

DEMHIST Special Project Grant 2023 report

Project "Postcards to the publication of research by Lauma Lancmane

"The Stoves at Rundāle Palace"

Publication "The Stoves at Rundāle Palace"

The stoves of Rundāle Palace are considered to be the largest stove ensemble in Latvia in the second quarter of the 18th century. It was created during the first phase of the palace construction in the time period from 1737 to 1740. Nowadays there are eight original stoves on display in the palace for which an accurate date of origin and the names of the potters are known.

The museum researcher Lauma Lancmane (retired in 2022) has collected and classified information about the original stoves of Rundāle palace, presenting a wide range of images and information. This publication covers the history of making, preservation, and restoration of stoves of Rundāle Palace, the master craftsmen, and the types and scenes of stoves that are used in painting the tiles. The publication also describes all elements of the historical heating system of the palace (not only stoves but also fireplaces, hearths, flues, and chimneys) and includes information on the stoves that did not survive.

The book was opened on 24 May 2023 when Rundāle Palace celebrated its 287th anniversary. A special contemporary dance choreography was created for the event with dancers dressed in customs like the characters on the stove tiles. The event was shown on public television [LTV evening news](#).

The book "The Stoves at Rundāle Palace" is bilingual (Latvian and English) and has been published in 700 copies. So far 260 books have been sold or given away for representational purposes.

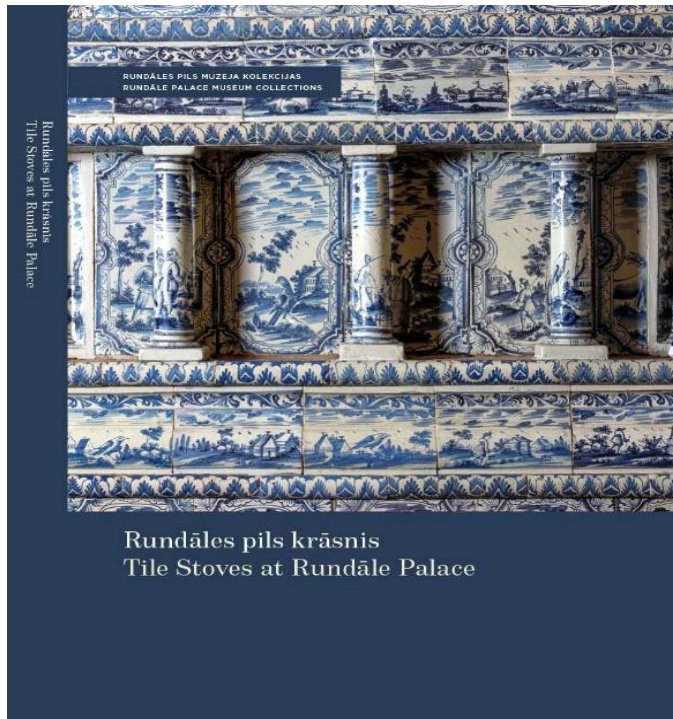
DEMHIST support

With the support of DEMHIST Special Grant the Rundāle Palace Museum has produced a postcard (in Latvian and in English) and magnets with stove tile drawings from Rundāle Palace. The objective of the project was to promote the book "The Stoves at Rundale Palace" and to nudge museum visitors to have a closer look at the stove tile drawings usually seen only from a distance.

Postcards were distributed to the ca. 100 guests of the book launch event on 24 May – representatives of the Ministry of Culture of Latvia, museum specialists, researchers, and media. After the event, we used the postcards as small souvenirs at museum events for families and seniors as well as for our local and international cooperation partners

who visited the palace. The magnets were delivered in mid-October and are being used in a similar way.

The book is still available in the museum shop, so the promotional work will continue, using the souvenirs produced with the support of DEMHIST.



The cover of the book “The Stoves at Rundāle Palace”



Postcard with a picture of a stove tile “Woman with a cornucopia” from the stove in the Duke’s Dressing Room, work of Ivan Ushakov’s brigade, 1738



Magnets: “Woman with a cornucopia”, “Hunting scene”, “Cockfight”

Initially, the grant was allocated for the printing of postcards but as the costs proved to be less than expected, we received the permission from DEMHIST secretary to use the rest of the allocation for the printing of magnets. Together it sums up to EUR 673.37.

Laura Lūse
Director of the Rundāle Palace Museum