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Not every nationality is capable of finding its place in the unity of some higher culture: yet nationality is only of value to world literature if it has become adapted to, harmonized and imbued with the latter. World literature in general is the huge concert of the whole of universal culture - of the soul of the nations: every harsh national voice is discordant until rendered consonant with the rest of this vast music. To add a new note to this concert, a new colour to the prodigiously varietal palette of world literature is one of the great services a small literature can render to universal letters, and is part of the great duty of small nations, one realized most clearly by Count István Széchenyi, who expressed it as the duty: "to present mankind with a nation". Life is ever seeking for particularity and variation, and how poor indeed a monotone humanity would be!

MIHÁLY BABITS: Hungarian Literature, 1913

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**REPORTS ON THE LITERARY LIFE OF FENNO-UGRIC
COUNTRIES AND REGIONS**

OF THE ACTIVITIES OF ESTONIAN WRITERS UNION

Ingrid Velbaum-Staub

The Estonian Writers Union (EWU) is currently comprised of 308 writers, translators and critics. The Union has two regional chapters – Tartu and Stockholm – and two sections: translators and fiction writers.

EWU is a member of the European Writers' Council and Baltic Writers' Council. Until June 2015, the head of EWU, Karl Martin Sinijärv, was a member of the EWC board of directors; as of 8th of June, his seat has gone to Tiit Aleksejev.

The Writers Union is organizing many traditional, recurring events: weekly literary Wednesdays in Tallinn and literary Tuesdays in Tartu, children's literature mornings on Saturdays in Tallinn.

An event called „Traveling Word” is held every autumn, where groups of 3-4 writers visit libraries outside cities in different counties. In springtime, nominees of the yearly literary prize hold events in three cities (Tallinn, Tartu, Viljandi in 2014, Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu in 2015).

In December, the EWU holds an event called „Library of Babel” in the National Library of Estonia, where literature, literary policies, publishing, libraries and all else related are discussed.

On the 2nd of March every year, the F. Tuglas novella prize is presented.

The Writers Union has supported a number of literary festivals. In springtime Tartu, the Prima Vista festival is held (that has had, among others, György Dragoman and Kjell Westö as speakers) and in autumn, the interdisciplinary Maddened Tartu. In Tallinn, springtime brings HeadRead (GoodLines; notable guests William Boyd, Ben Okri, Margaret Atwood, Yrsa Sigurdhardottir) and and the end of summer brings Dovlatov's Days.

Writers Union is also a participant in holding literary conferences. Among others, they've co-organized both classics-related conferences as well as those

dealing with more modern topics. EWU has organized „Critical situation”, a conference of literary criticism four times. They’ve also held 13 literary translation workshops and published two almanachs Voice of the Translator about issues dealing with translation.

On 12.02.2014, the Writers Union held a novel contest after a pause of many years. The contest was a success, receiving 94 scripts. The results were published on 03.06.2015.

FINNO-UGRIC LITERATURES IN FINLAND 2014–2015 – COOPERATION AND PROJECTS

Marja Lappalainen

After the XI International Finno-Ugric Literature Congress *Literature at Turning Point* in 2010 a group of active Finnish writers, journalists and scientists founded the AFUL blog (<http://ugrikirjallisuus.blogspot.fi/2010/12/blog-post.html>). It's purpose is to provide information and networking in the finno-ugric literary world. In the future, communication could expand to Facebook, Twitter and other modern channels in the electronic area.

M. A. Castrén Society has supported – by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture as well as grants to private funds – 26 books (fiction, nonfiction and textbooks) published in Russia and written in finno-ugric languages. About translations from Finnish into other finno-ugric languages is to be mentioned the comic book *M. A. Castrén ja Siperian kielioppi* (M. A. Castrén and the Siberian Grammar) and its version in Komi language *Sibir tujalys*. In particular, textbooks and discussion guides including language-learning games are published in a network environment in addition to the traditional printed books. Five newspapers, magazines and children's magazines have been supported by assisting subscriptions, making special articles and organizing essay competitions. 12 children camps within the theme of writing have been organized in the finno-ugric regions of Russia. Children's theater festival and radio programs, intended especially for children, are also supported by grants. The annual training seminars for authors of textbooks written in finno-ugric languages has also been financed in 2014-2015.

