

Turn of the Century, Turns in Literature II

Estonian and Latvian Literatures in the European Context at the Turn of the 20th/21st Centuries

21.–23. mail 2007 Viinistul

Seminar toimus ETF grandi nr 6816 toel.

Kontakt ja info: Anneli Mihkelev (milenna@utkk.ee)

*Võta ära oma mõte minust,
muidu ärkan ma jälle ja me leiame teineteise yles
ykskõik mis sajandist, mis äärelinnast.
Tee sellele lyhike lõpp,
lootusrikkalt läbi me võime rännata sajandid siis,
kartmata kohata mujal kui peeglis kohtumõistjapilku.*
(Triin Soomets)

What is the feeling of the end of the century? What is the feeling of the beginning of the century? Our generation and our contemporaries know the answers now, and our literatures have fixed those feelings, experiences and events in different modes.

We can say that there were stormy events at the end of the 20th century in the social and political worlds and in literature. Can we say that the beginning of the 21st century also casts stormy looks to the future, or should we perhaps look more to history and stability? The future and the past, hope and nostalgia, or memories of tragedies – what would we like to take to the future with and within our literatures? What changed after the turn of the century in literature?

Together with our Latvian colleagues, we have selected two novels, two plays and poetry by five poets from the period. All of them represent different styles and ideas of the period, and all together they represent the diversity of that time. These texts will be the key texts for discussions during the seminar, and the twelve speakers who present papers on them will be the key speakers (six from Latvia and six from Estonia).

Programme

Tuesday, May 22

10.00 Opening the Seminar

I. Modern Fairy Tales and Dreams

Chair: **Piret Kruuspere**

10.05 **Anneli Saro** (University of Tartu)

Modern Baltic Fairy Tales in Drama

10.45 **Benedikts Kalnačs** (University of Latvia, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art;

Liepāja Academy of Pedagogy)

Images of Home in Inga Ābele's and Jaan Tätte's Plays

11.25 - 11.50 Coffee

II. Modern Fairy Tales and Dreams

Chair: **Benedikts Kalnačs**

11.50 **Guna Zeltiņa** (University of Latvia, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art)
Metamorphoses of the Main Heroines of Jaan Tätte and Inga Ābele as a reflection of the
Century

12.30 **Luule Epner** (University of Tartu)
Money as the Temptation and Ordeal of Modern Man
13.10 - 15.00 Lunch

III. On the Borders

Chair: **Jaan Undusk**

15.00 **Eva Eglāja-Kristone** (University of Latvia, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art)
Story in the Story: The Aspect of the New Novel (*Nouveau Roman*) in Ikstena's and Tode's
prose

15.40 **Piret Viires** (Estonian Literary Museum)
Emil Tode's Border State and Nora Ikstena's The Celebration of Life – the Possibilities of
Postmodernism in Estonian and Latvian Literatures
16.20 - 16.40 Coffee

IV. On the Borders

Chair: **Piret Viires**

16.40 **Inguna Daukste-Silasproģe** (University of Latvia, Institute of Literature, Folklore and
Art)

Alienation as a Sign of the Epoch. Herald and Time in Emil Tode's *Border State* and Nora
Ikstena's *Celebration of Life*

17.20 **Anneli Mihkelev** (Under and Tuglas Literature Centre of the Estonian Academy of
Sciences)

Standing on the Borders as the Main Idea of Baltic Identity in Emil Tode's *Border State* and
Nora Ikstena's *Celebration of Life*

19.00 Dinner

Wednesday, May 23

V. The Day of Poetry

Chair: Aare Pilv

10.00 **Kārlis Vērdiņš** (University of Latvia, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art)

Two Beautiful Girls: the Poetry of Kristiina Ehin and Inga Gaile

10.40 **Anneli Mihkelev** (Under and Tuglas Literature Centre)

The Mystery of Powerful Words and Young Ladies

11.20 - 11.50 Coffee

VI. The Day of Poetry

Chair: **Kārlis Vērdiņš**

11.50 **Aare Pilv** (Under and Tuglas Literature Centre)

“Mind the Gap”. Impersonality and Personality in the Poetry of fs and Other Contemporary
Estonian Poets

12.30 **Maija Burima** (University of Daugavpils)

Interaction of the Objective with the Subjective World: Kārlis Vērdiņš – fs

13.10 Lunch and Closing
15.00 Leaving from Viinistu

Key texts

- Emil Tode *Piiririk (Robezvalsts; Border State, 1993)*
- Nora Ikstena *Dzīves svinēšana (Elu pūhītus; Celebration of Life, 1998)*
- *fs fs:2004 (2004)*
- Kārlis Vērdiņš *Titry (Captions, 2003, Moscow)*
- Poetry of Kristiina Ehin and Triin Soomets
- Poetry of Inga Gaile
- Jaan Tätte *Ristumine peateega ehk Muinasjutt kuldsest kalakesest (Brīvais kritiens; The Highway Crossing or a Tale of a Golden Fish, 1997)*
- Inga Ābele *Tumšie brieži (Tumedad hirved; The Dark Deer, 2001)*

Working language: English