

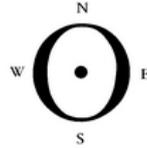


BALTIC CENTRE *for* WRITERS *and* TRANSLATORS

Annual Report 2013

Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators / Östersjöns författar- och översättarcentrum
Organisation No 834001-6776
Uddens gränd 3 621 56 Visby Sweden





BALTIC CENTRE *for* WRITERS *and* TRANSLATORS

Annual Report 2013

“...There is a fine institution situated in Visby, Gotland Island, Sweden: the Baltic Center for Writers and Translators (BCWT). I hold this Center to be the jewel of Swedish cultural policy and public diplomacy in the Baltic region. ...”

Leonidas Donskis, Lithuanian philosopher, writer, EU parliament member

In 2013 Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators was extensively devoted to its core activity and served as a work and meeting place for a broad international community of more than 200 writers and translators from 25 countries.

2013 was as well an anniversary year – 20 years since BCWT’s establishment soon after the fall of Berlin wall, on the wave of enormous democratic and economic integration process set off in Europe and in the Baltic sea area and when the Baltic sea became a uniting and not dividing sea. We took this opportunity to look into the past and today of the BCWT, to glimpse into the future and put the centre into the context of the Baltic sea, Nordic and European cultural cooperation. We also used this festive occasion to celebrate the centre together with the international community of writers and translators and together with citizens of Gotland, the home of BCWT.

2013 was also the year when for the first time BCWT undertook a long-term educational commitment and arranged, together with its partners, an advanced training for literary translators.

Read here about BCWT’s aims and goals, its governing and management, its very essence – being a home for literary creation, a writers’ and translators’ on-going workshop, an international meeting point and a place for significant encounters and learning.

Overview

Since it was created in 1993 on the initiative of the writers and translators' organizations in the Baltic Sea Region and in the Nordic countries and as tangible result of the 1992 Writers' and Translators' Cruise, "Baltic Waves", the Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators has been offering writers and translators a workplace, international meeting point and stimulating environment. Since 1993 more than 4200 authors and translators from all over the world stayed and worked at BCWT in Visby. Valued in books - not less than 3500 titles have been worked on, written or translated. The Centre carried out 20 international festivals, numerous translation workshops with different language constellations and models, have been host and co-organizer for UNESCO, Baltic Sea, Nordic and European conferences and seminars. It is an internationally recognised institution with long term cooperation in the Baltic Sea area, Scandinavia and Europe.

With the focus on creative literary work, freedom of expression, promotion of professional exchange, dissemination of knowledge and building bridges between languages and cultures the BCWT cooperate with a great number organisations and individuals internationally, nationally and locally.

BCWT is financed by the Swedish state/ Swedish Arts Committee and Region Gotland and raises as well complementary funding.

"...I was lucky to spend 3 weeks in BCWT one year ago. I was going to write poems but immediately when coming to the house I started writing a whole new story. Now it is finished and it will be published next autumn. It is totally thanks for the BCWT - I am sure I would not have a courage or just a chance to write this story without travelling to Gotland. It all came to me there - all the memories and dreams I have had about this story many years ago."

Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen, Finland

BCWT aiming to

stimulate the literary and cultural exchange between the countries around the Baltic sea, serve as a workplace and meeting point for writers and translators from the region;
promote the Centre as a site for cooperative projects, such as seminars, encounters and conferences compatible with the guidelines for BCWT;
support the creation of a reference library compatible with the guidelines for BCWT, as well as an information data base on the literatures of the region;
act as a promoter of formation and a source of inspiration in the cultural field in the Baltic sea region;
constantly seek new forms and partners for collaboration between writers and translators in the region,
strengthen the cultural contacts giving priority the east-west aspect;
contribute to increase knowledge and exchanges between literatures and writers from the countries in the region.

How BCWT is being governed and managed

Members and founders

of the non-profit organization BCWT (Östersjöns författar- och översättarcentrum) are the Swedish Writers' Union, Gotland County Administration and Region Gotland. The members appoint three representatives each to the Board of Representatives and nominate the Swedish members to the Board of the Baltic Centre.

The members nominated Representatives

Gotland County : Lena Kulander, Britt Silfvergren, Louise Hoffman Borgö

Region Gotland: Barbro Andersson, Mats Sundin, Lilian Edwall / Deputies: Eleonore Hemström, Bo Björkman, Eva Gahnström.

Swedish Writers' Union: Djordje Zarkovic, Katarina Kieri, Marie Lundquist

Annual Meeting of the Representatives was held on 6 May.

