

Žilvytis Šaknys**SAMBARIAI**

Sambariai is the festival of ale (made from the brought together by people grain) drinking during Whitsunday celebrated in the end of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century in Lithuania. Sambariai festival was already mentioned in the sources of the 16th century. Its name and the customs of common ale drinking remained for the longest time in the historic territory of Lithuanian Žiemgala (in the north of Lithuania), even till the end of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. At that time there were celebrated common to the whole community of a village sambariai and the festivals of various social groups (the grown-ups, the youth, the landowners' children, young hired labourers, shepherds or some mixed social groups). It was one of the longest festivals that lasted for three days (from the eve of Whitsunday till the second day). Sambariai of the youth was held most often and it had an influence on the social life of the youth. Beyond the area of compact spread of the festival in the end of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century the written down customs of Whitsunday feast and entertainments were different, most often the people drank vodka instead of ale and had a good time together for a shorter time.

In author's opinion such a festival (of course, with some changes of its elements) can be revived in the historic land of Žiemgala and even to become the official festival of that region. It could become a nice tradition of gathering of the people that came from that region and giving an opportunity to acquaint the youth and the children with the honourable past of Žiemgala. It could also help the tourism to become more attractive in that region.

Kazimieras Garšva, Renata Endzelytė

LITHUANIANS LIVING IN LATVIA AND THEIR DIALECTS

The aim of the article is to describe the history of Lithuanians living in Latvia and their dialects. The relations of the last two living Baltic languages – Lithuanian and Latvian – are more clearly seen in Latvia. In Southeastern Latvia our language functions at once among four neighbouring languages – Latvian, Byelorussian, Russian and Polish.

In the 20th century 26.000-40.000 Lithuanians lived in Latvia. A part of them are old residents (they often register themselves as Latvians) and the others came to live there from Lithuania or could not return to live back to Lithuania (the exiles).

Farthest to the north the Lithuanians settled in Latgala in the 10th century. Most probably it bordered on the area of ethnic Lithuanian language between Druja and Breslauja.

Since 1970 the number of Lithuanians in Latvia has been decreasing.

Vytautas Šernas

EDUCATION IN THE REGION OF ŽIEMGALA. THE PROBLEMS OF THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

The aim of the article is to acquaint the society of Lithuania with the achievements of education in that region and its economic, medical, pedagogical, psychological, administrative, etc. problems of the present and the future.

The author bases himself on the analysis of the activities of educational departments of the districts of Joniškis, Pasvalys and Pakruojis. School is a guarantee of the successful subsequent existence of the nation and the region of Žiemgala.

Stanislava Lovčikaitė

TRADITIONS AND THE PRESENT TIME

The author of the article, the leader of the ethnographic group 'Linkuva', analyses the development of ethnic culture by the example of 'Linkuva' group. She describes the urgent problems of the ethnic culture and points out the importance of maintaining the originality in the present-day world.

Vladas Braziūnas

POETRY: ATTITUDES TO ETHNIC TRADITION

The centre of traditional emotional attitude is home. Basing himself on the creative works of poets H. A. Čigriejus and J. Strielkūnas the author analyses their links with their native land – Northern Lithuania (near Latvia). The creative work of Latvian poet Peter Bruver is very close to them. Their links with their native land are very strong.

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ŽEIMELIS

Catholic church of SS Peter and Paul was researched only fragmentally, so its works of art need more exhaustive analysis. The owner of Glebavas estate, Latvian Lutheran Peter Petrauskis, built the church in 1828 for his Catholic wife Scholastika. It belongs to the style of classicism. The church is built of stone and is very spacious. It is without an apse, has three naves and a tower. It is a rare example of a church of such a style. Besides, it stands not near the town square but near the road to Bauskė. The interior of the church is simple. There are three brick altars in it and in them there are some pictures and a sculpture by the artists of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. The pulpit is on the left near the first pillar from presbytery. The organ consists of three main parts and is decorated in a simple manner. There are three expressive, in a professional manner carved sculptures of the Crucifix.

Kazys Misius

ART HISTORIAN PRIEST KAZIMIERAS JASĖNAS

Art researcher and writer K. Jasėnas the greater part of his life spent in Latvia. So almost all his religious activity and a part of his pedagogical and literary activities were directed to the Latvians. However, the most important works of art criticism – three volumes of 'Visuotinė meno istorija' (Universal Art History), a book 'Iš meno priešaušrio' (From the art time before dawn) and other publications – he dedicated to his Motherland – Lithuania.

Violeta Jasevičiūtė

PAINTER ADOLIS JONAS KRIŠTOPAITIS

In the form of conversation with the painter the author tries to explain the main factors that had influence on his creative work – the native land, the influence of the European art centres of the beginning of the 20th century, the transformations of the Soviet times and the realities of present days.

An original style, turn for abstract, modernistic thinking based on the individual emotional attitude to the world and world outlook are characteristic of A. J. Krištopaitis.

Ana Antanaitienė, Genovaitė Juodytė, Bronislava Lapinskaitė

ANNIVERSARIES OF 2000

There are given the anniversaries and short biographies of public men, statesmen and famous specialists who came from Joniškis, Pakruojis and Pasvalys. There are also mentioned the anniversaries of some historic events.