

# PILIES STREET

## SOCIO-TOPOGRAPHY



LITHUANIAN ART MUSEUM, 2018

### CG CASTLE GATE

The Vilnius Lower Castle territory was connected to the rest of the city that lay beyond the left channel of the Vilnia River (filled in by the order of the tsarist administration in the 19th century, present-day Sventaragio Street) by a bridge built in around 1495 near the start of Pilies Street. In 1503 Grand Duke of Lithuania Alexander allowed the Vilnius burghers to build a city defensive wall that would protect them against the invasion of the Tatar army. Until 1522 the city was surrounded by a 2.5 km long wall which had five gates, one of them was Pilies, or Castle Gate. This gate was at the beginning of Pilies Street where the city wall connected to the wall around the Lower Castle. Castle Gate led towards the Rulers' Way, which went along Pilies, Didžioji and Rūdninkų streets towards the representational Rūdninkų Gate. In 1610 the gate was severely damaged in a major fire that engulfed the whole city, yet they were rebuilt and enlarged. The building housed the Land and Castle courts, and a nobles' prison. In 1785 the structure was reconstructed into the three-storey Supreme Tribunal chambers. In 1837, when the tsarist government dismantled the old city fortifications, Castle Gate was demolished. Four granite blocks mark their former site (along the edge of present-day Cathedral Square).

### 2 2 PILIES STREET

The first building was erected at this site in the late 14th century, when, with the introduction of Christianity, the Grand Duke of Lithuania Jogaila granted the exclusive right to some of the houses along Pilies Street to the Vilnius Cathedral Chapter. In the middle of the 18th century, in place of the fire-damaged old building, the prelate Antoni Józef Żółkowski rebuilt the house that ended up being named after St Anthony. The last reconstruction of this building was in the late 19th century. In 1922–1939, the building housed the editorial offices of the *Słowo [The Word]* periodical. In 1931–1934, the literary supplement *Zagary* was released here, compiled by the Polish avant-garde literary group of the same name whose work were also published there. One of its most active members was the future Nobel Prize winner Czesław Miłozin, who in 1933 released his first book of poetry called *Poemat o czasie zastępiłym [A Poem on Frozen Time]*. During the years of Nazi occupation, the building served as the offices of the *Nowyj Lietuva* (New Lithuania) newspaper, whose editor and frequent contributor Rapolas Mackonis and writer Bąlys Sruoga, along with other members of the Lithuanian intelligentsia, were imprisoned by the Nazis at the Stutthof concentration camp in 1943–1945.

### 4 4 PILIES STREET

The Gothic building that had belonged to the Vilnius Cathedral Chapter from the 14th century acquired a Renaissance style following its reconstruction in the early 17th century. Some of its appearance is survived to this day – the building's uniqueness is accentuated by the high attic, decorated with pilasters and arches. The building was periodically renovated from the early 19th century yet the old facade remained intact. The residential dwellings were rented out to burghers and the Homeopathy Society, which installed a pharmacy and treatment clinic inside, and the Catholic Labourers Society. The Bishop of Vilnius Kazimierz Mikolaj Michalkiewicz lived here from 1918 until his death in 1940. Its premises had been rented out by a printer, sculptor, teacher, musician, farmers, there were shoe and fur retailers, a confection store, photography studio and various workshops. The building was nationalised in the Soviet period, and was transferred to the Vilnius State Art Museum in 1945 (the present-day Lithuanian Art Museum). Restoration work on the building in which people continued to live for a long time continued for 40 years. It was finally returned to the Vilnius Archdiocese in 1990, which it rents out to various organisations.

### 8 8 PILIES STREET

The building belonged to the Vilnius Cathedral Chapter from the 16th century. In 1575 it was bought by Bishop Valerijonas Protasevičius, who allocated part of it to be used as a dormitory for students attending the Vilnius Collegiate. It became known as Valerijonas' Bursa. After its reconstruction in 1800, the building acquired a Classicist facade. At the beginning of the 19th century, it housed a confectionery store and bakery, and a tavern, and from 1837 the Roman Catholic Religious Consistory was established at this address, along with the chancellery and archive of the Vilnius diocese, where some of the rooms were leased to the printer Józef Zawadzki who also briefly ran a book-store there. Bishops lived at this address from 1869. In 1918 the Vilnius bishop Jurgis Matulaitis stayed there. The Bolsheviks who had taken hold of Vilnius tried to forcibly move him out in the spring of 1919, yet the faithful had gathered to stand in his defence. That same year, the papal nuncio in Poland and apostolic visitor of the Vatican to Lithuania, Achille Ratti, visited Matulaitis as a personal guest. In 1922 Ratti was elected Pope Pius XI. A bread store and pancake house operated on the ground floor from 1952.

### 40 10 PILIES STREET

Eminent Lithuanian politicians, members of the clergy and cultural figures lived in this, one of the oldest buildings in the whole street, in the 16th–20th centuries. It is believed that the house was built by the Grand Chancellor of Lithuania Michał Radziwiłł. The Bishop of Vilnius Valerijonas Protasevičius acquired the building in 1575. After his death, the owners and inhabitants of the house that was left to the Vilnius Cathedral Chapter changed, the walls were damaged by numerous fires, it was left abandoned and derelict. The building experienced something of a revival in the beginning of the 19th century when the canon Józef Konstantin Bogusławski moved in, known as a history aficionado and art collector. He saw to the major renovations of the building and decorated its interiors. The manor lord Paweł Engelhardt stayed there in 1828–1831 with his serf-servant Taras Shevchenko, who went on to become a famous Ukrainian writer. The poet Kazys Bradūnas lived here during the years of Nazi occupation, whilst studying at Vilnius University where he created his first verses. The legendary Lithuanian vaudeville singer Antanas Sabaniauskas lived here for half his life, from 1946 until his death.

