

4. THE BUILDING OF "ATEITING

The Lithuanian Catholic youth organis

AND EVENTS)

NKAI" (NOW KTU CENTRE

OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

"Ateitininkai" was founded before World War

I. One of the principles of the organisation -

sociality - was implemented through active

participation in the cultural, social and

religious life of the society, mutual aid and

education. It was to be embodied and

facilitated by the headquarters in Kaunas,

designed by Feliksas Vizbaras in 1926 and

soon renovated by A. Šalkauskis. The ground

floor of the building was occupied by the

"Ateitininkai" organisations and the editorial

offices of their press. On the other floors,

there were event halls, a hairdressing salon, a

reading room, a library, and a student dormi-

tory. The fellowship of female members

maintained a student canteen in the building

of "Ateitininkai". The Corporation "Grandis" of

male student technicians met regularly for

fraternal coffee drinks, which they called

During the interwar period, this café opened

in the 19th century, was particularly popular

among Kaunas intelligentsia, especially artists.

12:00-3:00 p.m. It is said that at noon, the

most loyal or faithful would begin to gather:

Liudas Gira, Levas Karsavinas, Petras

Vaičiūnas Faustas Kirša Juozas Vaičkus...

Journalists were also fond of this café and

were the first to pass on rumours, share news

and sensations. On the street, one could often

hear the dialogue: "Where shall we meet?" -

"At Konradas'." Renamed "Tulpė" during the

occupation and turned into a shop after the

restoration of independence, the café survived

for almost one and a half hundred years. The

name "Tulpė" is commemorated on the

pavement of Laisvės alėja.

latter usually gathered around

5. "KONRADAS" CAFÉ

"Grandkava".

1. THE HOUSE OF THE ENGINEER A. JOKIMAS

On 11 November 1922, the Lithuanian Student Nationalist Corporation "Neo-Lithuania" was founded, and a few years later, the idea of organising the youth of Lithuania into a broad national youth movement was discussed. 8 October 1927 is considered to be the beginning of the activities of "Jaunoji Lietuva". The youth organisation was established in a wooden house with baroque elements in Žaliakalnis owned by the engineer Antanas Jokimas. Benediktas Grėbliūnas-Grėbliauskas, the organisation's long-time chairman and future lawyer lived there. Since 1929 President A. Smetona was the head of the organisation, and the priest Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas, professor Izidorius Tamošaitis and Vydūnas were the honorary members. In 1940, the organisation united more than 30 thousand members.



As everybody has just learned, "Neo-Lithuania" was the first organisation at Vytautas Magnus University in the interwar period. Its members were encouraged to learn more about the traditions and cultural monuments of their country. For the newly initiated festivals, students created songs, oral heritage, organised lectures and events, during which famous public figures discussed topical issues and encouraged people not to forget their roots and traditions. In 1928, the Corporation's building designed by the architect Edmundas Alfonsas Frykas, was built and became the centre of its activities.

The Corporation's most significant annual event was its birthday, known as "Alutis". On the nearest Sunday before 11 November, a procession was organised to the Vytautas Church to hear the mass celebrated by J. Tumas-Vaižgantas. Finally, the traditional drink for the evening part of the celebration



(1885-1941), Lithuania's first Egyptologist, devoted her life to the study of the historical legacy of this exotic land. A graduate of the Higher Women's Courses in Kaunas (1908), she spent some time in Moscow, presumably after seeing the collection of Ancient Egypt in the Museum of Fine Arts, where she became fascinated and headed in this direction. Returning to Lithuania, she taught intermittently at the University from 1922 to 1939 and was an associate professor at the Faculty of Humanities. M. Rudzinskaitė-Arcimavičienė visited Egypt three times and conducted excavations in Giza. During these expeditions, she built up a collection, which she used as visual material in lectures. However, it was only after her death that her work and collection were adequately appreciated. Until the reconstruction, M. Rudzinskaitė-Arcimavičienė's collection could be seen at the M. Žilinskas Art Gallery.

