



*Did You know that*

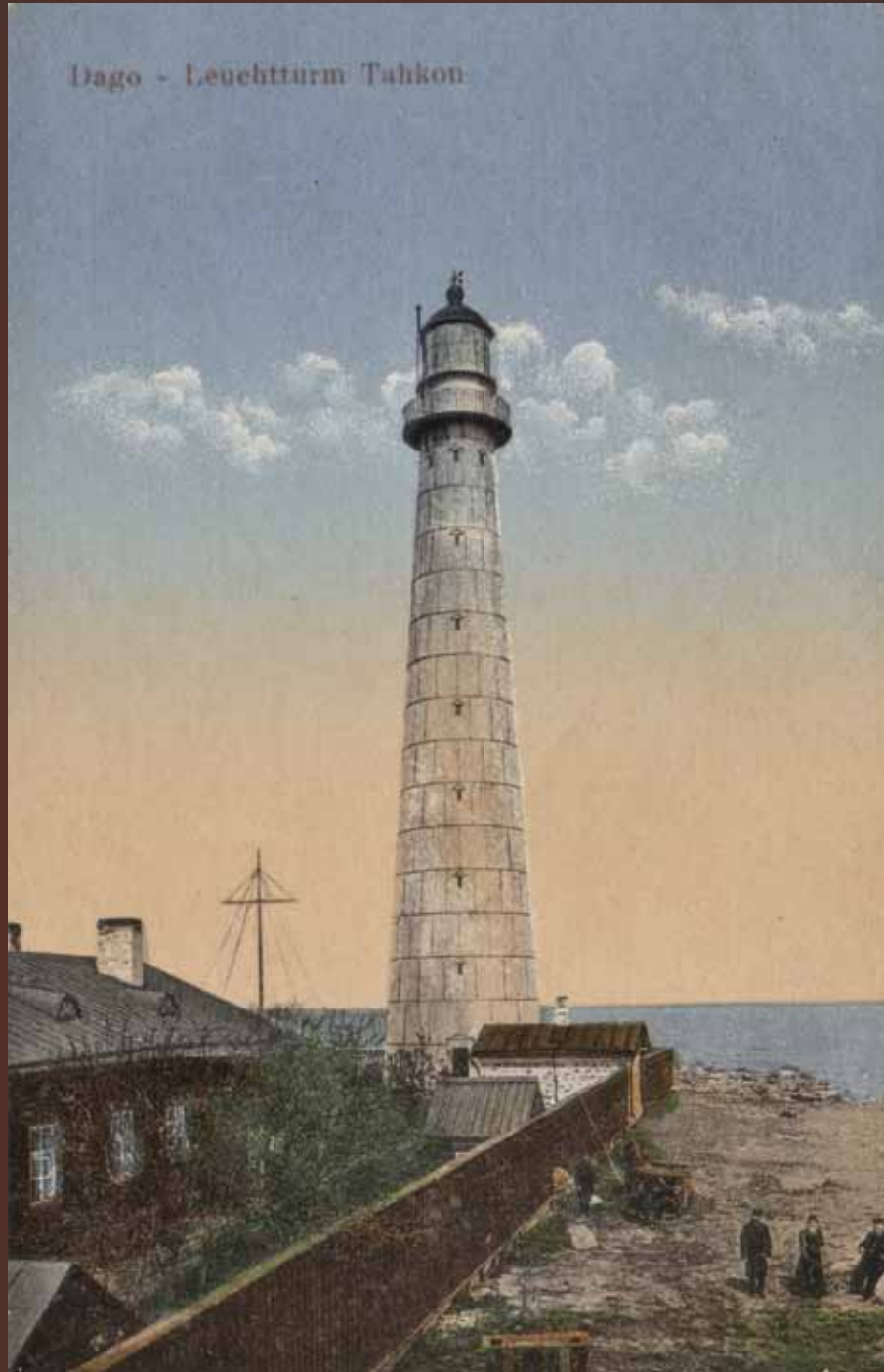
*Tahkuna Lighthouse is a cousin  
of the Eiffel Tower in Paris?*

Tiesitkö, että Tahkunan majakka Hiidenmaalla on sukua Pariisin Eiffel-tornille?

Знаете ли вы, что маяк Тахкуна на острове Хийумаа — родственник парижской Эйфелевой башни?

Kas teadsite, et Tahkuna tuletorn Hiiumaal on Pariisi Eiffeli torni sugulane?

Dago - Leuchtturm Tahkon



Russia commissioned Tahkuna Lighthouse based on what had been seen at the 1871 World Exposition in Paris. The cast-iron plates of the enclosure were cast in Paris in 1873/1874 and were subsequently erected on a small island named Hiiumaa, which at the time was under the control of imperial Russia. It was said that some parts of the lighthouse were manufactured by the company that also produced the Eiffel Tower.



At the same time as Tahkuna was being erected, a lighthouse was also commissioned for Ristna. According to popular legend, the parts for the lighthouse were mixed up, as a result of which a shorter lighthouse (totalling only thirty metres in height) was built at Ristna and a taller one (totalling 42.5 metres) was built at Tahkuna, even though the reverse had been the original plan. From what is known, the lighthouses were designed by Gustave Eiffel.



Kõpu in Hiiumaa is the location of one of Europe's oldest operating lighthouses, which was owned by Baron **Otto Reinhold Ludwig von Ungern-Sternberg** at the turn of the nineteenth century. In literature, he became well known as the 'Count of Ungru', a savage pirate and the builder of the lighthouse.



At a time at which the modern lighthouses were going up on the island, the founder of Estonian classical music, **Rudolf Tobias** (1873-1918), was born into the family of a local chorister, in Käina on Hiiumaa. Just as lighthouses light the way for ships, Tobias became a trail blazer in Estonian music. His likeness on the Estonian kroon (which was in circulation from 1992 to 2011) testifies to his important role in Estonian culture.

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Fl.  
Ob.  
Fag.  
Corvi.  
Solo.  
mich auf er'gen ich er'gen Me-ga, - gend

Corvi.  
Fl.  
Corno  
Fag.  
Solo.  
ich er'gen mich auf er'gen Me-ga, - gend

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Rudolf Tobias completed a six-year course in four years, studying the organ under **Louis Homilius** and composition under **Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov** at the St Petersburg Conservatoire from 1893 to 1897. One of the best known works by Rudolf Tobias is 'Jonah's Mission'.



On the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of his birth, a memorial museum was unveiled in his place of birth in Käina. The exhibit in the historical chorister's house provides a thorough survey of the composer's life and work. A beautiful view of Käina Bay strikes a chord with visitors.



In late May every year, the non-profit society, MTÜ Tobiase Selts, holds the Tobias Music Days in Käina, which include an international competition for pianists that is held every other year.





These days, lighthouses not only show the way but also host a variety of cultural events. The base of Kōpu Lighthouse has become the traditional venue for the most varied array of concerts, which together offer an impressive musical experience.



Hiiumaa is a place of inspiration for many creative people. This is also where **Erkki-Sven Tüür**, currently the most-performed Estonian composer in the world next to Arvo Pärt, was born and grew up.



Since 2005, the island has hosted the Hiiumaa Homecoming Music Festival. The festival began as an initiative by musicians who were active in Moscow, and who thought that Hiiumaa was the most suitable location for the event.



Several mystics say there are healing energy pillars on Hiiumaa. The island boasts silence and the expanses of space, romantic sea views, and an inspiring primeval quality. In the past, former residents of Hiiumaa have said that there are only three maritime nations in the world: Hiiumaa, Saaremaa, and England.