### 12 12 PILIES STREET

The building consists of two brick houses built next to one another in the 16th century, which were named after the goldsmiths who lived there, Wolfgang and Clement. From the late 16th century, these two houses belonged to the royal pharmacist Stanisław Kedzierski, who transferred them to the prelate Benedykt Zuchoński in 1675 after they were severely damaged during the 1655 war against Muscovy. The reconstructed and re-plastered building was given a Baroque appearance. The Vilnius Cathedral Chapter inherited the building according to the prelate's last will in 1695. It accommodated canons and some of the spaces were rented out to burghers of various professions: a baker, tavern-owner, vineyard owner, and others. In the inter-war years, the building housed a photography studio, and apartments were rented out to Vilnius University students. The building was damaged during a fire in 1944 and was left partly derelict. In 1957–1958, when the plaster was removed from the facades during reconstruction work, the remains of Late Gothic architecture were discovered. Both houses were combined under one address in 1960. The pediment was reconstructed in 1986.

### 16 16 PILIES STREET

This building comprises of two formerly separate brick buildings built in the 16th century that used to be called Rudamina House and Delarmas House. The owners of Rudamina House from the late 17th century were the Elder of Radun Piotr Rudamina and his heirs. In 1741, the building that had been acquired by Duke Michał Massalski was inherited by his son, the Bishop of Vilnius Ignacy Jakub Massalski – the latter was publicly hanged in Warsaw during the uprising of 1794. In the beginning of the 19th century, the building was considered to be one of the finest brick houses in the city. The famous French bell and cannon maker Joannes Delarmas lived in the house named after him from 1663 until his death in 1690. The house, which suffered extensive damage during the fire of 1748, was rebuilt and came to be known for its opulent interiors in the early 19th century. Napoleon Odachowski bought both houses in 1890 and combined them into one building based on a design by architect Cyprian Msczulewicz. In 1902–1903 this building housed one of the first art salons in Vilnius (founded by Stanisław Butcharowski), and from 1903 it was the studio of photographer Ick Serebrin, before a fire in 1904 destroyed the roof. The house was reconstructed yet again in 1910 and acquired the appearance we see today.



### 20 20 PILIES STREET

The doctor of Grand Duke of Lithuania Sigismund Augustus, pharmacist Rupertus Finck, acquired a wooden house that stood at this site in 1545 – in its place he built a brick building. Whilst serving in the ruler's court and estates, he became one of the most famous and wealthy inhabitants of Vilnius in the 16th century. After Finck's death, his children did not manage to preserve their father's accrued wealth and sold the house in 1599 to the merchant from Gdansk, Cornelius Vinholius, who was known as an active Evangelical Reformed believer in Vilnius. In 1605 he received a privilege to install a water supply system into the house, which he also enlarged. From 1648 the building belonged to the Tyskiewicz magnate family, however, after the war of 1655 and fires, it was no longer suitable as a dwelling. It was acquired by the Vilnius Jesuit Society Academy in 1747 and was joined to the buildings of the Nobles' College founded in 1737, providing accommodation to its lecturers. Vilnius University professors lived there in the 20th century as well. In 1957 the building's ground floor was adapted for public use – it housed a book-store, the *Lelija* clothing retailer, and the *Vaiva* cafe, known as an informal gathering place for intellectuals during the Soviet years.

### 24 21 PILIES STREET – CHURCH OF ST JOHNS

In 1386, on the eve of the baptism of Lithuania, Grand Duke of Lithuania Jogaila granted his privilege to build the parish Church of St Johns in the city of Vilnius. Construction was complete in 1426. The fire-damaged church was handed over to the Vilnius Jesuit College in 1571 by the Grand Duke of Lithuania Sigismund Augustus, which saw to its reconstruction, extending it towards the street; the church belonged to Vilnius University from 1579. A brick belfry was added in 1600–1610. In 1655, during the raiding and plunder of the Muscovite army in Vilnius, the damaged church was rebuilt once again. The Jesuits invited Johann Christoph Glaubitz, the pioneer of the Vilnius Baroque style, to Vilnius to see to the reconstruction of the church after it was damaged in the great fire of 1737. The Church of St Johns and its belfry that were rebuilt acquired a Late Baroque appearance. The eastern facade facing Pilies Street was decorated with the Chreptowicz family memorial plaque with the epitaph decorated with a skull: “In these walls of Our Lady of Loreto we leave the ashes of the aunt of the Castellans of Samogitia Anna Chreptowicz-Kryszpinowa, the wife of the Castellans of Navahrudak Römer-Chreptowicz and their daughter Marjanna Chreptowicz in the hands of the Eternal God. These words were inscribed by the order of the Castellans of Navahrudak Jan Litawor Chreptowicz in 1759, so that passers-by would sigh in recognition of his sorrow.” There were also frescoes depicting the plague epidemic that ravaged Vilnius in 1706–1710 and the Crucified Christ with the inscription “1706”. The frescoes were painted over by the tsarist government in the 19th century, while the crucifix disappeared during the Soviet years. A marble plaque with the Chreptowicz family's epitaph remains on the church wall to this day, above it is a small balcony with a metal fence and roof, and a few details of wall painting.

