

and Azerbaijan, and representatives from Ukraine, Poland, Bulgaria, Serbia, Mongolia, Lithuania, Italy, France and Canada. Estonian participants comprised Risto Järv, Anu Korb and Aado Lintrop from the Estonian Folklore Archives, and Jonathan Roper from the University of Tartu.

Due to the large amount of presentations and last-minute budget cuts, the conference sessions had to take place within three days (from February 2 to 4), instead of the initially planned four working days, and it was quite complicated to organise the work of several sections and roundtables. Presentations were delivered in the morning and in the afternoon, distributed between 13 sections, 14 roundtables and two discussion clubs. Simultaneous work process also pre-necessitated many conference premises, and the smaller rooms were unfortunately overcrowded. The subject matters focused on complex textology and folklore theory, research history, folklore and ethnography, folklore and culture in written tradition, folkloric language, folklore and folk religion, modern folklore. Likewise, the themes also dealt with the presentation of folklore and popular choreography; problems regarding the teaching of folklore, and, intrinsically of Russia, the programme involved a section on how to teach applied art and popular handicraft.

Nearly half of the roundtables concentrated on different genres of folklore: fairy-tales, epic, games, incantations-soothsaying, ethnobotany, short forms of folklore, lamentations, and also Internet folklore, folklore (folk songs) as the method for interdisciplinary research, and inter-ethnicity issues.

Conference participants were also familiarised with different folklore-related periodicals and books published during the recent years. The majority of scientific journals are published exclusively in the Russian language, however, one issue of the three-volume journal published in St. Petersburg, *Antropologicheskii Forum*, is now released in English.

Anu Korb

## **PRESIDENT'S FOLKLORE AWARDS 2009**

This year, the President's Folklore Awards were presented on the 25th of February by Urmas Kruuse, the mayor of Tartu. The event, organised in the period between the Estonian Day of Independence (24th of February) and the Day of Finnish Culture (28th of February) was to recognise and acknowledge the best contributors to the Estonian Folklore Archives and those writing for the contest "The Finland of My Memories". The speakers at the festive occasion comprised the mayor of Tartu, representatives of the Estonian Folklore Archives; Rutt Hinrikus, the head of the Estonian Life Stories Association, and Arja Korhonen, the press official to the Embassy of Finland. Musical interludes were performed by Mari Kalkun.

The presidential folklore prize was awarded to Kaie Humal and Hille Tarto. The most substantial part of Kaie Humal's contribution is the material collected in her quondam home area, from the old fishermen of the northern shore of Lake Võrtsjärv and other local people in 2008 and 2009. Particularly valuable among the 25 hours of recorded material is the data regarding the history of Valma and Tännassilma villages, ethnographic descriptions of fishermen's life and their heritage, and also the reminiscences of Tartu-based artists and those of the girls from Toome Street in Viljandi; Kaie Humal's own memories of her grandmother and grandfather, a musician and instrument-maker, and Tõnis Mooses, a smith and miller, and others.

Kaie Humal has also donated to the archives two photo albums from the beginning of the 20th century, one of them containing pictures of Viljandi and the villages in the vicinity of Lake Võrtsjärv, taken by a local photographer Aleksander Lepik (1898–1977). In addition, Kaie Humal has facilitated the transfer of Oskar Loorits' personal letters to the Estonian Cultural History Archives.

Hille Tarto, the long-term host of the *Prillitoos* (Spectacle Case) programme on Estonian television (1988–1996 and 2000–2008), was rewarded for devising and conducting a quiz on herbal plants during 2005–2007, and the recording of materials concerning the questionnaire on herbal plants. This material was given over to the Estonian Folklore Archives in March and September 2009. As an outcome of the quiz, initiated by Hille Tarto, and her personal communication with the participants, a lot of the respondents' memories have been recorded with regard to the use of medicinal plants in their childhood and today, thus providing a substantial addition to the currently collected ethnomedical subject matter. The fact that the respondents have shared their personal experience, not only the knowledge obtained from books, is particularly valuable. The results of the quiz are introduced in the book *Prillitoosi ravimtaimemäng*



*Urmas Kruuse, the mayor of Tartu presenting the President's Folklore Award to Kaie Humal. Photo by Alar Madisson 2010.*

(Herbal Quiz of the *Prillitoos* Programme) issued by the Maaleht Publishing House in 2008. Likewise, the letters sent to the theatre-related quiz of the *Prillitoos* programme have also been handed over to the Cultural History Archives of the Estonian Literary Museum, and this is thanks to Hille Tarto.

Last year, the archives also received contributions from school-aged children to pensioners, regarding the folklore of old stories on the origin of place names, today's christening and wedding celebrations, written memories of Estonians living abroad, and the drawings made by the Äksi witch. As usual in recent years, the collected material has been recorded on diverse media carriers.

The circle of people helping to record folkloric heritage has also been widening by way of collection contests – in 2009, the Finnish Institute and the Estonian Literary Museum conducted a contest “The Finland of My Memories”, with nearly a hundred diverse contributions sent to the organisers. The participants in the contest comprised writers, scientists and also schoolchildren. The majority of the contributors expressed their memories of their trips to Finland during the Soviet period, i.e. that most of them were born during 1940–1960. Nearly a dozen people wrote about their memories of pre-war times, and one of the Finnish Boys elaborated on the Continuation War, whereas only a few respondents narrated about their trips in the recent past. Approximately the same amount of contributions (ca 100) were sent to a simultaneous contest conducted in Finland by the Folklore Archives of the Finnish Literature Society, aiming at gathering Estonia-related memories.

After long and detailed discussion, the jury (comprising Risto Järv, Järvi Lipasti and Rutt Hinrikus) granted three main prizes, donated by the Viking Line company, to Maret Lehto, Maria Peep and Lembit Vahesaar. A special award was given to Harri Jõgisalu, for his thorough and clearly arranged written contribution. The contest was supported by Fazer Confectionary, Paulig, TEA Publishing House, Petrone Print, Finnish Embassy and the Cultural Endowment of Estonia.

Last year, the Estonian Folklore Archives received an additional 12,336 pages of manuscripts (8,762 pages of original writings and 3,574 pages of research materials), 102 sound recordings, 76 video cassettes and files, 1,391 digital and 755 black-and-white and colour photos – evidencing that the economic recession has not been detrimental on the collection of folklore.

Astrid Tuisk