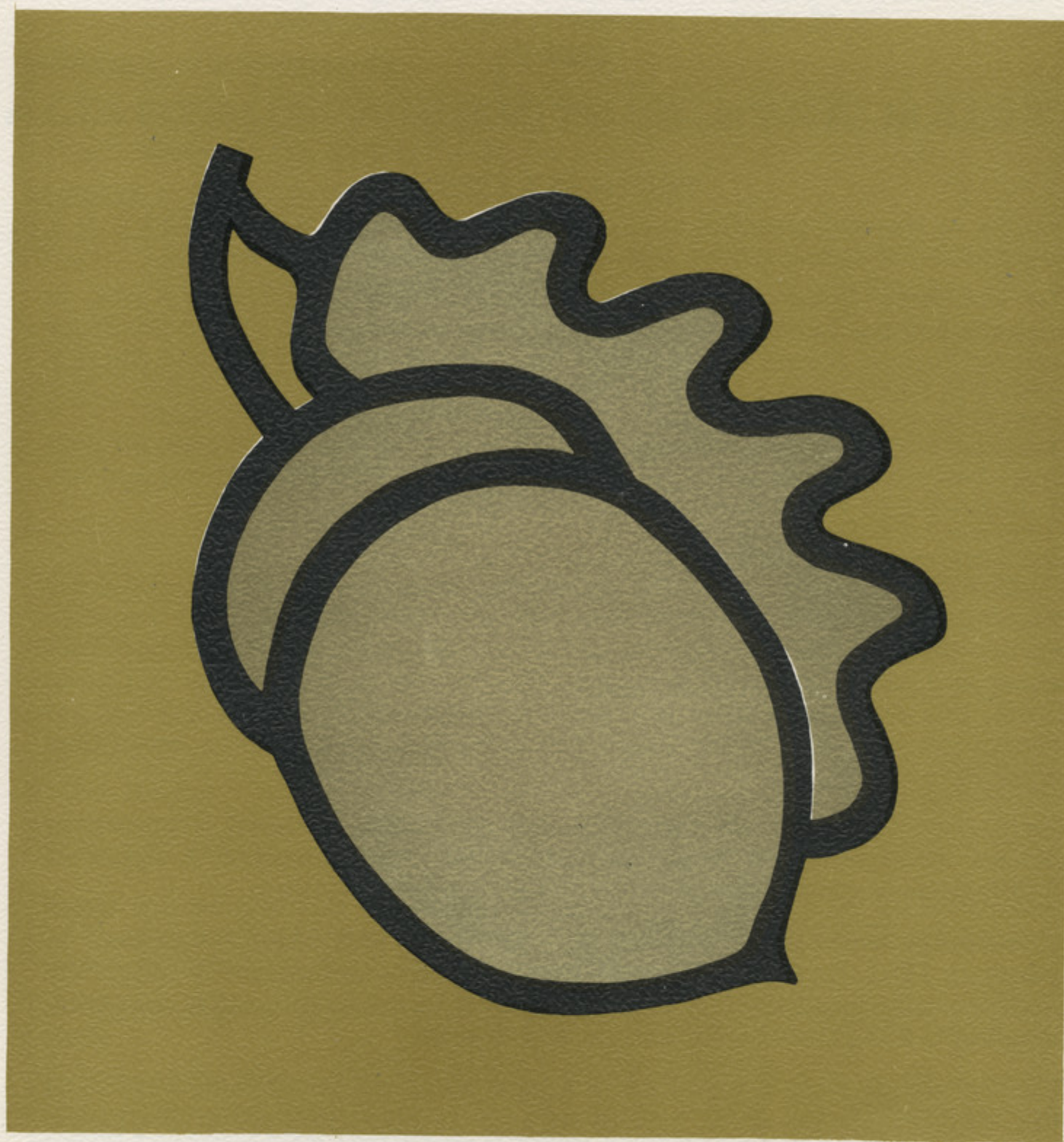


**THE 30TH
AUSTRALIAN LATVIAN
ARTS FESTIVAL**



PERTH, 1980

25TH DECEMBER, 1980 - 1ST JANUARY, 1981



30TH

LATVIAN ARTS FESTIVAL IN AUSTRALIA

PERTH, W.A., 1980

The executive Committee of the 30th LATVIAN ARTS FESTIVAL in Australia and the Latvian Community in Perth invite you to attend the many exciting Festival events to be held between December 25, 1980 and January 1, 1981 in Perth.

