

DAYS OF RUSSIAN CULTURE IN LATVIA

The tradition of the Russianlanguage Indigenous People, inhabiting
the territory of present Latvia.

ДНИ РУССКОЙ КУЛЬТУРЫ © В ЛАТВИИ С 1925 ГОДА



Short historical background

The tradition “Days of Russian Culture in Latvia” (DRC) is the largest, very meaning for the Russianlanguage indigenous people of Latvia annual, mass event of the intangible cultural heritage. The first such holiday took place on September 20, 1925. Celebrations began in Riga, in the Cathedral, at 9 a.m.



Riga Orthodox Cathedral built in 1884.
(old photo)



Riga Orthodox Cathedral (modern photo)

Archbishop Ioann, performed the liturgy in the Church Slavonic language, and at 12 o'clock a solemn prayer service.



Archbishop Ioann

It should be added that the Orthodox Church in every possible way supported all of these initiatives: from attracting financial resources for holding to popularizing the holiday.

On this day, several events were held at once in the Society "Russian Hive" building (today the M. Chekhov Russian Theater).

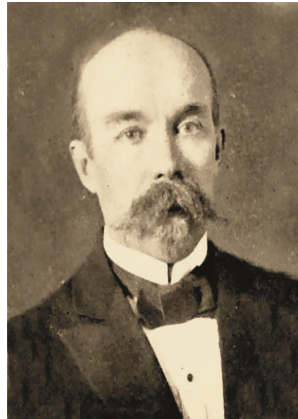


The building of the Society "Russian Hive" ,
Kalkyu Street (old photo).



Now it this houses is the Riga Russian Theater,
founded in 1883. (modern photo)

At one o'clock in the assembly hall, Princess S.P. Mansirova and E.M. Tikhonitsky, had made a solemn speech, after which the orchestra played and sang the choir.



Tikhonitsky Elpidifor Mikhailovich
Chairman of Riga Russian
educational society, initiator and
organizer of the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia

Admission was free. Then in this place, at 16 o'clock, had performed another one orchestra and soloist violinist Metz. Entrance to this event already, was by paid. And finally, on the evening of the same day, at the theater, was given concert. Entrance was also by paid.

But not only here celebrated the Days of Russian Culture. Concerts were held all over the city in different places, where famous artists, singers gave performances, and people known in society. In that time, volunteers in the city (Riga) were carried out the Donation collection.

In addition, a special newspaper, Russian Day, was released in that day, which subsequently became annual. The famous newspaper "Today" in that day was filled with articles talking about various Russian writers and scientists.



Riga, September 20, 1925.

Special newspaper "Russian Day".

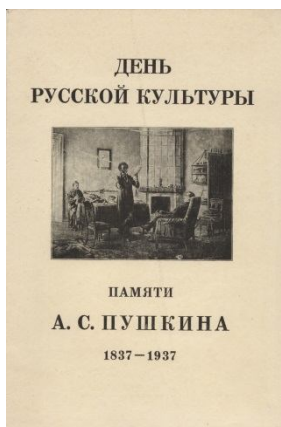
Riga, September 20, 1925.

Another important duty of the Days of Russian Culture was to familiarize everyone wishes with Russian culture. It is necessary not only to unite, but also to

show other peoples and nations the greatness and achievements of Russian culture. For this, in various theaters were staged Russian plays and operas. In the Latvian National Opera, for example, was shown The Queen of Spades.

For the coordinated holding of the Days of Russian Culture, a special Organizing Committee was formed, which included representatives of various public organizations. Since 1926, its foundation had been the Russian Educational Society.

In general, the Days of Russian Culture united many events: from children's matinees to performances by invited scientific lecturers and theater troupes from abroad. In addition, attention was paid to all areas of culture: from amateur performances to exhibitions of paintings by professional artists. Exhibitions of fine art included both the work of schoolchildren and the work of famous artists. For example: Bogdanov-Belsky, Vinogradov, Vysotsky. Among the exhibits were the works of Riga artists: Stepanov, Kramarev, Yupatov, Matveyev, Andabursky, Tolstoy, Pren, Shishko, Alekseev, Trofimova and others. These exhibitions were very popular among the audience. Exhibitions of paintings were held in the upper halls of the pavilion of Verman Park in Riga. There were also held Exhibitions of Russian books: from the first manuscripts to recently published in Latvia.