Board of the BCWT

is composed of a Chairman and six members and six deputies who are appointed by the Representatives on the annual meeting and the Board internally appoints its Deputy Chairman. Of the Board's six members, two are nominated by the Swedish Writers' Union, two - by the County Administration of Gotland, of whom one represents Uppsala University Campus Gotland (earlier Gotland University College), one member is to be nominated by Region Gotland. The Baltic Writers' Council nominate two members representing the foreign Writers' and Translators Unions for a two years' period.

Members of the Board

January-May / June - December

Lars Magnus Lahne / Olle Jansson, chairman, Uppsala university Campus Gotland

Robert Hall, Region Gotland

Kicki Scheller / Thomas N. Persson, Gotland County Administration

Peter Curman / Janina Orlov, Swedish Writers' Union.

Anders Bodegård / Stefan Ingvarsson, Swedish Writers' Union.

Tor Tveite, Norwegian Translators' Association / Heidi von Wright, Finland's Swedish Writers Association; Baltic Writers' Council.

Hannu Niklander, Finish Writers Union / Yulya Tsimafeyeva, Belarus Writers' Union, Baltic Writers' Council

Deputies: Anna Hrdlicka, Region Gotland / Lennart Edlund and Peter Molin. Gotland County / Ingela Bendt and René Vazquez Díaz, Swedish Writers' Union / Liutauras Degesys, Lithuanian Writers' Union and Hannu Niklander, Finnish Writers' Union, Baltic Writers' Council.

Meetings of the Board

During the year 2013 the Board had three meetings, all held in Visby
28 February - 6 May - 22 November

Baltic Writers' Council - BWC

The Baltic Writers' Council represents 21 literary organizations, 12 countries and approximately 17.000 members around the Baltic region and beyond.

The Council which was founded during the legendary authors' cruise in 1992 is a multinational, non-profit, non-governmental organisation which promotes the freedom of expression, democracy and the free flow of ideas and information between the writers' and translators' organisations. It also aims to support and inspire BCWT activities. The BCWT is the headquarters for BWC, which nominated two members and two deputies to BCWT's Board.

The chairperson of Baltic Writers' Council is Janina Orlov

BWC had its annual General Assembly on 1-2 March at BCWT.



Photo session



Running after the papers, "caught-by-the-wind"

The Office

has been open every week-day 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Employees:

Lena Pasternak - director

Patrik Muskos - managing assistant

Amanda Karlsson - household cleaning

Mimmi Muskos - cleaning, temp

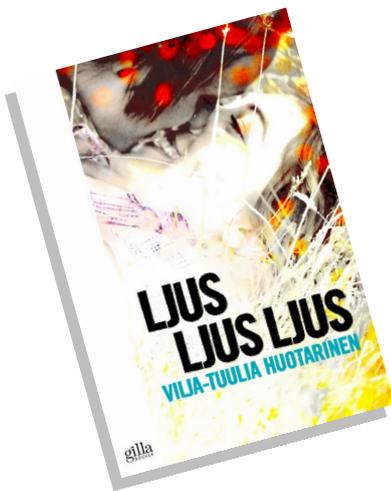
“building bridges and breaking barriers”

BCWT is a haven for work and a forum for exchange

BCWT is a work place for writers and translators with residency priority given to literary professionals from the countries of the Baltic Sea region and Scandinavia, yet the centre is open for applicants from all over the world. The main criteria for receiving a residency grant is the professional character of literary occupation, that is an applicant can present existing publications. A regular application form contains CV, list of publications, description of the project to be worked on.

During 2013 the BCWT hosted 203 residing guests, staying totally 2941 guest-nights, from 25 countries. They could devote themselves to a literary project of their own, staying in average 2-5 weeks on a residency bursary, t. i. free of charge, and with 24-hours full access to all BCWT's facilities.

Furthermore, SIDA, German Translation Fund, Swedish Writers' Fund, Swedish institute, Estonian Writers' Union, Finland Swedish Writers' Association, Norwegian Writers Union, Latvian Cultural Fund, et al granted a number of individual earmarked bursaries, meant for a working residency at the BCWT. Majority of 203 residing guests were writers (poetry, prose, playwright, librettist, essayists, children books, etc) and literary translators, though occasionally cultural administrators, publishers and other guests working in the literature field stayed in connection to a shorter project or meeting. BCWT actively work for intensify dialogue between writers and for visibility of Centre's international activity, extensively served as a place for readings, Open Houses, film-screenings, meetings, talks, receptions, mingles, dinners and study visits.



