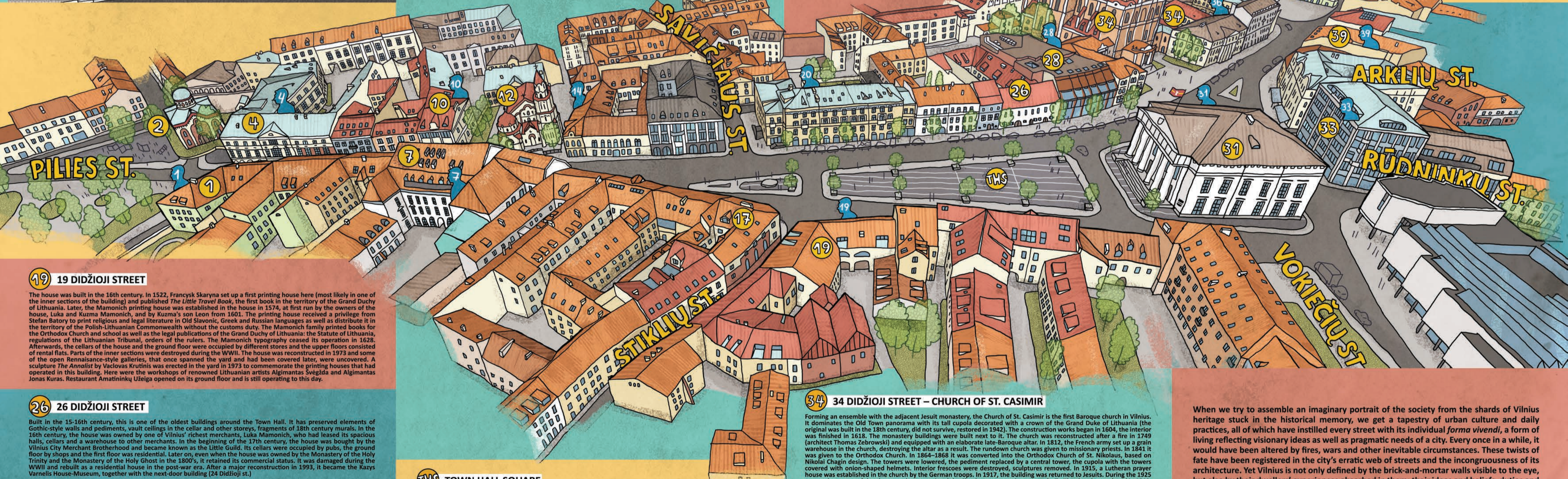


DIDŽIOJI STREET

SOCIO-TOPOGRAPHY



LITHUANIAN ART MUSEUM
2019



19 DIDŽIOJI STREET

The house was built in the 16th century. In 1522, Francysk Skaryna set up a first printing house here (most likely in one of the inner sections of the building) and published *The Little Travel Book*, the first book in the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Later, the Mamonich printing house was established in the house in 1574, at first run by the owners of the house, Luka and Kuzma Mamonich, and by Kuzma's son Leon from 1601. The printing house received a privilege from Stefan Batory to print religious and legal literature in Old Slavonic, Greek and Russian languages, as well as to print in the territory of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth without the customs duty. The Mamonich family printed books for the Orthodox Church and school as well as the legal publications of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: the Statute of Lithuania, regulations of the Lithuanian Tribunal, orders of the rulers. The Mamonich typography ceased its operation in 1628. Afterwards, the cellars of the house and the ground floor were occupied by different stores and the upper floors consisted of rental flats. Parts of the inner sections were destroyed during the WWII. The house was reconstructed in 1973 and some of the open Renaissance-style galleries, that once spanned the yard and had been covered later, were uncovered. A sculpture *The Annalist* by Vaclovas Krutinis was erected in the yard in 1973 to commemorate the printing houses that had operated in this building. Here were the workshops of renowned Lithuanian artists Algimantas Šveigžda and Algimantas Jonas Kuras. Restaurant Amatnininkų Užieiga opened on its ground floor and is still operating to this day.

26 DIDŽIOJI STREET

Built in the 15-16th century, this is one of the oldest buildings around the Town Hall. It has preserved elements of Gothic-style walls and pediments, vault ceilings in the cellar and other storeys, fragments of 18th century murals. In the 16th century, the house was owned by one of Vilnius' richest merchants, Luka Mamonich, who had leased its spacious halls, cellars and a warehouse to other merchants. In the beginning of the 17th century, the house was bought by the Vilnius City Merchant Brotherhood and became known as the Little Guild. Its cellars were occupied by pubs, the ground floor by shops and the first floor was residential. Later on, even when the house was owned by the Monastery of the Holy Trinity and the Monastery of the Holy Ghost in the 1800's, it retained its commercial status. It was damaged during the WWII and rebuilt as a residential house in the post-war era. After a major reconstruction in 1993, it became the Kazys Varnelis House-Museum, together with the next-door building (24 Didžioji st.).

28 DIDŽIOJI STREET

Like the Little Guild, this house, known as the Big Guild, belonged to merchant Luka Mamonich in the 16th century. He sold the building in 1606 and it was co-owned by different people up until mid-1700's. The building was used for storage, shops, pubs, brewery and workshops. Photographer Adolf Struniewicz had a studio in this house in the late 1800's-early 1900's. Artist and painter of Vilnius architecture Juozapas Kamarauskas spent the final years of his life here. Severely destroyed during the WWII, the building was torn down and a contemporary structure designed by Gediminas Baravykas was built in its place in 1975. Soon after that, cinema *Maskva* was opened in the new building, renamed as *Helios* after the Restitution of Independence. The cinema operated until 2000.

