

# **ESTONIAN LITERATURE**

## **III**

**From National Romanticism to Realism**

**L. Koidula, A. Kitzberg, E. Vilde, J. Liiv**

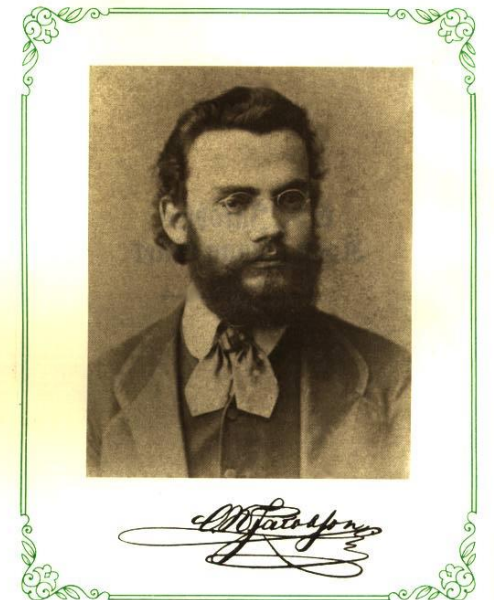
**From Realism to Modernism**

**G. Suits, F. Tuglas, and Young Estonia**

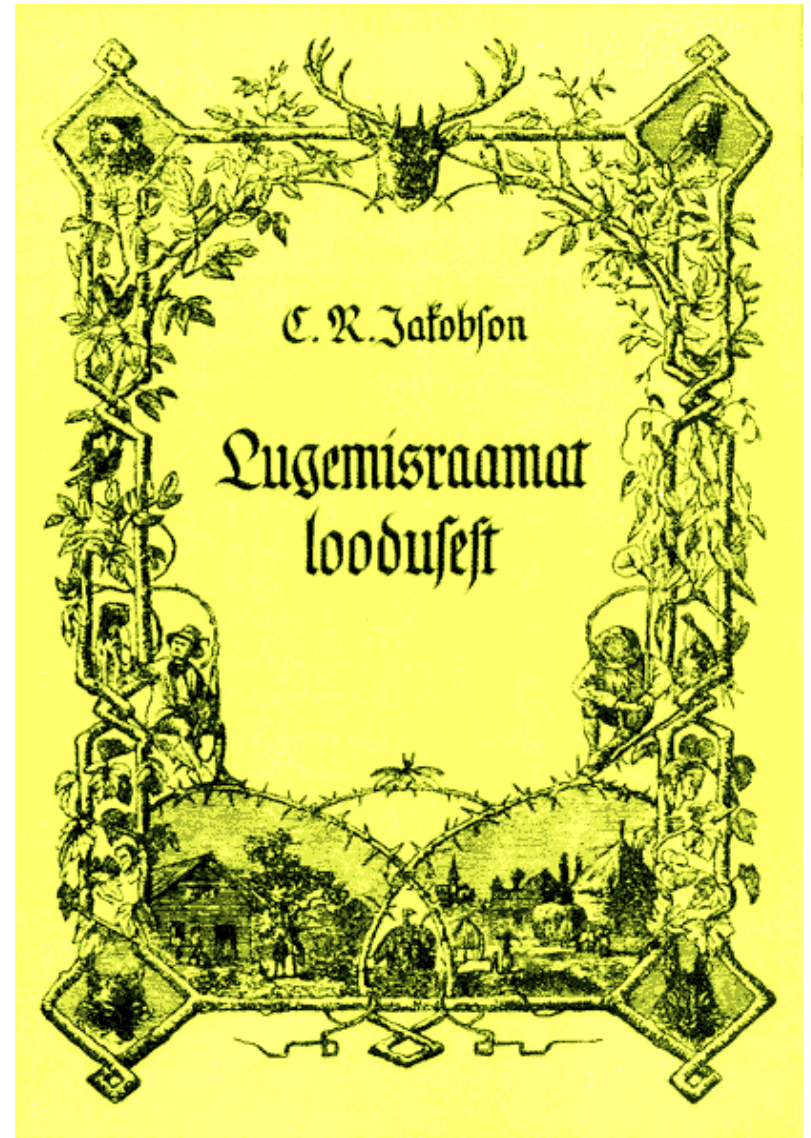


# National Awakening

- The abolition of serfdom in 1861
- **Johann Voldemar Jannsen (1819–1890)**
- *Pärnu Postimees* (“The Pärnu Mail-Man”, 1857 –1885,)
- *Eesti Postimees* (1864–1944)
- **Carl Robert Jakobson (1841–1882)**
- *Sakala* (1878 –)
- *Kalevipoeg* (1857–1862)
- *Koidula* (1843–1886)

