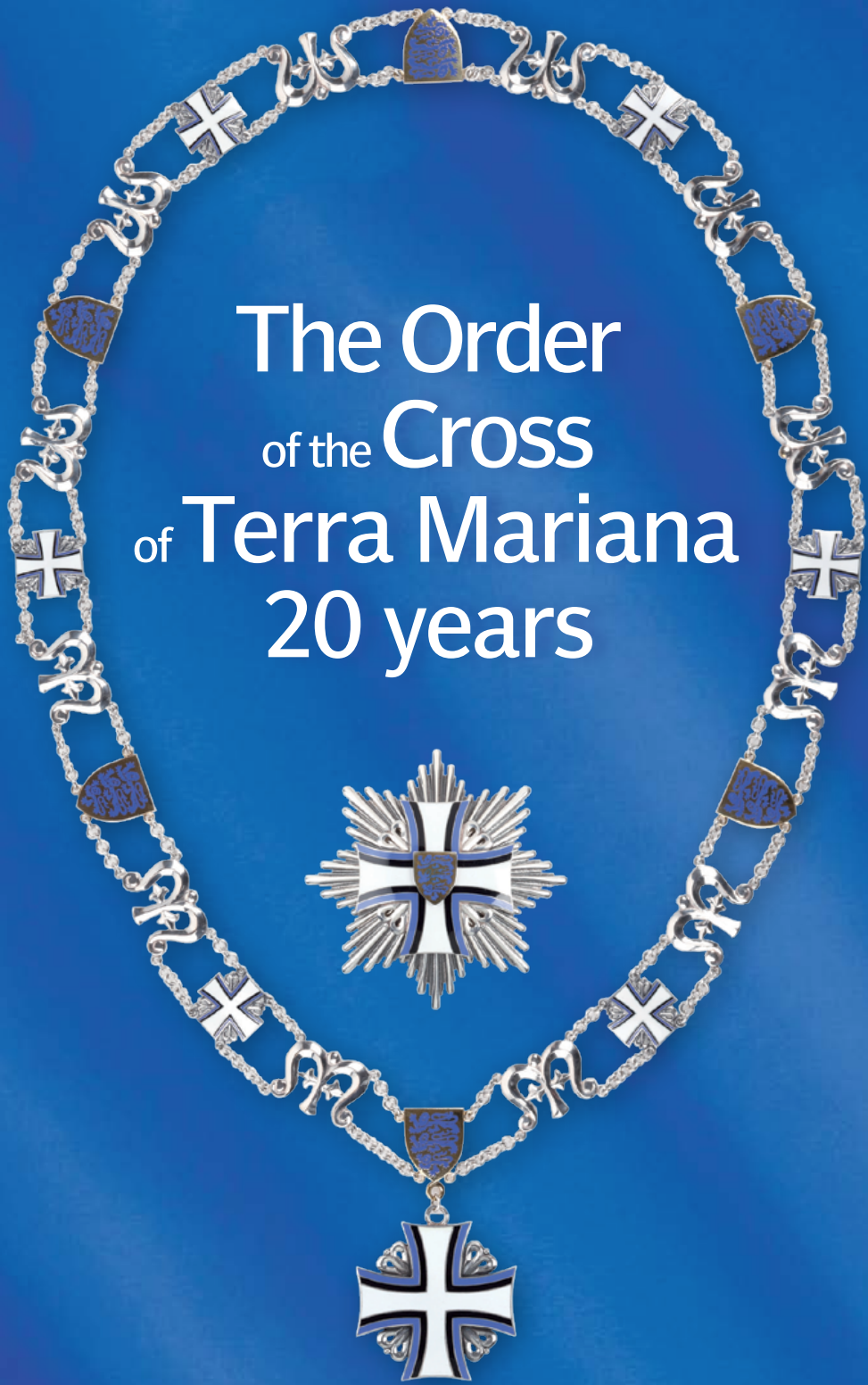
The Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana 20 years



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The Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana: 20 years

The Republic of Estonia bestows as gratitude and recognition various state decorations on persons whose activities have maintained and reinforced the independent Estonian state. Such recipients include our friends and supporters worldwide.

