

Personal Names of Livonian Origin in Latvia: Past and Present*

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Abstract

The anthroponymic system of Latvian – one of the Baltic languages – contains many borrowed names: anthroponyms of German, Russian, Polish, Swedish, Lithuanian and also Finno-Ugric (Livonian, Estonian, and Finnish) origin. The substratum of the Livonian language can be felt in Latvia also nowadays in all levels of the language. This article deals with the analysis of Latvian personal names of possible Livonian origin (both with historical names known only from ancient documents, as well as with contemporary names). The criteria of determination (phonetic, grammatical and lexical) of possible Finno-Ugrisms in Latvian are discussed. Nowadays, many ancient historical Livonian names are used as Latvian surnames. I list the main popular names of probable Livonian origin according to the registers of the inhabitants of Latvia.



L – historical Livonian territories, C – Livonian inhabited territory today

Introduction

The anthroponymic system of Latvian – one of the Baltic languages – contains many borrowed words, since the economic and spiritual life was influenced by many neighbouring peoples and cultures: Germans, Russians, Poles, Swedes, Lithuanians and also Finno-Ugric peoples of the

Baltic area (Livonians, Estonians, and Finns). A substratum of the Livonian language can be felt in Latvian also nowadays. Livonians are a people who used to live in the current territory of Latvia, and later along the Baltic Sea coast; now the number of Livonian speakers is much diminished (encyclopaedias mention about 100, but there could be at best only 10 native Livonian language speakers at the moment).

Short review of the research history on Latvian personal names:

There are only a few works devoted to the analysis of Latvian personal names. The Latvian researcher Ernests Blese wrote on a history of Latvian personal names and surnames (Blese 1929); J. Plāķis in his collections gathered a significant number of Latvian surnames and nicknames (Plāķis 1936, 1939) and Velta Staltmane analysed Latvian surnames from the point of view of origin, derivation and frequency (Staltmane 1981). There are separate small surveys on personal names by D. Brūķšis (1917) and D. Zemzare (1971). Renāte Siliņa-Piņķe (Siliņa-Piņķe 2005) did research on the influence of the German language on ancient Latvian names; Ojārs Bušs (Bušs 1999) has worked on personal names of Slavic origin in contemporary Latvian anthroponymy and Laimute Balode (Balode 1999, 2001) has written about the borrowings from Lithuanian. There are also several Bachelor's and Master's theses (A. Klampe (1995), L. Birziņa (1998), E. Martukāne (2004), etc.), as well as a few articles in the media by a collector of Latvian first names, Klāvs Siliņš (1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1982, 1990a). The most important of his publications is *Latviešu personvārdu vārdnīca* [Dictionary of Latvian Personal Names] (Siliņš, 1990), on which this research is largely based. However, there are many untouched issues in the field of anthroponymy. Personal names of Finno-Ugric origin (both first names and surnames), which have entered the Latvian anthroponymic system during different time periods, are such an issue. Although there are quite a few articles about the contacts between Finno-Ugric and Latvian languages (Ariste 1981, Vaba 1977, 1997, Boiko 1992, 1994, etc.), nothing has been written about the borrowings of personal names (see Vaba 2002 about personal names of Latvian origin in Estonia).

Finno-Ugrisms included in the *Dictionary of Latvian Personal Names* (Siliņš, Klāvs. *Latviešu personvārdu vārdnīca*, Rīga, 1990), as well as names recorded in old historical documents and contemporary registers of personal names are analysed in this paper.

The number of items analysed reaches up to 200 personal names (however, very often it is quite difficult or even impossible to separate names of Livonian origin from those of Estonian or Finnish origin). The most popular Latvian girl's name from this group is *Linda*. (Among others, one of the most credible possible origins is Finno-Ugric, from the Estonian epic *Kalevipoeg* – the name of the main hero's mother is *Linda*, which could be connected to Estonian *lind* 'bird'.)

The criteria to determine possible Finno-Ugrisms in Latvian

The following things may indicate possible Finno-Ugric origin:

- 1) pronunciation of a personal name,
- 2) the form of the name (especially an inflexible ending),

Hilja < Fin. *hiljainen* 'silent';

Illo, Ilo, Ilū < Finn. *ilo* 'joy';

Valve < Est. *valge* 'white'; *valve* 'guard' (the first explanation given by Raivo Seppo [Seppo 1994, 125], and the second by Klāvs Siliņš [Siliņš 1990, 317], but the second seems more credible);

Vello < Est. *veli*, genitive: *velle/velje* 'brother';

Taivis, Taivo < Est. *taevas* ‘heaven’ or Finn. *toivo* ‘hope’ (K. Siliņš [1990. 302] has mentioned only the second connection with a Finnish appellative, which seems to be less credible).