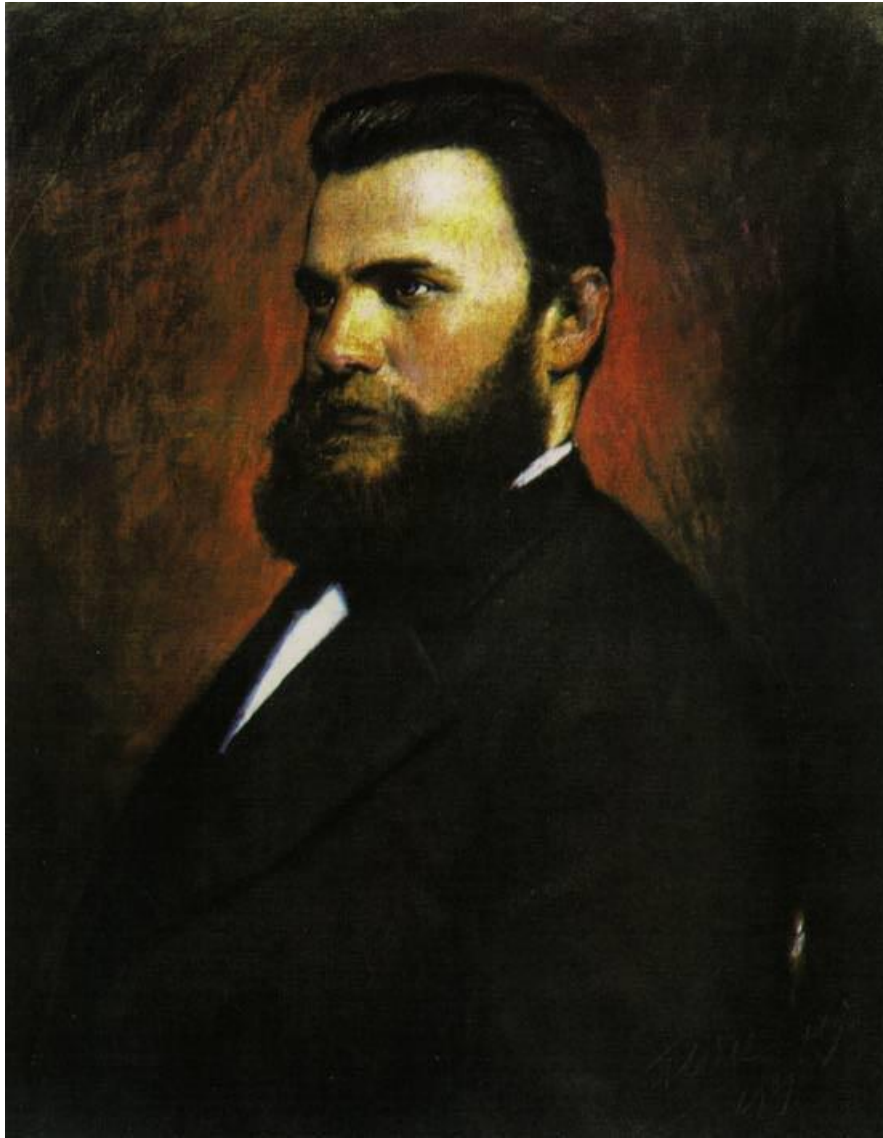




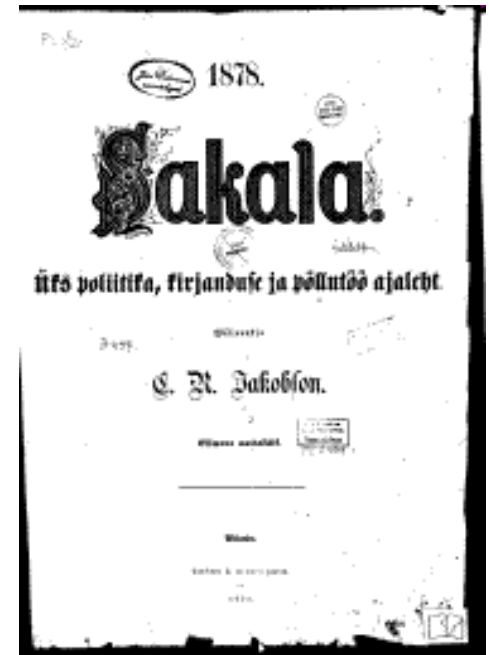


C. R. Jakobson's "Sounds of Wanemuine's Zither"

A School Textbook



Ants Laikmaa, “Carl Robert Jakobson” (1920)



# JOHANN WOLDEMAR JANNSEN

**“Mu isamaa, mu õnn ja rõõm”**

ESTONIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM  
(Melody by Fredrik Pacius = “Maamme”)

My Fatherland, my love and luck,  
Thou art so beautiful!  
I'm sure that I could never find,  
Though worldwide seeking, to my mind,  
What would be so close, and to heart,  
As thou, Estonia, art!

Thou gave me birth and brought me up,  
I'm giving thank to thee!  
I'm praising thee with every breath  
And I'll be true unto my death,  
Thou art the most beloved and  
The best, my Fatherland!

God ought to be thy guardian,  
My lovely Fatherland!  
Let him defend your righteous deeds  
and shade and shield from enemies  
For everything thou would begin,  
My Fatherland, could win!

# Koidula – The Symbol of Dawn

*Mu isamaa on minu arm,*