Estonia has six state decorations and their stories are part of the history of our country. The oldest decoration, the Cross of Liberty, was instituted almost a century ago, during the Estonian War of Independence, in recognition of wartime services. Our youngest state decoration, the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

The Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana was instituted to honour the independence of the Estonian state. It is bestowed as the highest decoration on foreigners who have rendered special services to the Republic of Estonia.

Many foreign heads of state have become recipients of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana because the President of the Republic of Estonia bestows this highest mark of recognition on his state visits.

On this, the 20th anniversary of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, you can learn about the recipients of this Order and read the recollections of Priit Herodes, the heraldry expert who designed the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, about the creation and the significance of this state decoration.

Enjoy!

Terra Mariana: 800 years

"Many lands and states have alternative poetic names that remind us of their vibrant history or distinctive natural features. It is the same as with nicknames given to family members, expressing mutual love and lasting ties. I know of no other country's name that is as meaningful and far-reaching as our Terra Mariana (Maarjamaa)".
This is a quote from the speech by Bishop Philippe Jourdan, Vice-President of the Estonian Council of Churches, at the ecumenical vespers that opened the 'Eight Centuries of Terra Mariana' themed year at the Pirita Convent on 7 September 2014.

Maarjamaa, meaning (Saint) Mary's Land or Terra Mariana, is an ecclesiastical and poetic name for Estonia. It was coined in 1215, exactly 800 years ago, by the then bishop of our land to the then Pope, Innocent III, at a Lateran Council session in Rome. As pilgrimages to this land dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God, were proclaimed to be of equal importance to pilgrimages to the land of the Son of God, the territory of modern-day Estonia became a Christian heartland.

The warmth and holiness of this name, the underlying affirmation of life and inspiration have affected Estonian national culture and our worldview over many centuries. Maarja is used in many Estonian place names and folklore. Maarja and its variations are also popular names for girls in Estonia. Even some plants have been named thus. Naturally, many Estonian churches carry the name of the Virgin Mary. The Maarjamaa theme was also very important during the national awakening period in the 19th century and when Estonia was regaining its independence in the late 1980s. This prayer by Villu Kangur and Tõnis Mägi has acquired the significance of an anthem or fighting song: "Creator, keep Maarjamaa safe, and forgive us our shortcomings".

PRIIT HERODES

Sketch of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class.

Cross of Terra Mariana: 20 years

Turbulent events in a nation's history have a direct effect on new state decorations. When Estonia became an independent republic in 1918, its first and only state decoration until 1936 was the Cross of Liberty, which comprised three grades, each in three classes. The Cross of Liberty was bestowed until 1925 for services during the Estonian War of Independence.

Article 7 of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia adopted in 1920 stipulated that the Estonian state did not bestow honorary awards on its citizens (with the exception of members of the Defence Forces in war-time) and that Estonian citizens did not have the right to accept honorary awards from foreign countries. This unrealistic provision was in practice mostly ignored but remained in force until 7 October 1936 when Konstantin Päts, the Head of State, issued a decree approving the Decorations Act that included the introduction of the Order of the National Coat of Arms and the Order of the White Star and the upgrade to the state decoration status of the Defence League's Order of the Cross of the Eagle and the Red Cross Society's Order of the Estonian Red Cross. These Estonian state decorations were bestowed from 1937 until the occupation of the Republic of Estonia by the Soviet Union in 1940.

Lennart Meri was elected President of the Republic of Estonia in 1992. He was very perceptive of symbolism and historical context, which is why he wanted to commemorate the restoration of Estonian independence in 1991 and the country's return to European cultural space with a new Estonian decoration. It was to be bestowed on worthy foreign citizens in recognition of their contribution to the restoration, preservation and promotion of our statehood. The president's wish became more concrete and urgent after the tragic sinking of the Estonia ferry in the Baltic Sea on the night of 28 September 1994, as it was necessary to give recognition to the Finnish officers who took part in the rescue operation. The Order of the National Coat of Arms was exclusively for Estonian citizens, while the beautiful Order of the White Star was designed with no clear reference to Estonia, having a red ribbon that could inconveniently be associated with the red stars on the uniforms of the last Russian soldiers to leave Estonian soil that same autumn. Meri therefore did not deem that option suitable for an occasion as momentous as bestowing decorations on foreigners for the first time after the restoration of independence.

