

Beginnings of the Intellectual Entente of the Baltic States (1920-1935-1940)

Lecture given at the 12th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation
Vilnius, Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, 4 – 5 November, 2010

Jānis Stradiņš, *Latvian Academy of Sciences*

Abstract: After the First World War and the peace treaty of Versailles Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Finland and Poland got their independence from Russia and formed their independent republics. The scientists in these new states knew how weak their states were and that one way to strengthen them would be through cooperation in the intellectual field. They started what was called the “Baltic Entente” in 1920 with a conference in Bulduri, the treaty of political cooperation was signed in Geneva in 1934. When intellectuals of the three countries met in Kaunas in October 1935, the conference adopted a resolution concerning the most important facts of intellectual and scientific life.

The last of these conferences was the “Baltic Week” in Tallin in June 1940, when the independence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania was brutally interrupted as the Soviet Union imposed its regime on these states, while Poland was already under German occupation.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania got their independence back in 1991, but only in 1999 they restarted the historic “Baltic Conferences” of intellectual cooperation that they had started in 1935. The question is: how important is mutual scientific cooperation for the Baltic States now and for the future?

Keywords: Baltic States, Baltic Entente, Intellectual Entente, Baltic Week, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.

Today, at the 12th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation we may look back at an important anniversary – 75 years since, on 29 and 30 October 1935, the first Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation took place in Kaunas, Lithuania. Professor Mykolas Römeris (Michał Pius Römer, 1880-1945), rector of Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, together with the Minister of foreign affairs of Lithuania Stasys Lozoraitis were the organizers –in-chief of the conference [1, 2]. But we may as well just mention another significant anniversary – 90 years since the Bulduri Conference (held in August-September 1920 in Jurmala in the premises of a famous casino), which marked the dawn of cultural (intellectual) collaboration of the newly established Baltic countries [3]. To be true, the expected outcomes did not yield promising results. At that time, the first to draw attention to the problem of togetherness was the outstanding Latvian poet and public figure Jānis Rainis (1865-1929), the head of the Commission on Culture at the Bulduri conference. And finally we mark 70 years since the brutal interruption of the Baltic joint meetings of intellectuals that occurred during the Baltic Week in Tallinn, 15-16 June 1940.

In summer 1920, Liberty war came to an end. The three countries, established in 1918, entered the new Europe that

emerged from the Treaty of Versailles as independent subjects of history. Along with the Baltic States, also Finland and Poland gained independence from the former Russian Empire and initially there was an attempt to create a 5-country alliance, which was to be called the Baltic entente. Finland and Poland were bigger and sovereign states with international (Entente Powers) recognition, while the Baltic countries had yet to be admitted to The League of Nations, showing that they were not temporary entities that might vanish soon if the power of Russia (either bourgeois or Soviet) was renewed. Although collaboration and coordinated activities among the five countries would be of essential importance, the relations remained comparatively weak as late as 1940.

One may ask which kind of cooperation – economic, political and intellectual or cultural – would be the most significant and which should be first developed? It might seem that interstate relations should be built upon economic ties, followed by political ties, while intellectual relationship might be somewhat secondary. All kinds of collaboration, however, emerged and were developed alongside one another and intellectual cooperation, as not infrequently happens, preceded economic and political relationship.

When the independent Baltic States were established after World War I and the freedom fights, which were waged between 1918 and 1920, the relations among the three countries was marked both by certain amount of unity and by certain amount of differences. The first Minister of foreign affairs of Latvia Zigfrīds Meierovics and other politicians sought to create a basis for a political, economic and military alliance, which would have been oriented toward Western Europe (Great Britain and France), as well as, to a certain extent, the Nordic countries. The reasoning behind such an alliance emerged from historical reminiscences and the possibility of threats against the Baltic States from their two neighboring powers – Germany and Russia. The reasons why the relations among the Baltic States developed very slowly are well known and have been treated extensively in the literature. An agreement on establishing a Baltic entente was finally signed in Geneva only on 12 September 1934, but in practice the entente was a weak and limited entity. Latvian-American professor of history Edgars Andersons was right when he wrote that “the Baltic entente was born with considerable difficulty and entered the world as a fairly weak creation... Politically, economically and militarily, the Baltic States remained apart. National chauvinism in all three

countries was greater than any consciousness of political unity and common destiny. Even during their parliamentary periods, the Baltic States would have had difficulty in achieving greater unity. It was even more difficult in 1934, when the parliamentary system had been replaced in all three countries by authoritarian governments. ... The dictators ... created an exalted aura around themselves and did not wish to limit their own status in the common interest of all three States” [4]. The failure of the Baltic States to come to common terms is sometimes seen as the decisive factor in their loss of independence, although it seems that a much more important role in that process was played by external factors and by the actions of aggressive, totalitarian powers in Europe - Germany of A. Hitler and USSR of J. Stalin. The only area in which cooperation was more or less in place, or at least moving in a positive direction, was in the intellectual sphere – science and culture.

