



VIII INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OF EX-LIBRIS 2024 “Bridges of Trakai Diplomacy: visits, embassies, memories“

Medieval diplomatic communication was different from modern diplomacy, fragmented rather than continuous. A fixed system of delegations and a permanent body of resident ambassadors - the basic elements of modern diplomacy - only emerged at the end of the fifteenth century, when many of the Italian city-states set up their first permanent foreign missions. In that era, city diplomacy, citizen diplomacy, monarchical diplomacy and state diplomacy emerged. Both now and in past epochs, diplomacy initially rejects the state as the main actor in diplomacy: diplomacy is carried out by individuals, not faceless metonyms. Decisions at the highest levels of government are ultimately taken by individuals with their own personalities, experiences and agendas, operating within a given political and cultural context.

One of the main features of medieval diplomacy was the wide range of diplomatic actors, similar to the various non-state actors who continue to engage in diplomatic relations today. Rulers, knights and patricians, missionaries, pilgrims and nuncios, diplomats, scribes and craftsmen, monks, intellectuals and scientists, merchants, monks and cadets, artists, musicians or politicians in transit and getting to know Lithuania themselves. All those who left their imprints on our history and brought back impressions recorded in diaries and correspondence, who wrote the first prototypes of "travel guides", recorded their impressions in donors' reports, wrote their own memoirs, or who recorded in memoirs their impressions that had already become somewhat crystallized, were creating a global image for the whole country and for the town of Trakai. The images captured by cartographers and artists, and subsequent photographs and video footage that followed, are comprehensive, coherent and virtually unquestionable sources of content.

Trakai city has played a significant role in maintaining both economic and political relations with foreign countries. The city is associated with the reign of Grand Duke Vytautas of Lithuania like no other - in the early 15th century, Trakai was a thriving city, with a large number of merchants, distinguished guests and foreign envoys visiting Trakai and being received in the Representative Hall of the Castle Dukes' Palace.

We invite you to take part in this competition as part of a diplomatic mission: your works turned into an exhibition, as a colorful travel guide will present the attractive, diverse, non-boring face of the hospitable city. The international nature of the competition helps to build new bridges of Trakai diplomacy, and the contestants will become the ambassadors who represent Trakai to the world as a unique place of new discoveries, a magnificent historical past, a place that lives in the present and is committed to the future.

COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The competition starts: from 02nd of April, 2024.

- 1. Topic:** “Bridges Trakai Diplomacy: visits, embassies, memories“.
- 2. Participants:** artists from all around the world over 19, who agree with the Terms of Competition. Participation in the Competition is free of charge.
- 3. Quantity of works:** number of works is unlimited. Please, send two printed out and authorized stamps of each Ex Libris.
- 4. Information about participant:** On the reverse side of every work please provide (using the pencil and Latin characters only) the following information: 1) name(s) and surname of the artist, country; 2)

the title of the work; 3) technique; 4) image dimensions; 5) date of creation; 6) full form of the name and surname of the Ex Libris author if his/her initials or brief form of the name or surname are on the image

Only the works which meet the criteria listed above will be evaluated.

5. Techniques: traditional graphic techniques, individual technique using modern technologies, and computer graphics.

6. Dimensions: the maximum length of the side of Ex Libris stamp - 150 mm, maximum dimensions of the paper sheet: 290 mm x 210 mm (A4).

7. Title: every work must contain the following inscription: „EX LIBRIS. Trakų diplomatijos tiltai“, as well as the name of the author of the work (individual or institution).

Recommended topics:

- Missionaries, monks, nuncios
- Rulers and monarchs
- Knights and Masters of the Order
- Intellectuals, scribes, cartographers
- Craftsmen and merchants
- Modern heads of state and politicians

Please make sure that the following data is provided on the face of each Ex Libris (below the stamp): artist signature, year, circulation or the edition number or initials of the author (E / A), abbreviation of the used technique, name of the work (if there's any).

Ex Libris without necessary inscriptions and the name of the author (individual or institution) will be not accepted both for the competition and exhibition.

8. Deadlines:

Applicants from non-EU countries: **September 20, 2024** (deemed on the date of the postmark stamped on the envelope).

Applicants from EU countries: **September 30, 2024** (deemed on the date of the postmark stamped on the envelope).

9. Please note that Ex Libris will be accepted only with the Participant Registration Form. You can download the form here: <https://trakaimuziejus.lt/renginiai/2024-m-ekslibrisu-konkursas/>

Please make sure that the works are sent in a waterproof envelope and safely packed. When posting the works, please specify “**printed materials without commercial value**”. Organizers do not take responsibility for any issue related to post or courier service.