31 DIDŽIOJI STREET – TOWN HALL

Vilnius was granted the Magdeburg Rights, which ensured the internal autonomy, in 1387 yet the location and date of the first town hall remain unidentified. The Town Hall had been built on its current site by the early 1500's. Its old cellars have been preserved to this day. It was a two-storey Gothic-style structure with a tower, with shops standing next to it. In the mid-1700's, the Town Hall consisted of several buildings harbouring a covered yard, with the main gate on the western side. It was occupied by the court, prison, security building, archive, treasury, weaponry and other storage facilities, scales, fire equipment. It had shops of local and foreign merchants. The top floor belonged to the City Magistrate and the Council of Merchants. In the 17-18th centuries, the Town Hall was devastated by a number of fires that ruined its tower. Johann Christoph Glaubitz undertook the reconstruction of the Town Hall following the 1748 and 1749 fires. His unfinished work was continued by architect Tommaso Russel. A decade after the reconstruction, the tower started leaning. Architect Laurynas Gucevičius undertook its repair but the tower collapsed during the foundation reinforcement works. Gucevičius then drafted several designs for the reconstruction of the entire Town Hall and it was rebuilt by 1799. In 1844, the Vilnius Magistrate was relocated to Dominikonų st. and the Town Hall was adapted for the City Theatre, which set up here in 1845 and operated until 1924. In 1936–1940, the Town Hall was renovated in accordance to the Gucevičius blueprints. It became the venue for the Vilnius City Museum, which was reorganised into Vilnius Art Museum in 1941, LSSR Art Museum in 1965, and Lithuanian Art Museum in 1990. The building became the venue of the Lithuanian Artists' House in 1995 before resuming its status as the Vilnius Town Hall in 1999.

1 DIDŽIOJI STREET

In the early 1500's, there was a number of masonry and wooden houses owned by different people on the plot. In the late 1500's-early 1600's, the entire possession went over to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania swordsmen Dimitry Khalecki, who merged the buildings into one. In 1636, the buildings were sold to the Jesuit College and remained its ownership until the Society's suppression in 1773. In 1804, the building was purchased by Vilnius University. It became the home for University professors, including doctor Joseph Frank, after whom the building became known as the Frank House, and who lived there with his wife, singer Christina Gerhardt-Frank, sculptor Kazimierz Jelski; chemist and physician Jędrzej Śniadecki, his brother mathematician, astronomer and University rector Jan Śniadecki; architect Tomasz Tyszecki. Graphic artist Izidor Weiss had a studio in the house. Frenchman Marie-Henri Beyle, who was an intendant for Napoleon at the time and rose to fame later as an author known as Stendhal, had a short stay in the house in 1812. The house underwent several reconstructions in the 19th century, with the current façade added in 1834. A bookshop owned by Fryderyk Moritz operated on its ground floor. In the 20th century, the type of the building remained unchanged, with retail premises being on the ground floor and residential flats on the upper floors. Since the Restitution of Independence, the building has been used by the Embassy of France, with the part facing Didžioji Street hosting the French Institute.

2 DIDŽIOJI STREET – CHURCH OF ST. PARASKEVA

The church is believed to be built in 1345, on demand of Maria, Orthodox wife of the Grand Duke of Lithuania Algirdas. The building itself is surrounded by legends. As one of the oldest Orthodox churches in Vilnius, it was thought to be built on the site of a temple to the pagan god Ragutis. Nowadays, the site is supposedly marked in a small square next to the church by the Ragutis Stone, discovered in the foundations in a nearby Latako street. Another legend states that three Orthodox martyrs, Antonijus, Eustachijus and Joan, were baptised in this church soon after it was built. In the mid-1500's, the church burned down and was rebuilt later. A shelter and a parish graveyard were established next to it. In the early 1600's, the church came into possession of the Uniates who, after minor renovations, deserted it by turning it into a warehouse. In the early 1700's, the church was renovated and re-consecrated under the name of St. Paraskeva. At the time, the relatively small church was surrounded by residential buildings on three sides. The Fish Market operated nearby. One of the surviving memorial plaques on its walls states that Tsar Peter I visited the church in 1705, who granted some of his conquered flags to the church and baptised the Russian poet Alexander Pushkin's grandfather Gannibal. In the following decades, the church saw little use up until 1865, when it was rebuilt by architect Nikolai Chagin. The previous stocky structure of Romanesque proportions with heavy buttresses at its corners became an ornate Neo-Byzantine building. A small square was formed nearby by tearing down the surrounding houses. The church was closed in the 1960's. In 1981, it was renovated and turned into a gallery of LSSR Art Museum. After the Restitution of Independence, it was given back to the Orthodox Church.

4 DIDŽIOJI STREET

The Chodkiewicz family had owned houses on the site of the present-day palace as early as mid-1500's. By the mid-1600's, the noble family had expanded their property from Didžioji to Bokšto street by gradually adding the neighbouring plots and merged the existing buildings. At least eight generations of the Chodkiewicz family of the Supraśl branch are known to have lived in the palace. It is said that the Chodkiewicz family had an ongoing rivalry with Radziwiłłs, another noble family of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. One of their clashes supposedly took place in this palace in 1600, when the Radziwiłłs, who competed with the Chodkiewicz family over the dowry of Princess of Slutsk Sophia Olekovich, arrived at the palace with cannons and two thousand soldiers. The Chodkiewicz family sold the palace in the early 19th century. In 1812, it became a refuge for the retreating Napoleon forces. The overrun buildings were renovated in 1825 (allegedly by Tomasz Tyszecki): a second storey was added, southern and northern wings prolonged, a service wing erected, thus forming a representation of inner courtyard. The palace acquired features common to the late Classical architecture, which it kept to the present day. In 1834, the palace was given to the Medical and Surgical Academy and became a student dormitory. Later on, it was used by various authorities, whereas the spacious halls were partitioned into flats. In 1919, the palace was handed over to Stefan Batory University and served as housing for the University lecturers until the 1980's. Among its inhabitants were economist Vladas Jurgutis, nicknamed the "father of the Lithuanian litas", philosopher Vosylus Sezemanas and others. The service wing was turned into a Clinic for the Higher Education. There was a shoe shop and a drugstore operating in the palace. In 1981, the palace underwent a major renovation, provisions were made for a luxurious restaurant, which never came to reality. After the Restitution of Independence, the Chodkiewicz palace was given to the Lithuanian Art Museum and became the Vilnius Picture Gallery as well as the headquarters of the Museum administration.

7 DIDŽIOJI STREET

A three-storey house owned by the noble family of Astikas had been built on the site by the 15-17th century. After the last member of the family, Gregory Astikas, was executed on the Town Hall Square for conspiracy and counterfeiting on June 19, 1580, the house was confiscated. A next-door building had belonged to canon Ambrasiejus Belnartas since 1602, who had set up a dormitory there. The buildings were damaged heavily during the 1654–1667 Russo-Polish War. They were bought by Michal Kazimierz Pac, hetman of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The buildings were rebuilt and joined together (reconstruction was carried out by architect Jan Zaor; the interiors done by famous Italian masters Giovanni Pietro Pertti and Michelangelo Palloni). The resulting Baroque palace became one of the most flamboyant buildings in Vilnius. It was visited by some of the most influential figures of the time: the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania John Sobieski stayed here in 1688, the Tsar of Russia Peter I in 1705, the Russian Emperor Alexander I attended balls in the palace in 1812, as did the French Emperor Napoleon at a later point in time. In 1797, the palace was inherited by the last descendant of the Pac family, Ludwik Michał Pac, who took active part in the 1831 uprising and fled to France in its wake. As a result, the palace was nationalised. Several reconstructions bestowed the building with elements of Classical style. It was converted into a military administration building. A number of different enterprises operated here until 2010. After a major overhaul, the *Pocai Hotel* opened in the palace in 2018.

