

## *The Institute of Estonian Language and Literature*

**The Institute of Estonian Language and Literature** (later converted into Foundation) was founded in the fall of 1959 in Stockholm. Its activity was connected to the then existing Estonian Seminar at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Stockholm (Stockholms högskola) which later became Stockholm University. The Seminar administered the teaching of the Estonian language. The purpose of the Institute was to support teaching and research as an independent organisation, to arrange lecture series and courses even outside the scope of academic studies, and to publish textbooks and other writings of linguistic and literary content. The innovator of written Estonian, Johannes Aavik, mag. phil. (MA) was elected the first chairman of the committee. During the years 1959-1970 Henno Jänes, fil. lic. (Licentiate of Philosophy), was the director of the Institute, and was succeeded in 1970 by Paul Laan, fil.lic. In 1993 the Institute was converted into a Foundation with the same goals as before. Due to the change in working conditions, the activity has thereafter been somewhat restricted.

After the position of the Estonian language at Stockholm University was weakened, the main task of the Institute has been to organise independently the teaching of Estonian in Stockholm. Thus from 1971 and during the following 28 years there have been courses for both beginners and more advanced students. The interest for these courses has always been great and has increased even more after Estonia regained its independence. In the 60-ies special summer and winter courses in Estonian-related subjects were organised for students and youth leaders.

The number of publications has been dependent on the reduced economic resources. The series of publications until today contain 18 items, some of them in the form of stencils.

In recent years, the administration of valuable material concerning Estonian history and culture has been added to the tasks of the Foundation. The current activity includes giving advice on questions concerning language and the completion of the archives of press cuttings.

**The present committee of the Institute of Estonian Language and Literature Foundation consists of four members:** Paul Laan, fil. lic., chairman, Diana Krull, docent (Assoc. Prof.) vice chairman, Edith Kotka Nyman, teacher of Estonian, and August Sikk, fil. dr. (PhD).

**The address is:** c/o Laan, Mellanbergsvägen 87, S-129 31 Hägersten, Sweden.  
(Postal giro: 35 45 37-3).