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## LATVIAN ARCHAEOLOGY IN PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS IN LATVIA (1918–2008)<sup>1</sup>

ANDREJS VASKS

*This paper discusses academic periodical publications on Latvian prehistory and archaeology. Three periods of periodical publications are distinguished: the time of the Republic of Latvia, 1920s–1930s; the period of Soviet occupation, 1945–1990; and the period since the restoration of independence. The main periodicals of each period are reviewed.*

**Keywords:** periodicals, Latvian archaeology, journals, document collections.

*Šioje apžvalgoje aptariami periodiniai leidiniai, kuriuose yra išspausdinta darbų, skirtų Latvijos senovei ir archeologijai. Išskirti trys etapai archeologijos periodikos istorijoje: Latvijos Respublika XX a. 3 ir 4 dešimtmetyje, Sovietų okupacija 1945–1990 m. ir laikotarpis po nepriklausomybės atgavimo.*

**Reikšminiai žodžiai:** periodiniai leidiniai, Latvijos archeologija, žurnalai, straipsnių rinkiniai.

### PERIODICALS IN THE TIME OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA (1918–1940)

In 1918, when the Republic of Latvia was established, the situation in Latvia was very difficult militarily and politically. Although the First World War had ended, warfare was continuing in Latvia against both internal and especially foreign enemies, and ended only in 1920. Only then could the institutions of the new republic, including scientific, educational and cultural institutions, be established.

Three events were crucial to the development of archaeology: establishment of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Latvia in 1922, passing of the Law on Protection of Monuments

in 1923 and in the same year establishment of the Board of Monuments under the Ministry of Education. This provided a firm basis for the development of the science of archaeology in Latvia (Vasks, 1999, 4–5). The head of the Department of Archaeology from 1922 was Max Ebert, the professor invited from the University of Königsberg, succeeded in 1924 by Prof. Francis Balodis, newly repatriated from the Soviet Union. From 1932, Balodis was also the Chairman of the Board of Monuments. The mission of the Department of Archaeology was to train professional archaeologists, which Latvia lacked at the time, while the Board of Monuments undertook the protection of cultural monuments, including archaeological monuments (i.e., registering and surveying monu-

<sup>1</sup> This paper covers only specialist publications in the humanities; the mass press, also containing articles on Latvian archaeology and prehistory, is excluded.

ments, preparing record forms, compiling lists of monuments, establishing a network of correspondents and organising excavation work). From 1923 onwards, only professional archaeologists with permits from the Board of Monuments were allowed to excavate. The finds had to be handed over to the Board of Monuments, which in turn transferred them to the Ethnographic Museum of Latvia, established already in 1920 (Graudonis, 2001, 11–12).

*Papers on Latvian archaeology in journals (1920–1940)*

During the study period, particularly in the 1920s, papers on Latvian archaeology were scattered in a variety of periodicals. Among publications of the 1920s, mention should first be made of the magazine *Latvijas Saule* (Latvian Sun). This popular science monthly devoted to Latvian art and ancient history appeared in the years 1923–1931. In this magazine, well illustrated and intended for a broad readership, papers on archaeological subjects, especially on excavation work, were published alongside articles on folk art, history and ethnography. The authors were A. Krieviņš, A. Štokmanis, H. Moora and F. Balodis. Because the practice of preparing reports on archaeological excavations for the Board of Monuments was only just developing and the documentation submitted was not always sufficiently informative, these publications still serve today a valuable addition to the information available.

Published in the years 1920 to 1939 was the journal *Izglītības Ministrijas Mēnešraksts* (Ministry of Education Monthly). In contrast to *Latvijas Saule*, this was an academic and scientific publication, where professional historians, linguists and literature researchers published their work, as did archaeologists such as F. Jākobsons (Jākobsons, 1928) and E. Šturms (Šturms, 1934a; 1934b). The journal also included papers on issues relating to the protection of archaeological monuments and the activities of the Board of Monuments (Lancmanis, 1920; Štāls, 1920; Felsbergs, 1922; Brežģis, 1931; Balodis, 1938a), as well as on new archaeological acquisitions (Šturms, 1932) and

exhibitions of finds (Šnore, 1936; 1937). Overall, however, only a small proportion of papers were on archaeology.

