

HISTORIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES OF THE ESTONIAN BOOK SCIENCE IN THE YEARS 1918–1944

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Estonian-language written and printed word has had an important role in the formation and maintaining of the national identity. The first attempts to gather information about the books in Estonian language were made already in 1656: the introduction to the Estonian language church book *Hand- Hausz- und Kirchen-Buch* listed seven books that were printed since 1554 [14, 14]. The more serious activities in studying the local book and library history started in the middle of the 19th century together with the formation of the first scientific societies – *Gelehrte Estnische Gesellschaft* (the Learned Estonian Society, 1838) and *Estländische Literarische Gesellschaft* (the Estonian Literary Society, 1842). Both societies joined the Baltic Germans who were interested in the history of their homeland (*Vaterland*). The Estonian Literary Society concentrated in studying the history and nature of the country and on acquiring foreign language books printed in Estonia and *Baltica*. The Learned Estonian Society drew main attention to the study of the development of the Estonian language and literature. The members of the society started to write down oral folk traditions (folk songs, stories, legends) and to gather books in Estonian. At the end of the 19th century the library of the society had the most complete collection of the Estonian language books and periodicals. During the period of the national awakening movement in the 1860s–1880s the Estonian societies like *Eesti Kirjameeste Selts* (Society of the Estonian Literati) and *Eesti Üliõpilaste Selts* (Society of the Estonian Students) also started to collect Estonian documentary heritage. These collections formed the basis for the study of the national book.

Estonians started to pay attention on the study of the book and library history at the beginning of the 20th century. This interest was supported by the active formation of educational and cultural societies all over the country that brought to life the first public libraries. Books were seen as the main means to give people the possibility for self-education and to preserve national cultural memory. The term 'history of a book' was first used by the linguist Johannes Aavik in 1913 in his speech by the opening of the Library Society in Tartu. "A book" – he said – "outwardly so simple and almost of no value, is a very complicated phenomenon" and every part of it has its own history. He understood the history of book as the history of script, paper, printing and binding together with the social history of a book which, according to his words, will give evidence of dissemination and consuming of books, of book trade and library history and of the impact of books on the society [1, 8]. By the formation of the independent Estonian state the main object of study – Estonian book – was collected by different societies and the Archive Library of the Estonian National Museum (founded in 1909) was said to preserve about 90% of all Estonian books printed up to 1917 [27,12].

The article aims to characterize the formation and development of the Estonian book science during the years 1918–1944 and to give an overview about the research on the period in the second half of the 20th century. The treatment includes the analysis of written works on book history in 1918–1944, the characterisation of main trends of research and the overview of the research on the period during the Soviet occupation and after the restoration of independence.

The analysis is based on the books and articles that were published in the field of book production and dissemination during the years 1918–1944 as well as on the articles and research works of the later period. Historiography of the Estonian book science of the period has earlier been treated mainly by Mare Lott in her dissertation *История Эстонской книги 1918–1940 гг.* [24] and in the articles that handle the development of book science in Estonia in general [20; 21].

The formation of the Estonian book science

The formation of the independent Estonian state in 1918 enhanced the development of the so called national sciences: Estonian language and literature, ethnography, history and archaeology. Even in natural and exact sciences the local substance was given the first priority. The following years brought along the differentiation of sciences together with specification of their objects of study.

Book science as an independent field of research started to develop in the 1920s. To some extent it was treated already earlier as a part of literary or cultural history. Step by step the object of study was withdrawn from the literary content of a book to the book as a cultural and economic phenomenon. The first researchers in the field were historians (Hans Kruus, Paul Johansen), scholars of literature and linguists (Johannes Aavik, Paul Ambur, August Palm, Friedrich Puksoo, Rudolf Põldmäe, Oskar Urgart) and also people from the other specialities (Richard Antik, Hans Treumann,) whose job brought them together with the necessity to know more about books and libraries in general in order to develop librarianship and bibliography in Estonia. Friedrich Puksoo and Richard Antik became the most significant researchers of the period – the first in the field of the history of books and printing, the other in the field of retrospective bibliography and book statistics.