CAUNAS STATE PUPPET

Although cinema itself was no longer a novelty to residents of Kaunas between the wars. however, until "Odeon", there was no particularly designed premise for a cinema. The building, designed by Jonas Salenekas, was completed at the end of 1925 and is classified as a historicist style with urban art deco elements. On the eve of the opening the inspectors found the space to be cosy, pleasant and adapted for the viewer. It was the most modern cinema in Lithuania. In 1926 the first and in 1936, the first 3D film in Lithuania were shown here - the company's "Metro Goldwyn Mayer" three-dimensional film "Audioscopiks". Even before the war, the "Odeon" was renamed "Glorija", while during the occupation it was called "Baltija" "Dion ierius". In 1960, the cinema became a puppet theatre which is still open today.

8 STATE THEATRE (NOW *(AUNAS STATE MUSICAL* THEATRE)

The theatre was built in the city garden, next to the new avenue that later became Laisvės alèia, back in the tsarist times in 1891. When Kaunas became the temporary capital of Lithuania, the Constituent Assembly of Lithuania began its work there. The building was renovated in the interwar period, and the first professional Lithuanian theatre opened here. It was, of course, popular, and ticket prices were not affordable for everyone. A juicy story: on 15 February 1929, Students' Day there was a march of students to the State Theatre, demanding cheaper tickets for students. The police dispersed the young people, and the organisers were punished at the University.



The "S.T.D." screening room of the Student Technical Society (it can be found in the courtyard behind the dumpling factory and the Kaunas Baptist Church of God's Grace) was opened in 1929 in the house of R. Skipičis It was clear from the beginning that the "S.T.D." would be a hall for film screenings and would not become a real cinema. The students' wishes were modest: a small room would be enough to show films, without the need for a ticket office or a space for the audience to gather before entering the cinema. The room was used as a canteen for 120 students during the day.



In the times of the Russian Empire, the building belonged to the Kaunas Fortress complex of buildings and housed the Board of Engineers. In 1925, the building was taken over by the Lithuanian state and used as the Building II of the University of Lithuania. Initially, it housed the Faculties of Medicine and Technology. A zootomic laboratory was located in the courtyard of the building. In 1932, the University handed over the buildings to the Ministry of the Interior, but the buildings were actually used for another seven years. The current generation of Kaunas residents knows the building as one of the KTU buildings, and a few years ago, it was acquired by the Kaunas Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts.

11. MAIN BUILDING OF THE JNIVERSITY / PROF. KAZIMIERAS VASILIAUSKA:

3-course meal for non-students for LTL 1.50." LABORATORY OF STRENGTH OF MATERIAL Gedimino g. 50

The building was intended as a state printing house. In 1923, the first international architec tural competition in independent Lithuania was announced for its construction. The German Henrik Fischer professionally designed a building to suit the functions of a printing house, giving it a modernised German sm exterior and a functional interior – the spaces could be easily changed in the future or whenever necessary. Their adaptation for the main building of Vytautas Magnus University was prepared by Vytautas Landsbergis-Žemkalnis, a young and promising architect who also studied at the University of Lithuania. The building housed the administration, the library, the T. Ivanauskas' Museum, the Faculties of Mathematics and Science, Humanities and Theology-Philosophy. Today, the building belonging to KTU preserves the laboratory of the strength of the material, which was founded in 1923 by Prof. Kazimieras Vasiliauskas. The unique, well-functioning laboratory instruments for of strength of the material are presented to the public.

12 VMU FACULTY OF MEDI-CINE / MUSEUM OF THE INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY (NOW MAIN BUILDING OF LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES) A. Mickevičiaus g. 9

The collection of the Anatomy Museum, which is still in operation today, is based on the museum specimens collected by Professor Jurgis Žilinskas and his associates between 1920 and 1940. The building of VMU Faculty of Medicine was built on the site of the first Anatomicum at the end of 1932, according to the project of architect V. Dubeneckis. The Anatomy Museum has been located in the same place since 1933 to the present day, on the third floor of the west flange. When stepping in, the spaces seen in the film "Nova Lituania" by Karolis Kaupinis can be recog-