### 22 22 PILIES STREET

This building, which formerly belonged to Duke Michał Gliński, was given to one of the wealthiest Lithuanian magnates and one of the most famous war commanders, Konstantas Oksa by the Grand Duke of Lithuania Sigismund and the Old in 1508. The building and its spacious courtyard has attracted people of culture and science ever since the late 16th century. It is believed that this was where one of the first printing houses in Vilnius was located, founded by Daniel Łęczycycki who printed books for the Reformed believers. In 1591 the house was rented by the first Lithuanian printer Jokubas Morkūnas, who translated books into Lithuanian and printed Evangelical Reformed publications. The building's owner in 1599–1601 was also a supporter of the Reformation, the printer Joannes Kartzen. During the war against Muscovy in 1655, the building was ravaged and left derelict for some time. A new stage in the building's history began from 1683 and is related to the activities of the Vilnius Jesuit College and Academy. When the Jesuit Order was abolished and the college closed down, professors and students were accommodated in the building which was transferred to the university. The College of Medicine of Vilnius University was founded in the building complex in 1781, which was later reorganised to become the Academy of Medicine and Surgery, which functioned until 1842. The French botanist and medic Jean Emmanuel Gilbert established the Vilnius University Botanical Gardens and an orangerie in the college's courtyard in 1782. His initiative was continued by the natural scientist and traveller Johan George Adam Forster, the first scientist to have started geological research in Lithuania, and Stanisław Bonifacy Jundziłł, who transferred the Botanical Gardens to Sereikškiškis in 1799. The medical professors Stefano Lorenzo Bisio, Jacques Brütet, Ludwig Heinrich Bojanus, Jędrzej Śniadecki and others lived and worked here. The poet Juliusz Słowacki lived and penned his first verses here in 1818–1828. Once the Academy of Medicine and Surgery was abolished, the office of the tsarist governor-general placed the buildings under its jurisdiction. By 1915 it had served as accommodation for the German army, as clothing, shoe, furniture and fruit stores, a hairdresser, beer-house and cafe. During the inter-war years, Vilnius University accommodated professors here – the philologists Jan Oko and Jan Otrębski, artist Ferdynand Juszczyk and others resided in its premises. During the years of the Second World War, a book-store opened that exists to this day.

### 23 23 PILIES STREET

When searching for a location for a grand residence, one of the most influential and wealthiest political figures in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Michał Radziwiłł the Black, entered into an agreement under favourable conditions with the Vilnius Cathedral Chapter in 1540 regarding the house of the former Vilnius canon, which stood in a strategically ideal position (present-day Pilies Street 23 Pilies Street). Michał Radziwiłł the Black managed to join the nearby palace of the Voivode of Trakai Stanisławas Goštautas, the first husband of Barbara Radziwiłł. In 1562–1564, this was known as a place where Protestants gathered – they had their house of prayer, a library and a school. Following the death of Michał Radziwiłł the Black in 1565, his son Michał Krzysztof Radziwiłł the Orphan, who had converted to Christianity, inherited the palace on Pilies Street in Vilnius, the famous traveller and cartographer renovated the palace in 1570. The building's renovation and decoration was continued by his brother, the Bishop of Vilnius, Jerzy Radziwiłł, who became the first cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church in Lithuania's history in 1583. The renovated and elaborately decorated residence became known as the Cardinal's Palace, in reference to its owner's title. Rooms in the palace that had up to 1832 belonged to the Radziwiłł family were rented out by university professors and students, merchants and craftsmen, and there were expensive stores and cafes. The tsarist Postal Board acquired the building in 1849 where it established the Vilnius Central Post Office. The palace burned down in 1944, with the remaining standing walls being demolished in 1957 to make way for an apartment building that was finally built in 1979. Today, only the Gothic cellars are a reminder of the building's colourful past.

### 26 26 PILIES STREET

The building from the late 15th century with its cellars intact belonged to the Vilnius burgher in the mid-17th century. The building suffered extensive damage during the great fires in the middle of the 18th century – it was rebuilt as a combination of two houses in the 19th century. Its main facade faces Pilies Street, while the east wing is on Literatu Street. It used to be a goldsmith's workshop, a cafe, tavern and store. Karl Sztreal acquired the building in the second half of the 19th century. At the end of the century, the building was reconstructed and took on a neo-Renaissance appearance. On the ground floor, Karl Sztreal's son Kazimierz opened a cafe called *Biolij Sztreal* which was very popular among the Vilnius intelligentsia – it was open until the middle of the 20th century. The Lithuanian War Relief Committee established its offices on the third floor from 1914. It organised a wide war refugee support network during the years of World War I, collecting donations, supporting over 200,000 Lithuanian refugees in Russia, founding schools, dormitories, feeding points and printing Lithuanian publications. This building is associated with the most important event in the state – it was here that on February 16, 1918 the Council of Lithuania signed the Act of Independence of Lithuania. In 2000, a museum – House of the Signatories – was opened in the building.