In addition to the historical book collections attention was paid to bibliographical registration of the contemporary book production. The necessity to register the national book production was raised at the 1st congress of the Estonian librarians in 1923. Supported financially by the Ministry of Education the monthly lists of the current publications were published since 1924 in the journal *Eesti Kirjandus* (Estonian Literature). The registration included all publications which exceeded half of a printed sheet and that were sent as legal copies to the libraries of the Tartu University and to the Archive Library of the Estonian National Museum [10, 176]. At the end of the year all lists were summarized into the collective publication together with indexes and published under the title *Eesti raamatute üldnimestik* (General List of the Estonian Books; I–V, 1930–1941).

Friedrich Puksoo understood the need for highly educated librarians and by his initiative the course of librarianship and bibliography was adopted in the curricula of the Tartu University in 1927. Puksoo himself was one of the lecturers up to 1945 and read the course on the book history.

One of the serious obstacles for research was lack of the complete retrospective national bibliography. The existing catalogues and book lists did not give the thorough overview of the book production. In 1932 the manuscript bibliography of Estonian books that were published in 1632–1917 was completed at the Archive Library of the Estonian National Museum. This list was up to 2000 the most complete bibliography of the Estonian language books.

Richard Antik elaborated the plan for compiling the retrospective national bibliography in 1937 and presented it in following years to different institutions

(the Academy of Sciences, Fund for Furthering the Culture), but different reasons, later on the Soviet occupation and the World War II stopped the plan to come true [42, 126, 130–133].

Statistical analysis of the publications on Estonian book science during the years 1918–1944

The bibliography of publications in the field of book science in 1918–1940 was compiled by Antti Oviir to his diploma paper in 1981 [27, 115–128]. He registered 113 books, booklets, book reviews and articles that handle the book branch and were published in Estonia. When adding the publications that were printed during 1941–1944 and outside Estonia, the number of publications on book science reaches 138.

The first decade of research was characterised by numerous articles which were published in different journals. The only separate publication in Estonian from this period is dedicated to the printing shop which was established by Heinrich Laakmann in 1837 and celebrated its 90th anniversary of activities in 1927 [13]. Two German language publications handled the formation of journalism and the first newspapers in Estonia [6; 54]. The articles of the period treated mainly the problems of contemporary publishing and book market.

The celebration of the Year of the Book in 1935–1936 initiated considerable growth of the number of publications that handled book history. During the first half of the 1930s the first general treatments on the development of the Estonian

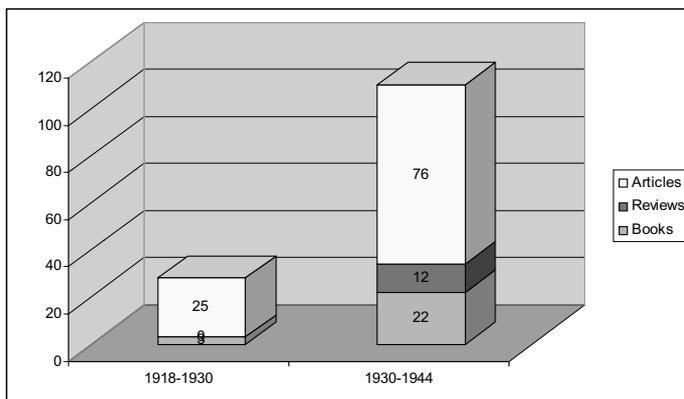


Chart 1. Publications on Estonian book science 1918–1944

book were published and the role of the book in the society was discussed. Several separate books and booklets were published and the number of articles was steadily growing. That enables to conclude, that the history of book was a quickly developing field of study. More active publishing also brought along the reviews on book science literature that started to appear in the 1930s. The number of publications diminished in the 1940s due to the occupations and the war.

Although the list of authors was rather numerous – altogether 52 – more than a half of the publications were written by only eight authors. The most productive researchers of the period were Friedrich Puksoo (1890–1969), the director of the Tartu University Library (19 publications) and Richard Antik (1901–1998), the head of the Archive Library of the Estonian National Museum (12 publications). Bibliophile Jaan Roos (1888–1965) was the author of eight publications. Scholars of literature Rudolf Põldmäe, Oskar Urgart, August Palm, Arno Niitof (Andres Lepp) and the historian Paul Johansen published five articles. The other authors were represented by a smaller number of written works.

The articles were mainly published in journals *Eesti Kirjandus* (Estonian Literature), *Raamatukogu* (Library), *Looming* (Creation), *Eesti Statistika* (Estonian Statistics), *Eesti Kroonika* (Estonian Chronicle) and *Akadeemia* (Academy) [27, 27]. Altogether articles on book science were published in 25 different periodicals.