34 DIDŽIOJI STREET – CHURCH OF ST. CASIMIR

Forming an ensemble with the adjacent Jesuit monastery, the Church of St. Casimir is the first Baroque church in Vilnius. It dominates the Old Town panorama with its tall cupola decorated with a crown of the Grand Duke of Lithuania (the original was built in the 18th century, did not survive, restored in 1942). The construction works began in 1604, the interior was finished in 1618. The monastery buildings were built next to it. The church was reconstructed after a fire in 1749 (architect Thomas Zebrowski) and equipped with an elaborate late-Baroque altar. In 1812, the French army set up a grain warehouse in the church, destroying the altar as a result. The rundown church was given to missionary priests. In 1841 it was given to the Orthodox Church. In 1864–1868 it was converted into the Orthodox Church of St. Nikolaus, based on Nikolai Chagin design. The towers were lowered, the pediment replaced by a central tower, the cupola with the towers covered with onion-shaped helmets. Interior frescoes were destroyed, sculptures removed. In 1915, a Lutheran prayer house was established in the church by the German troops. In 1917, the building was returned to Jesuits. During the 1925 restoration, some of the elements that pre-existed the Chagin reconstruction were rebuilt. The church was closed in 1949, turned into a warehouse, the interior was wrecked. In 1965–1966, it was restored and converted into an Atheism Museum. In 1988, it was given back to the religious community. An early-17th century crypt with preserved frescoes was discovered beneath the great altar in 1991. It contains the remains of prominent Jesuits and a relic of St. Andrew Bobola, a martyr priest who worked in the church in the past. In 1997, *Tinkerbells for St. Casimir*, a sound installation by Vladimiras Tarasovas, was put up in the church towers, making music sounds when the wind blows.

34 DIDŽIOJI STREET – PROFESSED HOUSE OF VILNIUS JESUIT MONASTERY

One of the most important buildings of the Jesuit monastery complex is the collegium, or professed house, a residence for senior monks and a temporary stay for noble laypeople. It was built next to St. Casimir Church in 1615. Some of its original architectural elements, including a tall, bulky Renaissance-style attic, have survived to the present day. Many prominent members of the Society of Jesus have lived in the professed house, including priest martyr St. Andrew Bobola, author and lexicographer Konstantinas Sirvydas, theologian, philosopher, musicologist Zygmantas Liaukšminas, and historian Albertas Kojelavičius-Vijūkas. At one point in time it was also a library, an archive of the Lithuanian province of the Society of Jesus and a hospital. After the suppression of the Society in 1773, the building was used as a shelter and hospital for priests emeritus and their families. In 1798 the building was converted into barracks, while some of the premises were inhabited by clergymen serving St. Casimir's Church. In 1812, the building was seized by French soldiers, who vandalised it. After the Church of St. Casimir was turned into an Orthodox one, the house was renovated and given to the Orthodox clergy. During the WWII, a military hospital was set up and it became a secondary school after the war. The professed house was given back to Jesuits in 1993 and the Vilnius Jesuit High School was founded in the rest of the monastery in 1995.

39 DIDŽIOJI STREET

A house that stood here in the early 1600's belonged to a Vilnius merchant, member of Magistrate, Petras Procevičius. His heirs were unable to keep it up and the house in a critical state was given to monastic communities in the late 1600's. In the middle of the 18th century, the house belonged to merchants Lakhovices. It was part of a continuous row of buildings up until the middle of the 18th century. The present-day Etmonų street was formed in 1767, when duke Ignatios Gorkunskis purchased the burned down house on Didžioji street and demolished it together with another house on Arklių street to pave a road leading to his palace. In the 19th century, the house was owned by different people. Its premises were rented out to various stores. In 1938 it became the location for 1777-founded drugstore *Gulbės Vaistinė* (Swan's Drugstore), partly owned by ancestors of a famous Polish singer Maryla Rodowicz. One of the longest running drugstores in Vilnius, it operated until the early 2000's. In the Soviet period, the premises were nationalised and became a footwear workshop of the Vilnius Model House. After the Restitution of Independence, the building was renovated and converted into a hotel.

10 DIDŽIOJI STREET

A house that stood on this site in the early 1500's was owned by the noble family of Goštautas. The last representative of the family to have owned the building was Stanislovas Goštautas, the first husband of Barbara Radvilaitė. After his death, the property was nationalised and later bought in 1558 by the nephew of Vilnius Mikaloja "the Black" Radziwiłł. Radziwiłł, who was of the Reformed faith, built a Calvinist chapel, which stayed functional up until his sons converted to the Catholic faith in 1574. While the chapel still existed in mid-1800's, it was taken down during a reconstruction of the palace. The Radziwiłł family owned the palace until the beginning of the 19th century. In 1804 it was bought by Vilnius University. In 1805, a university clinic was opened in the building, run by professor Joseph Frank, who made sure the clinic was constantly fixed up and also set up a pathology office. Vaccinity Institute as well as Maternity Institute that provided help for impoverished future mothers. In 1812, the building was turned into a military hospital for the French soldiers, who damaged it severely. It was said that the hunger-struck soldiers went as far as eating the pharmaceuticals in the pathology room. In 1831, the clinic was moved out and flats were set up in the palace. A part of the building was demolished during the 1965 reconstruction of the nearby Orthodox church. In the early 1900's, new owners, the merchant Cholem brothers carried out a reconstruction, adding a third floor. The ground floor was rented out to shops and a photo studio of Ick Chonovitz. In 1907, the first stationary cinema in Vilnius, *Iluzija* (renamed as *Stella* and *Wanda* in the 1920's) was opened in one of the inner buildings. The part of the palace facing the Didžioji Street was destroyed in WWII and rebuilt in 1999.

