

The Textiles Education and Research Exhibition in Kaunas

by Patricia Christy

We had been asked to post all our work to Kaunas by the end of August so that the organisers could set up the exhibition before we arrived. We had also been told they had an exhibition architect who was planning it. Great!!! So when we (my husband also went) arrived I thought I would just have to check that everything was OK. However on arrival at the Devil's Museum, we found that nothing had been done by the organisers. Caroline McNamara and Pamela Hardesty had taken some pieces of work in their luggage, so had gone there in the morning only to find that the previous exhibition had not even been taken down and all of our exhibits was still in a storeroom. They had to remove the previous exhibition themselves and plan where everything would go. It was just as well that Caroline had the details as she had been helping me to organise it.

So, when we arrived, Caroline and Pamela had only just started to put up their things and there were a couple of students standing around looking helpless. They were supposed to have painted display boards and plinths but even that had not been done. There were hardly even any tools to use, 1 hammer, and we were taking nails out of the walls to use again. Eventually we had ladders and more tools and were making progress only to be told at 17.00 "Sorry you'll have to go, the Museum is closing".



Back: Caroline Mc Namarra, Hanny Spierenburg, Cathryn Amidei, Rosemary Derwent Front: Julia Astreou, Pamela Hardesty Renata Pompas, Patricia Christy

We were due to go to Vilnius the following day so we left detailed instructions as to what had to be done and hoped for the best!

We were not able to attend the ETN General Meeting on Thursday morning as we had to see to the exhibition. Well, progress had been made but still quite a lot to do, so we ended up staying there all morning to get it done, but had to leave at lunch time as we had the TEXERE General Meeting in the afternoon. After going back and forth between the conference and the Museum on Friday, everything was almost done and it did look good. Whew!!



TEXERE Exhibition in the Devil's Museum

We were exhibiting on the Museum's staircase of 4 floors with a large landing on each one. There were 9 exhibitors in all from USA, Italy, Ireland, Cyprus, Austria, Switzerland, Holland and 2 of us from England, mostly student's work of members, but the members also had their work on show. There was a good variety of work including weaving, felt, embroidery, paper art, costumes, digitally printed fabrics etc. The official opening was on Saturday evening and many people, including many eminent textile artists and university lecturers turned up so we were concerned about what they would think of our first major exhibition. However we received many compliments and Alice Kettle, the well known textiles artist, had been invited to review the exhibition for Joe Lewis's on-line Canadian textiles magazine "Fibre Quarterly". You may read the review here which is very complimentary. So, in the end, it had been worth all the months of preparation and worry.