

viele spannende Informationen an den Tag bringen. Eine weitere Frage ist, inwieweit eine solche Propaganda unter der Bevölkerung Resonanz fand, und inwieweit die hier präsentierten Vorbilder ihre Kollegen zur Leistungssteigerung angespornt haben. Reichlich ironisch betrachtete z. B. der Pädagoge und Literaturwissenschaftler Jaan Roos²⁹ diese Prozeduren. In seinem Tagebuch hielt er am 21. Juli 1952, d. h. zwei Jahre nach den hier geschilderten Ereignissen, fest: „Heute [ist] der 12. Jahrestag des Verkaufs von Estland. Ein großes Fest, das mit großen Arbeitssiegen begangen wird. Der Sinn der heutigen Feste besteht ja immer darin, dass man noch mehr arbeiten soll als an gewöhnlichen Tagen.“³⁰

SUMMARY

Soviet State Awards on the Occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Estonian SSR

In the summer of 1950 approximately 2 400 persons were awarded Soviet orders and medals on the occasion of “the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Soviet power in Estonia.” Similar mass decorations were carried out simultaneously and in connection with analogous anniversaries in Latvia and Lithuania. It was standard practice in the Soviet Union in the case of an anniversary of some institution (it could have been a union republic, some all-union organization, an enterprise or a theatre) to decorate its employees on a grand scale.

The proposition was initiated by the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist (Bolshevist) Party and the number and required characteristic features (sex, occupation, place of residence) were forwarded to the Central Committee of the Estonian Communist (Bolshevik) Party. The Estonian CC in turn coordinated the selection of persons to be awarded among regional party committees and central institutions of the Estonian SSR. As a rule, concrete employees whose eligibility was weighed and who were presented to be awarded were not aware of it at all and so the announcements of the decorations came as a surprise.

²⁹ Jaan Roos (1888–1965) war ein bekannter Pädagoge, Literaturwissenschaftler und Bibliophiler, der aus Angst vor seiner Festnahme 1944–1954 untertauchte. Sein in diesen Jahren geführtes Tagebuch (publiziert in fünf Bänden 1997–2009, siehe Anm. 30) ist eine einzigartige mentalitätsgeschichtliche Quelle dieser Zeit.

³⁰ Vgl. Roos' Eintrag vom 21.7.1952, in: JAAN ROOS: Läbi punase öö, 4. kd.: 1951. ja 1952. aasta päevik [Durch die rote Nacht. Bd. 4: Tagebuch der Jahre 1951 und 1952], Tartu 2004, S. 207.

As a result of at least two months of extensive personnel work, the Estonian Communist Party selected 2 412 persons whom the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR conferred the decorations with its decree of 20 July 1950, “in connection with the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic and achieved success in restoring and developing industry, agriculture, science, culture and fine arts”. Decorations included three more commonly conferred orders in the Soviet award system (Order of Lenin, Order of the Red Banner of Labour and Order of the Badge of Honour) and two medals (“For Valiant Labour” and “For Distinguished Labour”).

The highest number of awards was conferred on the representatives of the following fields of activity: industry (20.1%), agriculture (18.2%), party organs (13.6%), executive power (8.1%), army and state security (8.0%). It is noteworthy that although the party apparatus as the executor of actual power in the union republic was proportionally not in the first row, it was the party functionaries who were conferred higher and more prestigious orders than average. Among all those awarded, two-thirds were various managers, one-third common employees. Women made up one-fourth of all those awarded.

Those 2 400 decorations conferred on the 10th anniversary of the Estonian SSR make up approximately one-third of all more important orders and medals awarded in the country within the post-war decade. Their delivery to those awarded was hard work and members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the ESSR were kept busy in county centres in the years 1950–1951.