

International Conference

“Complexity and Regional Aspects of Natural Holy Places”

9 – 14 May, 2013

Saint-Petersburg, Russia

Organized by Saint-Petersburg state university, Regional History dept., with assistance of Estonian Literary Institute

Conference outline

Following the successful series of conferences in Tartu (2007), Kernavė (2008), Turaida (2009), Seili (2010), Kętrzyn (2011) and Kaliningrad (2012) we invite you to the 7th international conference on natural holy places in the Baltic Sea region in Saint-Petersburg, Russia.

Conference in Saint-Petersburg will focus on one of the aspects of holy places as a phenomena of culture – their complex character and individual features within a certain territory. We know several types of natural holy places: from stones and hills to wells and trees, most of which are in association with other objects, which makes them complex and unique places of popular culture and religion. Besides, all of them have their specific features in local traditions, therefore we can see rather different ways of the use of natural holy places. Let`s try to consider natural holy places as a complex of several manifestations of phenomena and actions, that have multiple meanings in local culture.

The basic topics of the conference are:

- Topography of natural holy places in connection with rituals
- Changing of natural holy places in time, reasons and meaning of this processes
- Different forms (unique and usual) of regional holy places on local territory

Presentations on other aspects as well as cases studies are also expected.

The main language of the conference is English. Papers are allowed to be presented in Russian with English translation.

Both presentation types oral (20 min) and posters are accepted.

Preliminary programme

9 May - arrival

10 May - presentations

11 May - presentations and posters

13 May - excursion to the Old-Ladoga

14 May - departure

There is no registration fee however participants might be asked to cover expenses for their travel, stay, meals and excursion (additional information will be sent later).

Deadline and contacts

Registration form, including the title of presentation and abstract (no more than 500 words) should be sent by **December 15**, 2012. Please contact Eugene Platonov by e-mail: nhpconference2013@gmail.com