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Byelorussian Learned Society in Vilnius and its Contribution to the Research and Care of Native Culture (1918–1939)

Summary

The subject of this paper is the activity of Byelorussian Learned Society in Vilnius and its contribution to the research and care of native culture (1918–1939). The aim of this Society was to unite persons interesting in Byelorussian language, literature, history, folk art and to inspire them to study these fields and to propagate them. In various periods the number of members of this Society varied from 27 to 32. Mostly there were Byelorussian teachers, officials, writers and editors. The Society had organized exhibitions, celebrations of important historical events as well as lectures on Byelorussian history, literature, language and folk art. It also paid great attention to edition of printed matters in Byelorussian,

so it brought great contribution to the research and propagation of Byelorussian language and culture. The Society had a library and museum, which contained many museum-pieces, old printings and manuscripts important for Byelorussian as well as for Lithuanian and Polish history and culture. These resources were willingly used by Society members, scientists, students and school-children. The museum attended teachers, school-children, members of other societies and museum workers from Poland.

This paper is prepared on the ground of archive materials, published sources and works of Byelorussian, Lithuanian and Polish authors.

Keywords: Vilnius, Byelorussian Learned Society in Vilnius, Byelorussian Ivan Luckiewicz museum in Vilnius, Societies in Vilnius in inter-war period.

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