In his capacity as President of the Republic and an honorary member of the Estonian Heritage Society, Meri commissioned a new state decoration from Priit Herodes, a prominent heraldry expert, heritage conservation activist and member of the Heraldry Council of the Republic of Estonia established in 1992. Thus in late autumn 1994 the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana was born, inspired by Estonia's national colours and the initial heraldic shape of our coat of arms. When designing the decoration, Herodes relied on the conviction that the blue, black and white that are so close to Estonians' hearts – as they have surrounded us in nature in winter for millennia – are also characteristic of Mary, the Mother of God and the heavenly protector of Estonia: blue denotes her as the Queen of Heaven; black as Our Lady of Sorrows; and white as the Blessed Virgin. To both Meri, who commissioned the decoration, and Herodes, who created it, the name 'Cross of Terra Mariana' was self-evidently the only way of describing the new state decoration, although of course there were dissenting opinions in political circles, as is always the case.

Photo: Office of the President of Estonia

Lennart Meri

On 16 May 1995 the Riigikogu (the Estonian parliament) designated the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana as the highest Estonian state decoration that could be bestowed upon foreigners. It was also stipulated in legislation that the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana was to be bestowed on the President of the Republic of Estonia, because a tradition existed whereby the head of state was expected to already have the highest decoration him- or herself when bestowing the same state decorations on other persons.

That same day, 16 May 1995, President Meri left on a state visit to Finland and awarded the first collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana to Martti Ahtisaari, President of the Republic of Finland. This and other decorations bestowed during that historic visit were the first Estonian state decorations bestowed since the regaining of independence.

On the same decorations list were Raimo Tiilikainen, the Commodore in charge of the Maritime Rescue Centre in Turku, who on the night of the sinking of the Estonia ferry and over the next few days directed the efforts of the Finnish team that searched for and rescued survivors, and Ilkka Kärppäla, a Lieutenant with the Finnish Border Guard, who logged the distress signal from the Estonia while on duty as a coastal defence official in Turku. They were presented with the decorations by President Lennart Meri at a ceremony in Estonia, in the presidential palace in Kadriorg Park, 10 days later, on 26 May 1995.

The Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana is divided into five usual classes as is legally customary in Estonia, and these classes are numbered from fifth to first. In the international classification our order classes are as follows: V class – Knight; IV class – Officer; III class – Commander; II class – Grand Officer; I class – Knight of the Grand Cross. In addition to these classes, in keeping with our national tradition (which dates back to the pre-Second World War decorations of the National Coat of Arms and of the White Star), the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana also has a special class: the Collar of the Cross of Terra Mariana. It denotes a set consisting of the decoration worn attached to the shoulder ribbon, the star worn on the chest and the order collar. In some other countries a first-class decoration (grand cross) can be awarded as a sign of special recognition with a collar, but in most cases this does not necessitate the wearing of the full set. Depending on the importance of the occasion, the collar-class recipient wears his/her decoration on the shoulder ribbon or on the collar. This order class can be called Commander of the Grand Cross.

The primary symbol of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana is a silver cross pattée with white enamel on both sides, 48 mm high and wide. The arms of the cross have blue and black enamelled lines on the sides that are 2 mm wide. Between the arms of the cross are silver monograms of Mary. On the reverse of the Cross of Terra Mariana is the motto PRO TERRA MARIANA in silver letters. On the cross, on the golden Gothic shield (shield Or), are three pacing lions whose glances are aimed at the viewer (three lions passant guardant Azure): this is the initial heraldic shape of the Estonian national coat of arms. Thus the cross is attached to the blue order ribbon. Persons presented with the fifth- or fourth-class Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana wear it on a 35 mm-wide ribbon on the chest. The fourth class order also includes a rosette made from the same ribbon. Men awarded the third- or second-class order wear it on a 40 mm-wide ribbon on the neck; ladies on a wing-shaped ribbon on the chest. In the second class there is also the star of the order. The relief star with eight points is made of silver and the Cross of Terra Mariana is superimposed on it. In the centre of the cross is a golden coat-of-arms shield with three lions (shield Or with three lions passant guardant Azure). The same star of the order is worn by those who were awarded the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class. In addition to this they wear the Cross of Terra Mariana on the blue shoulder ribbon on the left hip. The men's order ribbon is 105 mm wide; the ladies´ is 65 mm wide.

