

# REPORT: THE HISTORY OF THE BALTIC AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVAL COUNCIL(BAAC)

By

Tedd Urnes



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### **INTRODUCTION**

The Board of the Baltic Audiovisual Archival Council (BAAC) has made a decision to document the history of BAAC with reference to the 10th Anniversary of the work of BAAC in year 2015. The goal was to publish a book about the association. This project was not possible to make due to the cost of the work.

The goal for the paper presented is to publish a preliminary report about the history of the Baltic council. The report is also dealing with the prehistory of the association ,and the events leading to the setting up of a Baltic working group. Therefore, I have reported about meetings, venues, conferences, individual persons and above all, the support from two international associations in the field of audiovisual archives: The International Federation of Television Archives (FIAT/IFTA) and the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA). Important support from the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) and Swedish Television(SVT) was a must to establish a Baltic council for education in the field of audiovisual archives.

The report is focusing on the content of the Bylaws of BAAC signed at the Estonian Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden, on March 21, 2006. The philosophy of the document is based on ideas and experience known among members of IASA and FIAT/IFTA.

The report contains different events, conferences, seminars and issues of importance to members of the audiovisual archives in the Baltic countries: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The preliminary report of the history of BAAC is not meant to present the total history of the work done. I take for granted that some members want to focus on issues other than those I have chosen. A critical approach to the report by members of BAAC might result in an up-dating of the content of the report?

Best regards,

Tedd Urnes

Member of the Board of BAAC and a founding member of BAAC

## **THE HISTORY OF THE BALTIC AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVAL COUNCIL (BAAC)**

About events leading to the establishment of the Baltic Audiovisual Archival Council(BAAC)

The site is Antalya, Turkey. The official event is the FIAT/IFTA Conference 2002. The dates for the international conference are October 12- 18.

Delegates from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are participating at the conference. The General Secretary of FIAT/IFTA, Tedd Johansen (later Urnes), is also chairing a working group to support members from the Baltic countries. According to FIAT/IFTA statutes and policy ,the set up of regional seminars is an important part of the international work of the association. The first FIAT/IFTA Nordic –Baltic Seminar took place in Tallinn, Estonia, May 26-27, 2000. The seminar was hosted by Eesti Television and was held at the Hotel Viru located in downtown Tallinn, the capital of Estonia.The members of the organizing committee were: Jyrki Stolt,YLE, Reet Harkmaa,ETV, Tedd Johansen,NRK and Lasse Nilsson,SVT.

During the conference in Antalya, representatives from the three Baltic countries had informal meetings aimed at setting up a conference in Latvia. The contact person for audiovisual archives in Latvia was Andris Kesteris. As a Latvian-Canadian, he speaks the language. We had already developed a working group for the Baltic countries within FIAT/IFTA, chaired by Tedd Johansen and a contact person who knew the archival situation in Latvia, Andris Kesteris. This is how it all began: A result of talks with dedicated persons in Antalya in year 2002.

The result of the informal talks and meetings was an invitation by Director General of Latvian Television, Uldis Grava, to hold a seminar at the LTV facilities in Riga, Latvia. The names of the persons who participated in the meetings leading to the seminar in Riga, were: Andris Kesteris, Canada, Tedd Urnes, Norway, Rasa Miškinyte, Lithuania , Reet Harkmaa, Estonia and Uldis Grava, Latvia. No formal reports were made of the meetings.

We wanted to set up an independent association for the Baltic countries. The official name of the association was not yet decided. The Independent Canadian/Baltic Working Group (CBWG) made formal contact with The Nordic Branch of IASA to discuss collaboration. The later President of IASA, Jacqueline von Arb, supported the work of setting up a new association. Different names for the new association were suggested. "Task Force for Pan-Baltic Council for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage –or of Audiovisual Material" were suggested by Jacqueline von Arb. Later on we talked about " Pan Baltic Council for Preservation of Cultural Heritage ".

The close contact with The Nordic Branch of IASA led to the seminar in Riga in year 2004, September 30-October 3. The seminar was supported by Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation(NRK) represented by the Head of Archive & Research,NRK, Bjarne Grevsgard. He gave the key note address and also participated as a delegate. The seminar in Riga was not limited to Baltic countries. It was an international seminar.

