

History Competition in Latvia

The competition in Latvia took place for the 8th time. The theme of this competition was „The witnesses of the history”. There were 153 research works this year, the authors were 182 students of all districts of Latvia. The advisers were 61 teachers who helped the students in their research. The final took place in Riga, in the Latvian National History Museum, on 9 May, 2009. 22 students presented their works. The Jury chose the winners- 13 participants with 9 research works.

The participants explored the theme in different aspects, starting with analyses of archeological excavations and finishing with the notes of current event witnesses. The witnesses of history are the diaries and memories, newspapers, issued during all 20th century, the documents and photographs, as well as historical, cultural and industrial objects in nature.

Most of students have found the sources in their family archives. Many works were written about the changes caused by soviet deportations in 1941 and 1949, which changed the lives of several generations tragically and irreversibly. The participants wrote about culture, school history, traditions and festivals of different times. The participants became part of the time they researched and went through it, learnt about their heritage. One of the winners- Sintija Trupa from Riga Secondary school 84. - investigated the diaries written by her grandgrandfather from 1922 till 1949. Her conclusion was : *I have acquired from this work very much – I found out all information about my country house and my family tree , which I could and as a researcher I gained much experience. I really hope that at least one reader of the work will feel inspired from Albert and will write a diary about his daily events so that next generations can get information about their ancestor, as well as learn from his mistakes. I have to confess that I have started writing a diary following the example of Albert.*

The Award Ceremony took place in Riga, in The White hall of Riga Latvian Society, on 30 May, 2009. Riga Latvian Society is one of the most ancient officially founded Latvian organizations(in 1868).It is the educational,cultural and scientific center. During soviet times Society was forbidden, but after reestablishment of state independence in 1991 Riga Latvian Society continues succesful activities. Riga Latvian Society and Nacional Cultural Development Foundation is one of Latvian history teachers' partners in organizing the competition in Latvia, thanks to this foundation the Award ceremony could take place in a house with such deep historical background.

The Award ceremony was solemn and emotional. State president of Latvia Valdis Zatlers greeted all participants and gave presents for winners. The leaflet was made specially for Award Ceremony and spread out during the ceremony. It contains information about supporters of competition, about Eustory in common and our national competition. All participants were presented by diplomas and books of sponsors.

Photos:

1. The state president of Latvia V.Zatlers greets the 3rd place winner Ralfs Piziks
2. The leader of Latvian history teachers association Aija Klavina introduced V.Zatlers with students works.
3. V.Zatlers with winners.