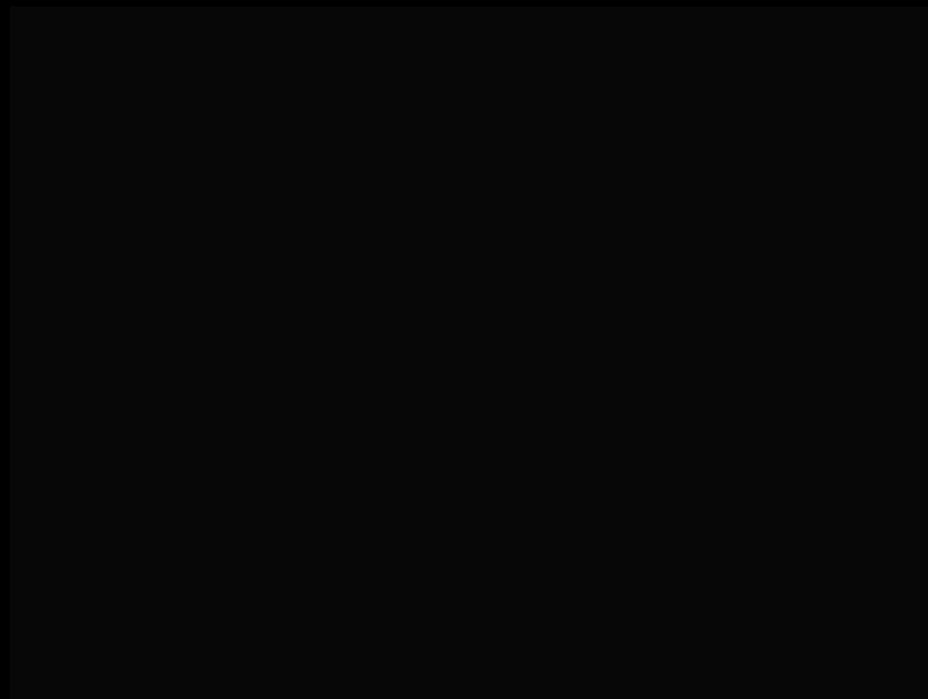


**Aldis Pūtelis**  
Archives of Latvian Folklore



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- The Archives were started as characteristic paper archives in 1926
- The “genre classification” foresees a single character code for all still images: both drawings and photographs are marked as “V”
- Originally the focus is on textual information – folklore recorded by means of writing on paper
- In the course of time the number of illustrations grows,  
the first dramatic change occurs in 1950's when photography becomes much more commonplace thanks to **compact cameras and film**;  
the second equally impressive change happens in this millennium, when **digital photography** becomes equally commonplace
  - This presentation is devoted to hard-copy images

**There are several issues in image archiving:**

- preservation of the originals (chemical processes, fading of colours, etc.);
- need to copy the images for use (e.g. in publications);
- viewing (browsing) of images is (though mildly) still a destructive activity;
- no image alone is a memory item - without some information about the portrayed scene and persons it is nothing more than a decoration

The still images in collections of ALF appear in several different formats:

- photographs glued in albums with captions next to them (since 1950);
- photographs in the text notebooks, as illustrations to the texts recorded (since 1921);
- free standing photographs, sometimes placed in envelopes and boxes (beginning with 1980's);
- film negatives (since 1950's);
- slides (1970's and 1980's).

**There are no glass negatives.**

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There are images without counterparts among negatives and vice versa.

There are images with detailed captions and both images and negatives with no information about them.

There are several registers of the image material:

- catalogue of film negatives, kept from 1950's until early 1970's, with general information regarding the frames (not every single frame is described);
- register of images in the albums, compiled in 2002/2003 as an intermediary stage in the move towards digital register – dedicated data base.

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These are the contents of the SHELVES.

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These



SHELVES.

## The **albums** might seem to be the best collections of images, as:

- they contain images arranged chronologically and by their content;
- there are captions explaining the scenes and listing the featured persons;
- the material is more or less clearly dated.



