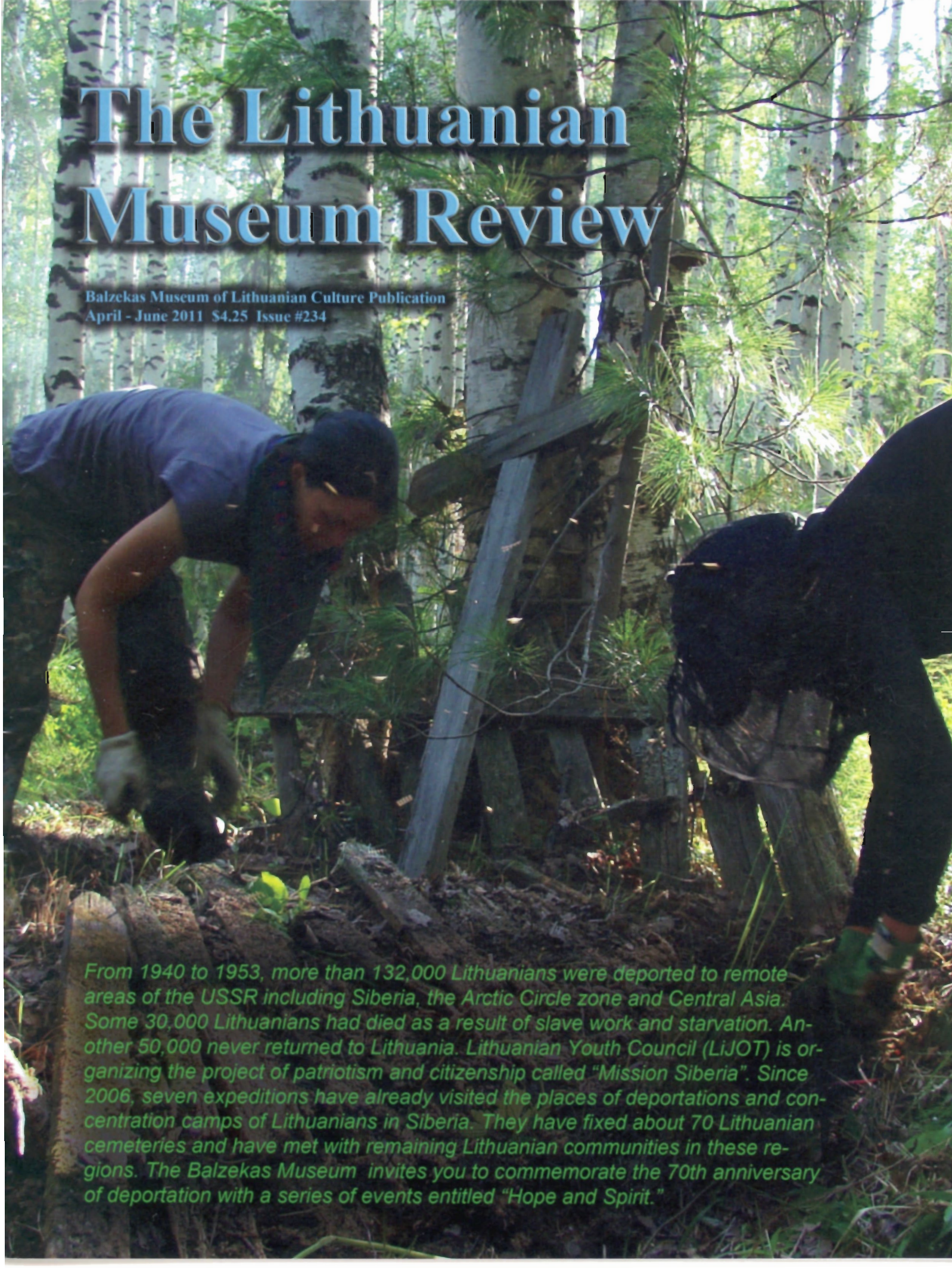


The Lithuanian Museum Review

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From 1940 to 1953, more than 132,000 Lithuanians were deported to remote areas of the USSR including Siberia, the Arctic Circle zone and Central Asia. Some 30,000 Lithuanians had died as a result of slave work and starvation. Another 50,000 never returned to Lithuania. Lithuanian Youth Council (LiJOT) is organizing the project of patriotism and citizenship called "Mission Siberia". Since 2006, seven expeditions have already visited the places of deportations and concentration camps of Lithuanians in Siberia. They have fixed about 70 Lithuanian cemeteries and have met with remaining Lithuanian communities in these regions. The Balzekas Museum invites you to commemorate the 70th anniversary of deportation with a series of events entitled "Hope and Spirit."