It was intended that archaeology would have a significantly more important place in a new journal, *Senatne* (Antiquity), which appeared in 1929. This journal, with archaeologist E. Šturms as responsible editor, was to have six issues a year, and would publish papers on archaeology and ethnography. Unfortunately, because of the economic crisis that began at the time, only two issues of this promising publication ever appeared. Moreover, the journal addressed quite a narrow range of themes, namely archaeology and vernacular architecture, and so could not hope for a wide readership in a small country such as Latvia. Several important papers were published in the journal (Jākobsons, 1929; Ģintars, 1929). In 1936, the Board of Monuments began to publish an elaborately designed and richly illustrated journal entitled *Senatne un Māksla* (Antiquity and Art). The responsible editor was F. Balodis. This was a quarterly, which continued to appear until 1940, when publication was interrupted by the Soviet occupation. A total of 18 issues were published, with separate sections on history, ethnography, art, folklore, numismatics and prehistory or archaeology. The authors were leading specialists in their fields. The 'Prehistory' section of almost every issue included several papers by archaeologists. If we consider that in the second half of the 1930s Latvia had only eight archaeologists engaged in excavation and scientific publication, then the 40 papers published in the journal (including papers on numismatics) indicate that research was very active. The majority of papers covered the results of the authors' excavation work. They remain an important source of information at the present day, particularly those covering the excavation of such important hillforts as Daugmale (Ģintars, 1936a; 1936b), Talsi (Karnups, 1936; 1938) and Mežotne (Ģintars, 1939a; 1939b), about which there are neither major publications nor reports.

In 1937, *Latvijas Vēstures Institūta Žurnāls* (Journal of the Institute of Latvian History) be-

gan to appear, published by the Institute of Latvian History, which was established in 1936 as the first element of the planned Latvian Academy of Sciences. This was a quarterly journal, of which a total of 14 issues were published up to 1940s. The research activities at the institute focussed mainly on the historical period and on the publication of historical sources. Accordingly, most of the papers concerned the period of written sources. Prehistory was the subject of two papers by F. Balodis (Balodis, 1938b; 1939).

#### *Latvian archaeology in series (1926–1940)*

For establishment of series, the initiatives by the Board of Monuments were particularly important. In the 1920s, the series *Pieminekļu Valdes materiālu krājumi* (Collections of the Board of Monuments) came into being. Published in this series was the material on archaeology and ethnography (vernacular architecture). The first volume in this series was a book by E. Brastiņš (1926) on the hillforts of Zemgale and Augšzeme regions, followed by two more, on the hillforts of Latgale (Brastiņš, 1928) and Vidzeme (Brastiņš, 1930). A book on hillforts in Kurzeme appeared already in 1923, before the series was established (Brastiņš, 1923), and this was published by the Latvian Society of Antiquaries (*Latvijas Senatnes pētnieku biedrība*). At the time, this was an innovative approach to documenting and publishing archaeological monuments. There is a description, photograph and surveyed plan of every hillfort, along with a detail of the topographic map showing the location of the site. E. Brastiņš documented totally of 282 hillforts in Latvia in this manner.

*Arhaioloģijas Raksti* (Papers in Archaeology) were also published within this series. A total of four issues of the 'Papers' appeared, covering the results of research at several archaeological sites (Balodis et al 1928; Moora, 1928; Wahle, 1928; Šnore, 1933). In present-day terms, these correspond to excavation reports with detailed description of the excavated features, together with photographs and drawn plans.