Argentina  
1952

Flojas vidusskola - ekspedīcijas dalībnieku mājas ekspedīcijas laikā



Zinātniskās ekspedīcijas sastāpā bija  
zinātnis J. Rozentals un filozofs un  
L. Ceolins, ieviešot magnētiskās līnijas  
Bītiņas Konstantes dziesmas.

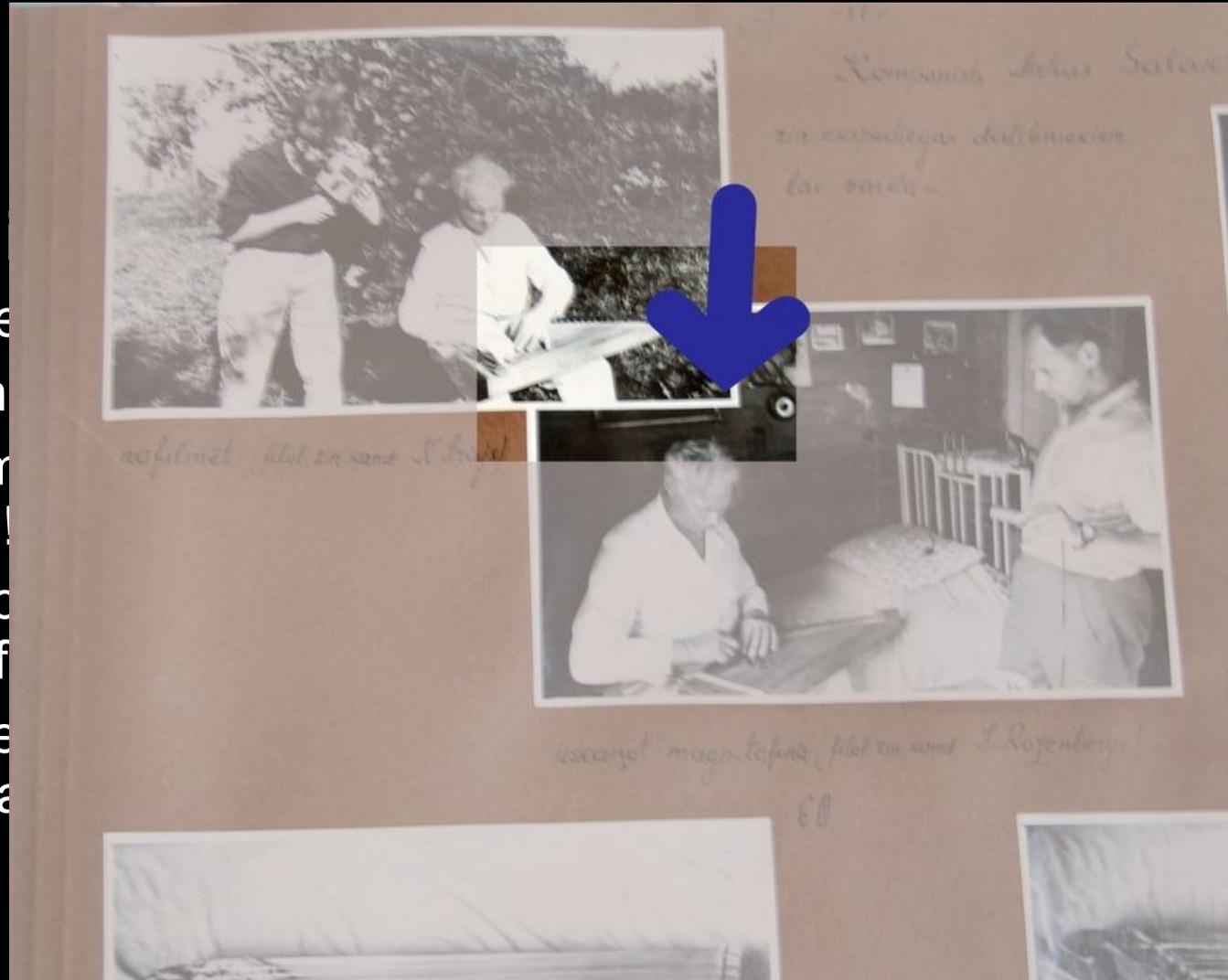
But this might be counterweighted by the fact that:

- the images are glued to the pages;
- there is nothing to prevent wear from the opposite page;
- the albums are heavy and rather clumsy (especially obvious during scanning!);
- the captions may differ from other descriptions or facts told by the persons featured on the images;
- sometimes, probably because of some *artistic intent*, some images are overlaid over others.