Quite often the pronunciation of a personal name makes one think of a possible direct borrowing from a Finno-Ugric language. These indications in the pronunciation are: the foreign consonant *h* (*Helju, Helgi, Helgo, Helmi, Helvi, Hilja, Leho*); double consonants (*Mikko, Imme, Jullo, Malle*); the diphthong *ei*, which is not characteristic for personal names of Baltic origin (*Eino, Reijo, Veino, Leili, Leida*); and the diphthong *oi*, which is very rare in Latvian (*Soiga* – a name which is explained by Siliņš [Siliņš 1990, 294] as related to the Estonian verb *soigutama* ‘to comfort, to calm down’).

The form of the name also testifies about a possible Finno-Ugrism. Usually inflexible personal names with the endings *-o, -i, or -u/-ū* are of Finno-Ugric origin:

Aigo, Ailo, Aino, Aivo, Antero, Arvo, Avo, Eino, Endo, Ero, Helgo, Heljo, Illo, Ilo, Jullo, Leho, Mikko, Pedro, Raimo, Raino, Raivo, Reijo, Reino, Taivo, Vaino, Veino, Vello;

Ari, Helgi, Helmi, Helvi, Leili, Olavi, Raili;

Elju, Helju, Ilū (it is interesting that in Estonian the name ends with a short vowel *u*, but in Latvian it is recorded with a long vowel *ū*), *Lelū, Maimu*.

Men’s personal names ending with vowel *-e* also are quite unusual for the Latvian language:

Arne, Kalle, Kike, Peite, Piške.

Of course, the above mentioned phonetic features also characterize borrowings from other languages; therefore in determining Finno-Ugrisms, it is necessary to take into account all criteria together.

Sometimes the form of the name immediately indicates how the names have reached Latvia. For example, such names, which are known in many languages (and which in a way could be called international), but in their specific form are used only in Finno-Ugric languages:

Ari < *Adrian*, *Eino* < *Henri*, *Endo* < *Henri*, *Leho* < *Leonhard*, *Maila* < *Maria*, *Malle* < *Maria*, *Kaija* < *Katrin*, *Mikko* < *Michael*, *Pille* < *Sibilla*, *Reijo* < *Gregor*, *Silja* < *Cecilia*, etc.

Why do Latvians choose to use names of foreign Finno-Ugric origin? There could be various reasons for that: euphony, originality and meaning of the name (parents, however, often don’t realize this at all when giving a name for a new-born); and quite often it is determined by family roots, which are connected to Finno-Ugric origin. If euphony serves as a basis for the choice (when lexical meaning is ignored) the expressive meaning of the name is based only on extralinguistic connections and conditions (Skulte 1999, 32). A researcher of Estonian names, E. Rajandi, once said that international and cultural connections are very strong in the modern world, and this also influences the choice of personal names (Rajandi 1969, 84–86).

All Finno-Ugrisms analysed in this paper are divided into two larger groups: 1) contemporary personal names of Finno-Ugric origin and 2) historical personal names of Finno-Ugric origin.

Nowadays *Aiga* and *Imants* are the most popular names of Livonian origin and such present Latvian personal names as *Līvs, Līvis, Līva* could be related to the Livonian ethnonym *līvs* ‘Livonian’.

Historical personal names of Finno-Ugric origin

One can notice the roots of Finno-Ugric lexemes in a few historical (13th–16th centuries) personal names, which nowadays are not used any more.

There are several personal names of probable Finno-Ugric origin recorded in the documents of the 13th–16th centuries, such as the *Chronicle of Livonia*, lists of estate audit, and parish chronicles. There are also a few personal names recorded of probable Finno-Ugric origin, which nowadays are not used any more. Here are some examples:

Elmede – recorded only once in 1286 in Riga: Liv. *elm*, plural *elmed* ‘pearls’ (KS 114);

Imme (male) – 1296 in Riga: Liv. *im* ‘miracle’ (KS 87);

Piške (Piszke Puisze) – recorded in 1582 in Kurzeme: Liv. *piški* ‘small, little’ (KS 262).

