20 Years
European Arboricultural Council
Symbol of Durability I

The Tamme-Lauri Oak is the widest and oldest tree in Estonia, located in Urvaste Parish, Võru County. According to researchers, the tree was planted around 1326. The height of the tree is 17 metres, circumference is 831 centimetres, measured 130 centimetres from the ground. The oak has been hit repeatedly by lightning, damaging the branches, and the centre had become empty. Seven people could stand inside the tree before it was filled with eight tonnes of reinforced concrete.

Rein Sermat, EAC Estonia
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Symbol of Durability II

The Bartek Oak, with a height of 32 metres, a breast height diameter of 314 centimetres, and a crown projection diameter of 20/40 metres, is well known. For over 600 years it has lived in Bartków village near Zagnańsk, Kielce voivodeship, Poland. Bartek has a long and well-documented life – and even more interesting legends. In 1954 it became a natural monument, and it was a living record of arboricultural activities during the 20th century.

Prof Marek Siewniak, EAC Poland
Greetings

Lobbying for Healthy Trees

2012 is a jubilee year for the European Arboricultural Council, 20 years since the spring of 1992 when tree-loving people met in Brussels to found the EAC. The “infant” of 1992 now stands independently on its adult feet and counts 22 member associations from all over Europe. It offers European guides on various topics, it has successfully installed a Europe-wide certification system for European Tree Workers and European Tree Technicians, published a book on the subject and has strengthened its political work.

It fills us with pride to see how active and innovative the EAC is. It orients itself according to the wishes and inspirations of the ranks of its members and strives for solutions for the benefits of trees.

Only together can we be successful, so we are looking forward to an interesting, constructive anniversary in 2012 with lots of activities for more green in our cities.

Tomislav Vitković, Croatia
EAC President

Wolfgang Gross, Germany
EAC Secretary
**Climate Protester**

The chestnut (Castanea sativa) from the village of Častá is the oldest and largest in Slovakia. The age of this wonderful tree is estimated at 500 years, the perimeter is 830 centimetres. The tree is protected by national law. Like all old trees, the chestnut binds more CO$_2$ than a young tree. If we lost this old tree, we would need over 5000 young trees to replace it.

_Tomas Frano, EAC Slovakia_
The activities of the EAC are an extremely important part of broader activity for environmental protection in Europe. The fact that today we enjoy the benefits of nature does not mean that it will be so forever. There has not been a year in which the public did not see signals that the ecosystem was shrinking and becoming more susceptible to the adverse aspects of our civilization.

Congratulations on a special anniversary of the Council. I wish you perseverance and steadfastness, freshness in fostering attitudes conducive to the maintenance of our natural environment in the best possible condition for future generations.

Róža Thun
Poland

I sincerely congratulate the EAC for the successful years during which it has promoted sustainable environment policies in concrete terms. Without long-term and committed arboricultural efforts we simply cannot achieve the environmental goals we have set ourselves. In this work, the EAC will also play a pivotal role in the future.

Sirpa Pietikäinen
Finland
Greetings from

Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Member of the European Parliament

“A green network in Europe can contribute hugely to biodiversity.”

Trees are essential for biodiversity in Europe. They improve the quality of the air we breathe, especially in urban areas. But biodiversity in Europe is in dire straits. A quarter of all plants and animals is nearing extinction. The EU goal to stop this development by 2010 has not been met. We can now truly speak of a biodiversity crisis. A crisis that not only will harm man and society but also costs us 450 billion euro a year. This crisis will destroy us before the disappearance of the euro could even accomplish this. And things are really going downhill fast. For this reason, we need to take far-fetching and creative measures for the protection, appreciation and repair of biodiversity.

We need to ensure that nature is everywhere; alongside highways and railway tracks, in urban and in industrial areas. A green network in Europe can contribute hugely to biodiversity. Arboriculturalists and tree workers have a vast knowledge of trees. They know where to plant trees, which species can be placed together and how they should be maintained. This means they can advise and realize plans for companies willing to invest in a greener environment. Companies should also show an interest in a ‘greener’ image, for the sake of society at large and new employees especially. And finally, arboriculturalists and tree workers can aid in increasing the awareness of the value and significance of a greener environment. This is really important and can be done if we start acting instead of just thinking.

Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Netherlands
Special Advisor Biodiversity
Greetings from

Karl-Heinz Florenz, Member of the European Parliament

May I heartily congratulate you and your member associations on the 20th anniversary of the European Arboricultural Council.

The EAC works for nothing less than ensuring Europe’s biodiversity; after all, the companies who are members of your association are planting and caring for trees. Its efforts to strive for a long-term professional profile by creating uniform quality standards for training and research deserve to be supported. Particularly the European Tree Worker and the European Tree Technician certifications, which you developed by means of the European Leonardo da Vinci Programme, speak their own language – as well as the increasing demand for these certifications throughout Europe. The regular mutual exchange of experiences can certainly be counted among one of your recipes for success, too. One of the important principles of the European Union is learning from each other.

I wish you all the best and every success in the continuation of your work. Permit me to add that your association is especially dear to my heart, as my youngest son is now setting up a tree nursery.

Heartfelt congratulations
Karl-Heinz Florenz
Germany

“The contact among European companies is a fundamental basis of European integration.”
Stronger than Man

The plane is the best tree for our cities. If you consider how much poor treatment a plane can tolerate during its life, you have to admit that the plane is stronger than man. During a single year the plane could be defoliated three times – and every time new leaves appear. Incredible! This tree is able to produce energy in every part of its body and to reduce respirable dust in our cities – I really like it.

Daniele Zanzi, EAC Italy
Greetings from

Dr Norbert Röttgen, German Federal Minister

As the German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the European Arboricultural Council for 20 years of important international work for environmental and natural protection.

The EAC enables the exchange of knowledge and experiences with regard to trees. It promotes professional training and advocates the quality assurance of care for trees in gardens, parks, open and recreational areas. It pools expertise on the consequences of climate change and the preservation of biodiversity in our European cities. And importantly: it strengthens European cooperation by bringing together experts from all over Europe.

This work is so worthwhile because in our culture trees are something like a primordial symbol of life. Ask any person on the street: “Can you imagine life without trees?” The answer to this question will almost always be: “No!” Everyone instinctively feels the special meaning of trees for our understanding of the environment and nature, even for life itself. It is not without good reason that a newly-planted tree symbolizes future and growth, it is not without good reason that trees have traditionally played a significant role in our major religious feasts. But they are not only a symbol of intact nature and environment, they also directly embody them, particularly in cities where they give streets a face, where they provide shade and rest, where they make it possible for people to experience the seasons.

Preserving and maintaining our trees is a meaningful part of caring for our European culture. This is more important than ever before, as especially city trees are undergoing excessive stress. They suffer from high temperatures, insufficient water supply and intensive pollutant loads – and, last but not least, the consequences of climate change. That is why it is essential to have institutions like the EAC which commit themselves to the care of our trees in urban as well as in rural areas.

I wish the Council much success in the future for its important work to preserve our European (tree) culture.

Dr Norbert Röttgen

“Preserving and maintaining our trees is a meaningful part of caring for our European culture.”
The Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland thanks the EAC for the invitation to discuss the protection and cultivation of trees in Poland and the rest of Europe. The President of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski pays attention to the cultural and aesthetic values of nature, as proved by his initiative for the Forum of Public Debate at the Presidential Palace in Warsaw, which concerned the preservation of natural and cultural landscape and their influence on the progress of civilization. Participants of this Forum debated the great sense of natural landscapes and its influence on daily activities of humans.

I would like to express gratitude for your effort and passion, for these ideas propagated by the EAC and your European partners for introducing new solutions for the cultivation of trees. Thanks your efforts, we can appreciate the high quality of our landscape; it makes reality more beautiful and lets us see that the protection of nature has a supranational dimension.

The international research and work undertaken by the EAC and its members fills me with great satisfaction. I hope that pan-European cooperation will contribute to the growth of ecological sensitivity.

“I hope that pan-European co-operation will contribute to the growth of ecological sensitivity.”