Latvian Television, Lithuanian Radio & Television , Estonian Television and Swedish Television supported the seminar. The main host was Latvian Television(LTV).

The title for the seminar was: " Partnerships, Access and Preserving Our Cultural Heritage ".

## **THE BALTIC COUNCIL**

In April, 2005, a meeting took place in Riga, with a goal of making a final decision on a permanent Baltic Council. The new council was elected. The members of the council were: President: Piret Noorhani, Estonian Literary Museum, Vice-President: Rasa Miškinyte, Lithuanian Radio & Television, Vice-President: Inga Vilcāne, Diena Library, Riga, Secretary: Nora Līcīte, Latvian Television, and Board members: Tedd Urnes, NRK, Lasse Nilsson, SVT, Andris Ķesteris, National Archives of Canada, Reet Harkmaa, Estonian Television, Jan Aasmund Jakobsen, Norway, Ivi Tomingas, Estonian Filmarchives, Vilnis Auziņš, Latvian Museums of Photography, Eha Vainsalu, Estonian Television, Lelde Neimane, Occupation Museum, Riga, Alexander Jaransky, Lithuanian Radio & Television and Egle Gudelyte, Lithuanian Radio & Television.

Those of the Board members listed, who took an active part in the talks about setting up an independent association for the Baltic countries during the FIAT/IFTA conference in Antalya, Turkey in year 2002, were: Rasa Miškinyte, Reet Harkmaa, Andris Ķesteris and Tedd Urnes. The Director General of Latvian Television, Uldis Grava, did not take part in the work because he left LTV in January 2004 to work for Jaunais Laiks, the party of Prime Minister Einars Repše. Uldis Grava worked for LTV from 2002 to 2004. The host of the Riga seminar was Deputy Director General Edgars Kots.

## **BALTIC AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVAL COUNCIL (BAAC)**

The main goal of the BAAC Board meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, on March 21, 2006, was to sign the document for registration of BAAC as a non-profit organization at the Estonian Embassy.

Participants at the Embassy were the elected Board members: Piret Noorhani, Juozas Markauskas, Inga Vilcāne, Andris Ķesteris, Tedd Urnes, Lasse Nilsson, Lars-Gunnar Bengtsson and Kristīne Pabērza.

The Board meeting was held at the premises of Swedish Television, Stockholm.

Eva-Lis Green, Swedish Television and Gunnel Jønsson, SRF Radio Archives, IASA, attended the meeting.

Planning of the Riga seminar 2006 and IASA/BAAC conference 2007 were important issues on the agenda. Opening of the BAAC old webpage at the new address and elaborating its new version were also discussed.

The venue chosen for the first formal meeting of the interim Board of the Baltic Audiovisual Archival Council (BAAC) was the old and beautiful capital of Latvia, Riga. The year was 2005. The month was April. The atmosphere of the old medieval Hanseatic city at the Baltic coast was relaxing. The host for the meeting was Latvian Television. The aim of the meeting was twofold: Is it possible to establish a Pan-Baltic audiovisual archiving cooperative organization and do we want to organize a second Riga conference in the fall of 2005? Tedd Urnes, NRK, chaired the meeting. Lasse Nilsson, SVT, was invited to give a limited, but provocative presentation on the topic: "Why are we doing all this conferencing and networking – what is it good for? ". He asked many crucial questions: Is it worthwhile for our organizations to be investing in this kind of acquisition of knowledge? Will there be people ready to accept the offices and responsibilities in the Board of such an organization? How much work will it mean, in addition to our usual responsibilities? How will the officers of the Board be elected? How do we deal with the economy of the organization; funding, membership fees, bank account? What

about cooperation with already existing organizations on the audiovisual archiving scene? What will be the main objects of the organization?

#### **THE NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM BOARD OF THE BALTIC AUDIOVISUAL COUNCIL IN RIGA**

The Baltic Audiovisual Archival Council (BAAC) is born.

