HISTORICAL DISSERTATIONS DEFENDED IN 2009

Linās Girlevičius (Vilnius University), *Gynybiniai įrenginiai XIV–XVIII a. Vilniuje* [Vilnius Defensive Constructions in the 14th–18th Centuries]

The author chose Vilnius defensive constructions of the 14th–18th centuries as the object of his research and presents a thorough analysis of the applicability of their structure in the defence of the city in the period in question and organization of the protection of strategic objects in Vilnius. Furthermore, the dissertation also aims to identify as yet unknown objects and establish the precise location of destroyed or fragmentarily extant defensive constructions, defining their parameters, analysing the development of separate complexes of defensive constructions and changes in the conception of the city's defence in the course of history. Taking into consideration the reasons underlying the erection of defensive constructions in different periods of time, the study presents a wide context of historical events and processes that influenced the said reasons. The author notes that changes in European military science in the period in question influenced the development and modernisation of the defensive structures. Moreover, it is claimed that the consistent development of Vilnius defensive constructions lasted no longer than until 1566 – since then until the end of the eighteenth century the old structures were merely reconstructed.

Deimantas Karvelis (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuanian Institute of History), *Radvilų Biržų kunigaikštystės visuomenė ir jos komunikacija 1589–1655 m.* [Society and Its Methods of Communication in the Duchy of Biržai under the Radvila family (1589–1655)]

This study offers the analysis of communication history in the context of social structures and social institutions. The author aims at identification of the connections within the society of the Duchy of Biržai, how these connections were formed, how the social connections, characteristic of the whole of GDL, were manifested in the local community and how local connections functioned. Deimantas Karvelis also seeks to determine the communication code of the society of the Duchy of Biržai. The four chapters of the study

analyse the following issues: the space of the object of research – its formation, growth, the system of land tenure and the network of communication arteries; the mechanism of the circulation of information via textual means of that time (instructions, inventories, letters); the structure of the society of the Duchy of Biržai from the social and ethno-confessional point of view; and the operation of the institutions of the Duchy of Biržai, which consolidated the local community (castle, manor, town, church, tavern). Exclusive attention is given to the importance of the identification of social contacts in the analysis of cultural interactions.

Jurga Miknytė (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuanian Institute of History), *Moters socialinio vaidmens konstravimas viešajame diskurse XIX a. vidurio–XX a. pradžios Lietuvoje* [The Construction of the Social Role of Women in Public Discourse in Lithuania in the mid-19th–early 20th Century]

The aim of this study is to identify at what point in the public discourse of the mid 19th– early 20th century women came to be viewed as important participants in social processes; social roles for women in the period in question were constructed by participants in different discourses; whether the structure of society and the changes it underwent in the period influenced the construction of the social role of women; how and to what extent the construction of the social role of women was influenced by the dissemination of the ideas of positivism, nationalism, liberalism, socialism and Christian Democracy in Lithuania. The author subdivides the period into several stages: the mid-19th century with the problems of traditional society and the search for solutions to them; the end of the 19th century, which saw the actualisation of the problems of modernised society and ideas of positivism; the end of the 19th–beginning of the 20th centuries, where we see the dissemination of the ideologies of nationalism, liberalism, socialism and Christian Democracy and the differentiation of political trends. Here the construction of the role of women in public discourse is subjected to analysis from the linguistic aspect – Lithuanian-speaking and Polish-speaking discourses.

Modestas Kuodys (Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuanian Institute of History), *Karo padėties režimas Lietuvos Respublikoje 1919–1940 m.* [Martial Law in the Republic of Lithuania in 1919–1940]

Focusing on the unprecedented occurrence in Europe in the period in question – an exclusive legal-administrative regime that lasted for two decades – the author of the dissertation sets the following goals: to present the types

and laws of the state of emergency; to analyse the political situation that was accountable for the lasting of martial law; to reveal the features and practice of the formation of politics facilitating the management of the regime of martial law; to highlight the influence of the state of war on the armed forces of the country; to estimate the role of martial law in the protection of the system of government and citizens; to define the influence of the state of war on the legal system of the country; to illustrate the influence of the martial law on the relationship between the state and its citizens. The author notes that the country, which lived under constant threat of external aggression, encouraged defensive militarism though it was more of 'façade militancy' free of significant militarization of society.

Valdemaras Klumbys (Vilnius University), *Lietuvos kultūrinio elito elgsenos modeliai sovietmečiu* [Behavioural Models of the Lithuanian Cultural Elite in Soviet Times]

This study analyses the deep processes that were unwelcomed by the Soviet regime and managed to avoid its strict control, yet made an impact on the relations between society and the Soviet system and the nature as well as politics of the regime. The author aims at defining the reasons, which pre-determined the behaviour of the cultural elite, the typology of its various members, and the identification their methods of expression and the results of how the elite consolidated itself. The four chapters of the dissertation covering the period from the mid-1940s to the late 1980s analyse the following issues: the adaptation of the elite to the regime, theoretical models of opposition and resistance; the theoretical model of the societal sphere in Soviet Lithuania; analysis and comparison of combatant and conservational discourses and their correlation to specific models of behaviour; the mode of Lithuanian cultural elite functioning amid public and societal spheres. The author particularly emphasizes the fundamental ambivalence of official and private behaviour the manifestations of which are still observed in post-Soviet Lithuania.