



Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, Inc.

Report 2004 – 2005

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Introduction

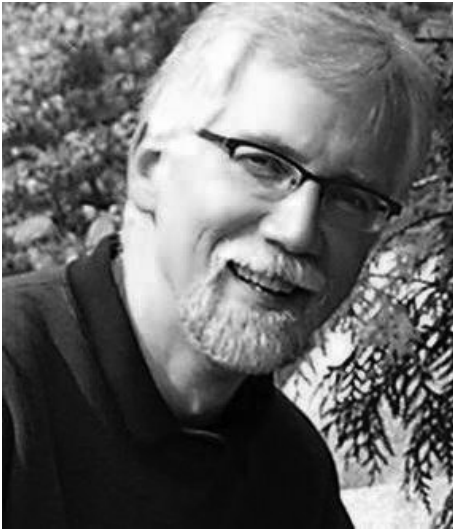
The Board of Directors and Officers of the AABS are pleased to present the 2004-2005 AABS Report. As indicated in the previous Annual Report of 2003, the AABS, as well as other learned societies in North America have faced difficult times. However, the Board feels strongly that the Association has much to contribute and can play a vital role in fostering a favorable climate for Baltic Studies which will help promote education and intellectual inquiry both among our colleagues in North America and Europe, as well as in the Baltic region. The AABS has been actively seeking to streamline and modernize our financial and administrative structure. We are pleased to report that the Association's financial situation and prospects have considerably improved during the past two years.

The successful Nineteenth Conference at the University of Toronto in June 2004 culminated in the visit by Her Excellency, the President of Latvia, Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga. Her stirring address to the traditional biennial banquet reaffirmed the role that the AABS has played in promoting the development of civil society in the Baltic States by encouraging critical and independent scholarly inquiry during the most difficult years of the Soviet period. Even as the Baltic societies enter the worlds of NATO and the European Union, the AABS still looks forward to meeting the challenges confronting higher education and research in a rapidly evolving region. As the Association's President indicated in his address to the Nineteenth Conference, we must be "at home in the world." We hope AABS members and friends will read Dr. Thomas Salumets' address as a call to renewal and an openness to the world around us.

On June 15-17, 2006, the AABS will mark a milestone: the Twentieth Conference at the George Washington University in Washington, D. C. with the appropriate theme, "Re-Imagining the Baltic Region: Perspectives on the Past, Present and Future." It is fitting that on this anniversary we return to the region where the Association was born four decades ago. The Twentieth Conference will thus be an opportunity to celebrate the past and address the future of AABS. The Board is seeking to further the goals of the AABS on several new fronts of which the most important are: engaging other academic organizations and learned societies with similar interests; encouraging and assisting graduate students both in North America and the Baltic to further their own academic goals and further improving the scholarly creativity and professional appearance of our respected quarterly, the *Journal of Baltic Studies*.

Presidential Address

At Home in the World



Thomas Salumets,
President, aabs
 Toronto, June 5, 2004

Your Excellencies, honored guests, members of the association, dear friends and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. It is my pleasure to continue a long-standing tradition of our association and deliver the presidential address at our banquet here tonight at this hospitable venue in the Canadian Latvian Cultural Centre.

Let me begin by thanking the immediate past president of the AABS, Dr. Saulius Sužiedelis, for his considerate, consistent and decisive leadership under, at times, challenging circumstances. His accomplishments - fiscal, academic, organizational and interpersonal - are greatly appreciated. I am glad to have him at my side in his capacity of Director at Large to help carry out our association's activities. Among the many others I would like to thank for their hard work and dedication are the members of the outgoing Board, Dr. Juris Dreifelds for six years of service on behalf of our association, the editor of our journal, Dr. Andres Kasekamp, and all those who tirelessly support our association in numerous ways and capacities, or quietly perform very important

work behind the scenes, like the director of our executive office, Anita Juberts.

I am especially grateful to Dr. Jüri Kivimäe and his local committee including, in no small measure, Dr. Tiina Kirss and Dace Veinberga - for a splendidly organized and stimulating conference, and the members of the Latvian community for bringing us together here this evening.

I would like to acknowledge the incoming AABS Board and to express my gratitude to our very special guest speakers tonight: former AABS President and since 1999 President of the Republic of Latvia, Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga and the Speaker of the Estonian Parliament, Dr. Ene Ergma.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all those who participated in our conference chairing sessions, giving papers, sitting on panels, sharing their knowledge, their art, giving their time.

With the following brief remarks, it is my aim to offer some observations on our association, its prospects and potential. I will present my views by looking

at AABS's self-image and by trying to define qualities that shape much of our intellectual environment at large as it appears to me at this point in time. I do so in the conviction, that current modes of thinking, knowledge and research place special demands on us as a learned society to which we need to respond more fully if we are to regain lost vitality, significance and appeal.

The role in which we cast ourselves in the past provided a strong sense of stability and purpose to our shared pursuits. Ironically, but not surprisingly, with the independence of the Baltic states, many of the issues our association found invigorating and exciting for more than twenty years since AABS was established on December 1st, 1968, have changed beyond recognition. Moreover, they have become the source of some distress and disorientation. It is as if we fell victim to success and had difficulty keeping up with historical change. It is as if we continue to be haunted, to use Salman Rushdie's words, "by some urge to reclaim, to look back, even at the risk of being mutated into pillars of salt" (Imaginary Homelands). As a consequence, we have come to suffer from feelings, probably not uncommon among WWII émigré and refugee associations these days, of frustration, and anxiety regarding erosion and decline.

There are, I know, other factors

involved, among them financial ones. But the challenges we face are not primarily economic. It is my conviction that the cause of our unease is in important ways linked to another issue: our reluctance to respond more effectively to a changing intellectual environment. This becomes evident when we consider our dependence on remaining separate, almost insular, and focused inwards a long-standing feature not only of our association but of national culture in the West in general.

Fortunately, in our capacity as the learned society we are and in many ways always have been, I think we are well poised to respond effectively to this predicament. We can draw upon the most powerful and promising practices that shape the many academic disciplines represented in the AABS and acknowledge more decisively the crossing and joining of boundaries that have become the hallmark of much of the academic world today.

