

SUMMARY

The book *Professor Juozas Girdzijauskas: Memoirs, Letters, Conversations and from the Archives* is dedicated to professor of Vilnius University Juozas Girdzijauskas. In the first part of the book, there are the memories of relatives, friends, classmates, colleagues, former doctoral students, and students. In the second part are published selected letters – professor correspondence with relatives, fellow scholars from Lithuania and other countries, former students. The third part of the book is composed of interviews of colleagues and journalists with Juozas Girdzijauskas, published in various periodicals, and illustrate his various activities. The last section publishes reviews of the most important scientific work on Lithuanian versification. These aspects, which divide the entire publication into four thematic groups, aim to fully reveal the professor, one of the most serious figures of the twentieth century Lithuanian literary scholars who have educated about two dozen doctors of philology.

The memoir part is divided into three sections – firstly tells relatives and close friends; then – scholars, and finally by former students and doctoral students. When grouped, these stories open up the professor's life chronologically, and different perspectives allow to see us this fascinating personality from childhood to old age.

The letters section does not publish absolutely all surviving letters but is selected. The most important are the letters written by the professor himself, but there are just a few of them: letters to the mother, correspondence with the US professor Violeta Kelertas. The most consistent letters to Girdzijauskas were written by Bronius Kurkulis, a friend of his youth. Other correspondents were selected in order of importance (foreign scientists are important) and the consistency of correspondence.

The interview section publishes interviews with the professor. There the professor himself reviews all the major areas of his researches, sharing his thoughts on time and life.

The book concludes with a section “From the Archives”, which represents a critique of the main Professor's work on the verification of the Lithuanian poetry. This chapter is devoted not so much to the personality of Professor but rather is a document of the Soviet epoch. The critical texts highlight the tensions created by the need to politicize science, even as neutral as verification, that is typical of that period. Ideological attitudes for almost ten years prevented the Professor from defending his habilitation degree.

The author of the book thanks all those who contributed to the creation, preparation, and publication of this book.