

## Academic Sociality and Service to Culture: Juozas Tumas' Contribution within the Organizations of Intellectuals

### *Summary*

The article aims to investigate and evaluate the organizational and based on world views and values contribution of the famous Lithuanian writer, publicist, and cultural figure Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas (1869–1933) in the performance of public cultural organizations established by the elite of academic community of Independent Lithuania. The analysis provides an opportunity to develop a discourse on the input of famous 20th century Lithuanian cultural and scientific personalities and communities to the strengthening of Lithuanian cultural identity.

The materials of the manuscripts and published texts analyzed in the article allow to maintain that the participation of Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas in the international cultural organizations established by the academic intelligentsia promoted the strengthening of cultural and academic relations in the Baltic region. J. Tumas was one of the most active founders and proponents of Lithuanian-Latvian unity, Lithuanian-Swedish societies. He went beyond the organizational activities and

promoted the importance of cultural relations, delivered lectures and reports on cultural cooperation, emphasized the relevance of dissemination of Lithuanian culture in other countries. The participation of the academic intelligentsia in cultural organizations encouraged by J. Tumas, created better preconditions for the elite of the University of Lithuania to get involved in other international intellectual organizations that could represent the science and culture of the Baltic States.

J. Tumas tried to involve professors from Kaunas into public cultural life and journalistic expression. He directly cooperated with university colleagues in the preparation and publishing of the Lithuanian Encyclopedia, maintained collaboration within the communities of intellectuals and artists that were united by cultural journals. The most important contribution and merit of J. Tumas in the activities of cultural organizations of intellectuals is the establishment of academic and cultural sociality based on the development of Lithuanian national self-awareness.

**Keywords:** Juozas Tumas Vaižgantas, Academic, Cultural Expression, Cultural Identity, Kaunas, the Republic of Lithuania.