Almost all of these names (29) are obscure both by their form and origin. Moreover, it is not possible to find out of what possible national origin the persons thus named were; it is not clear whether they were Latvians, Livonians (Livs) or representatives of neighbouring tribes. No one can say for sure that they really were names or maybe just nicknames. Sometimes there are doubts whether they were anthroponyms at all (there is a question mark after such names in this paper). Most probably in the great majority of instances they were nicknames. However, the etymology of these historical personal names could be interpreted through an influence of Finno-Ugric languages (especially Livonian).

Also some names recorded in the 17th–18th centuries and later no longer used could be called historical anthroponyms of Finno-Ugric origin. These are included in the analysis in this paper.

The basic source of this research was already mentioned: it is the *Dictionary of Latvian Personal Names* by K. Siliņš, where historical data is taken from the following sources (items listed below are not repeated in the bibliography at the end of the article):

Arbusow, Leonid. (**Arb. 1.**) 1898. *Anschlag der aus dem Leibgeding der Herzogin Anna von Kurland zu erwartenden Einkünfte 1566*. Sitzungsberichte der Kurländischen Gesellschaft F. Literatur und Kunst aus dem Jahr 1879. Mitau. 159–181.

Arbuzovs, Leonid. (**Arb. 2.**) 1937. 1638. g. *Kuldīgas valsts zemnieku saraksts*. Filologu Biedrības Raksti. 17. sēj., 1937, 22–42.

Kurländische Güter-Chroniken: Neue Folge. (**Arb. 3.**) Mitau, 1895, Bd, 1.

Arb. 4 – Arbusow, Leonid. (**Arb. 4.**) 1923. *Kirchliches Leben der Rigaschen Losträger im 15. Jahrhundert*. Latvijas Universitātes Raksti. Nr. 6, 185–224.

Benninghoven, Friedrich. (**Bng.**) 1961. *Rigas Entstehung und der frühhansische Kaufmann*. Hamburg.

Latvijas vēstures avoti / Sources of Latvian History. 1937–1941. (**LVA**). Rīga, 1–4. sēj.

Vidzemes draudžu kronikas /Chronicles of the Parishes of Vidzeme (**VDK**). 1925–1927. 1–3. d. – Valsts Archīva Raksti.

One can trace the roots of Finno-Ugric roots (most often – Livonian) in these historical personal names (given in alphabetical order):

Elmede – name recorded only once in 1286 in Riga. (Bng.) Origin connected with Liv. *elm*, plural *elmed* ‘pearls’ (KS 114). It should be added that a personal name with such a meaning is not known in Latvian itself; however, it is well-known in Estonian and Finnish: cf. *Helmi* ‘pearl’.

Imedous (?) – recorded in 1582 in Roja (Arb. 2), most probably a personal name of Livonian origin, which could be interpreted from Liv. *ilma* ‘joy, light’, Finn. *ilma* ‘air’ (KS 161).