An important event was a conference of the responsible representatives of the three Baltic States held in Bulduri, Latvia, in August-September 1920 (Aug. 7th -Sept. 6th). The Bulduri Conference was initiated by the Minister for foreign affairs of Latvia Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics (1887-1925), a passionate promoter of the idea of the Baltic entente, it was chaired by the Prime Minister of Latvia Kārlis Ulmanis (1877-1942) and the vice-chairmen were Minister Z. Meierovics and Senator V. Zamuels. The member of the Constitutional Assembly of Latvia (Satversmes sapulce), social democrat Jānis Pliekšāns - Rainis (later Minister of Education of the Republic of Latvia) was elected the chairman of the Commission on Culture and Social affairs (the vice chairman was Dr. Jānis Kasparsons). Lithuania was represented by Dr. K. Šaulys, Vladislovas Natkevičius, Estonia – by Alfred Mōtus, Poland – by Prof. Witold Kamenecki, Finland – by Erki Raionen and Leonard Afrōm [3]. The program of discussions in the Socio-cultural commission in the field of science and arts included:

- Exchange of teaching staff and of text books;
- Establishment of national colleges and maintenance of joint scientific activities in big towns;
- Joint scientific journals;
- Collection and reviewing facts and news for the arts in conferencing countries;
- Common Art Almanac;
- Arranging art exhibitions and exchanges with exhibitions;
- Conferences and congresses of artists, scientists and journalists;
- Bureau of Arts and Science [for Baltic States] (Valdības Vēstnesis, 1920)

Actually, Conference participants discussed co-operation in cultural, social, and health-care affairs, a proposed convention on the arts among the three Baltic States, communications among scientific institutions, unification of sanitary efforts, and a proposal to guarantee a favorable attitude toward cultural projects. In the area of scientific cooperation, specialists discussed and accepted a document which spoke of an exchange of professors, joint invitations to professors from friendly foreign countries (especially France and England), the

establishment of national colleges in France and England in order to bring together students from all three countries, an exchange of students, establishment of departments to teach the languages and cultures of all three Baltic States, co-ordination of preparedness certificates and university diplomas, establishment of joint scientific institutions (e.g., the Pasteur Institute) for the manufacture and control of medicines, joint training of specialists to fight human and veterinary epidemics, the publication of a joint magazine on social hygiene issues, and the organization of joint scientific congresses and conferences. This very extensive declaration, which was signed on 3 September 1920, remained on paper, however. The Bulduri conference had representatives from Finland, Poland and Ukraine (officials in the Scandinavian countries did not respond to the invitation), and it can be considered a personal triumph for Z. Meierovics, but the event did not lead to any concrete results, both because of the ensuing political conflict between Lithuania and Poland and because of other reasons, too. There was not even much co-operation in the field of science. We feel that the document in question, however, was of moral significance as the first affirmation of the desire of intellectuals in the three Baltic States to work together. Rainis became, however, disappointed with the results of the commission's work because even positive decisions were not signed by Lithuania and were ratified neither by Finland, nor by Poland. When the outcomes of the Bulduri Conference were discussed at the so-called Rainis Club, Rainis himself said bitter words against Finland's position at the conference:

“Paramountly, the issues that were dealt by the Cultural Commission achieved, perhaps, the least success. And that particular nation that has got, in terms of culture, far ahead the others, is lagging behind in these matters. I am thinking of Finland < ... > The convention on science was discussed. Arrived at a conclusion that the conferencing countries, for all intents and purposes, have to come to an agreement. Finland took a different position, because its culture is more advanced and it has suffered from the war less severely. One of the topics on the agenda was the idea about the establishment of [scientific] bureau in order to have control over all works to be carried out and to lend assistance at one or another place. Undoubtedly, it has to be taken into consideration that, in terms of culture, Poland and Finland stand higher than other countries and care should be taken that richer countries give assistance to those countries that have less strength < ... >. However, as I said, the proxy of Finland only expressed the opinion of government and not that of the Finnish nation. Finland is a progressive country which stands higher in industry and also literature and art, but after we heard here [at the conference] their views on social matters, it would be easier to call it regressive instead“[5].

In characterizing the position of Finland, we have to bear in mind that in early autumn of 1920 the higher education establishment in Latvia and the Tartu University in its Estonian appearance were yet in a creation process, while Lithuania had no university at all (Vilnius was soon annexed by Poland but the University in Kaunas was established only

in 1922). Therefore Finland did not see a worthy partner in the Baltics in the field of science and was not willing to support the existent ones.

Moreover, some months after the Bulduri conference an irreconcilable conflict arose between Lithuania and Poland because of the annexation of Vilnius that cancelled any further action. The Baltic States developed economic co-operation, also bilateral intellectual cooperation between the universities, but Poland and, to a lesser extent, also Finland disassociated themselves from the three countries (self defense instinct?).