The topics that were studied could be divided into eight groups: general treatments, statistics, history of printing, publishing, book dissemination, book design, the study of a concrete book and bibliophilism.

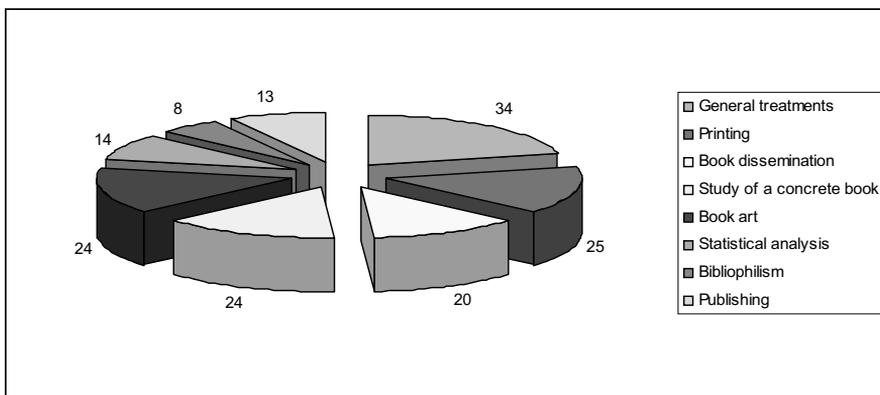


Chart 2. The topics of study in the field of book science in 1918–1944

General treatments that is written works that encompass three or more topics of study formed the biggest number of the publications – 34. Printing, book dissemination, studies of a concrete book and book art were also popular topics of research. The smallest number of articles handled bibliophilism.

General treatments of the Estonian book history

The first general overview of the development of the Estonian book was compiled by Friedrich Puksoo. The book was titled *Eesti raamatu arengulugu seoses kirja ja raamatu üldise arenguga* (The history of the Estonian book in the context of the general development of script and book). It was published in 500 copies by the Estonian Librarians' Association in 1933 [27, 40]. Puksoo did not try to specify the definition of 'book history' neither to determine the object of his study. Three chapters from six treated the Estonian book history, the main attention was drawn to the history of printing and book dissemination. Puksoo presented many new facts, information about the persons and institutions who were involved in the book business, described the printers' privileges and inheritance cases. On the other hand, the characterisation of the Estonian book production was brief and not detailed. The reviewers' opinion was that the book was good, although the critics brought forward the disproportional treatment of different aspects and insufficient analysis of the book production. In fact, Puksoo could not fulfil these expectations as he had no statistics nor the retrospective bibliography at his disposal. In 1936 he explained his understanding of 'book history' as of a field of science which handle printing industry, paper production, binding, book dissemination, reading, librarianship, book statistics and bibliography. In his words, to cover all the named subfields with exhaustive research needed many years and therefore he concentrated in his book mainly on the history of printing and book dissemination [27, 47].

The year later (1934) Puksoo already finished the new book *Raamat ja tema sõbrad* (The book and its friends). The idea was to introduce the reader to the origin of script and the book and to show the changes in its development. The Estonian book and its history were presented only in few examples. The book was written in a popular form, addressed to the wide public and published in the popular science series *Elav teadus* (The Living Science).

In the same series was in 1936 published another general treatment of the Estonian book – *Lühike eesti raamatu ajalugu: Selle väline, sisuline ja keeleline areng*

400 aasta jooksul (The short history of the Estonian book: the development of its outlook, content and language during 400 years) by the scholar of literature and bibliophile Jaan Roos. Roos concentrated on the characterisation of the content of the Estonian book production, its language and book design – that is on the topics that were omitted in Puksoo's monograph, thus offering amendment to Puksoo's treatment.

The Year of the Estonian book, which was celebrated in 1935/36, gave rise to further study of the book branch and widened the circle of people dealing with its different aspects. Two books which were published in 1935 focused on the important role of the book in the society. The collection of articles *Raamatu osa Eesti arengus* (The role of the book in the development of Estonia) was edited by the scholar of literature Daniel Palgi and published by the Estonian Literature Society. The authors were the leading representatives of the Estonian science and culture who concentrated in their articles on different types of book production – school-books, periodicals, clerical literature, folk tales etc. and their role in the life of people [41]. The other book *Raamatuaasta kõned* (The Speeches of the Year of the Book) encompassed the speeches that were held by the Estonian men of literature and culture during the Year of the Book and that demonstrated the role of a book in the development of the society.