- Ilo** (male) – name recorded once in the 13th cent. in Ikšķile (*Livonian Chronicles*) (KS 164). Possibly related to Finn. *ilo* ‘joy, gladness’. Cf. a Livonian female name was suggested in the 20th century – *Ilā* ‘nature, character’ (Halling and Joalaid 2007, 490).
- Imake** (female, male) – first recorded in the written documents in 1290 in Riga, later in 1582 (?) in Ēdole (Arb. 2., Bng.): (?) Liv. *im* ‘miracle’. Cf. surname *Imake* (KS 162) and the Latvian surname *Imaks* (frequency – 4) (Staltmane 1981, 170).
- Imme** (male) – personal name registered in 1296 in Riga (Arb. 2., Bng.): Liv. *im* ‘miracle’. Cf. also Finn. personal name *Imma* (KS 87). Cf. modern Latvian surname *Imma* (frequency – 1) (Staltmane 1981, 117).
- Kalle** (male) (?) – recorded in Kurzeme in 1582 (Arb. 2). This could be an Estonian, Finnish or Swedish form of the personal name *Karlis* (Rajandi 1966, 94). K. Siliņš (KS 189) relates it to Latvian *kalle* ‘block, log’ or *kallis* ‘sweet flag [a hardy perennial herb (*Acorus calamus*) of the Northern Hemisphere, growing in marshy areas]’ (ME II 142), but this seems to be false. Nowadays a rare surname *Kalle* (1) has been recorded (Staltmane 1981, 123).
- Kike** (Kicke) (male) (?) – in 1582 recorded in Kurzeme (Apriķi) (Arb. 2): (?) Liv. *kikk* ‘rooster, cock’ (KS 195).
- Kovals** (?) – a very rare name, which could be related to Liv. *koval* ‘smart’ Kett. 147, but also to Slavic *kowal* ‘blacksmith, smith’ (?); recorded for the first time in Vidzeme in 1599 (KS 200). Cf., the modern Latvian surname *Kavalis* (1), *Kavals* (1), *Kovals* (3) (Staltmane 1981, 148, 177). By the way, such names were also coined in the 20th century as Livonian personal names (Halling and Joalaid 2007, 490).
- Lembe** (Lembitte Lembe) (male) (?) – mentioned in 1582 in Kurzeme (Arb. 2): Est. *lemb*, Finn. *lempi* ‘love’ (KS 211). Cf. also Est. personal name *Lembe* (Rajandi 1966, 106), as well as Finn. adjective *lempeä* ‘gentle, mild’. There is a Livonian personal name – compound name – mentioned in the *Chronicle of Henry of Livonia: Lembewalde* < **lempe* ‘love’ + *valta* ‘power, mightiness’ (Stoebke 1964, Halling, Joalaid 2007, 488).
- Lembits** (Lembitte Lembe) (?) – one of the chiefs of Estonians of Sakala (Arb. 2) (KS 211). See *Lembe*. Cf., also Est. personal name *Lembit* (Rajandi 1996, 106).
- Mikko** – recorded in 1638 in Vidzeme; Finnish form of *Michael* (KS 239).
- Musts** – name recorded in 1566 in Zemgale (Arb. 1): (?) Est. *must* ‘black’ (KS 244). Cf., modern Latvian surname *Musts* (frequency – 1) (Staltmane 1981, 214).
- Paimis** – name registered in 1599 in Vidzeme: (?) Est. *paimendama* ‘guard, protect’ (KS 258). Taking into account the location where the personal name was recorded this etymology seems to be quite acceptable. It could be connected with Est., Finn. *paimen* ‘shepherd’, although such root has not been noted as occurring among the ancient Livonians.
- Peite** (male) – recorded in 1638 in Vidzeme (LVA): Est. form *Peit* of the personal name *Peter* (Rajandi 1966, 142). (KS 260). Cf. also modern Latvian surname form *Peite*.
- Piške** (Piszke Puisze) – recorded in 1582 in Kurzeme (Arb. 2) : Liv. *piški* ‘small, little’ (KS 262).
- Soiga** (male) – personal name written down in 1599 in Vidzeme: (?) Est. *soigutama* ‘to comfort, calm (down)’ (KS 294). Such a personal name is not known in Estonia. Also the Estonian researcher Lembit Vaba doubts the name’s etymology (Vaba 1991, 57).
- Sula** (male) (?) – name recorded in 1521 in Riga (Arb. 4): (?) Liv. *sula* ‘liquid, unfrozen’, but cf. also Latv. *sula* ‘juice’ (KS 298). However, comparison with Est. personal name *Sula* < *Sulev* (Rajandi 1966, 157) seems to be more credible. Cf. also modern Latvian surname *Sula* (frequency – 1) (Staltmane 1981, 177).

Valata – recorded only once at the end of the 16th century in Kurzeme: Est. *vallatus* ‘naughtiness, recklessness’ (?), cf. Latv. *valatība* (ME IV 450) (KS 314). Also L. Vaba has expressed his doubts about the etymology of this name (Vaba 1991, 57).

There are also some personal names K. Siliņš didn’t relate to Finno-Ugric languages in his dictionary, but which could carefully be compared to Finno-Ugric appellatives or anthroponyms, for instance:

Kove (male) (?) – recorded in 1582 in Kurzeme (Pitrags) (Arb. 2) (KS 200). Cf. Finn. *kova* ‘hard, firm’, Finn. surname *Kovanen*, as well as shortened version *Kova* (Mikkonen and Paikkala 1992, 229–230).

Use (female) – recorded in 1695 in Piņķi (VDK), **Usis** (male) – in 1295 in Riga. (KS 313). Maybe these could be related to the Finn. adjective *uusi* ‘new’, cf. also Finn. surnames *Uusimaa*, *Uusimäki*, *Uusitupa*, etc. (Mikkonen, and Paikkala 1992, 661).