M. A. Castrén Society founded in 2007 the so-called *Language sponsorship project* that continued in 2014–2015 in two schools in Russia, in Mari Republic and in Komi Republic. Sponsorship fees were received from members of the Society, and the pupils and the teachers of those two schools were bought children magazines in their native language. In the end of year 2013 M. A. Castrén Society declared – as part of the Matthias Alexander Castrén 200th anniversary celebrations – a writing competition for both schools with the theme *The most beautiful word in my mother tongue*. Prizes were awarded in 2014.

M. A. Castrén started in 2014 a project called *Arctic Dialogue – Protection of Language and Nature* that focuses on supporting finno-ugric peoples and languages as well as the biodiversity of nature. The project aims to arouse interest in own language and own environment and to provide a desire to take part in both self-protection and development. Within the project there has been organized youth summer courses as well as in Russia and Finland, and the outputs – texts, music, films and photos – will be assembled website (www.macastrén.fi).

The year 2015 has been designated *The Year of the Book*. The literature prizes 2015 of M. A. Castrén Society will be awarded in the autumn at the Helsinki Book Fair, which is the biggest annual book fair in Finland. The theme country of this year is Russia. The literature competition reached 33 Fenno-ugric proposals in children's literature, poetry and short prose field. The winners of the main prizes are invited to the Helsinki Book Fair. At the Fair there will be also arranged a poetry event *UgricSlam*, fairy-tale happening for children, discussions and author interviews, all of which making literatures, languages and cultures of finno-ugric peoples better known for the large Finnish audience.

In Finland there have been published 16 fiction books dealing with the finno-ugric theme, one on them as an internet version:

Aho Juhani (translated into Karelian **Ljudmila Markianova**): Raudutie (Rautatie). Karjalan Kielen Seura 2014.

Aikio Inger-Mari, Mantere Miro: Beaivvas cuohka gaba – Aurinko juo kermaa (+ CD). Dat 2015.

Dubinina Zinaida (transl. into Karelian **Sanna-Riikka Knuuttila**): Olen gu järvele nostettu aldo. Karjalan Kielen Seura 2015.

Holmberg Niillas: Amas amas amasmuvvat. Compania Comder 2014.

Hytönen Ville (transl. into Estonian **Kadrin Jaanits**): Vanaisa rhododendron (Isovaarin alppiruusu). Savukeidas 2015.

Jansson Tove (transl. into Karelian. **Natalja Sinitskaja**): Muumipeigoi da händytiähti. (Muumipeikko ja Pyrstötähti). Karjalan Kielen Seura 2014.

Kettu Katja: Yöperhonen. WSOY 2015 (August).

Laulajainen Leena: Hopeasarvinen poro. Satuja Lapista. Tammi 2014.

Magga Lukkari Rauni, Anttonen Kaija: Äitejä, tyttäriä – Arbeadni. Compania Comder 2014.

Paltto Kirste: Ale fal mital. Davvi Girji 2014.

Rodgers Lee D, Morottaja Petter: Saammal ja meeci kunagas ... Sammeli and the King of the Forest. Saamelaiskäräjät 2014.

Saint-Exupery Antoine de (transl. into Sami **Iisakki Mattus**): Uccâ priinsâš. Saamelaiskäräjät 2014.

Sarre Anni: Spejalistem – Heijastus. Saamelaiskäräjät 2015.

Sharonov A. M. (transl. into Finnish **Raija Bartens**): Mastorava. www.macastren.fi

Rannamaa Silvia (transl. into Finnish **Anniina Ljokkoi**): Kadrin päiväkirja (Kadri). Savukeidas 2014.

Ropponen Ville (ed.): Bjarmia-antologia. Savukeidas Kustannus 2015 (September).

In Finland there have been published 26 nonfiction and textbooks dealing with the languages and cultures of the finno-ugrian peoples:

Aikio Kirste, West Suvi, Salminen Esa: Märät säpikkäät. WSOY 2014.

Björn Ismo: Rajan maakunta – Pohjois-Karjalan historia 1939–2014. Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura (SKS) 2014.

Culture, Language and Globalization among the Moldavian Csángós Today. Toim. **Magdolna Kovács, Petteri Laihonen & Hanna Snellman.** (Uralica Helsingiensia 8.) Suomalais-Ugrilainen Seura (SUS) 2015.

Donner Kai: Linguist, ethnographer, photographer. Edited by **Joakim Donner & Juha Janhunen.** (Kansatieteellisiä julkaisuja 21.) SUS 2014.

Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen 62:1–3. SUS 2014.

Forsberg Ulla, Kovács Magdolna, Kovács Ottilia: Suomi–Unkari-sanakirja. SKS 2015 (November).

