

Outline of Kristijonas Donelaitis' 300th Birth Anniversary 2010–2014 Programme

Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, taking into account that 2014 marks the 300th birth anniversary of the most prominent Lithuanian poet Kristijonas Donelaitis, that the commemoration of this outstanding date allows for increased cultural cooperation within this European region, that in order to renew and foster the heritage of the Lithuanian language and promote worldwide dissemination of Donelaitis' work – as well as within the cultural community in Lithuania and abroad – has decided to declare 2014 the Year of Kristijonas Donelaitis.

Lithuanian Traditions and Heritage Commission was formed. It has prepared the programme for the commemoration of Donelaitis' 300th birth anniversary for 2010–2014 and is coordinating the implementation of the activities and projects provided in the programme.

The programme is financed by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania.



Kristijonas Donelaitis
1714–2014

2010–2014 PROGRAMME

Studies

Research into the personality and work of Kristijonas Donelaitis and his contemporaries, and academic publications by Lithuanian and foreign authors on this subject:

- bibliographical index;
- catalogue of the 18th century Königsberg prints (from the funds of the Lithuanian Academy of Science Library);
- biographical (collective) monograph *Kristijonas Donelaitis*;
- series of works by Donelaitis and research on these works;
- academic publication of parts of Selected Works by Donelaitis, facsimile edition and an electronic version, reviews and texts on *The Seasons*, written in different languages from 1818–1918, chronological presentation of the research work on Donelaitis, studies by Lithuanian and foreign researchers from the interwar period, the Soviet period, emigration, and the latest years, facsimile of the first edition of *The Seasons* (with an introduction and comments by Liudvikas Rėza);
- word index and concordance of works by Donelaitis in the Lithuanian language;
- series of translations of *The Seasons* into foreign languages into which it has not yet been translated;
- comparative analysis (study) of the German translations of *The Seasons* by Donelaitis;
- traveling exhibition Written Heritage and Kristijonas Donelaitis.

Publication of Selected Works by Donelaitis

Publishing of *The Seasons* and fables for schools by Donelaitis, publishing of literary criticism books and releasing of a CD with new illustrations, publishing of *The Seasons* in Braille, and releasing of an audio CD with a voice-over of *The Seasons*.

Series of Academic Conferences

- a conference on cultural innovations of the Donelaitis era;
- a conference on Lithuanian-German relations in view of the context of the church;
- a literary and linguistic conference on the phenomenon of Donelaitis: his personality, activity, and creative work;
- a conference on book culture in the multicultural Prussian society of the Donelaitis era;
- Kristijonas Donelaitis' 300th birth anniversary commemoration conference in the Lithuanian American community.

Researches of Donelaitis' Era and the Environment

- preparation and publishing of Pilypo Ruigio *Lexicon* (1747), academic publications with facsimiles: *Selected Works* by Pilypas Ruigys, *Anfangsgründe einer littauischen Grammatick* by Pilypas Ruigys (1747), *Littauisch-und Deutsch-Deutsches Lexicon Littauisches* by Pilypas Ruigys (1747);
- monograph *Karaliaučiaus akademinė ir kultūrinė aplinka XVIII amžiuje*;
- academic publication of the eighteenth century school textbook;
- publication *Kūdikų prietelius (c. 1776)* by Friedrich Eberhardt von Rochow;
- academic publication *Trumpas ir prastas išguldymas visų nedėlės ir šventų dienų evangelijų* by Christian Langhansen (1750–1751); publication of the rite book used in the churches of Lithuania Minor *Agenda – Tvarka Mažosios Lietuvos bažnyčiose* (1775);
- academic publication of the book of readings from the Bible *Išskirstyti ir Šventam Rašte randami nusidavimai* by Johann Huebner (1742); translations of historical writings of the eighteenth century into the Lithuanian language: *Karaliaučiaus universiteto istorija* by Daniel Heinrich Arnoldt (1746), *Prūsijos Bažnyčios istorija* by Daniel Heinrich Arnoldt (1769), *Prūsų literatūros istorijos apmatai* by Georg Christoph Pisanski (1886);
- books *Lietuviškos kultūros pėdsakai Rytų Prūsijoje* (in Lithuanian and Russian);
- anthology of Evangelical Lutheran songs of the times of Donelaitis and a CD;
- encyclopedia *Donelaitika*;
- academic study and a collection of texts in different dialects, *Klaipėdos krašto vakarų aukštaičių šnektos*.

