

UNESCO programme "Memory of the World"

www.memory.unesco.lv

UNESCO programme "Memory of the World", established in 1992 aims to raise awareness of the documentary heritage that has world significance, promote its preservation, access and study despite its origin or location.

Documentary heritage is part of the world's cultural heritage, it is all the written, drawn, engraved or in any other way recorded legacy of the past put on any kind of information carrier which charts the evolution of thought and history. It is fragile and disappearing part of the collective memory of the world, its loss means losing valuable sources of human history and memory.

INTERNATIONAL REGISTER

Memory of the World International Register was founded in 1995. It contains documentary heritage of global significance and outstanding universal value. As of 2010 the International Register lists 193 nominations from all over the world. There are two nominations from Latvia inscribed on the International Register:

"Dainu skapis – Cabinet of Folksongs"

In 2001 "Dainu skapis – Cabinet of Folksongs" created by Krisjanis Barons was inscribed on the International Register. It is an outstanding collection of Latvian folksongs (dainas) recorded by handwriting during the latter half of the 19th century and an important symbol of Latvian culture. Inscription on the International Register recognises the importance of dainas as living cultural values in Latvia and worldwide. Keeper of the documentary heritage: Archives of Latvian Folklore, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, University of Latvia
More about the nomination: www.dainuskapis.lv, www.lfk.lv/lfk_eng.html

"The Baltic Way – Human Chain Linking Three States in Their Drive for Freedom"

In 2009 the collection of documentary heritage of the organisation and course of the Baltic Way submitted by Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania was inscribed on the International Register. Baltic Way was a unique, peaceful mass demonstration which took place on 23 August 1989 when more than a million people joined hand in hand uniting Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in a 600 km long human chain. Documentary heritage of this event is a unique testimony of the power of mass non-violent action and mutual solidarity.

Keeper of the documentary heritage in Latvia: Museum of the Popular Front of Latvia.

More about the nomination: www.balticway.net

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LATVIAN NATIONAL REGISTER

Latvian National register of the UNESCO programme "Memory of the World" was established in 2009 in order to raise awareness of the significant documentary heritage of Latvia and to promote its preservation, access, study and recognition. In 2009 four nominations were inscribed on the Latvian National register:

"Eduards Kraucs' collection of glass plate photographic negatives - the course of the construction of Kegums Power Station 1936-1940"

Collection of glass plate photographic negatives by the renowned, founding father of Latvia's sound cinema chronicles, cameraman and photographer, Eduards Kraucs (1898-1977) depicts the course of the construction of a technical-engineering facility unique in Northern Europe and the Baltic region - Kegums Power Station. This Power Station marks the beginning in the development of unified power system in Latvia.

Documentary heritage: Eduards Kraucs' 1736 exhibit collection of glass plate photographic negatives

Submitter of the nomination: Latvenergo AS Power Industry Museum

"Rainis and Aspazija Mutual Correspondence 1894-1929"

Rainis and Aspazija correspondence began with a meeting of the two poets in 1894 and lasted until 1929 when Rainis passed away.

Correspondence not only tells about their lives but it also provides an invaluable source of cherishing the very idea of the national country and establishment of the Republic of Latvia and reflects various social, political and cultural processes in Latvia, Europe and worldwide.

Documentary heritage: 1154 letters written by Aspazija to Rainis, and 1345 – by Rainis to Aspazija

Submitter of the nomination: state agency "Memorial Museums Union", state agency "Literature and Music Museum"

"Memorandum of the Latvian Central Council Riga, 17 March 1944"

Memorandum of the Latvian Central Council of 17 March 1944 drafted by Konstantins Chakste and Feliks Cielens declared the urgent need to restore de facto sovereignty of the Republic of Latvia and to create a Latvian Government in line with the Latvian Constitution of 1922. This document is a bald statement of the political platform of Latvian Central Council which disregarding the prospect of being a target for repressions by the German occupation institutions was signed by 189 Latvian political leaders and public figures.

Documentary heritage: Memorandum of the Latvian Central Council, 17 March 1944

Submitter of the nomination: state agency "Latvian War Museum"

"In Siberia Written Letters on Birch Bark"

Letters on birch bark were written in 1940s and 1950s by Latvians deported and imprisoned in Soviet concentration and labour camps in Siberia to their relatives and friends. These letters are a symbolical testimony of the tragedy of the Latvian nation in the 20th century and the effect of mass repressions on individual lives.

Documentary heritage: 19 letters on birch bark

Submitter of the nomination: Tukums Museum in cooperation with the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia, state agency "The National History Museum of Latvia", Aizkraukle History and Art Museum, Daugava Museum, Madona Museum of Local Studies and Art, Talsi District Museum

Visual material:

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