

BEGINNINGS AND ENDS: THE HORIZONS OF THE 18TH CENTURY EUROPEAN CULTURE

International Conference, dedicated to the 300th anniversary of Kristijonas Donelaitis

Kaunas, 5-6 December 2014



Tollmingkehmen. A Fragment from 1930 postcard from Domas Kaunas' collection
in <http://literaturairmenas.lt/1410-kristijonui-donelaiciui-300/2178-tolminkiemio-kunigas-statytojas-ir-sodininkas-lietuviskojo-hegzometro-kurejas>

The Department of Lithuanian Literature at Vytautas Magnus University invites you to participate in the international conference, which will end the series of events “The Year of Kristijonas Donelaitis”,* organized by our department.

The 18th century is a heterogeneous, controversial epoch in European culture. It is marked by

- the ideas of Enlightenment, as “an unfinished project of modernity” (Habermas);
- scientific and historical revolutions;
- setting up democratic constitutions and changes in the political map of Europe;
- rules and mastery in arts.

We invite researchers, not losing the sight of Kristijonas Donelaitis as an important landmark for Lithuanian culture in the receding horizon of the 18th century:

- to look for other landmarks, which could help to cover that horizon, to search for linking lines and distinguishing signs;
- to draw the contours of the 18th century cultural (philosophic, social, historical, political, artistic, literary) horizon;
- to highlight what makes this horizon obscure;
- to investigate the artistic (literary, fine art, music, etc.) and academic (history, literary studies, ethnology) attempts to make the horizon of the 18th century come closer in later ages.

* more on the events see: <http://www.vdu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/donelaicio-metai.pdf>

The conference welcomes scholars from different countries and various academic disciplines (theology, philosophy, musicology, literary, cultural and art studies, linguistics, historiography, ethnology, etc.), whose research focuses on the issues of the 18th c. European culture and its reflection).

Dates and venue

The conference takes place on 5-6 December (Friday and Saturday) at the Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas.

Abstracts

Please send your abstract (300–500 words) to j.petrulionyte@hmf.vdu.lt by **15th September 2014**. Include your name, affiliation (university or other institution) and e-mail address. Abstracts are welcome in English and Lithuanian. We will notify you about the acceptance of your paper by 15th October 2014.

Presentations

Participants will be given 20 minutes for their presentations, followed by 10 minutes for questions and discussion. The choice of language (Lithuanian, English, German or French) should be made by the participant.

Conference website

We are going to set up a conference website with further, continuously updated information on important organisational matters by the end of June 2014.

Welcoming you to Kaunas, Kristijonas Donelaitis street in December 2014,

Prof. dr. Irena Buckley
Doc. dr. Dalia Kuiziniene
Doc. dr. Aurelija Mykolaityte
Dr. Vjolė Višomirskytė
Doctoral student Justina Petrulionytė