice in the Estonian Open Air Museum Rocca-al Mare, conducted by the founder of the Festival and its Artistic Director, Prof. Andres Uibo.

The Year of Bach will soon be over. The 15th Tallinn International Organ Festival will be held on August 03-12, 2001 with the theme "Diverse Organ". Tallinn welcomes all organ lovers from the UBC cities to participate in more than 30 concerts that will be held during 15th Organ Festival next year.

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LIBRARY - A MEETING PLACE

Västerås city library has a rich supply of programs for adults and children. The Auditorium is an important meeting place for many citizens. Practically every evening there are arrangements for the public: Lectures, author visits, debates and concerts, often in co-operation with various organisations. Real-life meetings are important in our virtual society.

The project "Room for Words" aims at stimulating reading and writing. It is open for everyone interested in literature. The library is the obvious room. There you can meet authors and persons interested in writing in word workshops. Special books on reading and writing have been procured. The staff also arranges special discussions on modern literature.

The active role of the library has made the citizens of Västerås active and experienced visitors of the library. The young and students are regularly invited to the library. 6 out of 10 persons using the Information desks were students.

The project "Student Västerås" is co-operation project between the university "Mälardalens Högskola" and the municipal library. The aim was to improve the service for the university students in Västerås. The city politicians gave 800 000 SEK as a grant for purchases of books, and a librarian was engaged. More reading places were arranged for the students and booklets on how to use the library were printed.

The selection of the 2000+ books purchased answers to the need of the student. Valuable contacts between the University and the Library were established, and co-ordinated lectures were arranged.

The project was finalised in the summer of 2000. The results were so encouraging that the grant and the contacts between the municipal library and the University were made permanent.

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TUKUMS – 2000

This year Tukums celebrates its 550th town anniversary. The most important summer events were two festivals: Town Festival “Tukums – 2000” and Friendship Festival for twinning towns. “Tukums – 2000”, held in June 21-23, consists of many different events. One of these events was the exhibition by local entrepreneurs, held every two years. This year more than 20 town enterprises, institutions, and non-government organisations participated in the exhibition.

During the festival also different charity events were held – e.g. the campaign “Tukums time”.

Already since the spring the campaign is being held to raise the money for the reconstruction of the clock at the Tukums Lutheran church tower. Tukums musicians prepared a unique CD “Song for my town” with 12 songs. The songs are composed and performed by the musicians themselves. The choir of Tukums town council employees also performed in the presentation of CD in the club “Grands”. Festival concerts were provided by groups from twinning town Plunge, dancing group from Estonia and Swedish-American jazz band “The Soul – Boy Band”. In the frame of festival the parade “Through the century” that united all people, town residents and guests, was organised.

Two years ago Tukums town council funded a special award “Tukums Honour Citizen”. For the first time the award was



Parade “Through the Century”

given in 1999 to Else-Marie Bertilsson, resident from Tukums twinning town Tidaholm. This year it went to Rasma Valdmane, music teacher at Rainis Secondary School nr.1 and the conductor of choirs “Savejie” and “Noktirne”.

The Town Festival means keeping every house yard and surroundings clean and tidy, but it also means satisfaction with the work being done and it gives people the feeling of being united.

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Conductor Eri Klas



PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Luigi Cherubini’s splendid Requiem for choir and orchestra was performed on the evening of the 13th of October in the Main Auditorium of Tampere Hall. A capacity audience listened intently to the 60-strong Academic Male Choir of Estonia and the Tampere philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Eri Klas. It was a breathtaking performance. People who had come to listen were moved by a brief note in their programmes: the performance was dedicated to the memory of conductor Peeter Lilje on the 50th anniversary of his birth who died in 1993.

This concert was only one example of the ways in which a cultural institution like an orchestra can bring hearts and nations closer together. International contacts are forged at every concert as audiences were familiarised with the music and artists of different lands.

The internationally renowned Estonian conductor, Eri Klas, commenced his work as artistic director of the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra three years ago. Since then there has been a lively reciprocal exchange of culture. The Overture No. 2 by Tormis has been heard not only in Tampere but also in Amsterdam on a recent visit made by the Tampere Philharmonic to the famous Concertgebouw.

Premieres of works by Arvo Pärt are always notable occasions. The Finnish

premiere of the work *Como anhela la cierva* in December 1999 brought the composer himself to Tampere, as was the case with Eino Tamberg one year earlier.

Visiting conductors in recent years have included several Estonians. Tampere has also been graced by numerous Estonian singers and the male choir already mentioned – one of the best in the world.

Two years ago the cities of Tartu and Tampere resigned the agreement of twin cities. At the same time there was a veritable invasion of Tampere musicians of their twin town. The same summer the orchestra celebrated the 8th anniversary of Estonian new independence by performing under Eri Klas at the Võru lake festival. In December 1998 the Academic Male Choir of Estonia had rendered themselves unforgettable in Tampere by performing Sibelius’ *Finlandia* in Finnish at a concert in honour of Finnish Independence Day.

The strength of small countries lies in their cultures. Music can accomplish cultural co-operation by enabling works, their creators and the public to come together. Pursuing the finest possible quality, makes the whole much more than the sum of its parts.

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ARSNET PROJECT

The employment issues of the cultural sector have received a lot of attention during the last few years. In 1998 the City of Turku started a project to develop the cultural field in this respect. A large-scale project called Arsnet was launched in August 2000. This three-year project is funded by the European Social Fund and by the City of Turku.

The goal of the Arsnet project is to improve the employment situation and financial profitability of cultural professionals, by bringing together cultural know-how and needs. The support services that Arsnet provides will make finding and accessing cultural know-how easier so that cultural consumption will rise.

Cultural know-how in the market and in work. During the project a new kind of operating model for market entry and employment services in cultural work shall be tested. The operating model comprises of the Arsnet Performance Service which actively markets and sells the skills of cultural professionals and of the Arsnet Gallery register, a know-how bank of cultural know-how on the Internet. Once this operating model is completed and tested, it can be expanded and transferred.



Arsnet Performance Service. This service will market and sell performance-type cultural services and thus works as a new kind of employment service for the cultural field. The operating principle of the Performance Service is to recognise the needs of potential buyer groups and market to each group those cultural services that meet their very needs. In addition to precisely targeted marketing, the Arsnet Performance Service will use the Arsnet Gallery as an operating tool.

Arsnet Gallery. The Arsnet Gallery is an electronic know-how bank. Its primary task will be extensive marketing and presentation of cultural actors from the Turku Region. This will be done on the basis of buyers' needs, so that the presentation of each cultural actor is sufficiently illustrative and versatile to make the buying decision possible. The presentations will be achieved by using the latest multimedia technology. Arsnet also tries to lower the threshold between supply and demand through a clear and concrete supply. That's why the know-how recognition and branding process is one of the project's key functions.

The Arsnet Gallery will prevent the local know-how drain that is unfortunately so pervasive as cultural actors move away from the Turku region to seek for work. Information about regional cultural professionals will spread via the Arsnet Gallery to where the demand is, without them having to relocate to sell their skills.

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CULTURE MEETING POINT

International Centre for Composers. In the last few years, we have seen the re-establishment of contact between neighbouring countries in many different areas, including politics, in trade and industry, tourism, environmental matters and education - and not least, in the newly-created cultural exchanges.

In 1996, the Gotland School of Music Composition organised a week of composition called "Young Composers in the Baltic Region" in which representatives from all Baltic countries participated.

One of the principal ideas was to discuss questions concerning composers, and to put the spotlight on new music. Another aim was to discuss establishing an "International Centre for Composers" a meeting-point for composers in the Baltic Region. In November 1999 Visby International Centre for Composers was officially established.

Visby International Centre for Composers (VICC) aims to:

- be a place of work as well as a place of meeting for composers,
- work in the field for Contemporary Music via concerts, conferences, seminars, educational and co-operational projects,
- make a fruitful resource for schools of Music Composition and other institutions and centres in the field of art.,
- within its activities be responsible for the Electro-Acoustic Music Studio in close co-operation with schools of Music Composition on Gotland,
- support the creation of an international Score- & Phonogram Library. Please visit www.centreforcomposers.org

BAC. The Baltic Art Centre in Visby started up its activities from this year, with support from the Swedish Ministry of Culture and the Gotland Municipality.

There is a long-term goal to establish

the Gotland Island as a cultural meeting-place in the Baltic region. In the harbour area of Visby especially there has been large-scale development for the new Gotland University College and a number of cultural and educational institutions.

The Centre has been involved in the UBC project N.E.W.S. and the final exhibition in Visby this summer.

Since the Baltic Art Centre this year is waiting for its premises to be renovated, the main part of its activities has been done in collaboration with, or "c/o" other institutions.

The Baltic Art Centre co-operates with the Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators and the Visby International Centre for Composers as local hosts for an EU conference in March 2001 about Artists living conditions in Europe. Please visit: www.balticartcenter.com

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KIRIKYYT FESTIVAL

Not every little town could be proud of its own art festival. Viljandi has got a biennale-frequency festival called Kirikyyt, organised by Artists Union of Viljandi. The first Kirikyyt took place in 1993. The main festival's principle is to present both local and national artists and art historians.