I wish you every success
Maciej Klimczak
Greetings from

Emmanuel Mony, President of the European Landscape Contractors Association

In 1992 the founding fathers of the EAC declared their goal to promote the transfer of arborists’ know-how in Europe and to set Europe-wide standards, particularly by observing the national specifics. Today we can say that these objectives were completely achieved. 2012, with your 20th anniversary, is also a special year for the good relations and friendly cooperation between the EAC and the ELCA.

Now as before, the dialogue between EAC and ELCA contributes to important European subjects and further development of the “green idea.” Hence I consider it a substantial task to extend our cooperation.

In my position as ELCA President, “Think Green First” has a very broad meaning: Green, as well as especially signifying trees, also comprises all areas of human life and is an indispensable part of urban planning policy today.

For this, the landscapers and the arborists need committed partners! On one hand, these trade associations realize projects and programmes independently. And our contractors – countries, cities and communities – also play an important role. The ELCA and the EAC devote themselves to the promotion of young people and the cultural and civil society exchange beyond borders. I would like to proceed on this route of intensifying and designing our common interests for more green. With my conversation partners in Europe I will be discussing which further forms of cooperation can be envisaged here.

Considering that the EAC’s 20th jubilee will attract a lot of attention, I feel very positive that we will be able to walk this path successfully together. It is my desire that as many of the above-mentioned initiatives as possible will be taken up, expanded and continued within the framework of cooperation. The ELCA will give you full support.

My warmest congratulations
Emmanuel Mony
Let Arboriculture Become a True Profession throughout Europe

“The idea of combining the increasing professions of arboriculture as a whole throughout Europe was an idea I had nurtured for a long time.” William Matthews, Vice-President and Past Chairman of the National Tree Council, remembers the beginning of the association. More than 20 years ago he proposed the idea to his arboricultural conference. “We wanted to model the enterprise on a Tree Council, similar to the very successful UK organisation. This specified two members from each ...
... country, hopefully balanced between the practical and the scientific,” reports Matthews.

Foundation in Brussels

A first attempt to form a European Arborist Forum was made in the 1980s in Denmark, but it was probably too early. Tree standards, tree climbing and tree biology were at the beginning. But in 1991 the idea had a very good response, enough to call for the first meeting in Brussels on Saturday 20 March 1992. It was the founding conference for the EAC. Nineteen of Europe’s leading arborists representing nine countries assembled in Brussels to launch the European Arboricultural Council. The Council was intended as a forum where delegates from the various organisations could meet. The object was elevating the status and advancing the profession by liaising on matters ranging from research and education to successful tree establishment and improvement of working practice. Another important aspect of the Council’s work was to represent the views of its members to national governments.

The first Executive committee of the EAC was elected: William Matthews, Chairman, Niels Hvass, Vice Chairman, Arthur de Haack, Francis de Jonghe and Vincent Pfeiffer. “I often look back on those ‘heady’ days, when seeing that we now have so many member countries”, says Matthews. Today 22 European countries are members of EAC. The Council meets every year, the Executive committee is elected every two years.

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Highlight of Professional Life

Daniele Zanzi, Chairman 1998 – 2000, participated in the founding: “I remember the first official meeting held 20 years ago...”
ago in Brussels in which a bunch of European arborists set up the EAC. The Brussels meeting was one of the highlights of my professional life. In those days, our aim was to make arboriculture into a true profession throughout Europe. We also wanted to create a real group in which to share experiences and studies. This aim was reached easily because our world needed it."

**EAC Objectives**

The EAC was founded as a forum where delegates from various arboricultural organizations throughout Europe meet with the object of elevating the status and advancing the profession. The work of the EAC will lead to healthier and longer-living trees in towns, parks, gardens, wherever trees are grown to beautify Europe. Trees are sometimes mistreated due to lack of professionalism during planting, pruning and other arboricultural practices. International cooperation between people who work with trees develops a better knowledge of growing and maintaining trees and is able to put pressure on the appropriate government institutions and individuals if necessary.

The EAC especially wants to improve the profession, research on urban trees, education and training in arboriculture, safety practices with pruning tools and chain saws, tree management, disease and pest control, tree planting in urban conditions and harmonization in tree care procedures in Europe.