12 DIDŽIOJI STREET – ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

The first wooden Orthodox church on this site is believed to have been built around mid-1300's, under the initiative of Uliana of Tver, the second wife of Grand Duke Algirdas. A brick church was built in 1514 by Konstanty Ostrogski, as a commemoration of the victory in the Battle of Orsha. Since building brick-and-mortar Orthodox churches in Vilnius was forbidden at the time, he had to receive a privilege from Sigismund the Old to do so. The new church was built on the old foundation. It was a rather small, Byzantine Gothic style structure, with a triangular pediment on the façade and a small tower. It was given to the Uniates in 1609. Following the fires in 1747 and 1748, it was reconstructed in Baroque style. Up until the mid-1800's, the church had been blocked off from the street by another house. In 1865, on general-governor Muraviov's order, the surrounding buildings were torn down and the church itself rebuilt after the architect Alexander Rezanov's design. The reconstruction was supervised by Nikolai Chagin. The old Gothic-style walls were preserved, the volume of the building left unaltered, but the previously Baroque façades were rebuilt in Neo-Byzantine style. A passage to Bokšto street alongside the church had been named the Nicholas Alley. Joan Shverubovich, father of the famous Russian actor Vasily Kachalov served as a priest in the church in the late 1800's and Vasily Kachalov himself was born in Vilnius in 1875 and lived next door to the church (currently 14 Didžioji st.) until 1893.

17 DIDŽIOJI STREET

The house was erected on the foundation of a previous Orthodox church, which had been built in the 16th century in the shape of an irregular rectangle and had an apse looking out on Didžioji street. Like most of Vilnius Orthodox churches, it was given to the Uniates in 1609. The church suffered from several fires in the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1799, the remnants of its walls were used in the construction of a three-storey residential building. In the 19th century, the house had shops on the ground floor and flats on the upper floors. Standing on a juncture of Didžioji and Stiklių street, this building was on the border of the Vilna Small Ghetto, established in 1941. In the Soviet era, a tailor shop operated on its ground floor. After the reconstruction in the 1980-1990's, the previous wooden galleries with stairs spanning around the tight inner yard were recreated. Currently it is occupied by the Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania.

When we try to assemble an imaginary portrait of the society from the shards of Vilnius heritage stuck in the historical memory, we get a tapestry of urban culture and daily practices, all of which have instilled every street with its individual *forma vivendi*, a form of living reflecting visionary ideas as well as pragmatic needs of a city. Every once in a while, it would have been altered by fires, wars and other inevitable circumstances. These twists of fate have been registered in the city's erratic web of streets and the incongruousness of its architecture. Yet Vilnius is not only defined by the brick-and-mortar walls visible to the eye, but also by their dwellers' experiences absorbed in them: their ideas and beliefs, duties and obligations, material interests, academic and creative work, commercial activity, and the day-to-day humdrum. Dukes and soldiers, both local and foreign, clergymen, craftsmen and tradesmen, drifters and others, blessed and cursed, have all trodden down paths that would go on to become streets.

Didžioji ('Main') Street is one of Vilnius' oldest and most prominent streets. It was once a part of the Rulers' Way, connecting the Lithuanian Grand Duke Castle to the emblematic Rūdninkai Gate. It is here that the Town Hall, the Church of St. Casimir, Orthodox churches, luxurious palaces were built, along with a market, shops, drugstores, hotels, restaurants, theatre, cinemas, photo studios and museums. People of different nationalities, classes and professions came to build their futures on Didžioji Street.

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JOSEPH FRANK (1771–1842)

Doctor, Medicine PhD, patron of arts. Moved from Vienna to Vilnius in 1804 and settled in the house on Didžioji st. (currently 1 Didžioji st.). Professor at Vilnius University in 1805–1823. Together with his father Johann Peter Frank, initiated the founding of the Vilnius Medical Society, Vilnius University Therapeutic Clinic across the street (currently 10 Didžioji st.), Surgical Hospital, Vaccination and Maternity institutes. Pioneered research of the effect of climate and other geographical conditions on human health as well as research of citizen mortality and morbidity. Worked extensively in the field of preventive healthcare. Improved the teaching programme of medicine at Vilnius University, his students went on to become scholars and physicians. Major works: *Practical Medical Advice* (*Praxeos medicae universae praecepta*, 14 volumes, 1811–1843); *Pathological Medicine* (*Pathologie medicale*, 6 volumes, 1835–1843). Left Lithuania in 1823, allegedly due to health deterioration. Settled with his wife by the Lake Como, Italy, where he died. Buried in a 20-metre-high pyramid of his own design.

CHRISTINA GERHARDI-FRANK (around 1780–after 1832)

Singer (soprano). Studied singing in Vienna under the best known musicians of the day. Her great voice and artistic charisma led to early recognition. Sang in the 1798 premiere of Joseph Haydn's oratorio *The Creation* in Vienna (conducted by Haydn himself). Performed together with Ludwig van Beethoven. Lived in Vilnius, on Didžioji Street (currently 1 Didžioji st.) with her husband, doctor Joseph Frank. Performed in charity concerts and operas, worked as a teacher. Thanks to her and her husband, *The Creation* was performed in Vilnius City Theatre, located in the Town Hall (currently 31 Didžioji st.) on February 17–18, 1809. Christina sang the parts of Gabriel the Archangel and Eve. The performance was long hailed as one of Vilnius' biggest cultural events.



JAN ŚNIADECKI (1756–1830)

Astronomer, mathematician, philosopher. Graduated from Krakow Academy, studied mathematics, physics, astronomy, military engineering in Germany, Holland, France, England. Came to Vilnius in 1806 to work at the University and lived in a flat on Didžioji Street (currently 1 Didžioji st.). Head of Vilnius University Astronomy Observatory in 1807–1825. Rector of Vilnius University in 1807–1815. Correspondent member of St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences from 1811. Major works: *Geography, or Mathematical and Physical Description of the Earth* (*Geografia czyli opisanie matematyczne i fizyczne Ziemi*, 1804); *Spheric Trigonometry* (*Trygonometria kulista*, 1817). *The Philosophy of the Human Mind* (*Filozofia umyslu ludzkiego*, 1822). A lunar crater and an asteroid Śniadecka were named in his honour.

