

English Section

Underground Poems from Lithuania

The trickle of underground literature from Lithuania is steadily increasing. Below are translations of two poems from a manuscript which recently reached the West.

LETTERS FROM BEYOND

Blood writes these mute letters,
Unwritten letters —
From black forest edges, from swamps,
Blood from torture chambers,
From market places where our bodies lay exposed,

Blood from the Arctic, from cruellest Siberia:
Not with winged words, but with live blood
We write our sad unwritten letters
To you, our beloved, free brethren!

TO POETS ABROAD

Poets, our great poets,
You who've taught us to love our land,
Can you write in burning blood?

Here dark despair
Struggling with rays of hope
While you there write of butterflies,
Of Drops of blood.

Write of a burning pain instead,
Which strangles our future,
Write of a heartrending cry of our forest,
Of our blood, split and forgotten.

Young Generation Gives New Tone to Poetry

New Anthology Shows Strong National Feelings

A new generation of poets is beginning to take over the literary positions in Lithuania. This is evident from the second annual anthology of poetry, *Poezijos pavasaris* (The Spring of Poetry), published in Vilnius earlier this year.

Over one half of the poets represented in the anthology were born during 1930-1940. Although they grew up and matured under the Soviet occupation their verse is remarkably free of the official political cant and does not fit into the narrow frame of "socialist realism." Even more significant, their poems are permeated with a deep national feeling.

The attitudes of the younger generation of Lithuanian writers and of some of their readers are reflected, albeit in somewhat guarded words, in their statements attached to their poems.

Defeat of "Empty Pathos" Hailed

"We can rejoice," writes the critic Irena Kostkevičiūtė, "about these facts: a battle has been successfully proclaimed against empty pathetic post-naturalism has been defeated, the conception of the modernity of poetry based on technical attributes now merely evokes a smile. A turn has been

made determinately, and irrevocably, to the world of human needs understood as broadly as possible."

According to prose writer, J. Aputis: "We are now flying in planes and even in some other contraptions. But even when driving in a sleight, once upon a time managed to perceive what goes on in earth and within man."

The Poet — "Conscience of Time"

"The poet's job is to sing about things that are close and dear to all hearts, things that make one better and more pure. The poet, after all is the conscience of time. And it is not an easy thing to be," concludes Laima Abraitytė, a teacher.

Instead of previous obligatory worship of tractors, global revolutions and Soviet leaders, the new anthology is marked by a tone of quiet solidarity with the average Lithuanian people, past and present.

Officer: "Private, there will be a number of high ranking officers here for lunch. I want you to stand by the door and call the guests names as they arrive."

Private: "Boy! I'll like that. But what if I get caught by an MP?"

RUSSIFICATIONS—RESISTANCE AND PROSPECTS IN LITHUANIA

Resistance is increasing against the Russification campaign in Lithuania. Young people, for instance, are becoming bolder in their defense of national values and the rights of Lithuanian language, sometimes even supporting their stand with quotations from the Soviet Constitution. Average Russians refer to Lithuanians as "nationalists."

The Russian reaction to this growing opposition is twofold. On the one hand, some minor concessions have been made. On the other, indirect reminders of ultimate Russian designs have been recently restated.

One of such articles appeared in Pravda (October 17, 1966). The author of the article warns his Russian compatriots who are dealing with other nationals that the "confluence (i.e., submergence in Russia. Ed.) of nations is an organic process and, consequently, should not be artificially accelerated or forced. The road to the "confluence of nations," he says, proceeds through a "slow and all-sided development of nations, their cultures and languages." Nations will finally fuse only when communism is entrenched all over the world. As for the Soviet Union, the realization of communism will also lead to the "denationaliza-

tion" of other peoples.

The learning of the Russian language, the author of the article continues, plays an important part in the strengthening of friendship among the nations of the USSR. More than that, according to him, the "main interest of the country" (i.e., of Russia) must be put before the interest of "this or that region."

Baltic case at conference

The case of the Baltic States was repeatedly mentioned at the annual conference of the Interparliamentary Union, held in September-October at Tene-ran, Iran.

On October 2nd, Congressman John S. Monagan (D. Connecticut), member of the United States Delegation, expressed his disagreement with the British delegate who had said that the problem of colonial countries was almost completely solved. Rep. Monagan pointed out that in the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia human rights, guaranteed by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and by the United States Constitution, are still being denied.

Previously, a strong statement about the situation in enslaved Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia was made by the delegate of Ireland.

Heart, like a spring

At my mountain cabin in western North Carolina there is a refreshing spring of clean, cool water. The oldest resident in the community says that he never knew it to dry up in summer or to freeze over in winter. The water is pure and good, and the flow is constant at all times of the year.