This year Kirikyyt was dedicated to the 'Free Style'. This is the other word for naïve art, proposed by art historian Sigrîd Saarep who was the main curator of the festival this time. There are long traditions of the so called Free Style in Viljandi. The works of one of the most outstanding representative, Vaike Lubi were exhibited in the Museum of Naive and Outsider Art in Zwolle, Netherlands. She built huge buildings only from natural materials without buying anything from shops. Her and many others' naïve architecture was exhibited in Kirikyyt on large photos and slides.

The main exhibition had a very intriguing concept. There was a merge of artists whose works seem to be naïve despite of their professional skills and education and those who work like professionals but have not studied art. Next to them the audience could find the Viljandi naïve art classics like legendary master Paul Kondas.

One of the exhibition presented strange items from Soviet times when it was impossible to find trades of good quality on the market so people were very experienced in changing different things. Those home-made goods pretended to be Western origin. On the exhibition one could see those home-made design, as well as weird and useless examples of Soviet industrial design.

During the Kirikyyt 2000 lots of shop were decorated with the reproductions of the world classics of naïve art. In the central square the inhabitants and visitors



Road exhibition "Speed II" shown on billboards all over Estonia

could meet for instance big wood-carved animals. At nights young people gathered to see low-tech movies and video art. During the Free Style conference one could hear more about the artists having exhibitions on the festival.

The next Kirikyyt will take place in 2001. The theme is not know yet because Kirikyyt always meets the needs of contemporary times.

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NEW MUSEUMS

Gamla Uppsala

The newest contribution to the museums in Uppsala is the Gamla Uppsala Historical Centre. The museum was opened in May this year and is situated in the historical spot of the Royal burial-mounds. This is the place where the ancient legends meet the documented history of Sweden. Moreover, it is regarded as one of the largest burial-mounds in Scandinavia. The exhibition presents myths from the times before Sweden was named Sweden, and there are artefacts from Ynglinga kings, who were part of an international aristocracy. The exhibition also shows burial finds from the 6th -10th century and how burial rites gradually changed over time. The exhibition ends in the 13th century when the worshipping of Frej gave way to the belief in Christ, and a cathedral was built.

Museum Gustavianum

The edifice Gustavianum, constructed in 1620, is the oldest University building in Sweden. It was the main building of the University until the 19th century. The Museum Gustavianum was opened in



June 1997 and offers collections from the history of science. Here is the famous Augsburg Art Cabinet alongside interesting inventions such as the Celsius' thermometer. There is also information about the history of the University from the year 1477. In the 17th century Olof Rudbeck built a large cupola with a sundial on the roof of Gustavianum. Inside the hall looked like an amphitheatre. In the middle of this theatre, with room for 200 observers, there was a table. Dissections became in this time a part of

the medical study, but the lectures were also open to the general public. Today the Anatomical Theatre shows an exhibit on early anatomical and medical studies. (www.gustavianum.uu.se)

Cultural Session 2000

The Council for the Stockholm -Mälardalen Region and the Culture Foundation in Uppsala are the initiators for the Annual Cultural Sessions in the Mälardalen Region. The Sessions are dialogues between different actors with the aim of creating better conditions for culture as a part of today's society. The purpose of the Cultural Sessions is to create a meeting point for culture and business in the region and also to manifest a mutual exchange between culture, business and higher education. This year's session takes place in November. The focus of the Cultural Session 2000 is Regional Development and the Regional Contracts of Growth and what these contracts mean for culture.

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CULTURE INITIATIVES

In the beginning of the 1990s Szczecin upgraded from the back-yard Polish city into Poland's gate and became independent in restating its former cultural ties and interests. The last decade proved its determination to create and promote its new image as the international cultural centre. The leadership of the UBC Com. on Culture has been one of the basic tools for stimulating new cultural initiatives. The UBC events in Szczecin since 1995 were organized by the city council in close collaboration with the Pomeranian Dukes' Castle, the most active cultural institution.

Among main local scientific and cultural actors there is The Pomeranian Library, a member of the Bibliotheka Baltica Society and organizer of the last International Congress of the BSR Libraries.

In the field of visual arts Szczecin is known as the head-quarter of the Baltic Art Magazine MARE ARTICUM and the High School of Applied Arts. Szczecin has lots of choirs, music ensembles, the Philharmonic Hall and Opera & Operetta.

Theatric performances are delivered by the Contemporary Theatre, Polish Theatre and Puppet Theatre 'Pleciuga' which is the only professional puppet theatre in Western Pomerania. Since 1998 'Pleciuga' develops the 'Theatre across the borders' project which resulted in the series of performances and exhibitions as well as cycle of competitions and workshops for both Polish and German children.

Independent organisations and associations also actively contribute to the quality of culture. Among them, the KANA Theatre Association is one of the best known. KANA performs its own spectacles, at the same time organizes a lot of international theatre, dance and music projects. KANA is currently preparing for the 3rd edition of the Street Artists Festival to be held in Szczecin in summer 2001. OFFICYNA Association is an independent city forum for experimental art. It's main field of interest are visual arts, architecture and music. OFFICYNA also develops the international Artist-in-Residency Program.

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CHOIR FESTIVAL

Heading the list of choirs scheduled to perform at the 9th Vaasa Choir Festival on 23-27 May 2001 are the King's Singers from the UK and the Helsinki University Chorus from Finland. The Festival will also be spreading over into other parts of the Vaasa region and more than 3,000 visitors are expected.

The King's Singers from England, one of the world's most popular a cappella choirs, have partnered such illustrious soloists as Placido Domingo, Kirite Kanawa, Barbara Hendricks and "Beatle" Sir Paul McCartney.

Representing the Byzantine-Russian vocal tradition will be the fine Lege Artis choir from St. Petersburg which is a winner of four international competitions.

The Turku Church Choir, the Psaloo Choir from Helsinki and the Tampere Church Choir will be taking part in a survey of Orthodox Church music spanning a thousand years right up to the present day. One of the works to be performed by the Tampere Church Choir is a liturgy

composed by its conductor, Pasi Torhamo.

The other main performer, the Helsinki University Chorus, is the oldest Finnish-speaking choir and has always been an advocate of Finnish culture. Conducted by Matti Hyökki, it has won international recognition on its extensive foreign tours and numerous recordings.

One of the items on the Festival programme will be a performance of Sibelius's Kullervo Symphony by the Jussit, a male choir from South Ostrobothnia, on its 50th anniversary.

The Kosti Könni memorial concert will be devoted to compositions and arrangements for choir and wind band. This concert will be hosted by the Sirpaleet Mixed Choir founded and formerly conducted by Kosti Könni.

Introducing a modern folk element will be the Stemma choir. Also attending the Vaasa Choir Festival will be the Oulainen Youth Choir, the Seinäjoki Girls Choir and Rolnicka from Prague.

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CULTURE IN THE NORTH

Kemi, a Northern Finnish town, was the cultural capital of Lapland in 1997-1998. This really makes sense when you think of how much Kemi can offer for those who thirst for culture. The cultural centre is the heart of the cultural life. Under the same roof there are the art museum, the main library, the theatre, 2 auditoriums, 2 schools, a movie theatre, a restaurant and a café.

The exhibitions of the Art Museum offer a wide variety of modern art movements and older art from Finland and around the world. You can find here also exotic and shamanistic aspects of northern art.

Kemi is very famous for its international comic festivals. They are being held every year in the spring and are meant for the whole family. Many famous comic artists, like Robert Crumb, have visited the festivals. The Kemi theatre is one of the most northern professional theatres in the world. The theatre presents plays that are made from the legends of Lapland but you

can see also the famous classics and modern plays from around the world.

There are a lot of old and historically important buildings around the city. For instance in the middle of the Kemi you can see many beautiful houses by the sea and around the main park. There you can look how the local craftsmen have created their masterworks.

If you are interested in deepening your knowledge of the culture and history of Kemi you can visit the small but very interesting local museums. The main historical museum has a permanent exhibition about the culture and sources of livelihood in Kemi during the past centuries. There are also smaller museums for the history of workers, hairdressers and painters.

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II. UBC Today

29TH EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN KOLDING

The 29th meeting of the UBC Executive Board was held on 4 November 2000 in Kolding, Denmark, upon the invitation of Mr Per Bodker Andersen, Mayor of Kolding.

99 Cities

Mr Paweł Żaboklicki, Secretary General, informed the Board about the applications for Union membership submitted by the cities of Tukums, Voru and Mariampole. The Board decided to accept mentioned cities as Union Members and wished them fruitful cooperation with other UBC member cities. The number of Union members reached the figure **99**.

Transportation

The Board decided to nominate the City of Goteborg as the new leading city in the UBC Commission on Transportation. Göteborg is interested mostly in public transport; other aspects of transportation could be delegated to other interested cities.

Baltic University

Professor Lars Ryden, Director of Baltic University Programme, Uppsala, made a presentation introducing BUP's background, aims and activities. BUP is a network of universities, initiated by Uppsala University in Sweden in 1991. Today some 170 universities in the 14 countries within the Baltic Sea Basin take part in the programme. The Board expressed hope for further close and mutually beneficial cooperation between the UBC and BUP.