I do not wish to underestimate our past accomplishments and the value of past practice, the need for certainty, the importance of national, ethnic and cultural identity. In essence, I am asking us to continue to act from our own diverse centres, from our own premises but at the same time to guard against old political passions and nostalgia. I am asking us to invest more generously in collaborative efforts, to create

bridges to other academic associations and units, to seek connections where intellectual interests take us, to integrate our conference with other events that might create promising synergies, to broaden the appeal of our journal and to enhance its already excellent reputation, to explore connections beyond our current field of vision, to broaden our scope. In short: to open up.

If we don't presume that AABS can or should speak for others, if our actions are not over-determined, one-directional, and driven by non-academic interests, but instead guided by a self-assured professionalism and a shared belief in interdependencies, these kinds of initiatives, I believe, should bode well for our future. A future that would make our association less inward focused and provide it with a less isolated stance; an association as also the theme of our conference here in Toronto suggests - that is open to the world and new partners in dialogue. As an academic association, it shouldn't be difficult for us to justify this transformation from a relatively closely defined understanding of community - as comforting, significant and established as it might be - to the desire and reality of reaching beyond traditional tribal affiliations, geographical contexts, and political interests, despite the challenges this might bring. Across the disciplines, this kind of openness is firmly rooted

in much of current academic discourse; it is also part and parcel of the professional work of many of us here tonight. It was apparent throughout the many sessions of our conference here in Toronto. I witnessed it in conversations with AABS members. It is reflected in many articles in our journal. “Developments on the ground,” as our academic director Olavi Arens aptly put it, “are leading away from a narrow Baltic definition to a broader one.”

In my own field, literary and cultural studies, it is also a commonly accepted view that human beings only imagine that they are divided “within themselves, between themselves, and from the natural world” as the Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor so aptly put it whereas in reality we are not. In the words of the British sociologist Anthony Giddens, we ultimately live in a “world without others.” Of course, the difficulties of acting accordingly are legion. The more reason to remind ourselves that there is always another way of perceiving; that seemingly disconnected things are indeed connected. Precisely this realization has been among the chief salutary roles of imaginative literature.

I would like to emphasize this point with the help of several strong voices which come from very different intellects and perceptions of the world. To borrow, for example, from the Franco-Czech novelist Milan Kundera, literature helps us “break

free of the seemingly inescapable”, break free from an “iron mould, a shirt, a suit a uniform”, to quote Slavenka Draculic, the Croatian writer and journalist and author of *Café Europa*. Literature encourages us to move beyond economic interests, as the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu has it; it increases our tolerance for ambiguity (Booth), our capacity for uncertainty; it helps us perceive truth in the plural, rather than pursue truth in the singular (Horton); it is a means to express and co-determine the richness, and the importance of process and relationship in social encounters. In the words of the writer and cultural historian George Steiner: “the construct of the artist is a counter-statement to the world”, one that pits the “constraints of the observed” against the “boundless possibilities of the imagined”. In short, imaginative literature points to and brings alive the importance of contingency and interdependence.

Many disciplines have, in one way or another, been influenced by this view, but also co-determined its contours: From the pragmatist philosophy of Richard Rorty, to the figurational sociology of Norbert Elias to practitioners in such diverse fields as Education, Anthropology, History, Comparative Literature, Gender Studies, Psychology, Folklore and many more.

Once we situate ourselves as an association more firmly in this general discourse, we will see

more clearly the need to affirm diversity within communities but also to contemplate more seriously than we have thus far the value of striving to achieve a broader perspective. One that allows us to see the Baltic states and our relationship to them increasingly in terms of a continuously changing network of multi- as well as intercultural identities that co-determine one another.

And perhaps we can remind ourselves that this process of change is already well underway. Recent publications, among them articles in our *Journal of Baltic Studies*, bear witness to that. When dealing with things Baltic, we are, for example, encouraged to use labels, such as “North Eastern Europe”, “The Baltic Sea Region”, “Europe’s Northern periphery”. This is considered to be important, as a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Political History at the University of Turku not long ago put it, “for creating non-national or at least a transnational narrative, thus breaking the straitjacket of nation-centric histories” (Marko Lehti).

However, it also needs to be recognized that our capacity to change our perceptions and act accordingly is limited. We have, as others have pointed out, as yet no useful theory which is capable of grasping social transformation as at once “diffusion and affirmation” (Bhabha).

Nevertheless, this kind of openness, this thinking in relations, integration and interdependencies will help us as an association to set priorities and agree on a course of action that will allow us to identify more closely with the growing number of those who claim cosmopolitan diversity and living between cultures as a preferred, **not** a distressing condition. It will allow us to develop better relations with those who resist, what has been called one of Europe's finest illusions, the bounded individual, the isolated ego, the we-less I. It will allow us to establish more common ground with the post-traditionalist generation here in North America, in the Baltic Sea Region and elsewhere the generation of young scholars that we have largely failed to attract, but need the most.

The importance of relational modes of knowing is underscored by the fact, that they are by no means limited to the human sciences. They do not only concern human relations but also our encounter with the nonhuman world. In other words, much of current academic practice can also be seen in terms of an effort to reverse our social **and** our environmental disconnection. Among the long list of notable intellectuals who bear witness to the widespread professional attention this crucial issue has received over the past few years are: nature writers such as the

American poet, essayist and environmentalist Gary Snyder, the Canadian geneticist David Suzuki, Norwegian philosopher and deep ecologist Arne Naess, American evolutionary biologist Edward Wilson, Estonian poet and essayist Jaan Kaplinski, and American historian Theodore Roszak, to name but a few.

They all insist on the intrinsic value and primacy of nature and its essential role in developing human potential. Many of them are concerned with the recovery of ancient ways of living and the wisdom of traditional societies accumulated in the course of human history - be that the knowledge of Finno-Ugric shamans, the beliefs of ancient Baltic tribes or the rituals, and myths of people as far away from us here as the Mentawai of the West Sumatra coast.

These intellectuals scientists and humanists - act in the hope of contributing to our ability to find again a deeper, more meaningful connection with the vast complexities of the natural world, of helping repair a damaged relationship with nature. To put it differently: The aim of their efforts is to improve ecological literacy and with that our condition in general.

