



VILNIAUS APSKRITIES  
ADOMO MICKEVIČIAUS  
VIEŠOJI BIBLIOTEKA

## LIBRARY GUIDE

This guide is intended for those having an interest in the Library and its building.

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# INTRODUCTION

Vilnius County Adomas Mickevičius Public Library was established in September 1950 and was known as Vilnius Regional Library. During the first year of establishment, it was housed in a small 20-square-meter room of the building at what is now known as Writers Street. The first attempts were made to establish the organizational structure of the Library, and in October of the same year, the first documents of the Library foundation were received. In the spring of 1951, the Library was moved to the Old Town of Vilnius and was housed in a building with a number 10 at Trakų Street. The Children's Section was moved to the part of the building at 12 Trakų Street that is currently owned by the Library only in 1975. For more than three decades, the building and the Library have been home to different institutions and residents.

The main U-shaped building has 3 floors with underground basements and attic. Entrance to the Library courtyard is from Trakų Street. The enclosed courtyard is surrounded by street and courtyard buildings adjacent to it. The surface area of the building is nearly 6000 square meters.

# TRAKŲ STREET

Trakų Street is one of the oldest streets in Vilnius, established in the 14th century, leading to Trakai Gate of Vilnius City Wall, which has never been renamed, although it has been sometimes referred to as Senators Street, because famous Lithuanian noble families, such as the Oginski, the Radziwill, the Tyszkiewicz, the Sulistrowsky, the Umiastovsky, the Karpiai and many others, lived or owned properties on that street. This street was one of the first to be paved with stones; already in the 16th century, wooden water pipes were laid down to supply water from Vingriai springs to the houses standing across that street. Franciscan monks who had settled here had a great influence on the development of the street. They once owned a large plot of land between Lyda, Kėdainių and Trakų streets. The monastery had its jurisdiction and was like a separate city within a city. In the middle of the 14th century, a small stone church was located at Trakų Street. The Franciscan Monastery had developed a reputation as a kind of intellectual centre, with a school, printing house, and Library, moreover, the monks even held and participated in debates, inviting the town-dwellers to join them. Besides, the Franciscan Monastery was the saviour of many buildings located on Trakų Street as when the owners could no longer maintain the building; it was purchased by the Franciscans. The street, like the whole city of Vilnius, was repeatedly devastated by 1655, 1748, and 1749 fatal fires. The buildings were rebuilt after the fires, however, their volume and appearance have been altered significantly including the ownership rights to these buildings that had been also changed. Not only the owners have changed, the street direction and even the house numbering have also been modified. These changes have taken place after the Second World War, where the former even numbers (1, 3, 5 ...) became odd numbers (2, 4, 6...) and the house numbering started from Pylimo Street. In the 19th century this residential quarter used to have many green spaces, however today the only green landscape remains in the territory of the Franciscan monastery on Trakų Street. The fires, the Second World War, and the subsequent wave of demolition drastically changed Trakų Street. There was a lack of mercy on some former great buildings, such as the building with a number 16 at Trakų Street – Former Karpiai Palace, that also belonged to the Tyszkiewicz family for a period of time in the 19th century, as well as the building designated by a number 13 on Trakų Street, which were either completely demolished (16 Trakų St.) or only the building facade on the side of the street have been restored (13 Trakų St.).

## HISTORY OF THE BUILDING (10 TRAKŲ STREET)

The building is within the territory of the Old Town of Vilnius, which is a historical core of the city.

This is the 394th domain at the 28th residential quarter of the Old Town.