Valke (male) (Walcke, Walke) – name appeared for the first time in 1459 in Riga, later in 1582 in Kurzeme (Lielirbe) (Arb. 2). K. Siliņš relates it with Latv. *valks* ‘brooklet, brook’ and Latv. placename *Valka* (KS 316). However, cf. also Est., Finn. *valkoinen* ‘white’ and several personal names with this root.

Vasara (?) – name recorded only once in 1513 in Riga (Arb. 4). K. Siliņš connects it with Latv. *vasara* ‘summer’ (KS 318). Semantically such a connection is possible, because there is a personal name *Pavasaris* ‘spring’ (KS 259) recorded in 1534 in Riga. However, one could mention another hypothesis here: cf. Finn. *vasara* ‘hammer’ and Finn. surname *Vasara* (Mikkonen and Paikkala 1992, 676).

Vesins (Vesine) – recorded in 1582 in Kurzeme (Dundaga) (Arb. 2) (KS 322). The location of its recording leads us to think that the name could be related to a Finno-Ugric lexeme. Maybe this can be considered as a misspelled form and it might be related to the Livonian name *Vesike* < **vesi* ‘water’ (Hallingand Joalaid 2007, 487).

Although, as already mentioned, these names do not appear nowadays as first names in the Latvian language; sometimes they can be found as surnames: cf. Latv. surname *Imma* (1 [number of occurrences]), *Imake* and *Imaks* (4), *Kalle* (1), *Musts* (1), *Peite* (1), *Sula* (1).

However, all personal names mentioned here both from the point of view of form and origin are too obscure in order to draw any conclusions about the spread of Finno-Ugric anthroponyms among the old Latvian tribes.

There are about 20 Livonian names in the *Chronicle of Henry of Livonia*: *Ylo*, who is father of a person named *Kulevene*, and *Viezo* (in another version *Vietso*), who is *Alo*’s father from the area of Ikšķīle 1184 (1185 ?). Later there is a list from the year 1186: *Viliendi*, *Uldenago*, *Wade*, *Waldeko*, *Gerweder*, *Vietso* (another version *Viezo*). Also these other Livonians are mentioned in the *Chronicle*: *Anno*, *Asse* (another version *Asso*), *Dabrel*, *Caupo* (from Turaida), *Layanus* (from Ikšķīle), *Lembewalde*, *Ymaut*, *Kyrianus*, *Ninnus* (another version *Nunnus*); as well, there are possible derivatives with diminutive suffixes: *Ako*, *Alo*, *Anno*, *Asso*, *Caupo* (*Kaupo*), *Wiezo*, *Ylo* (Halling and Joalaid 2007, 486). However, later only a few of them can be found in the Latvian language: *Ako*, *Ymaut*, *Kaupo*, *Wane*.

Contemporary personal names of possible Finno-Ugric origin

The second part of this article deals with the modern or contemporary personal names of possible Finno-Ugric origin. Modern anthroponyms of Finno-Ugric origin are divided into names of Livonian origin, Estonian origin, Finnish origin, Estonian/Finnish origin, and Hungarian origin.

There are quite a few personal names (40) borrowed from the language of our closest northern neighbours, the Estonians. Usually these are Estonian versions of the so-called international names (e.g., Latv. *Eino, Irja, Jullo, Kadrija, Leho, Malle, Pille, Reimo*), fewer names of original Estonian stock (e.g., Latv. *Aivo, Kaira, Kalja, Koidula, Leida, Maima, Velli*).

There are some names, which could possibly have come into the Latvian language directly from Finnish (about 10). Usually these are Finnish versions of the so-called international names (e.g., *Ari, Raino, Reijo, Reino*), much more rarely – personal names of Finnish origin (e.g., *Maina, Mainija* < Finn. *Maini, Saila*). Almost all of these names can be met very rarely in Latvia. Some of them are given with a question mark:

Imatra – possibly related with a name of a waterfall *Imatra* in Finland (?); recorded only once in Kurzeme (Liepāja) in 1962 (KS 163).

Imetra – see *Imatra* (?); recorded only once in Zemgale (Bauskas region) in 1973 (KS 163).