“Last time in Visby I wrote the whole first version of a story called "light, light, light" and it got published and nominated and won Finlandia Junior -prize which is the most important prize for books for teenagers/youngsters. So: I really would like to see what would Visby do for my poems! The whole place inspired "light, light, light" and I am sure it would not have been written the same way if I were at home - or in anywhere else - that time. I really got focused on in the residence and I would like to do that again: just wrting, the bells, the ocean and the whole island covering me from everything else.

PS

I am happy to announce my book I wrote in Visby (!!!) "valoa valoa valoa" will be published in Sweden "ljus ljus ljus" this year! Gilla Böcker is the publishing house.”

Vilja-Tuulia Huotarinen, Finland

Promoting the BCWT as an international meeting place, the organization has put significant efforts into creating good working environment and welcoming conditions to develop professional and personal contacts and networking. Dinners, tea-hours, combined with talks and presentations of work-in-progress contribute to deeper acquaintance with each other's writing, culture, backgrounds, experiences. To inspire the guests by extraordinary historical and natural richness of the island, to create more oppor-

tunities for international dialogue-on-road a lot of excursions in Visby and around Gotland were arranged for residing guests and participants of the projects. A great number of presentations of the BCWT's activity were done for booked and drop-in study visits to the BCWT's premises.

Cooperation with Baltic Art Centre and Visby International Centre for Composers, that are also located on Gotland, was intensified. Joint encounters were arranged to create opportunities for professional and personal exchange. New ideas and projects have been sown and will for sure give fruit in the near future.



“Last Thursday it was made public that I won a prize in children's literature (it's one of the big ones in Spain, in the sense that you compete with any of the official languages of the country: Castilian, Catalan, Euskera and Gallego). The funny thing is....that the book takes place in Visby. The title in English would be something like: The new life of Mr. Rutin, and it's a fun book. Naturally, the Baltic Centre is mentioned in the acknowledgments of the book because without it there wouldn't have been any story.”

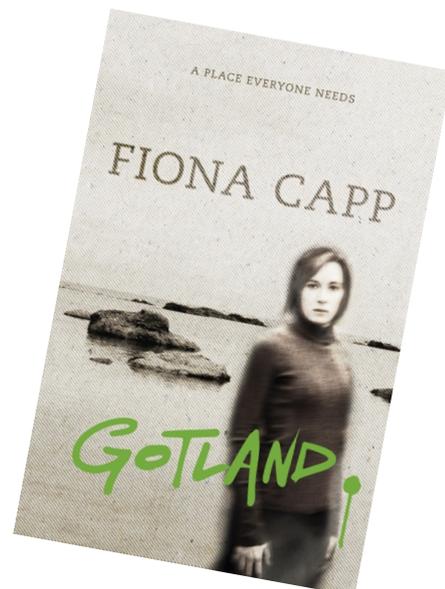
David Nel-lo, “La nueva vida del señor Rutin”, published March 2014

From reviews in the Australian press:

”In 2009, Fiona Capp spent part of a summer at the Baltic Writers and Translators Centre in Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland. Her time there has provided an exotic and compelling backdrop for her new novel”

”In the middle of the Baltic sea lies Sweden's largest island, Gotland. It's a wild place, lashed by unpredictable weather, with high, rocky escarpments, medieval churches and towers, cobbled streets, a fortress dating from the Middle Ages and vast expanses of beach that spread out to sea.

Novelist Fiona Capp knows Gotland well. She's been there three times and is fascinated by its limestone cliffs and timeless presence. Gotland is a refuge from the hustle and bustle of city life. Wandering through the winding streets, gazing at the turrets of its ancient buildings, you're transported back into a long-lost European fairy-tale. The hazy light and grey landscape of this bleak yet magical space could not be more different from Australia....”