Nor the political entente of the Baltic States could be created, due to the Vilnius question and partly due to incompetence and political ambition of local statesmen. Lithuania developed, to a certain extent, relations with the yet democratic Germany and even with Soviet Russia so that to ensure counterbalance against Poland, but it was unacceptable to Latvia and particularly to Estonia.

Only after Hitler came to power in Germany and the territorial question of Klaipėda (Memel) was becoming acute, Lithuania finally, in 1934, joined the union agreement of Estonia and Latvia. On 12th September 1934, in Geneva, a Treaty of Understanding and Cooperation was concluded by the Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs Julius Seljamaa, the newly appointed Foreign Minister of Lithuania Stasys Lozoraitis and Secretary general of the Foreign Ministry of Latvia Vilhelms Munters (at that time the foreign minister formally was Prime Minister Kārlis Ulmanis), thus laying foundation to the Baltic entente (to be true this term was never officially used).

The entente was informally initiated by the Latvian side, in more specific terms by inconsistently treated and ambitious Vilhelms Munters (1898-1967), who followed the course taken by Zigfrīds Meierovics and soon became the foreign minister of Latvia (he was temporarily, in 1938, the head of the session of the League of Nations). Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Stasys Lozoraitis (1898-1983) was also favorably disposed to the Baltic unity in contrast to his precursors. The Baltic agreement was drawn up in accordance with the principles embraced in the Covenant of the League of Nations that did not speak of any military collaboration, yet among several others a commission on intellectual collaboration was dealt with [4].

It should also be added that in the 1920's, efforts at international intellectual cooperation were promoted by the League of Nations. In 1926, the International Intellectual Cooperation Institute was established in Paris, and shortly thereafter intellectual cooperation committees were also organized in the three Baltic States and Finland (in some respects they were similar to the UNESCO system which operates under the framework of the United Nations, although the earlier organizations were not nearly as formal in structure), which tried to organize joint events [6]. It should be noted that in Latvia such a national committee was founded already in 1923 under the leadership of Rector of the University of Latvia Prof. E. Felsbergs with Prof. Jāzeps Vītols, V. Purvītis, J. Rainis, R. Egle, N. Busch, H. Albāts and J. Jaudzems as members. This national committee (as well as

the responsible committees in other countries) was attached to the University of Latvia, and the rector of the university was *ex officio* the chairman of the committee (in 1935, the rector of the University of Latvia was a chemist and well-known public figure Prof. Jūlijs Auškāps). A representative of the Latvian national committee, Professor of archeology Francis Balodis communicated with the relevant representatives in the Baltic States and Finland, as well as Sweden and Denmark, already in 1932, calling for closer cooperation, but the response was so negligible that the idea of organizing a specific event (a joint meeting) never found fruition. The situation became more favorable after the signing of the Baltic Entente agreement in Geneva. The rector of the Vytautas Magnus University, Mykolas Römeris, personally initiated negotiations, and because of his persistence, a conference of delegates from the national committees of four countries (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland) could take place in Kaunas.

The first conference was chaired by Mykolas Römeris, a Lithuanian lawyer, scientist and politician, who was at the given time chairman of the national committee for intellectual cooperation in Lithuania. According to Wikipedia, Römer was born in Lithuania into a Polonized family of Baltic German (Livonian) origin. He was one of szlachta members loyal the heritage of Grand Duchy of Lithuania, referred to as *Krajowcy*. Later Römer became a member of Pilsudski's Polish legions, but broke with the Polish side. In 1920, he declined an offer to become the prime minister of the Republic of Central Lithuania (*Litwa Srodkowa*), created by Pilsudski. He chose instead to move to Kaunas, which had become the temporary capital of the recently re-established independent Republic of Lithuania. He was a notable figure in the interwar period - a member of the Lithuanian Supreme Court (1921-1928), a professor at the University of Lithuania (in 1930 renamed to Vytautas Magnus University)(1922-1940), Vilnius University (1940-1945) and the rector of the University of Lithuania for three terms (1927-1928, 1933-36 and 1936-1939). As an international lawyer, he represented Lithuania in 1932 at the Hague Tribunal, when the legality of the Klaipėda directorate actions question arose. He wrote important works on Lithuanian history and on law, such as the 1908 book *Lietuva. Studija apie lietuvių tautos atgimimą* and the 1928 book *Die Verfassungsreform Litauens im Jahre 1928*. He is considered to be one of the most prominent Lithuanian jurists, the progenitor, first lector and one of the most prominent authors of interwar Lithuanian Constitutional Law. Nowadays, the Law University of Lithuania in Vilnius is renamed to the Mykolas Römeris University in 2004 [7].