### 32 32 PILIES STREET

The land on which a building was built belonged was part of the Orthodox suburb, called Civitas Rutenica. During the great fire of 1557 two Orthodox churches built here in the 14th century burned down: the Church of the Apostle Evangelist St Ioannes and the Church of Michael the Archangel. Old acts testify that in the 17th century, the building's owners would find human bones under the foundations – the site used to be an Orthodox cemetery. It is believed that the building's existing Baroque style dates to 1780 when its owner became the Vilnius burgher Antoni Lachowicz. In the beginning of the 19th century, the cafe *Wiktoria* was located here, so loved by Adam Mickiewicz, Tomasz Zan and other members of the Filarets Society. From 1887 the building belonged to the Römer artists' family, and from 1944 – to the Lithuanian Art Foundation. Its premises served as workshops and in some cases apartments for artists including Vytautas Kalinauskas, Arvydas Kačialis, Stevas Krasauskas, Leonas Lagauskas, Bronius Logutinis, Mikalojus Viliūts, and others. The building has been known as Wiktoria House, Römer House and Artists' House.

### 40 40 PILIES STREET

At the end of the 17th century, the building known as the Apostles' House belonged to the goldsmith Stanisław Danilowicz. In the 18th–19th centuries, it was damaged in fires numerous times, yet it was rebuilt, renovated, its ownership changed hands, as did its function. It had served as the *Hotel de Philadelphie*, a restaurant, several stores, and various craftsmen also rented premises there. Only after major renovation work in 1887 did the building receive a more representative appearance, which has been preserved to this day. In 1926 the building was purchased by Jurgis and Marija Šlapėliai – their home became one of the cultural centres for Lithuanians in Vilnius, attracting visitors such as Jonas Basanavičius, Jonas Jablonskis and other intellectuals. The family rented the ground floor to a bakery and store. In the post-war years, the building was nationalised by the Soviet government, reconstructed and transformed into an apartment building. Marija Šlapėlienė lived in an apartment there that had been allocated to her by the state until her death. In 1996, the building became the Marija and Jurgis Šlapėliai House-Museum.

When piecing together an imagined society from the elements of Vilnius-inspired heritage kept alive in historical memory, a network of its urban cultural and daily practices is woven which give each street a unique *forma vivendi* – a form of life echoing the city's visionary ideas and pragmatic needs. It would sometimes be reviewed through phenomena such as fires or wars, and other unavoidable circumstances. The chaotic urban weave of this city's streets and its architectural mix reflects these meanders in the course of fate. However, Vilnius is identified not only by its existing walls, but through the experiences of the people's lives the walls have absorbed: their ideas and beliefs, duties, material interests, scientific work and creativity, commercial activity and daily routines. Locals and foreigners, dukes, soldiers, members of the clergy, craftsmen, merchants, beggars and other “children of fortune” or failures walked the paths that over time developed into streets. Numerous cultural layers lay hidden under the paving of Pilies Street – the lost objects, rubbish and general remains typical of a settlement preserved in the ground combine to create the grandest of illustrations, and perform a mission they could never have expected – to act as testimony of what the past keeps hidden: yes, numerous generations and nations have lived right here.

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**12 2 PILIES STREET**

**CZESŁAW MIŁOSZ (1911–2004)**

A writer and diplomat, Nobel Prize Winner (1980). He studied law at Vilnius University in 1929–1934, and had published poems in the press from 1930. He belonged to the Vilnius avant-garde writers group *Zagary*, which in 1931–1934 released a monthly by the same title – a literary insert to the *Słowo (The Word)* newspaper that had its editorial office at 2 Pilies St. In 1940 Miłosz fled USSR-occupied Lithuania for Warsaw, after the war he was a diplomat of the People's Republic of Poland in the United States and France. In 1951 he broke all ties with the communist regime and lived in France, and from 1960, in the United States. Whilst abroad, he maintained contact with Lithuania and cooperated in publishing. He often visited Lithuania after it had reinstated its independence and Poland, in 1993 he settled in Krakow. He wrote poetry works, novels and philosophical works. Lithuanian and Vilnius motifs are common in his poetry.

**18 8 PILIES STREET**

**JURGIS MATULAITIS (1871–1927)**

A Catholic archbishop, declared Blessed in 1987. One of the first to spread Catholic social education in Lithuania and Poland. He studied at the priests seminaries in Kielce and Warsaw, and theology at the Imperial Roman Catholic Theological Academy in Saint Petersburg, later at Fribourg (Switzerland). He was ordained as a priest in 1899, serving in Poland and becoming involved in social activities (he founded shelters and helped the poor). He reinstated and reorganised the Marian Order, founding Marian monasteries in Warsaw and Marijampolė. He received his episcopal consecration in 1918 in Kaunas and was appointed Bishop Emeritus of Vilnius. In 1918–1925, he lived at 8 Pilies Street. He was promoted to archbishop in 1925 and appointed the episcopal visitor to Lithuania. He maintained national and linguistic neutrality during this complicated historical period.