Organizers of the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia in 1925 - 1940



Elpidifor Tikhonitsky (1875-1942), Chairman of the Riga Russian Educational Society; Adrian Mossakovsky (1871-1939), director of the Riga City Russian Gymnasium; Ivan Zavoloko (1897 - 1984), an outstanding figure of the Old Believers; Ioann Pommer (1876 - 1934), Archbishop; Konstantin Arabazhin (1866 - 1929), literary critic; Olympiad Lishina (1875-1961), founder of the Riga Russian Girls' Gymnasium; Vasily Sinaisky (1876 - 1949), professor at the University of Latvia; Dmitry Tikhomirov (1880 - 1963), teacher of Russian literature (philology and) ; Ivan Yupatov (1865 - 1944), Head of the Russian Department of the Ministry of Education of Latvia; Sergey Vinogradov (1869 - 1938), artist; Peter Pilsky (1876 - 1841), journalist; Sergey Mintslov (1870 - 1933), writer.

The Days of Russian Culture during the first independence of Latvia was supported not only by private individuals, but also by government agencies, in particular the Russian Department of the Ministry of Education of Latvia.



Unfortunately, the tradition of holding them was interrupted in May 1940 for historical reasons.

The modern continuation of tradition

The tradition of Days of Russian Culture in Latvia (DRCL) was restored in 2011 thanks to the actions of an initiative group, which included cultural workers, journalists, and public figures.

Every year, at the opening of the DRCL, are present the heads of various diplomatic missions in Latvia, the President of Latvia annually sends greetings to the participants and guests of events, many events are held in the best halls of Riga (the Big Guilds, cinema «Splendid Palace», etc.) with the participation of famous Latvian art workers. The festival program consists of two blocks: the program of the organizing committee of the DRCL and the application of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Days of Russian culture in Latvia are addressed to every resident of our country, as well as to guests of Latvia, art lovers who are aware of the role of culture in strengthening mutual understanding in society. Days program covers audiences of all age groups. Here are the cycles of children's activities and family events. During the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia, are held concerts, creative meetings, lectures, poetry readings, exhibitions, performances, creative classes, open lessons for children, and group trips to regions. The program of the organizing committee, as well as most of the events organized by NGOs, are free.

At May 22, 2011 were opening of the first in the 21st century DRCL. The Days were opened by the President of the Republic of Latvia Valdis Zatlers.

From speech of President V. Zatlers at the opening of the 2011 DRCL:

Good evening, Your Holiness Metropolitan Alexander, Your Excellency Ambassador (of Russian Federation) Alexander Veshnyakov, ladies and gentlemen!

Today it is a great honor for me to be among you.

I am very pleased that the tradition that arose in Latvia in 1925, the Days of Russian Culture, is being restored.

Let's see - what kind of relations were between Letts and Russians. Neighbors?

A thousand years, if not more. In the 17th century, supporters of the old faith found their home here. Their descendants still live here in Latvia.

But people cannot live without culture. Russian Drama Theater established in 1883. People crave culture. And the life of Russian culture of Latvia in the 20-30 years of the XX century was active: many public organizations, newspapers, schools, outstanding forces at the University of Latvia, artists on the opera stage.

Many recall Chaliapin's performance in Riga. Parents of my parents spoke about this with inspiration.

Of course, all this was interrupted in 1940, in a year that did not spare any nationality. Were closed all existed at that time, 58 public Russian organizations. Were tragically perished the deputies of the Seimas, teachers, all those who at that time belonged to the elite of the Latvian state .

But culture and the intelligentsia cannot be so easily destroyed, no matter how totalitarian this word may be. It was an honor for me to personally know Boris Infantiev, Yuri Abyzov, people who were true intelligents and carried Russian culture, Latvian Russian culture in those tims ...

It was an honor for me to be with those Russians who helped restore Latvia's state independence: Vladlen Dozortsev, Marina Kostenetskaya, Roald Dobrovensky - names that say a lot to everyone. And that is why I am very glad that this tradition - Days of Russian Culture in Latvia - has been restored.

I want to thank everyone who organized them, supported who is participating in them. Since Latvian Russians have a unique opportunity - to scoop from the huge cultural heritage that the Russian people possess, but at the same time to continue to create the cultural roots that they have here in Latvia.

I wish you all success in these weeks of culture.

Recall that in the thirties years, was popular the idea of Nicholas Roerich : culture will bring us peace, understanding and happiness.