The first Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation (29-30 October 1935) was held in the meeting hall of the Lithuanian cabinet of Ministers. The meeting was opened by Lithuanian Foreign Minister, S. Lozoraitis, who also chaired the first session. Later sessions were chaired by representatives of the participating countries in alphabetical order. Finland was represented by the dean of the Department of History and Philology of Helsinki University, Prof. A. Långfors. Estonia was represented by Prof. Ants Piip (a

professor of law who had been the first head of the Riigivanema of the Republic of Estonia in 1921-1921) and Professor Ludvig Puusepp (a very noted Estonian physician), both from the Tartu University. Latvia's delegates were Professor Ludvigs Adamovičs (an expert in the history of religion and a former minister of education) and Professor Ernests Blese (a linguist), both from the University of Latvia. Lithuania was represented by Professor M. Rōmeris (a lawyer) and by secretary general of the Lithuanian Intellectual Cooperation Committee, V. Soblys (in Lithuania the committee was organized under the auspices of the Foreign Ministry, so its activities were all at the state level), as well as by well-known poet and ambassador Jurgis Baltrušaitis. Delegates heard six presentations, and there were active debates [8].

A paper on the existing condition of intellectual co-operation in the Baltic States was read by V. Soblys. Professor L. Puusepp spoke about co-operation among Baltic universities and scientists; professors A. Piip and E. Blese, about the language for international communications in the Baltic States (Piip supported English, while Blese spoke up in favour of French; the issue remained unresolved, although in debates most delegates supported the French language; German and Russian were unacceptable for political reasons); Professor Långfors, about co-ordination of textbooks in the Baltic countries; Professor L. Adamovičs, about co-operation in science and literature. The director of the International Intellectual Co-operation institute in Paris, H. Bonnet, sent greetings to the conference and asked that information about its resolutions be transmitted to Paris at once so that they could be published in League of Nations publications.

Stasys Lozoraitis pointed to various characteristics which the Baltic States had in common – approximately equal territorial conditions on the shores of the Baltic Sea, and similar cultures within the tone of western European civilization. He said, however, that at the deeper cultural level, the Baltic States were still alien to one another, and they should do more to draw closer. Similar thoughts were expressed by Professor Rōmeris in his introductory speech. In the first presentation Soblys discussed the gradual drawing together of the Baltic States, noting that the process began between Latvia and Lithuania (first at the private level, then in the establishment of Lithuanian-Latvian associations, the organizations of excursions, co-operation among student fraternities, theatrical and operatic guest performances, etc.), while in the North of the region similar processes were occurring between Estonia and Finland. It was noted that in 1935 alone, there had been congresses of Baltic agronomists, lawyers, nurses, co-operative leaders, city workers, veterinarians, road and bridge engineers and statisticians, but difficulties had been encountered in determining the language in which these proceedings should take place.

The Kaunas conference (congress) was mainly a meeting of Baltic Specialists at which the basic motif was the idea that intellectual (at that time it was more common to say – spiritual) co-operation is not just a supplement to political rapprochement, but rather a necessary condition for it.

Professor L. Puusepp suggested that the universities of the Baltic States should exchange professors regularly, expanding the range of available lectures. He also promoted the idea of student exchanges and relaxed customs regulations in the area. Professor L. Adamovičs then pointed to the fact that the rector of the University of Latvia and the chairman of Latvian commission Prof. J. Auškāps, had recently suggested in his speech (held at Estonian-Latvian-Lithuanian Friendship congress in Riga, June, 28th, 1935) that each university should organize courses for students from the other Baltic States in those areas of study in which the respective university had made special achievements. A commission was set up to study this matter further. In the aforementioned speech, incidentally J. Auškāps also recommended that the scholarly articles of Baltic scientists be published in a joint journal, *Acta Academica Baltica* [9].

Professor from Helsinki, Långfors, spoke of a need to co-ordinate teaching textbooks, especially in the area of history. He cited the experience of the Scandinavian countries which were already engaged in such efforts. Långfors said that an example of positive co-operation was the publication by Finnish specialist, Niemi, of a book of Lithuanian folk songs, as well as a translation of the epos Kalevala that had been translated by clergyman A. Sabaliauskis.

With respect to an exchange of scientific materials, L. Adamovičs suggested that a central institution be created to which all scientific materials could be submitted. He also recommended that a list of scholarly publishing houses that would be prepared to participate in the project be prepared and that scientists throughout the Baltic States be given an opportunity to study the works of their colleagues in an accessible foreign language. Adamovičs claimed that Latvia was already active in this area. As an affirmation of this, he submitted to Professor Rōmeris a large pile of articles by Latvian scientists in which, alongside with the Latvian language original, there were translations into French. Adamovičs also recommended that a bibliography of scholarly literature be published and that information about the best examples of such writing be exchanged with an eye toward translating those materials that deserved it. All of these recommendations were basically a restatement of what Auškāps had said previously.

The conference recommended the establishment of ongoing contact not only among scientific, but also among artistic institutions in the Baltic States. This was the topic of presentation by well-know Lithuanian poet, Professor J. Baltrušaitis. Supplementing earlier remarks by Šimkus and Jakubenas, he recommended that a special music commission be established [10].