In some cases, papers on Latvian archaeology

appeared in publications not directly connected with history or archaeology. For example, the Latvian Society of Philologists at the University of Latvia published a periodical collection of papers under the title of *Filologu biedrības raksti* (Papers of the Philological Society). Between 1921 and 1940, a total of 20 volumes appeared. Apart from the papers purely on linguistics, there are papers on history, ethnography, mythology and folklore. Volume 15, in 1935, includes a paper by E. Elksnīte on the excavation of a barrow cemetery at Jaunpiebalga, undertaken by several researchers (Elksnīte, 1935).

In 1930, on the initiative of F. Balodis and with the financial support of the Cultural Foundation, the Philological Society began publishing a non-periodical series entitled *Latviešu aizvēstures materiāli* (Material on the Prehistory of the Latvians). Two volumes were published. The first included archaeological maps of Latvia compiled by H. Riekstiņš (Riekstiņš, 1930) and a study by R. Šnore on Iron Age dress-pins (Šnore, 1930). The second volume, which was unfortunately the last, was a publication of material on the Stone Age brought together by E. Šturms (Šturms, 1936c).

These papers by Latvian archaeologists, although scattered in a variety of publications, provided a sound basis for development of the science of archaeology in the next decades (an extensive, although incomplete overview of publications on Latvian archaeology up to 1938 was published by R. Šnore (Šnore, 1938).

#### **PERIODICALS DURING THE PERIOD OF SOVIET OCCUPATION (1945–1990)**

The Second World War, the first Soviet occupation, the Nazi German occupation and the second Soviet occupation, with the establishment of the Stalinist regime, all had a devastating impact on the humanities in Latvia, including archaeology. In 1940, when Latvia was incorporated into the Soviet Union, all of the above-described periodicals ceased to appear. Under German occupation, in the period 1941–1944, although

some small-scale excavation did take place, there were no major papers on archaeology. In 1945, after the reestablishment of Soviet occupation, all spheres of life, including science, were reorganised in line with the standards of the USSR. War and occupations had brought considerable losses to Latvian archaeology. In 1944, the archaeological collections were taken to Germany, and were returned to Latvia only in 1946. One group of Latvian archaeologists emigrated at the close of the Second World War, another group were persecuted in the post-war years, and those few who remained, among whom E. Šnore was the only one with considerable experience, could continue to work only under conditions of permanent political terror, with public repentance for their 'sins' (Vasks, 1998)

There were changes in the organisational structure of science, after the mould of science in the USSR, with the characteristic centralisation. In the field of history, it was the Institute of History and Material Culture of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR, founded in 1946 (known as the Institute of History from 1959) that became the main research centre in the field of history. The Department of Archaeology at the University of Latvia was never reestablished, and so the training of professional archaeologists in Latvia was interrupted. In part, this function was undertaken by the Material Culture Section of the Institute of History (a unit whose name changed several times, until it finally became the 'Department of Archaeology').

*The journal 'Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR'*

During the period of Soviet occupation this was the only academic journal, established in 1947 and published on a monthly basis. The journal published papers in Russian and Latvian by the staff of various research institutes of the Academy of Sciences. In the 1940s and 50s, there were few papers on archaeology in this journal, since the new generation of archaeologists was only just emerging. The first paper on archaeology published in the journal was E. Šnore's report on ex-

cavation in 1947 (Šnore, 1948). She also published a couple of brief reports in the 1950s.

The situation changed in the 1960s and 70s, by which time 15–18 researchers were active in archaeology. During this time, one or two papers on archaeology appeared in the journal each year. The number of publications increased in the 1980s, when as many as ten papers might be published in certain years (e.g. in 1987 and 1988). These publications covered the findings of research at particular archaeological sites, as well as the typology and chronology of particular artefact groups, and broader issues in prehistory. In chronological terms, these studies covered the period from the Mesolithic up to the Middle Ages.

