

ROMUALDAS JUZEFOVIČIUS

## The Experiences of Science Communication in Lithuania's Interwar Society: Historical-Educational Activity

### Summary

The article examines the historic educational activities of high school scientists of the First Republic of Lithuania in the society since the establishment of the University of Kaunas in 1922 till the beginning of the Sovietization period, and reforms of higher education in 1940. The study is based on published and archival sources, publications of biographical works that have helped to reveal the educational expression peculiarities of scientists, public education functions and forms in the historic inter-war period.

The examined evidence demonstrates that researchers of Lithuanian higher education institutions attempted to link the education of the interwar public with the general context of cultural enlightenment, the concept of public education encompassed both the dissemination of general education knowledge and value attitudes. Academic intelligentsia initiated the organisation of public education courses, conducted the function of sociocultural public communication that should be linked to public mobilization, development of citizenship, and the collective cultural identity. University professors Antanas Purenas, Vladas Lašas were very actively involved in public education activities, and encouraged participation in it of other members of the academic community.

The historical educational expression of the Lithuanian scientists and public organizations established by them in the independent Lithuania was one of the most important elements of cultural identity development and should be related to these major forms of activities: press publishing, organisation of lectures and public events. The latter include competitions, public lectures of union members and shows in Radiofonas.

Most attention has been given to the promotion of knowledge of history in periodicals, mainly articles on historical topics printed in cultural magazines *Židinys*, *Naujoji Romuva*, *Kultūra*. Texts of educational content were published there not only by professional historians Augustinas Janulaitis, Zenonas Ivinskis, but also scholars from other fields Steponas Kolupaila, Vincas Čepinskis, Petras Leonas, and others. Scientists of different areas were actively involved in the preparation of educational publications of the Press Fund with the topics also partly linked with the dissemination of information about the state of Lithuania, its society, its law, economic, scientific and cultural history, with a focus on the promotion of historical memory, historical and cultural heritage.

**Keywords:** scientists, cultural expression, education, the First Republic of Lithuania.

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