

Contribution of Vilnius Societies towards the Preservation of Historical Heritage at the Beginning of the 20th Century

Summary

The paper gives the overview of the contribution of Vilnius Societies towards the preservation of historical heritage. The focus is laid on the activities carried out by Polish Classical Antiquity and Folklore Society, Friends of Science Society in Vilnius and the Northwest Department of Russian Imperial Geographical Society. The most noteworthy contribution of Classical Antiquity and Folklore Society towards the preservation of monuments was the partial restoration and preservation of Trakai Castle. In 1907 members of Friends of Science Society in Vilnius examined and measured the underground of Vilnius Castle hill, made the drafts, took

care over Trakai Castle and Vilnius Upper Castle unique tower that has survived as well as contributed to preservation of Naugardukas castle remains. The Section of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Northwest Department of Russian Imperial Geographical Society put efforts to preserve ancient monuments and coin treasures. These societies often suffered from a shortage of different means that were necessary to carry out the activities of preservation of antiquities. The available archive materials, documents, contemporary press, works of Polish, Lithuanian and Russian authors have been used to prepare the article.

Key words: cultural and historical heritage, Vilnius Castle hill, Trakai castle, Classical Antiquity and Folklore Society, Friends of Science Society in Vilnius, the Northwest Department of Russian Imperial Geographical Society

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