City-University

At the last Board meeting Mr Eugenijus Gentvilas, UBC Vice-President, put forward the idea to discuss the question how to stimulate better cooperation between the cities and universities. Mr Gentvilas sent out a questionnaire to all member cities. On the basis of the questionnaire Mr Gentvilas presented an overview of the cooperation between cities and universities in the UBC.

Mr Peeter Tulviste, Tartu, proposed to organise a UBC conference where cities, universities and business would discuss how to improve cooperation between

these three important actors in order to advance the development of the BSR.

The Board appointed a working group consisting of Bergen, Klaipeda and Tartu, aimed at initiating the UBC network of cities with universities.

Interreg III

Mr Juhan Janusson, UBC EU-Coordinator, reported from the meeting of UBC-BSSSC-CPMR Working Group which task was to create a program for cooperation between local and regional



authorities in the BSR and submit the application for funding to Interreg III B.

UBC struggled for a new facility for small and medium sized projects between the local authorities, since the last programs disappeared in 1998. In October the EC adopted a document named "Phare 2000 review" prepared by Mr Gunther Verheugen, EU Commissioner on Enlargement. Mr Verheugen introduces two new possibilities for cooperation projects between local and regional authorities. The first is connected to Interreg III, and the second is a new twinning scheme. The call for projects is to be published in September 2001.

UBC-LVRLAC

Mr Janusson informed that project between UBC and LVRLAC will consist of several activities directed to Lake Victoria cities such as: study tour in the BSR; Internet training; environment centres; strengthening of LVRLAC

secretariat; creation of LVRLAC women's network etc. Different actions will be coordinated by specialists from UBC member cities. The project is financed by SIDA. The project duration is 3 years and the budget is 1.000.000 SEK per year.

UBC EU-Coordiators

The 3rd seminar of the UBC EU-Coordiators Network was held in Jekabpils in September. The seminar was devoted to the EU projects, particularly fund raising and project implementation.

Mr Janusson informed that Ms Karin Wessman, Kalmar, has terminated her work as a leader of UBC EU-Coordiators Network. Ms Charlotte Pedersen, Aalborg, will be the new network leader.

ISPA

Mr Janusson informed about the new EU program ISPA – Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-accession. ISPA is one of the EU's three financial assistance programmes set

up to assist the 10 candidate countries in CEE to prepare for accession. Program supports infrastructure projects in the fields of transport and environment.

UBC website

Ms Anna Sośnicka, UBC Secretariat, made on-line presentation introducing the UBC internet homepage www.ubc.net. She presented the structure of the website ie. the links and gave information on statistics concerning the number of visits on respective links. Ms Sośnicka recommended the newest link named "Documentation Centre" that includes all major UBC documents. The Board expressed its satisfaction to the UBC Secretariat in Gdansk and to the Webmaster in Szczecin for maintaining the high level of the UBC internet homepage.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be held in Cēsis, Latvia, on 16-18 March 2001.



28TH EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN ST. PETERSBURG

The 28th meeting of the UBC Executive Board was held on 16 June 2000 in St. Petersburg at the invitation of Mr Vladimir Yakovlev, Governor of St. Petersburg. The first part of the meeting was attended by the Executive Board members. The second part of the meeting was open to all member cities.

UBC Action Plan

President Anders Engström reminded that at the last meeting in Kemi the Board discussed the draft of the UBC Action Plan 2000-2001. Afterwards the draft of the Action Plan was sent out for comments to the chairpersons of the UBC Commissions and Networks. Members of the Presidium are responsible for the strategic questions in the Action Plan. The Board adopted the Action Plan.

Eurocities

Mr Claus Schulze, Eurocities East-West Coordinator introduced the structure, aims and activities of his organisation. Mr Schulze stressed the importance of cooperation between our organisations, especially as regards joint lobbying in Brussels, which should result in achieving common goals in shorter time.

Commission reports

Representatives of UBC Commissions and Networks submitted reports on their activities since the V General Conference held in Stockholm in September 1999. The



Executive Board in front of the City Hall at Smolny

Board expressed its satisfaction on the activities carried out by the Commissions and encouraged all Commissions to continue their important work.

Victoria Lake

President Anders Engström informed that in April, together with Vice-President Gentvilas, he paid a visit to Uganda to sign the cooperation agreement between UBC and LVRLAC. The cooperation will include eg. environmental management, IT, institutional strengthening, gender equality, study tours to BSR etc.

UBC Interreg III initiative

Mr Juhan Janusson, UBC EU-Coordinator, stressed that currently the main problem for cooperation on local

level in the BSR is the lack of funding opportunities. UBC launched an initiative to create a programme for co-operation between local and regional authorities in the BSR within the Interreg III B. A questionnaire was sent out to all member cities asking cities to list the potential projects that could be funded within the programme.

Mr Janusson also reported from the 2nd seminar of UBC EU-Coordination network held in Vilnius in May 2000. The seminar was devoted to the integration process to the EU, with emphasis on the local authority level.

Secretary General Paweł Żaboklicki introduced the latest issue of the UBC Baltic Cities Bulletin BCB 2/2000 devoted to Urban Planning in Baltic Cities. The Board urged the contact persons in all member cities to distribute the bulletin among departments in each City Hall and send it to various city institutions such as universities, libraries, ports, chambers of commerce etc.

VI UBC GENERAL CONFERENCE ROSTOCK 2001

It is a great pleasure for the Mayor of the Hanseatic City of Rostock Mr Arno Pöcker to invite the representatives of all UBC member cities to the VI UBC General Conference to his beautiful city.

On the 12th of October 2001 the Thematic Conference will gather politicians, local decision makers, EU representatives and many practitioners to discuss in the plenary and workshops the most interesting topic '**Social Justice in the new Millennium**'. That will give us the possibility to do something about the social dimension of our overall goal: 'To raise the awareness of a sustainable

future', implemented in Local Agendas 21 of many of our cities.

The topics for the workshops will be:

- I. Gender Equality and Voluntary Work
- II. Health for Everybody
- III. Participation of Children and Youth
- IV. Strengthening of Handicapped and Chronically ill Persons

The second day, the 13th of October 2001, will be dedicated to the UBC issues, the Commission's work and the elections.

For a thorough preparation of the Thematic Conference it would be of great value to get from your city a contribution either to the plenary and/or to the

workshops. Please feel free to introduce your own ideas. We would very much appreciate if you could name your speakers and the topics (respective abstract) of their speeches up to **31 December 2000**.

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NEW INTERREG III PROGRAM

The new EU program Interreg III B will be a very important program for co-operation between local and regional authorities in the Baltic Sea Region. However, one of the problems with Interreg III B has been the size of the projects. A medium size of approximately 5 million Euro is very much for projects that aim mostly at exchange of experience in various forms on the sub-national level.

UBC has argued for a new facility for small and medium sized projects ever since the last ones disappeared in 1998 and for a better co-ordination between Phare funding and other EU funding. The UBC President has taken up the matter in many CBSS meetings as well as in Brussels. Also other Baltic Sea Region organisations, especially BSSSC, have been active in this field.

As a part of the UBC activities, UBC took initiative to form a joint working group with representatives from UBC, BSSSC and CPMR/Baltic Sea Commission. The purpose was to create a platform for lobbying in Brussels for a facility for small and medium sized projects.

It looks as the voices from the Baltic Sea Region have been heard in Brussels. Friday 27 October the European Commission adopted a paper labelled "Phare 2000 review - Strengthening Preparations For Membership", Communication from Mr Verheugen. In the paper, Mr Verheugen introduces two new possibilities for small and medium sized co-operation projects between local and regional authorities. The first is connected to Interreg III, and the second is a new twinning scheme.

Interreg III B

Phare will finance accession country participation in Interreg III B-projects in the Baltic Sea Region. In other parts of the border between EU and the applicant countries, the funding will go to Interreg III A projects. This means that proper consideration has been taken to the maritime borders in our region.

The co-ordination between Phare and Interreg III will be better. About 10 % of the Phare budget will be allocated to cross-border projects. Phare will be able to finance also smaller projects, in

addition to "normal sized" Interreg III projects (=more than 2 million Euro). Phare will co-finance cross-border projects where the Phare contribution is between 50 000 and 2 million Euro. In addition to that, there will be a facility in Phare CBC up to 50 000 Euro per project.

To conclude, there will be a program for small and medium sized co-operation projects in the framework of Interreg III B, and the financing of the eastern partners looks secured.

Latest information says that the call for projects will be published in September 2001. However, as in all programs, there are tremendous advantages for those who start preparations early. The whole projects should be ready by September, including budget, so you just have to fill in the forms when the call comes.

Phare Twinning "Light"

Mr Verheugen also announces an improved Phare Twinning facility. It will be intended for projects on institutions building in the framework of a twinning agreement between cities and regions. There are no details on the program yet.

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UBC EU-COORDINATORS

NETWORK

The UBC EU-Coordinators Network had its third seminar in Jekabpils, Latvia in September 2000. Mr Jan Blomstrand had a very inspiring and thought-provoking lecture on EU Projects. The focus was on what to do with a large project ideas in order to find financing and carry it through.

