
Inventory to the Papers of

LEONĪDS SLAUCĪTĀJS

at the Immigration History Research Center

St. Paul, Minnesota
December 1980
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AN INVENTORY OF THE PAPERS OF LEONĪDS SLAUCĪTĀJS

deposited in

THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

of

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Prepared by

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Slaucītājs, Leonīds, 1899-1971

Papers, ca.1930-1969

14 folders

Provenance

The Slaucītājs collection was deposited in the Immigrant Archives ca.1969 by Miss Magdalēna Rozentāls of Minneapolis, Minn. Rozentāls donated the materials, which she received from Slaucītājs, with Slaucītājs' consent. The collection, which contains material in English, German, Latvian and Spanish, consists of ca.0.75 linear feet of publications, papers and correspondence. It was processed during November and December of 1980.

Biography

Leonīds Slaucītājs was born April 10, 1899, to Jānis and Emīlija (née Berzons) Slaucītājs in Jaunlaicene, rural Latvia, then a part of the Russian empire. After completing his elementary schooling, Slaucītājs went to reālskola (a secondary school with emphasis on science) in Valka, Latvia, a town on the border with Estonia. Finishing there, he began a course in life that took him through several navigation schools and eventually to Vladivostok, where he boarded a Russian cruiser and sailed in the Indian and Pacific oceans, returning to Russia only after the February, 1917 revolution. In 1918 he was posted in Murmansk where he served in the Russian Arctic fleet.

Returning to independent Latvia in 1920, he volunteered for the Latvian navy. He also resumed his studies. In 1921 he was invited to serve as a sub-assistant in the astronomical observatory at the University of Latvia. He married Milda Hartmans, a drama and ballet student, in 1924. That same year, Slaucītājs' daughter Tatjana was born, and he published his first scientific article. He received a mathematics degree in 1925 from the University of Latvia and in 1931, the same year his son Andis was born, earned a post as privatdocent at the university. He saw the United States for the first time in 1936 when he spent a year studying geomagnetism and physical oceanography at Carnegie Institute in Washington, D.C. By 1940, Slaucītājs had been promoted to the directorship of the geophysics and meteorology institute at the University of Latvia. Two years later he was granted a doctorate in mathematics by the University.

Slaucītājs became interested in music very early, playing the organ while still living at home in Jaunlaicene. He later played the cello in the student orchestra of the University of Latvia. In 1927 he began taking coursework in music theory at the Conservatory of Latvia, completing the program in 1933. In 1935 a symphony orchestra was founded at the University of Latvia, with Slaucītājs as conductor.

Like many other Latvians, Slaucītājs, with his family, fled to Germany in 1944 to escape the impending loss of Latvia to Soviet military forces. In Germany, Slaucītājs worked at a magnetism observatory, at the German Sea Observatory in Hamburg, and then as a geophysics professor at Baltic University.

In 1948 the University of La Plata, Argentina, invited Slaucītājs to a position there. From 1948 to 1968, Slaucītājs served as director of the university's geophysics department. While in that post he led three expeditions to the Antarctic. He also took painting classes at La Plata, which gave him background for the approximately 80 paintings he did of the Antarctic. In 1968 he retired from the La Plata faculty and began a guest lecture tour that took him to Australia, Hawaii and East Africa, among other areas.

Besides his scientific and musical activities, Slaucītājs was an active member of Latvian communities in Argentina and Sydney, Australia. After his tour, he continued giving lectures and attending conferences in the United States and Australia.

Slaucītājs published about 300 popular science articles, music critiques and travelogues, as well as other articles, in Latvian. He also is credited with about 80 scientific research articles and two textbooks, published in several languages.

Slaucītājs died September 12, 1971, in Sydney, Australia.

A detailed presentation of Slaucītājs' life is his memoirs, Zinātnes darbā--Draugos ar mākslu, one copy of which is in Slaucītājs' collection. Another copy is in the Immigration History Research Center's imprint collection.

Organization of the Collection

This collection, before processing, was in no particular order, although some material was grouped together with the envelopes in which it had been sent from Slaucītājs to Magdalēna Rozentāls. The processor organized the collection into four basic categories:

- I. Biographical material and correspondence (folders 1-5)
- II. Activities in the arts (folder 6)
- III. Publications in the sciences (folders 7-10)
- IV. Miscellaneous material (folders 11-14)

Section I

The material in this section was culled from throughout the collection, although one paper folder already contained many of the clippings from newspapers, journals and books. Material for this part of the collection is limited. The researcher seeking in-depth information about Slaucītājs' life may be better off consulting Slaucītājs' own memoirs, rather than the sparse information provided by the clippings or other material.

This section has been further divided into the following sub-sections: Biographical items (folder 1), correspondence (folder 2), memoirs (folder 3), a commemorative book (folder 4), and a 65th anniversary commemoration (folder 5).

Section II

Besides being a well-known scientist, Slaucītājs also was active in the arts, working in such disciplines as writing, painting and musical composition. This section, contained in one folder (folder 6), was compiled from photographs, clippings and programs found throughout the collection prior to processing.

Section III

This section contains the bulk of Slaucītājs' collection-- articles about geomagnetism. Geophysics was Slaucītājs' life work, and this section attests to his vitality in the field. Material in this part of the collection spans the years 1930 to 1966.

The section has been further divided into the following sub-sections, based on the country of publication: Latvia (folder 7), Germany (folder 8), Argentina (folder 9) and Australia and Hawaii (folder 10).