THE FESTIVAL OF LATVIAN ARTS IN AUSTRALIA is a display through song, dance and other art forms of the rich and colourful Latvian culture, the beginning of which goes back almost 3000 years.

The Latvian Arts Festival originated in 1873 when the first LATVIAN SONG FESTIVAL was held in Riga, the capital of Latvia. The song festival attracted thousands of Latvians from all over the country. They came to express their national identity and feeling of unity through songs, folk dances and other forms of expressive art. At a time when ruled by Czarist Russia, this event took on a deep symbolic meaning. After Latvia gained her independence in November 1918, the song festival became a traditional annual event.

The Latvian folklore comprising volumes of written material is known to scholars throughout the world as one of the most extensive. A figure of 12,000 alone is given to the number of Latvian folk melodies.

In Australia the FIRST FESTIVAL OF LATVIAN ARTS was held in Sydney in 1951. Its objective was to preserve and communicate to others the Latvian national culture. Similar annual festivals are held in other countries, including U.S.A., Canada, Gr. Britain and Sweden.

The first world wide Festival of this kind was held in Sweden, 1979. The 30th FESTIVAL IN AUSTRALIA will be the fourth held in Perth, the previous three being held in 1964, 1969 and 1974.

This year the organisers have invited Latvian choirs and dance groups and exhibitors from every State of Australia. Creating special interest will be the visiting performers from SWEDEN, ENGLAND and U.S.A.

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26

- 5 p.m. PERTH CONCERT HALL: Opening of the Joint Exhibition of Paintings by Latvian Artists and over 200 items of Arts and Crafts by artists residing in Australia. Many of the items will be for sale. Exhibition now open between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily to December 30.
- 7 p.m. PERTH CONCERT HALL: Opening of the Festival by the Premier of Western Australia, Sir Charles Court, with the President of the Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand, Mr V. Rolavs, and the Chairman of the Latvian Arts Festival 1980 Mr J. Parups. The Opening Ceremony will be followed by a spectacular performance by a group of 64 Latvian Folk dancers from Sydney. Entry \$8.00, pensioners and children to 14 years \$6.00.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 8 p.m. WAIT, Hayman Street, Bentley, Hockey Stadium: A colourful performance by 160 Latvian Folk Dancers in national costumes. Entry \$5.00, \$3.00.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 8 p.m. PERTH CONCERT HALL: A combined Choral Concert in which 150 singers in national costumes will render songs from Latvian Folk Melodies as well as modern day Latvian composers. Entry \$8.00, \$6.00.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 8 p.m. FREMANTLE OVERSEAS TERMINAL (BALLROOM), Harbour Trust Road: A suitable ending for the year and the week of events culminating in the Festival Ball for all the performers, visitors and wellwishers. \$20.00 a seat includes supper and all drinks.

In addition to the events noted above there will be a number of items of a special interest for the Latvian group produced in Latvian language. These are religious services, performances by a Latvian Drama Group from Sweden, performances of Latvian Drama, writers and poets meeting, lectures, shows by local and artists from Eastern States, conferences, excursions.

For further information and seat reservations for Festival functions please contact:

Mrs I. Ertners
51 The Strand
Bayswater WA 6053
Phone 271 4591

Mrs A. Zalstovs
27 Jessie Street
Cannington WA 6107
Phone 458 1012

Tickets will be available for collection from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on November 15, December 13, December 20 at the LATVIAN CENTRE, 60 Cleaver Terrace, Belmont, or at the door.

To receive tickets by return mail, please add \$1.00 to the cost of your tickets.

The Executive Committee gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided by the WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ARTS COUNCIL and the AUSTRALIAN ARTS COUNCIL through its COMMUNITY ARTS BOARD.



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