This seminar concluded the first phase of the shaping of the UBC EU-Coordinators Network. The activities so far have been partly financed by EU through Swebaltcop. Still remaining to be finished is a home-page for the network.

The new chairman of the UBC EU-Coordinator Network, Ms Charlotte Pedersen, EU Co-ordinator in Aalborg, will continue to develop the network. It is a very important tool for UBC to implement one of its' major strategies, which is to prepare cities in our region for the EU enlargement.

UBC is promoting the UBC Member Cities to establish a position in their administration as EU Co-ordinator. The intention with the UBCEU-Coordinator Network is to support the persons holding that position in the city.

The EU Co-ordinator task is to co-ordinate information on EU to the various city departments, to assist in EU related activities and to promote city departments to take active part in projects and other EU activities. The EU Co-ordinator works across city sectors.

The title of the position can differ, but he must have support from the highest level in the city.



Mr Blomstrand had a very inspiring lecture on EU projects

An EU Co-ordinator should have a general perspective on the city and not be a specialist in a narrow field. It is more important to have educational skills than to be an EU specialist. He must be good in English and be able to take own initiatives.

The EU-Coordinator should be able to work in networks, giving and getting information. The UBC EU-Coordinators network is one of these networks.



LAKE VICTORIA COOPERATION

UBC has been chosen by the Swedish International Development Authority Sida as consultant to assist the cities around Victoria Lake to make a similar organisation, Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Co-operation (LVRLAC) operational and turn it to an efficient tool for co-operation.

This project has been prepared through several visits by UBC representatives, and we have now signed a general co-operation agreement between UBC and LVRLAC.

An operational activity plan has been created, based on a visit by Mr Juhan Janusson, UBC EU-Coordinator and Mr Pawel Żaboklicki, UBC Secretary General, in Entebbe in May 2000.

LVRLAC presented a priority list, adapted by the board. The list was operationalised in terms of concrete projects during the visit.

This list was processed considering the possibilities for UBC to find experts in the project areas. In that process, a number of proposals were sorted out because UBC do not have the competence.

The processed and edited list was approved by Sida and by LVRLAC. The next step was to create this project description, consisting of description of activities and a budget.

The proposal consists of five concrete activities:

1. Study tour by LVRLAC to Baltic Sea Region. The LVRLAC delegation will visit Gdańsk, Kalmar, Stockholm and Turku at the end of March or beginning of April 2001

2. Functional internal communications. Mr Magnus Rydén from Kalmar created the basis for the UBC homepage and e-maillists. He will be engaged in doing the same for LVRLAC.

3. Functional Secretariat. Ms Iwona Śmigierska-Belczak, UBC Secretariat, will assist in creating routines in the LVRLAC secretariat

4. Environment Pedagogic Centres. Mr Guldbrand Skjönberg, Nacka, will create conditions to establish pedagogic centers for the public and school-children for sustainable development

5. Support for building the LVRLAC Women's Network. Ms Hjördis Höglund, chairwomen of the UBC Women's Network, will assist in creating a network similar in the Lake Victoria Region cities.

Juhan Janusson, UBC EU-Coordinator, is overall project leader. It shall be noted that the activities are carried out on consultation basis, which means they will give UBC income. There is no risk that the UBC membership fees will be used in the Lake Victoria Region!



City cooperation going on during the UBC Agenda 21 Event in Bützow City Hall

The UBC Agenda 21 Event took place in Bützow, Germany, 12-14 October. Altogether about 50 people took part, representing member cities in almost every BSR country. The little city of Bützow (9000 inhabitants) was an excellent host and the event was very well organised.

The first part of the event was the Best City Practices (BCP) Workshop on Thursday the 12th. Twelve good practices were presented and city couples formed for benchmarking activities on these good practices. This workshop was the first one in series of three workshops which will be organised within the BCP Project 2000-2001 (read more in the story on BCP).

On Friday the 13th, the day was started by official opening and welcome by the

where bats live in Bützow (former electricity transformer "renovated" for little animals) and how play-grounds are planned by kids - the users.

During Friday afternoon and Saturday, the UBC Local Agenda 21 Working group had its meeting which concentrated on the implementation and development of the UBC Local Agenda 21 Action Program 2000-2002. On-going projects of the program were presented and the development of these projects as well as brainstorming for new projects and activities was carried out in six workshops.

The City of Lübeck has made good progress with the Sustainable Harbour Policy Project, the Gender Equality and LA 21 Project co-ordinated by the UBC Women's Network has brought good

UBC AGENDA 21 EVENT

Vice Mayor of Bützow, Ms Gabriele Behning, and this was followed by a presentation and an excursion of the Local Agenda 21 activities of the city. The presentation was given and the excursion planned by Dr. Mathias Alsleben, who also co-ordinated the whole event in the city. Among other things, the participants got to know

results, the Lifestyle 2021 Project co-ordinated by Gotland is proceeding, and the SUFA, BCP, and MEA projects co-ordinated by the EnvCom are going on, too. Currently, the UBC LA 21 Action Program comprises seven active projects and ten developed project and/or activity ideas.

As one outcome of the workshops, the Latvian cities of Jelgava and Liepāja announced their willingness to conduct MEA in near future. A very interesting outcome was also the result from the Gender Equality workshop that each new project should be evaluated from the Gender point of view. The group also created a very feasible brief set of questions for this purpose, and this set was immediately put to use in the BCP Project. In fact, all the six workshops made good results, and more information on these can be obtained from the meeting memorandum, which is available for all interested from the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat.

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BEST CITY PRACTICES

Best City Practices (BCP) Project is based on fifteen good practices that took part in the Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 1999. The first workshop was in Bützow, Germany, on 12th October 2000. Eleven of those good practices were presented there for other interested member cities. During the workshop cities started to form couples for benchmarking. Every couple includes a guiding city, with the good practice, and a partner city, interested in the particular practice.

In 2001 the city couples will study the possibilities to implement the good practice in the partner city. The feasibility study starts with the study visit, which results will be presented in the second workshop, spring 2001. The results of the whole feasibility study and the feasibility report will be introduced in the third workshop, autumn 2001. The EnvCom Secretariat will publish a summary of the feasibility reports by the end of 2001.

For participating cities the BCP project gives lots of knowledge on the chosen good practice topic. On the basis of this new knowledge there are many possibilities for new projects. Well-done feasibility study gives also a good basis to apply further funding for implementation. In the point of view of the media, good project is a piece of interesting news, and it gives positive image of the city. Also contacts and exchange of experiences, which have been made during the project between the city pairs, are valuable for the participants.

The Best City Practices (BCP) Project is a two-year project, which is realised during the years 2000-2001. It is co-funded by Nordic Council of Ministers. This project is part of UBC Local Agenda 21 Action program and Baltic 21 Joint Action 4. The project is realised between UBC member cities and it is co-ordinated by UBC Commission on Environment.



One of the BCP practices, the Environment Bus of Gotland, used for environmental education. On the photo, the bus is presented to the participants of BCP

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BALTIC ROUNDTABLE ON LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

18-19 May 2000 in Turku, Finland, the UBC in co-operation with the Finnish Ministry of the Environment and other partners organised the Baltic Roundtable on Local Environmental Policy for forty representatives of environmental ministries, European Commission, and local authorities and their networks. The two-day event provided a set of very seminal discussions.

On the basis of these discussions, there seem to be several reasons for slight



Participants of the Roundtable at the entrance of the Old City Hall of Turku

optimism. At the national level, effective policies for supporting local level sustainability work are either being implemented or under construction and discussion in all of the countries on both sides of the Baltic Sea. There also seems to be a relatively wide consciousness that dialogue and co-operation between the different levels of administration and the different stakeholders of society is the key method to proceed. National commissions and support groups for sustainable development play an important role, as well as funding for pilot activities.

At the European level, the new policy developments, e.g., with regard to the 6th Environmental Action Program and the Framework proposal for Sustainable Urban Development, will most likely provide good chances for progress. As some of the roundtable presentations clearly reflected, work on sustainable development at the local level, e.g., on Local Agenda 21, contributes positively to the EU accession process by improving the policy processes and preparing

ground for implementation of EC Environmental Legislation.

At the local level, many municipalities are actively implementing good pilot projects and developing the policy processes. There are also a great number of national and international networks that successfully support the municipalities by providing possibilities for exchange, co-operation and political support.

At least during the Roundtable, the spirit of co-operation between different BSR stakeholders was very good. It is this spirit, feeling and practice of partnership that we need to keep up in order to proceed in tackling all those difficult problems.

The Roundtable was part of the SUFA Project. The projects is co-funded by the partners, European Commission and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment. Other partners of the project, in addition to the UBC, are ICLEI and Åbo Akademi University. The roundtable report is available in print from the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat, and downloadable in pdf-format from the UBC website.



SUFA PROJECT PROCEEDING



The Partners of SUFA Project during a planning meeting. From left: Marko Joas (ÅA University), Barbara Anton (ICLEI), project coordinator Risto Veivo (UBC), and Björn Grönholm (ÅA University)

After the Baltic Roundtable on Local Environmental Policy, the SUFA Project is now organising a Training Course for Local Agenda 21 Co-ordinators and experts from the Baltic States and Poland. The altogether 16 participants will meet in the first training workshop in Kaunas, Lithuania, 22-25 November, and after Kaunas two more workshops will follow in 2001.

