



*Did You know that
the world's biggest repository of intangible
national culture is the
National Library of Estonia?*

Limestone is Estonia's national stone.

Tiesitkö, että maailman suurin kalkkikivestä rakennettu henkisen kansankulttuurin aarretta on Viron kansalliskirjasto?

Kalkkikivi on Viron kansalliskivi.

Знаете ли вы, что крупнейшая в мире сокровищница знаний, построенная из плитняка, возведена в Таллинне?

Это национальная библиотека Эстонии, а плитняк — наш национальный камень.

Kas teadsite, et maailma suurim paekivist ehitatud vaimse rahvuskultuuri varamu on Eesti Rahvusraamatukogu?

Paekivi on Eesti rahvuskivi.



Completed in 1993, the Library building has 10 storeys, including two underground, 51,477 square metres of floor area, 16 reading rooms and 800 doors.



The National Library of Estonia is as old as the Republic of Estonia. Established as the National Library in 1918, the institution was originally housed at Toompea Castle.



If all 1.3 million inhabitants of Estonia wished to use printed publications that are kept at the National Library at the same time, we could provide everyone with least two of them. All the literature published in Estonia is there.



Level 8 of the Library boasts views to the city and the Church of St Charles, which harmonises with the Library.



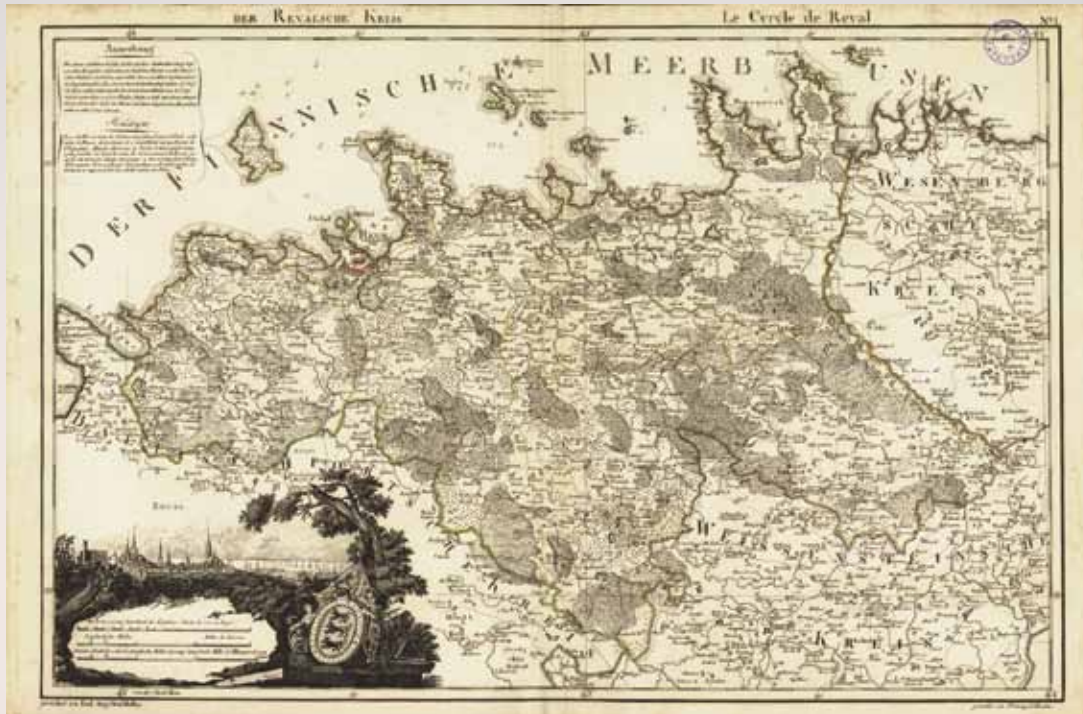
The collection of rarities at the National Library include the oldest views of Tallinn published in print, Adam Olearius' (1603 – 1671) 1647 travelogue *Offt beehrte Beschreibung Der Newen Orientalischen Rejse*. Below the image is a poem in German dedicated to Tallinn.



The oldest book in Estonian at the National Library of Estonia. Leyen Spiegel, a book of sermons by H. Stahl in two volumes, with parallel texts in Estonian and German, was printed in Tallinn in 1641 and 1649.



This is where one of the oldest lending library for Estonian farmers – the library of the Metsiku Learners' Society, active in Lääne-Viru County from 1872 to 1889 – is preserved.



A map of Livonia from the 1798 atlas of the Baltic German cartographer and politician L. A. Mellin.





