

● **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE**
Daiva Luchtanienė

In the 14th-18th centuries, the territory of the palace belonged to the domain of Vilnius diocese, and the mansion of bishops stood there. From the year 1795, during the period of occupation by the czarist Russia, it was the residential palace of the governor-general. The palace acquired the present look after a reconstruction in 1823-1835 made according to a classicistic design of V.Stasov.

Archaeological investigations were started in autumn 1995, after restoration works were launched with a view to reconstruct the then "House of Artists" for the needs of a Presidential residence. An area of 4021 sq.m. was investigated in 1995-1997.

The earliest finds from the courtyard of the palace come from the Bronze and Early Iron Age. The people who stayed at a temporary campsite at the place which once was a dry sandy hillock left an open fire-place, flint artefacts and potsherds.

The cultural layer in the territory of the palace exceeds 3 m. Its earliest horizon in the excavated part of the park is dated to the turn of the 15th-16th century as well as the 16th century, though there were also individual finds dating to the 14th-15th cent.

The layer at the foundation of the palace was disturbed in the result of various repairs and constructions. Later horizons of the cultural layer have not been preserved altogether, as the surface of the courtyard and the present S.Daukantas square was lowered quite a number of times during the long centuries of the existence of the palace.

Remains of a craftsmen quarter were found in the territory of the park of the president's office, which used to be a marshy area for a long time. Workshops of a potter, bootmaker, bone craftsman, and specialist of non-ferrous metals were localized. This quarter of workshops was in the jurisdiction of the bishop and the craftsmen who stayed there used to work to bishopric orders. It functioned in the 16th-17th centuries, until the year 1655, when the larger part of the Great Duchy of Lithuania, including Vilnius, was occupied by Russian troops. During the occupation, the Palace of Bishops was damaged, the wooden houses of craftsmen as well as their workshops burnt down. This quarter of craftsmen was not rebuilt after the year 1655. Some time later, a few brick houses were built there, the function of which has not been established yet. The damp ground has preserved remains of wooden buildings, fences of boards and wickerwork, and even curbs of six wells, as well as gouged wooden gutters. Only three of the six wells had been dug on water veins, the others were used for drainage. In the southern part of the park a 16th century sewage facility and a covered underground gutter made of boards were found. The gutter was separated from the structure-enclosure, constructed from curbs, by a



draw-valve. More sewage facilities were also found in the territory of the palace. Archaeological excavations showed that in the 17th-18th century an intricate drainage-sewage system was installed in the palace which was built on a damp site. Remains of as many as six structures-collectors constructed of curbs have been found. There were wooden tubes leading to and out of them. Remains of such tubes have been also found in the excavated part of S.Daukantas square. A further find includes a covered wooden gutter made of boards which is dated to the 18th century. Also noteworthy is a preserved underground brick collector, built in the 19th century and still functioning.

Excavations of the territory have yielded stove-tiles of more than 200 variants of decorative patterns (some have analogues from the territory of the Lower Vilnius castle, Vavel; especially beautiful is the collection of gothic tiles), interior tiles, ceramic roof-tiles, fragments of kitchenware, household utensils, lead musket bullets, flakes of stone cannonballs, silver and copper coins from the 16th-17th century, trade seals of lead, etc. A rare find was a wooden shutter with metal bindings, which provides information on the size of windows of 16th century wooden buildings.

The finds make it possible to reconstruct the roofing of the Palace of Bishops in the course of different periods of time. The

Gothic palace was covered with green and unglazed concave as well as flat tiles with massive bent crests - horn-shaped protuberances of clay, which formed a very imposing composition of "spikes" on the roof and at the same time met the reinforcement function.

Glazed tiles could be combined with un-

glazed ones to produce an impression of playfulness. During the Renaissance period the Palace of Bishops could have been covered with a colourful tile roofing. Isolated fragments of flat tiles of as many as three colours have been found - green, yellow and sky-blue.

Evidence of archaeological excavations have been supplemented by findings of various special analyses. Analyses of animal bones and bone artefacts have been carried out, as well as pollen and spore dating. Timber samples of wooden buildings have been taken for dendrochronological analysis, and construction dates of some buildings have been revealed already.

— **OTHER ASPECTS OF LITHUANIAN ARCHAEOLOGY:** —

● **ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MUSEUMS OF LITHUANIA**
Eglė Kuncevičienė
Secretary of the Association of Lithuanian Museums

Archaeological finds in Lithuania have been collected and accumulated for nearly 200 years. In 1855 the Museum of Antiquities was established in Vilnius, which served as a foundation for the present National Museum of Lithuania. The first professional museum, the Culture Museum of Vytautas the Great (in Kaunas), which collected materials on history and art, was founded in the twenties of the current century.

There are 82 state museums in Lithuania today, including 3 national, 15 republican, 52 municipal and 12 departmental museums.

