

Intentions of Internationalism in the Cultural Expression of the Independent Academic Intellectuals of Lithuania (1922–1940)

Summary

The article analyzes the peculiarities of the international scientific and cultural relations of the scholars of higher schools in the First Republic of Lithuania since the establishment of the University of Lithuania in Kaunas in 1922 until the beginning of Soviet occupation in 1940. The aim is to reveal the preconditions for the formation of international cultural relations between the academic intellectuals of the interwar period, and to determine the contribution of public organizations and other academic communities to the process of cultural internationalization. The archives, published works, which helped to reveal and evaluate the areas and forms of cultural activities of the Lithuanian academicians of the interwar period, were published in this work.

The data analyzed in the article reveal not only the professional, but also cultural contribution of the academic intellectuals to the process of cultural modernization of the First Republic of Lithuania, which should be linked to the development of international relations, promotion of foreign cultural and scientific publicity in Lithuania, and its use for the development of society.

An important prerequisite for the organization of the international relations

of independent Lithuanian intelligentsia was the introduction and development of university studies and study internships abroad, the onset of the formation of a new generation of academic intellectuals and scholars. Lithuanian students, young scientists abroad engaged not only in the process of academic relations, but also participated in international cultural communication activities, attempting to present the Lithuanian culture and heritage.

Lithuanian academic intellectuals sought to develop international relations through participation in the activities of public organizations building international cultural relations, and brought together not only academic, but also some cultural figures, publicists and creators.

The Lithuanian scientific and cultural elite consistently sought to develop relations with neighbouring countries, but due to political and other circumstances, closer ties were supported with Latvian intelligentsia. The Association of Lithuanian-Latvian Unity was some of more active, having among its ranks Eduardas Volteris, Jonas Tumas. The organization sought to develop cultural activities promoting Lithuanian-Latvian relations and emphasising the educational purpose of the activity.

Kaunas academic community, promoting international relations, influenced the intelligence not only of the provisional capital city but also other educational institutions, the whole country's intelligentsia, the wider public, and encouraged the modernization of culture.

Key words: First Republic of Lithuania, academic intelligence, international relations, history of culture.

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