Separate publications were also devoted to different types of books. In 1936 Puksoo published an article *Eesti teaduskirjandus* (Estonian scientific literature) in which he explained the formation and development of this type and characterised the contemporary system of publications [32]. In 1940 an overview of the Estonian popular science books *Eesti populaarteaduslik kirjandus: kuidas see on arenenud ja mida see pakub praegu* (Estonian popular science literature: how it has developed and what it offers today) was published together with the bibliography of popular science books from 1918–1940.

Book statistics and statistical analysis of the book production

The first attempt to put together the general data of the Estonian language book production was made by the historian Hans Kruus (1891–1976) in 1918. In his article *Eesti raamat arvudes* (Estonian book in numbers) Kruus characterised the main sources of the book statistics: library catalogues, Russian book bibliography *Книжная Летопись*, censorship archives etc [18, 18–19]. He pointed out the in-

completeness of the sources and the difficulties in obtaining information on the number of copies printed during the previous centuries. He was the first to present the average annual print runs of the Estonian books, based on the available data. Kruus also demonstrated the changes in the content of the book production from the purely clerical books in the 17th and in the first half of the 18th century up to the versatile content of the book production at the beginning of the 20th century. Grounded on the official statistics of the Russian empire Kruus also presented the title production of the Estonian books from 1891 to 1916. According to his calculations the most productive years were 1911 and 1914 when 507 and 419 titles of books were printed with a total print run of 1, 784 840 and 1,523610 copies [18, 31].

Research in the field of book statistics was carried on by Richard Antik. In his monograph *Eesti raamat 1535–1935: Arengulooline ülevaade. Arvulised kokkuvõtted. Reproduktsioonid* (Estonian Book 1535–1935: the Historical overview. Statistical abstracts. Reproductions; 1936) he elaborated the basic methods for statistical analysis of print production which were used for many decades. Antik analysed the dynamics of book production by years and places of publication, created the division of print production by topics and types and demonstrated the changes and development of the Estonian language book during the centuries. The statistical analysis enabled to point out the enormous development of book production during the years of the independent state. Antik pointed out that the whole Estonian language book production up to 1917 was smaller than the production published during the years of independence 1918–1934: according to Antik 14,503 titles were published in 1535–1917 while during sixteen years of the independent state – 1918–1934 the number of Estonian books reached 16,495 titles [4, 49]. In the field of book statistics his work is still unsurpassed.

The history of printing and book dissemination

The history of printing was one of the most studied topics during the years 1918–1944. The main interest of the researchers fell to the earlier centuries, the contemporary problems of the printing industry were not handled. In this field Friedrich Puksoo became the leading researcher, studying the general features of the Estonian printing history [38], the activities of the Tartu University printing office [37], the first private printing offices in Tallinn [36] and the activity of Jacob Johann Köhler, the printer of the Estonian full Bible [33]. In these studies Puksoo gave

much attention to the legal aspects of the activities of the printing shops and their owners. He also tried to introduce the history of printing in Estonia to the German readers: in 1930 his article about the printers, father and son Brendeken was published in *Gutenberg-Jahrbuch* [30]. A remarkable study on the printing office in Põltsamaa (1766–1789) and its book production was published by August Sumberg in 1935 [47].

Puksoo was also interested in the history of book dissemination. He devoted a lot of pages to book trade in his monograph and published articles about the book trade in Tartu and Pärnu during the Swedish power [35], about the dissemination of the Estonian books in the middle of the 19th century [31; 39] and about the book trade in Tallinn and Narva in the 17th century [34].

Contemporary problems of the book production and dissemination were discussed by scholar of literature and book art Paul Ambur (*Raamatu levitamise probleeme* [The problems of book dissemination]; 1938) and by philologist and translator Gregor Vaher (*Revolutsioon raamatuturul* [Revolution in book market]; 1938). Vaher brought up the economical and market aspects which influenced the book trade: the small number of the Estonian speaking population, the insufficient purchasing power, the small print runs, the high prices, the lack of organisation of trade [50]. Ambur saw the solution of the problem in the help of schools and public societies, that could promote the interest to read and direct people towards buying books [3].