**VALERIJONAS PROTASEVIČIUS (~1504–1579)**

A bishop of Vilnius, also, a notary and secretary to Queen Bona Sforza. Later on, he became the secretary of the Ruthenian chancery of the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland Sigismund Augustus in Vilnius. In around 1533, he was appointed the canon of the Samogitian Chapter and served as priest in Kražiai. In 1537 he became the Vilnius Chapter canon, and in around 1544–1545 he was the dean to the Vilnius prelate. From 1549 he was the bishop of Lutsk, and from 1556, he was elected as the bishop of Vilnius. He was an active opponent of Protestantism. Protasevičius was very involved in education in Lithuania: in 1569 he invited the Jesuits to Vilnius, and founded a college, which the Jesuits ran (it opened in 1570). The house at 8 Pilies Street he acquired in 1575 became a dormitory for the poorer students at the college, which became known as Valerijonas' Bursa. In 1579 he negotiated privileges from the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania Stephen Bathory and Pope Gregory XIII which allowed reorganising the college into Vilnius University.

**19 9 PILIES STREET**

**SIMONAS DAUKANTAS (1793–1864)**

He was a historian, educator and an ideologue of the national revival. He graduated from the gymnasium in Vilnius in 1816. In the years 1816–1818, he studied literature at the Faculty of Literature and the Liberal Arts at Vilnius University, before transferring to the Faculty of Moral and Political Studies. He belonged to a Samogitian students collective. In 1818 he lived at the address 9 Pilies Street. One of the university's courtyards has been named after him. He lived in Riga in 1826–1834, and in Saint Petersburg from 1835. He lived in Vainiai for a while in 1850, before moving to Svirkaukis (present-day Latvia), and Papilė. Whilst still studying at university, in 1822 he wrote the first history of Lithuania in the Lithuanian language, *Darbai senųjų lietuvių ir žemaičių (Deeds of the Old Lithuanians and Samogitians)*, printed in 1929). He condemned serfdom in his works and developed the ideas of the nation's freedom. Daukantas collected folk songs, stories and folklore. He also compiled and released folklore anthologies, Lithuanian and other foreign language dictionaries and booklets with advice for farmers.

**14 10 PILIES STREET**

**KAZYS BRADŪNAS (1917–2009)**

He was a Lithuanian poet, and a winner of the Lithuanian National Prize (1992) and the Poetry Spring (2002). He studied at Vytautas Magnus University, and when the Faculty of Humanities was transferred from Kaunas to Vilnius in 1940, he continued his studies in Vilnius, living at 10 Pilies Street. Bradūnas fled to Germany in 1944. In 1949 he moved to the United States, and settled in Baltimore, Chicago. He was active in Lithuanian émigré cultural activities, cooperating in the cultural press. He released poetry anthologies and compiled Lithuanian émigré literary studies. The poet's first book, a collection of sonnets called *Vilniaus varpa (Bells of Vilnius)* was released as soon as he had completed his studies. It was printed illegally in Kaunas in 1943, without the permission of the occupant censors).

**ANTANAS ŠABANIAUSKAS (1903–1987)**

The singer was the pioneer of Lithuanian professional vaudeville singing. He performed the popular songs *Spaudos bolivius valsas (Press Ball Waltz)*, *Ruduo (Autumn)*, *Zavingos akys (Beautiful Eyes)*, *Paskutinis sekmadienis (The Last Sunday)*, and other songs. Šabaniauskas studied singing in Italy. Whilst living in Kaunas, he was an artist with the State Theatre and the Grand Theatre, singing in various collectives and appearing in concerts around Lithuania, also making solo appearances. In the inter-war years he recorded around 30 LPs in Kaunas, Copenhagen and London. Between 1946 and 1987 he lived at 10 Pilies Street in Vilnius and sang in the choir of the State Opera and Ballet Theatre, the State Philharmonic and in amateur choirs. In 1960 he was dismissed from the Philharmonic choir for ideological reasons and did not sing in public for over a decade. He returned to the stage in 1972, organising concert programs in restaurants in Vilnius, Palanga and Druskininkai.

**TARAS SHEVCHENKO (1814–1861)**

A writer, artist and Ukrainian national revival figure. He was born into a family of serfs and served the manor lord Paweł Engelhardt, whom he lived with in Vilnius at 10 Pilies Street in 1828–1831, studying art with the Vilnius University art professor Jan Rustem. In 1831 he and his master left for Saint Petersburg, where he bought his freedom with the help of other artists. From 1838 he studied at the Saint Petersburg Academy of Art and earned a free artist's diploma. He travelled around Ukraine, collecting folklore and ethnographic material. From 1846 he lived in Kiev and belonged to the secret political Brotherhood of Cyril and Methodius, for which he was arrested, imprisoned and later deported. He settled in Saint Petersburg in 1857, where he wrote numerous works of poetry and prose, spreading national liberation ideas. Some poems became folk songs. His artistic legacy consists of over 800 works: portraits, landscapes, and mythological, historic and genre paintings.

**11 11 PILIES STREET**

**ADAM MICKIEWICZ (1798–1855)**

A poet, playwright, publicist and public figure. In 1815–1819 he studied at Vilnius University, and until 1817, he lived with the dean of the Vilnius University Faculty of Physics and Mathematics, Fr. Józef Mickiewicz (present-day 11 Pilies Street). It was here that he wrote his first poem *Żima miejška (Winter in the City, 1817)*; published in 1818). In 1817, he and other like-minded enthusiasts formed the illegal Philomaths Society. When the tsarist administration traced the Philomaths, Mickiewicz was arrested and imprisoned in the Vilnius Basilian monastery in 1823–1824, which had been transformed into a prison. Later on, he was deported to Russia. In 1824–1829, he lived in Saint Petersburg, Moscow, Odessa and travelled around Crimea. From 1832 he lived in Paris where he participated in politics along with other participants of the 1831 uprising who had emigrated there. He left for Constantinople in September, 1835, where he died in November, most probably from cholera. He created verses, poems, sonnets and dramas.