In between the workshops, the participants and the training course facilitator Barbara Anton from the project partner ICLEI will be continuously in touch

with each other via www to share problems and solutions. The intention is to plan the training on the basis of the needs of the participants and their home cities, and this demands, in addition to continuous communication, remarkable activity from the participants.

During 2001, also four publications on Local Agenda 21 will be made by the UBC. These will provide information on the Human Resources available for LA 21 training and development in the target countries, as well as information on good practices and on the reasons that make them so good. A fair part of this information will be based on research made within the project by project partner Åbo Akademi University.

The SUFA Project (Success Factors on Local Environmental Policy for Local Agenda 21 Activities and EU Enlargement in the Baltic Sea Region) has received co-funding from the European Union and the Finnish Ministry of the Environment. More information on the project can be obtained from the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat, as well as from UBC website.

EUROPEAN PLATFORM FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

The second meeting of the European Platform of networks working on urban sustainability was organised 10 October 2000 in Brussels. The intention with the Platform is to create basis for better co-operation between European networks and possibly to help the networks to reach common positions in European policy issues. In the first two meetings, altogether 24 European organisations have participated, including the European Commission DG Environment and representatives from the Environment Committee of the European Parliament.

Since the Aalborg Conference 1994, a central forum for European level co-operation on local sustainable development has been the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, and one of the ideas with the platform is to provide input for further development

of the Campaign. UBC has been closely co-operating with the Campaign since the Turku Conference 1998, and the UBC has been represented at the meetings by UBC Environmental Co-ordinator Risto Veivo.

The discussions at the meeting demonstrated a great interest in large scale co-operation between the 24 organisations participating so far. Both the European Commission and the European Parliament take great interest in this development, particularly as the European Commission will provide financial support from 2001 through its envisaged "Community Framework for co-operation to promote sustainable urban development". In connection with this Community Framework proposal, the UBC has been mentioned as one of the networks suitable for carrying out implementation projects.

LATVIAN CITIES FOR MEA

After the pioneering Estonian and Lithuanian cities (Tallinn, Pärnu, Panevėžys, Klaipėda, Marijampole, Ignalina and Trakai), now also some Latvian cities have expressed their interest to implement Municipal Environmental Auditing according to the UBC MEA Model.

The representatives of cities of Liepāja and Jelgava actively took the matter up during the recent UBC Local Agenda 21 Working Group Meeting in Büttow, Germany, 13-14 October. Recently also the Latvian city of Jēkabpils has expressed its interest towards conducting MEA.

These new MEAs in Latvia are preliminarily planned to be started during 2001. The cities involved and the UBC Commission on Environment are currently investigating funding possibilities. One important success factor in MEAs is also involvement of partner cities which can offer external experts for evaluation. All cities interested in such a role are most warmly welcomed to contact the UBC Commission on Environment.

The intention with MEA is to offer a feasible tool for city management and environmental experts to analyse the current state of local environment and the environmental performance of the city, as well as evaluate the environmental management. MEA reports define the strengths and weaknesses of the city with regard to the above mentioned issues, and propose improvements.

Running of MEA for the first time usually takes up to 12-18 months. The MEAs run so far have received financial support from the Nordic Minister Council, and in case of Tallinn from EU Life Program and World Bank. Further information on MEA can be obtained from the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat.





HOUSING FOR THE FUTURE

On 15–18 November 2000 the UBC Commission on Urban Planning and the City of Helsinki organised a seminar in Helsinki. The topic was “Housing for the future”. The subtitle was “Urban life in our new and renovated districts”. We wanted to find out best practice examples from UBC cities in such areas as:

- the architecture of new housing developments
- public design and space in new housing
- renovation of concrete panel and old dwelling buildings
- low and dense housing with own gardens
- lack of land for housing, revival of city structure

UBC cities are in a very different situation. Denmark is famous for its beautiful low and dense housing districts with fine gardens. In Sweden the amount of new flats decreased dramatically in the 1990's. In Stockholm you can find excellent architecture of new city-housing. The population of Helsinki increased in the



1990's with 60.000 inhabitants. We are constructing new housing developments by the sea. We use mostly prefabricated panels and hollow slabs. In many cities the renovation of concrete panel buildings from 1970's has started. In numerous cities there is a huge need of flats renovation, but severe lack of resources.

The seminar was successful. We had 43 participants from 23 cities all around the Baltic Sea. We got nine new cities in our network. Seminar presentations were interesting. Ole Östergaard spoke about housing in Århus. Andris Rose informed about renovation of old housing in Riga. Markus Härkäpää presented the housing conditions in EU-cities and on the Baltic Rim - results of the research study. Jussi Vuorinen described the Helsinki problems - lack of land in housing. Ulpu Tiuri had a lecture on customisation in open building housing.

In the seminar hall we had exhibition with 20 best practice examples. The exhibition was very popular among the participants. At the seminar we decided to enlarge the steering committee – the fourth member will come from Riga. Next seminar will be held in Gdańsk on 18-21 April 2001.

Mr Jussi Kautto
 Chairman of the Commission
 City of Helsinki
 Tel. +358 9 169 2310



Participants walking around the old historical housing district at Norrbyskär

URBAN PLANNING IN UMEÅ

The UBC Commission of Urban Planning held their second conference on 15-17 June 2000 in Umeå. Over 20 cities, represented by more than 30 architects and city planners, participated in the event. The “burning questions” discussed at the conference were:

- the city centre development
- and best practices in member cities.

The cities of Aarhus, Bergen, Tampere, Riga and Szczecin made very interesting presentations of their problems and strategies of city center renewal.

Another important question at the conference was how to organise the future cooperation in the field of urban planning, between the UBC member cities. The conference decided that the Commission on Urban Planning should prepare an application to Interreg III B for the next three years (2001-2003), which will be further discussed and decided upon at the next conference in November in Helsinki.

Besides an excursion around the city center of Umeå, the programme also included a visit to Norrbyskär, an old historical site located on an island in the Gulf of Bothnia.

Further information:
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 City of Umeå
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SOCIAL MEETING IN KARLSTADT

We would like to invite you to the meeting of the Commission on Health and Social Affairs. Host of the meeting will be the City of Karlstad in Sweden. Date of the meeting will be 23-24 March 2001.

Main items of our discussion will be:

- Structure of the Commission and its cooperation

- Preparations to the UBC General Conference in Rostock in October 2001 ‘Social Justice in the new Millennium’ and its workshops with the topics: Gender Equality, Health for Everybody, Participation of Children and Youth, Strengthening of handicapped and chronically ill Persons

- UBC Social Charter
- Information on planned and ongoing EU supported projects

- Project Proposals
- Bulletin on Health and Social Affairs
- Commission's leaflet etc.

We hope to enhance our regular exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices.

Further information:
 Ms Petra Hamann
 Com. on Health & Social Affairs
 Tel. +49 381 1136/ 1452
 e-mail: ubc@rostock.de



YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS

UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs together with "Social Hansa" started a new project related to United Nations initiative for the year 2001 - the 'International Year of Volunteers'. With this decision the UN wishes to recognise the great importance of volunteers for the welfare and development of all nations.

The UN is aiming at four objectives:

- Increased Recognition of the voluntary sector to national welfare
- Increased Facilitation of volunteer action by governments, societies and institutions
- Improved Networking of volunteers; exchange of best practices and knowledge in order to increase the effectiveness of voluntary actions
- Promotion of Volunteer's Work to encourage people to participate in volunteer activities

We are sure that your city will have many activities during this year and that it could be of great value to summarise and to show best practices from UBC member cities. In order to get this information we elaborated a questionnaire. It has been published in our Bulletin on Health and Social Affairs and distributed to all UBC cities and many organisations. Next year, after evaluating the questionnaire, we intend to publish the results under the heading 'Volunteer work in the Baltic Sea Region - how people contribute with volunteer actions to the Social and health service'.

This information about the volunteer work in the BSR will be distributed to a wide public. Volunteers from many cities of our region will be given the possibility to show their individual understanding of voluntary work. We hope that in this way the volunteer actions will be enhanced and more people will ask themselves 'What can I personally do for a human society'? We cordially ask you to participate in the project and to send us the completed questionnaire by the **31 December 2000**.

Ms Petra Hamann, Rostock
Com. on Health & Social Affairs
e-mail: petra.hamann@rostock.de

Senator Volker Kaske
Social Hansa
volker.kaske@senator-residenzen.de

NEW CULTURE BOARD



From the left: Riitta Hurme (Espoo), Yrjö Larmola (Helsinki) and Sławomir Szafranski

IV annual working session of the Commission on Culture was held in Szczecin, Poland on 9-10.06.2000

The main purpose of the meeting was election of a new Culture Commission Board for the period of June 2000 - June 2002. New board members were elected by open voting by 21 represented cities.

The newly elected commission board consists of: Mr Hannes Astok, Tartu, Mr Olov Gibson, Visby, Mr Bjorn Holmvik, Bergen, Ms Riitta Hurme, Espoo, Mr Sławomir Szafranski, Szczecin.

