

SENATORS – VERSATILE AND SOCIALLY ACTIVE INDIVIDUALS

The senators of the Latvian Senate were not only capable lawyers, but also socially active and versatile personalities – as was typical of the intelligentsia of the first period of the Latvian Free State, which undoubtedly included lawyers. The Supreme Court Museum holds certificates, photographs, documents and publications that attest to the activities of senators outside their judicial duties and professional associations of lawyers and judges.

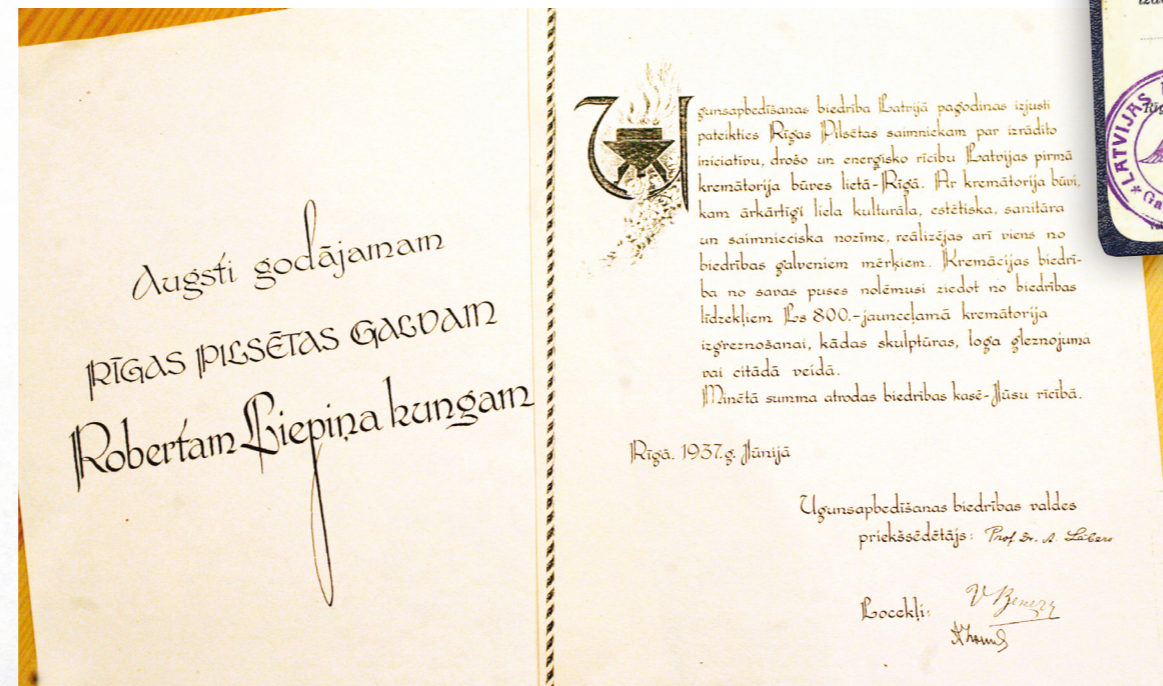


From 1895 to 1940 Kristaps Valters was active in the Riga Latvian Society. For 20 years, the Society's spokesman was Senator Jēkabs Grots. The senators jointly dined at the Riga Latvian Society House after the last general meeting of every month.

Senators and judges of the Chamber of Courts gathered for lunch at the Riga Latvian Society House on 10 April 1938



A portrait of Senator Augusts Lēbers is placed at the entrance of the Riga Crematorium. This is because Lēbers founded the Latvian Cremation Society in 1925 and ensured that the Parliament passed the Cremation Law. The Riga City Council allocated the necessary land for the crematorium in the Brethren Cemetery and in 1939 the Cabinet of Ministers approved the project for a new crematorium. However, the building was not completed until after Latvia regained its independence, and the first cremation took place in 1994.



A gratitude letter written in 1937 by the chair of the Cremation Society, Augusts Lēbers, to the Riga City Mayor, Roberts Liepiņš, for his decision to start the construction of the crematorium



Augusts Lēbers was also an Honorary Member of several other public organisations. Latvian Red Cross badge, issued to Augusts Lēbers in 1920 to commemorate the Latvian Freedom Fights, and Latvian Aero Club life membership card issued in 1930



Mintauts Čakste headed the Latvian-English Society, and Kārlis Ducmanis – the Latvian-Danish Society.

Aleksandrs Gubens was a deeply devout man and for decades was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Senators Baldvins Disterlo and Augusts Rumpēters also served on the church's board of governors.



During his student years, the President of the Senate's General Assembly, Kristaps Valters, travelled around Kurzeme on foot for two summers, taking part in an expedition to collect ethnographic materials for the Riga Latvian Society. Later, a special ethnographic appendix was created for the magazine "Dienas Lapa" managed by him.