Heikkilä Lydia, Laiti-Hedemäki Elsa, Pohjola Anneli: Saamelaisten hyvä elämä ja hyvinvointipalvelut. Lapin yliopistokustannus 2014.

Helle Timo: Porovuosi. Maahenki 2015.

Inaba Nobufumi: Suomen datiiigenetiivin juuret vertailevan menetelmän valossa. (SUST 272.) SUS 2015.

Juuret marin murteissa, latvus yltää Uraliin. Juhlakirja Sirkka Saarisen 60-vuotispäiväksi 21.12.2014. Toim. **Nobufumi Inaba, Jorma Luutonen, Arja Hamari ja Elina Ahola.** (SUST 270.) SUS 2014.

Keskitalo Pigga, Lehtola Veli-Pekka, etc: Saamelaisten kansanopetuksen ja koulunkäynnin historia Suomessa. Siirtolaisinstituutti 2015.

Kähäri Maria: Harjoituskniigaine eziskolah da algukluassoih näh. Karjalan Kielen Seura 2015.

Lehtola Veli-Pekka: Saamelaiskiista. Intokustannus 2015 (October).

- Leppänen Kalevi:** Lapinhullu – tarinoita Lappiin rakastuneista. SKS 2014.
- Magga Päivi, Ojanlatva Eija:** Ealli biras – Elävä ympäristö. Siida Saamelais-museo 2014.
- Mattus Ilmari, Morottaja Matti:** Anaras päikkinoomah – Inarinsaamelaiset paikannimet. Anaraskiela servi 2015.
- Pasanen Annika:** Kuávsui já peeivičuovâ “Sarastus ja päivänvalo” Inarinsaamen revitalisaatio. (Uralica Helsingiensia 9.) SUS 2015.
- Pöyry Aleks (ed.):** Granta 5: Venäjä. Uuden kirjallisuuden areena. Otava 2015.
- Siikala Anna-Leena:** Itämerensuomalaisten mytologia. SKS 2014.
- Sihvo Jouko – Paasjoki Jyrki:** Inkerin kirkon neljä vuosisataa – kansa, kulttuuri, identiteetti. SKS 2015.
- Sarivaara Erika, Määttä Kaarina, Uuslautti Satu:** Kuka on saamelainen ja mitä on saamelaisuus. Lapin yliopistokustannus 2014.
- Sarre Eila:** Anaras pivtastem. Saamelaiskäräjät 2014.
- Söderholm Eira:** Kainun kielen grammatikki. SKS 2014.
- Tapio-Länsman Kaisa, Morottaja Matti, Mänty Sirpa:** Oahpa saniid. Saamelaiskäräjät 2014.
- Valtonen Taarna:** Mielen laaksot, Mielen vuemieh, Miela vuomit, Miela vyemeh, Miol vue’m. Neljän saamen kielen paikannimien rakenne, sanasto ja rinnakkaisnimet vähemmistö-enemmistö-suhteiden kuvastajina. (SUST 271.) SUS 2014.
- Zamyatin Konstantin:** An Official Status for Minority Languages? A Study of State Languages in Russia’s Finno-Ugric Republics. (UH 6.) SUS 2014.

THE LITERATURE OF OB-UGRIC PEOPLES

Svetlana Dinislamova

2015 in Russia was declared to be the year of literature. On this occasion a union of Chanti and Mansi writers was formed in Jugra (Chanti-Mansi Autonomous Region). Another project, the „Interactive literary map of Jugra” was also launched. Books and children’s literature is regularly published. It is a promising thing to boast with several young writers and poets.

**A RECORD OF EVENTS OF THE YAMAL-NENETS AUTONOMOUS
DISTRICT'S LITERARY LIFE**

Zinaida Longortova

Literary events reflect the multi-ethnic character of the region. Yubilee celebrations and literary meetings are often organized in Chanti and Komi languages, while competitions are held in Russian, Nenets and Chanti languages. In Chanti there is a weekly periodical issued. (*For details see the Russian language part of the INF*)

THE POSITION OF THE NATIONAL PRESS IN KARELIA 2011-2015

Natalia Chikina

Press plays an important part in the development of literature. An unfavourable change of recent years is that the journal Carelia had only 2 issues in 2014. Finnish language literature seems to be receding and is mainly restricted to translations.

The journal *Kipinä* has appeared 4 times a year since 2011, separately in Finnish, Karelian and Vepse. The role of literary journals has been taken over by yearbooks/alamanachs: *Taival* (Road) in Karelian and *Verez tullei* (Fresh Wind) in Vepse.