The building or former buildings originally built in its current location was referred to for the first time in the 17th century. The buildings with numbers 10 and 12 on Trakų Street, where the Library is currently established, have a complex history. Owners and residents have been subject to frequent relocation and resettlement, and there's a chance that the records available could be inaccurate. Therefore, we will present only the well-known, source-based facts. A document dating back to the year 1609 that had been found in the Ogiński family archive confirms that the building was originally bought by the Gregorovitch, who owned a nearby holding. The list of Vilnius city houses and their owners who owned properties in 1636 shows that buildings (or portion thereof) located in the 394th domain were owned by four owners: Aleksander Masalski, the Castellan of Smolensk; Jan Alfons Lacki, the Castellan of Samogitia; Simonas Balandis, the Burgomaster of the City of Vilnius and Alexander Pashkevich (Paknys), the Burgomaster of the City of Vilnius. This particular house belonged to Cyprian Paul Brzostowski, the clerk of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, in the year 1661. The building was damaged by the fires that broke out in Vilnius in 1655 and 1748. The Franciscans have owned this building from time to time (evidence suggests that the building was owned by them in 1743 and 1763). Hieronymus Zenkovich, the General of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, purchased this building in 1779, and in the year 1790, this building was already referred to as the palace. It is likely that by the second half of the 18th century, the estate was set up – the building itself was reconstructed to the three-storey building and stables were built at the end of the yard. Hieronymus Zenkovich handed over the building to his brother Ignac Zenkovich, the member of Vilnius chapter, and, after his death, it was given over to Jan Zenkovich, the Colonel of the Polish Army (according to some sources, as well as to Peter Zenkovich).

## HISTORY OF THE BUILDING (10 TRAKŲ STREET)

The palace, which had 20 large and 12 small rooms, was rented out. Aleksander Michał Sapieha, the Chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and his wife, S. Griunvaldas, a glazier, F. Hama, a blacksmith, G. Krygeris, a woodworker, and J. Vegneris, a wheelwright are also known to have lived in the palace. In the first half of the 19th century, the building was acquired by a seignior Vilgocka and after her death even several relatives of her inherited it. The palace was purchased by Sofia Tyszkiewicz (Sofia Horvataitė). According to Julius Kanarskas, a researcher of the family history of the Tyszkiewicz, the building became the main residence of the newlyweds in Vilnius. The building belonged to the Tyszkiewicz family until it was sold to Vilnius Merchant Bank in 1923. During the reign of the Tyszkiewicz, the interior design of the palace, namely murals, mouldings, and furnaces, was completely produced and has remained much the same as its original state up to the present day.

The building was owned by the bank until 1940. Many different organizations and institutions were located within the building at that time. The building suffered no damage during the Second World War. Offices, art centres, Vilnius Children's Library No 10, the Second Public Library were established here after the war. Vilnius County Adomas Mickevičius Public Library was opened in May 1951. The event marked the beginning of a new stage – a long lasting friendship between the building and the Library began then. In fact, it has taken a long time for offices and residents to be evicted from the building, complete the refurbishment and draw up and develop building management plans. The central heating system was installed only in 1976, whereas the last residents moved out in August 1988.

## HISTORY OF THE BUILDING (10 TRAKŲ STREET)

The first plan for Library expansion was set out in 1971, which was later followed by the second and third plan, however, none of these plans has ever been materialized. Repair works that started in 1988 destroyed some of the valuable characteristic features of the building, so works were suspended and therefore a reconstruction of part of the building has already been completed according to the new plan. In 2003 the northern part of the building was rebuilt and adapted for the Library administrative staff (there used to be stabling and a carriage house far away in time). There was only a firewall left in the building. The building is included in the Register of Cultural Property of Lithuania as the Palace of Sofia and Joseph Tyszkiewicz. Until then, researchers in their written works used to call this building as Zienkowicz Palace (V. Drėma), Zienkowicz-Tyszkiewicz Palace (V. Čaplinskas), Bžostovskiai Palace when referring to this building. The reconstruction and restoration work that began in 2011 was completed only in the year 2019.

# HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY

Lithuania underwent administrative-territorial reorganization in 1950 and four regions were established then: Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai and Vilnius. Vilnius Region covered the eastern part of Lithuania. Four regional libraries were established in the same year. Their main tasks and responsibilities included accumulation of Library stocks, serving the population with literature and bibliographic information, participating in the development of the field, participating in scientific work, and developing Library science (propaganda and ideological aspects were self-evident at the time).

Leonas Vildžiūnas, the first director of the Library, is considered to be formally appointed to the position of director. Petras Ciunis (1898-1971), the first director of the Library, that had never been formally appointed, headed the Library from 1950 until 1964. Later the Library was headed by Algis Lingė, Vytautas Rimša, Liuda Pagirienė, Alvyda Skuodytė, and Petras Zurlys. Currently, the Library is managed by Emilija Banionytė.