Photographer: Peeter Hütt

Priit Herodes

The silver collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana comprises 12 monograms of Mary, six miniature Terra Mariana crosses and six golden shields with the Estonian coat of arms, alternately arranged. The Cross of Terra Mariana is attached to the middle shield.

The first single-sided test units of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana were made from a tombac alloy by Heinar Ivanov, a famous badge-maker from Tartu. The first batch of these decorations was manufactured by jewellers Viktoria and Tõnis Lukats from the Marquese Goldsmith Company. From autumn 1995 the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana decorations were manufactured by the Miniplast Pluss Company directed by Meelis Pääbo, President of the Estonian Phaleristics Society. In autumn 2013 a public tender for the manufacture of state decorations was won by the Sporrong Eesti company in cooperation with the Roman Tavast jewellery company.

PRIIT HERODES

I class

Collar of the Order
of the Cross of Terra Mariana

II class

III class

IV class

V class

Photographer: Peeter Langovits/Scanpix

PRESIDENT

Lennart Meri

Photographer: Toomas Volmer, Film Archive of the National Archive

President Lennart Meri awarded the very first Orders of the Cross of Terra Mariana on a state visit to the Republic of Finland in May 1995. Finnish president **Martti Ahtisaari** became the first recipient of the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana as bestowed by President Meri. During the reception for the state visit on the evening of 16 May 1995 President Ahtisaari wore the collar class of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana.

Photographer: Toomas Volmer, Film Archive of the National Archive

Among the first to be awarded decorations of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana by President Meri were Commodore **Raimo Tiilikainen**, the head of the Turku Maritime Rescue Centre, who on the night of the Estonia ferry disaster and on the days that followed led the Finnish team in rescuing survivors and recovering bodies; and Finnish border guard Lieutenant **Ilkka Kärppäla**, who as a coastal defence official in Turku logged the mayday call from the Estonia.
The decorations were presented in Kadriorg on 26 May 1995.

Photographer: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On a state visit to the Kingdom of Sweden.

President Meri awarded the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana to King **Carl XVI Gustaf**. Crown Princess **Victoria** and Queen **Silvia** were awarded decorations of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class. King Carl XVI Gustaf speaking at a reception marking the state visit of President Meri on 12 September 1995.

Photo: Office of the President of the Republic

In October 1995 President Lennart Meri and Helle Meri undertook a state visit to Mexico, during which President Meri presented President **Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León** with the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana.

President Meri meets with Mexican president Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León during his state visit on 27 October 1995.

Photographer: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The 78th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia was the first anniversary on which the President of the Republic wore the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana. President Lennart Meri and Helle Meri greet Defence Forces director Johannes Kert at the reception of the President of the Republic in the Sakala Centre on 24 February 1996.

Photo: Kristjan Lepp

President Lennart Meri and Icelandic MP **Jón Baldvin Hannibalsson**, who was awarded in Kadriorg with a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class on 4 March 1996. Hannibalsson was the Icelandic Foreign Minister on 22 August 1991, when Iceland became the first country to recognise Estonia as an independent state.

Photo: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 19 April 1996 Czech president **Václav Havel** made a state visit to Estonia. On the occasion of the visit President Meri bestowed on President Havel the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana.

Photo: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In October 1996 President Meri undertook a state visit to the Republic of Latvia. During the visit he awarded the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana to Latvian president **Guntis Ulmanis**.

Photo: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In June 1997

Turkish president **Süleyman Demirel** made a state visit to Estonia. President Meri presents the Turkish president with the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana in the Great Office in Kadriorg.

Photo: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Lennart Meri speaks on the 79th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia in the Estonia Concert Hall.

Photo: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Meri bestows the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class upon former German foreign minister **Hans-Dietrich Genscher** in Kadriorg on 6 March 1997.

Photo: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In May 1997 President of the Republic of Italy **Oscar Luigi Scalfaro** made a state visit to Estonia. To mark the occasion, President Meri awarded the Italian president with the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana.

President Lennart Meri and President of the Republic of Italy Oscar Luigi Scalfaro inspecting the guard of honour in Kadriorg on 22 May 1997.

Photo: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Presentation of a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to the former state secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany **Berndt von Staden** at the Paslepa summer residence on 16 July 1997.