I mention this not only as further evidence of the breadth and depth of relational thinking in today's world I have tried to describe. I mention this also for

another reason: It constitutes an invitation, for us as an association, to contemplate connections with those who might take us beyond what is often referred to as a typically Western and European mindset. Paradoxically, this path *away* from ourselves might also take us deeper *into* ourselves, as individuals, as members of small nations and as world citizens of the twenty-first century. At the same time, this path might also help with some of the most urgent problems of our times.

To conclude: It is my conviction that being more mindful of social *and* environmental interdependencies, that letting this spirit spill over more readily into the way we conduct ourselves as an association will give rise to invigorating and exciting prospects for renewal. A renewal that promises to reverse some of the insularity we suffer from and provide a refreshing, stimulating, and healthy dose of uncertainty without losing sight of the values of past accomplishments. Without driving underground past passions, beliefs and emotions.

In the coming months and years, this is my hope, that our association, will take appropriate initiatives and become more of what we already in many ways are: a learned society for the advancement of Baltic studies that is also at home in the world at large.

News from the Board of Directors

Meetings of the **aabs** Board of Directors

The Annual Meetings of the Board in the fall are the principal forum for conducting AABS business between the biennial membership meetings held at the Association's Conference. On June 3, 2004 the new AABS Board under President Thomas Salumets formally took office. The 2004 Annual Meeting of the AABS Board of Directors was held at George Washington University in

Washington, D.C. on November 20. In 2005 the Annual Meeting of the Association's Board was again held in Washington, D. C. on November 11-13. The Board notes with deep regret the passing of Mr. Janis Gaigulis who had contributed much wise counsel during numerous meetings in the past. A further painful blow to the Association has been the death of Mr. Ūlo Sinberg, a valued

financial and accounting advisor to the AABS. The major decisions and reports of the officers as presented at the Annual Meetings are outlined and summarized in this Report. Members of the Association who wish to obtain a copy of the minutes of the Board's Annual Meetings should contact the AABS Executive Administrative Director.



aabs Board Meeting November 12, 2005

Left to right: Olavi Arens, Academic Executive Director; Julija Šukys, V-P for Publications; Inta Carpenter, President-Elect; Kenneth Smith, Treasurer; Daina Stukuls Eglitis, V-P for Conferences; Thomas Salumets, President; David Smith, JBS Editor; Vilius Rudra Dundzila, V-P for Professional Development; Saulius Sužiedelis, Director-at-Large. Not in picture: Anita Juberts, Executive Director; Mark Jubulis, Secretary; Edmund Brigmanis, Controller.

Finances & Administration

Budgets and Membership

In keeping with the auditor's report of 2003, the Board approved a motion to consider "all contributions and grants [to the Association] ... available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor." AABS has appointed Juris Padegs (Chair), Gundar King, George Viksnins, and Edmund Brigmanis to the Baltic Studies Fund Investment Committee. The Board has decided that the Association's funds should continue to be administered by the Frank Russell Company.

The actual budgets for FY 2004 and 2005, as well as the projected budget for FY 2006 are presented in Tables A and B (*next page*). The Board is pleased to report that the Association's financial situation has improved during the past few years. Greater yields on AABS investments as well as the continuing generosity of donors has enabled the Association to continue its work and even expand in some new directions. The market value of the Baltic Studies Fund during 2004 and 2005 is provided in Table C (*next page*). The Board has continued to discuss ways to attract graduate students and emerging scholars, as well as expand contacts with similar learned societies and area studies associations for mutual support. Some of these initiatives are outlined under Academic Activities.

While the market value of over \$1.5 million at the end of calendar year 2005 may seem impressive, it should be noted that almost a third of the Baltic Studies Fund constitutes restricted monies to fund the Grundmanis and Saltups fellowships for Latvian students. The earnings from the rest of the Fund are available for AABS academic and administrative functions. The generous gifts provided in memory of Janis Gaigulis will be earmarked to promote specific projects in support of the Association's academic mission at the June 2006 meeting of the Board of Directors.

**Table A:
Income and Adjustments F/Y 2004-2006**

F/Y 2004

Membership Dues	\$23,000.00
Expendable Donations	\$5,300.00
Dividends (Baltic Studies Fund)	\$18,500.00
Capital Gains	\$9,600.00
Bequest Admin. Fees	\$2,100.00
Baltic Office Programs (UWEC, Butler)	\$2,000.00
JBS Sales	\$14,900.00

Total Income & Adjustments\$75,400.00

F/Y 2005

Membership Dues	\$25,000.00
Expendable Donations	\$12,900.00
Dividends, Interest (Baltic Studies Fund)	\$18,870.00
Capital Gains	\$10,000.00
Bequest Admin. Fees	\$3,500.00
Baltic Office Programs (UWEC, Butler)	\$1,000.00
JBS Sales	\$15,400.00

Total Income and Adjustments\$86,670.00

FY 2006*

Membership Dues	\$21,000.00
Expendable Donations	\$10,000.00
Dividends (Baltic Studies Fund)	\$20,000.00
Capital Gains	\$8,000.00
Bequest Admin. Fees	\$3,500.00
Baltic Office Programs (UWEC, Butler)	\$500.00
JBS Sales	\$15,500.00

Total Income and Adjustments\$82,600.00

**Table C:
Baltic Studies Fund Market Value 2004-2006**

(Assets, cents omitted)

June 30, 2004	\$1,360,304
December 31, 2004	\$1,455,173
June 30, 2005	\$1,478,038
December 31, 2005	\$1,522,402

**Table B:
Academic & Administrative Expenses F/Y 2004-2006**

F/Y 2004

Business Office Portland, OR	\$4,000.00
Executive Office	\$16,200.00
Depreciation, Audit, Legal, Other Costs	\$11,250.00
Fund Raising Costs	\$4,800.00
Administrative Restructuring	\$2,800.00
Board Travel & Annual Report	\$7,000.00
Contingency (Bad Debt)	\$500.00
JBS Production	\$20,500.00
Vitols Prize	\$500.00
Baltic Office (Riga)	\$7,500.00