Studies of a concrete book

Three Estonian books gave rise to the study of their origin and cause of life. The most remarkable event in the field of book history took place in 1929 when Hellmuth Weiss (1900–1992), the librarian of the Estonian Literary Society and Hans Treumann (1905–1974), the specialist in printing, found in the Library of the Estonian Literary Society the fragments of the bilingual (Estonian and Low German) *Catechism* that was printed in Wittenberg in 1535. The event was crucial for the developing field of book history as it prolonged the existence of the Estonian language printed book for almost a hundred years. Up to that time the oldest survived books in Estonian were known from 1632. Weiss and the historian and archivist Paul Johansen (1901–1965) studied the history of the catechism and its compilers – the Tallinn pastors Simon Wanradt and Johann Koell. The documents in the city archive revealed the

publishing of the catechism and the banning of it in 1537 because of the interpretation mistakes. Their research results were published in 1930 in the article *Bruchstücke eines nieder-deutsch-estnischen Katekismus vom Jahre 1535* [52], the separate book *400-aastane eesti raamat* (An 400 years old Estonian book) together with the facsimile of the fragments and reproduction of the text was published in 1935 [53]. The important finding was also handled by the linguists Julius Mägiste (1930) and Andrus Saareste (1935).

The other event that gave occasion to study a concrete book, was the 200th anniversary of the publication of the first Estonian full Bible in 1739. In 1939 the facsimile edition of the Bible was published. The history of translating, printing and publishing of the Bible was treated in several articles [28; 33; 40] that were published in the separate volume of *Vana Tallinn* (Old Tallinn).

The third book, the catholic handbook *Agenda Parva* with Latin, Polish, Latvian and Estonian text for clerical ceremonies, which was discovered in 1937 in the small library in Braniewo, Poland, was published in Tartu as a facsimile in 1938 with introduction by historian Otto Freymuth [2] who worked as a librarian at the Tartu University Library.

Study of publishing, book design and bibliophilism

In two directions – publishing and book design, the studies were concentrated on contemporary book. It is understandable, as during the earlier centuries publishing was closely connected with book trade and printing and treated together with these topics. There were no researchers specialized on publishing and the scientific value of the publications was not high.

Book design, on the contrary, was treated by many intellectuals (Bernhard Linde, Hanno Kompus, Paul Ambur). The articles handled at the first place the problems of the contemporary book production: quality of the paper, format and design, composition, binding and cover design. The only historical treatments were published in 1937 and 1941, dealing with the illustration and design of the 17th and 18th century Estonian book [29; 45]. Book mark (ex libris) as a neutral topic of study was readily handled in the publications of the period of German occupation 1942–1943 [48; 49] and were often printed in the State Printing Industry School.

The articles on bibliophilism offered the overview about the life and activities of bibliophiles Johann Heinrich Rosenplänter, Mihkel Jürgens, David Martson and

Jaan Roos whose collections were rich in older Estonian book. The issues of book rarity were handled by Jaan Roos in the article *Eesti raamatu rariteetsus* (The rarity of the Estonian book) [43]. His point of view was severely criticized by Richard Antik who did not accept the choice of rare books presented by Roos. Antik also reproached the author on lack of clear criteria in determining the rarity, indefiniteness in expressions and mistakes in titles and publishing years [5].

Summarizing the development of book science in 1918–1944, two periods can be brought out. The first decade – 1918–1930 was the period for the formation of researchers, obtaining experience, outlining the topics of study and gathering of sources. The first articles started to appear in the periodicals. The years 1930–1940 showed the formation of the independent field of science together with scientific treatment of different historical and contemporary aspects of the development of book branch. Despite of numerous gaps in research the work that was done in the years 1918–1944 is valuable in many aspects: the first general overviews of the Estonian book history were compiled, the rich factual data about the persons and institutions involved in book business was gathered, the basis for book statistics were created and the study in main directions of research initiated.

There was no coordination of research work and the communication of researchers was based on personal contacts. That can be considered the main reason why theoretical problems of book science were during the years 1918–1944 not elaborated. The book itself as the object of research was not taken into account and the research was mainly concentrated on historical and organisational aspects of book production and dissemination.