Photo: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Meri awards a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to the founder of the Open Estonia Foundation, **George Soros**, in Kadriorg on 4 March 1998.

Photo: Office of the President of the Republic of Poland

In April 1998 President Meri and Helle Meri undertook a state visit to the Republic of Poland, during which President Meri bestowed the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana on President **Kwaśniewski**.

President of the Republic of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Mrs Jolanta Kwaśniewska, Lennart Meri and Mrs Helle Meri at the official reception ceremony of the state visit on 28 April 1998.

Photo: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In May 1998 President of the Republic of Iceland **Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson** made a state visit to Estonia. During the visit, President Meri presented the Icelandic president with the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana. President **Grímsson** delivers an address at the reception marking the state visit on 9 June 1998.

Photo: Voldemar Maask, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In August 1998 Norway's King **Harald V** and Queen **Sonja** made a state visit to Estonia. President Meri awarded both with decorations of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana. President Lennart Meri, King Harald V, Queen Sonja and Helle Meri at the dinner in honour of the state visit at the House of the Blackheads on 31 August 1998.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In May 1999 President Meri and Helle Meri undertook a state visit to the Republic of Greece. President Meri and President of the Republic of Greece **Constantinos Stephanopoulos** exchange gifts in the presidential palace and admire the decorations that have been awarded on 24 May 1999.
Pictured next to them is Helle Meri.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Lennart Meri presents Deputy Secretary of State of the United States of America **Strobe Talbott** with the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class on 24 January 2000. With him are his spouse Brook L. Shearer, Ambassador of the United States of America in Estonia Melissa Wells and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State of the United States of America Ronald D. Asmus.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

During a state visit to Estonia, President of the Republic of France **Jacques Chirac** was awarded the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana by President Meri.

President Meri and President Chirac at the Estonian president's home in Viimsi on 28 July 2001.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In May 2001 President of the Republic of Malta **Guido de Marco** made a state visit to Estonia.

President Meri shows the decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana to President de Marco in the Office of the President of the Republic. Pictured next to him are Mrs Violet de Marco and Mrs Helle Meri.

Photographer: Peeter Langovits/Scanpix

PRESIDENT

Arnold Rüütel

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Lennart Meri transfers the office of the president to **Arnold Rüütel** on 8 October 2001.

Pictured (from right): Ingrid Rüütel, aide Toivo Treima, President Arnold Rüütel, Personal Protection Service officer Aivar Ridamäe, Art Museum director Marika Valk, President Lennart Meri, aide Jaanus Elvre and Mrs Helle Meri.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Lennart Meri bestows the decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana worn by the Estonian president upon President **Arnold Rüütel** in the Riigikogu.

Pictured (from left, front row): aide Jaanus Elvre, President Lennart Meri, President Arnold Rüütel and senior aide Toivo Treima. Pictured (from left, back row): Riigikogu deputy speaker Peeter Kreitzberg, Ingrid Rüütel and Helle Meri.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Rüütel presents the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to former Polish foreign minister **Władisław Bartoszewski** in Kadriorg on 9 May 2002.

Photo: Peep Pillak

President Rüütel awards a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 5th class to Baron **Volker von Buxhoeveden** in Kadriorg on 20 June 2002.

Photo: Philippe Schlesser

On 5 May 2003 President Rüütel and Ingrid Rüütel undertook a state visit to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg during which President Rüütel presented Grand Duke **Henri** with the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana and Grand Duchess **Maria Teresa** with a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class.

Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg, President Rüütel, Ingrid Rüütel and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa at the official reception at the Grand Duke's palace.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President of the Republic of Bulgaria

Georgi Parvanov and Mrs Zorka Parvanova arrived in Estonia for an official visit on 11 June 2003. During the visit President Rüütel presented President Parvanov with the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana.

Pictured (from left): Zorka Parvanova, Georgi Parvanov, Arnold Rüütel and Ingrid Rüütel.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Rüütel awards a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to **Aleksius II**, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.

Aleksius II visited Estonia on 29 September 2003.

