

INTRODUCTION

KANTIANA

a
shortguide
to the

BOTANICAL GARDEN

of
KALININGRAD

Atelier Veldwerk

The garden that you have just entered is an exceptional piece of land, with an equally exceptional history. Started in 1904 as a nursery garden for the city with a very enthusiastic director, after the war the garden had come under the responsibility of the *Kantiana University*. The common thread in the meaning of the garden in that sense, is its importance for education, engaging young people personally and physically in growing plants, the care for cuttings and seedlings, the identification of plants and in general to value the importance of trees and plants as such. But more than this major educational continuity, it is the big individual and collective engagement of the residents of Königsberg and the later Kaliningrad that kept the garden alive.*

For years all school children of Königsberg were offered a pot with a plant from the garden, with which of course a very generous tone is set: the garden is not a fixed plot, is not a hidden place or a piece of land to grow plants in an economic and efficient manner, but a dynamic garden that can be literally seen everywhere in the city: from the flower beds on the major squares as in the window sills in the family houses. After the ravages of war the people of Kaliningrad ensured that the garden was maintained as a collective space. Which was remarkable since, for obvious reasons, there was hardly any official interest in public space after the war, and certainly not for parks and gardens. Socially nor scientifically. The botanical garden was an exception. It was preserved and partly reconstructed. Probably not so much due to the good care of father state, but foremost to the intense commitment for trees and plants of a lot of individual men and women, both scientist and civilians, who from all over Russia, came to settle in Kaliningrad and took with them their love for plants and gardening.

* As an individual should be mentioned Paul Käber (1869-1919), the founder of the garden.



HISTORY OF THE GARDEN

City Nursery

The garden started really as a city nursery that had to provide green for the city of Königsberg. Remarkably enough, even before the nursery was founded, schools demanded the city strongly to provide educational botanical resources in the form of visual materials, cuttings, seedlings and systematic collections of plants, for the biology and natural history classrooms. The nursery started down from the beginning to satisfy the needs of the schools for vocational and university education next to providing the city trees and shrubs, seed flowers, roses, and vines for the many new squares and parks being constructed. Early in the 20th century Königsberg was finally known as one of the greenest cities in Prussia.

The *Stadtgärtnerei* meanwhile developed gradually in an educational center for both professional and amateur gardeners. One could buy plants, gain practical knowledge, get tips and advice in the field of agriculture and horticulture and green areas in relation to urban development. During these years the garden served 80 schools in Königsberg with botanical teaching resources. Every Saturday the teachers submitted lists with appropriate seeds and plants, every Wednesday and Friday the horse-drawn wagons delivered special plant packages all over town. Thanks to the enthusiasm and the original approach of the director Paul Käber, Königsberg contributed largely to a new image of the city, that of the 'garden city' as well as to the development of a scientifically based index of appropriate species for urban applications.

Park

It was not at all a conscious aim to turn the nursery into a public park or an open-air museum. But the management of the nursery combined with the enthusiasm of many supporters, both professional and amateur, transformed the *Stadtgärtnerei* in a garden



museum with an extensive collection of plants, invaluable for Königsberg, both in a practical, aesthetic and educational sense. The garden was the basic center for vocational and university education. Parts of the garden were specially designed for these groups, which equally high school and art students using it. By the end of the 30's just the collection of greenhouse plants included about 4,000 species. The *Königsberg Urban Horticultural Garden* in the Maraunenhof district was the beautiful green diamond of Königsberg, for young and old, rich and poor.

The botanical garden after the war

As everybody knows Königsberg had been heavily damaged by allied bombing and its siege in 1945. The difficult years of reconstructing the city and life in general, the fierce hatred of anything related to fascism and the resulting neglect of specific 'German' urban qualities are partly cause of the loss of important historical and cultural values. The large amount of beautiful and environmental sound green spaces finally had been an obvious feature of the city of Königsberg at large. The lack of information on the history of the parks in the early years many years and administrative neglect and environmental pollution in the last decades are some of the causes of the historical rupture in both urban and cultural appreciation of the aesthetic and functional values of urban landscaping in city gardening. It seems almost a miracle that the former city nursery and the original botanical garden still exist. Shortly after the war the decision was taken to set up a research gardening station at the premises of the Königsberg *Stadtgärtnerei*. The garden was reconstructed manually, already in 1949 vanished greenhouses were rebuilt, the pond was cleaned and sanitary cuttings were made. By 1950 the identification, description and registration of plants was made. At the end of the 1950s a big greenhouse was reconstructed, where tropical and subtropical plants from the main Botanical garden in Moscow were brought. Later the collection was enhanced by species grown from seeds from other botanical gardens, as well as by plants donated by



amateur botanists or brought by the garden's staff privately from their trips to other gardens. The largest research project that was undertaken by the staff of the station was the study of cultivated dendra and flora of the Kaliningrad region in cooperation with scientists from Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarusian botanical gardens. It must be the sheer love for plants of individuals, from the Kaliningrad community, which made the garden and its social and urban functions survive. At special events, for instance when the "Empress of the Night" cactus was blossoming, people would que up each evening to observe this unique phenomenon.