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*I think the EAC’s next task should be to increase knowledge about trees across society. Basic dendrological knowledge at pre-school and school could be one of the best pro-ecological projects in the EU.*

Prof Marek Siewniak, EAC Poland

*My wish for the EAC is that our work continues to improve through training and education, to balance the biological, safety and economic demands of the profession. And I hope to meet you all at the 50th anniversary.*

Tomislav Vitcović, EAC Croatia

*My wish is that the EAC will become a fully-grown organization representing all member countries. Youth unemployment is over 50% in parts of Europe and Brussels needs to support these young people. I think this is a great chance for the EAC to help both trees and these youths.*

Thale Roosien, EAC Netherlands

*We are a community of people with a common goal: to increase the quality of tree care. Our world is populated by genuine people who really love trees, which is great! We need to pursue this aim and keep this attitude.*

Daniele Zanzi, EAC Italy
We have one of the most renowned ancient trees in the world. This is the Major Oak, situated in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, Robin Hood’s famous forest. There are many different theories why the tree grew to this enormous size. One is that the Major Oak may in fact be more than one tree. It has proved to be useful for hibernating insects and mammals such as bats, queen wasps, butterflies and a variety of spiders, all of which make use of its valuable protection and shelter. Over a million visitors every year come from all over the world to see this noble tree for themselves.

W.E. Matthews/Jonathan Cocking, EAC United Kingdom
Since 1996, the EAC has published common European Guides for pruning, planting and safety. EAC members have also organized apprenticeships for ETWs and ETTs within the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci ...
... Programme. The objective was harmonization in the field of tree care throughout Europe to ensure high quality and facilitate the international exchange of tree workers.

**European Tree Worker (ETW)**

In order to reach this objective, EAC developed an examination and certification system for European Tree Workers. The examination and certification system contains not only a curriculum but also examination regulations and a European Tree Worker Certificate, as well as a handbook. This project resulted in the first European Tree Worker diploma based on the same exam regulations across Europe. This diploma is mutually recognized by all the member countries and leads to international cooperation and cross-border quality. So employees can achieve high-quality training and employers have highly qualified employees. At the same time, European cooperation will be reinforced.

The ETW undertakes work on, and in, amenity trees with the aim of keeping them healthy and safe. The ETW certification is approved and checked by the EAC and each exam requires an international EAC supervisor.

**European Tree Technician (ETT)**

Within the Arborist Leonardo da Vinci Project, the EAC developed the ETT in 2004. The aim was to develop a higher qualification in arboriculture, based on the existing ETW. As a result of the introduction of the ETW and the ETT, the EAC became aware of the different levels of skills across the continent and devised a Europe-wide quality standard.

**Increasing Knowledge and Experience**

Dietrich Kusche, President 2002-2004, “Fulfilling the ETW and ETT Leonardo Project was undoubtedly the most important project during my term of office. The EAC’s creation of the ETW and ETT has really improved European tree care. So for nearly a decade, we have been able to tell clients, ‘If you want professional tree care, only use an ETW or an ETT.’ “

Glen Read, Chairman 2000-2002, remembers: “I was lucky to be chairman at an exciting time of development for EAC. My goals for the EAC during my term of office documented in the minutes were more member countries, better status for arborists, more recognition from the EU, more international cooperation, hold a safety symposium, develop the ETW and ETT and help establish certification in new member countries. If I had to choose the most important for me it would have to be ETW certification. This gave the EAC the economy to be more proac-
tive in establishing both the ETW and later the ETT in many new countries in need of a certification. But I was also able to be involved in the introduction of the ETW Handbook, as the representative for professional users at the meeting in Brussels, to defend the use of top-handled chainsaws and we won, fortunately, the introduction of supervisors at ETW exams.”

Daniele Zanzi, President 1998-2000: “The EAC was a tool to create a community of people that recognizes the importance of education and sharing information. Not only did I increase my knowledge by sharing experiences with other colleagues, but it was also an incredible experience: I met fantastic and lovely people who are still among my best friends.”