Total Expenses\$75,050.00
Surplus/(Deficit)\$350.00

F/Y 2005

Business Office Portland, OR	\$4,000.00
Executive Office	\$18,800.00
Depreciation, Audit, Legal, Other Costs	\$10,740.00
Fund Raising Costs	\$4,700.00
Administrative Restructuring	\$2,600.00
Board Travel & Annual Report	\$3,800.00
Contingency (Bad Debt)	N/A
JBS Production	\$20,800.00
Vitols Prize	N/A
Baltic Office (Riga)	\$8,000.00
BALSSI Grant	\$3,200.00

Total Expenses\$73,440.00
Surplus/(Deficit)\$10,03.00

F/Y 2006*

Business Office Portland, OR	\$4,000.00
Executive Office	\$19,000.00
Depreciation, Audit, Legal, Other Costs	\$13,140.00
Fund Raising Costs	\$5,000.00
Administrative Restructuring	\$6,200.00
Board Travel & Report to Membership	\$9,500.00
Contingency (Bad Debt)	\$500.00
JBS Production	\$22,250.00
Vitols Prize	\$1,000.00
Baltic Office (Riga)	\$10,500.00

Total Expenses\$91,090
Surplus/(Deficit) (\$8,490.00)

* Projected (as approved by the AABS Board on November 12, 2005).

Membership

In November 2004 Active AAABS members numbered 585. Just over 80% hailed from North America, some 434 from the United States and 43 in Canada. The remaining members

hailed primarily from Europe: Latvia (24), Germany (12), United Kingdom (11), Estonia (7), Lithuania (5) and ten other European states. At that time, Australia included 23 members

and one lived in the Republic of Korea. The Association's Controller reports that, at the end of December 2005, the Association counted 640 active members.

Business Office and Administration

The Board is currently examining ways to improve the business and clerical work of the Association. At the 2004 meeting Senior Advisor Gaigulis noted that the current data base of the Association was developed over twenty years ago and is out of date. Currently, after many hours of work by the AABS team in Riga and at minimal cost a new information system for the AABS is about to be put into place. The Association will be testing the effectiveness of this system during the next year.

The deaths of long-time AABS Senior Advisors, Janis Gaigulis and Ülo Sinberg, have been keenly felt in the area of financial and administrative management. The substantial deficit in the projected budget for FY 2006

reflects the need for administrative restructuring. AABS will continue to need professional advice on simplification of the organization's business procedures. The Board is seeking ways to meet the essential legal requirements of reporting to the Internal Revenue Service, conducting annual audits of the Association's books and monitoring the administration of the Baltic Studies Fund. The Board is continuing discussions with past financial advisors of AABS and others on business issues. Eventually there may be a need to hire a consultant to streamline auditing and other financial processes. The impending retirement of Controller Edmund Brigmanis, who has generously donated his time and efforts to the

Association, further underscores the need for finding creative solutions in the absence of senior officers who had in the past guided the business functions of the organization. The Board hopes that the planned agreement with Routledge for publication and distribution of the *Journal of Baltic Studies*, as well as the termination of the Baltic Office in Riga may substantially ease some of the financial concerns. During the November 2005 meeting, Controller Brigmanis reminded the Board that a more systematic approach to fund raising is essential to ensure the continuation of the AABS mission.

Academics & Scholarship

The Journal of Baltic Studies

The *Journal of Baltic Studies* (JBS) has long been, and remains, the Association's academic flagship. Along with the biennial conferences, the JBS is the most important academic endeavor of the AABS. The Board of the AABS takes this opportunity to express its appreciation for Andres Kasekamp's excellent stewardship of the JBS as editor during 2000-2004, as well as his assistance and guidance in finding a new editor for the quarterly. The respect that the JBS has enjoyed in the academic world has been underscored by the fact that a number of qualified candidates applied for the editorship when the position became open in 2004. During the November 2004 meeting, following a careful evaluation of a number of well-qualified candidates, the board chose Dr. David J. Smith as the new editor of the *Journal*.



Dr. Smith is Senior Lecturer and Convenor of the Baltic Research Unit at the Department of Central and East European

Studies, University of Glasgow. He first became interested in the Baltic States while studying Russian and French (BA) and East European Studies (MA) at the University of Bradford. In 1988 he visited the three Baltic capitals while studying Russian as an exchange student in the former USSR. He went on to complete a PhD (1997) at Bradford on ethnic conflict regulation in post-Soviet Estonia, and from 1996-2002 held a Lectureship in Baltic Studies at the same University before taking up his current post at Glasgow. His major publications include: *Estonia: Independence and European Integration* (2001); *Post-Cold War Identity Politics: Northern and Baltic Experiences* (co-edited with Marko Lehti, 2003) and *The Baltic States and their Region: New Europe or Old?* (edited, 2005). Professor Smith is currently working on the AHRC-funded project "Ending Nationalism? The Quest for Cultural Autonomy in Interwar Europe," and from this year will begin a new British Academy project on commemoration, public monuments and the renegotiation of identities in post-Soviet Estonia.

At the same time, during its November 2004 meeting the AABS Board discussed at length the prospects of undertaking changes aimed at modernizing the appearance of the JBS as well as exploring new affiliations for the publication of the Association's quarterly. After considerable discussion both before and during the 2005 meeting, the Board voted to commit AABS to a partnership with a new publisher, Routledge, which would begin in 2007. The Board feels strongly that this move will maintain the high professional standards of the JBS while considerably improving the financial situation of the AABS, as well as providing new and exciting avenues for marketing and distribution. The agreement is currently under review by AABS legal counsel and is expected to be concluded shortly.

At the November 2005 meeting JBS editor David Smith expressed appreciation to the fine work of the Journal's book review and technical editors. The 2005 conference in Valmiera proved valuable in securing good quality contributions. The projected joint panels of the AABS and the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS)

The Journal of Baltic Studies (continued)

at the Twentieth AABS Conference is expected to produce additional manuscripts and the cooperation of the two learned societies may lead to joint issues. Most manuscript proposals and contributions are now coming from the Baltic States. The overwhelming majority of submissions are in history, politics, and external relations, with a need for more works in culture, literature and economics. The reviews now include a wider spread of subjects. The editors are working on improving the style guidelines.