Today

After being run by different organizations and the great efforts of individuals, professionals and amateurs, the collection of plants was slowly extended. In 1976 the garden became part of the Kaliningrad State University. Currently it is the scientific division of the Department of Botany and Plant Ecology of the Baltic Federal University of Immanuel Kant, a training base for students of the Chemical and Biological Institute and the Institute of Nature, Territorial Development and Urban Planning, as well as for the schools and colleges of the city. On top of that the staff of the Botanical garden is involved in the scientific and educational work on the introduction and acclimatization of plants in regards to local conditions and the choice of species and varieties of plants used in landscaping urban area, with which an important historical thread is restored. The collection is used as the material for degrees and master's works, as well as for training purposes (in the course *Anatomy and Morphology of Plants, Geography of Plants, The vegetation of the globe, Dendrology*). The garden exchanges information and seeds with 200 gardens around the world. The fact that the garden is visited by thousands of children and their parents*, enjoying what is clearly still one of the most beautiful and sound green spaces of Kaliningrad proves the social importance of historical and cultural continuity.

*Last year the garden welcomed more than a hundred thousand visitors.



BOTANICAL GARDEN OF THE I. KANT BALIC FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA

Lesnaya-Molodezhnaya st., Kaliningrad

Telephone
+7 (4012) 21-44-24
Website
www.kantiana.ru/garden

Opening times
The Botanical Garden is open to visitors
from the 1st of April to the 1st of December.

Opening hours:
1 April – 30 September, daily from 10.00 - 19.00 hrs.
Ticket office closes at 18.00 hrs.
1 October – 30 November, daily from 10.00 - 18.00 hrs.
Ticket office closes at 17.00 hrs.

Tours
On Saturdays and Sundays at 12.00 and 15.00 hrs.
guided tours available for visitors without booking.
Group gathering near the cash register.

For further information or booking special tours, call: +7 (4012) 21-44-24

Colophon
This short guide is part of the art project *48 Plants. Course of Spring*. It emerged in connection with an international program of biological research *The Motion of Spring 2012-2014: Evidences of Climate Change Over 120 Years*. www.springway2013.ru * The team of the Kaliningrad Regional Center of Ecology, Local History and Tourism for Children and Youth and personally director Dmitry Bulgakov, vocational training specialist Elena Fedynina dendrology studies Galina Kucheneva www.springway2013.ru * The team of the Botanical Garden of the I. Kant Federal State University of Russia and personally director Alexandra Yakovleva, Elena Khudenko and Svetlana Yakovleva, www.kantiana.ru/garden * Elena Salikhova, author of the book *Chronicles of Gardens and Parks (Königsberg-Kaliningrad)*, member of the Institute of Nature Management, Spatial Development and Urban Planning of the I. Kant Federal State University of Russia * Maxim Popov, founder and owner of the Museum of Königsberg, museum-koenigsberg.ru * Staff of the Kaliningrad Regional Art Gallery and personally director Galina Zabolotskaya * Journalist Evgeniya Romanova * Maria Kohnovskaya, associate professor at the Department of Geography, Nature Management and Spatial Development of the I. Kant Federal State University of Russia * Participants of the art workshop *Course of Spring / 48 plants*, run by Atelier Veldwerk at the premises of Kaliningrad Regional Center of Ecology, Local History and Tourism for Youth and Kids.

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Alexandra Koroleva, head of NGO *Ecodefence! - Zhensovet* and international project *Motion of Spring 2012-2014: Evidences of Climate Change Over 120 Years*. www.springway2013.ru * The team of the Kaliningrad Regional Center of Ecology, Local History and Tourism for Children and Youth and personally director Dmitry Bulgakov, vocational training specialist Elena Fedynina dendrology studies Galina Kucheneva www.springway2013.ru * The team of the Botanical Garden of the I. Kant Federal State University of Russia and personally director Alexandra Yakovleva, Elena Khudenko and Svetlana Yakovleva, www.kantiana.ru/garden * Elena Salikhova, author of the book *Chronicles of Gardens and Parks (Königsberg-Kaliningrad)*, member of the Institute of Nature Management, Spatial Development and Urban Planning of the I. Kant Federal State University of Russia * Maxim Popov, founder and owner of the Museum of Königsberg, museum-koenigsberg.ru * Staff of the Kaliningrad Regional Art Gallery and personally director Galina Zabolotskaya * Journalist Evgeniya Romanova * Maria Kohnovskaya, associate professor at the Department of Geography, Nature Management and Spatial Development of the I. Kant Federal State University of Russia * Participants of the art workshop *Course of Spring / 48 plants*, run by Atelier Veldwerk at the premises of Kaliningrad Regional Center of Ecology, Local History and Tourism for Children and Youth on 17-18 December, 2012

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In dedication to the love of plants
of the inhabitants of Kaliningrad
Atelier Veldwerk, Winter 2013-2014
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BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Fagus sylvatica
Common beech
date: *October 2013*



BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Myrica sibirica
Sua marginata
date: *October 2013*



BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Cladonia lentibus
Cladonia yellowwood
date: *October 2013*



BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Castanea sativa
Sweet chestnut
date: *October 2013*

BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Corylus avellana
Hazelnut
date: *October 2013*



BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Pterocarya pterocarpa
Winged nut
date: *October 2013*



BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Catalpa ovata
Chinese catalpa
date: *October 2013*



BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Quercus pubescens
Sessile oak
date: *October 2013*



BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Platanus occidentalis
American sycamore
date: *October 2013*



BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Gleditsia triacanthos
Honey locust
date: *October 2013*



BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Xanthoxylum japonicum
White-bark
date: *October 2013*



BOTANICAL GARDEN
of Kaliningrad
n°
Liriodendron tulipifera
Tulip tree
date: *October 2013*

