

Foreword

This issue opens up with a relevant text about the benefits of fiction for historians of all epochs, which intrigues the reader by as many as seven of its sections (causes): in which ways literature can serve our historiography, and in which historians' research might do good to literary studies.

Most of the articles in the issue cover the two most important, although very different periods of the Lithuanian literature in the 20th century: twenty years of interwar independence and fifty years of Soviet subordination.

An empirically rich study introduces to us the ways in which the comparative studies of Lithuanian literature in the interwar period coincided with the European examples. Can we set a canon of reading and perceiving a particular classical work? This is a question that the author solves by analyzing three adaptations in the cinema and theater of Vaižgantas' story *Uncles and Aunts* (1929). The authors of other articles, looking at the work of representative Soviet-era writers (Janina Degutytė, Juozas Baltušis, Justinas Marcinkevičius, Eduardas Mieželaitis, and Sigitas Geda) or their texts, are searching for and discovering the viewpoints for an innovative research. Why does Lithuanian literature dislike the "golden youth" of Khrushchev Thaw? Why did the woman poet, who was considered to be very lyrical, write social poems? How can we recognize the features of Europeanism in Soviet-era literature? What is the legacy of Soviet mentality in the prose written by the current emigrants? The authors of these articles rely mainly on sociological approaches (sociocritics, Vytautas Kavolis' cultural sociology, Pierre Bourdieu's literary fields, contemporary imagology, etc.)

The "Publications" column presents to the reader seven letters to the poet and critic Valdemaras Kukulas, which illustrate the moods of the late Soviet era in the writers' community. The two anniversary celebrants have been caught up with informative texts. Firstly, Leonardas Gutauskas' 80th anniversary comes with an article about him – a prominent poet, prose writer and artist of his generation – and his paratopic place in the field of culture. With the echoes of celebrating Algirdas Julius Greimas' century still in the air, the issue introduces a review of two issues of *Semiotica* (US) dedicated to his works. By adding the reviews of the book by poet Marcelijus Martinaitis and a monograph on Romualdas Granauskas, we can conclude that the publications in this issue

No. 41 bring up to date the most significant works by Lithuanian writers' of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The humanities scholars, who are investigating all of this, would also like to be up-to-date. In their businesslike discussion in „Homo academicus lituanicus“, they are having a concerned discussion on the causes of their academic freedom limitations.

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