The “Hope & Spirit” Series

Dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Soviet deportation of Lithuanians to Siberia, *Hope and Spirit*, a collection of ongoing exhibitions and programs, will be presented by The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture between June and December 2011.

From 1940 to 1953, more than 132,000 Lithuanians were deported to remote areas of the USSR including Siberia, the Arctic Circle zone and Central Asia. More than 70 percent of the deportees were women and children. By the end of the deportations, some 30,000 Lithuanians had died as a result of slave work and starvation. Another 50,000 never returned to Lithuania. During this same period, another 200,000 people were thrown into prisons. More than 150,000 were sent to Gulags, the name for USSR concentration camps, situated mostly in Siberia.

One of the first mass deportations began the night of June 14, 1941. Thousands of unsuspecting people were woken up from their sleep and ordered to leave their homes immediately. Most failed to take anything with them. Crammed into cattle cars, women, the elderly and children were sent to remote villages; the heads of families were sent to prisons and camps. In that first week, more than 18,000 Lithuanian people were deported. The number would have been even greater had not the war between Germany and Russia started on June 22.

“Hope & Spirit” Series Events Saturday, June 18 2 pm

The inaugural event of the commemorative “Hope & Spirit” series, marking the 70th anniversary of the start of mass deportations to Siberia in June of 1941, includes:

“Hope & Spirit: What my parents told me about deportations and life in Siberia” children’s art exhibit opening

The Hope & Spirit opens with a juried exhibition by children who were asked to create art works that reflect their understanding of what their parents or grandparents have told them about the deportations and the harshness of life in Siberia. The art works will be exhibited at the Museum from June through August, 2011. (Subsequently, selections from the children’s exhibit will tour various locations across North America.)

“Chronicle of Violence” exhibit opening

A multi-part exhibit “Smurto Kronika /Chronicle of Violence” launches the Hope and Spirit series. One section of the exhibit will present documents, pub-

Pictured on the right: “Mission Siberia” expeditions of Lithuanian young people have travelled to 70 locations in Siberia to maintain the cemeteries of Lithuanian deportees who perished in Soviet forced-labor concentration camps.

lications and maps from the Museum’s own permanent collection and Lithuanian Research and Studies Center archives. A second part will offer twenty panels of pictures and text in Lithuanian and English from The Museum of Genocide Victims in Vilnius, Lithuania.

“Birželio ledas” (“Ice in June”)

This 30 minute-long documentary film “Ice in June” recounts the physical and spiritual destruction of the Lithuanian nation during the first Soviet occupation and the June, 1941, deportations. Survivors — Irena Valaitytė-Špakauskienė, Ričardas Vaičekauskas, Rytė Merkytė and others— reminisce about their exile near the Laptev Sea. The drawings of Gintautas Martinaitis will accompany their stories. A documentary film will be screened as part of the opening activities. English subtitles

Friday, June 24 at 7 pm - “Gyveno Senelis ir Bobutė”

Film screening and discussion. English subtitles.

The film “Grandma and Grandpa” tells the life story of director Giedrė Beinoriūtė’s grandparents, deportees to Siberia, through a young girl’s own understanding of historical events, in her own words. The film is interspersed with photographs from the family album as well as animated and archival film footage. 2007. 30 min.

Friday, July 1 at 7 pm - Misija Sibiras ‘08

Friday, July 22 at 7 pm - Misija Sibiras ‘09

Film screenings and discussions.

Since 2006, expeditions of Lithuanian young people have traveled to 70 locations in Siberia to maintain the cemeteries of Lithuanian deportees who perished in Soviet forced-labor concentration camps. *Misija Sibiras* or “Mission Siberia” expedition members also visit with Lithuanian deportation survivors and their descendants who still live in these remote regions.

