

International Conference, dedicated to Simonas Daukantas (1793–1864)

**WRITING HISTORY, WRITING LITERATURE:
THE INTERSECTIONS OF HISTORICAL AND LITERARY NARRATIVES**

Kaunas, 4–5 October 2018

The Department of Lithuanian Studies and The Department of History

Faculty of Humanities

Vytautas Magnus University



Charles Meynier *Apollo and the Muses* (1798), Cleveland Museum of Art

Conference abstract

Lithuanian historian Simonas Daukantas wrote the first book on the history of Lithuania in the Lithuanian language *The Deeds of the Ancient Lithuanians and Samogitians* (1822), which was full of literary elements. In the epoch of Romanticism national historiography was not limited just to the academic interest and logical reasoning; the awakening of patriotic feelings and the means of emotional impact became its important components. Thus, the historical imagination coincided with the literary.

The conference aims to discuss the methodological problems both of contemporary historiography and literary studies; the choice of forms of linguistic expression; the relationship between 'true history', looser writing and pseudo-history; the conception of historiography as an art. The specifics of the literary narrative and the power of imagination to enlighten the historical fact are considered. An important dimension of the conference is the concord of a historical fact and artistic fiction, the 'aestheticization' of history.

We invite historians, philosophers and literature scholars to participate in this conference and elaborate on the Aristotelian paradigm 'a poet or a historian' in the following **suggested directions**:

1. The change of conception of history in the first half of the nineteenth century.
2. The interdisciplinarity of contemporary historiography; its relationship with literary criticism.
3. Literature as the source of cultural history.
4. The truth of historical fact and literary notion.
5. A historical dimension of a literary text.
6. A literary dimension of a historical narrative.
7. History and literary history in educational processes.

We invite researchers to send their proposals (up to 500 words) in English **by May 14, 2018** to the following address: justina.petrulionyte@vdu.lt. We will inform about accepted proposals till May 21, 2018.

Participants will be given 20 minutes for their presentations. Conference languages: English, French, Lithuanian.

Organizing committee

Egidijus Aleksandravičius

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