Mr Sławomir Szafranski has been

accepted as a Chairman and Ms Riitta Hurme as his Vice-Chairman. Commission's Secretariat remains in Szczecin for the next five years.

Mr Sławomir Szafranski and Mr Olov Gibson informed about the activities of the Commission in 1993-2000 under the leadership of Szczecin and Visby. Proposals for the future cultural co-operation within UBC were presented.

Meeting of the CoC Board Tartu, 8-10 September 2000

The main goal of the meeting was elaboration of the CoC action plan for 2000-2002 and the preparations for the Vth annual CoC session to be held in Helsinki - Espoo, September 8-10, 2001 on the theme "Artistic Education in the Baltic Cities".

The Secretariat of the CoC will keep informing all the member cities on preparations for the session.

Commission on Culture
City of Szczecin
Tel. +48 91 4245657
e-mail: mlewoc@um.szczecin.pl

NEW LEADING CITY IN TRANSPORT

UBC Executive Board decided in Kolding to nominate the city of Göteborg as new leading city in the UBC Commission on Transportation.

Sustainable Urban Mobility

Göteborg is Sweden's second largest city with 460 000 inhabitants. As the biggest port in the Nordic Region Göteborg is of tradition a centre for trade, transport and industry but also for tourism and major international events.

For Göteborg to continue developing as an attractive regional centre, a well functioning traffic environment is needed, one which fulfils high demands on safety and environmental sustainability. In a living city, therefore, the different kind of traffic and transportation solutions must complement one another. The aim is to create a competitive city, which is pleasant to live in.

Good mobility is not just about expanding roads and widening embankments. Parking spaces, cycle paths,

signal regulation and timetable frequency are other examples of factors that help improve the traffic environment. The City of Göteborg think it is important to work with a holistic perspective on the traffic and transport situation in the Baltic Sea Region.

The City of Göteborg would like to promote an active transportation network that enable representatives at all levels of UBC member cities to:

- exchange ideas and experience
- transfer know-how
- develop transnational projects

On behalf of the City of Göteborg, deputy Mayor Leif Blomqvist, would like to invite all interested UBC member cities to the next meeting with the Commission on Transportation to be held in late spring 2001, in Göteborg.

Ms Lisa Sundell
City of Göteborg
Traffic & Public Transport Authority
Tel. +46 31 613703
lisa.sundell@trafikkontoret.goteborg.se



N.E.W.S. THE BALTIC CONTEMPORARY ART BIENNIAL

On 31 August the biggest and the most complex project run by the UBC Culture Commission was successfully drawn to an end with its final show at the Gotland's Art Museum and the Baltic Art Centre in Visby. N.E.W.S. (North-East-West-South) was a collaborative project of the MARE ARTICUM editorial board (international contemporary art magazine published since 1997 under the patronage of the UBC). N.E.W.S. showed works of 20 artists representing 10 Baltic countries on three big scale exhibition in Szczecin, Poland, Riga, Latvia and Visby, Sweden. All the exhibitions were accompanied by the theoretical symposia, the output of which was published this year in MARE ARTICUM 1 (6) 2000.

The N.E.W.S. project continued the MARE ARTICUM's goal to stimulate the discussion on the present artistic situation in the Baltic region. For the participating artists and curators N.E.W.S. was the unique opportunity of creating a new

model of common European society.

Within the N.E.W.S. project MARE ARTICUM network provided a meeting point and common public forum where the artists, cultural workers, politicians and intellectuals from the Baltic Sea Region led a creative dialogue across national, economical and cultural boundaries.

N.E.W.S. involved an exchange of experiences, ideas and thoughts focusing on capacity of art, culture and cultural policy for promoting freedom of expression and diversity, democracy and security. The organization of N.E.W.S. was possible thanks to generosity of: Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in Warsaw, Poland; the City of Szczecin; Batory Foundation in Warsaw, Poland; Soros Foundation Latvia; City of Riga; Cultural Capital Foundation; Partnership for Culture; the Swedish Institute; the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs; Municipality of Gotland; Gotland County Administration and many others.



The 2nd N.E.W.S. seminar on "Unknown Format" held in Szczecin on 30 October 1999

MARE ARTICUM net prepared lately the new edition of the Baltic Contemporary Art Biennial that was organised in Szczecin, Poland in October 2001 with the guest participation of artists, critics and theoreticians from Belarus and Ukraine.

Mare Artium

The magazine was published already 7 times

Further information:

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www.n-e-w-s.org

BALTIC TOURISM ACADEMY AND TEP

In April 1999, the EU granted the Baltic City Tourism (BCT) project developed by seven member cities (Rostock, Kalmar, Karlskrona, Nyköping, Gdynia, Vilnius, Tallinn), within the Ecos-Ouverture Programme. The project focuses on six modules: Baltic Event Calendar, Baltic Tourism Academy, Baltic City Tourism Network, Baltic City Tourism Conference and Market Place, Baltic Point and Project Management. More information on the project can be obtained at www.balticevents.com.

The Baltic Tourism Academy (BTA) is a series of seminars focusing on tourist events and happenings. When the BCT project is finished, more seminars devoted to other aspects of tourism, are planned. The first seminar will be held in Kalmar on 23-24 January 2001 and will focus on marketing and understanding of what

makes people visiting events. Subsequently each city (project partner) will also host the seminar. All seven seminars will be held within the period January-May 2001.

Invitations to the seminars will be sent to the members of the Commission on Tourism and the Commission on Culture. There is a limit of maximum 30 participants for each seminar. The seminars will include lectures from the universities and event managers. There will also be active workshops where participants deal with given problems in cooperation with people with different backgrounds.

The Commission on Tourism is also planning a Tourism Exchange Programme (TEP). The TEP is now under construction. It aims at the exchange of tourism staff between the member cities. The concept is that the employer pays for the wages

of his own employee during his stay abroad. The employer also pays for the accommodation of the person coming to town in exchange for the one going abroad. The TEP is going to pay for the administration, travelling and pocket-money for the person going abroad, depending on which country he or she comes from.

During the spring 2001 there will also be a general meeting of the UBC Commission on Tourism. Plans are being made, so keep your eyes open! Have you got more ideas for the Commission work? Please let us know!

Mr Kyrre Dahl
Chairman
Commission on Tourism
e-mail: kyrre.dahl@kalmar.se

Mr Viktor Rydell
Commission Secretary
e-mail: viktor.rydell@kalmar.se



SPORT DATA BASE

Meeting our members' request, we have established 2 data bases allowing for the extension of sport contacts in the Baltic Sea region. We have the pleasure of inviting you to the website of the Commission on Sport at www.ubc.net/commissions/sport.html which contains a new **data base of clubs** from UBC member cities interested in establishing international co-operation in the field of sport. On these pages you can also see data of those clubs which are willing to **exchange sport equipment**.

We invite all enthusiasts of sport to visit the pages of the Commission on Sport and we ask them to forward the



news about opening a new data base to sports clubs in your towns. Those who haven't taken the opportunity to include their coordinates in the data base are welcome to fill in the enclosed forms and send them back to:

UBC Commission on Sport
Tel. +48 58 620 83 12
e-mail: umgdyfor@miaasto.gdynia.pl

UBC CLASSES

The Board of the Commission on Education is presently developing the Commission Secretariat, the Website and the concept of UBC-Classes.

Secretariat

When the Commission on Education was established it was decided that Kardla in Estonia should have the secretariat. The city of Norrtälje has taken the responsibility to support the development of Commission's secretariat. This process is proceeding.

Website

The Commission meeting in Stockholm 1999, discussed how the information on educational matters can be disseminated in an easy and routine way to all UBC member cities. The meeting decided that Commission website should be developed and discussed the contents of the homepage. It was also decided that an information brochure will be published in order to raise the UBC members' consciousness about common educational matters.

UBC-classes

The Commission decided in Stockholm to develop the concept of UBC-classes. UBC-classes will offer pupils and students from UBC member cities to take specific Baltic Sea courses. The classes should include such themes as population, politics, history, culture, environment etc.

Next session

The next session of the Commission on Education will take place in Estonia in April 2001. In March 2001 the member cities will be informed about the session's program.

Further information:

Mr Christer Stighäll
UBC Commission on Education
City of Norrtälje
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FEMALE CONFERENCE

In mid September about three hundred active women from all around the world assembled at Plazzo delle Stelline in Milan for the third Women's International Networking Conference W.I.N.2000.



Ms Laima Zurgina, member of Riga City Council and a film director, participated representing the City of Riga and UBC Women's Network. Female representation: businesswomen, fund presidents, high school teachers, IT specialists, designers and journalists, discussed the latest possibilities for internet in economy, shared intercultural information, and practical problems

concerning women's work and career and ability to alter it. There were panel discussions and workshops every day. Ms Zurgina was the only representative from the Baltic states in the conference.

Many participants paid much attention to her speech and showed sincere interest about the Baltic States and Latvia. In the panel session "Women of the world" she informed about the recent history of Latvia and the Baltic states, about gaining the independence and positive changes in recent ten years. Not without reason Latvia is proud of the woman president, Ms Vike-Freiberga. It's very important that women from our region have the possibility to participate in international conferences like this.