Photo: Rompres

In October 2003 President Rüütel made a state visit to the Republic of Romania during which he presented Romanian president **Ion Iliescu** with the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana. President Rüütel meets with Romanian president Ion Iliescu in Cotroceni Palace.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Rüütel meets with International Olympic Committee honorary president **Juan Antonio Samaranch** and bestows on him a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class in Kadriorg on 29 November 2003.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 12 May 2003 President Rüütel presented Portuguese president Dr **Jorge Sampaio** with the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana during a state visit to Estonia.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Arnold Rüütel and Mrs Ingrid Rüütel at the official reception marking the 86th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia at the Estonia Concert Hall on 24 February 2004.

Pictured in the background: aides Endrik Mõistlik and Avo Aljas.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

State visit to Estonia of the President of the Republic of Italy **Carlo Azeglio Ciampi** on 20 April 2004.

President Rüütel bestows upon President Ciampi the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The collar and 1st-class decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana among the state visit gifts presented to President of the Republic of Italy **Carlo Azeglio Ciampi**.

Photo: Office of the President of the Republic

President Rüütel's state visit to the Republic of Cyprus, during which President Rüütel presented President of the Republic of Cyprus **Tassos Papadopoulos** with the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana.

President Rüütel and President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos greet the guard of honour on 8 January 2004.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Arnold Rüütel bestowed a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class on former European Commissioner for External Relations Lord **Christopher Patten** in Kadriorg on 27 October 2005.

Photo: Eero Raun, Office of the President of the Republic

On 23 February 2006 Estonia was visited by former Polish president **Lech Wałęsa** to receive the decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class awarded to him by President Rüütel.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 27 March 2006 President Rüütel presented the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana to Hungarian president **László Sólyom** on a state visit to Estonia.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Rüütel presents a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China **Jiuyin Hong** on 2 March 2006.

Official photo with the ambassador and his spouse.