It was difficult at the very beginning as there were hardly any professional librarians; at the very beginning, only Lija Kisina, a deputy director, had a librarian education, and the Library administrative staff not only had to arrange practical Library work all by itself but also had to conduct knowledge training for the field librarians. The students who had completed their studies in librarianship and bibliography at Vilnius School of Culture and Vilnius University came to work in the Library.

# HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY

The regions were abolished in 1953, and the Library was renamed to the Public Library of Vilnius City then, however its functions remained unchanged. Thereafter, the word “Public” has been removed.

On the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the death of the romantic poet Adam Mickiewicz, the Library was given the name of a poet. Since then, the Library has been engaged in Mickevičiana activities.

The Library has continuously been under construction; however, it used to be and remains a favourite place for Vilnius residents and students who came to this city to study. This was determined not only by its excellent location in the Old Town of Vilnius, but also by the efforts of the Library administration and staff to assemble volumes of relevant publications, also taking into account available Library stock and the opportunity to borrow necessary books for home use, as well as staff efforts to decorate the interior of the Library with works of art.

In the late 1980s, the Library emerged in a whirlwind of events. The Library art stock was completely flooded with water during firefighting in a neighbouring building in 1987; there was a great wave of protests with regards to the destruction of the Old Town when the project to rebuild the Library began in 1988, fortunately, the situation was rectified by replacing the author of the project and adjusting the project itself. At that time, the Library's stocks were also cleared out from Paneriai Chapel, where periodicals had been kept for more than ten years. Moreover, in the same year, the Library was likely to become a Library of Friendship of Peoples, which would mean that there might be left no space for books and other publications in Lithuanian language.

# HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY

Restoration of an Independent State of Lithuania in 1990 brought the winds of freedom to the libraries, changing attitudes towards the contents of the Library stocks and the mission of the Library itself. The Library started receiving the statutory printed copies, and many plans on beautiful and bright future were made, however the beginning of the USSR blockade halted the development of the whole economy of Lithuania, and consequently, the Library experienced it by itself shortly afterwards.

The Library was reorganized into the county Library in 1995.

Notwithstanding the fact that the name of the Library has been changed several times and regardless of its relationship of subordination, its main objectives are to contribute to the development of information and knowledge society, to foster democracy, freedom of thought, to accumulate, preserve and create opportunities to promote greater access to cultural heritage, to coordinate development of public and school libraries located within the defined territory (Vilnius and Alytus Districts). Through the decades, these objectives have remained unchanged.



## THE CELLARS

The cellars below the Library building, which were given a new life in the 21st century, dates back to the period approximately from 600 to 100 years ago. Walking through the cellars beneath Trakų Street we can reach the administration building located at the back of the Library. Cellars and their intended purpose, as well as appearance thereof, have changed over the centuries. The researchers found out that the oldest cultural layers in the cellars under the east wing of the Library reach back to the period between the end of the 14th century to the beginning of the 15th century. Archaeologists have discovered a circular pit, probably a household (garbage) pit, which confirms the fact that people used to live there. In the course of archaeological research, ceramic fragments (tile pieces, pot fragments, glass bottle fragments, trade seal, 16 cm diameter pot) have also been found. So the cellars of the building are a reminder of the Gothic Vilnius. The ruins of a Gothic-style house have been found and are exhibited in one of the cellars: their wall masonry dates back to the 15th century and the remaining niches indicate the location of wooden first-floor beams anchored in masonry structures. Later, the ceiling was demolished displaying the beauty of the dome dating back to the 16th century. The unique relic is a wooden staircase, now leading to nowhere, as it was used until the reconstruction of the building that took place at the end of the 18th century and later lost its purpose. The cellars of the building are interconnected by different centuries, as pilasters supporting the upper archway of the courtyard date back to the end of the 18th century, when the building was reconstructed into a palace. And nearby, there is water drainage pipe installed in the basement floor, which is exposed under the glass and predates the 18th century. In the same place, there is a historical legacy of the 20th century: a sewage pipe that dates back to the inter-war period and is still in good condition.