The presidency was accepted by Piret Noorhani, Estonian Literary Museum, Vice Presidents were Rasa Miškinyte, Lithuanian Radio & Television and Inga Vilcāne, Diena Library, Secretary Nora Lictie, Latvian Radio & Television, members of the Board: Andris Ķesteris, Library and Archives Canada, Tedd Urnes (formely Tedd Johansen), NRK, and Lasse Nilsson, SVT.

All other participants of the meeting signed up as members of the Council.

An answer to the many crucial questions asked by Lasse Nilsson was given by Tedd Urnes who presented a draft document of statutes for the new audiovisual council. The draft was accepted as such until further elaboration at a coming membership assembly.

The working fields of the new Board waere to establish cooperation with the Nordic Branch of IASA, seek possible funding for the organization ,and work out the programme for the Riga 2005 conference.

#### **BAAC BOARD MEETING IN STOCKHOLM 2006 -THE ESTONIAN EMBASSY**

The BAAC Board elected in September in Riga had its opening meeting in Stockholm on March 21, 2006.

The aim of the Board meeting was the legalization of BAAC as a non- profit organization. The Estonian Embassy at Tyrgatan in Stockholm was the first venue for the participants at the meeting. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Secretary of the Embassy, Sven Tølp, welcomed the participants wishing the organization every success for the future. BAAC documentation was signed for the registration of BAAC as a non-profit organization and the signatures were authenticated by Sven Tølp.

BAAC was registered as a non-profit organization in Estonia (Tartu), April 4, 2006. The official address of the organization is Vanemuise 42, Tartu 51003, Estonia. BAAC has an official logo and stamp. The Council is registered under the laws of the Republic of Estonia.

Participants at the Estonian Embassy were the elected Board members: Piret Noorhani (Estonia), Juozas Markauskas (Lithuania), Inga Vicāne ( Latvia), Andris Ķesteris(Canada), Tedd Urnes (Norway), Lasse Nilsson (Sweden), Lars-Gunnar Bengtsson (Sweden) and Kristīne Pabērza (Latvia).

The Board meeting was continued at the premises of Swedish Television chaired by Eva-Lis Green and Gunnel Jønsson, SRF Radio Archives. On the agenda for the meeting was the opening of the BAAC old webpage at the new address and elaborating its new version. Raising funds for BAAC activities, and the planning of the Riga Seminar 2006 and IASA/BAAC Conference in 2007 were also discussed. The day ended with a most stimulating tour to the archives, news rooms and studios of Swedish Television, guided by Lasse Nilsson, Lars-Gunnar Bengtsson and Monika Hurtig.

## **THE FOUNDERS OF BAAC**

The founders of BAAC were dedicated librarians, archivists, academics, media technicians, film and radio producers and above all, persons who had participated in international work for years in the field of audiovisual archive development. The main aim of the working group was to set up an organization in the field of archiving within the Baltic countries. The work was not limited to sound and television archives, or movie productions. Libraries and archives for documents, papers and photo collections were targets for the coming work of the organization.

The supporters from international archival bodies came from the International Federation of Television Archives (FIAT/IFTA) and the Nordic Branch of International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA).

The new organization was also supported by The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK), Norway, Swedish Television, Sweden and YLE, Finland.

Canada was represented by Library and Archives Canada.

## **THE VALUES OF THE NEW BALTIC COUNCIL FOR AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVES**

The members of the founding working group had to ask some crucial questions before the final signing of the official documents of the new council.

- What kind of council are we going to set up?
- What are the values for the work?
- Do we want to set up an international elite group of dedicated experts in the field of audiovisual archives?
- Do we want an aristocratic club made for some members only?
- Do we want to make a new venue for media companies and businessmen to exchange commercial information annually?
- Do we want a club for the heads of the audiovisual archives of different television and radio companies?
- What were the needs for support of audiovisual archives in the Baltic countries?
- What kind of language should be used: Russian, German or English?
- Do we want a democratic organization where the members of the Board could be elected as individuals?
- What about the values of the principles of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination and freedom of expression embodied in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for meeting the social, educational, cultural, democratic and economic needs of people, communities and organizations?
- What about controversial issues connected to ethnic origin, citizenship, language, race, gender, political philosophy or religion?
- Seminar, conferences, training meetings and workshops: Aims for the work of the council?