As generally known, there are many names common to both Estonian and Finnish. Sometimes it is difficult or even impossible to determine from which language they have come to Latvia (however, most probably from Estonian). There are 61 such borrowings of names of common Estonian/Finnish origin recorded in Latvia. Usually they also are Finno-Ugric versions of international names (e.g., *Juka, Kusta, Aila, Silja, Olavi*), although there are quite a few names originating from appellatives of Estonian/Finnish (e.g., *Hilja, Ilma, Laine*). *Laine, Laila* and *Ilma* are fairly popular names also nowadays.

Personal names of Hungarian origin are also considered to be personal names of Finno-Ugric origin, which have come into the Latvian anthroponymic system through other languages (there are 14 such names in the material analysed). Almost all of them are Hungarian versions of international names. *Ilona* and *Marika* are the most popular among them in modern Latvia. The name *Ilona* was registered 12 times in 2003, and *Marika* – 16 times. One should mention also such names as *Arpads, Ferencs, Giulia, Ilonda, Jolita, Lorands, Marica, Mariks, and Seila*.

Personal names derived from Latvian appellatives, which in their turn have a Finno-Ugric origin, are genetically related with Finno-Ugric languages (they should be called ‘indirect’ Finno-Ugrisms):

Kaija – Latv. *kaija* ‘gull, sea mew’; Finnish personal name *Kaija* from *Katariina*. Latvian name recorded for the first time in 1549 in Riga, the name was included in the calendar in 1910¹ (KS 189).

Paija – Latv. *paija* ‘toy’; character in a play *Maija un Paija* by A. Brigadere; name was recorded for the first time in Riga and put in the calendar in 1922 (KS 258).

Selga – Latv. *selga* ‘deep sea, open sea’. Recorded for the first time in Zemgale (Dobele) in 1925 (KS 287). The name has been recorded twice in 1993, and only once in 1998 and 2003.

In most cases, Finno-Ugric personal names entered the Latvian language without any modifications. Sometimes, only the name’s ending is changed, e.g., *Maima* < Est. *Maimu, Maina* < Finn. *Maini*. Sometimes a Finno-Ugric female personal name has added the suffix *-ija*, e.g., *Kadrija* < Est. *Kadri, Mainija* < Finn. *Maini, Milviija* < Est. *Milvi, Taimija* < Est. *Taimi*. In other cases, a Finno-Ugric personal name serves as the basis for the derivation of other personal names: e.g., *Aiga* > *Aigis, Aigija, Aigins, Aigisa, Aigita*.

Contact between Latvians and Livonians has been very close; therefore Livonian names have been well adapted into the Latvian anthroponymic system (there are about 20 names found in the material analysed):

Aiga – recorded as a Latvian name for the first time in 1940 in Riga. It is related with Liv. *aig* ‘pike’ or Liv. *aiga* ‘edge, bank’. The name reached the peak of its popularity in the 1970s (KS 44). Later the popularity of this name was as follows: it was recorded 48 times in 1993, and six times in 1998. In 2008, the total number of occurrences of the name *Aiva* was 2,007 in all Latvia. Such a form of the name is known neither in Estonian, nor in the Finnish language.

Later other versions of this name were derived – personal names of both men and women:

Aigis, Aigo (male) – possibly a shortened version of the personal name *Aigars* (KS 44).

Aigins, Aigija, Aigisa, Aigita see *Aiga* (KS 44).

Ako (male) – name mentioned only once in 1993 in the registers of the inhabitants of Latvia. It is not included in K. Siliņš’s dictionary, although according to historical data we know about a Livonian chieftain *Ako* (*Chronicle of Henry of Livonia*, X: 8). Also in Estonian, the personal name *Ako* is known, which was included in a calendar already in 1845 and was related to the personal name *Ago* – shortened form from *Agathon* or *August(us)* (Rajandi 1966, 17). Thus, it is possible that nowadays this name has reached Latvia from Estonia. Such forms as *Aku*, *Ake*, *Aki* (Riihonen 1992; 247, Viikuna 1997, 29) have been recorded in the Finnish language.

Imants – mentioned in the 13th century in *Chronicle of Livonia* as *Ymaut* for the first time), in 1879 it was included in the calendar. The name was at its peak of popularity from the 20s to 40s of the 20th century (KS 162). It is possible that a story “Vanems Imanta” by G. Merķelis helped to spread the name’s popularity. Its origin could be explained as Liv. *im* ‘miracle’ + *and* ‘gift’ (KS 162). The name was recorded twenty-six times in 1993 and nine times in 1998. It is not known in other Finno-Ugric languages. There is only the personal name *Imand* (recorded in Tartu) included in an additional list of the *Dictionary of Estonian Personal Names* (Rajandi 1966, 204).