But the spring could become contaminated. This would happen if I let the dense growth above it be removed, or turned surface water into it, or built a stable and kept cattle its water be pure and good. No longer would it be desirable.

But I would not allow any of these things to happen to my spring. I keep it with all vigilance, for out of it flows water not only to my cabin but also to the cabin of neighbors. Friends come to see me and drink of the water from my spring, and an occasional hiker stops by to slake his thirst. For my sake and for their sakes, my spring must be kept pure.

God has given each one of us a spring to keep clean and clear. The issues of life flow from it. Jesus tells us the awful poisons that can come from a polluted heart: "For from within, out of the heart of man come evil thoughts, fornications, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness." (Mark 7:21-22). Amen.

Doctor: "Do you smile at your troubles as I advised you?"

Patient: "Yes, but the boss warned me three times to wipe that silly grin off my face and get to work."

About 1,225,000 people were employed in all lines of the insurance business in 1965. Nearly 700,000 of them were in the life insurance portion.

New Lithuanian operas

Four new operas by Lithuanian composers are slated for the new season of the Vilnius Opera Theatre. The advance notices indicate a strong dose of propaganda in the libretti.

The opera *Gestantis kryžius* (The Smouldering Cross) by A. Rekašius will deal with racism. Emigres, mainly anti-Communist, are the target of *Paklydę paukščiai* (Stray Birds) by V. Laurusas. *Dievų miškas* (The Forest of Gods), based on the memoirs of the late Lithuanian playwright Balys Sruoga, will depict a Nazi concentration camp.

Most expectations are focused on V. Klova's historical opera *Zalgiris* (Gruenwald). It was at Zalgiris in 1910 that a Lithuanian-Polish army, led by Grand Duke Vytautas, inflicted a staggering defeat on the Teutonic Knights. One of the main tasks of the opera now will be to "emphasize the friendship with the brotherly Russian people, the hate against the enemy... the analogy with the contemporary problems, with the revanchist atmosphere."

New Museum of Atheism opened in Church

A new museum of atheism, the largest in the Baltic area, was opened in Vilnius last month. The museum is housed in the former St. Casimir Church.

The museum in Vilnius is patterned after the famous "Museum of Religion in Leningrad" from which it has received many exhibit items. Instead of the altar, the museum features a huge stained glass window showing the burning of an early atheistic book "on the non-existence of God".

"Truckloads of Speeches, but not a penny worth." With these words one of the observers quoted the *Komjaunimo Tiesa* (14 October, 1966) sums up the series of conferences of the Communist Youth Organization this fall in Lithuania. One of the main subjects of debate in the conferences is the increase of the Komsomol membership.

The life insurance man was having a hard time trying to sell a farmer a policy.

The farmer gave his reason for his lack of interest: "No, sir, when I die I want it to be a sad day for everybody."

A sailor ran up to the officer of the deck and mumbled some words about the admiral. The officer yelled, "Sing it out, man, sing it out."

The sailor took a deep breath and sang: "Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind, the admiral's fallen overboard, he's half a mile behind".

JUOKELIAI

Arba, arba...

Okininkas dviem pėstiem turistam, klausantiem, ar jiems kertant tiesiog per jo ganyklas bus įmanoma per 15 minučių pasiekti už ganyklų esančią geizinkelio stotelę, atsakė:

— Jei jus pamatys mano builius, tai juodu arba tą stotelę pasieksite per 5 minutes, arba jos jau niekada nebematsysite.

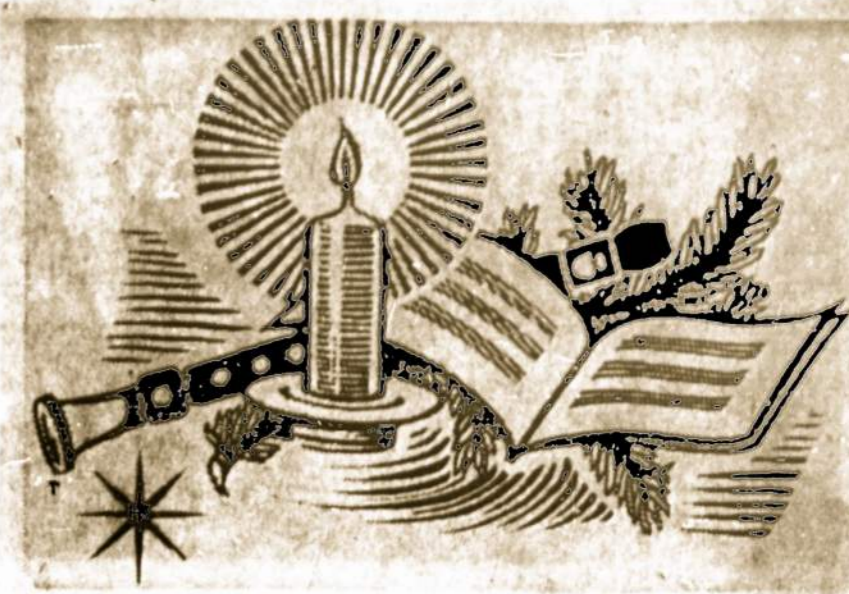
Technika

— Barbe, žvilgterk, ar nėra perduria padanga?