Section IV

Some material in Slaucītājs' collection could not be grouped under any of the other sections. This material consists of publications and records of events in which Slaucītājs either took

part or was mentioned. Also included is a folder of empty envelopes from which material was removed. The envelopes, used by Slaucītājs to send material to Magdalēna Rozentāls, were saved because Rozentāls made notations on them.

This section has been further divided into the following sub-sections: University of Latvia faculty report (folder 11), miscellaneous (folder 12), University of Sydney calendar (folder 13) and empty envelopes (folder 14).

FOLDER INVENTORY

<u>Folder Title and Description of Contents</u>	<u>Folder</u>
<p>Biographical items, ca.1960-March 1967 Includes biographical items about Slaucītājs from newspapers, journals and books in Latvian, English and Spanish, as well as a <u>curriculum vitae</u> in Spanish and a bibliography in English.</p>	1
<p>Correspondence, March 6-May 12, 1967 Two letters from Slaucītājs in Australia to Magdalēna Rozentāls about materials he sent to her and about his travel plans. Rozentāls made notations in the correspondence.</p>	2
<p>Memoirs, 1969 Slaucītājs began writing his memoirs in 1967 at the age of 68. In <u>Zinātnes darbā--draugos ar mākslu (Working for science--friends with art)</u> Slaucītājs traced his life from Latvia to Australia, to within two years of his death. The memoirs (320 p.) were published by Vaidava of Lincoln, Neb. Frontispiece has photograph of Slaucītājs.</p>	3
<p><u>Leonīds Slaucītājs 70, 1969</u> <u>Leonīds Slaucītājs, Septuagenerian</u> is a collection of articles in Latvian, English and Spanish about Slaucītājs compiled by the Latvian Sorority Zinta of Sydney, Australia. The book ([62 p.], illus.) includes a chronology and bibliography. The folder also includes the envelope in which the book was mailed by Slaucītājs to Magdalēna Rozentāls of Minneapolis, Minn.</p>	4
<p>65th Anniversary Commemoration, Jan. 17, 1965- Nov. 15, 1966 Includes advance article, written by Magdalēna Rozentāls, about a commemorative evening in Minneapolis on the occasion of Slaucītājs' 65th birthday anniversary; a copy, with notations, of the introductory speech given by Rozentāls during the event, Feb. 15, 1965, and three photographs (with a business card dated Nov. 15, 1966) of the event sent by Slaucītājs to Rozentāls.</p>	5

<u>Folder Title and Description of Contents</u>	<u>Folder</u>
Activities in the arts, 1957-1969 This folder contains material related to Slaucītājs' work in the arts. Included are four photographs of four paintings of the Antarctic; programs from concerts that included his music; clippings from <u>Laiks</u> in which he wrote of his travels from America to Asia; a clipping of a review of a disc recording of Slaucītājs' music; an advertisement for <u>Sešos kontinentos (In Six Continents)</u> , a book by Slaucītājs about his travels and his impressions; and a program for a 70th anniversary memorial presentation to honor Slaucītājs, whose music was played during the event.	6
Publications in the sciences: Latvia, 1930-1943 Articles about geomagnetism written by Slaucītājs while he was affiliated with the University of Latvia, Rīga.	7
Publications in the sciences: Germany, 1944-1948 Articles about geomagnetism written by Slaucītājs while he was in Germany as a refugee from Latvia.	8
Publications in the sciences: Argentina, 1949-1966 Articles about geomagnetism written by Slaucītājs while he was in Argentina at the National University at La Plata.	9
Publications in the sciences: Australia and Hawaii, 1963-1966 Articles about geomagnetism written by Slaucītājs while he was on leave from La Plata at the University of Sydney and at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu.	10
University of Latvia faculty, 1969 A copy of <u>Latvijas Universitātes matēmatikas un dabas zinātnu fakultātes matēmatikas zinātņu nodala</u> issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the University of Latvia. Slaucītājs was co-editor of the report. The folder also includes the envelope in which the booklet was mailed to Magdalēna Rozentāls.	11

<u>Folder Title and Description of Contents</u>	<u>Folder</u>
Miscellaneous, 1964-1966 Includes program for conference of Asociación Argentina de Geofisicos y Geodestas; an invitation to a series of lectures, one of which is by Slaucītājs; <u>Latviešu Apvienības Austrālijā Kultūras Daļas Apskats</u> , and a clipping from <u>Laiks</u> listing its correspondents. All of the above items make mention of Slaucītājs. Also included is an article by Slaucītājs, "Sestais Kontinents," about the Antarctic, and a business card.	12
University of Sydney calendar, 1967 The <u>Calendar of the University of Sydney for the Year 1967</u> lists Slaucītājs on p. 47.	13
Empty envelopes, 1967-1969 This folder contains empty envelopes and packaging used by Slaucītājs to send material to Magdalēna Rozentāls. Rozentāls noted on most of these the date received and the number and types of contents.	14

APPENDIX

Publications that were removed from the Slaucītājs collection and placed in the Immigration History Research Center's imprint collection:

Dunsdorfs, Edgars, ed. Archivs VII. Melbourne, Australia, Latviešu Apvienības Austrālijā, 1967.

(Frontispiece has a reproduction of a painting by Leonīds Slaucītājs, and on page 160 there is a biographical entry for him.)

Los Letones en la Argentina. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1968.
(cover design by Zenta Slaucītājs.)

Slaucītājs, Leonīds. Dziesmas. Solo balsij. I. (Hempstead, N.Y., Leons Rumaks, ca.1966).

_____. Dziesmas. Solo balsij. II. (Hempstead, N.Y., Leons Rumaks, ca.1968).

_____. Sešos kontinentos. Sundbyberg, Sweden, Daugava, 1969.