LEV KARSAVIN (1882–1952)

Russian and Lithuanian cultural historian, philosopher, History and Philosophy PhD. Taught at Saint Petersburg University from 1909 with several hiatuses. Appointed as professor in 1918. University rector in 1920–1921. Expelled from Soviet Russia for opposition to the Bolshevik regime in 1922, lived in Berlin until 1926. Took part in Eurasian movement. Moved to Paris, where he taught at the Russian Theological Academy. Lived in Kaunas in 1928–1940, taught at Vytautas Magnus University. Lived in Vilnius on Didžioji street (currently 1 Didžioji st.) as a professor at Vilnius University. Worked as an art expert for the Vilnius Art Museum in 1944 and was the Head of the Museum in 1945–1949. Openly expressed his opposition to Stalinism and the Soviet regime. Arrested in 1949, sent to a concentration camp in Abex, Russia in 1950. Authored over 20 philosophy and poetry works, including *History of European Culture* (5 volumes, 1931–1937), *About Personality* (*O lichnosti*, 1929), *Poem on Death* (*Poema o smerti*, 1931), etc. Characteristic to his works is the synthesis of theological reasonings and philosophical questions.



ŠARŪNAS BARTAS (1964–)

One of the most famous Lithuanian filmmakers in the world, producer, cinematographer, screenwriter, actor. Recipient of the 2001 Lithuanian National Prize for Culture and Arts. In 1989, he founded the first independent film studio *Kinema*, which has produced dozens of documentary and fiction films that were presented in the major film festivals around the globe, such as Berlin, Cannes, Venice, and won some prestigious awards. Bartas was the first in Lithuania to go into international co-production and collaboration with French, German, Portuguese producers. His directorial debut was a 1985 documentary *Tofolaria*. His 1989 film *In the Memory of a Day Gone By* featured a unique associative cinematic language, free-flowing structure and autobiographical form. He elaborated his auteur style in his later works: *Three Days* (1991), *The Corridor* (1994), *Few of Us* (1995), *The House* (1997), *Freedom* (2000), etc. In 2016, a retrospective of his works was presented at the Centre Pompidou, Paris. For a period of time he lived and worked at 1 Didžioji st.

JAN KAROL CHODKIEWICZ (1561–1621)

State and cultural figure of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, one of the renowned military commanders of early-17th century Europe. Owned a palace on Didžioji street (currently 4 Didžioji st.). Studied at Vilnius, Ingolstadt and Padua universities. Visited Venice, Italy, the Netherlands, France and Spain. Field Hetman of Lithuania from 1600. Commanded Lithuanian troops in the war against Swedish invasion Livonia in 1602–1611. His greatest victory was the 1605 Battle of Kirchholm (modern Salaspils), where he defeated the King Of Sweden Charles IX's army several times the size of his force. Soon after was named the Great Hetman of Lithuania. Led the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth army during the advance on Moscow in 1611–1612 and during the war on Russia in 1617–1618. Named Voivode of Vilnius in 1616. Commanded the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth army in the war with Turkey in 1620–1621. Took part in the 1621 Battle of Khotyn, which, according to historians, determined the fate of the Central Europe, and withstood a siege of a much larger Ottoman army. Died the same year, following an illness.



LUDWIK MICHAŁ PAC (1778–1835)

Military figure, one the last descendants of the noble Pac family. Studied at schools in France and England, continued his studies at Vilnius University. Inherited the palace on Didžioji street (currently 7 Didžioji st.) in 1797. Fought for the Napoleon army in Spain (1808) and Austria (1809). Promoted to Napoleon's aide-de-camp in 1812, later became a general. Took part in the invasion of Russia. Was awarded the Legion of Honour, Virtuti Militari, St Stanislaw Order and the Bavarian Military Cross for his merits. Active participant of the 1830–1831 uprising, funder of insurgents, member of their provisional government. Commanded a reservist corps in 1831. Wounded in the Battle of Ostrolenka. Left to France after the failure of the uprising, while his palace on Didžioji Street was confiscated by the Tsarist regime.

SOPHIE DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER (1790–1878)

The first female novelist in Lithuania. Learned drawing under the tutelage of Jan Rustem. Grew up in Vilnius, lived in Kairėnai manor. Often visited the Pac palace (currently 7 Didžioji st.; her father Ignacy Tyzenhaus owned a part of the premises), where she met the nobility of Vilnius and the city's prominent visitors. In 1812, she met and became friends with Russian Emperor Alexander I, also met Napoleon Bonaparte. Lived for a while in Rokiškis manor, built by her father, where she married Antoine Louis Octave de Choiseul-Gouffier, owner of Plateliai manor. Moved to Plateliai manor after her husband's death. Travelled Europe. Made acquaintances with writers Alexander Dumas, Alfred de Musset and other prominent cultural figures of the 19th century. She is mentioned in Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. Published her memoir *Reminiscences of Emperor Alexander I and Emperor Napoleon I* (1862), wrote about 10 historical novels based on Lithuanian and Polish history. She wrote in French.

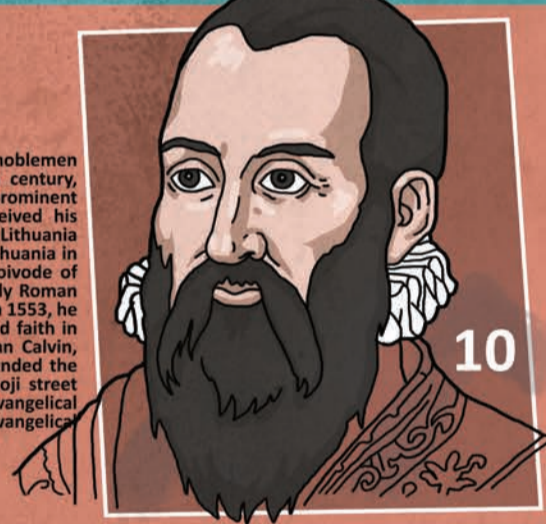


NAPOLEON BONAPARTE (1769–1821)

Emperor of France, general commander of the Revolutionary Army of the French First Republic (1792–1804). Rose to power following the Coup of 18 Brumaire, became First Consul. Proclaimed First Consul for Life in 1802. In 1804, proclaimed the Emperor of France by the Senate. His military victories allowed France to annex vast territories, taking control of nearly all of the continental Europe from Spain to Poland. During his 1812 military campaign against the Russian Empire, he visited the Pac palace on Didžioji street (currently 7 Didžioji st.). After the failed invasion of Russia, the French army suffered a fatal blow at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813 and when the Allies captured Paris in 1814, Napoleon was forced to abdicate. He was exiled to the island of Elba. Escaped from Elba in March 1815 and, with the help from his supporters, took control of France again for a brief period. After the defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815, was forced to abdicate once again and was exiled to the island of Saint Helena, where he died in 1821.