Fiona Capp. “Gotland” published in August 2013

2013: WRITERS AND TRANSLATORS-IN-RESIDENCE

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Days | 2941 |
| Unique guests | 203 |
| Countries | 25 |

| | Total days | | Unique guests | |
|----------------------|-------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| | 2941 | | 203 | |
| Sweden | 1031 | 35,06% | 88 | 43,35% |
| Finland | 409 | 13,91% | 30 | 14,78% |
| Germany | 351 | 11,93% | 17 | 8,37% |
| Norway | 201 | 6,83% | 14 | 6,90% |
| Belarus | 125 | 4,25% | 4 | 1,97% |
| Latvia | 94 | 3,20% | 6 | 2,96% |
| Lithuania | 90 | 3,06% | 5 | 2,46% |
| Denmark | 79 | 2,69% | 6 | 2,96% |
| Estonia | 67 | 2,28% | 5 | 2,46% |
| Russia | 67 | 2,28% | 4 | 1,97% |
| Poland | 63 | 2,14% | 4 | 1,97% |
| Slovenia | 50 | 1,70% | 2 | 0,99% |
| Iceland | 49 | 1,67% | 2 | 0,99% |
| USA | 40 | 1,36% | 2 | 0,99% |
| France | 33 | 1,12% | 3 | 1,48% |
| Faroe Islands | 30 | 1,02% | 1 | 0,49% |
| Canada | 28 | 0,95% | 1 | 0,49% |
| China | 24 | 0,82% | 1 | 0,49% |
| Iran | 23 | 0,78% | 1 | 0,49% |
| India | 22 | 0,75% | 1 | 0,49% |
| Bulgaria | 15 | 0,51% | 1 | 0,49% |
| Ethiopia | 15 | 0,51% | 1 | 0,49% |
| Greece | 15 | 0,51% | 1 | 0,49% |
| UK | 13 | 0,44% | 1 | 0,49% |
| Palestine | 7 | 0,24% | 1 | 0,49% |

Profession

| | Days | | Guests | |
|-------------|-------------|--------|------------|--------|
| Writers | 1918 | 65,22% | 127 | 62,87% |
| Translators | 873 | 29,68% | 51 | 25,25% |
| Others | 150 | 5,10% | 25 | 12,38% |

Gender

| | Days | | Guests | |
|--------|-------------|--------|------------|--------|
| Female | 1821 | 61,92% | 127 | 62,87% |
| Male | 1119 | 38,05% | 76 | 37,62% |

Others = musicians, politicians, dramaturgist etc.

Literary Feast and 20 years anniversary

30 May – 1 June

Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators celebrated its 20 creative years with a festive program consisting of a seminar on development in the Baltic Sea region, freedom of expression, writers' condition, centre's role and power of literature, - of readings and talks, concert in the Cathedral, the open house to writers live band WHAT? from Finland and duo-dj from Gotland - the program swung between seriousness and play, reflections and visions - all in the fairest of the seasons! All open for the public!

Professor Irina Sandomirskaya from Cultural Studies at Södertörn University commenced the seminar, moderated by the journalist and writer Maarja Talgre, with the keynote *From the Age of the Radio Masts to Google Translate: Understanding, Misunderstanding, Conscious Falsehood, Aphasia*. Kjell Westö and Anders Bodegård stressed the need of a free space for the free word and Nora Ikstena, Liutauras Degesys, Yulya Tsymafeyeva and Karl Martin Sinijärv discussed conditions of a writer and role of literature in their countries and in the context of changing societies.

The program continued in Almedal Library with talks and readings by authors with strong artistic ties to Gotland. A concert in Visby Cathedral with translator and tenor Tor Tveite, accompanied by organist Claes Holmgren, ended the first day of the literature feast.

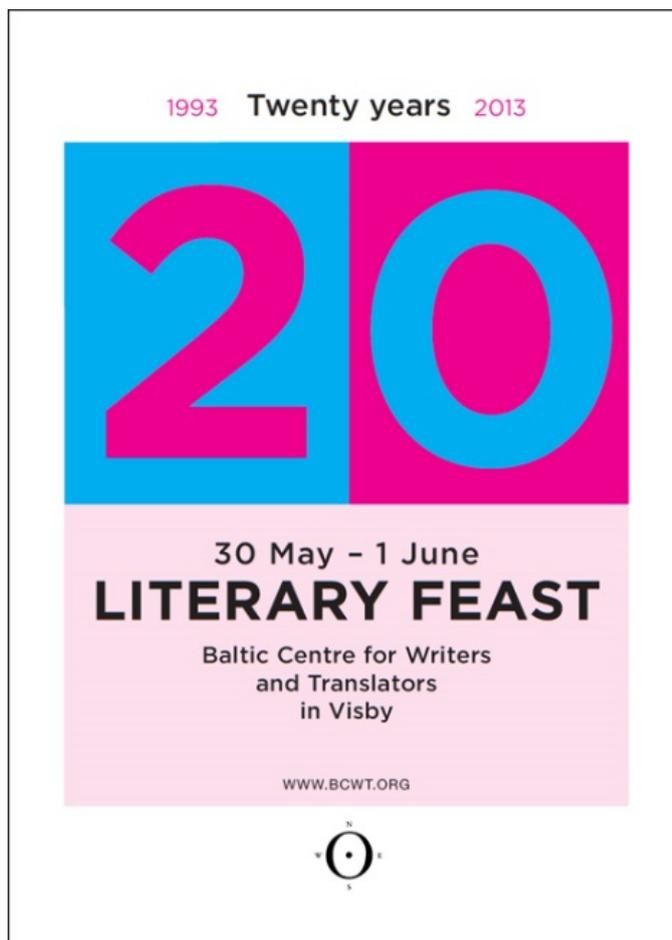
The following day Centre's both houses were wide open and from early afternoon until late night the public were streaming through, working studios, library, led and guided by writers and board members. On the outdoor stage speeches and poetry were floating until it was time for the writers' band WHAT? to start playing for dance. The celebration party, open to everybody, continued "until the rooster crowed"