Let all this be fulfilled!



Photo of Latvian President V. Zatlers speaking at the opening
Days of Russian Culture 2011.



All guests were treated to a Russian-Latvian gingerbread specially baked for the holiday

In 2011, within the framework of the restored Days of Russian Culture in Latvia, 73 events were held, which took place in Riga, Daugavpils, Rezekne, Jurmala, Jaunolain, Jelgava, Wilani. These were performances, concerts, presentations of new books and almanacs, a large-scale family holiday was organized in the Verman Garden.



Religious procession in the Cathedral of the Nativity of Christ, 2011



Folklore group of authentic music "Ilyinsky Friday", 2011



Performance of the amateur collective, 2011.

Days of Russian Culture in Latvia - 2012



In 2012, the newspaper "Russian Days" was restored and published in Russian and Latvian languages, respectively, with a circulation of 10,000 and 5,000 copies .

From the greeting of the President of Latvia Andris Berzins to the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia on May 23, 2012

The Russian community of Latvia enriches our society with its contribution to various spheres of life - culture, art and economics. Understanding cultural values in relations between peoples is the key to a common language and mutual

understanding in the broadest sense of the word, therefore the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia help to form the basis for good relations between the two peoples.

In 2012, there are already 116 events in the DRCL program.

The following programs were held: art exhibitions, programs of the family center «Igmalin», innovation education centers "Idea", excursion program, multi-lingual evening of poetry in St. Peter's Basilica, programs of the music and poetry salon "Eclectic", society of Slavic culture "Garmon", program “Culture is Knowledge”, programs of the Latvian Orthodox Church and the Old Orthodox Pomeranian Church. The events were held in Riga, Ventspils, Daugavpils, Jurmala, Rezekne, Jaunoline, and Vilani. The Days were participated guests from Israel, Russia, Germany, Estonia and Lithuania.

Photos of the DRCL 2012



Religious procession on Slavic Writing Day, May 24, 2012, Daugavpils



Children's dance group, Daugavpils, 2012



Competition of Research jobs on Old Belief in Latvia, Daugavpils, 2012



The Old Orthodox Church in Daugavpils, built in 1928



Performance of the orchestra of Russian folk instruments “Slavs”
led by Victor Zhilyaev

Days of Russian Culture in Latvia - 2013

From the greeting of the President of Latvia Andris Berzins to the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia 2013

I am sincerely glad that with the participation of more than 50 different public organizations from all over Latvia, it was possible to formulate an extensive, interesting and diverse program, which over the next two weeks will be able to take delight all interested. This bright event serves as a good example of how need to preserve and popularize the diversity of the cultural environment of Latvia.

In 2013, within the framework of the DRCL took place 140 events.

The following programs were held: art exhibitions, programs of the family center "Igmalin", an excursion program, the program of societies Slavic culture "Garmon", the Culture is Knowledge program, the programs of the Latvian Orthodox Church and the Old Orthodox Pomeranian Church. The events were held in Riga, Ludza, Ventspils, Daugavpils, Preili, Jurmala, Rezekne and Jaunoline. The Days were participated guests from Russia, Germany, Estonia and Lithuania.

In 2013, in program of DRCL, entered the Program of Days of Belarusian Culture, dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Union of Belarusians of Latvia.

Photos of the DRCL 2013



Liturgy in Day St. Cyril and Methodius, Daugavpils, 2013.



Participants of the concert dedicated to the Day of Slavic Writing, Daugavpils, 2013.



The meeting of the students of the 2nd secondary school of Jekabpils with the clergy of the Holy - Spirit men's Monastery, Jekabpils, 2013

Days of Russian Culture in Latvia – 2014

Starting from 2014, the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia began to be held in two cycles: in spring (from May 23 to June 7) and in autumn (from 10 to 17 October). Every day events are held in several places.

From the greeting of the President of Latvia Andris Berzins, to the Days Russian Culture in Latvia 2014

Unity in understanding fundamental cultural values is the key to gaining a common language and mutual understanding in the broadest sense of the word, in

turn, the Days of Russian Culture is one of the examples of how to create a basis for good relations between nationalities living in Latvia.

In 2014, in framework of the DRCL spring cycle about 130 events took place, 28 events in framework of the autumn cycle.

