

THE THIRD BROTHER: REFLECTIONS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF LITERARY HISTORY

Summary

The new millennium in Lithuanian literary studies starts with an important professional discussion regarding evaluation of literary historiography. The last decade was marked by publication of a new edition of Lithuanian literary history. The most renowned specialists carried out the project: Vytautas Kubilius (*Literature of the 20th Century*, 1995¹, 1996²), Juozas Girdzijauskas along with his numerous helpers (*History of Lithuanian Literature: the 19th Century*, 2001), as well as Eugenija Ulčinaitė and Albinas Jovaišas (*History of Lithuanian Literature: the 13th–18th Centuries*, 2003). Nevertheless some scholars of the younger generation reproached the authors of these publications with positivistic methodological principles, exclusive exaltation of the national literature as well as generally questioning the sense of such projects (writing history of national literature) in the face of globalization.

Discussions of such kind have centuries-old traditions in Europe, although the literary historiography itself is a relatively new sphere in humanities, having appeared and established itself in the 19th century. The last incisive European discussion on this kind of issues took place in the late 1960s. H. R. Jauss and some other scholars proved in their works the existence of an especially significant renewal possibility for the whole literary scholarship, inherent in such kind of activity. The author of the present article discusses general considerations (European cultural distinction being determined by the special attention towards diachronic dimensions of artifacts, substantiation of the cultural identity by the history of phenomena and events, etc.) as well as important tasks posing themselves for the Lithuanian literary historiography, the realization of which would ensure achieving significant renewal of the modern Lithuanian humanitarian culture in this particular sphere of humanities.