**Jindřich Čeladín**

The process of constituting national Lithuanian historiography in the 19th century

Until the 19th century, Lithuanian historiography was understood as provincial, the national identity

of Lithuanians had not been defined yet, and the formation of the modern Lithuanian nation had

practically not begun yet. Lithuanian national culture, influenced by the dominant Polish culture, had

to gradually develop in the 19th century. The first Lithuanian-written national history was written by

Simonas Daukantas. The main work “Būdas senovės lietuvių, kalnėnų ir žemaičių” was published

under a pseudonym in St. Petersburg only in 1845. Daukantas can be considered the founder of

modern Lithuanian historiography in the national sense. As Vilnius University was closed after the

defeat of the uprising in 1832, the center of higher education of Lithuanians moved to Russian

universities. One of this next generation of intellectuals was the main thinker of the Lithuanian

national revival, Jonas Basanavičius, who in 1883 became the founder of the first Lithuanian

enlightenment magazine Aušra. The debate on the meaning of Lithuanian history and its exclusion

from Polish historiography took place at the end of the 19th century more on a journalistic level.

In the proposed dissertation, I would try to determine the point where Lithuanian historiography has

a conceptual break with Polish historiography, which was already in a more advanced stage of

development. I would further develop the study of the process of its constitution in modern

Lithuanian historiography. For historians of the Romantic period who worked at the University of

Vilnius in the first half of the 19th century, I would try to find their conceptions of history in their

works. I will try to trace whether the concept of history in Simonas Daukantas was different from the

works of his colleagues writing in Polish or whether he was still keeping within the limits of the

interpretation of the history of his predecessors. In the second half of the 19th century, I will focus

on the interpretation of works of Lithuanian historiography, already written in Lithuanian, in which

we can more clearly observe a departure from the Polish view of common history. Above all, it is

necessary to study journalistic activity, which was especially crucial in the Lithuanian case for the

formation of the modern nation. In my dissertation I would like to find out when and how value

changes took place in Lithuanian historiography, which were set in motion during the 19th century,

and what was their mechanism. Why Lithuanian historiography was divided from Polish and what is

the proof on the Lithuanian side. If I find answers to these questions, I should come to an

explanation in my dissertation of how the gradual constitution of modern Lithuanian historiography

in the 19th century took place.