13. RESIDENTIAL HOUSE

The archaeologist, Doctor of Philosophy professor at the University of California Marijo Alseikaitė-Gimbutienė (1921–1994), lived in this house from 1932 to 1940. In 1938, the young girl entered Vytautas Magnus University and started Baltic studies, during which she listened to lectures by Vincas Mykolaitis-Putinas, Balys Sruoga, and Vincas Krėvė, which she described as extremely important. M. Gimbutienė led research on archaeological monuments in various countries, collaborated in archaeological publications and encyclopaedias. She opened the way for archaeomy thology, a new branch of science that combined archaeology, linguistics, ethnology and religious studies. It challenged traditional archaeology, which was content with excavation and description of findings. In 1994, after moving to the USA, M. Gimbutienė became an honorary doctor of the restored VMU.

14. THE FIRST BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LITHU-

A. Mickevičiaus g. 37

The neoclassical architecture of the building dates back to the Dussian Empire but its interior is innovative, as it is the first time in Kaunas that reinforced concrete slabs were used. In 1919, the building was handed over to the Higher Courses, and in 1922 it was taken over by the University of Lithuania. This building was the main and only building of the University of Lithuania until 1927 (later renamed Building I). Antanas Smetona also worked as a lecturer at the Faculty of Humanities from 1923 to 1926, teaching ethics, Plato's philosophy, poetics, and the stylistics of the Lithuanian language. Today, the KTU Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities is located here.

15 CHAMBER OF AGRICUL-

K. Donelaičio g. 2

Cheap lunch is vital for students all over the world, not an exception for those entering higher education in the temporary capital From the advertisements in the press of the time, it can be understood that student canteens were very much needed. In 1931, in "Lietuvos žinios", a message of the following nature was found: "Every day, from 12 to 4 p.m., a nutritious and healthy lunch is served n the student canteen, which has a modern kitchen, of the student society for the support of the students at Lithuanian higher schools <...>Chamber of Agriculture, Duonelaičio 2." Students could have lunch cheaper than others: "Students could have a 2-course meal for LTL 1, a 3-course meal for LTL 1.20 and a

16 THE MONUMENT TO ALGID DAS JULIUS GREIMAS

Algirdas Julius Greimas (1917—1992) was a Lithuanian and French semiotician, linguist and mythologist. In 1934-1936, he studied law at Vytautas Magnus University and was a < member of the student corporation "Neo-Lithuania". Later, at the University of Grenoble, he studied linguistics, and in Paris, he estab-lished a school of semiotics, which is still highly regarded in the world today. It is also mportant that A. J. Greimas wrote for decades on various cultural and social issues for the Diaspora press, and after the restoration of the independence, he wrote for the Lithuanian press. He had a strong commitment not to refuse the Lithuanian editor of any Lithuanian paper that asked him to write

At the end of 2017, the monument to the semiotician designed by Stasys Žirgulis was opened next to the VMU building.



At the end of the 19th century, when a fortress surrounded Kaunas, this building became the residence of the head of its Board of Engineers. In 1919, it housed the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Lithuania, and in 1921-1940 it was the seat of the Cabinet of Ministers. The second floor was occupied by an official apartment, where the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stasys Lozoraitis, lived for several years. During the Soviet occupation, the building housed the Scientific and Technical Committee, and later one of the faculties of the then Kaunas Polytechnic Institute, as well as a trade and culinary school. Today, the building houses the Rector's Office of Vytautas Magnus University and the museum of diplomats S. and S. Lozorgičiai. In 2022, on the occasion of the centenary of the University of Lithuania, a long-term exhibition, "Vivat Universitas Vytauti Magni", was opened in the building. It tells the story of the life of the University from its foundation, its activities in exile in the post-war period until its restoration in 1989. and its work today. The interactive exhibition features symbols of the University, personal belongings of student societies and professors, the legacy of the science laboratories and

18. FORMER POLISH CREDIT **SOCIETY HOUSE**

The region on the right bank of the Nevėžis was called Liauda by local Poles. In the first half of the 20th century, it was still inhabited by the poor Polish nobility. Many Polish students studying at Vytautas Magnus University came from Liauda villages. The name of the VMU Polish Students' Corporation, founded on 3 May 1928, was "Lauda". The Corporation was housed in the new building of the Polish Small Credit Society, designed by Edmundas Frykas (the building has retained its banking function to this day). Meetings, training and lectures were held here, Polish festivals were celebrated, the corporation members attended mass together, and the Corporation ensured its members were not in academic debt at the University. When the war started, the students of the Corporation took in refugees from Poland, went to fight in Poland or joined the Lithuanian partisan movement.