## **COMMITMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF BAAC: BYLAW II: ACTIVITIES,MINI-SEMINARS**

With reference to Bylaw II. 2.4.The council is committed to setting up conferences, seminars and workshops. The result of these goals has been the organization of mini- seminars for members.

The first travelling mini-seminar was organized by Lithuanian Television in February 2007, with Vilnius as the venue. Considering the winter season, delegates experienced a cold but very nice city. The practical work was arranged by the Vice-President of BAAC, Juozas Markauskas and the Head of the Lithuanian Television Archive, Jonas Korys. The participation of the Lithuanian Television and Radio Director Kestutis Petrauskis was also essential to the success of the seminar.

The goal of this event was to invite new people from the Baltic audiovisual archives to join BAAC programmes that included themes such as the following:

- increase public interest and awareness of audiovisual archives in the Baltic countries
- inform about the importance of sources stored in audiovisual archives for academic studies
- access to cultural, educational, historical sources stored in audiovisual archives
- new training possibilities set up by the Council of BAAC
- latest news in the progress of digitization programmes of the members of BAAC and official reports on the field progress of archives not located in the Baltic countries
- television companies: updating of reports of the work of Television and Radio archives
- development of National Archives:The content of the archives, Legal deposit Laws, preservation policy, storage of old tapes and films, document and paper collections, access policy for public use

The seminar programme committee developed the programme with reference to the above goals. The result of the work was a good programme including key points such as:

- Future initiatives of BAAC, reuse of archival footage, mass migration, content description, digitization policy, storage and preservation works.

The programme concluded with a visit to the archives of Lithuanian Radio and Television .

## **ESTONIA: TALLINN – THE SECOND MINI-SEMINAR**

In June of 2007, the Council set up a mini-seminar in the capital of Estonia, Tallinn.

The publishing of the success of the first travelling mini-seminar in Vilnius, Lithuania resulted in an increase in the number of participants at the event in Tallinn. The host was Estonian Public Broadcasting Corporation. The venue was the Estonian National Library located in the center of Tallinn and was supported by the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. Highlighting subjects of interest for Baltic audiovisual archives was the main goal for this mini-seminar.Keywords for the programme were "preservation" and "reuse". The new director of EPBC, Margus Allikmaa, supported

the seminar. Colleagues from Estonia, Finland, Sweden and Norway presented various thematic issues.

The programme was dominated by speakers from Sweden, Norway and Finland. Gunnel Jönsson, who worked at Swedish Broadcasting Resources as Head of Radio Archive and Technical Group of the Sound Archives was also Secretary-General of IASA. Lasse Nilsson worked at Swedish Television and was former Secretary-General of FIAT/IFTA. Tedd Urnes worked at the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) as senior adviser and former President and Secretary-General of FIAT/IFTA. The contribution from Finland was: Eila Haikarainen from YLE Finnish Broadcasting Corporation, Riita Koskivirta from the Finnish Photomuseum and Paavo Rytta from YLE Finnish Broadcasting Corporation.

The paper presented by Gunnel Jönsson dealt with definitions of the concept of archives in the audiovisual world. Information of other international media associations was given with focus on the work done in different fields by IASA. Lasse Nilsson dealt with the work and planning of migration projects within SVT, with a focus on videotape to digital file. Tedd Urnes presented a paper dealing with content description of unknown films on Estonia. Elementary training in making a minimum data list for a catalogue of films was also a subject. A joint presentation was made by Lasse Nilsson and Tedd Urnes about reusing archival footage in the future.

Paavo Rytta gave a paper on Finnish culture and the living archive. Riita Koskivirta presented a report about preservation of original photographs. Eila Haikatainen was emphasized issues concerning publishing of archive photos and copyrights.

#### **BAAC: KEY NOTE SPEECHES**

" ...A keynote speech establishes the main underlying theme of the seminar or a conference. The keynote address emphasizes the framework for the following programme of events , the core message or the most important revelation of the conference. The task of the keynote speaker is to draw the attention of the delegates to the principal themes of the conference...".

