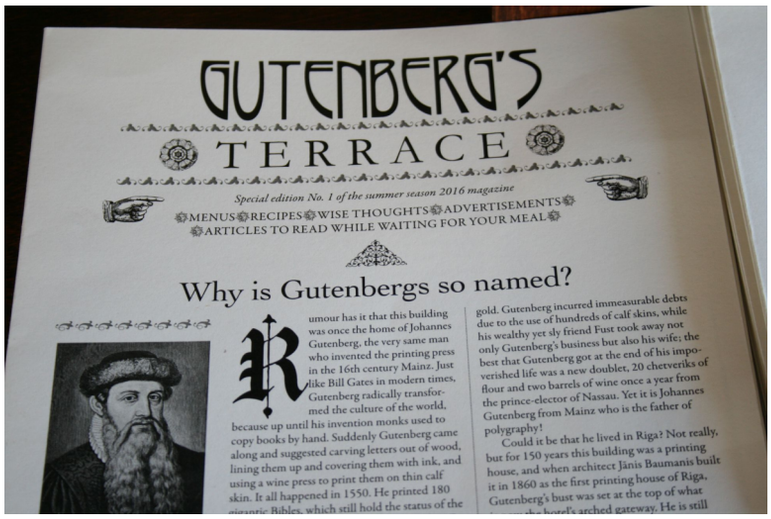

GUTENBERG'S
TERRACE

Special edition No. 1 of the summer season 2016 magazine

MENUS RECIPES WISE THOUGHTS ADVERTISEMENTS
ARTICLES TO READ WHILE WAITING FOR YOUR MEAL

Why is Gutenbergs so named?

Rumour has it that this building was once the home of Johannes Gutenberg, the very same man who invented the printing press in the 16th century Mainz. Just like Bill Gates in modern times, Gutenberg radically transformed the culture of the world, because up until his invention monks used to copy books by hand. Suddenly Gutenberg came along and suggested carving letters out of wood, lining them up and covering them with ink, and using a wine press to print them on thin calf skin. It all happened in 1550. He printed 180 gigantic Bibles, which still hold the status of the

gold. Gutenberg incurred immeasurable debts due to the use of hundreds of calf skins, while his wealthy yet sly friend Fust took away not only Gutenberg's business but also his wife; the best that Gutenberg got at the end of his impoverished life was a new doublet, 20 chetveriks of flour and two barrels of wine once a year from the prince-elector of Nassau. Yet it is Johannes Gutenberg from Mainz who is the father of polygraphy!

Could it be that he lived in Riga? Not really, but for 150 years this building was a printing house, and when architect Jānis Baumanis built it in 1860 as the first printing house of Riga, Gutenberg's bust was set at the top of what

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