19. UNIVERSITY BUILDING III NOT PRESERVED, NOW **BLC BUSINESS LEADERS** CENTRE) V. Putvinskio g. 53

As the University grew, new buildings were necessary, so in 1926 the Government of the Republic of Lithuania allowed it to take over a three-storey house from the Ministry of Finance in V. Putvinskio Street (at that time Kalny Street). It was an army armoury built in the second half of the 19th century - a warehouse for ammunition and clothing, which later housed the Chamber of Weights, Measures, Scales and Assay, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Taxation, etc. In 1929-1940, the building housed the National Audit Office.

20. "PIENOCENTRAS" BUILDING

The building, designed by V. Landsber gis-Žemkalnis, was built in just one year. In 1932, the upper floors housed the administration of the "Pienocentras" company, while the lower floors, in addition to a hairdresser's and a shop, were used as a milk bar, also liked by the young people studying in the area. After the Soviet occupation of the country, the building was adapted for academic purposes and handed over to the Agriculture Academy but after a while, the milk bar and the café were reopened to recall the symbolic value of the place. The residents of Kaunas have fond memories of the delicious muffins and curd snacks, milkshakes and cocoa they used to have here. One could even drink alcoholic milkshakes and milk liqueurs here. After the restoration of independence, the café was unable to survive. In 2009, the "Pieno baras" reopened in the same least" the café was forced to close again.





Leah Goldberg (1911-1970), a classic of Jewish literature, poet, playwright, Israeli public and cultural figure, grew up in Kaunas, where she attended the Svabe Hebrew Gymnasium and later the University of Lithuania. She settled in Palestine in 1935. L. Goldberg began creating in Palestine around the age of twelve. She wrote mainly in Hebrew and a little in Russian. Her work has been described as dramatic, somewhat melancholic, with a strong motif of unattainable, painful love. Some of the poems also reflect Kaunas. Many of her texts have been turned into songs, and the importance of her personality in Israel is evidenced by the fact that her portrait appears on the 100

In 2010, a memorial plaque created by Balys Gudas was opened on the former Švabė Gymnasium building (now the Kaunas Vocational Training Centre for Service Business Specialists), and a pine tree was planted. During the 2020 "Citytelling festival", the poet's poems were displayed on the wall of a building on Kęstučio Street – this street artwork on the spot where the Goldberg family lived was created by Linas Kaziulionis

CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (STUDENTS')

The church on its present site dates back to the 17th century as part of the Dominican monastery ensemble. In the second half of the 19th century, it was handed over to the Orthodox Church and served as a house of worship for the adjacent government boys gymnasium. When the church was returned to the Catholics in 1919, it temporarily became a garrison church of the Lithuanian army. The consecrated church was given the title of Blessed Sacrament and was used for the religious needs of students and teachers. During the occupation, the "Santaka" cinema was opened here. After the restoration of independence, the Jesuits set up a chapel for academic youth in the former cafeteria of the

23. BUILDING OF HIGHER COURSES (NOW MAIRONIS UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM)

When Lithuania regained its political independence on 16 February 1918, one of the most important priorities was to establish a Lithuanian university. The Minister of Education, Juozas Tübelis, did not approve the expensive Higher Education project, so to provide a legal basis for establishing a higher education institution and better organising public support, the intellectuals founded the Society of Higher Education. The ceremonial opening of the Higher Courses took place on 27 January 1920 in the hall of the Ministry of Education, now the Maironis Gymnasium. Interwar Lithuanian intellectuals gave lectures here. As donations supported the Courses, funds were scarce and almost all the lecturers had permanent jobs in other institutions and only taught the courses after work. These courses marked the beginning of the creation of the University: new departments were created, the scientific staff of the future University were mobilised, and the participants of the courses became university students. The University operated on the premises of these courses and used classrooms and laboratories.