*Ei teda jäta ma,*

*Ja peaksin sada surma ma*

*Seepärast surema!*

*Kas laimab võõra kadedus,*

*sa siiski elad südames,*

*Mu isamaa!*



Paul Raud (1926)

My father's land, my dearest love,  
I'll never thee forsake,  
And should I die a thousand deaths,  
That penalty I'll take!

Let jealous strangers say their part,  
They'll never tear thee from my heart,  
My father's land!



# Lydia Emilie Florentine Jannsen

*alias*

**Koidula (1843–1886)**

- *Meadow Flowers*  
(“Waino-Lilled”, 1866)
- *The Nightingale of the Embach River*  
(“Emmajõe Öpik”, 1867)
- *The Cousine from Saaremaa*  
(“Saaremaa onupoeg”, 1870)
- *Such a Bumpkin*  
(“Säärane Mulk”, 1872)





# Eduard Bornhöhe (1862–1923)



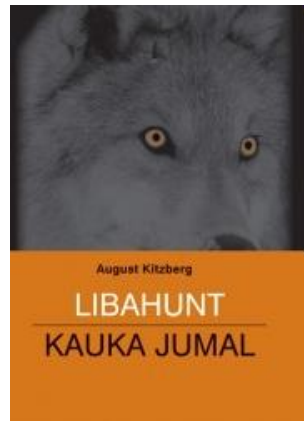
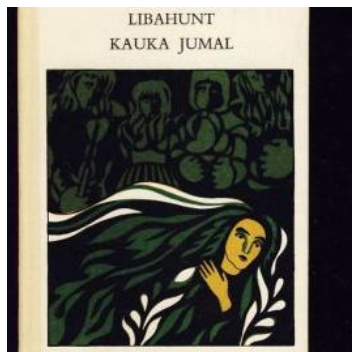
- *The Avenger*  
(“Tasuja”, 1880)
- *The Struggles of Villu*  
(“Villu võitlused”, 1890)
- *Duke Gabriel*  
(“Vürst Gabriel”, 1893)
- Cult movie *The Last Relic*  
(“Viimne reliikvia”, 1969,  
by Grigori Gromanov)



