

Date
14.5.1982
Your letter of

Our reference
No 503/
Your reference

KOPJA

Mr. Jānis Krēsliņš
Latvian Foundatin Inc.
3413 Giles Place
BRONX, N.Y. 10463
USA

Dear Mr. Krēsliņš,

I apologize for the great delay of my answer, which is not a sign of lacking interest but a consequence of a leave and two official journeys after it. It was, unfortunately, impossible to answer your letter before the March 21.

Our library is very much interested in the preservation and microfilming of the Latvian pre-World War I newspapers and periodicals. They have been printed on paper which has proved to be fragile to that extent that the microfilming is the only safe way of preserving them.

Before microfilming the publications must, however, be repaired. It does not make sense to microfilm them in their present condition. For this purpose we already calculated the costs of these operations last year. The share of the conservation work for newspapers only (about 150 000 pages) amounts to 20 000 dollars, because a great part of the work needs highly qualified experts. The microfilming itself is already a minor cost, about 10 000 dollars. One positive copy of the whole set would cost about 5000 dollars. All these figures are according to the present exchange rate.

Our library has expertise enough to supervise the work as well as to carry out the microfilming. Experts doing the practical work have, however, to be hired from outside. This explains the costs. The right end to start the work would be the conservation. It would take some years, because the staff has to do other work at the same time. The microfilming included, the total time needed would be about five years.

These estimates are somewhat vague because of the difficulty in anticipating exactly all the problems arising during the work. This is our general experience.

We should, of course, be more than grateful if your found ways to support the work. Our own resources are insufficient even for the preservation of the Finnish material.

I am looking forward to your answer with great interest. I understand that it might not be possible for your Foundation to finance the whole operation, especially when the figures mentioned above do not include other periodicals than the newspapers. It would, in any case, be of great help if we could do as much as possible for preservation of these unique publications.

Sincerely yours



Prof. Esko Häkli

Director

EH/si