*Latvian archaeology in series (1957–1990)*

Series covered archaeological research in Latvia much more than did the above-described journal. The publication of research work was alleviated by founding in 1951 of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR Publishers (known as the publishers *Zinātne* since 1965). In 1957, the first volume of the new series *Materiāli un pētījumi Latvijas PSR arheoloģijā* (Material and Research in the Archaeology of the Latvian SSR) was published, devoted to the completely excavated Late Iron Age cemetery of Nukši (Шноре, Зейд, 1957). The series was published by the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR and was modelled after a similar publication covering the whole USSR (*Materiali i issledovanija po arheologii SSSR*). It was envisaged that the material of extensively excavated archaeological sites, as well as monographic studies, would be published in Russian. The second volume, with a similar design, appeared in 1961, covering the material from the excavation of Asote hillfort and the cemetery of Oglenieki (Шноре, 1961). A further two publications followed in this series, although no longer keeping to the original design, and only a note in the introductions to these books indicated that they formed part of the same series (Мугуревич, 1965; Граудонис, 1967). In later years, monographs by several other authors appeared, but these were not published as part of the series.

In 1957, the Institute of History and Material Culture began publishing collections of papers under the title *Arheoloģija un Etnogrāfija* (Archaeology and Ethnography) (AE). The editor's foreword to the first volume (Anon, 1957) stated that the series would publish studies by the staff of the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography on specific topics relating to archaeology and ethnography of Latvia. The volumes in the series appeared at intervals of one to four years. In the period up to 1990, a total of 15 volumes appeared (with another eight in the years 1990–2006). Most volumes in this series were thematic collections of papers in archaeology, as well as ethnography and anthropology. Thus, the theme of Volume 8 was 'Latvian cultural and historical links with the Slavic peoples', Volume 9 was devoted to the work and everyday life traditions of the inhabitants of Latvia, and Volume 11 was devoted to the typology and chronology of archaeological sites. Particular volumes brought together papers on medieval castles (Volume 14) and burial sites (Volume 15). Two volumes (5 and 13) contained only papers by ethnographers, while Volume 7 was a monograph on Latvian folk dress by A. Alsupe. Volumes 11, 14 and 15 consisted of papers by archaeologists and anthropologists only. Altogether, 80 papers on Latvian archaeology appeared in the first 15 volumes, covering the period from the Mesolithic up to the Middle Ages. These included papers on physical anthropology, metallography and palaeobotany. A detailed overview of the publications in *Arheoloģija un Etnogrāfija* appeared in Volume 20 (Spirģis, 2000, 229–235).

In order to inform the general public about the research done by archaeologists, ethnographers and anthropologists, and especially about the results of fieldwork, the Institute of History held 'reporting sessions' every spring from 1959 onwards. Importantly, in the frame of organising such a session, it was possible also to publish a volume of presentation abstracts (RT), briefly characterising the main results of each archaeological field project. These booklets of abstracts, generally 30–60 pages in length, continued to be

published up to 1971. From 1972, the design and title of the publication changed. It was extended (115–160 pages), and illustrations augmented the papers (ASM). From 1982, reporting sessions in archaeology took place every two years, with the publication likewise appearing biennially. This is a very important publication, which in some ways can even be regarded as encyclopaedic, since it covers all the archaeological excavation and survey work done since 1958.

Archaeological excavation and research was also undertaken, along with ethnographic and numismatic studies, by the History Museum of the Latvian SSR. In order to cover the results of this work, the museum began publishing a series of collections of papers. The first volume, published in 1962, was devoted to archaeology (Vankina, 1962). In the 1960s, another two volumes appeared, devoted to ethnography and numismatics, respectively. After this, the series ceased to appear for many years. Publications by archaeologists up to the year 1980 are covered by three bibliographies (Šakare, 1973; Caune, Caune, 1976; Romma, 1983)