# August Kitzberg (1855–1927)



- Biedermeier village stories
- Comedies <August von Kotzebue (1761–1819)
- Revolutionary dramas
- *Caught in the Whirlwind* (“Tuulte pöörises”, 1906)
- *The Werewolf* (“Libahunt”, 1911, 1912)
- *The God of Lucre*  
(“Kauka jumal”, 1912, 1915)



# Eduard Vilde (1865–1933)



## Novels

- *Against the Pricks* (“Astla vastu”, 1898)
- *To the Frozen North* (“Külmale maale”, 1896)
- *The Mahtra War* (“Mahtra sõda”, 1902)
- *When the Anija Men Went to Tallinn* (“Kui Anija mehed Tallinnas käisid”, 1903)
- *The Prophet Maltsvet* (“Prohvet Maltsvet”, 1908)
- *Redemption* (“Lunastus”, 1909)
- *The Dairyman of Mäeküla* (“Mäeküla piimamees”, 1916)

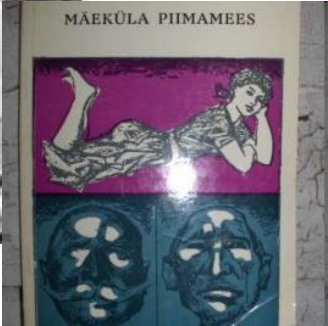
## Comedies

- *The Instructable Mystery* (“Tabamata ime”, 1912)
- *The Hobgoblin* (“Pisuhänd”, 1913)

- **33 volumes** of novels, short stories, plays, and humorous pieces



Eduard Wiiralt (1898–1954), “Preacher” (1931)



Before the punishment of Mahtra rebels



Oscar Wilde and Eduard Wilde in Tartu, Estonia, and Galway, Ireland

# Juhan Liiv (1864–1913) – the Estonian Hölderlin



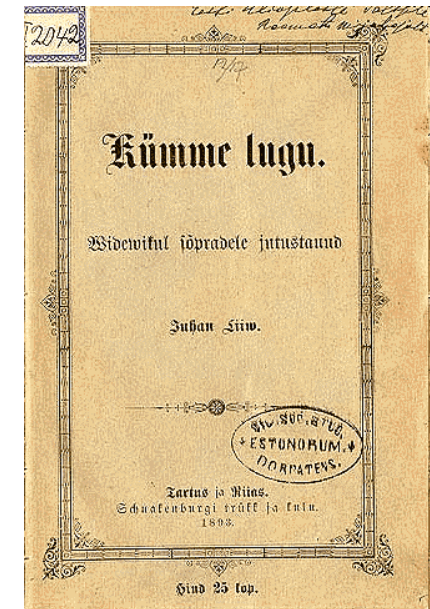
- Paul Verlaine: *De la musique avant tout chose!*



- *My native land! / With thee I am unhappy, / Without thee sadder still!*

- *However long the darkness may endure...*

- *The Shadow* (“Vari”, 1894)
- *The Cockoo of Käkimäe* (“Käkimäe kägu”)
- *Witch’s Daughter* (“Nõia tütar”)



# *Lumehelbeke*

(“A Small Flake of Snow”)

*Lumehelbeke*

*tasa, tasa*

*liugleb aknale,*

*tasa... tasa...*

*Nagu viibiks ta*

*tasa, tasa*

*tleks tulles ka:*

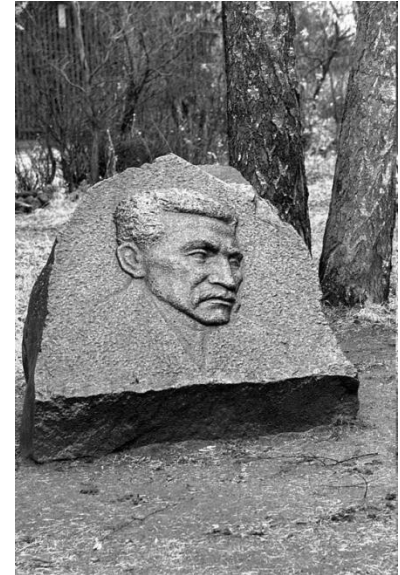
*tasa, tasa!*

*Miks nii tuksud, rind?*

*tasa, tasa!*

*Rahu otsib sind —*

*tasa, tasa...*



A small flake of snow / silence, silence, / drifts past the window, / silence... silence... // As if it were waiting, / silence, silence, / as if contemplating: / silence, silence! // My heart, why beat so? / Silence, silence! / Peace waits for you — / silence, silence...