The *Misija Sibiras* project is organized by the Lithuanian Youth Council (LIJOT) and aims to foster historical memory



and national patriotism among Lithuanian youth; to promote intergenerational dialogue and mutual understanding, especially pertaining to contemporary Lithuanian issues; to develop a positive image for patriotic and civic-minded Lithuanian youth; to remember and honor the dead and victims of the genocide of the Lithuanian population, one of the darkest pages in 20th Century history; to remind people, that Siberia, is not only Russian territory, but a very broad concept/metaphor, encompassing the far flung territories of other former Soviet Republics to which people were deported; to memorialize those Lithuanians condemned to the Sverdlovsk Region, through the restoration of gravesites of Lithuanian deportees and political prisoners within the Russian Federation; to maintain ties with Lithuanians still living in Siberia.

Friday, July 8 at 7 pm - "Mirties lageriai" and "Išlikti ir papasakoti"

Film screenings and discussion. 2002. In Lithuanian

Saturday, July 9 at 2 pm - Misija Sibiras '10

Film screening, presentation and discussion. Paulius Mieželis, a participant in the Misija Sibiras '10 expedition, will introduce the film and share personal photographs and impressions. In English and Lithuanian.

Friday, July 15 at 7:30 pm - Children in Exile"

Film screening and discussion lead by film director Chris Swider.

"Children in Exile," which made its local debut at the Chicago International Documentary Festival in 2008, tells the story of civilian deportations to the Siberian Gulag through the testimony of the survivors, including Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's last communist leader.

The film's writer and director, a graduate of and instructor in the film department at Chicago's Columbia College, was himself a child of a deportee. 2007. In English

Friday, July 29 at 7 pm - "Kruvinasis Rugpjūtis", "Važiuojam iš ukvatos" and "Atsimenu, vadinasi, esu"

Film screening and discussion.

A documentary film commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vorkuta prison uprising. The Vorkuta Gulag (GULAG stands for Glavnoe Upravlenie Ispravitel'no-trudovykh Lageri - Russian language for "Main Administration of Labour Camps") was a Soviet era prison camp located in the Pechora River Basin, in the Komi Republic, part of the Siberian region of Russia, located 1,200 miles from Moscow and 100 miles above the Arctic Circle. In Lithuanian.

Friday, August 5 at 7 pm - "The Soviet Story"

Film screening and discussion

"The Soviet Story" exposes the criminal history of the Soviet Union, beginning with the murder of 7 million Ukrainians in 1933. The film reveals how the Soviet Union helped Nazi Germany instigate the Holocaust and how these 20th Century terrorists regimes, were philosophically, politically, and organizationally allied. The film shows recently uncov-

ered archive documents revealing this collaboration; interviews with former Soviet Military intelligence officers unveil shocking details. Despite this allegiance, Soviet atrocities, such as the Ukrainian famine, the Katyn massacre, and the mass deportations of innocent people to the Siberian Gulag, are only now coming to light. 2008. Edvins Snore, director. In English

Friday, August 26 at 7 pm - "The Way Back"

Film screening and discussion. In English

Saturday, September 10 at 7 pm - "Lithuania in Exile, 1988-1989"

A photo exhibition "Lithuania in Exile, 1988-1989" by photographer, film director, cameraman and traveller Juozas Kazlauskas will complete the exhibition offerings. Kazlauskas has been featured in several dozen one-man and group exhibitions in Lithuania, Bulgaria, France, Mexico, USA, Germany, Yugoslavia, Georgia, and Russia. On a historic and geographic level, this cycle of photographs is archivally significant as it documents the remains of Siberian barracks that have now vanished from the contemporary landscape.

Sunday, September 25 at 5 pm - "Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin"

Book reading, signing, and discussion by Timothy Snyder, history professor of Yale University.

"Snyder's original contribution is to treat all of these episodes—the Ukrainian famine, the Holocaust, Stalin's mass executions, the planned starvation of Soviet POWs, postwar ethnic cleansing—as different facets of the same phenomenon. Instead of studying Nazi atrocities or Soviet atrocities separately, as many others have done, he looks at them together. Yet Snyder does not exactly compare the two systems either. His intention, rather, is to show that the two systems committed the same kinds of crimes at the same times and in the same places, that they aided and abetted one another, and above all that their interaction with one another led to more mass killing than either might have carried out alone."

"Hope and Spirit" program would not be possible without generous donations from the Museum members and donors (Names of donors listed on page 20-21).

"Hope and Spirit" program was partially supported by Illinois Arts Council, an Agency of the State of Illinois, and CityArts grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