Biennial Conferences

The Nineteenth Conference of the Association, "Dynamics of Identity and Integration: The Baltics in Europe and the World," was held at the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto on June 3-5 2004. The Conference itself was preceded by a Colloquium entitled "The Fateful Years in the Baltics 1944-1949," held on March 25, 2004 at Tartu College (Toronto). A total of 114 scholars from eleven countries participated and while 70 of them hailed from the U. S. and Canada, there were 23 participants from the Baltic States as well as another 13 scholars from other Baltic Sea region countries including Finland, Denmark, Germany and Sweden. The Conference encompassed some 34 sessions with 121 papers altogether, including plenary sessions. The Baltic Psaltery Symposium was held concurrently with the Nineteenth Conference on June 5-6 at Tartu College. The keynote address at

the traditional Friday luncheon was given by Vieda Skultans, Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Bristol. There was also a well-attended plenary session, "1944 and its Aftermath: Commemoration and Survival." A moving exhibition of images and documents, "1944 and Its Aftermath: Baltic Journeys, Baltic Destinies" proved a complement to this session. It should also be noted that there were six excellent student presentations on the topic of identity.

The conference culminated in the Saturday evening Banquet. In his Presidential Address Dr. Thomas Salumets called attention to the imperative that the AABS diversify its scholarly strategies and widen its scope, with emphasis on the next generation of scholars. The highlight of the evening was the address by Vaira-Vike Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia and former President and founding member of

AABS. She reviewed the crucial role played by the Association in presenting a scholarly and critical interpretation of the Soviet period of Baltic history. Another distinguished speaker was Ene Ergma, Speaker of the Estonian Parliament. The AABS Board wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the efforts of the Conference organizers, especially Dr. Juri Kivimae, then Vice President for Conferences, Dace Veinberga, Conference Registrar and Dr. Tiina Kirss, Academic Coordinator, as well as the entire Local Committee in Toronto. The Association extends a special thanks to the National Estonian Foundation of Canada which supported the Conference with a grant of 20,000.00 Canadian dollars.

The Twelfth Baltic Studies Conference was held in Melbourne, Australia on October 1-2, 2004. It is encouraging to note that half of the papers

Biennial Conferences (*continued*)

presented were delivered by scholars appearing at this Conference for the first time. A panel held on the first day of the meeting examined the Baltic States, especially relations with Russia from the perspective of countries surrounding Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Participants included Polish scholar Dr. Roman Zaroof, as well as Prof. Edward Reilly and Dr. Tony Griffiths from Flinders University. The full-day meeting on Saturday, October 2 included an examination of issues relating to Old Prussia (Dr. Zaroof and Dr. Kaspars Klavins from Latvia) as well as more current issues relating to Kaliningrad/Königsberg presented by D. Kristina Brazaitis. Emeritus

Professor and long-time AABS member Trevor Fennell provided new insights into the development of the Latvian language in the eighteenth century. Dr. Algis Taškunas and two young scholars from Tasmania, Kate Gross and Madeleine Shuey, took on issues relating to Baltic Studies and specifically Australian issues, while anthropology student Edgars Greste examined identity issues among Australian-Latvians. Another young scholar, Maria Takolander from Deakin University in Geelong read part of her work *Swampland*, a reflexive exploration of Finnish identity. Dr. Robert Crawford from Monash University examined Latvian volunteers in the Australian armed

forces during World War I. The Australasian chapter of AABS currently has fifteen members.

The Twentieth Conference of the AABS, “Re-Imagining the Baltic Region: Perspectives on the Past, Present and Future,” will be held at the George Washington University in Washington, DC, June 15-17, 2006. Additional information about the Conference, including the registration form, can be found at the end of this Report. At the Board meeting of November 2005 it was decided that the 2008 Biennial Conference take place at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Baltic Office in Riga

During 2004-2005 the Baltic Office in Riga has continued its work under the able stewardship of Mr. Edgars Kariks. More than two dozen “Brown Bag” workshops/discussion were held with topics as varied ranging from German literature in the Baltics and music to contemporary Baltic topics and international relations. Some eighty such discussion and lecture events have been held during the past two years. From May 12-25, 2004 the Office facilitated Butler University’s “Field Seminar in Ministry” program with ten

students. During Fall 2004 the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire “Fall Semester in Latvia,” also with ten students, was facilitated by the Baltic Office in contract to AABS. In May-June 2006 it is expected that the Baltic Office will assist Butler University’s travel study program by contract with the Association. The Office also handled the AABS contribution to the 2005 Baltic Studies Conference at Valmiera and assisted in enhancing the Association’s presence at that meeting.

During the 2004 Annual Meeting the Board approved a motion to continue the operations of the AABS Baltic Office in Riga until June 30, 2006. A consensus emerged that the Association should carefully re-examine the duties and functions of the Riga Baltic Office during this period. During 2004-2005 Vice-President for Professional Development, Dr. Vilius Rudra Dundzila, initiated a review and restructuring of the mission of the AABS Baltic Office in Riga. Priority was given to the maintenance of the Association’s

Baltic Office in Riga (*continued*)

web-site in Riga, as well as to the administration of the two fellowships, the Grundmanis and Saltups Fellowships.

During the discussion of the Baltic Office at the November 2005 Board meeting, the Board acknowledged that the Baltic Office had been a positive asset to the Association and had been well-managed by a dedicated staff member, Mr. Edgars Kariks. However, concerns were expressed about the cost and functions of the Office during a time of financial stringency, new outreach priorities and changing realities in the Baltics. As a consequence, the majority of the Directors reluctantly voted to discontinue the mandate of the Baltic Office and terminate its operations in Riga as of June 30, 2006. The Board regrets the necessity of this action and expresses its appreciation to Mr. Kariks for his years of commitment in managing the Office.