To make use of keynote speakers at the seminars and conferences set by BAAC are not a common policy. Welcome speeches made by official high level representatives and diplomats, for example from the Norwegian, Swedish and Canadian Embassies have been a tradition, together with a guest speaker to officially open the conference.

The archive of BAAC has reports of some of the keynote presentations.

Personalities of note include historian Hans Fredrik Dahl, Director of Fritt Ord, Erik Rudeng, The Head of the Audiovisual archives of NRK, Bjarne Grevsgard and Andris Vilks from The Ministry of Culture of Latvia (Latvian National Library).

The Norwegian historian Hans Fredrik Dahl gave a speech in 2004 at the conference in Riga. The title of his paper was: " History of the Digital Mode ".

The Norwegian Director of Fritt Ord, Erik Rudeng, gave a speech at the conference in Riga in 2006.

Fritt Ord ( The Freedom of Expression Foundation, Norway) is located in Oslo. The title of the speech was: " Freedom of Speech-The Future Value of Audiovisual Archives in a Democratic Society".

The issues of freedom of speech, access to information and freedom of expression are stated in the bylaws of BAAC: Bylaw: II.ACTIVITIES: 2.10: endorsing the principles of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination and freedom of expression embodied in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for meeting the social, educational, cultural, democratic and economic need of people, communities and organizations.

The Norwegian Director of the Audiovisual archives of NRK, Bjarne Grevsgard, presented his paper at the conference in Riga in the year 2005.

The Latvian representative of The Ministry of Culture of Latvia gave his speech at the conference in Riga in 2007.

#### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR**

The Council is committed to organizing conferences, seminars and workshops.

(Bylaw II. Activities. 2.4)

The organizing of the annual conference or seminar is the main task for the Board of BAAC. The programme committee evaluates the proposals received. A final decision about the content of the programme has to be made with reference to the aims of BAAC. Subjects related to the development and work of audiovisual archives must be highlighted in the final official programme. The selection of items is limited to themes such as: exchange of information and new ideas; preservation work with tapes, films, sound recording, books, photos. The introduction of new technology to the libraries and archives is a permanent theme for the conferences. The main keyword is „Digitization”. Every year, the agenda includes reports from libraries, archives, other collections and the latest news on the development of digitization of archival materials Academic research and access to audiovisual archives has been an increasing theme, as well as training policy for media librarians working in Baltic archives.

#### **THE RESULT OF A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PROGRAMMES.**

The web site of BAAC is a good source for evaluation of programmes and whether BAAC has succeeded in fulfilment of the aims of the association.

The selection of the content of the programmes and the main themes to be presented is determined by the main issue: digitization of archival collections: old tapes, films, photos, written documents, sound recordings, music recordings – any archival material which finds final storage within a library or an archive. The web site of BAAC does not give necessarily give a complete picture of conference papers since some presenters do not permit the publication of their work. BAAC has published 144 papers presented at the conferences and seminars of BAAC from year 2004 to 2014.

#### **OTHER TOPICAL THEMES**

Even though discussions about new technology have dominated the programmes for years, other discussions such as content description of radio programmes, television programmes, movies, untransmitted archival films, amateur recordings of sound and moving images and media archaeology for academics, journalists and professional researchers have also been presented.

## THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM EMBODIED IN ARTICLE 19 OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

BAAC bylaw 2.10. Few international associations want to add the question of human rights to the guidelines of an association. Implementation is determined by the official policy of the respective country. What is at stake for the content of audiovisual archives if censorship is the official policy of the particular country? The content of the archives is limited to documents selected. The standard of the archive for future researchers is restricted to a limited number of papers. What about an active access policy for people, when they are denied access to information due to lack of essential sources of information?

The introduction of the policy of digitization is an important change for citizens who want to take part in democratic work. Easy access to information is the practical result of the digitization of archival materials which means more exchange of facts and opinions among people.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE –NATIONAL LIBRARY AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES-LEGAL DEPOSIT LAW

BAAC has not made use of key note speakers at every conference. When keynote speakers have been selected for the opening of the conference the subject chosen is cultural heritage, the importance of digitization and cultural values of the archives.