Photographer: Denis Georgievski/Scanpix/Presshouse

PRESIDENT

Toomas Hendrik Ilves

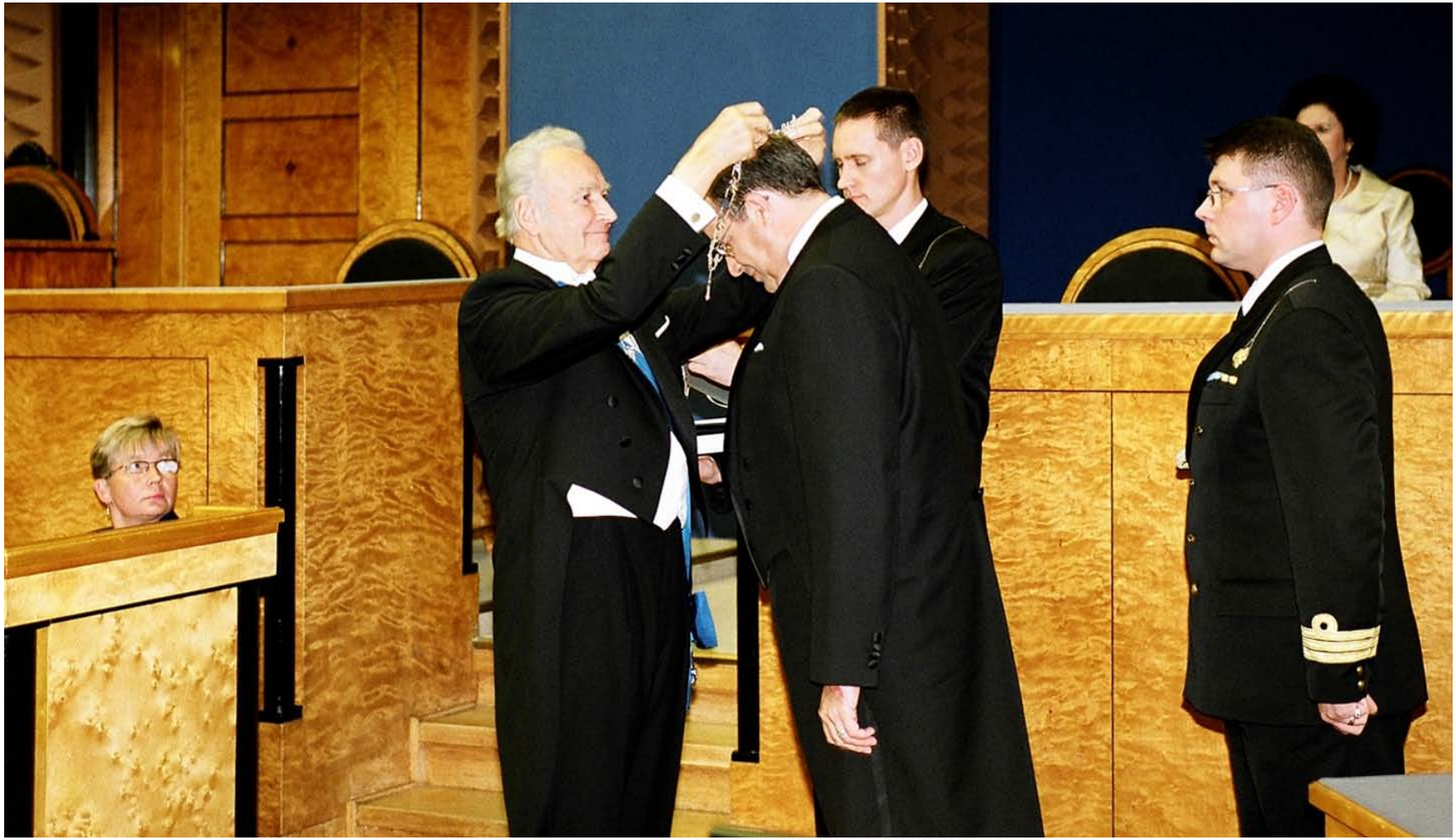

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Rüütel bestows the decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, which is traditionally worn by the Estonian president, upon President **Toomas Hendrik Ilves** in the Riigikogu on 9 October 2006.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Arnold Rüütel transfers the office of the president to Toomas Hendrik Ilves in the Riigikogu on 9 October 2006.

Pictured in the background: aide Endrik Mõistlik, Evelin Ilves, Ingrid Rüütel and aide Toomas Auväärt.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In October 2006 Estonia was visited by Her Majesty Queen **Elizabeth II** and His Royal Highness **the Duke of Edinburgh**.

Pictured (from left): President Ilves, Elizabeth II, Evelin Ilves and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Ilves and Queen Elizabeth II arrive at Kadriorg Art Museum for the official dinner.

Queen **Elizabeth** wears the decoration of the collar class of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana awarded to her.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Ilves presented

a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to outgoing Ambassador of the United States of America **Aldona Wos** in Kadriorg on 13 December 2006.

Photo: Office of the President of the Republic

On 7 May 2007 President Ilves began his state visit to the Republic of Georgia.

President Ilves bestows the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana on Georgian president **Mikheil Saakashvili**. Pictured next to him is aide Endrik Mõistlik.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko

made an official visit to Estonia in May 2007. President Ilves, Evelin Ilves, Empress **Michiko** and Emperor **Akihito** exchange gifts. Pictured next to them are aide Endrik Mõistlik, Estonian Ambassador to Japan Peeter Miller and an attaché to the Emperor.

Photo: Royal Household of Spain

In July 2007 President Ilves and Evelin Ilves undertook a state visit to the Kingdom of Spain.

Crown Prince **Felipe**, Queen **Sofia**, Evelin Ilves, President Ilves and King **Juan Carlos** at the state dinner in the Spanish royal palace on 8 July 2007.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In July 2007 President Ilves and Evelin Ilves undertook a state visit to the Kingdom of Spain. Queen **Sofia**, Evelin Ilves, President Ilves and King **Juan Carlos** exchange gifts and decorations.

Photo: Andres Putting, DELFI

In May 2008 a state visit was made to Estonia by Queen **Beatrix** of the Netherlands, to whom President Ilves awarded the collar of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana. Queen Beatrix speaking at the dinner marking the state visit on 14 May 2008.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In Kadriorg on 10 June 2008, President Ilves and Evelin Ilves hosted King **Albert II** and Queen **Paola** of Belgium who had arrived in Estonia on a state visit.

Photo: Toomas Volmer

President Ilves bestows a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class on former President of the European Commission **José Manuel Durão Barroso** at Kadriorg Art Museum on 23 February 2009.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Ilves presents a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to outgoing Ambassador of the United States of America **Stanley Davis Phillips** in August 2009.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Ilves awards a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to Danish Prime Minister **Anders Fogh Rasmussen** in March 2009.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Ilves awards a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to NATO secretary general **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer** in July 2009.