Research on the Book History of 1918–1940 during the Soviet occupation

During the first post-war decade, the Stalinist era, research on the book history of the period of independence in 1918–1940 was discontinued. This period is known for extensive banning of the books issued in 1918–1940: nearly 90 per cent of the titles published during the independence were banned [19, 309]. The lists of banned books included also the publications on Estonian book history, for example the works by Friedrich Puksoo, Richard Antik, Jaan Roos etc. The banned books were largely destroyed; a couple of copies were preserved in the special collections, organised in six major libraries. Access to these collections was restricted; thus it became impossible to study the book-production of this period freely. Beside that,

many authors, who had written about the development of book branch in Estonia in 1918–1940, and had stayed in Estonia after the war, were banished from official intellectual activities during the political campaigns of the post-war years (for example F. Puksoo, Johannes Käis, J. Roos, August Annist); the others (for example R. Antik) had been able to escape and lived in Exile.

The situation changed since the middle of the 1950s, during the so-called Khrushchev thaw, when, for example, the ban on some of the books on book history was lifted, although the works by people, who had fled to the West, remained among the banned books. The first article concerning the book history of the period of independence was published in the literary journal “Looming” in 1961 [11]. The author, historian Õie Elango compared the print runs and distribution of books in the Republic of Estonia and in the Soviet Estonia, presenting also a general characterisation of the publishing activities and the situation in public libraries in 1918–1940. The article was based on archival material and articles from the period of 1918–1940. This comparison stressed the considerable growth of print runs during the Soviet period.

Apart from this article, the treatment of the book branch in 1918–1940 enlivened only during the 1970s when Mare Lott became the leading researcher of this period. The results of her research are presented most completely in her unpublished dissertation, written in Russian [24]. She maintained the thesis on the history of the Estonian book in 1918–1940 in Leningrad Culture Institute in 1980. For the Estonian reader this material is available in the collective monograph “*Eesti raamat 1525–1975: Ajalooline ülevaade*” (The Estonian Book 1525–1975: Historical Overview), issued in 1978 [10, 164–219]. The publication was dedicated to the 450th anniversary of the Estonian book and was planned to be published during the Year of the Book, celebrated in 1975, but the publishing cycle dragged for three years. Research on the period of independence in 1918–1940 was a problematic issue during the Soviet era. If its studying was allowed, then, as a rule, the period could only be criticised and evaluated negatively. The research on the development of the book branch during the independence was initiated due to the necessity to treat all periods of the Estonian book history in the monograph – it was impossible to omit the years 1918–1940 from an all-embracing historical overview. The fact, that research was conducted under the auspices of the Leningrad Culture Institute offered “protection” from the possible reproaches in Estonia.

The work by Mare Lott analyses the general trends in the development of the publishing industry, including the structure of the publishing system, characterisation

of different types of publishers and the analysis of book production by topics and types of literature. Although the introductory part of the work could not omit the statement about the importance of the Great Socialist October Revolution, the research has been written on a high level, giving an objective analysis of the development of publishing, and it remains a valuable contribution to the Estonian book studies. The author has published numerous articles on the topic also after the restoration of independence, in Estonian and in foreign publications.

In 1984 Mari Kalvik defended, also in Leningrad, the thesis about the Estonian Literature Society, that existed in 1907–1940 and was one of the major publishers of quality books in 1918–1940. The results of her work have been presented in textbooks and articles, published in Estonian language [16; 17].

The research on the book branch of the period is largely concentrated in the diploma works and Bachelor thesis of the students of the Tallinn University and Viljandi Culture Academy. 96 works have been written in the Tallinn University in 1967–2005 and 33 works in Viljandi Culture Academy in 1992–2004. In 1971–1994 Mare Lott has supervised 48 works on various aspects of publishing, printing and distribution of books, different types of literature issued during the period of independence in 1918–1940. Mari Kalvik was the supervisor of 19 works in 1976–1996. These works include a lot of facts, statistical and bibliographical data that is of importance in the further research on the period. A large part of this research has not been published and is thus unknown to the wider audience.

Research on the Book History of 1918–1940 since *Perestroika*

Since *perestroika* the ideological constraints in the treatment of the period disappeared. Although some articles on the topic have been published during the following decades, the research on this period has not been very extensive. Among these writings the articles by Mare Lott could be mentioned, for example on the publishing and book production [22], on the development of the book market [23] and on the publishing activities of the Russian publishing houses [25]. The latter topic has also been treated by Sergei Issakov, philologist, *Professor Emeritus* of the Tartu University, who has researched the Russian-Estonian cultural relations [15]. Historian Väino Sirk and Karl-Johannes Naanuri have written about the history textbooks issued in 1918–1940 [46; 26]. In his article historian and philosopher Rein

Ruutsoo analyses the trends and actors in issuing philosophical literature in Estonia in 1918–1940 on the background of the philosophical culture of the period [44].

