

Amici Linguarum - Dead Association Alive Once More

After a few years of silence, Amici Linguarum International Association is starting to gather its members again. Founded in 1964 in Sweden by a Swedish polyglot, Erik V. Gunnemark, for around four decades Amici Linguarum was an elite network of polyglots and people sharing deep interest in foreign languages. As the association mainly had been held together by means of correspondence, Erik Gunnemark being the principal coordinator, it fell apart following his death in 2007. However, since the year 2010, Amici Linguarum is active again as a result of some Russian and Swedish members' attempts to restart its activities. The goal of the association is to propagate interest in languages, linguistics, and traditional European culture.

Initially, much time was spent on trying to contact former members. Apart from that, the renewed Language Friends' activities extend so far to the editing a noncommercial journal (*Chasok/The Hour*), where members are free to make their own contributions in any language. In Moscow, a local branch of the association organized free seminars on Japanese and Serbo-Croatian for high school students. Besides, an erudition competition was carried out through the journal. In May 2011 the first online Amici Linguarum conference was conducted over "Skype" with participants from Sweden and Russia, and in June, the first meeting of the Initiative Board was held in Moscow. In 2011 the association paid tribute to Mikhail Lomonosov (1711-1765), a great Russian polymathic scientist, in honor of his 300th anniversary, following his route in the north of European Russia.

For the future, the Language Friends consider arranging trips and expeditions on the tracks of ancient cultures. Cooperation with existing linguistic organizations is another field of further work.

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