**“Scattered Roses”** (*„Kaisītās rozes”*) by Aspazija (1936)

The collection of poems “Scattered Roses” was composed from year 1936 to 1933. In fact, this is Aspazija’s last poem collection that has included new poems. This is also the collection that had caused the sharpest attitude in the soviet times and was published in quite a lot of omissions in the poetess’ Collected Works (1986). The reason can be found in the opening chapter. It’s a dedication to Kārlis Ulmanis — Call of Genius (*Ģēnija aicinājums*). It starts with the moto: “A rose to this, A rose to that, an armful to the leader.” (*„Šim rozīte, Tam rozīte, Vadonim pilnu klēpi.”*) The first poem is “Dedication to Dr. K. Ulmanis” (*„Veltījums Dr. K. Ulmanim”*), following it are many others — “For the Freedom Celebration of May 15th” (*„15. maija brīvības svētkiem”*), “A Hymn to Latvia” (*„Himna Latvijai”*), “Latvia — Victoria Regia”. Is it a duty to the leading authority or a real uplifting feeling of rapture? It is hard to exactly characterize Aspazija’s mindset about Kārlis Ulmanis. However, putting that matter aside, the rest of the poems do not continue to talk about the leader. Unusual is the chapter “Falling Leaves” (*„Birstošas lapas”*), that is a collection of laconic and precise epigrams. Their topics range from philosophical cognitions to satire:

*„Lai dzīve drūma vai skaista,*

*Tas, kas bieži mūs šķir,*

*Nedrīkst būt lielāks, kā ir*

*Tas, kas mūs saista.”*

“May life be sour or sweet,

That which us parts in a beat,

Must not exceed in its size

That in which our unity lies.”

The collection of poems “Scattered Roses” was published by the publishing house “Valters un Rapa” in 1936.