(Transl. by J. Talvet & H. L. Hix)



# *Helin*

(“A Sound”)

*Kui mina olin veel väikene mees,  
üks helin mul helises rinna sees.*

*Ja kui mina sirgusin suuremaks,  
läks helingi rinna sees kangemaks.*

*Nüüd on see helin pea matnud mind,  
ta alla rusuks on raugenud rind.*

*See helin mu elu ja minu hing,  
tal kitsaks on jäänud maapäälne ring.*

When I was small, / a sound rang in my breast. // As I grew, / the sound in my breast gained force. // Now this sound has almost buried me, / under it my breast has been ruined. // This sound is my life and my soul, / for them the earthy circle has narrowed.

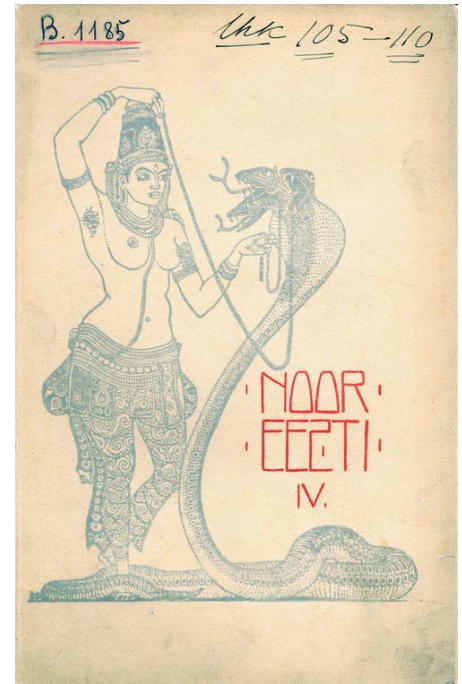
(Transl. by J. Talvet & H. L. Hix)