#### PERIODICALS PUBLISHED AFTER THE RESTORATION OF LATVIA'S INDEPENDENCE (1991–2008)

Following the restoration of Latvia's independence in 1991, there were organisational changes in Latvian science. From its role during the Soviet period as an organisational and administrative centre with subordinate research institutes, the Academy of Sciences was transformed into an academy of the classic type, bringing together individual members, i.e. outstanding scientists and other learned individuals. Now the universities became the main scientific centres, and this included the largest one, the University of Latvia, to which research institutes formerly under the Academy of Sciences were added. The Institute of Latvian History also became part of the university. Fifteen archaeologists work in the Institute's Department of Archaeology, which means that still today it is Latvia's largest archaeo-

logical research unit. The second largest group of archaeologists, about 10 researchers, work at the Archaeology Department of the National History Museum of Latvia. Also engaged in archaeological research is the Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation, Ventspils Museum and some others. Reorganisation also affected the Faculty of History and Philosophy at the University of Latvia, where a Department of Archaeology and Ancillary Historical Sciences was established. This meant the re-establishment of university-level training in archaeology, which had been interrupted in the Soviet period. The department organises archaeological field courses for students and undertakes excavation at various sites in western Latvia. Protection of archaeological monuments, and in some cases rescue excavation, is undertaken by specialists at the Archaeology Centre of the State Inspectorate for Heritage Protection. Archaeological excavation is also carried out by a private company, *SLA AIG* (Architectural Investigation Group). Currently, there are about 35 archaeologists in Latvia engaged in excavation and publication of research papers.

#### *Papers on Latvian archaeology in journals (1991–2008)*

During this period, papers on Latvian archaeology have appeared in two academic journals. In 1991, the Institute of Latvian History re-established the Journal of the Institute of Latvian History (*Latvijas Vēstures Institūta Žurnāls*) (LVIŽ), which had not been published during the Soviet period. As in the 1930s, the journal was published on a quarterly basis, with the difference that now every issue also included one or more papers on Latvian archaeology. The papers published in the journal up to 2000 are covered by a bibliography (Kļaviņa, 2001). The list of papers published since 2001 is available at the home page of the Institute of Latvian History (Bērziņš, 2009).

With the financial support of the Latvian Council of Science, the Proceedings of the Latvian Academy of Sciences (*Latvijas Zinātņu Akadēmijas Vēstis*) (LZAV) continued to be published. Nowadays it appears six times a year and is di-

vided into two parts: Part A contains papers on the humanities and social sciences, while Part B covers other science fields. Albeit irregularly, the issues of Part A have included papers on Latvian archaeology.

#### *Latvian archaeology in series (1991–2008)*

Compared with the Soviet period, the number of such publications has increased. In addition to the collections of papers in the series *Arheoloģija un Etnogrāfija* and *Zinātniskās Atskaites Sesijas Materiāliem*, published by the Institute of Latvian History, the National History Museum of Latvia has also become active, recommencing publication of its papers. Some other museums have begun their own series.

*Arheoloģija un Etnogrāfija* has continued the earlier tradition, publishing studies on particular archaeological sites and on particular themes. As before, the publication of volumes in this series has not followed any strict schedule, and they have appeared at intervals of one to three years. Since 1991, eight volumes were published, the most recent one, Volume 23, appearing in 2006. Five of these volumes have been devoted to prominent Latvian archaeologists: Elvīra Šnore (Mugurēvičs, 1994a; Ose, 2005), Jānis Graudonis (Mugurēvičs, 1994b), Ēvalds Mugurēvičs (Caune, 1996) and Anna Zariņa (Ose, 2006).

After the restoration of independence, the results of archaeological excavation continued to be published in the biennial *Zinātniskās Atskaites Sesijas Materiāli* (ASM). In 2000, the publication was renamed *Arheologu pētījumi Latvijā* ('Archaeological Investigations in Latvia') (APL). Since 1996, it also includes a list of publications by Latvian archaeologists (Ose, 1996; 1998; Dobeļe, 2000; Caune, 2002; 2004; Lazdiņa, 2006).

