

**Fourth Estonian History Competition
for the award of the President of Estonia**

**“The Child”
2002/2003**

Report

On 3rd May 2003, 134 students and 59 instructors from 43 schools gathered in the hall of the Ministry of Education and Science. The other people present were the President of Estonia, a vice-chancellor of the Ministry of Education and Science, a representative of Körber Foundation, the presidium of The Association of History Teachers in Estonia.

The history research competition for the award of the President of Estonia was held for the fourth time. There were 134 participants from all over Estonia, who sent in a total of 105 research contributions: a great number of papers came from schools in Sillamäe (North-East Estonia), but also students from Saaremaa, Võrumaa, and Tartumaa participated actively in the competition. Most counties in Estonia were represented among the entries to the competition.

The topic of the competition – *The Child* – was looked at from different angles: the childhood of family members, children’s organisations, children’s medicare, the child in a multicultural society, etc. The topic of children with special needs was often analysed. The awards of this year’s competition were awarded by the President of the Republic’s Cultural Foundation, the Ministry of Education and Science, publishing house *Avita* and printhall *Täht*.

The President of Estonia, Arnold Rüütel, outlined his understanding of the topic *The Child*, he thanked the students and their instructors, who had found extra time to deal with such an important issue. The President was happy to continue as a supporter of the competition (see his official press release by the President’s office at the end of this report).

The vice-chancellor of the Ministry of Education and Science, Kristjan Haller, analysed the present topic *The Child* from a dual perspective: firstly, the child as the object of research, secondly, the child as the person conducting the research. In his opinion, such competitions deserve more attention and are to be continued and supported.

The monetary awards of the President were given to the following entries:

Basic School Level:

Peeter Jürviste	Antsla High School (grade 8)	<i>From the Pioneer Camp of Antsla High School to the Scout Organisations</i>
Sille Kase	Saarepeedi Basic School (grade 8)	<i>How the Children of Karula Went to the Para-Olympics</i>
Artur Peedimaa	Are Basic School	<i>The Childhood Stories of the Teachers</i>

High School Level

Airika Pening	Paide High School (grade 11)	<i>The Rehabilitation of a Physically Disabled Child 20 Years Ago and Today</i>
Mikk Välbe	Vastseliina High School	<i>The Youth at Vastseliina</i>
Siim Lillemets	(grade 11)	
Indrek Must	Hugo Treffner High School	<i>The Child, the Wilderness, and the Fairytale in the ABC Books and Readers for Grade 1 throughout Three Generations</i>
	(grade 11)	
Merli Aasmaa	Luunja High School (grade 11),	<i>A Book on the Student's Desk</i>

There were Special awards given to seven students and book prizes to various schools. Also the tutors were awarded for tutoring and helping the students in their research.

In August 2003, three winners and one instructor will go to Germany to take part in a summer workshop; in October, two winners will go to represent Estonia in an autumn workshop held in Latvia.

Next year another history research competition is organized, it will be announced by the President at the beginning of September. The topic will be particularized and approved in the summer days of the Association of the History Teachers of Estonia.

We thank the supporters of the competition and wish happy holidays to the students and teachers. A happy meeting again in autumn.

Tiiu Ojala and Viivi Rohla
Competition co-ordinators

Official statement

(translation)

The President of the Republic honoured young history researches

03.05.2003

President Arnold Rüütel today in Tartu attended the closing ceremony of students' historical research competition and addressed young researches with words of welcome.

The Head of State expressed delight at the great number of participants in the competition, which, in his words, confirmed students' keen interest in history and the need for competitions like this. This year's competition, the fourth in a row, was announced by the President of the Republic as patron of the competition on 2 September 2002. The theme of the competition was "The Child" and 150 research papers were sent in to it for instance in the following areas: the child in Estonian society, the child and the world, childhood, the child and education etc.

The students' historical research competition is aimed at elaborating on national values, maintaining the bond between and continuity of generations, deepening of students' interest in history and expanding their horizon, and developing students' capabilities of independent research.

These competitions have been initiated by the Estonian History Teachers' Association and supported financially by the Koerber Foundation from Germany. The cash prizes and books awarded on the suggestion of the competition's jury had been donated by the President's Cultural Foundation and the Ministry of Education respectively.

Office of the President

Kadriorg, May 3, 2003