Marek Siewniak, President 2008-2011: “Today ever more members of the public and responsible municipal officers are convinced of modern tree care. The European Tree Worker Handbook and the Guides help us in this mission. I remember that in 1991 a group of colleagues founded a new organization to bring modern tree care to Poland. Tree surgery was flourishing at this time and damaged many beautiful trees. Through the EAC and its publications, we received moral and professional support to prove step by step the harmfulness of tree surgery and the need to abandon it.”

**Guides for Professional European Standards**

Step by step, the EAC Publication and Work Practice Committee has developed and published a number of Guides to set standards: The Guide to Safe Work Practice, the European Tree Pruning Guide and the European Tree and Palm Planting Guide.

The ETT is employed in junior or middle management or taking a supervisory role in arboriculture. European Tree Technicians are skilled in operations on trees with the aim of keeping them healthy and safe. They act on the basis of current best practice within arboriculture, conservation, environmental protection and work safety.

**Quality Assurance**

After the successful launch of the EAC certification programme, the EAC has recently given the highest priority to the quality assurance of Europe-wide examinations. For this, various instruments have been established: the “Certification and Quality Management,” “Rules and Regulations” and “Question Bank” working groups. They evaluate the examination records, implement standards, monitor and control them and organize workshops for the EAC Supervisors and the Certification Centres. The workshops serve as further education and training in which the current state of the art is passed on. Thus transparency between all stakeholders is created and the network can be expanded. From 2012, the EAC will also centrally provide all Certification Centres with the examination questions. This guarantees that an EAC certification in Southern Europe takes place at the same high level as in Eastern, Western or Northern Europe. An essential contribution hereto is also made by the EAC Supervisors who supervise each examination with their know-how and advice.
Symbols of Culture and History

Trees grow older than human beings; they witness long periods of human history. The 600-year-old oak in the Kolomenskoye memorial estate in Moscow is a remarkable example, closely connected with Russian history. From the 14th century the estate was in the possession of Moscow’s grand princes. Dmitry Donskoy, Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great stayed here. The estate was partially destroyed by the Napoleonic troops in 1812; the oak survived everything, including the October Revolution and the Second World War.

Marina Nazarova, EAC Russia
Local parks and city trees are more important for people than other leisure facilities. Trees reduce fine dust, especially needle beams like the Scotch Pine which is known for its wholesome influence on health is often subject of pictures. Its outline in extreme habitats is wonderful.

Prof Marek Siewniak, EAC Poland
Humans for Nature

In Kopački rit, Croatia, there is an over 450-year-old common Elm. It was listed in the Ramsar area in 1993 and as a protected area by Natura 2000. Its vitality is good, but there are some rotted branches and deadwood which will necessitate pruning if we want to safeguard this tree for years to come.

Karmelo Poštenjak/Fran Poštenjak, EAC Croatia
Twenty years after its foundation, the EAC is an important institution representing the arboricultural profession in Europe. It has 22 members and its objective to improve the health of, and care for, trees is environmentally essential. The EAC is a member of the European Landscape ...
... Contractors Association and cooperates closely with the International Society of Arboriculture.

The European tree care sector is a young profession, so it is very important and helpful to have a European organization. The EAC came into being faster than many European members in their own countries, assisting each other in many cases. One of the most important things is the further introduction and development of the European Tree Worker and European Tree Technician Certification.

Most Important EAC Projects for the Future

According to former President Dietrich Kusche, the most important project for the future is: “The EAC must teach everyone: tree work is a business for specialists, not for anyone who can use a chainsaw. We have to inform the press, the public, the clients and especially the cities and the general public. We need to establish a European tree journal with a bright layout and circulate it in all our member countries.” Use of the new social media and marketing communication channels could provide welcome support for this.

Through the structures of the ELCA, the rules of appropriate tree care, in particular of tree planting, tree protection on built sites, should be introduced in the entire green industry. Marek Siewniak, past Chairman, “Now tree care concentrates on the tree itself. After tree care has established and solidified itself at a high professional level all over Europe, the next task should be to raise awareness of their fundamental importance to civilization and knowledge about their needs. The best tree care will never be complete without prophylaxes, providing trees with their basic needs such as water, oxygen in the soil, clean air and suitable protection against wounds.”

“A great wish for me would be for EU to understand the importance of trees to us in the urban environment and give us funding to be able to do really professional work within certification, research and development of practical techniques.”

