

● **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 classicist 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)

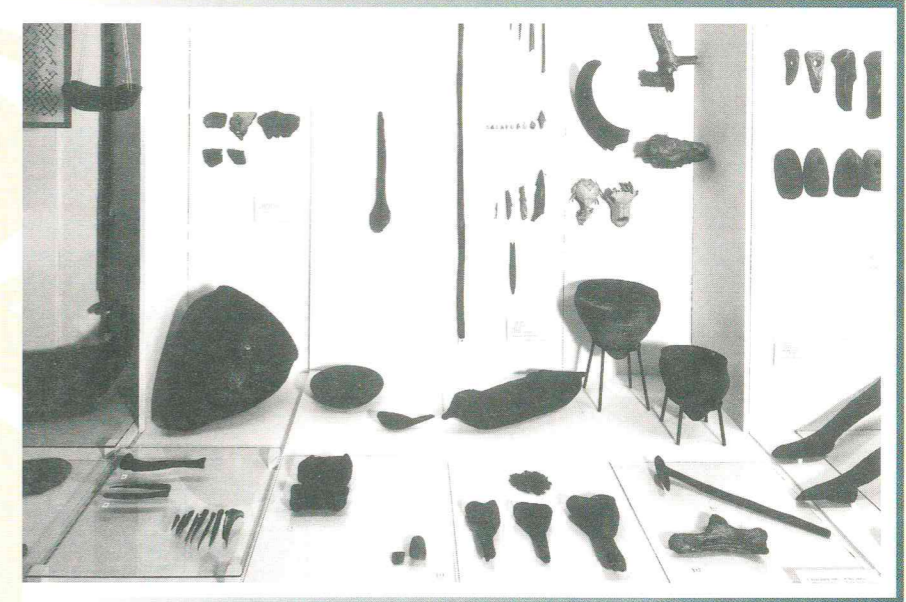
Museum of the Ninth Fort of Kaunas

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.

Collections of the museum represented archaeological finds dating from the 10th millennium B.C. to the 16th-17th century. This museum exhibits the most exhaustive and comprehensive exposition of Lithuanian archaeology. At present, arrangement is being finalized of a new archaeological exposition which will be displayed in a new location, the territory of Vilnius castles. Extensive archaeological collections are kept at Vytautas the Great War Museum (over 43 000), History Museum of Lithuania Minor (Klaipėda, Klaipėda county, nearly 28 000), Nalšia Museum (Švenčionys, Vilnius county, 15 000), Kernavė State Archaeological and Historical Museum-Reserve (10 000), Trakai History Museum (10 000), Museum "Sėla" of the Biržai Area (Biržai, Panevėžys county, over 7000), Mažeikiai Museum (Mažeikiai, Telšiai county, 6000), Šiauliai "Aušra" Museum (over 5000), Daugvyvenė Cultural History Museum-Reserve (Šiauliai county, over 5000), Lithuanian Art Museum (over 5000). During the recent years, more close relations have been established between archaeologists and municipal museums. A commendable tendency has been observed to leave finds with museums located in the area of the find spot.

The only one historical and archaeological museum-reserve is situated in Kernavė, not far from Vilnius. The museum studies, safeguards and exhibits the archaeological, historical and cultural monuments of Kernavė reserve. There are 48 archaeological and historical monuments in the territory of the reserve (199.2 ha) and its preventive zones, including the largest in Lithuania defensive complex of five hill-forts. Close to the complex a wooden mediaeval town was found, currently excavated by archaeologists of the museum and Vilnius University. The excavations are headed by Dr. A.Luchtanas, archaeologist from Vilnius University. Finds from the town, hill-forts and other sites, recovered during excavations, are attributed to different periods of the Lithuanian prehistory. They are kept at the museum and displayed in an exhibition of "The Prehistory and Middle Ages in Kernavė".

Archaeological finds are being exhibited in practically all the museums of a historical or folkloric profile. Archaeological exhibitions are being staged both in Lithuania and abroad. The first exhibition of Lithuanian archaeological finds organized in a foreign country was arranged by the National Museum of Lithuania (1989, Pavia, Italy).

The number of Lithuanian museums which have the potential to organize and carry out archaeological excavations is continually increasing and now encompasses national museums - the National Museum of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Art Museum, republican - Trakai History Museum, the Kernavė Archaeological and Historical Museum-Reserve, Šiauliai "Aušra" Museum, Vytautas the Great War Museum, municipal - museums of



Alytus, Kėdainiai, "Nalšia", Panevėžys, Utena, Biržai, Kretinga, Mažeikiai, Lithuania Minor (Klaipėda), and the Žemaičiai Museum "Alka".

Pursuant to the information of the section of scientific investigation of collections in the association of Lithuanian museums, archaeological collections in all the Lithuanian State museums are handled by specialists with higher education.

Approximately 70% of archaeological finds kept at museums have been conserved. Most of the archaeological finds are conserved at a branch office of the Lithuanian Art Museum, Pranas Gudynas Centre for Restoration of Museum Artefacts (Vilnius). This restoration workshop was established in 1946 and has by now developed into a centre which provides services to all the Lithuanian museums. In 1985, an archaeological division was founded at the centre. The division is headed by Laima Vedrickienė, restorer of the highest category. Most of the archaeological restorers in Lithuania are pupils of this division. In 1995, a new speciality, conservation of archaeological finds, was introduced at the Department of Archaeology of Vilnius University.