10. Address:

International Ex Libris Competition
Trakai History Muzeum
Kęstučio str. 4
LT-21104 Trakai, Lithuania

11. Evaluation: submitted works will be evaluated by the Evaluation Commission composed and approved by the Director of the Trakai History Museum Alvyga Zmejevskienė. Evaluation dates: October 10-11, 2024.

Ex Libris, which corresponds to the Terms of the Competition, will be selected for the exhibition, catalogue and nomination procedure.

Evaluation criteria:

- originality of the work
- coverage of the topic
- creativity
- professional use of chosen techniques

Please, notice: dirty, crinkly, torn, folded in half work will not be evaluated, as well as the works delivered after the deadline.

12. Exhibition: date, time, and place of the opening of the exhibition of the awarded and winning works will be announced at a later stage.

13. Creating the catalogue: The commission will select the 75 best works and will send notificationsto the authors. Selected works will be exhibited and included in the catalogue. Printed or digital catalogue will be sent free of charge to the Competition winners.

14. Awards: works will be evaluated and awarded in two groups.

- Ex Libris created in traditional graphic techniques:

I award – 300 EUR, medal

II award – 200 EUR, medal

III award –100 EUR, medal

I–III place diplomas

- Ex Libris created in modern techniques, author’s technique, using computer graphics:I–

III place diplomas

The commission could award winners or authors with additional prizes, presents and diplomas established by organizers or sponsors.

15. Please note:

- Submitted works, accepted and non-accepted ones, remain in the Trakai History Museum holdings and are not to be returned. Organizers have the right to take pictures of submitted works, copy them, use them for advertising competitions, publish them mentioning the author’s name to use them in marketing and publishing without the author’s special consent and without paying for it.

- By filling in and signing the participant questionnaire a participant agrees to present his/ her works to the fund of the competition and accepts the terms of the competition and commission decisions.

16. Competition results: competition results will be published on the website of the Trakai History Museum <https://trakaimuziejus.lt/renginiai/2024-m-ekslibrisu-konkursas/> no later than October 25, 2024.

COMPETITION ORGANIZER
Trakai History Museum
Kęstučio str. 4
LT-21104 Trakai, Lithuania

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“Bridges of Trakai Diplomacy: visits, embassies, memories”

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s)	Surname
Email: Telephone No.	
Address: name of the street, No.:	City
Post code	Country

Name of the work	Dimensions (mm)	Technique

Please fill in the form with readable Latin characters. We kindly ask to mark the technique with the international code. Please send the form in DOC or PDF format (you could use text file as well for this purpose) via email to Eglė Rojutė: evelina.petrauske@trakaimuziejus.lt

Brief CV _____

The most important personal exhibitions _____

The most important group exhibitions _____

Prizes, awards _____

By signing this form, I confirm, that I have read the Terms of the Competition and I agree with all of them. I declare that I am the author of the works as well as the owner of their copyrights. By signing the form, I allow the organizers to use my personal data according to valid Lithuanian and European Union legal acts. I am aware of the Privacy Policy of the Organizer, which is published on the following website: <https://trakaimuziejus.lt/privatumo-politika/>

Date

Signature



THE CODES FOR TECHNIQUES USED IN PRINTING EX LIBRIS

Relief printing	X
Woodcut	X1
Wood engraving	X2
Linocuting	X3
Plastic	X6
Typography, letterpress	T
Linotype, indirect letterpress	T1
Line block (clichè)	P1
Half-tone (clichè)	P2
Collotype	P5
Photolithography	P6
Offset	P7
Original photograph, hologram	P8
Serigraphic reproduction (photosilkscreen)	P9
Computer reproduced design	CRD
Computer generated design	CGD
Indentation	C
Steel engraving	C1
Burin engraving	C2

Etching	C3
Drypoint	C4
Aquatint	C5
Soft-ground	C6
Mezzotint	C7
Intaglio engraving on linoleum, plastic, oth.	C8
Autolithography	L1
Autography (transfer lithography)	L2
Stencil „pochoir“	S
Original serigraphy (screenprinting)	S1
Mimeography (dye stencil)	S2
Katazome (oiled-paper stencil)	S3
Creator technique	OWN
Frottage, collography	U
Photocopy	Y
Monotype	/mon
Number of colours	/3
Hand-coloured	/col
Decoding of mixed technique	MT, Mix