**16 16 PILIES STREET**

**JOANNES DELAMARS (?–1690)**

A French bell and cannon maker. He lived in Lithuania in 1662–1690 (with intervals) and worked in the arsenals of Bogusław Radziwiłł in Biržai and Vilnius (present-day 16 Pilies Street). We know of 32 bells cast by Joannes Delamars in the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, 11 of which remained in Lithuania and the rest having been taken to Russia in 1915. There are two bells in each of the cities of Alytus, Skaruliai (Jonava district municipality) and the Pažaislis monastery ensemble (Kaunas), and one in Alsdžiai (Plungė district municipality). Four bells cast by Delamars remain in Vilnius, which still ring in the bellfries of the Church of St Peter and Paul, the Archcathedral and the Church of St Johns. The master's bell and cannon foundry in Vilnius was established near the Vilnia River, in a location called Puskarnia (present-day Pūčkoriai). The bells cast by Delamars were valued for their melodic sound, ornateness and durability.

**22 22 PILIES STREET**

**AUGUST LUDWIK BÉCU (1771–1824)**

He was a medical specialist, Vilnius University professor, and a pioneer in vaccinations in Lithuania. He was originally from Hrodno and studied at Vilnius University, where he later taught pathology and hygiene. In 1803 he learnt about the existence of a vaccine against smallpox, and was the first to introduce its application in Lithuania. In 1805 he and his colleagues founded the Vilnius Medical Society. In 1808 he and Joseph Frank founded the Vaccination Institute which produced the smallpox vaccine and administered it to the public. He married Salomea Słowacka in 1818 and became a step-father to her son, the future poet Juliusz Słowacki. The family lived at 22 Pilies Street. Towards the end of summer in 1824, Bécu was struck by globe-lightning which flew in through an open second-storey window. People in Vilnius gossiped that this was punishment for allegedly informing on the Filaret Society to the tsarist government. Adam Mickiewicz presented an interpretation of this event in his poem *Diady [Forefathers' Eve]*.

**JACQUES BRIŪTET (1746–1819)**

A physician and surgeon, and Vilnius University professor. He was born in France, studied medicine in Paris, and later worked in hospitals in Paris and Lyon. He arrived in Vilnius in 1777 after being invited to teach anatomy and surgery at the College of Medicine founded at the university (present-day 22 Pilies Street). He founded the anatomy cabinet at the university and prepared anatomical samples, which went on to form the foundation of the Vilnius University Anatomy Museum. In 1803–1810 he was head of the Department of Surgery at Vilnius University. Briūtet was one of the founders of the university surgery clinic. He lived on Pilies Street until 1819 (present-day 22 Pilies Street).

**JOHAN GEORG ADAM FORSTER (1754–1794)**

He was a traveller, natural scientist and writer. In 1772–1775 he participated in James Cook's second journey around the world. Forster taught mineralogy, botany, zoology and palaeontology at Vilnius University from 1784. He studied the country's plant life and maintained the university's Botanical Gardens (the courtyard of present-day 22 Pilies Street). A plot of land was purchased in Sereikiškės in 1787 as the courtyard in the College of Medicine was too small for the Botanical Gardens. He left to work in Germany in 1787, where he became one of the brightest figures of the German Age of Enlightenment, renowned for his progressive attitudes. He wrote books and is considered one of the pioneers of modern travel literature.

**JEAN EMMANUEL GILBERT (1741–1814)**

He was a French medical practitioner and natural scientist. Completing his studies at the university in Montpellier, he worked as a doctor in Lyon and taught at the university there. In 1775 he arrived in Hrodno where he founded the first school of veterinary and medical science in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, as well as a botanical garden. He taught the natural sciences at Vilnius University in 1781–1783 and was the first professor of the Department of Natural Sciences founded in 1781. He established the Vilnius Botanical Gardens on Pilies Street in 1782 (the courtyard at present-day 22 Pilies Street), where there were around 600 plant species. He provided the first herbal resource books, animal and bird taxidermal models and collections of excavated plant and animal remains to the university, as well as a mineral collection. He was the first to make a scientific description of the flora of Lithuania, for which he has earned the title of the father of botany in Lithuania. An attempt was made on the professor's life in 1782; Gilbert's relative wanted to lure away his wife, so he added poison to his coffee – the culprit was noticed by Gilbert's student, Anupras Oriauskas. The scientist was saved, and special medal to commemorate the student's heroism was made. In 1783 Gilbert returned to France where he briefly served as the mayor of the city of Lyon during the revolution.

**FERDYNAND RUSZCZYC (1870–1936)**

He was a Lithuanian painter, graphic artist, stage designer and pedagogue. He completed painting studies at the Academy of Art in Saint Petersburg. He taught at the Warsaw Art School (Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis was one of his students) and at the Krakow Art Academy. He lived in Vilnius from 1908, and had settled down on Pilies Street (present-day 22 Pilies Street) in 1923–1934. He was an active participant in the city's cultural life, organising events, dramatisations, stage sets and theatre costumes. He worked intensively in the field of published graphic art, illustrating magazines and books. He was also interested in preserving the cultural heritage of Vilnius. He was active in the reinstatement of Stephen Bathory University in 1919, becoming the dean of the Faculty of Arts where he taught until 1932.