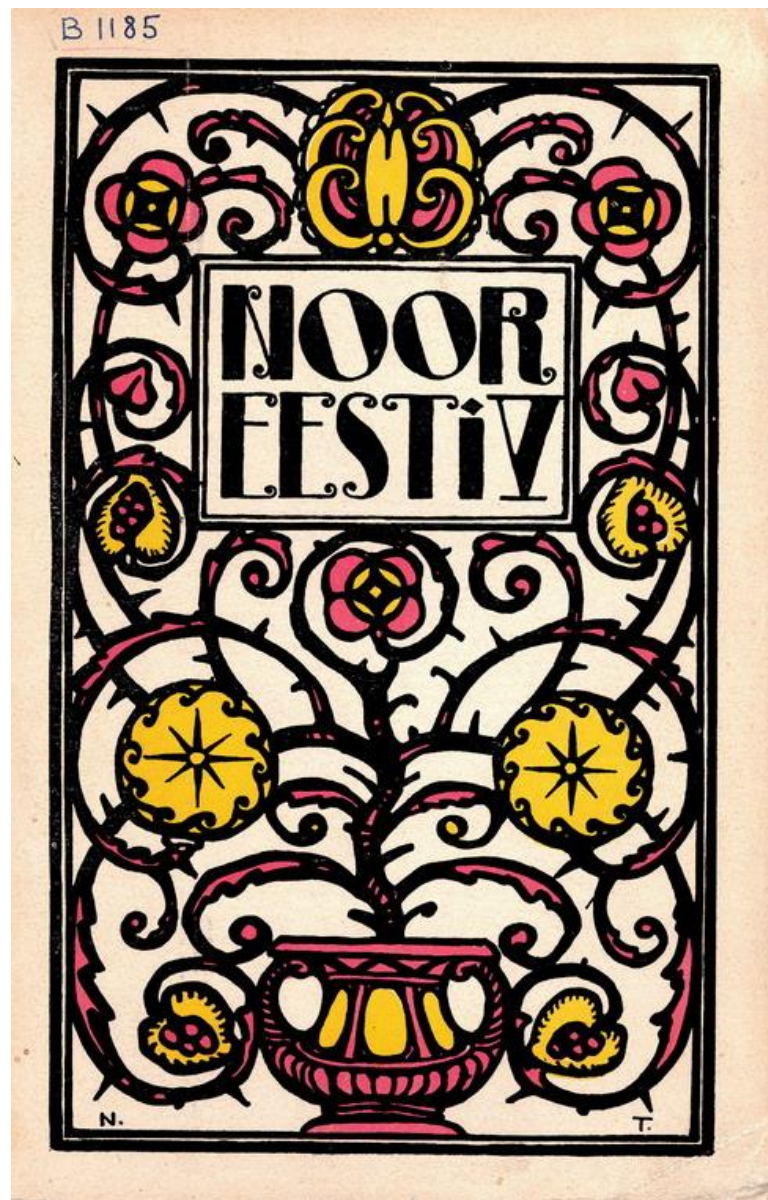
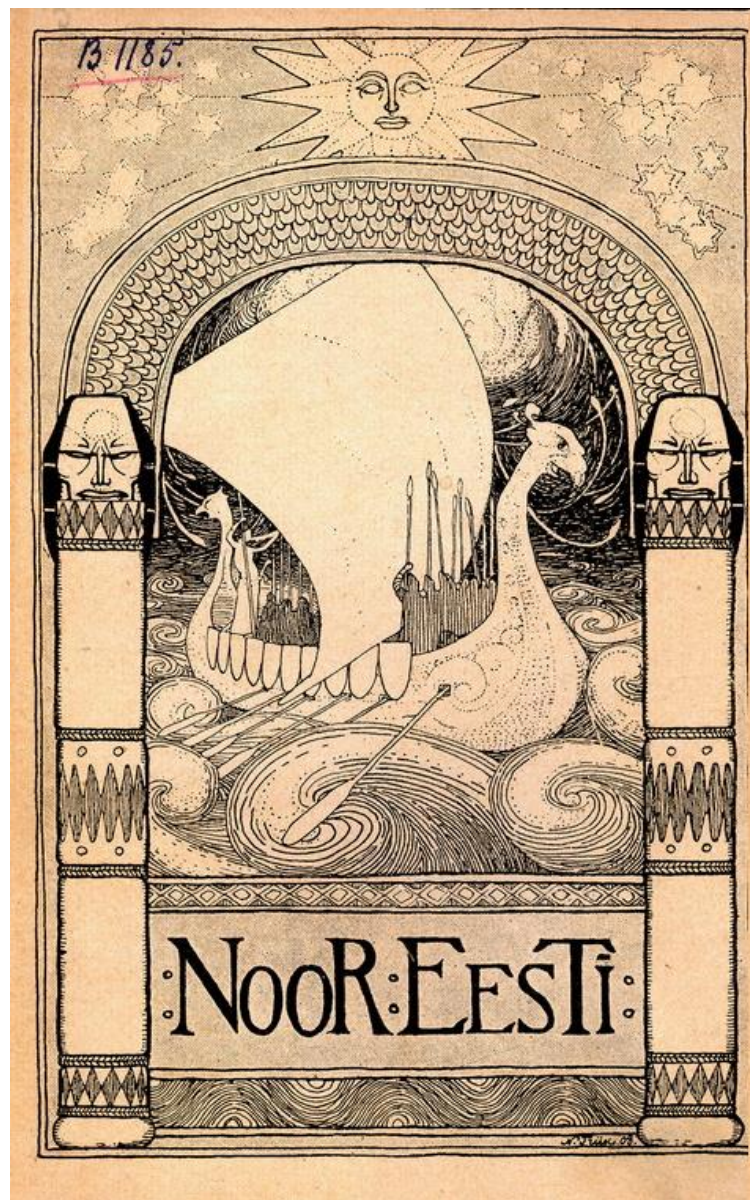
# Noor-Eesti (Young Estonia, 1905–1916)

- **Gustav Suits**
- **Friedebert Tuglas**
- **Villem Grünthal-Ridala**
- **Johannes Aavik**
- Anton Hansen Tammsaare, Aino Kallas et al.

