

LAW LIBRARY OF SENATOR AUGUSTS RUMPĒTERS



MUZEJA
LIETU
STĀSTI

Augusts Rumpēters was the last living Senator of the Latvian Senate. He died in 1978 in New Jersey, USA. With his passing, the living history of the Latvian Senate came to an end.

Augusts Rumpēters' signature is on the 1944 Memorandum of the Latvian Central Council on the restoration of the actual sovereignty of the Republic of Latvia. In 1948, together with other senators in exile, he drafted a resolution on the validity of the Latvian Constitution after the occupation of Latvia. He was an active defender of Latvian interests in exile and participated in the drafting of the Memorandum of the World Federation of Free Latvians on the occupation of Latvia. In 1973, he published "A Review of the Senate" – a comprehensive overview of the senators and their lives.

The Soviet occupation split the Rumpēters family in two. In 1944, the Senator, together with his two eldest sons, went into exile at the very last moment. At the time, his wife Emma and their two younger sons were in the countryside in Vidriži and were unable to get to Riga in time for departure, so they stayed in Latvia. At that time, everyone thought they would be gone for a short while, but it turned out they were gone for life. Augusts and Emma never met again.

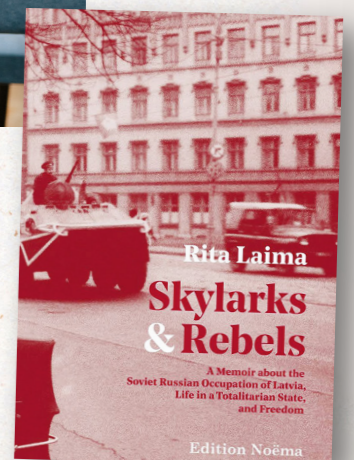
Augusts Rumpēters' sons Ģirts, Ilmārs, Visvaldis and his wife Hilda met in Vidriži in 1990



At the centenary celebration of the Latvian Senate in 2018, Augusts Rumpēters' son Ģirts was a guest of very respectable age – the only one of the senators' children still alive



Rita Laima Bērziņa (born Rumpētere, formerly Krieviņa) is the granddaughter of Senator Augusts Rumpēters. Her parents – Ilmārs Rumpēters, an artist, and Baiba Bičole, a writer, were children of exile, and Rita Laima, born, raised and studied design in the USA, has always carried with her the mentality of a double life in exile. She wrote the book "Skylarks and Rebels" about her observations and reflections while living and working in Latvia, raising her two sons, experiencing the National Awakening and the restoration of Latvia's independence. She donated the book to the Supreme Court Museum.



In the centenary year of the Senate of Latvia, the Supreme Court received a valuable donation – Videmars Rumpēters, a grandson of Senator Augusts Rumpēters, donated his grandfather's law library – 143 legal books and law collections in Latvian, German and Russian.

Augusts Rumpēters was a senator in the Department of Civil Cassation in 1938-1940. When he went into exile in 1944, his law library remained in Latvia, at his countryside home in Vidriži "Vīganti". It was inherited by the Senator's grandson Videmars. He studied biology, then theology and, as his profession was not related to law, he gave his grandfather's library to his classmate Māra Vāciete, who studied law and worked in the prosecutor's office. It was Māra Vāciete who encouraged the Senator's grandson to donate the law library to the Supreme Court on the centenary of the Senate of Latvia, so that the books could return to a place where they belong – the Senate.



Videmars Rumpēters with his sons and Māra Vāciete at the Supreme Court Museum next to the donation contained in four large boxes