Academic Expeditions

- expeditions organized in order to record and research the confessional, cultural and linguistic heritage of the Klaipėda region (examining tombstones, their epitaphs, etc. Collecting information on the Western Aukštaitian dialects of the Klaipėda region);
- expedition to Tolminkiemis in order to: assess the condition of museum buildings, make a list of works and estimate their cost, evaluate the exhibits and make recommendations for their renovation.

DONELAITIS' NAME IN ART

Art

- art exhibition dedicated to Donelaitis and illustrations for his work;
- contest for artists to illustrate new editions of *The Seasons* by Donelaitis;
- international symposium on book binding to discuss possibilities of application of various formats, cover designs and new techniques of bookbinding, and leather technologies in binding the new edition of *The Seasons* by Donelaitis.
- series of four plain-airs of *The Seasons*, which will take place in different seasons in Tolminkiemis. The event will culminate in an exhibition, which will travel around Lithuania;
- illustrated publication about Donelaitis' 300th birth anniversary celebrations in Lithuania and abroad with a review article;
- photographic album *Išlikę Mažosios Lietuvos konfesinio paveldo ženklai* with a researcher's introduction and comments;
- portraits of Donelaitis and medals with his image;
- series of postage stamps about the churches of Lithuania Minor before and after WW2.

Sculpture

- collection of bronze castings created on topics from the history of Lithuania and on the survival of the Lithuanian language and identity;
- symposium on bronze casting and an exhibition *Skulptoriai skaito Donelaitį*. A traveling exhibition of symposium's works; catalogs of collections, the closing publication of the cycle of the events of 2014;
- competition for creating Donelaitis' portrait, coining of a representational medal with the image of Donelaitis on it;
- medal of *The Seasons*;
- coining of a series of medals dedicated to different writers of Lithuania Minor;
- international medalist symposiums dedicated to commemorate writers of Lithuania Minor, and the exhibition *Mažosios Lietuvos veidai*.

Graphic Art

- postcard exhibition dedicated to Donelaitis;
- arts project A Sign for Kristijonas Donelaitis;
- ex-libris competition and exhibition dedicated to Donelaitis and poem *The Seasons*.

Theater and Folklore

- folk theater play on *The Seasons* by Donelaitis;
- Donelaitis in the language of contemporary art;
- restoration of authentic 18th century costumes based on the characters of *The Seasons*;
- tradition and heritage of *The Seasons* by Donelaitis – a theatrical presentation of costumes: reading of extracts from *The Seasons*, restoration of festive traditions described in *The Seasons*, presentation of the culinary heritage described in *The Seasons*.

Cinema

- screen script for the documentary film *Pastoriaus 'Metai'*;
- screen script for a full-length feature film based on poem *The Seasons* and Donelaitis' life;
- shooting of the feature film in Lithuania Minor using the restored historical costumes;
- release of film *Lapės ir gandro čėsnis* in CD.

Music

- oratorio *The Seasons* by Bronius Kutavičius;
- creation of a new piece of choral music based on the fables by Donelaitis;
- musical theater performance based on works by Donelaitis;
- piece of symphonic music at the Donelaitis anniversary concert;
- a series of musical and literary evenings in Kaliningrad, Klaipėda, Tilžė, Gdańsk and Berlin.

Fiction

- an essay contest on the subject of *The Seasons*, and an essay collection;
- collection of essays dedicated to the first edition of *The Seasons*, which was prepared by Liudvikas Rėza;
- a special issue of the journal *Metai*.

DISSEMINATION OF 'DONELAITIKA' THROUGH THE MEDIA

Radio and Television

- Lithuanian National Radio and Television quiz School of Lithuania Minor on Lithuania Minor and Donelaitis;
- educational television programs about writing monuments of the 18th century (with emphasis on Lithuania Minor);
- web sites for posting ideas and accomplishments www.lituanistika.lt; www.donelaitis.lt.

Audio and Video Material

- Donelaitis in the language of contemporary art;
- CD with the text of *The Seasons* voiced over by professional actors.