## INFORMATION

As you enter the main entrance of the Library from Trakų Street you will find yourself in the Library lobby. Library readers, excursion participants and Library event enthusiasts enter these premises and gather here in the first place. As you enter through the building, draw your attention to the floor and notice the well-preserved ornament dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. Coloured terrazzo tiles have been made in Vilnius. A concrete factory, owned by J. Kubickis and J. Michnevičius, was located in Naugardukas Street and was established in the house at number 21 (the building has not survived), where concrete and terrazzo products, such as stairs, windowsills, floors and even pavement tiles used to be produced. There are quite a few of these products installed in Vilnius houses, and the local production has proved to be durable and beautiful enough to adorn the palace entrance.

The Library lobby has a reception, where the readers can find out about the services provided by the Library, pay for them, and check if the desirable publications are in the Library stock. There are also book exchange shelves, and visitors may bring books that are no longer relevant to them, and in return pick up the ones brought by others. Information about Vilnius in Lithuanian and foreign languages is also available.

There are a cloakroom and self-service lockers; readers can return Library publications 24 hours a day by leaving them in the Library tambour situated at the Library entrance area.



## MAIN STAIRWELL

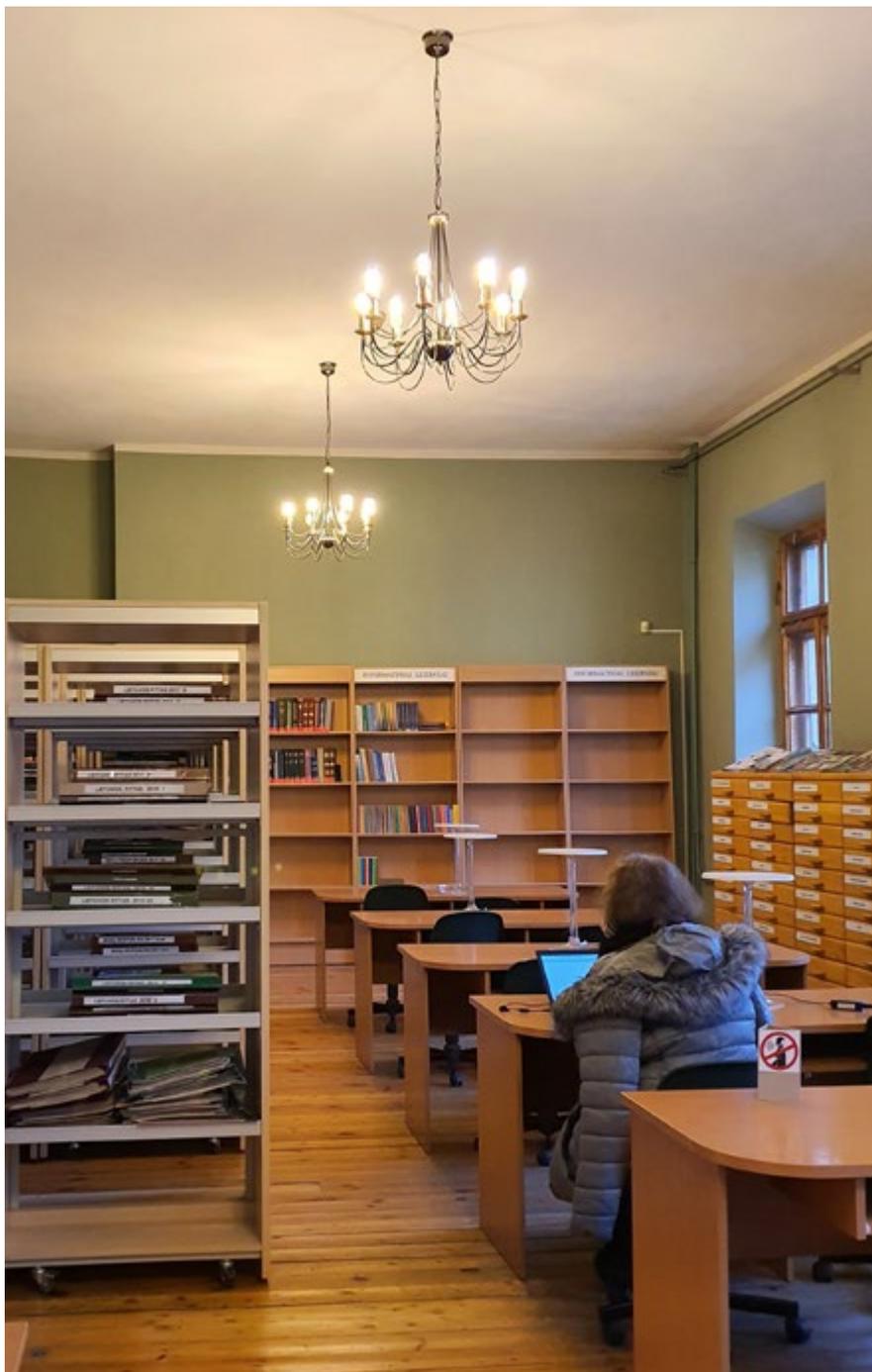
The lobby provides access to the stairwell, where in addition to a comfortable staircase decorated with terrazzo tiles, there is a long-awaited elevator. This is one of the success stories of the heritage building. This was possible only because the staircase was wide enough and part of the staircase could simply be relocated. Hands slide along the restored convenient handrails, and the stairs are decorated with restored metal openwork handrails with floral motifs. In the niche on the staircase wall, there is a sculpture “Adam Mickiewicz” that was created in 1987 by sculptor Romualdas Kvintas (1953-2018).



