Aspazija’s play **“The Ulenspiegel”** (*„Pūcesspieģelis”*) (1932)

The play “The Ulenspiegel” was written in 1931. Aspazija calls it a romantic comedy, which she based on the book of Charles De Coster. “I created my Ulenspiegel after primitive folk tales; there you will also see some scenes from Coster, but even Coster himself created them according to the tales. The dramatic buildup made from fragmented text material of epics and the developed dialogues are my independent work,” explained Aspazija. The play is a series of colorful scenes, which in different turns reflect the jokes of Thyl: “In the middle of it all the Ulenspiegel mingles with his mischief, so that above the screams of horror may resound light laughter and create a brighter hope for the future. The Ulenspiegel isn’t the person other people laugh about, but — the one who laughs about others, in this way he is showing the victory of the spirit. A hero and a trickster — that is his double nature.” Thyl is the ever alive spirit of the nation. The last song of Thyl sounds like this:

*„Es, nezvēru rīklē grimis,*

*Ar smiekliem uzveikšu tos,*

*Kā nerrs es esmu dzimis,*

*Kā varonis nobeigšos.”*

“I’ve sunken down the monsters jaws,

With laughter I’ll defeat my foe,

Born as a fool in the past I was,

A hero’s death I’ll die, I know.”

/*or*/

“I’ve sunken in the mouths of monsters,

With laughter I’ll defeat them all,

As a fool I have been born,

As a hero I shall meet my end.”

“The Ulenspiegel” was published only in periodic — the magazine “Atpūta” between the years 1931 and 1932. The premiere was performed in the Daile Theater on the 27th March, 1932.