The Literary Feast was funded by Nordic Culture Fund and Swedish Arts Council

"It was a funky event", noted the poet and the chairman of the Estonian Writers' Union Karl Martin Sinijärv.

3 July

We continued public celebration of the 20 creative years and under the title "Building bridges, breaking barriers" and "a Room of One's Own" arranged discussion and readings at Politicians Week. Participated Gunnar Ardelius, writer and chairman of Swedish Writers Union, Nasrin Madanizad, writer, Växjö/Iran, Parvin Ardalan, writer, Malmö/Iran and Mats Hellström former minister, ambassador and governor dedicated to issues concerning Baltic Sea area.





The festival poster swinging in all kinds of weather

Fabrique Européenne des Traducteurs / Europeiska översättarsmedjan / European Translators Smithy

In 2013 BCWT in cooperation with Übersetzerhaus Looren in Wernetshausen in Switzerland arranged a two-months long Swedish-German translation course aimed for literary translators in the beginning of their professional carrier. Both organizations joined the European network *Les Fabrique Traducteurs*, that support bringing-up a new generation of translators.

The program, under the guidance of mentors/tutors, consisted of two linked seminars, the first of which took place in October 2013 at the Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators in Visby and the second seminar held in November 2013 at Übersetzerhaus Looren in Wernetshausen.

Following the open call, that was spread out through the network of universities, embassies, culture institutes, and evaluation by a group of experts (Aimée Delblanc, Sofia Stenström, Paul Berf) the places in the workshop were awarded to three translators from Swedish to German and to three from German to Swedish. Each participant receives a grant of € 2,500. Applications were made with a self-selected translation projects with sample translation website.

During the workshop the participants also were writing a blog that became a kind of diary and reflection on their work, translation and literature in general. Invited to Visby a publisher (Svante Weyler förlag) and literary agent (Hedlund Literary Agency) gave profound introduction into the publishing reality. Meetings with editors were also arranged in Stockholm (Natur & Kultur and Bonniers in Stockholm).

Participants:

Into German:

Caroline Weiland translates *Handlingen* by Sara Mannheimer

Therese Korritter translates *Torka aldrig tårar utan handskar. 1 Kärleken* by Jonas Gardell

Stefan Pluschkat translates *Kairo* by Andrzej Tichy

Into Swedish:

Jens Ahlberg translates *Knaben und Mörder* by Hermann Ungar

Viktor Englund translates *1979* by Christian Kracht

Jesper Festin translates *Der Zimmerspringbrunnen* by Jens Sparschuh

Mentors:

Linda Östergaard (SWE) / Susanne Dahmann (GER)

Christine Bredenkamp (SWE) & Maike Dörries (GER)

Helga Kroog (SWE) & Regine Elsässer (GER)

Translator/actress Renate Bleibtreu: stage performance coaching

The German-Swedish translation workshop started off on the 1st October at the Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators in Visby and after ten working weeks, both in Sweden and Switzerland, finished with a public reading of the participants at the Goethe Institute on 28th November in Stockholm.

The Translators' Smithy proceeds into 2014 and will result in publication of an anthology with the translated texts.

The project has been funded by EU programme Longlife Learning with complementary grants from Swedish Arts Council, Swiss Pro Helvetia, German Literature Translation

The implementation of the "The Smithy" intensified cooperation with a number international and national organizations, first of all with Übersetzerhaus Looren in Switzerland but also with the network Fabrique Traducteur, International Translators' Centre in Arles, Goethe Institute in Stockholm, Swiss Embassy in Stockholm, publishing houses Albert Bonniers and Natur & Kultur, Swedish Writers Union.