Further information:

Ms Laima Zurgina
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UBC SECRETARIAT MOVES TO NEW PREMISES

On **15 December 2000** the UBC Secretariat is moving to the new premises of Gdańsk City Council. Please note the new address of the **UBC Secretariat, ul. Wały Jagiellońskie 1, 80-853 Gdańsk.**

Please make appropriate changes in your address database.



III. Member Cities in Action

Submarine Archaeology

In 1990, the group of submarine archaeology started to work with Jurmala City Museum, which soon signed cooperation agreement with Tallinn Sea Museum and Stockholm University. In subsequent years, first studies of ship wreckage were made and a number of Latvian lakes were examined.

1997 was important in history of submarine archaeology in Latvia. The first 5 newly found ship wreckage acquired the status of cultural monuments. In the same year, representatives of Latvia participated in the First Conference of Baltic Sea Marine Archaeology in Sweden, as well as the Symposium of Submarine Archaeology in Poland. Since 1998, joint underwater research and examination have been made under international projects, in cooperation with Swedish ships.

Throughout the decade in 135 expeditions, a total of 14 wrecked ship frames were studied and examined, information was collected on more than 60 wreckage and a few hundreds of sunk ships.

In order to implement the program of further research, a Centre of Submarine Archaeology has been established in Jurmala City Museum to coordinate all submarine archaeology in Latvia. A legal mechanism for preservation and protection of monuments of submarine archaeology has been developed in cooperation with the State Inspection for Protection of Cultural Monuments.

Ms Zanda Kalnina
City of Jurmala
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BALTICA 2000

From 20th to 24th September 2000 the Congress *Baltica 2000* took place in the cities of Gdynia, Gdansk, Sopot, Tczew and Rumia. It was a common undertaking of local governments, as well as of non-governmental organisations. The objective of *Baltica 2000* was to revive, strengthen and expand contacts between twin cities with special emphasis put on non-governmental organisations, as well



Congress BALTICA 2000 in Gdynia

as to establish a common platform for expertise and experience exchange among them. Moreover, the Congress was aimed at raising the level of know-how on functioning of the European Union. It allowed the participants to get acquainted with various programmes, as well as with the legal acts and standards being in force in EU countries.

All the participants of the congress were divided into 5 groups, and each city took care of the representatives from its own twin cities. In case of Gdynia, arrived about 50 representatives from Aalborg, Kunda and Rakvere, Klaipeda, Liepaja, Plymouth and Baranovichi. During the Congress Gdynia was responsible for organising a subject session devoted to, among others, ecology, tourism, housing and mostly co-operation of NGOs.

An integration party during which all the participants had a chance to share their impressions ended the event.

Ms Joanna Leman
City of Gdynia
e-mail: j.leman@miasto.gdynia.pl

International Relations

The School of International Relations has been established in 1994. It has become the second centre of training high-educated specialists in international relations. Currently there are two main studying fields within the School: International Relations and Regional Studies.

The School's studying process is implemented within five departments. The training of the future specialists is conducted by the leading experts from different faculties of the St. Petersburg University. Profound knowing of two

languages is obligatory for every student.

The School regularly holds scientific conferences devoted to urgent problems of international and regional development. The subject of the latest of them was EU-Russia relations in the end of 20th century.

Since 1996, students are accepted for the MA programme on European Studies. It is the first programme of this kind in Russia, brought into existence by the joint project with the European Commission based on the TEMPUS/TACIS grant. The School was very successful in establishing international links - it co-operates with universities and research centres in Europe, North America and Asia. The School is one associated members of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs, USA.

Mr Yuri Kosov
City of St. Petresburg
e-mail: nosova@hq.pu.ru

Looking for partners

Jēkabpils Municipality is looking for potential partner municipalities in Scandinavia. For the time being, the city has had no close co-operation with Scandinavian municipalities, which are nevertheless, our closest neighbours. The idea is to find a city which would like to cooperate on a permanent basis in a variety of fields: environment, culture and education, sports and tourism and joint efforts of participation in EU programmes.

Our partner town or city should have good experience in coping with post-industrial transition problems, a good record of achievement in the development of new employment with the help of computer technologies, should be interested in the environment and human resource development issues. The size of potential partner town is of less importance but preferably it should be as important within its country as Jēkabpils is in Latvia, the eighth largest city.

Mr Leonids Salcevis
Mayor of Jēkabpils
e-mail: euroconsult@jdome.zednet.lv



Local Employment Practices

The Swedish Association of Local Authorities, together with Helsingborg, Landskrona and Malmö and the Swedish Federation of County Councils, will organise a conference on Local Employment Practices and the Exhibition in Malmö, Sweden on 31 May - 1 June 2001. The main theme is "Diversity and mobility - basis for growth".

The conference is intended to be a co-arrangement with the European Commission, CEMR and the Committee of Regions within EU. It will focus on the very important role played by local government in fighting unemployment. The conference could be used as a tool in implementing the European Employment Strategy.

During the conference lots of examples on local Practices on Local Employment will be presented in different ways and with different means. We need your help in order to make this Conference a real source of knowledge and a useful exchange of experiences!! Call for papers is sent to all our European Associations of Municipalities in order to "vacuum" all of Europe on good examples on Local Employment Practices which can be presented on the Conference as part of Seminars and/or exhibitions. The mode of presentations can vary and is very much up to the presenters. The presentation can be made as pamphlets, wallpapers, lectures, exhibition stands, videotapes, films and 'radio programmes' or in any other mode possible.

Ms Vivi Jacobson-Libietis
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e-mail: vivi.libietis@svekom.se

"Lighthouse" Project

Cities play major role in organising cultural life. What are the criteria to form a successful local cultural policy? What are the most effective models for contemporary cultural management? - these and many other related questions are very important to Klaipėda. Cultural development is among the priorities of the municipal policy. Contacts within the UBC Culture Commission enable us to exchange the very best practices.

We simply could not help but grasp the opportunity to learn from Bergen, one of the nine European Capitals of Culture'



Project participants in Bergen

2000. Together with a famous cultural centre in the Baltic region, the municipality of Visby, Gotland, we initiated an exchange project for civil servants working in the field of culture, which was financed by the cities and the Nordic Council of Ministers and titled "Lighthouse". Bergen hosted four participants from Klaipėda and Gotland during their one-week study tour. Numerous visits to cultural institutions and seminars portrayed a picture of the way the city Bergen had to go from political decision to become the international centre of culture.

What we brought back home is valuable information, new good ideas, numerous contacts for Klaipėda artistic society, but also the beauty of the fjords, the sensation of the eternal spirit of E.Grieg's and H.Ibsen's land.

Ms Ina Sidlauskienė
City of Klaipėda
e-mail: uzsienio@klaipeda.lt

Swedish Days 2000

The Swedish Government declared this year as "The Year of the Baltic States" with the aim to promote and strengthen the co-operation. "Swedish Days 2000" was the part of this project. The purpose of this event was to reinforce the relationship between south Sweden and Kaunas City and County.

The festival was divided into scientific (serious) part and entertainment (merry) part. Numerous seminars the topics of which varied from design, tourism to culinary heritage were held in Kaunas University.

The merry part of the festival started with the concert of Swedish music group that attracted a great number of young people who were curious what music is popular in the neighbouring country. The musical part was continued with the

performance of a jazz band. Besides the musical part inhabitants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the modern Swedish design and crafts. Swedish cuisine chefs invited the city inhabitants and guest to taste chef-d'oeuvres of Swedish culinary heritage.

This festival was of the special importance to Kaunas as at the same time Kaunas celebrated the 10th year anniversary of twinning relationship with Växjö. The Mayor of Växjö noted, that Kaunas and Växjö started the relationship in various fields. Thus, our communication and co-operation allows us to know better each other and each other's culture, and places the basis for new ideas, new perspectives and new endeavours.

Kaunas may boast about the effective and fruitful co-operation with Sweden as the next year we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the co-operation with Linköping City. We are very happy to have such good friends on the other side of the Baltic Sea.

Ms Jurga Sakalnikaite Banaitiene
City of Kaunas
e-mail: jurgaS@kaunas.sav.lt

Campaign against violence

"Men cost...! Who bears the consequences of their violence?" - a campaign on the acts of violence against women takes place in Kiel in November. Violence against women is, unfortunately, a fixture amongst numerous and various topics. It simply won't go away, for whatever reasons.

At the threshold of the new millennium, Kiel's Commissioner for Women, Annegret Bergmann, and the Committee Against Violence Against Women' decided about the unusual approach. The central theme of the 20-odd-event campaign was 'the cost of male violence'. It drew attention to the largely overlooked fact that it isn't the victims who cause the immense financial, social and psychological. This immense burden on society is caused by violent acts against, exclusively by male - perpetrators.

Dr.Christine Bergmann presented government's action plan to combat violence against women. An installation brought to life the network for battered women that has been established in Kiel in recent years but is now under threat from the urgent need to save on costs.



