



This, the 71st issue of *Deeds and Days*, is special. It marks a number of important anniversaries. A hundred years ago the city of Kaunas saw the start of the Program of Higher Studies that in 1922 evolved into the University of Lithuania which was renamed Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) in 1930, then closed after 20 years but re-established in 1989. Thus this year the university is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its second existence.

Thirty years is an age of maturity for both human beings and institutions; it deserves not only festive rhetoric but deeper reflections as well – for example, reflections about the general situation of higher education in Lithuania and the broader context in which VMU became what it is today.

This is what Antanas Kulakauskas aims to do in an article in which he, as an analyst of public policy, reviews not only the basic principles of scholarship and studies enshrined in the Lithuanian Constitution and their practical application but also the whole process of the formation and implementation of policy and its final result: the current state of our system of scholarship and studies. Against this background special relevance accrues to the philosophical deliberations and arguments of Kęstutis Skrupskelis on the value and importance of a higher education in the humanities for everyone's quality of life and the country's welfare.

The other two texts in the monographic part of this issue are on a different level. There are the warm personal recollections of Bronius Genzelis on his professional experiences at VMU and his philosophical reflections on a historical process. Then there is the collection of documents relating to the re-establishment of VMU and contemporary newspaper articles about it, all gathered by Kęstutis Raškauskas, introduced by him, and published here as a separate collection for the first time.

VMU is also the subject of the next section featuring as yet unpublished contributions. Here we find the recollections of Jurgis Gimbutas about VMU during the war years and about the difficult times leading to the university's closure. Nearly

40 years later the university was re-established; and from then on thirty years have passed, on which occasion the current rector Juozas Augutis delivered a commemorative speech to a festive meeting of the VMU Senate, a speech published here as a source for historical investigation.

The third section of unrelated papers is very diverse. It includes wide-ranging articles (with respect to their object) by Vuk Vukotić and Sigita Jakimovienė about language planning and criminal discourse as well as more concretely scandal as an instrument of political change and the influence of radio and television on the Lithuanian language. The latter are the topics of works by Austėja Masiokaitė-Liubiniene and Laima Nevinskaitė. There is symbolic significance in the fact that all of these authors are young scholars who as it were open the gates of *Deeds and Days* to the journal's eighth decade. We hope that you will find it valuable and interesting.

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