MIKOŁAJ "THE BLACK" RADZIWIŁŁ (1515–1565)

One of the most powerful, most influential and wealthiest noblemen in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania of the middle of 16th century, advocate of Lithuanian sovereignty, one of the most prominent converts of the Reformed faith in the country. He received his education in the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania Sigismund the Old's manor in Krakow. Grand Marshal of Lithuania in 1544–1565. Grand Lithuanian Chancellor in 1550–1555. Voivode of Vilnius in 1551–1565. Achieved a title of a Duke of the Holy Roman Empire for himself and his entire family in 1547. Beginning in 1553, he was instrumental in spreading and solidifying the Reformed faith in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Exchanged letters with John Calvin, became a patron of the Evangelical Reformed Church. Founded the first Evangelical Reformed chapel and school on his Didžioji street property (currently 10 Didžioji st.) Assembled the first Evangelical synod in Vilnius in 1557, which laid the groundwork for the Evangelical Reformed community in Lithuania.

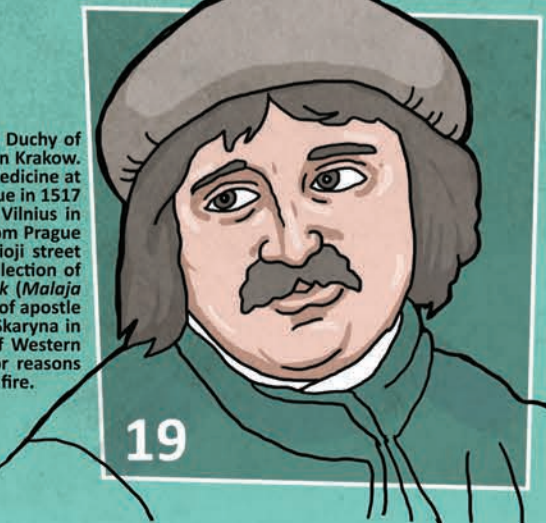


MICHAŁ ELWIRO ANDRIOLI (1836–1893)

Graphic artist and painter, member of the 1863–1864 uprising. In 1855–1861, studied medicine at Moscow University, also at Moscow School of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture, Saint Petersburg Academy of Art. Continued his studies in Rome at the Academy of Saint Luke. In 1843–1863, spent time living in the house on Didžioji street (currently 14 Didžioji st.). At the outbreak of the 1863 uprising, was named the platoon commander. Arrested and imprisoned. Escaped prison and emigrated to London and Paris, where he gained recognition as an illustrator. On his way back to Lithuania, he was arrested and sentenced to 15 years of katorga in Vyatka, Russia in 1868. Pardoned in 1871, he settled in Warsaw. In 1883–1886, he worked in the Firmin Didot publishing house in Paris, where he illustrated works by James Fenimore Cooper, William Shakespeare, Alexander Dumas, Honoré de Balzac and other famous international authors. He drew historical and everyday compositions, the series *1863 Uprising in Lithuania*, painted portraits, religious artwork for churches, illustrated books by Władysław Syrokoma, Józef Ignacy Kruszycki, Juliusz Słowacki, Eliza Orzeszkowa, Adam Mickiewicz.

FRANCYSK SKARYNA (around 1490–around 1541)

One of the first book printers and publishers in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In 1506, graduated from Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Later he travelled extensively in Europe. Earned a PhD in Medicine at Padua University in 1512. Founded a printing house in Prague in 1517 through the support of wealthy Vilnius citizens. Lived in Vilnius in 1519–1521. Brought a printing press and paper supplies from Prague and opened the first printing house in Lithuania on Didžioji street (currently 19 Didžioji st.) in 1522. Here he published a collection of psalms and didactic teachings called *The Little Travel Book* (*Małoję podróżną kniżica*, 1522) and *Apostol* (1525), a collection of apostle letters from the New Testament. The books published by Skaryna in Vilnius were as good as the best polygraphic examples of Western Europe. In 1525 his publishing business was disrupted for reasons unknown and the printing house itself perished in the 1930 fire.

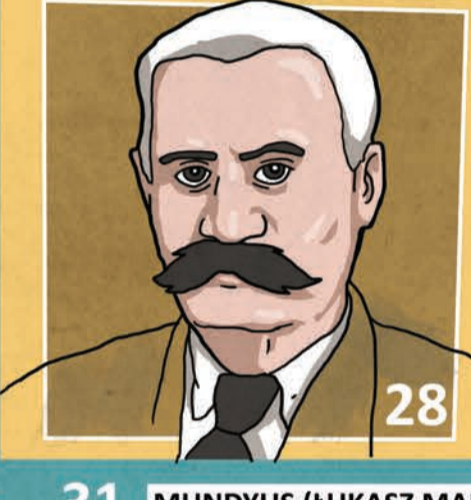


FIODOR DOSTOJEVSKIJ (1821–1881)

Writer, publicist, philosopher. After graduation from Saint Petersburg School of Engineering in 1843, served in the military and after that made his living entirely from literature. In 1847, he joined the illegal circle of Mikhail Petrashevsky, who was spreading the French Utopian Socialism ideas in Russia. Because of this, he was arrested in 1849 and sentenced to death. Right before the execution, the sentence was changed to 4 years of katorga, followed by 6 years of compulsory military service. He returned to Saint Petersburg in 1859, where he began printing and editing magazines, publishing articles, stories and novels: *The House of the Dead* (*Zapiski iz mirtovogo doma*, 1861–1862), *Humiliated and Insulted* (*Uniženiye i oskorbionnye*, 1861), *Crime and Punishment* (*Prestuplenije i nakazanie*, 1866), *The Gambler* (*igrok*, 1866), *The Idiot* (*idiot*, 1868), *The Brothers Karamazov* (*Bratja Karamazovy*, 1879–1880) etc. His works are notable for psychological grotesque, dramatisation of action and the analysis of existential issues. He visited Vilnius a number of times and described it in his letters to his wife Ana Snitkina. Her diary has an account of their stay in the *Hana Hotel* (currently 20 Didžioji st.) in 1867.