The following events were held: art exhibitions, the program “Culture is Knowledge”, an excursion program, the program of the family center "Igmalin", the program of the society Slavic culture “Harmony”, the program of innovation education centers “Idea”, the programs of the Latvian Orthodox Church and the Old Orthodox Pomeranian Church. The events were held in Riga, Daugavpils, Ludza, Preili, Jurmala, Rezekne, Jaunoline and Ventspils. The Days were participated guests from Germany, Estonia, Lithuania and Russia.

Photos of the DRCL 2014



Performance of step studio
Riga, 2014



Performance of the children's dance group,
Riga, 2014



Choir Old Believer "Unison", performing Old Russian liturgical singing (singing on signs - on banners) ,2014



The largest in the world Old Orthodox Church (Grebenshchikova) in Riga, built in 1814



Orchestra of Russian folk instruments "Kadans", 2014

Jubilee. Days of Russian culture in Latvia - 90 years. 2015 year

From the greeting of the President of Latvia Andris Berzins to the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia on May 22, 2015

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have devoted their time, efforts and knowledge to host the Days of Russian Culture again this year in Latvia. I also note your significant contribution to promoting the study of historical roots and preserving the Russian cultural heritage, as well promotion of intercultural dialogue.

A people who know about their cultural and historical roots and care about them is able to respect others and appreciate the importance of intercultural relations in the current era of globalization and openness. The fate of the Lett's people and other peoples that have historically intertwined in this beautiful country Latvia, is our wealth and strength, which is rooted in mutual respect and knowledge of each other.

In 2015, was celebrated the 90th jubilee of the DRCL.

The newspaper of the jubilee DRCL 2015.

In 2015, the spring cycle took place from May 22 to June 7 (the program includes 133 events), the autumn cycle from October 8 to 18 (40 events). The following programs have been implemented: art exhibitions, a series of master classes in "Art-Refuge Alberts", an excursion program, the poetry festival "Baltic Stanza" , a film program, the program «Culture is Knowledge», the programs of the Latvian Orthodox Church and the Old Orthodox Pomeranian Church. Places of conducting of events: Riga, Jurmala, Daugavpils, Rezekne, Olaine, Jelgava, Jaunolaine. The Days were participated guests from Germany, Belarus, Russia, Israel, Estonia, Lithuania.

Photos of the jubilee DRCL 2015.



The opening ceremony of the jubilee DRCL in 2015.



Participants of the Festival "Riga Gingerbread" , Riga, 2015



Russian Folk Song Choir, Liepaja, 2015

Days of Russian Culture in Latvia — 2016

From the greeting of the President of Latvia Raimonds Veyonis to the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia on May 20, 2016

Latvia has always been a place where live representatives of different nationalities. A variety of cultures has always enriched our society and required us to be able to conduct dialogue and listen to those around us, thus creating a path to a better Latvia.

It is very important for each person to be aware of their roots, to understand and know their culture and traditions. It strengthens our identity and helps to find our place in the modern globalized world. And it is also important to know those who are near with us, and to understand their customs and build a society based on mutual respect.

In 2016, the spring cycle took place from May 20 to June 6 (145 events), the autumn cycle from October 24 to November 6 (48 events). Number of participants: about 750, visitors - over 22000. The following programs have been implemented: art exhibitions, the International Folk Art Festival "Riga Gingerbread", an excursion program, the poetry festival "Baltic Stanza ", a film program, the program "Culture is Knowledge", the programs of the Latvian Orthodox Church and the Old Orthodox Pomeranian Church. Places of conducting of events: Riga, Jurmala, Daugavpils, Rezekne, Olaine, Jelgava, Jaunolaine. The Days were participated by guests from Japan, Germany, Denmark, Austria, Russia, Estonia, Lithuania.

Photos of the DRCL 2016.



Performance of the Russian folklore group
"Ilyinsky Friday"



Tours of the City Theater "Yorik" from Rezekne
in Riga



Dance group of Russian folk dance, Jurmala, 2016



Dance group "Ivushki", Riga, 2016 г.



Liturgy in honor of St. Cyril and Methodius in the Riga Cathedral of the Nativity of Christ

Days of Russian Culture in Latvia - 2017

From the greeting of the President of Latvia R.Veyonis to the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia on May 23, 2017

In this year, when the restored Days of Russian Culture will be held for the seventh time, you can be proud, that this tradition is becoming more and more comprehensive and diverse. This event is a good opportunity for our society to get to know ourselves better, get acquainted with how we differ from each other, and take pleasure what unites us.

