

SENIOR OF THE LITHUANIAN PHILOLOGY
CELEBRATING THE 70TH JUBILEE OF PROFESSOR
JUOZAS GIRDZIJAUSKAS

Summary

Professor Juozas Girdzijauskas belongs to the generation of scholars in humanities who inherited, upheld and handed on the unpolitical traditions of the Lithuanian studies and meaningful cultural activity, not distorted by the occupation ideology. Along with the other prominent figures in Lithuanian philology, like Meilė Lukšienė, Vanda Zaborskaitė, Petronėlė Česnulevičiūtė, Jurgis Lebedys, Donatas Sauka, Leonas Gudaitis, Elena Bukelienė, Albinas Jovaišas and others, J. Girdzijauskas engaged in creating cultural horizon quite differing from that requested by the official Communist ideology. Peculiar characteristics of this horizon include special attitude towards the Lithuanian literature and its most outstanding authors, deeply rooted in knowledge of the consistent patterns of self-contained national history, literary and cultural development in general, rather than based on the theory of the class struggle; appreciation of the past and present authors from the perspective of humanistic values rather than in terms of the “moral codes” of the Socialism builders; formation of both universal and deep outlook on culture, literary events and facts rather than superficial knowledge, not charged with experience. All these things are clearly reflected by the significant pedagogical, scientific and social activities of the Professor, discussed in the present article.