STANISŁAW FILIBERT FLEURY (1858–1915)

Artist, photographer, member of Vilnius Art Society. In 1874–1878 studied art at Vilnius Drawing School and photography at Alexander Władysław Strauss studio. Had a shared photography studio in Vilnius in 1884–1915, where he took portraits and made stereoscopic photographs. In 1892, moved his studio to a house that has not survived to this day (currently 20 Didžioji st.). There he took the famous portrait of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis in 1908. In 1904, founded the first zincography enterprise in Lithuania. Worked in oil, watercolour, tempera. Photographed Vilnius streets and suburbs, fairs, markets, architectural monuments, daily urban life, citizens. Illustrated publications about Vilnius.



JUOZAPAS KAMARAUSKAS (1874–1946)

Artist, architect, engineer. In 1892–1897 studied at Vilnius Drawing School, the Stieglitz Central School of Technical Drawing and the Imperial Academy of Arts in Saint Petersburg. In 1897–1922, worked as an engineer in different construction firms. In 1922, returned to Vilnius, where he restored and reproduced paintings, drafted construction projects and Vilnius city plans, designed posters, postal marks and monetary bills. In 1939, began working as an engineer-architect, monument protection officer. Collaborated with educational and cultural enterprises. From 1943 till his death, he lived in the so-called Big Guild house on Didžioji street (currently 28 Didžioji st.). He drew landscapes of Vilnius, Kaunas, Grodno, Krakai and other cities and towns as well as architectural monuments. His legacy consists of around 400 graphic works and paintings. One of his major works is the blueprints and drawings of 40 Vilnius Old Town streets he did in 1944–1945.

31 MUNDYUS (ŁUKASZ MARKOWICZ, early 16th century– around 1584)

16th century citizen of Vilnius, active participant of radical Reformation, practitioner of Arianism. Sought a career in municipality. From 1545 on, was elected for several terms as an assessor. Litigated over his inheritance and the right to a vodka production monopoly, charging the City Council with failure to carry out justice. The financial dispute grew into a political conflict in 1551. In 1553, he was elected an annual BurgoMASTER, a title which he also claimed later on but was ignored by the City Council due to the conflict until he was removed from duty for life in 1556 and subsequently referred to only as a "citizen of Vilnius." The case that spanned over three decades involved the vogt of Vilnius Augustinus Rotundus Milewski, voivodes of Vilnius Mikolaj "the Black" Radziwiłł and Mikolaj "the Red" Radziwiłł, ruler Sigismund Augustus, Duke of Prussia Albrecht Hohenzollern, Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand I. Mundyus sought to resume the duty of BurgoMASTER until the end of his life. He was put to prisons at Vilnius Town Hall and Vilnius Castle for defiance of the King.

31 AUGUSTINUS ROTUNDUS MELESKI (around 1520–1582)

General secretary to the Grand Duke, vogt of Vilnius, first professional historian in Lithuania. Beginning in 1539, studied at the universities of Wittenberg and Padua, acquired a PhD in ecclesiastical and secular law. From 1544 served in the Chancellery under Sigismund The Old, Sigismund Augustus, Henry Valois, Stefan Batory. Assigned as Vogt of Vilnius in 1551, became loyal to Lithuania, looked after the expansion of Vilnius. The chief administrator of the city was based at the Town Hall. As a lawyer, contributed to the Act of Union of Lublin, treaties with other states, wills of Lithuanian noblemen and other important documents. Participated in the commissions for preparation of the Second and Third Statutes of Lithuania. Wrote the *Lithuanian Chronicles* (started around 1555) and co-authored a polemic work *Conversations of Pole with Lithuanian* (*Rozmowa Polaka z Litwinem*, 1564). Enobled in 1568 for his work and achievements. Intellectual, humanist, pro-Lithuanian politician, devout Catholic who helped consolidate the Catholic faith in Lithuania.



JAKUB JASIŃSKI (1761–1794)

Engineer, poet, commander of the 1794 Uprising in Lithuania. In 1773–1783 studied at the Corps of Cadets of Warsaw School of Chivalry. In 1789 became the commanding officer of the Engineering Corps for Lithuania, where he taught fortification. Successfully participated in the 1792 war between Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the Russian Empire and became an army Colonel of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In 1793 started secretly organising an uprising. On April 22–23, led the liberation of Vilnius from the Russian Imperial forces. On April 24 became the commandant of Vilnius, declared the act of the Lithuanian uprising on the Town Hall Square. On May 3, appointed the commander-in-chief of the Lithuanian forces by the National Supreme Council of Lithuania. On May 11, promoted to general-lieutenant for the defence of Vilnius. Due to accusations by members of the Council of radical republicanism and ambitions to increase the Lithuanian sovereignty, he was relieved of duty by Tadeusz Kościuszko, leader of the uprising, in June 1794. Jasiński left for Warsaw, where he died in the Battle of Praga.

ONA BIRUTĖ VINCEVIČIENĖ (1924–2019)

Artist, fashion designer. Was the first to get into fashion design professionally in the post-war Soviet Lithuania. One of the founders of the Vilnius Model House (currently 33 Didžioji st.) and its first artistic director (from 1954). Designed clothes for mass production by the sewing factories of the USSR. Created experimental models and exhibition collections that were presented at international shows. In accordance with the Lithuanian folk costume tradition, designed costumes for song and dance festivals. Her designs were published in the Lithuanian periodicals as well as all-Union fashion magazines *Modell sezona*, *Zhurnal mod*, *Detskij zhurnal mod*. In 1949–1963 collaborated with the USSR State Security Committee under the codename Kleopatra.

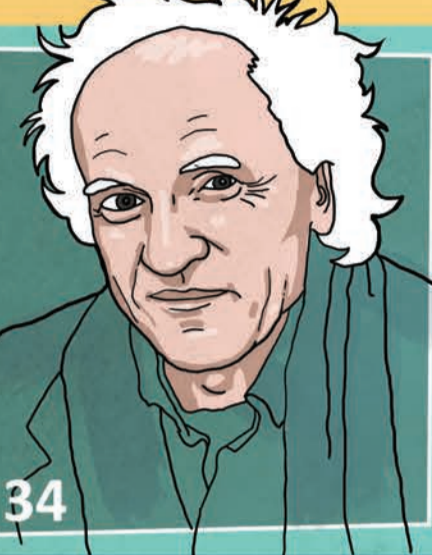


34 ST. ANDREW BOBOLA (1591–1657)

Jesuit priest, Catholic saint and martyr. Joined the Society of Jesus in Vilnius in 1611, studied philosophy and theology at Vilnius University, worked at various houses in the Society's Lithuanian province. Spent 12 years working at the Church of St. Casimir in Vilnius (currently 34 Didžioji st.) as a preacher, penance hearer, rector of the church. In this church he was ordained a priest in 1622 and took solemn monastic vows in 1630. In 1636, became a travelling missionary. His goal was to reconcile the Orthodox Church with the Holy See. During the 1654–1667 Russo-Polish War, was tortured to death by Cossacks. Beatified in 1853, canonised in 1938.