The changing world forces to modify the attitude towards museum visitors, especially young people and children. The personnel of Lithuanian museums believe that it is necessary to use the historical and cultural evidence collected in the depositories of museums and displayed in expositions, as well as the knowledge of specialists working at museums, for the education of the growing generation.

Special educational programmes are being arranged for this particular group of visitors. They are coordinated with school curricula, and favourable conditions are worked out to help young people and children gain a better understanding of the history of Lithuania and their own locality, as well as the sources of the country and its cultural heritage. This undertaking is coordinated by the information, publishing and education section of the Association of Lithuanian museums, headed by Nideta Jarockienė, head of the art cognition centre at the Lithuanian Art Museum.

● **Archaeology and aerial photography in Lithuania**
Romas Jarockis

Photographing of archaeological sites from aeroplanes in Europe began immediately after World War I. General V.Nagevičius, then director of the Vytautas Magnus War Museum in Kaunas, was the first to employ this novelty in our country in the years 1931-34, while excavating Apulė and Impiltis hill-forts in north-western Lithuania.

Following World War II, archaeological sites in Lithuania were not photographed in a comprehensive manner.

The rest of Europe however made substantial progress in this area. After World War II, centres of aerial photography were set up at a number of west European universities and institutions involved in preservation of ancient monuments which to date have accumulated archives containing millions of photographic negatives.

In Lithuania comprehensive photographing of archaeological sites from the air as a means of monument preservation has only commenced recently. In 1996, the Centre of Cultural Heritage of the Department of Cultural Heritage Protection allocated funds for implementing a programme of aerial photographing of archaeological sites.

The main objective of this programme is a search for new archaeological monuments and accumulation of additional data on monuments that are already known.

Another important aspect of the programme consists in deciphering and mapping the aerially photographed archaeological monuments with the use of state-of-the-art computer technology.

The programme is aimed at setting up a centralised archive of aerial photographic negatives of Lithuania's archaeological monuments. The data of the archive could be used for purposes related to artefact preservation and for illustrating scientific and popular publications.

● **Protection of Archaeological Sites**
Rimantas Kraujalis

Interest in the protection of Lithuanian archaeological sites arouse only in the 19th century. In 1855, due to the initiative of Count E. Tiškevičius (1814-1873), the founder of Lithuanian archaeology, the Vilnius Temporary Archaeological Commission and the Museum of Antiquities were founded. The said Commission, which, among other undertakings, was also engaged in registration of archaeological sites, was an influential and popular organization, but its activities were cancelled after the uprising of 1863.

In the period when Lithuania was part of the czarist Russian Empire, archaeological sites were within the responsibility of the Imperial Archaeological Commission, founded in 1859, which controlled archaeological excavations in the Russian Empire, and the Archaeological Society of Moscow, founded in 1864. On the initiative of the latter, archaeological conventions were arranged in different regions. One of these conventions, arranged in Vilnius in 1893, had a very significant impact on protection of archaeological sites in our country. Prior to the

convention, a special questionnaire for description of archaeological sites was prepared and sent out to teachers and public authorities in the peripheral areas. Replies to the questionnaire combined with other collected information, enabled F.Pokrovski to prepare and publicize archaeological maps of Vilnius (1893), Gardin (1895) and Kaunas (1899) provinces. In 1908, a map of Lithuanian archaeological sites covering East Prussia and some monuments in western Lithuania was published by E.Hollack.

After restoration of independence, protection of archaeological sites was undertaken by the State Archaeological Commission under the Ministry of Culture, founded in 1919, and later transferred to a special division for protection of monuments at Kaunas Vytautas the Great Museum of Culture. The two institutions accomplished a lot in organizing archaeological excavations and recording monuments. In this connection, a very significant undertaking was the catalogue and map of archaeological sites, Archaeological Material of Lithuania, published by P. Tarasenko in 1928. Protection of archaeological sites in pre-war Lithuania was aggravated by a few factors - the absence of relevant legislation on protection of cultural monuments and attribution of a large number of archaeological sites to the ownership of private arable land. The first Lithuanian law on protection of cultural monuments, the bill of which had been drafted in independent Lithuania, was passed only in 1940, when Lithuania had already been invaded and occupied by the Soviets.

In the soviet post-war Lithuania, protection of cultural monuments was regulated by special laws enacted in 1967 and 1977. The work of protection and supervision of cultural monuments was headed by the Board of Museums and Protection of Cultural Monuments under the Ministry of Culture, as well as special divisions of relevant executive authorities in districts. The soviet law of protection of monuments was based on the contract of commitment, which the then user of an archaeological site (collective-farm, forest administration, etc.) was forced to sign. From the year 1967, registration of cultural monuments was undertaken by the Scientific Methodological Council of Protection of Cultural Monuments. In 1972, archaeological associates of the Council prepared and published a register of archaeological sites of Lithuania (the sites were divided into objects of republican and local significance), and some time later they cartographed and defined the territories and preventive zones of many archaeological sites, marked them on maps and on location. Nevertheless, the soviet pyramid administration system, and public (collective) land ownership with no direct accountability, enabled the authorities to make drastic decisions regarding cultural monuments (a very obvious illustration being the project of the then government of soviet Lithuania to establish the so-called Friendship Museum of Nations of the USSR in the territory of the castles of Vilnius, which had not been investigated by archaeologists yet).

When perestroika started, the movement for protection of monuments, as well as the green movement which had just started at that time, were especially active, and it was due to this particular reason, that an inter-departmental Inspection for Protection of Cultural Monuments, directly subordinate to the Parliament of the Republic, was created after restoration of independence with a view to ensuring direct public control in