Academic Outreach

As part of the Association's outreach to young scholars and students, in August 2004 AABS hosted a reception at the Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI) at the University of Washington in Seattle which was well attended. AABS has now assisted the program with a grant of \$3,200.00. In the summer of 2005 AABS was again active at BALSSI which was housed at Indiana University in Bloomington where the program will be repeated in 2006 (June 16 - August 11, 2006). An AABS-sponsored reception was well received and attended. Prof. Toivo Raun and President-elect Inta Carpenter explained the history and mission of AABS to the Institute participants. The AABS has decided to grant \$4,000.00 to the 2006 BALSSI program for student support from the Gaigulis Reserve Fund.

The issue of attracting the younger generation to Baltic Studies, both undergraduate and graduate students, has been much discussed in recent years. At the last meeting in November 2005 the Board decided to continue the process of including a student representative as a member of the Board of Directors. This will necessitate a change in Article 7 of the By-Laws of the Association. A new Fellow of the Board must have a Master's degree, that is, be a graduate student. It is hoped that the addition of the new Board member can be accomplished at the June 2006 meeting of the Association's membership or soon thereafter. President Thomas Salumets addressed the issue of graduate student financial support at the November 2005 meeting. There is a growing consensus to make every effort to assist graduate students with the costs of attending the Association's Conferences.

In an effort to encourage relations with academic institutions in the Baltic region, AABS provided \$1,000.00 to support the Sixth Baltic Studies Conference in Europe at Vidzeme University College in Valmiera, Latvia on June 17-19, 2005. The Association also hosted a reception at the Conference for attending scholars and guests. The costs were covered by monies donated to the Gaigulis Reserve Fund. The Baltic Studies Conference in Europe will be held in Germany in 2007. Much of the Board's discussion concerning the European conferences centered on support to cover travel and registration costs for students and the Association is committed to examine ways to help students during the next few years.

The AABS continues to be a member in good standing with the prestigious American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) which represents over sixty academic

Academic Outreach *(continued)*

organizations, including a number of area studies associations. During the November 2005 meeting arrangements were finalized for Dr. Wu's attendance at the June 2006 Board Meeting of the AABS. Olavi Arens, our Academic Executive Director and long-time liaison with the ACLS, will continue as the Association's representative to the Council's Conference of Administrative Officers (CAO). At the November 2004 meeting the Board approved the appointment of Director-at-Large Saulius Sužiedelis to be the Association's Delegate to the ACLS through 2007. While AABS continues in the "small society" category, our membership in ACLS represents an important stamp of approval from other societies that had voted to include AABS in the ACLS. The regional meetings and annual meeting of the ACLS provide an excellent opportunity to meet with representatives from other academic societies and exchange views on issues of common concern. It should be noted that the dues paid by the AABS to the ACLS will almost certainly be increased in 2006.

Following the initiative of AABS VP for Publications, Julija Šukys, the Board decided to develop strategies aimed at improving student participation in the Association, especially attendance at the Biennial Conference. A consensus then emerged in favor

of using the Saltups fellowship to promote research for Latvian students in conjunction with the 2006 Conference. On Sunday, November 13, 2005, following the Board of Directors meeting, AABS Board members and officers participated at a meeting held at the Estonian Embassy in which Dr. Viktor Trasberg outlined the vision and potential of the Baltic Studies program at the University of Tartu.

In an effort to broaden the scope of AABS activities and to emphasize that while Association's interests have emphasized academic studies of the three Baltic States, we seek to embrace a wider interest in the broader Baltic region. The Association has expanded contacts with other institutions and learned societies. Scholars from the Institut für Kultur und Geschichte der Deutschen in Nordosteuropa in Lüneburg (Nordost Institut), including its director, Dr. Andreas Lawaty, attended the Nineteenth AABS Conference in Toronto in June 2004. As a result of contacts through the ACLS, as well as initiatives by Olavi Arens, Executive Director for Academic Affairs and President Thomas Salumets, AABS has found a partner in the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS), an organization with similar interests. Drs. Salumets and Arens participated in the annual SASS conference in Portland, Oregon in May, 2005

where they also attended the Board meeting of the Scandinavian organization. It is hoped that AABS can participate in some way at the SASS conference in Mississippi in May 2006. The SASS and our Association will present joint sessions at the Twentieth AABS Conference in June 2006; also two representatives of the SASS will attend our Board meeting at that time. A joint AABS-SASS conference is planned at the University of Washington in Seattle in 2010. Possible cooperation with the Herder Institute and in Germany and other European institutions was also discussed at the November 2005 meeting. In addition, the AABS is exploring how the Association can contribute to the success of master's degree programs in Baltic studies, for example, the long-standing one at Finland's University of Turku, and the new program sponsored by the University of Latvia.

Grants & Prizes

Dr. Richard Mole from the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London has been awarded the 2005 AABS Emerging Scholar Research Grant of for his project entitled: "The Impact of Political Discourse on Attitudes towards Ethnic Minorities in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania."

Björn Felder, PhD Candidate at the University of Tübingen has been awarded the 2005 AABS Dissertation Grant of to support archival research for his dissertation, "Latvia at War 1940-47. A Society in a Permanent State of Emergency."

The **Vilis Vitols Prize**, the annual award for the outstanding article published in the *Journal of Baltic Studies*, was announced for both 2002 and 2003 at the Nineteenth Conference in Toronto. The 2002 prize was awarded to **Karlis Racevskis** for his study, "Toward a Postcolonial Perspective on the Baltic States." The award for 2003 was granted to **Dr. Jüri Kivimäe** for his article, "Women, The Devil and a Cat's Head: The Trial of Anna and Tobbe Mall in Reval, 1594."

The annual **Grundmanis Fellowship** in memory of **Ieva Metra Grundmanis** for the 2004-2005 academic year was awarded to Inta Dzelme. The 2005-2006 recipient of the Fellowship is Dace Demir who is working for her M.A. in Arts Administration at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Income from the capital of the Saltups bequest in memory of Dr. Mudite I. Zilite Saltups proved insufficient to grant an award for 2004-2006, but it is expected that monies will be available to support a scholarship for 2006-2007.

Distinctions

On October 22, 2004 AABS Academic Executive Director Olavi Arens received an honorary doctorate from Tallinn University (formerly Tallinn Pedagogical University).

Former editor of the *Journal of Baltic Studies*, Dr. Andres Kasekamp has recently been named Professor of Political Science and Chair in Baltic Politics at Tartu University.