The most important publications of the last decades are the collections of articles devoted to the two most outstanding book researchers of pre-war Republic of Estonia. The Academic Library of the Tartu University published the collection of articles treating life and work of Friedrich Puksoo in 1990 [12]. It includes also a detailed overview about his manuscripts preserved in the library of the Tartu University and the bibliography of his writings, including translations, edited works, manuscripts and the works about him. The other collection *Raamatu valgusel* (In the Light of the Book), issued by the Estonian Literary Museum in 2001 is devoted to Richard Antik commemorating his hundredth anniversary of the birthday [42]. It contains nine writings by Antik, seven articles about his life and activities, overviews about his material in the Estonian Literary Museum and his bibliography. This book – beautifully designed, richly illustrated and also rich in subject matter attracted wider attention and was reviewed in various publications.

The period of 1918–1940 is treated also in the comprehensive history of the Estonian book *Eesti raamatu lugu* (The Story of the Estonian Book) by Uno Liivaku, issued in 1995 [19, 112–151]. This book is based on books and articles on the topic and does not use archival material as a source. It concentrates on the dissemination of books, presenting statistical data on print runs, the prices of books, the system of book trade, leaving publishing and printing totally aside.

There clearly exists a necessity to compile a comprehensive work on the book branch of the period, which would tackle the topic from the contemporary viewpoint. Among the preconditions to this work is the publication of the retrospective bibliography of book production in 1918–1944 due in the following years. At the present time the bibliographic data has been included in the online version of the national bibliography (erb.nlib.ee). This bibliography is inevitable for research as the existing bibliography of these years, compiled since 1924 does not include all the publications. So far the bibliography of maps (1996) [7] and music (2001, 2003) [8; 9] have been published. The printed version of retrospective bibliography would enable the researchers to analyse the production by themes and types, etc. and compile the corresponding statistics.

There are various issues that require further research, for example the formation of the book market, especially the activities of printing houses and book trade institutions. Regrettably the archives of the publishing houses and printing offices have largely been destroyed which makes it inevitable to search for the material

from the neighbouring fields, various secondary sources. The reception of the printed matter and the reading habits of different strata of the society have also been weakly treated in research literature as well as the publications in foreign languages, issued in Estonia (apart from the Russian language, this topic has been reflected in numerous articles). The role of the imported books in the Estonian book market and their impact on the local intellectual life is another issue, which requires further research. In order to tackle these issues and compile a comprehensive book history of the 20th century a research group has been formed in the Chair of Book Studies of the Tallinn University. The group plans to prepare the manuscript on the topic during the following years.

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HISTORIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES OF THE ESTONIAN BOOK SCIENCE IN THE YEARS 1918–1944

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Abstract

The article characterises the formation and development of the Estonian book science during the years 1918–1944 and gives an overview about the research on the period in the second half of the 20th century. Book science as an independent field of research started to develop in Estonia in the 1920s. Friedrich Puksoo and Richard Antik became the most significant researchers. F. Puksoo is the author of the first general overview of the history of the Estonian book, published in 1933. R. Antik made a major contribution to retrospective bibliography and book statistics.

138 publications treating the field of book science were published in Estonian language in 1918–1944. The analysis of these publications demonstrates a considerable rise in the number of publications on book history during the Year of the Book which was celebrated in 1935–1936. By the 1930s book studies had become an independent field of research which tackled both historical and contemporary issues. The article also includes a thematic analysis of the publications, which are divided into eight groups: general treatments, research on printing, publishing, book dissemination, book art, studies of a concrete book, statistical analysis and works on bibliophilism. As to the thematic structure of the publications, general treatments were the most numerous (34), history of printing, book dissemination, studies on a concrete book and book art were also popular topics of research whereas the smallest number of publications (8) were devoted to bibliophilism. The researchers of that time have made a valuable contribution in the development of book research by gathering rich factual data, elaborating the basic principles of book statistics, compiling the first general treatments of book history.