In 1999, the National History Museum of Latvia re-established its series of papers, beginning with the catalogue for the collection of bone and antler artefacts from Lake Lubāns, which had earlier been put together by L. Vankina (Vankina, 1999). That same year, a second collection of papers appeared: a monograph on the Latgallians by A. Radiņš (Radiņš, 1999). The subsequent vol-

umes have been thematic collections of papers in archaeology, also including papers in history, ethnography, numismatics and anthropology. The most recent volume, which was on Selonian prehistory and was dominated by archaeological themes, appeared in 2006 (Melne, 2006). In 2002, the museum began a new series of publications on the cultural heritage of Latvia in repositories abroad, the first in this series being a catalogue on Ludzas Odukalns, a Latgallian Late Iron Age cemetery (Ciglis, Rādiņš, 2002). The next volume covered archaeological artefacts from Latvia held in Polish repositories (Bitner-Wróblewska et al, 2005).

In the lead-up to the 800th anniversary of Riga, the Institute of Latvian History, in collaboration with the Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation, commenced the publication of a series entitled *Senā Rīga* (Old Riga). The first volume of this series of collections of papers, on the archaeology and history of Riga, appeared in 1998 (Caune, 1998). In the years up to 2005, another four volumes appeared, which, like the first one, contained not only papers on the archaeology of Riga, but also on the city's history, architecture, numismatic material and anthropology.

In 2001, the Ventspils Museum, which has been actively engaged in studying the history of western Latvia, began publishing its own papers (Jakovļeva, Vijups, 2001). So far, five collections of papers have been published, the latest one appearing in 2006 (Jakovļeva, Vijups, 2006). Apart from papers on archaeology, these collections have included studies on history and anthropology. In thematic terms, the papers have covered the prehistory and history of western Latvia, especially the Ventspils area. In 1995, the Cēsis Museum of History also began publishing a series of collections of papers (Rozenāle, 1995), and in 2006 the first volume in a series published by the Madona Museum of Regional History and Art appeared (Zvirgzdiņš, 2006). In addition to papers on history, ethnography and anthropology, these volumes have included some papers devoted to archaeological research.

## CONCLUSIONS

In the 1920s and the first half of the 1930s, during the time of the Republic of Latvia, papers on Latvian archaeology appeared irregularly and were scattered throughout a variety of periodical publications. In 1936, the journal *Senatne un Māksla* appeared, financed by the Board of Monuments, and articles were regularly published in this journal. At the time, there were only eight active archaeologists in Latvia. During the time of the first Soviet occupation and the German occupation, from 1940 to 1944, academic periodicals were not published.

During the second Soviet occupation, from 1945 up to 1990, the main centre for archaeological research was the Department of Archaeology of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR. The sole academic journal, which published a string of papers in archaeology, was *LPSR Zinātņu Akadēmijas Vēstis*. The main publications where studies by archaeologists were published, were the collections of papers in the series *Arheoloģija un Etnogrāfija* and *Zinātniskās atskaites sesijas referātu tēzes (Zinātniskās atskaites sesijas materiāli* from 1972). In this period, a series of monographs in archaeology was also established.

Since the restoration of Latvia's independence, the Latvian Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Latvian History have continued to publish the above-mentioned three publications. *Latvijas Vēstures Institūta Žurnāls* was re-established, with one or two papers on archaeology in each issue. Publication of collections of papers, mainly covering archaeology, also recommenced at the National History Museum of Latvia. The museum has also established a new series of publications on the archaeological heritage of Latvia in repositories abroad. Several other museums in Latvia have also begun to publish collections of papers.

Following the restoration of independence, there has been a significant increase in number of periodicals publishing studies on the archaeology of Latvia. This can be explained in terms of de-centralisation of archaeological research,

which is now carried out not only by the Institute of Latvian History, but by other organisations as well, and in terms of increased researchers currently active in archaeology (approximately 35).

