

## Collection of Antique Ceramic Oil Lamps at the M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art

### *Summary*

The Department of Applied Art at the M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art has accumulated and keeps a collection of antique ceramic oil lamps (greek – *Lychnos*, latin – *Lucerna*) which is the most impressive (24 items) one among other museums of Lithuania, chronologically reflecting the origin and evolution of lamps. A deeper study of valuable ceramic ware in historical and artistic aspects reveals many important sides of antique culture, art and social life. The development of production and technology of oil lamps, variety of their form and decoration, the development and

decline of the trade highlights the evolution of ceramics, one of the most significant antique crafts, in different moments of history.

Oil lamps according to their shape and design fall into four categories: Greek, Hellenistic, Roman and Christian (or Byzantine) and can be divided into 37 types. Our collection includes objects of all these categories. The typology is based on the work of the most prominent researchers O. Broneer and Z. Loesche.

Articles which analyze the origin, dating and typology of antique oil lamps, have not been published yet in Lithuanian press.

**Keywords:** oil lamps, antique culture, evolution of ceramics, antique crafts, Greek, Hellenistic, Roman and Christian.

Gauta 2015.08.20