During the first post-war decade, the Stalinist era, research on the book history of the the period of independence in 1918–1940 was discontinued. The treatment of the topics connected with publishing and distribution of books in 1918–1940 enlivened only during the 1970s. The leading researcher Mare Lott has written articles published in Estonian and in foreign languages. The results of her reasearch are presented most completely in her unpublished dissertation. For the larger public they are available in the collective monograph “The Estonian Book 1525–1975”, issued in 1978. Numerous diploma works and Bachelor’s thesis have been written on this period under her guidance, but the results of these works have not been published.

Since *perestroika* the ideological constraints in the treatment of the period disappeared, but the research of the book branch of this era has not been very intensive. Among the most outstanding achievements are the collections of articles dedicated to the two leading book reserachers Fr. Puksoo and R. Antik. A research group has been formed in the Tallinn University to prepare a comprehensive work on the book branch of that period which would tackle the topic from the contemporary viewpoint.

1918–1944 METŲ ESTŲ KNYGOTYROS ISTORIOGRAFIJA IR ŠALTINIAI

AILE MÖLDRE, TIJU REIMO

Santrauka

Straipsnis apibūdina estų knygotyros formavimąsi ir raidą 1918–1944 metais, pateikia šio laikotarpio tyrimų antroje XX a. pusėje apžvalgą. Knygotyra kaip savarankiška tyrimų sritis Estijoje pradėjo formuotis trečiajame XX a. dešimtmetyje. Friedrichas Puksoo ir Richardas Antikas tapo žymiaisiais tyrinėtojais. F. Puksoo yra pirmosios apžvalginės estų knygos istorijos, išleistos 1933 m., autorius. R. Antikas atliko reikšmingų darbų bibliografijos ir spaudos statistikos srityse.

1918–1944 m. estų kalba paskelbtos 138 knygotyros publikacijos. Jų analizė rodo reikšmingą publikacijų skaičiaus augimą 1935–1936 m., kai buvo minimi Knygos metai. Ketvirtajame dešimtmetyje knygotyra tapo savarankiška tyrimų sritimi, apėmusia ir istorinius, ir šiuolaikinius knygotyros klausimus. Straipsnyje pateikiama teminė publikacijų analizė, leidžianti jas visas skirstyti į aštuonias grupes: bendro

pobūdžio darbai, spaustuvių, leidybos ir knygos platinimo tyrimai, knygos menas, konkrečios knygos tyrimai, statistinė analizė ir darbai apie bibliofiliją.

Daugiausia buvo išspausdinta bendro pobūdžio darbų (34); spaustuvių istorijos, knygų platinimo, konkrečių knygų ir knygos meno publikacijos taip pat buvo populiarios, o mažiausiai pasirodė publikacijų bibliofilijos tema (8). To laikotarpio tyrinėtojų įnašas į knygotyra: sukaupta vertinga faktinė medžiaga, išplėtoti pagrindiniai knygos statistikos principai, parengti pirmieji bendro pobūdžio knygos istorijos darbai.

Pirmuoju pokario dešimtmečiu, stalininiu laikotarpiu, 1918–1940 m. knygos istorijos tyrimai buvo nuvertinti. Tuo metu pradėti knygų leidybos ir platinimo tyrimai kiek pagyvėjo tik aštuntajame dešimtmetyje. Reikšmingiausia tyrinėtoja Mare Lott paskelbė straipsnių estų ir užsienio kalbomis. Geriausiai jos tyrimų rezultatai pateikti neišleistoje disertacijoje. Platesnei publikai jie prieinami per kolektyvinę monografiją *Estijos knyga 1525–1975 metais*, išleistą 1978 metais. Mare Lott vadovaujami studentai parašė daug baigiamųjų ir bakalauro darbų, tačiau šie rezultatai taip pat nebuvo paskelbti.

Nuo *perestroikos* pradžios šio laikotarpio tyrimams taikomi ideologiniai varžtai buvo nuimti, tačiau knygos tyrimai tuo metu nebuvo intensyvūs. Reikšmingiausias laimėjimas – tai straipsnių rinkinys, skirtas F. Puksoo ir R. Antikui. Talino universitetas suformavo tyrinėtojų grupę, kuri rengia išsamų to laikotarpio knygotyros darbą, kad šiuolaikiniu požiūriu būtų įvertintas visas šis palikimas.