*Translated by Valdis Bērziņš*

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AE – Arheoloģija un etnogrāfija. Rīga, 1957  
 APL – Arheologu pētījumi Latvijā ... gadā. Rīga, 2000  
 AR – Pieminekļu valdes materiālu krājumi. Arhaioloģijas raksti, 1–4. Rīga, 1928–1933  
 ASM – Zinātniskās atskaites sesijas materiāli par arheologu, antropologu un etnogrāfu ... gada pētījumu rezultātiem. Rīga, 1972–1998  
 IMM – Izglītības Ministrijas Mēnešraksts. Rīga, 1920–1939  
 LAM – Latviešu aizvēstures materiāli, 1–2. Rīga, 1930–1936  
 LKMĀK – Latvijas kultūrvēsturiskais mantojums ārzemju krātuvēs. Arheoloģija. Rīga, 2002

LVIŽ – Latvijas Vēstures Institūta Žurnāls. Rīga, 1937–1940; 1991  
 LVMR – Latvijas Vēstures muzeja raksti (since 2006 – Latvijas Nacionālā Vēstures muzeja raksti). Rīga, 1962  
 LZAV – Latvijas PSR Zinātņu Akadēmijas Vēstis (since 1991 – Latvijas Zinātņu Akadēmijas Vēstis). Rīga, 1947  
 RT – Referātu tēzes zinātniskai sesijai, veltītai ... arheoloģiskiem izrakumiem un etnogrāfiškai ekspedīcijai Latvijas PSR teritorijā. Rīga, 1959–1971  
 SM – Senatne un Māksla. Rīga, 1936–1940  
 МИАЛ – Материалы и исследования по археологии Латвийской ССР, 1–2. Рига, 1957–1961

## ARCHEOLOGIJA PERIODINIULOSE LEIDINIULOSE LATVIJOJE (1918–2008)

Andrejs Vasks

## Santrauka

Šioje apžvalgoje aptariami Latvijos periodiniai leidiniai, – mokslo žurnalai ir serijos, kuriuose buvo išspausdinti darbai, skirti Latvijos senovei ir archeologijai. Išskirti trys etapai archeologijos periodikos istorijoje: Latvijos Respublika XX a. 3 ir 4 dešimtmetyje, Sovietų okupacija 1945–1990 m. ir laikotarpis po nepriklausomybės atgavimo. Pirmuoju laikotarpiu archeologijos straipsniai buvo spausdinami įvairiuose, neretai tik trumpai gyvavusiuose leidiniuose. Stabilumo atsirado XX a. 3-ojo dešimtmečio viduryje, kuomet pasirodė valstybės remiamas leidinys *Senatne un Māksla* (Senovė ir menas), kuriame reguliariai buvo spausdinami darbai archeologijos tema. Sovietmečiu Mokslų akademijos istorijos institutas buvo pagrindinis tyrimo centras, kuravęs mokslo leidinius, skirtus Latvijos praeičiai ir archeologijai:

*LPSR Zinātņu Akadēmijas Vēstis* (Latvijos TSR mokslų akademijos žinios), *Zinātniskās atskaites sesijas referātu tēzes par arheologu un etnogrāfu pētījumiem / Zinātniskās atskaites sesijas materiāli par arheologu un etnogrāfu pētījumiem* (Mokslinēs ataskaitinēs archeologu ir etnografu tyrinėjimų sesijos pranešimų tezēs ir Mokslinēs ataskaitinēs archeologu ir etnografu sesijos medžiaga) bei *Arheoloģija un Etnogrāfija* (Archeologija ir Etnografija). Minėtų leidinių leidyba nenutrūko ir vėliau, paskelbus nepriklausomybę (1991 m.). Pertvarkius ir vėl pradėjus leisti Latvijos istorijos instituto žurnalą (*Latvijas Vēstures Institūta Žurnāls*), jame reguliariai publikuojami ir archeologijos tematikos straipsniai. Mokslo straipsnius savo leidiniuose taip pat pradėjo spausdinti Nacionalinis istorijos bei kiti šalies muziejai.