Also a woman’s name is well-known in Latvia:

Imanta – rather new derivative, recorded in 1921, included in calendar in 1915 (KS 162).

Possibly also the following personal names are derived from the personal name *Imanta*:

Imanda – recorded only once in 1922 in Riga (KS 162).

Imandra – first recorded in the third quarter of 20th century. Origin is not clear: *Imanta* + *Andra* (?) (KS 162).

Imulis – recorded only once in the third quarter of 20th century in Jēkabpils region (KS 163).

Ima – probably shortened version of *Imanta* (KS 162).

The following names of Livonian origin can be encountered very rarely:

Jumārs – recorded only once in Riga in the second quarter of the 20th century. The name is derived from Liv. *jumerški* ‘round’ (KS 185).

Jumāra – see *Jumārs*; recorded only once in Riga in 1941. K. Siliņš compares it also with the Latv. place name *Jumāra* (KS 185).

Vanema (male, female.) – both names are recorded only once in Kurzeme (Liepājā) in 1943: Liv. *vanem* ‘chieftain, elder’. Cf. character in the story “Vanems Imanta” by G. Merķelis (KS

317). However, there is a Livonian personal name *Wane* mentioned in the *Chronicle of Henry of Livonia*, which semantically is related also to the Finnish adjective *vanea* ‘strong, powerful, tempered’ (Halling and Joalaid 2007, 487).

The following personal names could be related to the name of the Livonian people or the ethnonym *līvs* ‘Livonian’:

Līvs, Līvis – recorded for the first time in Riga in 1461, it was put into the calendar in 1908: (?) *līvs* ‘Livonian’ (KS 217). The name *Līvis* was recorded only once in 1993 in Latvia.

Līva – recorded for the first time in Riga in 1461, it was included in the calendar in 1977, it has become especially popular in recent years (in the last decades). It could be related both to the ethnonym *līvs* ‘Livonian’, but also to another woman’s personal name *Līvija* (KS 217). In 1993, *Līva* was recorded 84 times, in 1998, 47 times. In 2008, there were 1,753 persons with the name *Līva*.

The most popular personal names among the possible Livonisms are *Aiga* and *Imants*. Other names are registered considerably less often. The last two sets of officially available data (*Vārdošanas statistika*, 485–502) about children born in Latvia in year 2003 showed that *Līva* was the 30th most popular girl’s name (the name was given to 61 girls), *Aiga* took places from 147 to 166 (7 girls with such name), and 11 boys were named *Imants* that year. Thus, these names are still quite popular among Latvians.

Conclusion

A large proportion of personal names of Finno-Ugric origin have nowadays taken a stable place in the list calendar names.¹ There were 25 Finno-Ugrisms included in the calendar of the year 2008. *Aiga, Aina, Ainars, Ilma, Ilmārs, Ilona, Imanta, Laila, Linda, Līva, Maira, Marika* are the most popular among these. Such potential Finno-Ugrisms as *Illi, Kajsa, Keila, Olavi, Sanna* have been included in the list of Latvian calendar names in recent years (1997-2007).

There are Finno-Ugric (also Livonian) traces in Latvian anthroponymy, that is, the system of personal names. Research done on the Latvian surname system found a significant number of Latvian surnames borrowed from Finno-Ugric languages (see Balodis 2005).

There should be a separate article about the personal names of the Livonians themselves, which to a great extent were influenced by the Latvian language. Mainly colleagues from Latvia and Estonia have done research on these: see Alvre 1964, Mägiste 1965, Vääri 1969, Karma 1996, Vallandi 1998, Blumberga 2006, Halling and Joalaid 2007 etc.

Abbreviations

Est. – Estonian
 Finn. – Finnish
 Latv. – Latvian
 Liv. – Livonian

Notes

*An earlier version of this paper was published in 2006 in Latvian with the title “Par somugru cilmes priekšvārdiem Latvijā” [On Latvian Personal Names in Finno-Ugric Origin], in *Latvijas Universitātes Raksti*, 708. sējums.

1. For each day of the year, first names are listed on calendars (or in almanacs); these are used to choose names for newborn babies. Such calendars with first names are still fairly widespread in Latvia.

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