In debates about Adamovičs presentation, the Estonian professor Piip spoke up in favour of the establishment of academies of science in the Baltic States, which could provide for an exchange of textbooks among the various nations. In other words, the genesis of the Baltic science academies came from Estonia, where the idea had been a matter of public discourse since the establishment of the independent Estonian state. Contrary to claims by Professor Edgars Andersons [4],

A. Piip did not recommend the establishment of a single Baltic Academy of Sciences, instead promoting the establishment of individual academies in each country. For his part, Soblyš suggested that a Baltic States institute be established in each of the countries and that a library of materials from all the Baltic States could be opened at each institute.

In the resolutions, adopted by the conference, the following issues were stressed:

Committees of university representatives must be established to discuss various forms of cooperation, including exchange of scholarly literature, faculty members and specialists;

The language of communication among the Baltic States must be English or French, but the committees must come to final decision on the matter;

The national committees must exchange translations of those chapters from teaching textbooks in which the various Baltic countries are described so that possible errors in the teaching literature of other states might be corrected;

Academies of sciences should be established in all the Baltic States;

Departments of Baltic linguistics should be established in all Baltic universities;

Reviews of Baltic literature and musical composition should be published, and

Regular meetings must be held by representatives of the various national committees, and the next meeting should be organized in Estonia [8, 10].

The first conference, judging from news reports about it, took place in an emotionally uplifting atmosphere, but the execution of the various decisions that were taken did not proceed with any speed of success. Many decisions were completely forgotten between one congress and the next, which means that the delegates at successive congresses found themselves re-debating issues that presumably had already been settled. The establishment of the Baltic institutes in each country was just one example of this.

What was the fate of the main participants of the first conference? Prof. M. Rōmeris (as well as V. Soblyš), remained in Soviet Lithuania and died in Vilnius on 22nd February 1945. He did not become, however, the member of the newly established, in early 1941, Academy of Sciences of Lithuania: his name was struck off by the hand of the first secretary of Communist Party of Lithuania Antanas Sniečkus. Professors Ants Piip and Ludvig Puusepp became members of the Estonian Academy of Sciences in 1938, but A. Piip was arrested by the Soviets and died in a camp in 1942. Professors L. Adamovičs and J. Auškaps, both members of *Academia Scientiarum Latviensis* SLR, were shot by KGB officers in 1942, Professor E. Blese emigrated to the West, Stasys Lozoraitis at the moment of Soviet occupation was the Ambassador of Lithuania to Italy and Vatican, after WWII he became the head of the Lithuanian emigré diplomatic representatives in the Western countries. On the contrary, former minister of foreign affairs of Latvia Vilhelms Munters, after 19 years of Soviet imprisonment, could return to Riga in 1959. He wrote some articles and booklets in favor of Soviet

propaganda and worked as a translator for some journals and books edited by the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR [11].

A wider contemplation on further series of the conferences on intellectual cooperation is given in my article in the book edited by T. Jundzis "The Baltic States at Historical Crossroads" (1st edition - Riga, 1998; 2nd edition, Riga, 2001 – co-authored by Dz. Cēbere) [1, 2]. The investigation, just referred to, laid the foundation of the renewed tradition of holding conferences on intellectual cooperation in 1999, initiated by the Latvian Academy of Sciences in cooperation with the Estonian and Lithuanian academies of sciences. In subsequent years the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters joined this collaboration and now these conferences have evolved into regular meetings and forums of the said academies of sciences (Annex 1). In the frames of these forums the Medal of the Baltic academies of sciences is awarded – this tradition, too, was instituted at the Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation, held in Riga in 1999 (Annex 2). Many papers of these conferences have been published in special proceedings, including the Annals of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (Vol. 30, No. 10, 2001 "Towards a Baltic Europe") [12].

In my opinion, today it is particularly important to retain this tradition because, after joining the European Union in 2004, the feeling of togetherness of the Baltic States has faded and the tendency of withdrawal could not be regarded a desirable scenario for future development. The Baltic nations, though, have much in common in history, culture and economy, and common features of the future development. The sense of togetherness could help the three countries to defend more efficiently their own interests in the European area and in a globalized world, whereas particular importance should be attached to the incorporation into the community of the Baltic Sea coastal countries (Baltic Europe) [13]. Therefore it is important to continue the operation of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council (at parliamentary and governmental level), linking the work of these institutions with the activities of the Baltic academies of sciences [14]. It is important to continue giving the awards of the Baltic Assembly in literature, the arts and science (this year a new award for achievements in innovation was added to the three conventional awards) (Annex 3). It should be observed, however, that the idea of the Baltic unity, as recently discussed at the 4th forum of the Latvian-Lithuanian Congress (Riga, September 2010), does not find much public response. At the last Baltic Assembly I happened to discuss this matter with the Estonian sociologist professor Marju Lauristin who observed that in many scientific areas joint Baltic conferences were not anymore organized and the scholars were poorly informed about the findings of their counterparts in the neighboring countries (e.g. in history). Furthermore, she pointed at the lack of coordination of activities and elementary exchange of information in some areas.