Official reports of national archives or libraries are subjects for evaluation at most of the seminars and conferences due to the fact that the national bodies have to take care of materials made by television companies, radio corporations and the movie industry. The cultural heritage of any country is connected to the philosophy and the introduction of legal deposit law of transmitted and published materials. The main question about how to preserve the cultural heritage of a country is answered by making legal deposit law a reality.

## INFORMATION ABOUT NEW PROJECTS AND DIGITAL SYSTEMS DESTINED FOR SALE.

### BAAC: A NEW SALES DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL INTERESTS?

"... BAAC is a non-profit organization of juridical and natural persons, founded as a voluntary association...". Quotation taken from Bylaw I.General of BAAC. Non-profit association and not an association for a sale and marketing market. Nevertheless, BAAC has to invite companies who are producing new tools for the libraries. Presentations of new projects initiated by independent and commercial companies have been on the agenda at every seminar. The challenge for the programme committee is to make a clear distinction between business and factual information of the products presented. A close study of the programmes shows that the committee has succeeded in keeping a balance between factual research and commercial interests.

The conflict between business values and the values of national cultural information were highlighted by the Norwegian Professor Hans Fredrik Dahl in his paper presented at the first BAAC seminar in Riga in 2004. He asked the question: "... Are we facing a future where national cultural information will be dominated by global firms?...". The title of his lecture was: "History of the Digital Mode". Only a limited abstract of his paper is accessible for public viewing.

## VENUES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCES

The head office of the Council is located in Tartu, Estonia. The Council is registered under the laws of the Republic of Estonia and functions according to these laws.

Nevertheless, the decision to set up meetings and conferences in the capitals of all three Baltic countries was introduced as a rule at an early stage of the association. This means that Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius have hosted the conferences, apart from one, where Helsinki, Finland (2012) was chosen. The record of the conferences and annual seminars shows that the city of Riga has been chosen seven times, while Tallinn has been the venue twice, and Tartu once. The city of Vilnius has welcomed BAAC once, although it has hosted local seminars too. The annual event of BAAC took place in Tallinn in year 2015.

#### AN EVALUATION OF THE THEMES PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL EVENTS

Titles of the annual seminars and conferences of BAAC:

Riga Seminar 2004 Programme (2004); Pan-Baltic Images: Reaching Out to the World, Riga (2005); Audiovisual Archives: Access and Service in the Public Interest, Riga (2006); IASA-BAAC Conference 2007. Building an Archive for the Future, Riga (2007); Transformation as Stability: Audiovisual Archives in the Era of New Media, Tartu, Estonia (2008); Aggregation and Management of Audiovisual Content in the Digital Space, Riga (2009); Back to Analogue: Preserving Audiovisual Resources for Digitisation and Posterity, Riga (2010); Digital Access and Research, Tallinn (2011); From Digitization to Access and Research, Helsinki, Finland (2012); Open Doors: New Ideas, New Technologies, Vilnius (2013); Joint IASA-BAAC Conference 2013., Safe and Reusable: Ideals Versus Real Life, Riga (2014).

Keywords such as access, reuse, digitization, public service, research, content and new technology show that the topical themes are recurrent year by year. Information is up-dated in the fields of common interest for Baltic members of BAAC.

#### WORKSHOP REPORT

Tallinn was the venue for the workshop dealing with issues of conservation of photography. The year for the workshop was 2012.

#### THE PRESIDENTS

The founders of BAAC viewed bylaws and guidelines set up by different international associations like IASA ,AMIA and FIAT/IFTA. Agreement among the founders was made about the election of the President: The President had to be elected from one of the Baltic countries, since the goal of BAAC was to give members from the Baltic States a leading position in developing their own needs.

The current president is Maria Mang from Estonia.

The immediate previous President of BAAC was Zane Gerosa. She was elected in 2011. From 2012 she was Head of the Audiovisual Reading Room at the National Library of Latvia. Zane Gerosa holds a Masters of Music from SUNY at Stony Brook, USA ; a Bachelor of Music from the Music Academy of Latvia and Information Management at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. Since 2009 she is a board member of BAAC.

Zane Grossa succeeded Juozas Markauskas from Vilnius, Lithuania who held the office from 2007 to 2011. Juozas Markauskas made the first web site of BAAC. He graduated in the field of digital preservation and archival systems from the University of Vilnius.