Popular Information Publications

- FAQ publication;
- brochure on the church of Tolminkiemis;
- tourist guide From Klaipėda to Kristijonas Donelaitis' Lazdynėliai and Tolminkiemis;
- information center near the Donelaitis museum in Tolminkiemis.

Exhibitions

- exhibition at UNESCO headquarters (and in cities related to Donelaitis and Lithuanian history and identity: Königsberg, Klaipėda, Tolminkiemis, Lithuanian philology centers in Germany and Poland, as well as in the Lithuanian diaspora centers in Ireland and Spain).

CULTURE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- annual expressive reading contest to read excerpts from *The Seasons* and texts about Donelaitis, taking place in schools;
- student essay contest on the theme of Donelaitis (for the Donelaitis Prize);
- educational programme dedicated to Donelaitis;
- concerts of 18–19th century songs performed by young performers;
- projects *Kristijonas Donelaitis ir laikas: broliai Donelaičiai – laikrodininkai* and *Kristijonas Donelaitis ir laikas: Donelaičio metų ratas*;
- four-part folk play *Jau saulelė*;
- poetry evenings in all city and county libraries with professional actors with *The Seasons* read simultaneously across the country;
- readings of creative writings by Donelaitis *Jau saulelė*.

RESTORATION OF DONELAITIS' HISTORIC HERITAGE

- restoration of Tolminkiemis Evangelical Lutheran Church, rebuilt in 1979. Repairs of Tolminkiemis rectory, restored in 1988;
- decoration of the vestibule niche in the Donelaitis mausoleum with a stained glass window or high relief;
- installation of an organ in the Tolminkiemis church;
- adaptation of the Tolminkiemis Museum Complex for tourism and cultural events;
- restoration of the widow shelter and its adaptation for information and cultural needs;
- tidying up of Donelaitis' birthplace in Lazdynėliai; its adaptation for information and cultural needs; further planting of oak trees;

MARKING OF DONELAITIS MEMORIAL PLACES AND PERPETUATION OF HIS NAME

- new school (gymnasium) in Klaipėda named after Donelaitis.
- Tolminkiemis Museum exhibition furniture and visual material.
- adaptation of Vilnius House of Culture Entertainment and Sports for cultural events, congresses and theatrical performances *Metų Rūmai*.
- naming one of the streets after Donelaitis or installing a commemorative plaque on the building in Stalupėnai, where poet lived and worked in 1740–1744.
- monument to Donelaitis near the gymnasium of his name in Kybartai.
- perpetuation of Donelaitis' memory in Kryžkalnis:

- Arc de Triomphe (a stella, cube or other architectural form) with excerpts from *The Seasons* by Donelaitis;
- permanent open exhibition in Kryžkalnis with the possibility to see documentary and historical materials related to Tolminkiemis;
- opening a tavern Būrų Karčema possibly in Kryžkalnis.

PROJECTS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2011

In 2011 the Ministry of Culture allocated 220,160 litas for the Year of Kristijonas Donelaitis Programme events:

- Lithuanian Academy of Sciences Wroblewski Library project: *Kristijonas Donelaitis: bibliografijos rodyklė*;
- Klaipėda University project: international conference *Kristijono Donelaičio epochos kultūrinės inovacijos*;
- Lithuanian National Museum project: assessment of the condition of Donelaitis Museum Complex in Tolminkiemis;
- Klaipėda University project: an expedition to record and research the confessional, cultural, and linguistic heritage of the Klaipėda region;
- Lithuanian Artists Association project: painting exhibition *Jau saulelė vėl atkoldama budina svieta*;
- Šv. Jono Street Gallery project: international symposium *Dailininkai skaito Donelaitį*;
- Šv. Jono Street Gallery project: an exhibition of works created in the symposium of 2010 and 2011 *Skulptoriai skaito Donelaitį*;
- Šv. Jono Street Gallery project: international medalist symposium dedicated to writers of Lithuania Minor;
- Vilnius Graphic Art Centre project: traveling exhibition *Atvirlaiškiai Donelaičiumi*;
- Ethnic Culture Center at Klaipėda City Municipality project: folklore performance based on *The Seasons* by Donelaitis;
- Writers' Club project: *Donelaičio skaitymai/ Metų skaitymai*;
- Vilnius Academy of Arts project: publication and research of Donelaitis creative work, competition for creation of a logo for official papers and envelopes, sound recording of *The Seasons* by Donelaitis.