While at present Latvia is, perhaps, the least successful country of the three in national economy, science and innovation, yet because of its geographically somewhere

central position it has historically taken the medial role in advocating the idea of Baltic unity. In my opinion, however, the idea of Baltic unity is still, to some extent, equally topical to Estonia and Lithuania, considering first the national interest, so that to maintain friendly and fraternal neighbor relations and to retain geographic allies.

The question now is whether such unity might be named as “intellectual entente” or even “entente cordiale” and each of us shall endeavor to respond to it. At the end I would like to

recall that the Kaunas conference of 1935 was the first international forum, where the idea of the foundation of a national academy of sciences in each of the countries was proposed.

Author acknowledges Dr. Anita Draveniece for her helpful assistance and for her enormous efforts in organizing the Baltic Conferences on intellectual cooperation.

Annex 1

Baltic Conferences (congresses) on Intellectual Cooperation

1st conference	Kaunas	1935, 29-30 X
2nd conference	Tartu	1936, 29-30 XI
3rd conference	Helsinki	1937, 4-6 XI
4th conference	Riga	1938, 14-15 XI
“Baltic Week” event	Riga	1938, 16-20 VI
5th conference	Kaunas	1939
6th conference	Tallinn	1940, 15-16 VI
“Baltic Week” event		(interrupted by Soviet invasion)
7th conference	Riga	1999, 17-19 IX
8th conference	Tallinn	2001, 15-16 VI
9th conference	Vilnius	2003, 6-7 VI
10th conference	Helsinki	2005, 8-10 VI
11th conference	Riga, Turaida	2007, 9-10 X
12th conference	Vilnius	2010, 4-5 XI

Annex 2

Recipients of the Medal of the Baltic Academies of Sciences

1999 (Riga, 7 th BCIC)	Evald Ojaveer (EE), Juras Požela (LT), Jānis Stradiņš (LV)
2000 (Helsinki)	Jūri Engelbreht (EE), Jurgis Vilemas (LT), Juris Ekmanis (LV), Jarmo Visakorpi (FIN)
2001 (Tallinn, 8 th BCIC)	Tālis Millers (LV), Benediktas Juodka (LT), Mihkel Veiderma (EE), Carl-Olof Jakobson (SWE)
2003 (Vilnius, 9 th BCIC)	Jonas Kubilius (LT), Jānis Kristapsons (LV), Peeter Tulviste (EE)
2005 (Helsinki, 10 th BCIC)	<i>Not awarded</i>
2007 (Riga, 11 th BCIC)	Zenonas Rokus Rudzikas (LT), Andrejs Siliņš (LV), Raimo Pullat (EE), Matti Saarnisto (FIN), Olof G. Tandberg (SWE)
2010 (Vilnius, 12 th BCIC)	Zigmas Zinkevičius (LT), Ervīns Lukševics (LV), Pietro Umberto Dini (IT), Ain-Elmar Kaasik (EE)

Annex 3

Winners of the Baltic Assembly Prizes for Literature, Arts and Science

Year	Literature	Arts	Science
1994	Emil Tode (EE)	Eimuntas Nekrosius (LT)	Andris Caune (LV)
1995	Uldis Bērziņš (LV)	Peeter Mudist (EE)	Juozas Kulys (LT)
1996	Judita Vaiciunaite (LT)	Pēteris Vasks (LV)	Juhan Maiste (EE)
1997	Jaan Kaplinski (EE)	Gidons Kremers (LV)	Rimute Rimantiene (LT)
1998	Sigitas Geda (LT)	Erkki-Sven Tuur (EE)	Jānis Krastiņš (LV)
1999	Jaan Kross (EE)	Mindaugas Bauzys (LT)	Janīna Kursīte (LV)
2000	Jānis Rokpelnis (LV)	Veljo Tormis (EE)	Silvestras Gaiziunas (LT)
2001	Justinas Marcinkevicius (LT)	Ilmārs Blumbergs (LV)	Raimo Pullat (EE)
2002	Jaan Tatte (EE)	Biruta Baumane (LV)	Algirdas Gaižutis (LT)
2003	Vytautas Bubnys (LT)	Jaan Toomik (EE)	Elita Grosmane (LV)

2004	Pēteris Brūveris (LV)	Mindaugas Navakas (LT)	Arvo Krikmann (EE)
2005	Hasso Krull (EE)	Vilnius String Quartet (LT)	Ēvalds Mugurēvičs (LV)
2006	Nora Ikstena (LV)	Andres Tali (EE)	Gediminas Valkiunas (LT)
2007	Marcelijus Martinaitis (LT)	Silvija Radzobe (LV)	Tarmo Soomere (EE)
2008	Knuts Skujenieks (LV)	Petras Vyšniauskas (LT)	Lembit Vaba (EE)
2009	Inga Ābele (LV)	Marko Mäetamm (EE)	Leonardas Sauka (LT)
2010	Ene Mihkelson (EE)	Antanas Žukauskas (LT)	Jānis Stradiņš (LV)

Among 17 Baltic Assembly Prize winners from Latvia there are 12 of them are either full members or Honorary members of the Latvian Academy of Sciences (besides, Prof. R. Pullat and J. Maiste are *Dr. h. c.* of LAS).

