

ŽIEMGALA EXPLORATION

ARCHAEOLOGY. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORK

Ilona Vaškevičiūtė**THE WESTERN BOUNDARIES OF ŽIEMGALA**

Basing herself on the data of Pavirvytė burial grounds the author makes more exact the southwestern boundaries of Lithuanian Žiemgala. It should be drawn along the Virvytė River and not along the Venta River.

HISTORY. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORK

Deimantas Karvelis**SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH IN THE BIRŽAI DUCHY OF RADVILOS
IN THE END OF THE 16TH CENTURY TILL THE MIDDLE OF THE 17TH CENTURY**

The society of the part of Upytė and Ukmergė districts where the Biržai Duchy was being founded turned from Roman Catholicism to Protestantism in the 6th-9th decades of the 16th century. The religious relations were determined by the break-up of the society of the Biržai Duchy into the religious groups: the Calvinists made the majority, and the Lutherans, Catholics, Muslims, Caraites and Judaists made the religious minorities that could not compete with the majority.

The clergy of the Calvinists ensured the stability and vitality of the religious relations of the society. Biržai was undoubtedly the religious centre of the region.

The church of the Reformed Evangelists in the Calvinist Biržai Duchy was an important centre of social contacts. The stimulation of the ceremonies in the Lithuanian language and prohibition to go to the markets on Sundays and to miss the church service helped to control the customs of the local religious society. The lack of sources does not allow us determining how various prohibitions "de jure" of the religious life had an effect on "de facto".

ETHNOLOGY. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORK

Romualdas Apanavičius**IS THE KANKLĖS (THE LITHUANIAN STRINGED INSTRUMENT)
OF THE NORTHEAST AUKŠTAIČIAI THE HERITAGE OF THE SĖLIAI CULTURE?**

The aim of the article is to show the connection between the Northeast Aukštaičiai kanklės, and playing the kanklės and the Sėliai culture. While analyzing the traditional and modified kanklės it is evident that in Northeastern Aukštaitija differently as in Western Aukštaitija, Samogitia and Suvalkija there remained a very strong tradition of playing traditional kanklės till the middle of the 20th century. The repertoire of the traditional kanklės also almost did not change. The elderly and old men usually played the kanklės and they passed the secrets of playing from generation to generation.

It was thought that the kanklės helps to escape death. The magic of the kanklės and its connection with burying allowed to ground the hypothesis of the kanklės as a small boat and a coffin – a model of the means of old-time burying for the journey to other world. A hollowed boat, its making and usage are described in the Karelian epos "Kalevala".

The kanklės of Northeastern Aukštaičiai most probably reflects very old images of the means – a boat and a coffin – of the journey to other world.

The kanklės is widespread only in the place of the Sėliai old land so it can be linked with older than the Sėliai culture that most probably was of the West Balts. The adopted by the Sėliai kanklės later on became the part of Aukštaičiai culture and remained till its disappearance in the middle of the 20th century.

Valentas Cibulskas**CHURCHES OF EVANGELIST LUTHERANS IN NORTHERN LITHUANIA**

The author describes the development of the churches of Evangelist Lutherans in Alkiškiai and Žeimelis from the historical architectural aspect focusing his attention on the peculiarities of their inner equipment, connections with Evangelist Reformed and Roman Catholic churches.

Romualdas Girkus

THE FIRST LITHUANIAN ETHNIC MAPS

After the annexation the publishing of Lithuanian ethnic maps was one of the factors that brought nearer the independence of Lithuania.

The author describes the development of their publishing from the third decade of the 19th century till the restoration of independence of Lithuania in 1918. A list of the main Lithuanian ethnic maps is also given.

Jonas Nekrašius

EX LIBRIS OF THE REGION OF ŠIAULIAI

Ex libris has a long history that began in Ancient Egypt. It is supposed that it was brought to Lithuania from Germany together with the production of paper and book publishing. The first ex libris were created in Šiauliai in the end of the 19th century.

The author, the founder of the first Lithuanian museum of ex libris in Pakruojis on December 7, 1998, describes the development of ex libris in the region of Šiauliai during the period of the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 21st century.

Vitas Areška

THE CREATIONAL WORK OF PETRAS PALILIONIS

The literature critic describes the creational work of the poet, essayist, translator, journalist that came of Northern Lithuania. The poet's way to literature was not an easy one as during the Soviet times he did not write any panegyric stanzas eulogizing the Communist order. It seems to the poet that nothing only the nature inspires us with joy and optimism.

The analysis of individual style confirms that Palilionis strives by his works for the synthesis of various traditions, the new aesthetic quality, basing himself both on classical and vanguard traditions, first of all the expressionism.

The strongest artistically are such his works where sincere considerations about existential meaning, time, death, love and loneliness come to the foreground. The poet likes most of all a metaphorical, mysterious and ciphered form.

Palilionis' essay also charms us by the essayist's emotionality and richness of the word. A book about Juozas Grušas is very significant. Palilionis' essayistics has its roots in his poetry. It broadens the history of literature as a live, as if contradictory movement and shows that artistic values were created by talented people and makes the treasure house of the spiritual heritage of our nation.

Vida Mažrimienė

NATIONAL IDENTITY AND SYNTHESIS OF CULTURE IN THE CREATIVE WORK OF JANINA MONKUTĖ-MARKS

The author tries by this article to look at the creative work of the artist who came of Northern Lithuania. The national identity and usage of traditions cherished for a long time by the emigrants now rises in the new meaning.

Monkutė-Marks is distinguished for her creative work in the many-layer background of emigrants' art. There we see much biographical insight that was determined by objective historical process and migratory factors.

The national identity finds expression not only in the surface structures of the style but also in the spring of spiritual sensations. The traditions of folk art do not limit themselves in regional art semantics but also have connections with world archaic cultures. The artist realizes by her works the mentality of a world artist.

Vida Mažrimienė

BY NEW SIGNS ABOUT THE WORLD AND ONESELF

The author analyzes the observations of artist Romualdas Čarna on art, time and creators. According to the artist there is no panacea paving way for success, there are only good and bad works.

The creative work of the artist that reached the international exhibitions and competitions developed into the whole complex of plastic images marked by the evolution of national culture. In his last works there is noticed a variety of newly transformed themes and techniques. Some new accents uniting compositional structure and synthesis of pictures – colour, symbolic signs, metaphors of semantic meaning – start to prevail in his works. The impressionistic colourful background is added to moderately abstracted visual motifs. The language of Čarna's carvings is noble and condensed, however, it is polysemic and global at the same time.

ŽIEMGALA'S PAST IN THE BOOKS

New books on the past of Žiemgala region are described in this chapter. Vykintas Vaitkevičius and Robertas Jurgaitis introduce a new publication about the development of Semigallian tribe “Semigallians in the Old Times”, a joint project of Latvian Historical Museum and Lithuanian National Museum. Gita Drungiliene introduces a new tourist guide to Žiemgala region “Žiemgala/Zemgale”. Vytautas Bikulčius writes about the publishing of the first book by Lithuanian classic Marius Katiliškis, “The Return of an Old Soldier” that remained by a miracle. Inga Augustinienė and Genovaitė Kačiuškienė introduce a publication “Exercises and Texts of Joniškis Local Dialects” prepared by a dialectology centre at Šiauliai University Humanitarian Faculty.

ANNIVERSARIES OF 2004

The bibliographers L. Rozga, Z. Balaišienė, V. Kuprevičienė, G. Juodytė, and B. Lapinskaitė acquaint the readers with the anniversaries of the historical events and famous people of Akmenė, Biržai, Joniškis, Pakruojis, and Pasvalys regions.