24, THE FORMER KAUNAS CITY MUSEUM Rotušės a. 18 19

In the rapidly modernising temporary capital, the old symbols of the city slowly disappeared. In order to get the Kaunas municipality to remove the archaic horse-drawn tram konka – as soon as possible, on 15 February 1929, the students derailed one of the carriages. The last journey of the "konka" took place on 15 April 1929. After the ceremony, the "konka", numbered 5, was taken off the track and towed to the Kaunas City Museum. However, it did not become an exhibit - a couple of years later, "konka" was abandoned in the museum's yard, having become

25 PEOPLE'S HOUSE (NOT PRESERVED) A. Mapu ir Šv. Gertrūdos a. corner

On the corner of A. Mapy and Sv. Gertrudos g. The Student Ateitininkai Abstinent Corporation "Narsa" was founded at the University of Lithuania in 1925 and initially had its headquarters in the People's House. The first publication of "Narsa" was "The influence of alcohol on human temperature". The Corporation supported the idea of sobriety and sought to educate the public about alcohol consumption and its harm. Abstinents also published the magazine "Santūra" and organised abstinent conferences of the Baltics.

26 THE FLAT OF A. PETRAUSKAITĖ D. Poškos g. 20

In 1926, the first meeting of the Society "Šatrija" took place in the flat of the family of Alina Petrauskaitė (future Skrupskelienė). The Student Ateitininkai Art Society was formed by a group of art lovers. The society had its uniform, and every year on the last Sunday of May, a traditional festival was held at Barborlaukis Manor. I. Skrupskelis, J. Eretas, S. Šalkauskis, well-known and emerging writers, participated in its activities

BUILDING OF VMU INSTI-**FUTE OF PHYSICS AND** CHEMISTRY (NOT PRE-**SERVED) AND ACADEMIC** CAMPUS PROJECT (NOT **IMPLEMENTED)** S. Dariaus ir S. Girėno g. 48

There was a consideration to locate the institute

and even the entire university campus in Žaliakalnis, but the Vailokaičiai brothers, representatives of the interwar business elite, offered a land plot in Linksmadvaris. The international competition was won by foreigners, but with the change of location, decisions also shifted. Mykolas Songaila, a university professor and jury member, transformed the winning idea and tried to create a building that would be visible from almost the whole of Kaunas and become an architectural landmark on the left bank of the Nemunas. Unfortunately, the impressive building of the institute, which took an unusually long time to build between the wars, even seven years (the cost of the work was 2.5 million litas), did not live to see the present day - it was blown up at the end of the World War II, and time to build the campus did not come. During the "Citytelling festival" initiated by "Kaunas 2022", the building of the University was brought to life in 2021 using VR technologies with the help of the Faculty of Informatics of Kaunas University of Technology and the "Unique Heritage" initiative.

28 THE FUNICULAR

Kaunas residents have already used the cable car to Žaliakalnis, and the construction of a second one in the city was prompted by the construction of the building mentioned above of Physics and Chemistry Faculty in Aleksotas. Students and teachers needed easy access to it, and the funicular was also intended to encourage migration to much less populated Aleksotas district. The construction work was carried out by the Lithuanian company "Mūras" and the carriages were manufactured by "Amlit". At the opening of the funicular on 5 December 1935, the first passengers were the Minister of the Interior J. Caplikas, the Mayor of Kaunas A. Merkys, the Vice-Mayor S. Rusteika and other prominent persons. Today, the funicular is more of a fun attraction, but between the wars, it was a much-needed novelty, with 226 daily journeys.

29. YMU BOTANICAL GARDEN E. Žilibero g. 6

The Botanical Garden was established in 1923 at the Faculty of Mathematics and Science of Vytautas Magnus University. In just a few years, the garden, founded by Tadas Ivanauskas and the Swiss Constantin Regel, became a vital teaching facility and research centre for medical, pharmaceutical and biology students. In 1926, the Botanical Garden collections already contained 4.650 plant species!