Positive phenomena are the annual „The book of the year” competition, the celebrations of outstanding writers’ anniversaries, as well as the „Jaakko Rugeev Scholarship” to support young artists.

The overview is supplemented with a detailed bibliography of publications between 2011-2015. (*for details see the Russian language part of the INF*)

AN INTRODUCTION OF THE LITERARY LIFE OF THE KOMI REPUBLIC

Vladimir Timin

Modern Komi literature continues the traditions created by predecessors. In the Writers' Association of the republic both Komi and Russian writers are equally represented.

A detailed programme calendar (*see the Russian language part of the INF*) introduces the rich literary life of the Komi Republic between 2010-2015. Among these there are summer courses, book presentations, writer-meets-readers programmes and jubilee celebrations.

A SHORT REPORT ON KOMI-PERMIAK LITERARY LIFE

Elena Konjshina

The Komi-Permiak Writers' Association was formed two years ago, the chairperson of which is E. Konjshina. This present conference is the first event for them to enter the world of Finno-Ugric literature.

12.07.2015. was the date of a feast called *Wonderful Carneval* – with the attendance of writers from some Finno-Ugric republics.

A RECORD OF EVENTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MARI EL 2011-2015

Svetlana Arhipova, Gelsij Zajniev

The calendar provides detailed information about jubilee events, literary prizes awarded, book presentations, conferences and the competition of young writers. (*For details see the Russian language part of the INF*)

MORDOVIAN LITERARY PIECES 2010-2015

A. M. Katorova

In the Republic of Mordovia two publishers, The Mordovian Publishing House and Knjiga (Book) publish literature in Mordovian languages. The former published the epic *Mastorava* both in Erza and Moksha in 2011. It is an important part of their profile to publish a selection of classical Mordovian writers. The latter focuses on young artists as well beside classical literature.

A short overview enlists data of Mordovian literary pieces from recent years (*For details see the Russian language part of the INF*).

REMARKS ON UDMURTIAN LITERATURE

Aleksandr Shkljajev

An outstanding event of Udmurtian literary life was the publication of the Bible in the vernacular in 2013.

At present the most up-to-date and important question is the preservation of the language. Ar-Sergi considers the situation absurd when you have to learn Russian and another foreign language but not your own mother tongue.

2015 is the year of literature in the Russian Federation. The author enlists books published on this occasion.

Literature is not in an easy position. Because of the ever decreasing state subsidy one must look for sponsors, as well as educate a new generation of future readers. Only a few, like Ar-Sergi are able to manage themselves.

**HUNGARIAN POETS, LITERARY TRANSLATORS AND URALIC
LITERATURES
OR
A REQUIEM FOR LITERATURES WITH MULTIPLE HANDICAPS**

Katalin Nagy

The author provides an overview of both the translation history of Uralic literatures into Hungarian and the translations of Hungarian writers into Finno-Ugric languages of Russia. (*For an exact bibliography c.f. the Russian language part of the INF brochure.*)

A BRAVE NEW (?) FENNO-UGRIC WORLD

János Puszty

The literature of Russia's Fenno-Ugric peoples started to develop in the first decades of the 20th century. In case of some even the past hundred years do not seem to have been long enough to approximate the colourfulness and richness of both themes and forms in the lyric poetry of the three related languages with a long literary history. Their lyra basically relies on three major themes: that of the homeland, the mother tongue and love. This can be explained with the isolated position of these peoples for long centuries which prevented them from finding out about trends in world literature.

On one hand our aim was to make the 13th Congress of Fenno-Ugric Writers a special literary event to advertise Hungarian literature among the Fenno-Ugric peoples of Russia (as Hungarian literature is relatively well known in Estonia and Finland). On the other hand it should be an occasion to make the literatures of Russia's Fenno-Ugric peoples known or at least to provide an insight into them.

To achieve this goal three series were initiated:

- The selection *The 50 most beautiful Hungarian poems* compiled by literary historian Balázs Füzfa has been translated into several Fenno-Ugric languages,
- The selection *The 50 most beautiful Hungarian short stories* compiled also by B. Füzfa has been translated into several Fenno-Ugric languages,
- literary experts of Fenno-Ugric nations were addressed to select the 12 most beautiful poems of their own literatures for translation into other Fenno-Ugric languages, including Hungarian.

In addition to this, with drama being the focus of the present congress, two selections of Uralic drama were published, one in Estonian and another one in Hungarian.