Photo: Office of the President of the Republic

President Ilves presents a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to French ambassador **Daniel Lois Labrosse** in September 2009.

Photo: Toomas Volmer

President Ilves awards a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to the former Foreign Minister of Denmark, **Per Stig Møller** on 27 April 2010.

Photo: Toomas Volmer

President Ilves presents a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to Polish ambassador **Tomasz Chłoń**.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In April 2011 Romanian president **Traian Băsescu** made a state visit to Estonia. President Ilves introduces the decorations of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana to President Băsescu on 12 April 2011.

Pictured (from left): President Băsescu, Maria Băsescu, Evelin Ilves and President Ilves.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In April 2011 Kazakh president **Nursultan Nazarbajev** made a state visit to Estonia. President Nazarbajev and President Ilves exchange gifts and decorations on 20 April 2011. Pictured next to them are Evelin Ilves and an interpreter.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Ilves presents outgoing Spanish ambassador **Eduardo Ibáñez López-Dóriga** with a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class on 5 May 2011.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Ilves presents outgoing Austrian ambassador **Angelika Saupe-Berchtold** with a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class on 14 October 2011.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In May 2012 Maltese president **George Abela** made a state visit to Estonia. President Abela and President Ilves exchange gifts and decorations on 31 May 2012. Pictured next to them is Evelin Ilves.

Photo: Andres Putting, DELFI

President Ilves and Evelin Ilves undertook a state visit to the Republic of Latvia on 5 June 2012. President Ilves, President of the Republic of Latvia **Andris Bērziņš**, Evelin Ilves and **Dace Seisuma** exchange gifts and decorations.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Ilves presents a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to outgoing Ambassador of the United States of America **Michael C. Polt** on 27 June 2012.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Ilves presents outgoing Danish ambassador **Uffe Andersson Balslev** with a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class on 6 July 2012.

Photo: Viljo Pettinen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Ilves presents outgoing Japanese ambassador **Hideaki Hoshi** with a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class on 11 September 2012.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 9 July 2013 German president **Joachim Gauck** arrived in Estonia on a state visit.

President Gauck and President Ilves exchange gifts and decorations. Pictured next to them are Evelin Ilves and Daniela Schadt.

Photo: Erik Peinar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

President Ilves presents outgoing French ambassador **Frédéric Billet** with a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class on 2 September 2013.

Photo: Raigo Pajula

President Ilves and Evelin Ilves undertook a state visit to the Republic of Lithuania on 27 May 2013. President Ilves, President of the Republic of Lithuania **Dalia Grybauskaitė** and Evelin Ilves exchange gifts and decorations.

Photo: Raigo Pajula

President Ilves and Evelin Ilves undertook a state visit to the Republic of Poland on 18 March 2014. President Ilves, President of the Republic of Poland **Bronisław Komorowski**, Evelin Ilves and **Anna Komorowska** at the dinner marking the state visit.

Photo: Raigo Pajula

On 13 May 2014 President Ilves and Evelin Ilves undertook a state visit to the Republic of Finland. President Ilves, President of the Republic of Finland **Sauli Niinistö**, Evelin Ilves and **Jenni Elina Haukio** at the dinner marking the state visit.

Photo: Annika Haas

President Ilves awards a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to **Vinton Gray Cerf** on 29 April 2014. Pictured next to them is aide Rein Vaabel.

Photo: Office of the President of the Republic

The decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class to be awarded to Spanish ambassador **Álvaro de la Riva Guzmán de Frutos**.

Photo: Office of the President of the Republic

President Ilves presents outgoing Spanish ambassador **Álvaro de la Riva Guzmán de Frutos** with a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class on 22 October 2014.

Photo: Andres Putting

President Ilves bestows a decoration of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana, 1st class on former Vice-President of the European Commission **Neelie Kroes** in Rakvere on 23 February 2015.

Photo: Toomas Volmer

Bearers of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana Order

By the time this brochure was compiled in July 2015, the Orders of the cross of Terra Mariana had been bestowed as follows:

Collar Class	51
I class	265
II class	181
III class	256
IV class	268
V class	268

The names of all bearers of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana Order can be found from the website of Estonian State Decorations: https://www.president.ee/en/estonia/decorations/