34 KONSTANTINAS SIRYVDAS (around 1579–1631)

One of the pioneers of Lithuanian literature, author, lexicographer, member of the Society of Jesus. Studied at Vilnius Jesuit College, continued his studies at Jesuit Colleges in Nyasvizh, Dorpat (modern Tartu), Riga, Pultusk, Vilnius University (1606–1610). In 1612 appointed as a preacher to the Church of St. Johns in Vilnius, where he read sermons mostly in Lithuanian. Held different positions at the Society of Jesus. In 1619–1624 taught theology at Vilnius University, was a counsellor to the rector. In 1629 published the first trilingual Polish-Lithuanian-Latin dictionary (*Dictionarium trium linguarum*) and a collection of his sermons *Punktai Sakymų* (part 2 wasn't published until 1644, after Sirvydas' death). Lived in the professed house of Jesuits. Preached at the Church of St. Casimir (currently 34 Didžioji st.).



VLADIMIRAS TARASOVAS (born 1947)

Jazz musician (drummer, percussionist), visual artist, theatre director, teacher. Winner of the Lithuanian National Prize for Culture and Arts (2017). Lives and works in Vilnius since 1968. Member of the GTC jazz trio (Vladaslavas Ganelinas, Vladimiras Tarasovas, Vladimiras Sekasinas) in 1971–1986. In 1991 founded the Lithuanian Art Orchestra. Writes music for orchestras, film and theatre scores, contemporary dance music. Has published over 100 solo and collaboration albums. Since 1991, creates visual and sound installations, performances, exhibitions, collaborations with other artists from different countries and fields (mostly with Russian fine artist Ilya Kabakov). His main focus is free jazz and improvisation. In 1997 he set up his only permanent sound installation in Lithuania, *Tinkerbells for St. Casimir*, in the towers of St. Casimir Church.

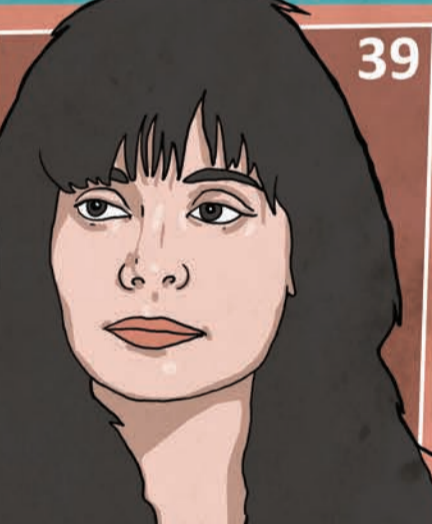


ST. TIKHON (VASILY BELLAVIN, 1865–1925)

Patriarch of Russian Orthodox Church, canonised in 1989. After graduation from the Pskov Theological Seminary and Saint Petersburg Theological Academy, he took monastic vows in 1891 and selected the name of Tikhon. Served as bishop in Poland, USA, Lithuania and Russia. In 1914–1915 was the Archbishop of Vilnius and Lithuanian Orthodox Church. Resided in the Orthodox Archdiocese Centre established adjacently to the St. Nikolaus Church (currently 36 Didžioji st.). Did apostolic work, held service in various Orthodox churches of Vilnius. Metropolitan of Moscow in 1916–1917. In 1917 was selected as the new Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. Objected to the anti-religious Bolshevik policies. Was imprisoned in 1922–1923, later sentenced to death but the sentence was not carried out. Removed from the Patriarch duties, he settled in the Donskoy Monastery in Moscow. He prevented the division of the Orthodox Church, advocated the apolitical Church.

MARIE TRINTIGNANT (1962–2003)

French actress. At the age of four, started acting in films by her mother, Nadine Trintignant. Starred in over 60 films, also worked in theatre. Five-time nominee for the César Award, the national film award of France. While working on a TV series *Colette* (dir. Nadine Trintignant) in Vilnius, in July 2003, Marie Trintignant stayed in the hotel on 39 Didžioji st. In the night of July 26–27, she was severely beaten by her boyfriend, lead singer of *Noir Désir*, Bertrand Cantat. The actress died from brain injury on August 1. She has since become a symbol for the struggle on violence against women.



About the project

The Lithuanian Art Museum's cycle of exhibitions *Streets of Vilnius* is dedicated to commemorate the 700th 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 old 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.

SECOND EXHIBITION: DIDŽIOJI STREET

Vilnius Picture Gallery, 4 Didžioji St, Vilnius
September 26, 2019–January 12, 2020

Exhibition team:

Margarita Matulytė – project leader and exhibition curator
Justina Augustytė – exhibition curator
Donatas Šnarskis – exhibition curator
Bartė Kuolytė – pop-up exhibition
Didžioji Street: Stories of the Street curator

Saulius Valius – exhibition architect
Juozapas Svelnys – graphic designer
Žilvinas Jagėla – artist
Marius Juškevičius – audio map and sound collage author
Tomas Kapočius – photographer
Julija Matulytė – video editor
Jurgis Atroskievičius – tour designer
Arnoldas Urbelis – web design
Jolanta Sereikaitė – educational programme

Monika Grigūnienė – editing
Laimonas Vaičiūs – translation

Department of Expositions and Exhibitions
Department of Publishing
Department of Public Relations
LM CID LIMIS

Organiser: Lithuanian Art Museum

Main partners:
National Museum of Lithuania
Vilnius Justinas Vieniūniskis Art School

Partners:
Vintage film festival *Pirmoji Banga*
Kretinga Museum
Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore
Lithuanian Central State Archives
Lithuanian Archives of Literature and Art
Museum of the History of Lithuanian Medicine and Pharmacy
Lithuanian Art Centre TARTLE
Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences
Lithuanian State Historical Archives
M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art
Rokiškis Regional Museum
SKALVIA Cinema Centre
Šiauliai AUSTRUS Museum
– International Consortium for Photographic Heritage
National Museum in Warsaw
Vytautas the Great War Museum
Vilnius University Library
Vilnius University Museum of Zoology
Samogitian Museum
Film studio KINEMA
Painter Algimantas Jonas Kuras

Project financed by
LITHUANIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURE

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