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But then

- the image is not clear
- there is no metadata
- the album is not organized
- scanning is not done properly
- the captions are not read
- the persons are not identified
- sometimes images are overlaid



What:

during

by the

images

There are other ways photographic prints have been  
“archived”:

- in the notebooks used for recording the texts from *informants* (in pre-video era)
- arranged by some topic in spare boxes
- loosely arranged in envelopes

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The **negatives** provide much better image quality, but this is rather difficult to make use of.

- There has never been an in-house system of image development and making of prints at the Archives;
- scanning of negatives is a tricky matter, especially the colour ones;
- negatives cannot have any description integrally associated with them;
- inappropriate storage may render negatives hardly usable.

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Slides are no easier *target*, especially if they have been (obviously) considered “just” illustrative material.

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S

en

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What has been done by now. And how.

**WHAT:**

- The images in the albums have been catalogued to provide information on what is available (also constituting a basis of information for future comparisons);
- all of the album images have been scanned;
- most of the negatives have been scanned;
- the images in manuscript materials are being scanned; the work is hindered by incompleteness of material registers and the necessity to browse the manuscripts for images;
- a data base for description of all archive materials was developed in 2002; its web-accessible form was developed in 2004.

## **HOW:**

- The captions of the images have been transcribed, lists of featured persons compiled, physical format of images measured;
- photographic prints and other images are scanned into \*.tif format files at resolution 300dpi, no scaling;
- negatives are scanned into the same \*.tif format files at 1200 dpi in order to reduce the impact of different consumer oriented algorithms included in the scanning software;
- the data base uses open-source Borland Interbase ver. 6, the system is gradually growing long in the tooth, though still providing sufficient search and description facilities.

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LFK IS Krātuve

Darības Info

Manuskriptu rādītājs | Ierakstu rādītājs | **Ilustrāciju rādītājs** | Atpriņķi un pagasti

Atlasīt... Pievienot... Autori... *Ilustrācijas*

---

**Ilustrāciju datu atlasīšana**

Rādīt:

- Veids
- Numurs
- Negatīvs
- Autors
- Paraksts
- Personas
- Pagasts
- Atpriņķis
- Vieta
- Gads
- Datums
- Iekšējpalas
- Krāsas
- Formāts

Atzīmēt/izslēgt visas ailes

Kritēriji:

Aile:  Nosacījums:

Vērtība:

Uzstādiet kritēriji:

Saiklis kritēriju savienošanai:

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Ilustrācijas

Numurs:  Atjaunināt Rediģēt... Excel

Pagasts	Aprīkjis	Vieta	Gads
Mārošņi	C	Dzeguzes mājas	1928
Rīga	Rg		1934
Rēzna	Rz	Sakārņu sādža	
Vidsmuža	Pj	Uļļu mājas	
Odziņa	Md		
Odziņa	Md		
Odziņa	Md		
Viesiena	Md	Gaižkalns	
Viesiena	Md	Gaižkalns	
Daugavpils	D		
Renda	Kjd		
Renda	Kjd		
Renda	Kjd		
Pitragis	Dnd		
Kolka	TI		
Kolka	TI		
Kolka	TI		
Nierza	Ldz	Greču ciems	
Nierza	Ldz	Greču ciems	
Nierza	Ldz	Greču ciems	
Rīga	Rg	Izglītības ministrijas telpas	
Rīga	Rg	Folkloras krātuve	
Tirza	Md	Tirzas nespējnieku namā	
Lizums	C	Vēveri	
Lizums	C	Vēveri	
Jaunlaicene	Vk	Skujenieki	
		Ilzene	
		Ilzene	
Ilzene	Vk		
Lejasciems	Vk		
Lejasciems	Vk		
			1930
			1924
		Augstpils	1930
Cibla	Ldz	Berezovci	1930
Cibla	Ldz	Kaļvu ciems	1930
Cibla	Ldz	Brevu sādža	1930

