**“A Sunny Corner”** (*„Saulains stūrītis”*) by Aspazija (1910)

“A Sunny Corner” was composed in Switzerland between the years of 1908 and 1909. It was published at the start of the year 1910 by the publishing house of Ernests Birznieks-Upītis “Dzirnavnieki”. The illustrations were made by Jānis Jaunsudrabiņš. The collection of poems was intended as the first part of a lyrical biography. By both the content and artistic sense “A Sunny Corner” is one of the best made books of the poetess. In the foreword Aspazija explains, that in the book “are chosen the most memorable and characteristic impressions from her childhood and the rest of her early youth, reaching up to about the 16th year of life.” The poetess begun to work on the collection with a positive look at oneself and the nature: “When searching the soul, go early in the morning, When it’s being molded like a new bell.” At the core of the book is only one lyrical character — an emerging fair and harmonic personality called a “sunchild” (*„saulesbērns”*). Even if the poetry was written in the splendid environment of Castagnola, the nature of Semigalia with all of its tiniest nuances still enters the collection. The inner world and emotions of a young person are revealed in unity with characters of the nature. “I have as well tried to adapt to this kind of setting a poetic situation, an architectonic build of the verses, a colorful and rhythmic mood, evading the usage of sharp contours and brighter color tones, keeping softened sounds and easy flowing transitions”, explains Aspazija.

However the poem collection can’t be considered the authors direct biography. In the foreword of the second part of her lyrical biography “Armful of Flowers” (*„Ziedu klēpis”*) the poetess herself admits: “It’s of no importance whether “A Sunny Corner” was experienced exactly like that in real life, most important is what I experienced in art and that it continues to live by itself without my persona”. It’s poetry about childhood for adults, even though many of these verses have become the beloved poems of children. Lyrical biography is a specific and unique phenomenon in Latvian poetry. The poems from this collection also live in the animated movies produced by Roze Stiebra, that are loved by the young and the old. “A Sunny Corner” is one of the most lighthearted and harmonic books of Aspazija, where the fairy tale (*pasaciņa*) is always sitting on the threshold and waiting for you:

“If you have no further walk,

Stay with her for a little talk!

The voice of Gods her laughter sound,

The tongue of stars her speech compound.”