**JULIUSZ SŁOWACKI (1809–1849)**

He was a Polish poet and playwright. Born in Kremenez (present-day Ukraine), he and his family moved to Vilnius in 1811–1814 and lived in a building belonging to the university (his father Euzebiusz Słowacki was a professor in Polish literature at Vilnius University). After his father's death in 1814, the mother and son returned to Kremenez. In 1818 his mother married the Vilnius University professor August Bécu, and the family settled in the College of Medicine building (present-day 22 Pilies Street). Whilst living there, the young poet wrote his first verses. He studied law at the university in 1825–1826. From 1828 he lived in Warsaw, and emigrated after the uprising of 1830–1831 was crushed. He died in Paris in 1848 from tuberculosis. He had written sonnets, poems, dramas and tragedies, and was considered one of the greatest Polish Romantic poets. A memorial plaque and bust was unveiled in 1927, initiated by the artist Ferdynand Ruszczyk (sculptor Bolesław Batzkiewicz).

**JĘDRZEJ ŚNIADECKI (1768–1838)**

He was a chemist and physician. He studied medicine and chemistry at the universities in Krakow and Padua, and furthered his studies in Edinburgh, London and Vienna. From 1797 he lived and worked at Vilnius University (at present-day 22 Pilies Street), heading the Department of Chemistry and establishing a chemistry laboratory. Following the university's closure, he taught at the Academy of Medicine and Surgery in 1832, serving as a professor at the Department of Therapy and head of the internal diseases clinic. He was also the vice-president of the Academy of Medicine and Surgery and one of the founders of the Vilnius Medical Society (1805), where he was the first chairman. In 1817, he started the Society of Szubrawcy (Rascals). He laid the foundations for chemical terminology in Polish and wrote the first chemistry textbook in Lithuania *Początki chemiji (Basic Chemistry, 1800)*. His study *Teorya jęstestv organiczných (Theory of Organic Beings, 1804–1811)* is considered one of the first textbooks of theoretical biology and biochemistry in the world. He published scientific papers on biology, chemistry, medicine, geology, mineralogy and other topics. He also analysed dietary issues, diagnostics and treatment, promoted hygiene, and was a pioneer in pediatrics in Lithuania.

**23 23 PILIES STREET**

**JERZY RADZIWIŁŁ (1556–1600)**

Jerzy Radziwiłł was a magnate in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, a bishop ordinary in Vilnius, and the first cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church from Lithuania. He studied at the university in Leipzig from 1570. From 1573 he studied with Piotr Skarga in Vilnius, whose influence is believed to have brought on his conversion from the Evangelical Reformed faith to Catholicism, which he publicly professed in 1574. He studied philosophy and theology in Rome in 1575–1577. Radziwiłł saw to the granting of academy and university rights to the Vilnius Jesuit College (1578). In 1582 he founded the Vilnius Diocese Seminary. In 1583 he was ordained a priest, and was elected as the bishop of Vilnius several months later. That same year, the pope announced his new rank as a cardinal presbyter of the Roman Catholic Church. He received the cardinal's red hat in Rome in 1586 and was assigned the *titulus* of St. Sixto. He was a prominent figure in state affairs, contributing to the compilation of the Third Statute of Lithuania (1588). In 1591 he was appointed as the bishop of Krakow. He died in Rome. Radziwiłł wrote memoirs from his travels. The residence of Jerzy Radziwiłł in Vilnius (present-day 23 Pilies Street) was known as the Cardinal's Palace based on its owner's title.

**24 24 PILIES STREET**

**JÓZEF IGNACY KRASZEWSKI (1812–1887)**

A Polish writer, historian and publisher. In 1829–1830, he studied literature and history at Vilnius University. He chaired the secret student Thinkers' Society. Having been accused of organising the uprising, he was imprisoned by the Russian government in 1830–1832. He lived at 24 Pilies Street in 1832–1835, later on, he lived in Belarus, Ukraine and Poland. After the uprising of 1863 he fled to Germany, lived in Italy and Switzerland, where he died. He was one of the most prolific Polish writers, his literary legacy comprises of around 400 volumes. He collaborated on the Vilnius periodical press, releasing the magazine *Athenaeum* in 1841–1851, which went on to become the centre of intellectual life in Vilnius. He was interested in Lithuanian history, folklore and Lithuanian cultural life, and maintained contact with Lithuanian cultural figures. He wrote historical works analysing Lithuanian culture, nature and customs.

**32 32 PILIES STREET**

**VYTAUTAS KALINAUSKAS (1928–2001)**

He was a graphic artist, painter and stage designer, and a winner of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Art Prize (1997). He completed graphic art studies in 1958 at the Lithuanian Art Institute (present-day Vilnius Academy of Art). From 1957 he participated in exhibitions in Lithuania and abroad. He illustrated books, created prints, objects, installations, performance art, video art, stage design sets for theatre performances, and worked in this sphere in film and television. His work is characterised by a variety in execution techniques and stylistics. The arty character with an imposing stance was inseparable from his bohemian life in Vilnius, and his studio at 32 Pilies Street was a real centre of attraction for Old Town artists.