The selection, translation and publication of the 12 most beautiful poems of Fenno-Ugric languages was hopefully only the first step. During the congress the self-awareness and nation-building features of the programme are discussed as these are vital for the survival of our language relatives with an

ever decreasing self-esteem. My desire is to have programmes launched in Fenno-Ugric republics and autonomous regions – similar to the Hungarian ones, related to the 12 poems.

I believe that this congress of Fenno-Ugric writers could mark the beginning of a braver new world in the relations with our language relatives.

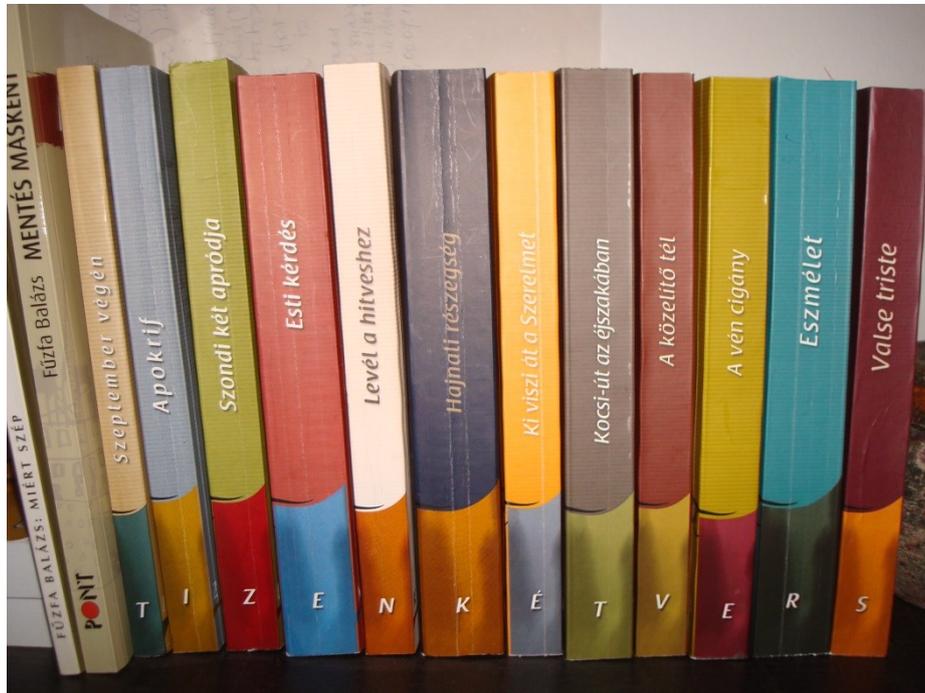
THE 12 MOST BEAUTIFUL HUNGARIAN POEMS

Balázs Fűzfa

The series of programmes called “*The 12 most beautiful poems*” took place between 2007 to 2013 in the Carpathian-basin. The project was launched and run by the Szombathely-based *Program for Personal Involvement and Experience in Teaching Literature*.

The expressed aim of this series of conferences and books was to make attempt at re-reading, re-thinking and re-interpreting these 12 masterpieces within the Hungarian literary canon.

In the course of the six years 12 volumes have been published, 12 films have been made, over 400 conference papers have been read, and approximately 12 thousand students and adults have recited poems publicly and aloud. From conference to conference, professions and generations met due to the good services of an immortal poem.



However, the poetic texts not just served as pretexts for the gatherings, but they also became a noble and creative beginning of something we just call the intention and will to understand the other.

For literature can teach us how to get rid of our inherent egotism: just like letters apparently denying themselves in favor of forming sensible words, so words too renounce a part of themselves so that they be arranged into sentences, creating thus something that is new and prime.

Let us hope that this dozen poems *en masse* can tell more about the world and man shivering and laughing in it than the individual texts would on their own.

TWO WORKSHOPS OF FENNO-UGRIC CULTURE IN HUNGARY

1. NH – Collegium Fenno-Ugricum

The House of Nations – Collegium Fenno-Ugricum (NH-CFU) was founded in 2008 with the purpose of initiating and organising programmes to help Russia's Fenno-Ugric peoples preserve their languages and culture.

To realise these aims summer courses, conferences were organised, projects launched and finished and several volumes published. *A detailed list of publications can be found in the Russian version of the INF.*

2. The Department for Uralic Studies, University of West Hungary, Szombathely (1991-2012)

Beside our regular teaching activities the Department paid special attention to

- study the language situation of Fenno-Ugric peoples in the Russian Federation
- make the culture, especially the literature of these peoples known.

Scientific and literary series were initiated and published with this purpose. *For a detailed list see the Russian part of the INF publication.*