REFERENCES:

1. Stradiņš J. Establishment of an Intellectual Entente in the Baltic States // The Baltic States at Historical Crossroads. Political, economic, and legal problems in the context of international cooperation on the doorstep of the 21st century. A collection of scholarly articles ed. by Dr. Talavs Jundzis. – Rīga, The Latvian Academy of Sciences, 1998. P. 336-356.
2. Stradiņš J., Cēbere Dz. Establishment of an Intellectual Entente in the Baltic States. // The Baltic States at Historical Crossroads. A collection of scholarly articles. 2nd revised and expanded edition. Ed. by Talavs Jundzis. – Rīga, 2001. – P. 291-314.
3. Valdības Vēstnesis. Rīga. 1920. 4. aug.-6. sept., Nr. 74 – Nr. 78. See also: The Minutes of the Baltic Conference held at Bulduri in Latvia in 1920. – Washington D.C., Latvian Legation, 1960. P.42. and P. 47-60.
4. Andersons E. Latvijas vēsture. 1920-1940. Ārpolitika. I. – Stockholm: Daugava, 1982. 704 lpp
5. Rainis J. Referāts Raiņa klubā par Baltijas valstu konferenci 1920. gada 18. septembrī // J. Rainis. Runas un intervijas. – Rīga: Zinātne, 1993. P.127-132. (Rainis Archive in the Latvian Museum of Literature, Music and Arts)
6. National Committees on Intellectual Cooperation. Brussels, 1937.
7. Michal Pius Römer. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia.
8. Blese E. Par intelektuālās sadarbības konferenci // Rīts, 1935.g. 2. nov.; Baltijas valstīs dibinās zinātņu akadēmijas // Brīvā Zeme, 1935.g. 1. nov.; Dr. Z. Baltijas valstu garīgās sadarbības pirmā konference // Brīvā Zeme, 1935.g. 2. nov.
9. Auškāps J. Izglītības un zinātnes sadarbība Baltijā (Runa Igaunijas – Baltijas – Lietuvas kongresā 1935.g. 28. jūnijā) // Zinātnei un tēvijai. J. Stradiņa sast. un red., 3. izdevums. – Rīga: Artava, 1993. 148.-155. lpp.
10. Adamovičs L. Intelektuālās kopdarbības jautājums Baltijas valstīs // Jaunākās Ziņas, 1935.g. 2. nov.
11. Treijs R. Vilhelms Munters. – Rīga: Jumava, 2010. 343 lpp.
12. Towards a Baltic Europe. Stradins J., Unger F. (Editors). The 7th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation, Riga, 1999. – Rīga: Zinātne, Hildesheim, Zurich, New York. Olms Verlag. 2001. P. 119. [Annals of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, vol. 30, No. 10, 2000].
13. Ekmanis J., Draveniece A. Inter – Academy Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region // Rīgas Tehniskās Universitātes Zinātniskie raksti. 8. sēr. Zinātņu un augstskolu vēsture. 15. sēj. Rīga, 2009. 26.-31. lpp.
14. Balti Assamblee. Baltijas Asambleja. Baltijos Asambleja. Prepared for publication by Presidium of the Baltic Assembly. – Tallinn, Tallinna Raamaturükkikoja OÜ. 2001. P. 229.

Jānis Stradiņš, Professor, *Dr. chem. habil., Dr. hist. h.c., academician*
Research Academy of Latvia
Address: Academic place 1, Rīga, LV-1524, Latvia
E-mail: stradins.lza@lza.lv

Jānis Stradiņš. Baltijas valstu intelektuālās sadarbības iedibināšana (1920 – 1935 – 1940)