Other events included a congress on "Crimes against sexual self-determination", lectures on the situation of lesbians and on violence against female migrants or violence that can still be found in the police force and the judicial system, films followed by discussions, an art exhibition, a theatre workshop, readings and, last but not least, a lecture on the campaign's central theme, "How much does male violence cost society?" by Professor Barbara Kavemann, the leading German expert on the financial aspect of violence against women.

The organisation for rape victims presented a preliminary assessment of its campaign "1001 men against violence against women", which involves not only a pledge of non-violence and a donation by the men taking part, but also making their names public on a poster.

The organisers hope that the campaign as a whole has helped to raise the awareness of violence, not as a problem of the victims, but a problem of the perpetrators and of society as a whole.

Ms Annegret Bergmann
City of Kiel
e-mail: referat.frauen@LHstadt.kiel.de

Spent Nuclear Fuel

Oskarshamn has had nuclear reactors since 1972 and since 1995 is considered for a final disposal of spent nuclear fuel. A central storage for spent fuel is operation in the municipality since 1985.

Siting of radioactive waste facilities generates many questions among people. On one hand most people agree that we need to take care of our waste but on the other hand few are prepared to accept that it will take place in their neighbourhood. In Oskarshamn two principles have been guiding our participation in this work: complete openness and public influence. In co-operation between all political parties a model to achieve this openness and influence has been developed. We call this the Oskarshamn model and it contains seven main points:

- Total openness and participation – all information must be available for anyone who is interested. There must be opportunity to influence.
- The environmental impact assessment as the structure for a dialogue - with integrity -between the parties.
- The municipality council as reference

group. Knowledgeable elected politicians responsible towards the voters.

- Concrete involvement of the citizens by presentations of clear identification of alternatives and study results. The public a resource.

- Work with the environmental groups and see them as a resource.

- Continuous involvement of the regulators "people experts".

- Stretching of the nuclear industry. Put questions to the industry and demand clear answers. By stretching of the issues it can be possible to sort out the facts from the value judgements.

For the city the engagement in the nuclear waste programme has contributed to a development of methods that has increased the democracy.

Mr Harald Åhagen
City of Oskarshamn
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Narva River

The Narva River is one of most historic waterways. It is a border between nations and cultures, but it has been a source of transportation supporting trade and communications for several centuries. Because of its importance, the Narva River was the site of some of the fiercest battles. From conflicts between Swedish King Karl XII and Peter the Great, down to the modern era this river has been witness to both victory and defeat.

Nowadays the river is home to events of regional unity and celebration. One of such events is the Summer Regatta which popularity continues to grow beyond all expectations. The participants of the Regatta represented many towns from all around of Estonia. Most of them were



amateur sailors, oarsmen, and members of yachting clubs. However, two individuals, A. Gulov and S. Shilin, world class yachtsmen, were competitors in the Summer Olympic Games in Sydney.

The highlight of Summer Regatta was the involvement of many of Narva's creative citizens. Visiting the yachts and boats was very popular, too. The public was allowed to board the yachts and launches for an excursion to become familiar with the crews, and their duties. And with the co-operation of Russian border guards, the yachts were allowed to cruise along the Russian coast.

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Social Projects

Since 1999 Nacka and Jelgava have started collaboration in the field of social welfare. It became apparent that many children and young people are unable to live with their parents for a number of social and economic reasons. It was clear that more positive alternatives for children and young people ought to be developed.

Drug and alcohol abuse. Better social conditions for children and young people are seen as a precondition for decreasing abuse, primarily among young people. Jelgava has drawn up and approved an "alcohol programme" with the purpose of decreasing the use of alcohol, principally among young people. The programme is supported by the state and will be implemented during 1999-2001. On the 17th and 18th of August this year a working seminar was set up in Nacka in order to plan a collaborative project. The project is expected to begin at the end of the year and continue through 2001.

Baltic Basketball Cup. In the beginning on November, Skuru IK Basketball in Nacka organised its annual basketball cup for young people. The project for young people is implemented in association with this cup. It is intended to bring together basketball-players and encourage contacts between young people. The exchange of experiences concerning leadership, the development of activities for young people and the democratic process in clubs and societies are examples of issues that are dealt with.

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Skyscrapers

The key problem of the past decade has been how to signify us culturally and consequently assert ourselves as a nation state, at the same time securing and demonstrating our essential position in the Western cultural scene. Analogous tendency is probably common to all the Eastern European and the Baltic States after the fall of the "iron curtain".



The most powerful visualisation of this trend in Estonia is the change in urban space and the formation of new architectural environment. Rapid and partly chaotic development of Tallinn city centre is an interesting cultural phenomenon. The new successful generation of the 1990s needed scale and splendour to demonstrate its status. Economic growth and prosperity brought along something unprecedented in the urban context. High buildings from glass and shiny metal have risen in the central part of Tallinn during few years, creating the new image of rapidly developing city. The first generation capitalist dreams about skyscrapers is equally understood symbol and the new buildings use this language maybe even too unpretentiously, as some nationalists think. At the same time these buildings serve the interests of the success-story of Estonian state and nation and promoting it to the rest of the world.

For the citizens this progress means a whole new urban experience, which is characterised by the synthesis of historic and modern architecture. The urban situation that has been forming during these few years foresees in addition to existing high buildings in the former industrial and living quarter the erection of several more. Such a concentration of

buildings doesn't really harm the historical atmosphere because it hasn't been preserved in its entirety but adds an interesting cluster of high-rise buildings to the city skyline and on the street level communicates with some small lovely wooden and beautiful *art nouveau* houses. The direction of this progress has been somewhat occasional but the new architectural environment creates new variations and perspectives.

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Community Conference

Community Conference is a constantly functioning meeting of non-governmental organisations. With this new structure the city government tries to invite these organisations and all the society to solve the city's problems together. The Community Conference is supposed to solve the most important problems:

- to ensure economic development;
- to increase employment;
- to decrease migration of youth;
- to cut down criminality and improve prevention of drugs at schools;
- to make business environment friendly.

The Conference aims at promoting democratic society and creating better life. The first Šiauliai Community Conference took place in June 2000. The Mayor of the City addressed the conference with complimentary speech. Her intention was to involve all organisations simultaneously in the process of finding the right solutions. Although the municipality was not able to assign means for organisations due to poor economic situation in the country, it works on creating possibilities for support through participation in various projects, programs and receipt financing from different sources. Representatives of the non-governmental organisations jointly decided neither to elect advisory council nor to confirm regulations of the community conference. They agreed that more time is needed for organisations of various interests to familiarise with and co-ordinate their regulations.

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Baltic Meeting Point

Baltic Meeting Point (BMP) is a series of conferences on sustainable community development in the BSR. The conferences are held regularly in Uppsala. BMP emphasises the importance of meetings and co-operation based on applied research to support social and economic development in the whole region. The conferences stem from an extensive network of universities, cities, and companies working together for regional development such as the Swedish Trade Council, Baltic University Programme, UBC and Interreg IIC.

The objective of BMP is to fill in this strategic gap and through increased knowledge and co-operation contribute to the common goal of a more sustainable development of the region. The first BMP conference took place on 13-15 June 1998. The second conference is planned for 6-9 May 2001. The conference 2001 is organised under the patronage of the Swedish Prime Minister and is seen in the context of the increasing efforts to promote Baltic Sea regional co-operation.

The BMP conference invites participants and exhibitors of good cases and best practices from the BSR. Researchers and students will describe ongoing projects, present new research results and will find suggestions for new projects. Decision-makers, politicians and civil servants will discuss development issues and have the possibility of obtaining valuable information. Companies are given the opportunity to exhibit new products and find suggestions for new business ideas. The conference includes panel lectures, discussions, workshops, round tables, excursions and a trade exhibition. Many different activities facilitate meetings and dialogue between the participants at each conference with the goal that the dialogue will continue.

Living condition in the cities is of high priority in the development. Sustainable development in the cities is an enormous challenge both in ecological, social and economic terms, no matter if in the east or the west. This whole complex of problems will be in focus at the conference in Uppsala 2001.

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Smiling UBC Executive Board at the entrance to the City Hall in Kolding, 4 November 2001

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ATTENTION Member Cities !!!

The theme of the next bulletin will be "YOUTH IN BALTIC CITIES".

Everyone is welcome to send material to be published in it.

The deadline for contributions is 30 March 2001 - please respect it.

The Editorial Board wishes following contributions to the bulletin:

- Stories related to the theme
- Short news about activities in the cities
- Vivid and creative photographs to the stories

Please do not hesitate to contact the UBC Secretariat
in any questions relating to the Baltic Cities Bulletin!



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new address !



Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of currently 99 member cities from all 10 Baltic countries, with an overriding goal of contributing to the democratic, economic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.

The Union has based its operational activities on nine working Commissions on Business Cooperation, Culture, Environment, Education, Health and Social Affairs, Sport, Tourism, Transportation and Urban Planning. The Commissions coordinate and execute specific projects, activities and special events. Each city is capable to have its own creative and fully independent input to the Commissions' work.

The Union has an observer status with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE).

The Union is open for new members. Any coastal city of the Baltic Sea or any other city interested in the development of the Baltic Sea Region may become a member of the Union by making a written declaration of its will to enter UBC.

Please contact the Union's Secretariat in Gdańsk for more information about the UBC work and the rules of entering the Union.