**STASYS KRASAUSKAS (1929–1977)**

A graphic artist, winner of the LSSR State Prize (1965) and the USSR State Prize (1976). He graduated from the Lithuanian Art Institute in 1958 (present-day Vilnius Academy of Art), and taught there from 1961. He participated in exhibitions from 1959 in Lithuania and abroad. Krassauskas created linocuts, woodcuts, lithographs and zincographs. He also illustrated books. The main motif in his works was a stylised human figure, expressing the poetic themes of love, youth, and commonality between man and nature. He also appeared in films and the theatre. He was an active sportsman as well: he beat the Lithuanian swimming records 35 times, and won gold and bronze medals at the USSR water polo and swimming competitions. He had a studio at 32 Pilies Street in 1971–1977.

**36 36 PILIES STREET**

**JURGIS GUTAS (1769–1836)**

He was a pharmacist and public figure. He moved to Vilnius from Prussia, and bought a house on Pilies Street in 1800 (present-day 36 Pilies Street), where he opened a pharmacy. He was an honourable member of the Masonic Lodge, and one of the founders of the Vilnius Medical Society. Gutas was the head of the Pharmacy Department of the first professional pharmacists' organisation in Lithuania, the Vilnius Medical Society (1819). The death of this famous Vilnius pharmacist in 1836 is shrouded in mystery. It is said that Duke Ludwig Sayn-Wittgenstein, in wanting to take control of the property of his wife Stefania Radziwiłł, decided to kill her and acquired some poison for this from the pharmacist Gutas. In 1832 the 23-year-old duchess died (relatives claimed her death was due to a lung illness). Four years later, Gutas was discovered brutally slain in his home.

**EMILIJA VILEIŠIENĖ (1861–1935)**

She was a Lithuanian activist in the Vilnius Region and an active public figure. She attended the Saint Petersburg Institute for Noble Girls, participated in the city's student public activities and acted in Lithuanian plays. She lived in Vilnius from 1897. In 1900 she married the doctor and public figure Antanas Vileišis, becoming highly involved in the activities of Lithuanians in Vilnius. She participated in the Vilnius Lithuanians Charity Society's activities and taught at its school. From 1914 she was a member of the Lithuanian War Relief Central Committee, and lived in the building that belonged to the charity society in 1922–1926 (present-day 36 Pilies Street). She collected donations, funds, organised shelters and saw to the care and treatment of prisoners of war and casualties. She also defended the rights of Lithuanian Catholics. She was known for having a rather forthright manner, openly expressing her opinions, which is why she was frequently fined for disobeying the government. She was even imprisoned at Lukiškes Prison. She was awarded the Order of Vytautas the Great in 1933 for her merits.

**40 40 PILIES STREET**

**MARIJA (1880–1977) AND JURGIS (1876–1941) ŠLAPELIS**

The couple were social and cultural figures. They participated in cultural life in Vilnius, belonging to cultural and scientific societies, and helping transport and distribute the banned Lithuanian press from Lithuania Minor. Marija acted in Lithuanian amateur theatre troupe dramas and operettas, and in 1906 she played the main role in Mikas Petrauskas' first Lithuanian opera *Birutė*. Jurgis worked as a Lithuanian and Latin teacher at the Vytautas Magnus Gymnasium in Vilnius, and edited and compiled dictionaries, including the first Lithuanian dictionary of international words, going by the title *Svečimų ir nesuportamų žodžių žodynėlis (Dictionary of Foreign and Incomprehensible Words, 1907)*. He belonged to the Vilnius City Council and participated in the activities of the Lithuanian War Relief Society, and was also a collector of folklore. In 1906 in Vilnius, Marija and Jurgis Šlapelis, together with Elena Brazaitytė, founded the Šlapelis Lithuanian Book-store, which became a centre for the Vilnius Lithuanian intelligentsia. From 1926 until her death, Marija lived at 40 Pilies Street.

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The Lithuanian Art Museum's cycle of exhibitions *Streets of Vilnius* is dedicated to commemorate the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Lithuanian capital. The socio-topographic museum-based research of the Old Town in the lead up to this important anniversary in 2023 seeks to reveal the evolution of the city's main streets, their cultural and linguistic heterogeneity, to reflect the events, phenomena and everyday life, and to acquaint today's citizens with the capital city's former inhabitants.

**FIRST EXHIBITION: PILIES STREET**

Vilnius Picture Gallery, 4 Didžioji St, Vilnius  
September 13–November 20, 2018

- Exhibition team:
  - Margarita Matulytė – project leader and exhibition curator
  - Justina Augustytė – exhibition curator
  - Donatas Snarskis – exhibition curator
  - Jurgis Atrakevičius – tours
  - Žilvinas Jagėla – artist
  - Marius Juknevičius – sound installations
  - Tomas Kapočius – photography
  - Julija Matulytė – video editor
  - Arnoldas Urbelis – web design
- Organiser: Lithuanian Art Museum
- Main partners – exhibit lenders:
  - Lithuanian Central State Archives
  - Wrublewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences
  - Lithuanian State Historical Archives
  - Marija and Jurgis Šlapelis House-Museum
  - Vilnius University Library
  - Museum of Zoology at the Vilnius University Life Sciences Centre
  - Vilnius University Museum
- Exhibit lenders:
  - Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania
  - Lithuanian National Radio and Television
  - M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art
  - National Museum Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania
  - Rokiškis Regional Museum
  - Vytautas the Great War Museum
- Sponsors: Lithuanian Council for Culture, Media Traffic