Baltijas valstis – Lietuva, Igaunija un Latvija – pasludināja neatkarību 1918. gadā un izcīnīja to Brīvības karā gandrīz vienlaicīgi, taču to attīstība neatkarības apstākļos ritēja samērā nekoordinēti, sadarbība politikā un ekonomikā bija nepietiekama, un tas kļuva par vienu no visu triju valstu vienlaicīgas aneksijas faktoriem 1940. gada vasarā. Rakstā iztirzāti triju Baltijas tautu inteliģentu (kultūras darbinieku un zinātnieku) mēģinājumi veidot vismaz “intelektuālo antanti”, t.i., reglamentētu sadarbību kultūras, izglītības un zinātnes jomā. Pirmais šāda veida mēģinājums notika t.s. Bulduru konferencē (1920.g. 7. aug. – 6. sept.), ko vadīja K. Ulmanis, Z. Meierovics un V. Zamuels (piedalījās Baltijas valstu, Somijas, Polijas un Ukrainas pārstāvji). Kultūras un sociālo lietu komisija (priekšsēdētājs – J. Rainis un viņa vietnieks K. Kasparsons) apsprieda mācībspēku un mācītājiem apmaiņu, nacionālo koledžu dibināšanu un kopēju zinātnisku pasākumu uzturēšanu lielpilsētās, kopēju zinātnisku žurnālu izdošanu, kopēju zinātnisku institūtu dibināšanu, materiālu vākšanu un krāšanu par konferējošo valstu mākslu, kopēju mākslas almanahu, mākslas izstāžu sarīkošanu un apmaiņu, mākslinieku, zinātnieku un avīžnieku konferenču un kongresu rīkošanu, kopēja Baltijas mākslas un zinātnes biroja dibināšanu. Visi šie vārdi tika ierakstīti 3. septembra rezolūcijā, taču to neparakstīja Lietuva un neratificēja ne Somija, ne Polija. Tas bija tikai vēlmes apliecinājums, kas netika īstenots.

Pēc 1934. gada, kad Ženēvā ārlietu ministri parakstīja oficiālu līgumu par Baltijas valstu sadarbību, sākās arī Baltijas intelektuālās sadarbības kongresu rīkošana, ko organizēja attiecīgo valstu intelektuālās sadarbības komitejas Tautu Savienības intelektuālās sadarbības institūta (UNESCO analogs) paspārnē. Komitejas vadīja universitāšu rektori, pirmo, vēl nelielo kongresu rīkoja Kauņā, Vitauta Dižā universitātes rektors M. Rēmeris. Latviju tajā pārstāvēja profesori Ludvigs Adamovičs un Ernests Blese, Igauniju – prof. Antss Pīps un Ludvigs Pūseps, Somiju – prof. A. Longforss, piedalījās arī Lietuvas ārlietu ministrs S. Lozoraitis, dzejnieks J. Baltrušaitis un V. Soblis. Kongress pieņēma izvērstu rezolūciju, kurā bija paredzēti plaši pasākumi Baltijas valstu zinātniskai sadarbībai un, starp citu, tika ieteikts visās Baltijas valstīs organizēt savas zinātņu akadēmijas. Sava loma bija LU rektora (Latvijas intelektuālās sadarbības komitejas priekšsēdētāja) prof. Jūlija Auškāpa ierosinājumiem, ko nolatīja L. Adamovičs, kur bija ieteikts organizēt kopēju žurnālu Acta Academia Baltica.

Rakstā sniegtas īsas ziņas par turpmākajiem kongresiem, par t.s. Baltijas nedēļām, kuru rīkošanu brutāli pārtrauca PSRS iebrukums Baltijā 1940.gadā tieši šāda kongresa noturēšanas laikā (Tallinā, 1940.g. 15.-16. jūnijā). Intelektuālās sadarbības konferenču rīkošanu atsāka 1999.g. septembrī pēc Latvijas ZA ierosmes, tās rīko Baltijas valstu ZA, līdzdarbojoties arī Somijai. Sniegtas arī ziņas par Baltijas ZA kopējās medaļas (kopš 1999.g.) un Baltijas asamblejas balvas (kopš 1994.g.) saņēmējiem un rezumētas Baltijas valstu zinātniskās sadarbības aktuālās problēmas mūsdienās.

Янис Страдынь. Становление интеллектуального сотрудничества стран Балтии (1920 – 1935 – 1940)

В статье излагаются сведения о попытках налаживания организованного сотрудничества между молодыми странами Балтии в период между двумя войнами (1920-1940). Начало этому пытались заложить уже на Булдурской конференции (август – сентябрь 1920 г.), на которой комиссией по культуре и социальным делам руководил поэт и политический деятель Ян Райнис. Дело продвинулось после подписания тремя государствами Балтии в 1934 г. в Женеве договора о сотрудничестве. Затем под эгидой Международного института по интеллектуальному сотрудничеству Лиги Наций проводили конгрессы по интеллектуальному сотрудничеству стран Балтии. Первый из них состоялся в Каунасе в октябре 1935 г. под председательством ректора Каунасского университета проф. М. Рёмериса (Рёмер, Roemeris). В статье подробно изучаются результаты как Булдурской, так и Каунасской конференций, а также дается перечень последующих конференций (в Тарту, Риге, Таллине), которые были прерваны в 1940 г. Традиция возобновлена в 1999 г., в статье кратко освещается и современное сотрудничество стран Балтии в области науки и образования.