2004 – 2005

Donations

The Association continues to enjoy the support of many generous donors who have supported the Baltic Studies Fund, the operating expenses of the AABS, as well as the contributions dedicated to the memory of Janis Gaigulis.

The Baltic Studies Fund (BSF) is the basic endowment in support of AABS activities. While, as indicated above, the Fund's capital has surpassed the \$1.5 million dollar mark, members and supporters of the Association should note that the BSF is restricted in two ways. First, without the membership's vote in compliance with Article VIII of the By-Laws of the AABS (as amended on 10/25/97), the Association can spend the income from the endowment, but cannot access the capital fund itself. Second, almost a fourth of the Fund's capital constitute bequests of the Grundmanis and Saltups families to support Latvian students and are thus not available for AABS operating expenses and other academic pursuits.

The Gaigulis Reserve Fund was established in 2003 to support academic projects and meet unexpected shortfalls. Monies donated in memory of AABS founder and long-time Senior Advisor Janis Gaigulis have been deposited in this Fund. In accordance with the expressed wishes of Mr. Gaigulis, the Fund's assets will be used to support special projects deemed worthwhile to the Association's academic mission.

In view of the particularly difficult financial situation of the AABS during the late 1990s and early 2000s, which was common to virtually all North American learned societies, the AABS fund-raising strategy has recently emphasized unrestricted donations which assist the Association's day-to-day operations. We are pleased that our members and supporters have responded generously as can be seen from the donations report below. In our "List of Donors" below the Association is pleased to recognize by name all the numerous individuals and organizations who have contributed to the AABS during the past two years.

Table D:

**Total contributions to the AABS in USD
February 1, 2004* - December 31, 2005**

F/Y 2004

Baltic Studies Fund	\$15,085.00
Program expenses	\$26,033.88
Gaigulis Reserve Fund	\$12,185.60
Total. . . .	\$53,304.48

**Note: Donations through January 31, 2004 were listed in the AABS 2003 Annual Report.*

In Memoriam

On behalf of our entire membership, the Board and officers of the Association extend heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of these distinguished leaders of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies. Additional information and tributes can be found on the AABS web-site as well as in the most recent issues of the Journal of Baltic Studies.

Janis Gaigulis (1920 – 2005)



Janis Gaigulis, one of the founders of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, was a towering presence to two generations of teachers, scholars, AABS members and supporters; to many he was known simply as “Mr. AABS.” It is difficult to imagine any aspect of the Association’s activities, whether conferences, Board meetings, fund-raising and academic enrichment without Janis Gaigulis. Born in Latvia, he found a new life in the United States; however, he never ceased working

to bring to his homeland the benefits of academic freedom and openness. Janis’s contributions to the development of Latvia’s intellectual life was acknowledged by the Latvian Academy of Sciences which granted him the Honoris Causa doctorate in 1992.

As Chair of the Steering Committee for the First Conference on Baltic Studies at the University of Maryland, Janis convened the AABS Organizing Committee. On December 1, 1968 Janis was appointed the first Executive Director of the Association. While he held a responsible position with the Amstar Corporation, Janis contributed countless hours of hard work creating a financial and administrative infrastructure for AABS which was essential in the Association’s success. Upon his retirement he spent virtually all his waking hours on AABS. After nearly four decades given to Baltic Studies, Janis gradually

withdrew from the Association’s daily operations, but continued providing valuable support as a Senior Advisor. Throughout this life-long service to Baltic Studies, Janis kept the Association’s purpose clearly in his sights. He constantly defended the mission of the Association and its academic integrity as a non-political organization aimed at expanding Baltic Studies as a valuable scholarly pursuit. To ensure the long-term continuity of the Association Janis took the initiative in establishing the Baltic Studies Fund and employed what his friend Ülo Sinberg has described as “remarkable powers of persuasion” in assuring successful fund raising for the BSF. Janis passed away on September 13, 2005.

All of us who have worked with Janis have been privileged and inspired: his enthusiasm, generosity and commitment to excellence will long be remembered.

Ülo Sinberg (1931 – 2005)

Ulo Lembit Sinberg, a long-time Controller of the AABS, was born in Tallinn, Estonia, and came to the United States in 1949. A graduate of Yale University (Class of 1955), he also served in the US Army. An executive with MCA Records, Mr. Sinberg retired in 1991 and moved to Vermont. Throughout his life, Ülo dedicated countless hours to many organizations. Among other activities, he was also Director and Treasurer of the Estonian Students Fund in USA, Inc. While Ülo was not well-known to the rank-and-file of the AABS, those who have been active on the

Association's Board and in other leadership capacities came to appreciate his tireless work on behalf of Baltic Studies. As Controller, Ülo Sinberg spent countless hours assisting the Association in handling the organization's finances, providing valuable advice to the AABS Board. True to character, he provided his meticulous accounting and counsel with no thought to any acknowledgment. In 2002, AABS recognized Ülo Sinberg as a Senior Advisor. Ülo passed away on October 27, 2005. Baltic Studies has lost an irreplaceable friend and mentor.

Rimvydas Šilbajoris (1926-2005)

Rimvydas Šilbajoris, a distinguished scholar, former President (1972-1974) and Board member (1984-1986) was born in Kretinga, Lithuania. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. (1962) in Russian Literature from Columbia University, then joined the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures at Ohio State University in 1963, and served as the Chair of the Department from 1986 to 1989. From 1978 to 1984 he served as President of the Institute of Lithuanian Studies. Dr. Šilbajoris was widely known for his numerous publications in Russian, Lithuanian and Latvian literatures. In 1991 he was awarded an honorary doctorate of philosophy from the Latvian Academy of Sciences in Riga. As Professor Emeritus, Dr. Šilbajoris continued teaching and engaging students; he taught as Visiting Professor

at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. Among his many scholarly studies, which included over a hundred articles and hundreds of reviews, were his highly regarded monographs: *Russian Versification: the Theories of Trediakovskij, Lomonosov and Kantemir* (1968); *In War and Peace: Tolstoy's Mirror of the World* (1995); *Perfection of Exile: Fourteen Contemporary Lithuanian Writers* (1970) and *Mind Against the Wall: Essays on Lithuanian Culture under Soviet Occupation* (1983). Rimvydas passed away on December 3, 2005.