Tranlators' Smithy forging thoughts outdoors and indoors / Fårö and BCWT

All photos © Lena Pasternak

Specific residency grants

BCWT in cooperation with Belarusian and Swedish writers' unions and with the support from SIDA was glad to welcome four writers from Belarus on a month residency.

German Translators' Fund and Estonian Writers Union awarded earmarked bursaries for respectively German translators and Estonian writers for a residency at BCWT.

BCWT had the opportunity to grant a residency to two writers who are in refuge in Sweden

In August we were happy to welcome Mezgebu Hailu Habtewold from Ethiopia who is in writers-in-refuge programme in Stockholm and in December - the Iranian writer Nasrin Madanizad who is in the similar programme in Växjö.

In 2013 BCWT frequently served as a meeting location for a number of organizations on Gotland: e.g Föreningen Norden, Kultudral St Nikolai, annual meeting of regional libraries.

Selected Notes from "Logbook"

1 October

Introduction day of European Translators Smithy. Meetings with the mentors, young translators - discussion and dinner

14 October

New mentors duo arrive. Meeting with four mentors and the group. Planning, schedule, content.

17 October

Lena Pasternak gave a talk in Vilnius on the theme EU Neighbourhood Policies and Its Dilemmas. The Meeting was arranged within Lithuanian EU chairmanship under the title The Meeting of Senior Officials of Ministers of Cultures and Senior Officials Responsible for Culture in Ministries for Foreign Affairs.

22 October

Visit and talk of literary agent Magdalena Hedlund

23 October

Visit and talk by a publisher Svante Weyler

25-26 October

Study visit to Literature Moderna Festival, visit to Goethe institute and Swiss Embassy

11 November

LP about the BCWT at the Swedish Writers Union's board meeting

27 - 29 November

European Translators Smithy after five weeks in Visby and three weeks in Looren return to Sweden, Stockholm. BCWT arranges visits Publishing houses Bonniers and Natur & Kultur as well as feed-back meeting, held at the Swiss Embassy.

28 November

Grand-finale at Goethe Institute in Stockholm - Public Reading by the young translators - participants in "The Smithy"

BCWT's activity was financed by

in 2013 by the Swedish state/ Swedish Arts Committee (1.550000 SEK) and Region Gotland (430 000 SEK)

Projects and bursaries were funded by:

Nordic Culture Fund, European programme LEONARDO - Lifelong Learning, Swedish Arts Council, SIDA, German Translation Fund, Kulturkapitaal (Estonian Culture Fund)

BCWT cooperated and communcated with networked with:

Swedish Arts Council, County Administration on Gotland, Region Gotland, Swedish Writers' Union, Übersetzerhaus Looren in Switzerland, Collège International des Traducteurs Littéraire in Arles, Baltic Writers' Council/Östersjö Författarrådet, Finnish Writers' Union, Publishing house *Natur och Kultur*, Albert Bonniers Förlag, Svante Weyler publishing, Hedlund Literary Agency, *WHAT?* Music band from Finland, Baltic Art Center, Visby International Composers Centre, Ventspils International Writers' and Translators' House, Estonian Writers' Union, Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, Lithuanian Ministry of Culture, EU parliament member Leonidas Donskis, Maarja Talgre, writer and journalist, Uppsala University Campus Gotland, Suderbyn Eco Village, Almedal Library Visby, German Translators' Fund, Deutsche Institut (Goethe Institute in Stockholm), Network Fabrique Traducteurs Europeene, Pro Helvetia - Swiss Arts Council, Literarische Colloquium Berlin, Gotland County Library, Nordic Culture Fund, Network *Kulturskaparna*, Swedish PEN, Almedal Politician Week ICORN, international network for cities of refuge, RECIT (Réseau Européen des Centres Internationaux de Traducteurs littéraires), Gotland Radio, PA-kompaniet with m m

Thank you from the BCWT's Board

To maintain and develop its activity the BCWT is dependent on good contacts with institutions, organisations and private persons in many countries. In 2013 we received support from many old and new friends, partners, on and outside Gotland

Many thanks to everybody!

Visby, May 2014

Olle Jansson

Janina Orlov

Robert Hall

Stefan Ingvarsson

Thomas N. Persson

Yulya Tsimafeyeva

Heidi von Wright



BALTIC CENTRE *for* WRITERS *and* TRANSLATORS

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