On the basis of their collections, all the museums could be grouped as follows:

National and republican museums which have historical, archaeological and ethnographical exhibitions:

National Museum of Lithuania (Vilnius)

Vytautas the Great War Museum (Kaunas)

Šiauliai "Aušra" Museum (Šiauliai, Šiauliai county)

Kernavė Archaeological and Historical Museum-Reserve (Kernavė, Vilnius county)

Open-Air Museum of Lithuania (scansen) (Rumšiškės, Kaunas county)

Trakai History Museum (Trakai, Vilnius county)

Art museums:

Lithuanian Art Museum (Vilnius)

M.K. Čiurlionis State Art Museum (Kaunas)

Lithuanian Theatre, Music and Film Museum (Vilnius)

Technical museums:

Lithuanian Aviation Museum (Kaunas)

Specialized museums:

Vilnius Gaon State Jewish Museum (Vilnius)

Lithuanian Genocide Victim's Museum (Vilnius)

Lithuanian Ethno-Cosmology Museum (Utena county)

Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum (Kaunas)

Lithuanian Maritime Museum (Klaipėda)

National Pedagogical Museum (Kaunas)

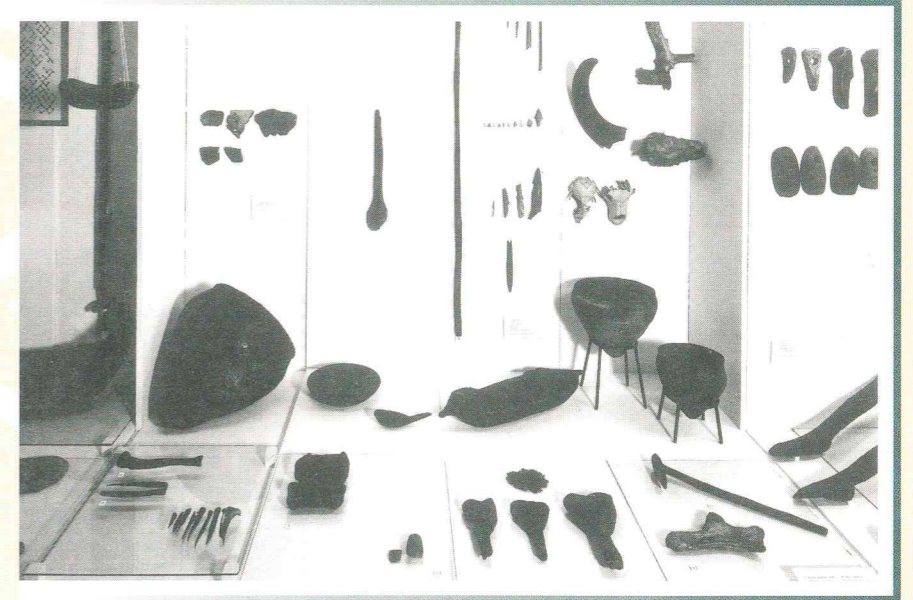
Museum of the Ninth Fort of Kaunas

Museums administrated by municipalities are usually either local lore museums with historical, archaeological and art exhibitions, or memorial museums. During the recent years, efficient regional museums -cultural centres are being formed, such as Žemaičiai Art Museum (Plungė, Telšiai county), Rokiškis Area Museum (Rokiškis, Panevėžys county), Vilkaviškis Area Museum (Marijampolė county). Both the network of museums

and their activities as well as expositions are changing. Creation of a new legal system on the regulation of museum activities, based on the Law of Museums of the Republic of Lithuania, enforced in 1995, is being finalized.

In 1995 Lithuanian museums founded a public professional organization called the Association of Museums of Lithuania which incorporates the majority of Lithuanian museums (with Director of the Lithuanian Art Museum Romualdas Budrys acting as Chairman). One of the numerous fields of activities of the Association of Lithuanian Museums includes accumulation of data on the Lithuanian fund of museums and preparation of an aggregated register of Lithuanian museum funds. Today, it is the only one institution in Lithuania which accumulates data on specialized collections of Lithuanian museums. This work was undertaken by one of the sections of the Association of Lithuanian Museums, i.e. the section on scientific investigation of collections, headed by Birutė Salatkienė, head of the archaeological division of Šiauliai "Aušra" Museum.

Pursuant to the data of January 1, 1998, exhibits kept at Lithuanian state museums totalled 4136617, of which 275300 were archaeological finds (about 6.7%). Finds are usually brought to museums from archaeological sites where excavations are carried out. According to the information of the section



of scientific investigation of collections, 72% of all the archaeological finds kept at Lithuanian museums were recovered in the course of archaeological excavations. This is a positive tendency, in line with the needs of the archaeological science and the requirements of preservation of monuments.

The largest fund of archaeological finds has been collected at the National Museum of Lithuania (over 100 000).

Archaeologists of major Lithuanian archaeological institutions, who carry out excavations of numerous archaeological sites over the country, contribute the finds to this museum. Archaeological excavations are also carried out by archaeologists of the archaeological division of the National Museum. The division is headed by archaeologist Eglė Gričivienė.