**Ilustrācijas šķirka rediģēšana**

Veids:  Numurs:  Negatīvs:

Autors:

Paraksts:

Personas:

Pagasts:  Vieta:

Gads:  Datums:

Iekštelpas:  Krāsas:  Formāts:

pēc pievienošanas: tīrīt

Saglabāt  Aizvērt

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Contents (Read in Latvian)

- History of LFK
- LFK address
- History of Folkloristics in Latvia
- What is an item?
- Dainu skapis - The Cabinet of Folksongs
- Latvian proverbs (a joint project)
- LFK audio collection
- LFK photo collection
- News
- The Internet Reading Room
- Links to other related pages

Parameters of image filter:

Type:

Year:

District:

People:

Caption:

Show thumbnails:

Select

Archives of Latvian Folklore

Image Catalogue | LV  
Record Catalogue | EN



Thumbnail	ID	Type	Year	Place	People	Caption	Author
	0023-7025	foto	1926	Dzirciems (Tk)		Pēdu akmens Tukuma apr. Dzirciema pag. Kokes kalna lejā, Līdumziņu mājas robežā. Akmeni saspridzināju mīnētās mājas saimnieks Salders 1924 g.	Bukums Kāris
	0023-7960	foto	1926	Valmiera (Vlm)		Ar krustiņu apzīmētā vieta bijusi baznīca, pa krosi nespējzaku māja	Bukums Kāris
	0023-7951	foto	1926	Valmiera (Vlm)		Kaū, joti sekā atrasti vrs pagrābs. Turpat atrasti 4 kapa akmeņi ar uzrakstu un gādā, ka tie ir no 19. g. E. a. rīgāvi, tā pozitīvi atrodas	Bukums Kāris
	0189-1010	foto	1926	Jauriācēne (Vb)		Saimniecības priekšmeti - cirvis, kaplis, kipiņš, baļa	Bērtiņš J.
	0189-1011	foto	1926	Jauriācēne (Vb)		Rokas darbarīki	Bērtiņš J.
	0189-1012	foto	1926	Jauriācēne (Vb)		Koka māja	Bērtiņš J.
	0268-569	foto	1926	Slate (Nrt)		Apmēram 200 gadu veca priede lieceja malā, kurš iet no Ilūkstes uz Jēkabpili, priē Bērzaru mājām, Slatas pag., Jēkabpils apriņķis	Ravizers Pēteris
	0268-571	foto	1926	Slate (Nrt)		Apmēram 150 gadu veca priede, atrodas uz lieceja, kurš iet no Ilūkstes uz Jēkabpili priē Sīla mājām	Ravizers Pēteris
	0268-573	foto	1926	Slate (Nrt)		Akmens kaudze - bij. Slatas maizītas (Bazma pils) skurstēpa atliekas un balkona pamata akmeņi	Ravizers Pēteris
	0268-575	foto	1926	Slate (Nrt)		Bijušās Slatas muižas rījas	Ravizers Pēteris

[www.lfk.lv/lasitava\\_eng.html](http://www.lfk.lv/lasitava_eng.html)

<http://www.ailab.lv/Kratuve/SearchImage.jsp?lg=en>

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This brings us to the long-desired destination – the HDD. But also this technical medium, though facilitates access and duplication, cannot make an archivist perfectly happy because it is not perfectly fail-safe.

Was it worth it, you may ask?

**OF COURSE IT WAS!**

**Still, paying much attention and investing much effort into digitisation, the analogue originals must not be forgotten.**

**The files on the hard disk  
are not a replacement, but a supplement to items on shelves!**

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Standard  
are

and  
origin  
on the  
supp

s!

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**Paldies par uzmanību!**

**Thank you for your attention!**

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