The Baltic Studies community has suffered a grievous loss. Colleagues, friends and students will forever remember Rimvydas's unfailing good humor, his generosity to all those around him and his commitment to the highest standards of academic endeavor.

20th Conference on Baltic Studies June 15-17, 2006



The Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS)
20th Conference on Baltic Studies
June 15-17, 2006
The George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

“Re-Imagining the Baltic Region: Perspectives on the Past, Present, and Future”

The conference will feature panels in the following disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas:

- Linguistics
- Literature
- Political Science, International Relations, and Law
- History and Memory
- Psychology, Sociology, and Demography
- Aesthetics, Creativity, and Culture
- Religion
- Economics and Technology
- Education, Communication, and Media
- Gender
- Environment and Public Health

For information on disciplinary chairs, registration, and accommodations, please consult the conference website at www.aabsconference.org or contact Daina Stukuls Eglitis, conference chair, at dainas@gwu.edu.

Registration Form

All participants presenting papers and/or attending the conference must register in full prior to participating in their sessions or attending conference sessions. Please complete and submit a separate form for each conference participant.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Country _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Registration Form *(continued)*

Please complete by filling in ALL applicable fields:

Standard member registration (postmarked no later than **4/24/06**) \$110 _____ OR
Student member registration* (postmarked no later than **4/24/06**) \$50 _____

Standard non-member registration (postmarked no later than **4/24/06**) \$140 _____ OR
Student non-member registration* (postmarked no later than **4/24/06**) \$65 _____

Late member registration (postmarked after **4/24/06** or **on site**) \$150 _____ OR
Late student member registration (postmarked after **4/26/06** or **on site**) \$65 _____

Late non-member registration (postmarked no later than **4/24/06**) \$160 _____ OR
Late Student non-member registration* (postmarked no later than **4/24/06**) . . . \$75 _____

* We strongly encourage non-members to join AABS in order to both enjoy member conference discounts and other benefits, including a subscription to the *Journal of Baltic Studies*.

Regular banquet ticket** \$60 _____ OR
Student banquet ticket** \$35 _____
** Please indicate any special dietary needs

Conference Housing

Please note that conference housing at GWU may be limited. It is strongly recommended that those who are interested in university housing complete the registration and pay the housing fee promptly. Please check the nights you plan to stay in university housing:

Wednesday, June 14, 2006 _____
Thursday, June 15, 2006 _____
Friday, June 16, 2006 _____
Saturday, June 17, 2005 _____

\$35 X Number of Nights _____
+ 14.5% D.C. Occupancy Tax _____

Total for housing: . . . _____

I would like to include a donation to a conference fund which will be used to defray the cost of attendance for graduate students: _____

TOTAL \$ _____

PAYMENT

Registration forms and payments (checks, money orders, or travelers checks) should be made out to the **"AABS 20th Conference."** Payment using a credit card may also be submitted through PayPal.

Please submit completed form with payment for registration to:

**AABS 20th Conference,
c/o Daina S. Eglitis,
Department of Sociology,
George Washington University,
801 22nd Street, NW, Suite 409
Washington, DC 20052**

Registration forms may also be faxed to **(202) 994-3239**.

PARKING

GWU offers parking in garages for a fee.

There are garages for university visitors at the following sites:

Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E Street, NW

The Marvin Center, H and 21 Streets, NW

University Garage, 2211 H Street, NW (entrances on H and 22nd Streets).

On Saturdays and Sundays, Washington, DC, has free on-street parking, but spaces are limited.

REGISTRATION FEES

Fees include Thursday and Friday receptions, Friday luncheon, Friday and Saturday coffee, refreshments during breaks, as well as a copy of the conference program. Your registration must be received by Monday, May 15, 2006 to guarantee a seat at the Friday luncheon and the Saturday evening banquet. A limited number of meal tickets will be available for those who register after that date. We regret that we cannot reduce the registration fee for those unable to secure meal tickets due to late registration.

Should we be obliged to cancel the conference, the liability of the conference organizers will be limited to refunding the registration fee. Should you choose to cancel, your registration fee will be refunded in full up to May 22, 2006. The full amount, less 20%, will be refunded up to May 29, 2006. We regret that, because of our commitments to the institutional site, we cannot offer refunds after May 29, 2006.

REQUEST FOR PAPERS

Conference participants are asked to kindly bring 10-20 copies of their research paper to the conference. Papers will be sold for \$2.00 each at the Book and Film Reception on Friday night. Proceeds from the papers will be used to help defray the costs of attendance for graduate students.

HOUSING

There are a number of hotels near the conference venues. Conference participants wishing to stay at a local hotel must make their own reservations. The following is a list of recommended hotels:

The George Washington University Inn:

824 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.,
1-800-426-4455

One Washington Circle Hotel:

1 Washington Circle, NW,
800-424-9671

Hotel Lombardy:

2019 Pennsylvania Ave., NW,
1-800-424-5486

State Plaza Hotel:

2117 E Street, NW,
1-800-424-2859

Washington Suites Hotel:

2500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,
877-736-2500

Doubletree Guest Suites

Washington DC : 801 New Hampshire Avenue, NW,
202-785-2000

Conference housing will also be available at the George Washington University. Please indicate your interest in university housing on this registration form. Those wishing to stay in university housing should indicate their intent to do so in a timely manner.



Executive Office
14743 Braemar Crescent Way
Darnestown, MD 20878-3911

The AABS is an international educational and scholarly non-profit organization. The purpose of the Association is the promotion of research and education in Baltic Studies. Activities include sponsoring meetings and conferences for the exchange of scholarly views, the evaluation of research in Baltic Studies, and supporting the publication of research and other information about Baltic Studies.

Membership is open to anyone wishing to support AABS endeavors. Membership dues cover subscriptions to the *Journal of Baltic Studies*. Depending on individual circumstances, membership dues may be deductible as miscellaneous professional expenses. Donations for the Baltic Studies Fund are deductible in the United States as provided by law.
