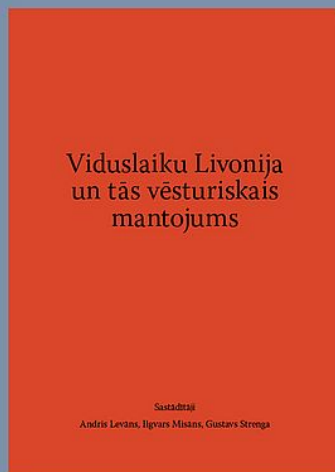


Latvijas Nacionālās bibliotēkas apgādā ir iznācis jauns, Latvijas sabiedrībai būtisks pētījums –



zinātnisku rakstu un eseju krājums "Viduslaiku Livonija un tās vēsturiskais mantojums".

Trīspadsmit autori no Latvijas, Igaunijas, Dānijas, Zviedrijas, Polijas, Vācijas un Šveices meklē atbildes uz jautājumu, kas bija viduslaiku Livonija un kāpēc ir svarīgi par to domāt šodien.

Grāmatas atvēršana notiks
Latvijas Nacionālajā bibliotēkā
2020. gada 10. janvārī, 17.00,
1. stāva izstāžu zālē.

Atvēršanas pasākuma ietvaros Letonikas un Baltijas centrs Letonikas lasījumu ciklā aicina uz LU asociētā profesora, Eiropas Parlamenta deputāta IVARA ĪJABA priekšlasījumu Grāmatai pa pēdām "Livonija – feodālā, reģionālā, nacionālā: pārdomas par jauniznākušu grāmatu".



Letonikas lasījumi – cikls, kurā vēsturnieki, literatūrzinātnieki, kultūrvēsturnieki un citi humanitāro un sociālo zinātņu nozaru pētnieki tiek aicināti dalīties pieredzē un pārdomās par jaunākajiem pētījumiem un aktuālām tēmām Baltijas kultūrtelpā.



Jan Rüdiger

Livonija un pasaule 21. gadsimtā

in: Andris Levāns/Ilgvars Misāns/Gustavs Strenga (eds.):
Viduslaiku Livonija un tās vēsturiskais mantojums, Rīga 2019, 230-247.

= Livonia and the world in the 21st century [English abstract]

This article is based on a panel discussion at the National Library, Riga, on 9 December 2017. It argues that the history of medieval Livonia is, actually or potentially, of central importance to general history as studied in the 21st century on three accounts:

(1) The past twenty years' research, inspired by Robert Bartlett's influential 1993 book *The Making of Europe*, has resulted in a general interest in Livonia. It is no more the exclusive concern of local national histories, be they *baltendeutsch* or Latvian/

Estonian. In the Bartlettian 'Europeanisation' sense, Livonia now sides with regions such as southern Spain, Occitania, Wales, Ireland, and Hungary. Contemporary developments, notably the expansion of the European Union and its economic model, have only accentuated this interest.

(2) Much as this development has helped integrate Livonia into general history, in one central aspect it has exacerbated an older national(ist) misapprehension: the idea that the 13th-century settlers/conquerors were 'Germans' in an ethnic sense. Quite beyond general criticism of 19th-/20th century history as too ready to 'invent' medieval histories for modern nations and nation-states, the notion of ethnic 'Germans' is particularly unfortunate in a medieval Livonian and Baltic context. Present-day usage leads easily to the assumption that *deutsch* has always been an ethnonym (and that it can therefore be translated as 'German', 'allemand' etc.), whereas in fact medieval *deutsch* and its cognates are an in-group term meaning 'intelligible', hence 'understandable'. In a migrant/colonial situation, group adherence and non-adherence were central matters but 'ethnicity', insofar as medieval ideas of ethnicity are at all comparable to post-Romantic ones, was not. This view invites historians to reevaluate the source use of 'deutsch/undeutsch' in Livonian history. The unfortunate consonances of the use of 'deutsch, vācisks, German' somewhat obstruct a more integral view of the late medieval Baltic.

(3) As European medieval history is facing the challenges of Global History, Livonia has every chance of moving yet one step further. The Bartlettian movement has worked towards integrating Livonia on an equal base with many more westerly regions; a Global History viewpoint now makes Livonia, open as it is towards the Eurasian landmass, appear as, for better or worse, one of the most globally integrated parts of medieval Europe. In a Eurasian perspective, then, Livonia is more central than much of the Atlantic fringe.

The article concludes by arguing that in terms of Public History, the word 'Livonia' is a strong brand, well-established in all major languages but untinged by modern nationalist use. It may well work towards making future 'Livonians', i.e. Latvians/Estonians, more conscious of the resources and potential of their region, and therefore more resilient to face the period after globalism.