

FOREWORD – THE UNDERSIGNED ABOUT HIS COLLEAGUES

This journal is the third special edition we have published:

- the first one was dedicated to Professor Janno Reiljan (65 years, No. 2-2016)
- the second to Professor Sulev Mäeltseemes (70 years, No. 1-2017)
- with respect to the third edition (Matti Raudjärv, 70 years, No. 1-2/ 2019)¹, I would like to say the following as the person concerned:

I am GRATEFUL to my LIFE and everything that SURROUNDS me – for almost 70 years already!

I am asking myself and trying to reply indirectly whether or not it has been wonderful!?

The MOST IMPORTANT THING is that I have had mostly VERY MANY GOOD and KIND-HEARTED PEOPLE in my LIFE who have accompanied me, I have had FRIENDLY RELATIONS, EFFECTIVE COOPERATION with them and these relationships have mostly been VERY HUMAN:

- my hard-working and always helpful parents who have largely built themselves our joint home – the family home-villa, the home of my youth and current wonderful home at Piritä-Kose in Tallinn (I have contributed to these works also myself with my advice, efforts and financing) – my mother Salme (born on 11.12.1926) and father Arved (born on 18.07.1926 – died on 26.01.2019);
- my sister Maarika who was radiant and interesting when she was young but is somewhat controversial now (born on 18.01.1955; currently lives in Greece), her children Jarno (currently lives in the USA with his family) and Girli and their children;
- my children – my efficient daughter Mari-Liis (born on 08.06.1975; Master's degree from Concordia International University Estonia, owner/manager of a company – interior decorator; studied also in the Faculty of Economics of the University of Tartu; currently Master student of the Estonian Art Academy in the speciality of Interior Architecture) and her diligent and practical son – my grandson Julius Marcus (born on 23.08.2002; studies on the upper secondary school level of the Rocca al Mare School in Tallinn; he is a successful sportsman at school and interested in dancing, environmentally conscious and a quite skilful speaker);
- my “joy and pain” already since the 9th form of the Rakvere Secondary School No. 1 (the current Rakvere Gymnasium), my only dear wife Eha and kind mother of my daughter (born on 05.03.1949 in Rakvere; graduated from the Tallinn

¹ Since this is again a special edition of our journal, the undersigned (M. Raudjärv), like also the persons in the two earlier editions (J. Reiljan and S. Mäeltseemes), covers personally more than a half of the costs of preparation, printing/publishing and distribution of this journal (incl. that most of the copies of this journal will be distributed also this time by the publishing and consultation company Mattimar OÜ free of charge both in Estonia and in other countries, incl. to universities and individuals).

Pedagogical Institute (the current Tallinn University), has worked successfully for many years as a qualified teacher);

- my more recent life partners who have been and are considerate and supportive; my respected relatives and other close ones both in Estonia and elsewhere in the world;
- my efficient and demanding teachers at school and academic staff of universities with their experience in life and research, at all educational institutions where I have had the opportunity to study and later to work during my fellowship programmes and to gain new experience and knowledge – at all stages of my life;
- my unforgettable companions during my school, university, post-graduate studies and fellowship periods and research missions both in Estonia and abroad;
- my inspiring, active and competent fellow researchers and supervisors both during writing my thesis and later, in Estonia and abroad;
- my wonderful, long-time, funny and precious friends from childhood, from the times of my studies and later times – also now, and many former and current colleagues in Estonia and in other countries. We have certainly developed lifetime friendly relations with many of them;
- my former and current pleasant neighbours and acquaintances at my current and earlier homes in Rakvere, Tallinn, Kaasiku country home and forest farm in Karkuse Village, Tapa Rural Municipality, Lääne-Virumaa County and in the summer capital Pärnu;
- my many other fine companions and acquaintances all over Estonia and in the world.

When specifying and refreshing my biographical data and other records, I had a wonderful opportunity to remember kindly many people, bringing meetings with them back to my memory and relive through that a lot of interesting things. It was extremely elating, often joyous but sometimes also slightly saddening! But nothing I would completely regret!

I regard it particularly important to have understanding and friendly relations between people, this is more important than many technical/technological inventions/gadgets and often spending time brainlessly with these “things” and engaging in self-justification and self-importance (which does not mean underestimating such equipment and technology or these people – no!).

In conclusion, I find – *I have lived a wonderful and interesting life!*

Many thanks to all of you for all that! Thank you for giving me these opportunities!

Let us be happy and proud about our own state, the Republic of Estonia, and its achievements and developments and success of people in general! Let us recognise that,

it is very valuable! We are all participating in it, after all! Also failures are probably inevitable besides all this? It is so also in the rest of the world. Which is naturally no excuse for us! Let us be happy that we live in the independent Republic of Estonia and are a member state of the EU and NATO and not in the Soviet Union – nothing is ideal!

This is what life is like, not always rising straight but more or less with ups and downs! If I have done anything uncalled-for to anyone – in such a case I admit my faults and I sincerely apologise! It did not happen intentionally.

Surely everybody has done something unnecessary or wrong in their life and has surely failed to do something. But maybe things left undone can still be done, even partly!? We live and learn while we still live!?

I wish good health, success and happiness to everyone – have a good and active life! Until new interesting activities, actions and achievements and meetings gratifying our hearts!

In December 2018 and
January and February 2019

At my home in Tallinn – at Pirita-Kose

With many thanks, sincerely yours,
Matti Raudjärv