- G. Suits: *Let us remain Estonians, but also become Europeans!*

- The Russian revolutions of the 1905, 1917
- The World War I (1914–1918)
- The Estonian War of Independence (1918–1919)





# **Gustav Suits (1883–1956) – a revolutionary poet**



*Oma saar*

*Ma sõuan merel ja sõuan,  
üht saart mina otsin sääl.  
Seda kaua ju otsinud olen  
laia lageda mere pääl.*

*Mõnd saart on määratus meres,  
mõnd sadamat vilusat.  
Oma saart aga mina ei leia,  
oma unistust ilusat.*

*Ma sõuan merel — ja hõljun  
ja lained hõljuvad ka,  
kõrgel kiiguvad, liiguvad pilved —  
oma saart aga otsin ma.*

1905

My Island

Still I keep sailing and sailing,  
And seeking an isle in the sea:  
I have sought it long already  
Where the random winds sail free.

The sea has many islands  
And havens expectant with light,  
But I cannot find the island  
I dreamed in the dazzled night.

And still my vessel keeps scudding  
On a swaying circular plain,  
And the clouds above me go swaying,  
And I seek my island in vain.

(Trans. by J. Talvet)

# Gustav Suits (1883–1956)

- *The Fire of Life*  
(“Elu tuli”, 1905)
- *The Land of Winds*  
(“Tuulemaa”, i.e. Thulema, 1913)



- *Birth of a Child*  
(“Lapse sünd”)
- *La vida es sueño*  
(“Kõik on kokku unenägu”, 1922)
- *Fire and Wind*  
(“Tuli ja tuul”, 1950)

# Friedebert Tuglas (1886–1971) – Master of Estonian Short Story



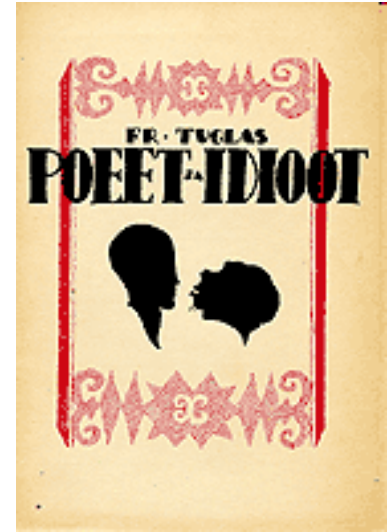
# Elo Tuglas





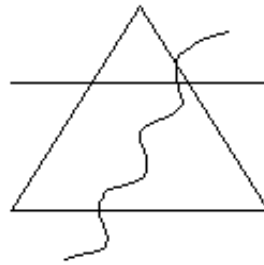
# Friedebert Tuglas (1886–1971)

- *Siuru* and *Tarapita*, literary groups
- Estonian Writers' Union (1922)
- *Looming* (“Creation”, 1923), literary magazine
- *Felix Ormusson* (1915), novel
- Short stories: *Destiny* (“Saatus”, 1917);
- *The Spirit of Gloom* (“Raskuse vaim”, 1920);
- *The Transmigration of Souls* (“Hingede rändamine”, 1925).
- “Popi and Huhuu”, “At the End of the World”, “Freedom and Death”, “The Golden Hoop”, “The Vision”, “The Shadow of a Man”, “The Poet and the Idiot”, “The Day of an Androgyne”, etc.
- *Little Illimar* (“Väike Illimar”, 1937), autobiographic novel
- Literary criticism, travelogues, Marginalia



“Popi and Huhuu”

Intellect, Super-Ego, God, bright



War

Psychology, Ego  
yellow, human, good

Subconsciousness, Libido  
purple, animal, evil, shadow



**Oskar Luts (1887–1953), *Spring* (“Kevade”, 1913) by**



**Anna Haava (1864–1957) – tender Romanticism**

**Jaan Oks (1884–1918) – early Expressionism**

**Ernst Enno (1875–1934) – religious Symbolism**