For centuries, Latvia was a multinational state, and the peoples living here always been able mutually enrich themselves. Respecting the culture of our people, we respectfully respect other cultures. We all belong to Latvia, and together we create our own country. Our people are the greatest wealth of Latvia!

In 2017, the spring cycle took place from May 23 to June 6, there were 168 events in the program. In autumn - 45. Number of participants: about 620, visitors -

over 21000. The following programs were carried out: art exhibitions, an excursion program, the international poetry festival "Baltic Stanza", the programs of decorative art centers "Idea" and "Figaro Art Gallery", the Cinema Days program, creative evenings program, program "Culture is Knowledge", programs of Latvian Orthodox Church and the Old Orthodox Pomeranian Church. Places of conducting of events: Riga, Daugavpils, Jelgava, Jurmala, Wilan, Rezekne. The Days were participated guests from Israel, Russia, Switzerland, Germany, Estonia and Lithuania.

Photos of the DRCL 2017.



Rite "Pacing behind the sun" on the Esplanade,
Riga, 2017



Excursion of the temples of Old Believers,
Rezekne, 2017



Closing of the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia on June 6, 2017

Days of Russian Culture in Latvia – 2018

From the greeting of the President of Latvia Raimonds Veyonis to the Days of Russian Culture in Latvia 2018

Everyone can contribute to make Latvia an even stronger and more prosperous state, in which mutual respect and common values dominate.

Culture and its embodiment in song, dance, applied crafts, literature, stage art and other creative forms are the language of the soul, understandable to everyone. I note with satisfaction, that the Days of Russian Culture with a wide and diverse program for the eighth time provide an opportunity to get acquainted with the rich traditions of Russian culture both to residents of Latvia and foreign guests.

In 2018, the spring cycle took place from May 23 to June 7, and the autumn cycle from October 24 to November 5. The program had includes 180 events. Number of participants: about 690, visitors - over 21,000. The following programs were carried out: art exhibitions, programs of the centers decorative ar “Idea” and “ABELE”, a series of excursions, the international poetry festival “The Baltic Stanza”, the program of creative evenings, the program “Culture is Knowledge”, the programs of the Latvian Orthodox Church and the Ancient Orthodox Pomeranian Church . The events were held in Riga, Daugavpils, Cesis, Jelgava, Jurmala, Rezekne, Wilani, Jauonoline and Jekabpils. The Days were participated guests from Israel, Russia, Germany, Estonia and Lithuania.

Photos of the DRCL 2018.



Solemn prayer in the Cathedral of Boris and Gleb on the day of St. Cyril and Methodius, Daugavpils, 2018



Concert of the creative dance group "LiK", 2018

Days of Russian Culture in Latvia – 2019

From the greeting of the President of Latvia R.Vejonis Day of Russian Culture in Latvia May 23, 2019

The ability to build intercultural dialogue is an important aspect of creating a cohesive society based on mutual respect. Personal experience and direct contacts with representatives of other cultures, a fusion of experience and cooperation help us to see the general and understand the differences. Therefore, it is difficult to overestimate initiatives and projects aimed at intercultural interaction.

Thanks to the organizers of the Days of Russian Culture for many years of work to create a vibrant and eventful program! Thanks to every participant and guest! Your participation and interest helps to develop a variety of cultural traditions in Latvia.

In 2019, the spring cycle took place from May 23 to June 6 , the autumn cycle - planned - from October 23 to November 3. There were 168 events in the spring cycle program. The following programs were held: art exhibitions, master-class program of the family center "ABELE", programs of concerts, performances, excursions, the international poetry festival “Baltic Stanza”, and “Week of Russian Cinema”. Events were held in Riga, Daugavpils, Cesis, Jelgava, Jurmala, Rezekne, Wilani and Jaunoline. The Days were participated guests from Finland, Russia, Germany, Estonia and Lithuania.

Photos of the DRCL 2019.



Icon of St. Cyril and Methodius



The performs choir "Zvonica" in Jelgava, 2019



Children and youth dance group "Zadorinka"
in Riga 2019



Children and youth dance group "Zadorinka"
in Riga 2019



Concert dedicated to the 220th anniversary of A.S. Pushkin
in Riga 2019

Co-Chairs of the Organizing Committee
Modern Days of Russian Culture in Latvia
Vlad Bogov, Irina Konyaeva, Yuri Kasyanich