Glen Read, EAC Norway

“My wish for the EAC is that its activities, its certification system, its guides and standards and its public relations work result in the achievement that the welfare effects of trees are given greater consideration and appreciation.”

Wolfgang Gross, EAC Secretary

“The EAC’s important role is bringing together tree care subjects across different countries. The Finnish Tree Care Association congratulates the EAC on its creditable work in favour of European tree care.”

Marika Pylkkänen, EAC Finland
Along with climate change, the conservation of biological diversity is a major European and global challenge of this century. European politics are required to take care of this matter, too. They can define goals and set framework conditions how solutions can be found with the help of vegetation, with the help of trees. “Biodiversity is not only species diversity, it also includes the sustainable planning, planting and care of trees to maintain their vitality. In view of climate change, Europe must research scientifically which trees, which types and species can resist heat, cold, drought and rainfall peaks in our cities in the 21st century. For this purpose, European politicians are called upon to provide financial resources,” says EAC Secretary Wolfgang Gross.

### EAC Presidents

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<td>2008-2011</td>
<td>Marek Siewniak, Poland</td>
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<td>Thale Roosien, Netherlands</td>
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<td>2002-2004</td>
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<td>Glen Read, Norway</td>
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<td>Daniele Zanzi, Italy</td>
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<td>William Matthews, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>1997-1998</td>
<td>Francis de Jonghe, France</td>
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<td>Niels Hvass, Denmark</td>
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### The Executive Committee

- **Tomislav Vitković**
  Croatia, Chairman
- **Jochum Bax**
  Spain, 1st Vice-Chairman
- **Glen Read**
  Norway, 2nd Vice-Chairman
- **Josef Grábner**
  Czech Republic, 2nd Vice-Chairman
- **Prof Marek Siewniak**
  Poland, Chairman (ret'd)
- **William Matthews**
  United Kingdom, Chairman (ret'd)

### EAC Office

**European Arboricultural Council e.V. (EAC)**
Bad Honnef, Germany
Secretary: Wolfgang Gross
In Helsinki, along Isokaari Street, grows a line of around 130 Crab apple trees. The first trees were planted during the 1960s and more were planted during the 1980s. About half the trees have white flowers while the other half has red. The flowering period is between one and three weeks, and the street is a real attraction when the trees are flowering. This shows that more flowering tree species should be planted in urban areas here, as is done in other countries.

Mikko Lagerström, EAC Finland
Important for Social Life

The Lime tree of Hilvarenbeek is a symbol of how we see the value of green today. Green is no longer decoration, it is a contribution to people's health and to the quality of our environment. By its enormous mass, the lime tree is able to purify air, to absorb water and to provide coolth during hot days. Most of all, the tree is important for the social cohesion within the Hilvarenbeek community. It brings people together.

Eghert Roozen, EAC Netherlands
The Maksim Zalizniak Oak grows in the village Buda Chygyryn in Ukraine. It is approximately 1000 years old, with a height of 30 metres and a diameter of 9 metres. The tree has a huge dome crown which spreads to 35 metres in the North-South direction and 28 metres in the East-West. The Maksim Zalizniak Oak was severely damaged in previous years and needed medical and protection measures. The arborists of the International Association of Research and Protection of Trees from Poland provided the essential knowledge and means to treat the tree and safeguard its health.

Anatoliy I. Kushnir, EAC Ukraine
The Ginkgo tree in front of Frankfurt’s Petrihaus is the oldest of its kind in Germany, at over 200 years old. And it is the most famous one; for in 1815 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was inspired by this magnificent ginkgo and a love story and wrote probably his most famous love poem, entitled Ginkgo Biloba. Even today, the ginkgo leaf remains a symbol connected with Goethe.

Tree Poetry

The Ginkgo tree in front of Frankfurt's Petrihaus is the oldest of its kind in Germany, at over 200 years old. And it is the most famous one; for in 1815 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was inspired by this magnificent ginkgo and a love story and wrote probably his most famous love poem, entitled Ginkgo Biloba. Even today, the ginkgo leaf remains a symbol connected with Goethe.

Jan Goever, EAC Germany
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