The aim of the Botanical Garden was not only to provide conditions for scientific research but also to give the public and students the opportunity to get acquainted with interesting plants and to awaken their interest in botany. This is something that the institution is still perfectly capable of doing today. An interesting fact is that visits to the Botanical Garden were particularly frequent when the Selenicereus grandiflorus cactus - the Queen of the Night - was in bloom. People would rush out late at night to

30 HOMESTEAD "OBELYNE" AND MEMORIAL MUSEUM OF TADAS IVANAUSKAS Obelynės g. 2, Ringaudai, Kaunas

Naturalist Tadas Ivanauskas was known to almost all of Lithuania – from primary school children to the elderly peasant, who could always turn to the scientist for advice. In 1920, the professor bought 8 hectares of land near Ringaudai, where he built a dwelling house and other buildings, and established the "Obelyne" Botanical Park. Various shrubs and trees from foreign countries were planted here, gradually building up one of the country's richest dendrological collections. In 1933, he organised the first limited company for fur farming and established a farm in "Obelyne". The park has always been an open place for students, teachers and pupils to admire the views and learn. Today, the homestead is a branch of the Kaunas District Museum, following the principles and approach

31. THE DORMITORY OF ŽIBURĖLIS" SOCIETY (NOT PRESERVED) Savanorių pr. 75

A dormitory where many young literature and other students from various fields lived is described in the memoirs as a place of constant adventures and spontaneous pranks: "A fun, creative world. In the shared dining room, in the courtyard under the birch trees, and in the rooms where they lived huddled in groups of three or four, there were constant tongue-rivalries, concerts of balalaikas, battles of the world, and songs of suspicious respectability in the mornings." Here, as Julius Būtėnas wrote, in the company of young students, most of the time was devoted to entertainment, in which irony and parody played a significant role: staged "trials" and improvised literary evenings took

32 VMU KAUNAS CLINICS NOW LSMU HOSPITAL

The largest medical institution in Lithuania is the idea of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of VMU, Prof. Vladas Lašas and his colleagues. The aim was to establish a multi-profile medical institution that combines pedagogical and scientific work. Within two years, a complex with 663 beds, designed by Urbaine Cassano, a French architect who won an international competition, was built. The construction and equipping of the clinics cost 14 million litas, one of the largest constructions in interwar Lithuania, and the buildings of the complex were connected by underground corridors, which are still used today (although the network is more extensive now). The institution started functioning in 1940 and was "hidden" during World War II by "covering" the façade with camouflage colours. French architect who won an international

It is time to try on the shirt of an interwar student! It is 100 years since the University of Lithuania was founded in Kaunas. The seeds planted by the brightest minds caring about the country's future have ripped three modern higher education institutions, namely, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas University of Technology and Lithuanian University of Health Sciences. Not only in the centre of Kaunas but also on the outskirts of the city, there are many buildings, symbols, traces, and stories that mark the development of higher education. After all, Kaunas is still a city of students today! We invite you to walk together along the paths of the first students and teachers at the University of Lithuania and find out where and how the foundations of today's Lithuania were laid. We also promise some juicy stories – what is a student life without one or another adventure?

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6. THE BOOKSHOP OF "SPAUDOS FONDAS" 3. M. ŽILINSKAS ART GALLERY "Spaudos fondas" - a cooperative company for book publishing, production of scientific Rudzinskaitė-Arcimavičienė supplies, printing and trade, founded by the Lithuanian Teachers' Union and operated in 1921-1940. The organisation's activities began with publishing and trade - about 13 bookstores across Lithuania were opened. Later, a workshop for scientific suppliers was established, the company acquired printing machines and set up a workshop. The company published works of fiction (Maironis, Vaižgantas, Vincas Krėvė, etc.), textbooks, books on science popularisation, technical literature, and the Lithuanian Encyclopaedia, for which the articles were written by professors of the Vytautas Magnus University





