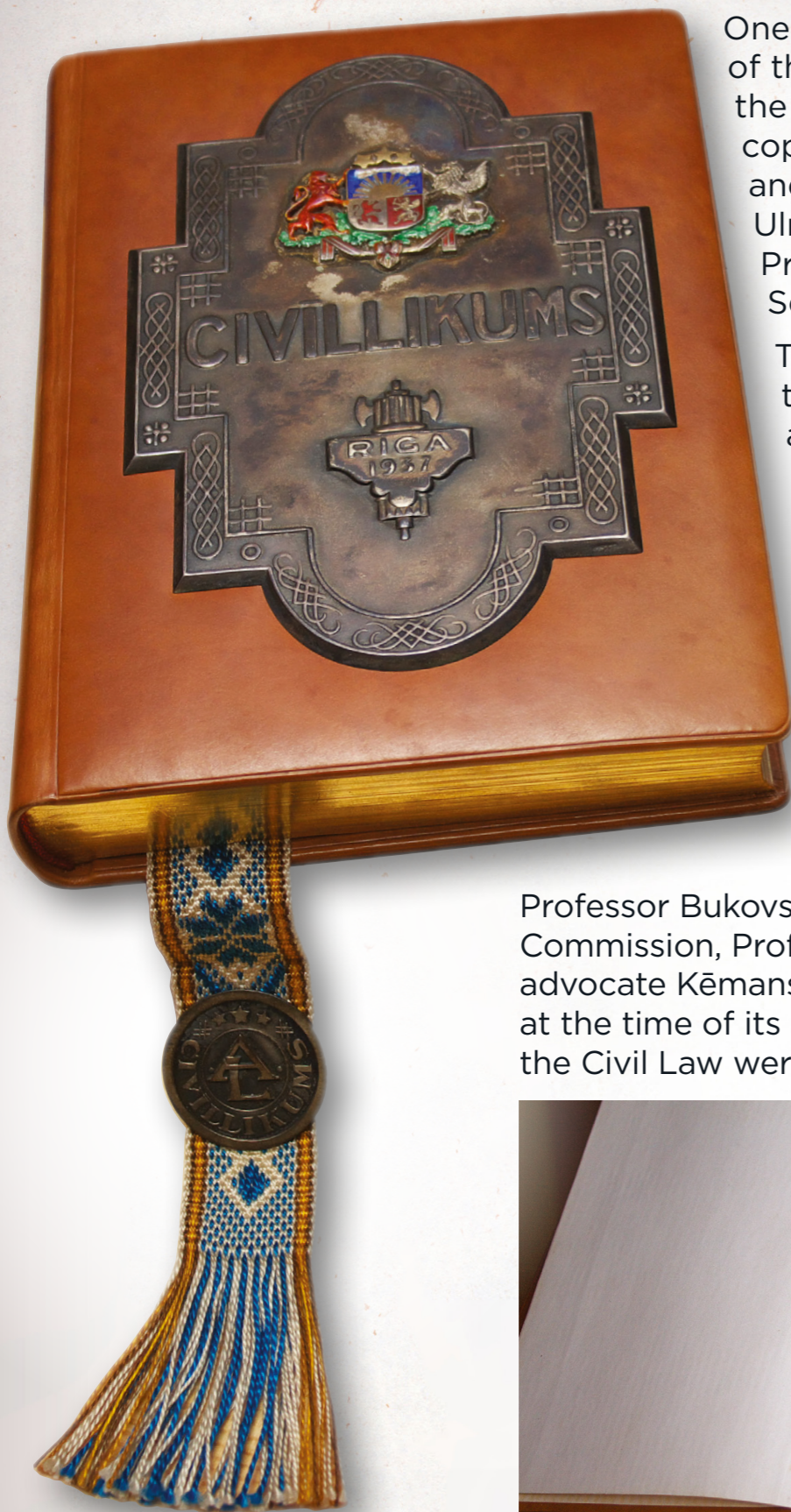


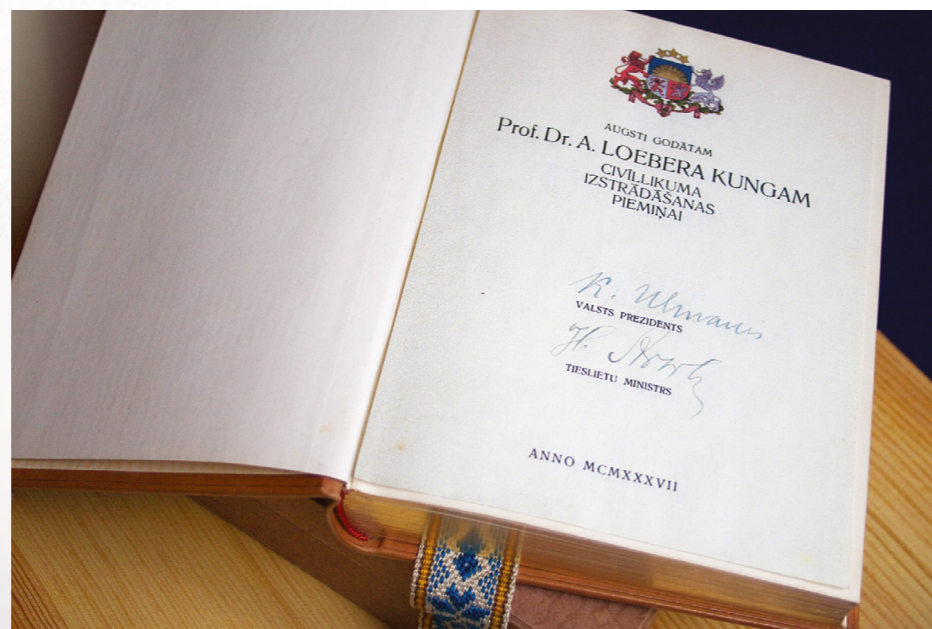
CIVIL LAW 1937



One of the most valuable exhibits of the Supreme Court Museum is the Civil Law of 1937 – a special copy presented by the President and Prime Minister of Latvia Kārlis Ulmanis to one of its drafters – Professor Augusts Lēbers, Senator of the Latvian Senate.

The Cabinet of Ministers adopted the Civil Law on 28 January 1937, and on 7 January 1938 the solemn ceremony of the Civil Law's entry into force took place in the auditorium of the University of Latvia, at which the President of Latvia presented such particularly luxurious copies of the Law bound in leather and silver with a personalized bookmark with a recipient's (drafter's of the Law) initials.

Some of the Civil Law authors – Professor Bukovskis, Chair of the Law Drafting Commission, Professor Būmanis and Sworn advocate Kēmans were no longer among the living at the time of its entry into force. Their copies of the Civil Law were given to their relatives.

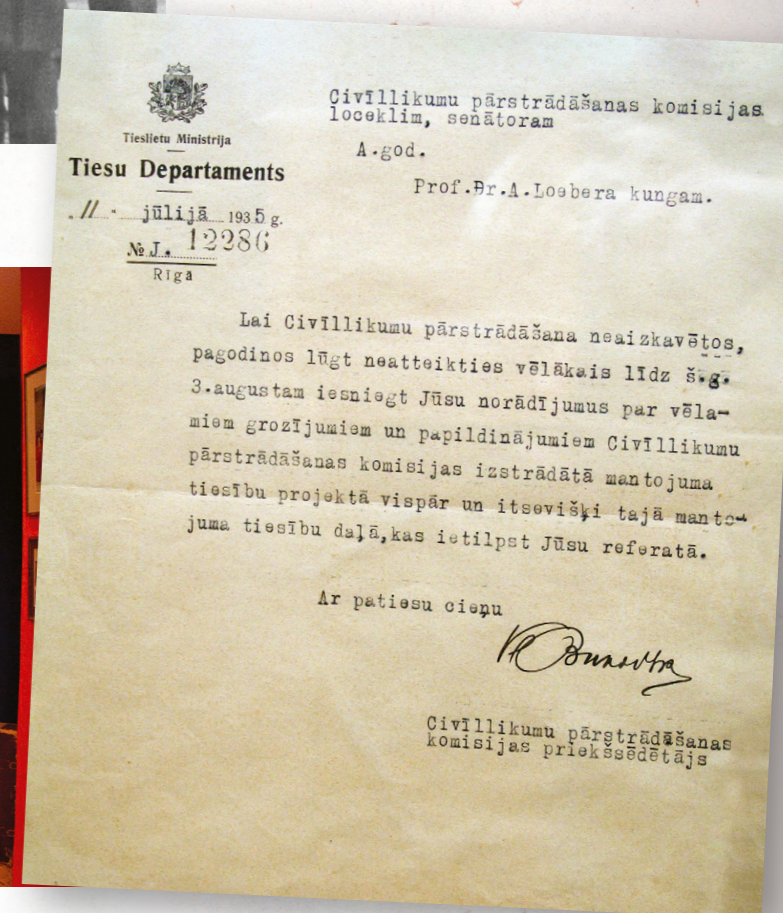


The copy of the Civil Law presented to Augusts Lēbers



President Ulmanis presents the drafters of the Civil Law with silver-forged books

(photo from the book "President Ulmanis' Civil Law")



Until 1938, different civil laws had been in force in Latvian regions (Vidzeme, Kurzeme, Zemgale and Latgale). It took 20 years for the newly independent Latvia to develop and adopt a new, contemporary and unified civil law. Senator Augusts Lēbers' son, Dītrihs Andrejs Lēbers, wrote that for Latvia the adoption of the Civil Law meant what the Napoleonic Code meant for France, the German Civil Code for Germany and the Swiss Civil Code for Switzerland – a transition from the historical particularism of law to a unity of law. At the time of its adoption, the Latvian Civil Law was considered one of the most modern codifications of private law in Europe. It was renewed after Latvia regained independence in 1992-1993, with, of course, some modifications and additions to keep up with the spirit of the times. Thus, the Latvian legal space is still based on the Civil Law of 1937. This is a testimony to the wisdom and foresight of its drafters.