Juozas Markuskas is working as the Head of Digitisation Department, DIZI Heritage, Lithuania.

Juozas Markauskas was elected President after Piret Noorhani left the office in 2007. Piret Noorhani was one of the founders of BAAC. She was elected in 2005 as the first President of BAAC. She has studied Estonian language and literature at the University of Tartu, Estonia and worked as researcher and archivist at the Estonian Cultural History Archives of the Estonian Literary Museum from about 1991 to 1996. Since 2007 she has been Estonian Deaspora project manager in the Estonian National Museum and The President of the Baltic Heritage Network since 2008.

Piret Noorhani, Estonia, Juozas Markauskas, Lithuania and Zane Grossa, Latvia have worked hard to improve the standard of the work and international reputation of BAAC during 12 years of business.

#### HONORARY MEMBERS

"...Honorary member is any person whose great contribution and merit to the advancement of AV archives has been recognized by the Board of the Council, and who is nominated by the general meeting as a recipient of this status...". Quotation: Bylaw of BAAC, 3.2.3.

In 2009, at the BAAC conference in Vilnius, four dedicated members of BAAC were nominated and elected as Honorary members of BAAC: Lasse Nilsson, Lars-Gunnar Bengtsson, Andris Kesteris and Tedd Urnes.

For those of you who have joined BAAC after 2009, you may ask questions about who are the persons elected as Honorary members?

Two of them have Swedish nationality, one is working and living in Canada and one is Norwegian.

A brief presentation of the persons mentioned:

#### Andris Kesteris

He is a founding member of the BAAC and a member of the Board. Andris Kesteris is Canadian. He is President of the Baltic Federation in Canada(BFC), President of the Latvian National Federation in Canada and a Member of the Board of the Central and Eastern European Council in Canada. Over a period of ten years organized and developed the Baltic Film Festival in Canada, presenting films from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to Canadian audiences. He has a diverse film and broadcasting experience in various divisions of the Library and Archives Canada(LAC- formerly National Library and National Archives). Andris Kesteris is an independent producer/ director.

#### Tedd Urnes (formerly Johansen)

He is a founding member of BAAC. Former Head of Film and Videotape Library of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation(NRK), former Senior Adviser of NRK. Tedd Urnes was President, Vice-President and Secretary General of FIAT/IFTA. He has chaired the Latin American Regional Working Group(LARG), the Technical Commission and a member of Television Studies Commission of FIAT/IFTA. He is the Consultant at "Teddview Audiovisual Archival Management (TAAM)".

#### LARS-GUNNAR BENGSSON

Control room manager and archives coordinator at Newsroom, Swedish Television at the city of Malmø, Sweden. He is a founding member of BAAC. He was Member of the Board of BAAC from 2005 to 2010. Since 2014, Lars- Gunnar Bengtsson is working freelance.

#### LASSE NILSSON

Lasse Nilsson is a founding member of BAAC. He worked with SVT archives as archivist, manager of Documentation and Research Department and Project Manager. He is a former Secretary General of FIAT/IFTA, former Chair of Programming Commission and a member of FIAT/IFTA Television Studies Commission. Lasse Nilsson is retired from SVT.

## **CONCLUSION**

The members of the founding working group of BAAC asked some crucial questions before the final signing of the official documents of BAAC at the Estonian Embassy in Stockholm in year 2006. An important question asked was: What are the values of the work? A critical evaluation of the ten years of archival business, plus some prehistory of the work , has been done while writing the report. The goals of the work have been evaluated with reference to the Bylaws of BAAC. The result of the evaluation is that BAAC has managed to satisfy the dreams , the hopes and the ambitions of the founding members . BAAC is proud to have increased professional standards in audiovisual archives situated in the three Baltic countries. Professional contact between members has been stimulated. The challenge for the future is to understand the need for development and education of the various audiovisual archives within the three countries. The founders of BAAC have finished their work. The members who work in television archives, libraries, radio archives, national archives and document archives in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, have to build the programme of the future by scouting for new ideas , technology and tools to improve the work.

Oslo, September 30, 2015

Tedd Urnes