— Taip, perdurta, bet tik rato apačioj; viršuj yra tvarkoj — išpūsta.

Idėjuos vyras

— Aš jokiū būdu nebūsičiau savo žmonai eiti dirbti. Aš būsičiau vienas namie pasiūžili!



The Bond of Brotherhood

In this special message written for the Fraternal Monitor, Harold J. Lamboley, newly elected president of the National Fraternal Congress of America, stresses that brotherhood is the heart of the fraternal system and that the contribution of the individual member to his society and his community is of the very essence of democracy.

"Brotherhood remains the heart of the fraternal system. A fraternal benefit society is not animated by ambition, or hatred, or fear, but by love. Its object is not to take something, but to give something. It is not ordered, it is not compelled—it is voluntary. It appeals neither to pride, nor to fear, but solely and exclusively to good will.

And this giving of something more than is demanded, this contribution of the individual member to his society and to his community over and above what can be compelled, is of the very essence of democracy — the living spirit of a free people all working out their personal destinies under the constitutions and banners of their courts, lodges and councils. It is worthy of note that with few exceptions fraternalism in America asserts belief in and dependence upon a Supreme Being. It is the recognition, even where not expressly stated in the constitutions of fraternalism, of a common Father, whose human creatures are therefore joined in a bond of brotherhood.

We are proud of our fraternal benefit societies. They, and organizations like them, have invariably been the groups that have done the pioneering in the social field. Many of the changes which are now taken over by the State were started by men of vision and warmth of heart who saw a need and started to meet it without waiting for the government. It was private organizations such as the fraternalism which first developed techniques to meet and lower the terrors and losses of earthquakes, fires, floods and disease. Government rarely undertakes anything in this field which has not first been undertaken by private organizations.

We are glad we are continuing to furnish voluntary workers who work because of interest, devotion and conscience in the solution of social problems that remain outside the government, in the fields where social experimentation continually goes on. We are glad we belong to societies in a rich democracy and we will serve as a testimony that we wish this to continue. For the price of freedom is responsibility, and the basis of democracy is brotherly love".

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Paminklas teroro aukoms

Spalio 22 d., Wingdale mieste, New Yorko valstybėje, buvo iškilmingai atidarytas paminklas dviem Lietuvoje tebeviešpatuojančio bolševikinio rusų režimo teroro aukoms — Lietuvos kariuomenės aviacijos kapitoniui Albertui Svarplaičiui, 1941 m. birželio 24 d. sušaudytam Cervenės žudynėse, ir jo motinai, tragiškai žuvusiai 1941 metais kovojančioje Paminklą pastatydino žuvusiųjų brolis ir šeima gyvenęs Wingdale mieste (apie 1500 gyven.).

Paminklo atidarymo ir pašventinimo iškilmės vadovavo vietinio amerikiečių legiono vadas. Iš daugiau kaip šimto dalyvių apie keturi penktadaliai buvo vietiniai gyventojai amerikiečiai. Būvo atvykęs ir lietuvių legionierių delegacijos iš New Yorko ir Waterburio. Prieš atidengimą paminklas buvo užtiestas lietuviška vėliava. Atidengimo iškilmėse dalyvavo ir pasakė kalbą Vli-ko atstovas J. Audėnas. Pašventinimo apeigas atliko vietos protestantų parapijos klebonas ir kun. Petras Dagys iš Woodhaveno, N.Y. Abu maldose apibūdino šio taip toli nuo aukų žuvimo vietos pastatyto paminklo reikšmę. Vietos gyventojų vardu kalbėjo miesto galva, policijos vadas ir keli vietinių organizacijų atstovai. Visi reišė gili supratimą, kaip lietuvių tauta yra nukentėjusi nuo komunistinio teroro, ir lietuvių kovos dėl laisvės įvertinimą.

Du svečiai

Atvykęs į mažą Anglijos miestelį, rašytojas Markas Tvenas užėjo į viešbutį. Tarnautojas paprašė jį įrašyti į svečių knygą. Atvertęs reikalingą puslapį, Tvenas pamatė tokį įrašą:

"Bedfordo herzogas su savo liokaju".

Paėmęs plunksną jis parašė: "Markas Tvenas su savo liokaju".

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