## SECOND FLOOR

### SHANGHAI COLLECTION

Shanghai collection is exhibited in the space that has not been renovated at the transitional hall. This collection is the result of the international collaboration between the Library and Shanghai City Library. The agreement between the libraries was signed in 2011, and the first gifts, i.e. books from China (about 400 publications) were brought in the autumn of that year. Since then, the Library complements this collection every year with publications donated by the Shanghai City Library. Publications are in Chinese, English and other foreign languages, range of topics covers all areas of human knowledge and fiction. The Library lends out most of the publications for home reading. Concerning the books held by the Library, some of the publications are marked with a red sticker meaning that they cannot be borrowed.



## PERIODICALS READING ROOM

Turning around the corner, you will reach a periodical reading room through an arched corridor. In the reading room, you may read newspapers and magazines (issued during the last three years) available in open stock, including daily newspapers of that day. Also, librarians bring books and other publications from the closed access Library stock to readers who have ordered it and would like to read it in the reading room. Here you can order older periodicals or rare old publications from the Library's Memory Collections (Mickevičiana, Regional Stock, The Library's Stock of Rare Publications and Old Periodicals Stock). The Library does not lend out these publications.



## EXHIBITIONS HALL

The room is decorated with elegant moulding, and the mural paintings of different periods are being exposed on window reveals.

Art exhibitions are held each month at the Exhibition Hall. From this hall, through the double-leaf wooden door decorated with floral decor, we enter the Great Hall.

## THE GREAT HALL

It is one of the most impressive rooms in the Library. This hall retained its interior design during the Second World War and the Soviet period. It is known that Vilnius State Library No 2 was housed here in 1940. Even the three sections of the Library were established in this hall in 1951. Library reading room was established here for a fairly long period. Today concerts, conferences and other events take place in this hall. The hall is regarded for its excellent acoustics and equipment perfectly adapted to different cultural events.

This hall preserves the Historicism style of ornamentation designed at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Both the walls and the crowns of the furnaces are decorated with plant and hunting motifs. The walls and ceilings are also decorated with artistic moulding. Restorers made sure that visitors could get the chance to see the restored and preserved style of mural painting reaching back the period between the 18th and 20th centuries. The polychrome used between the 18th and 19th centuries has been preserved in the window reveals; nearby the platform visitors can admire elements of a wall drawing dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. The triptych “History of Novgorod”, created specifically for this hall by Romas Dalinkevičius, was hung on both sides of the mirror and in one of the wall niches in the reading room in 1985.



## THE GREAT HALL

It took for a while this room to be turned into the hall: the former partitions divided the hall into two or three spaces (rooms), which is confirmed by the three extant furnaces in the hall. In the palace, where apartments of various sizes were rented out, the restructuring was most likely to take place after the year 1923, when the graph Tyszkiewicz sold the building to Vilnius Bank and various organizations began to settle down in the building. There were the apartments with adjoining rooms until that time. The mirror, which was an integral part of the hall, was broken at the very beginning of the reconstruction, so it was decided to replace it with a new one.



## INFORMATION SECTION

As you leave the hall and turn right, you'll find yourself in the Library's Information Section. One of the most beautiful furnaces in the Library may be viewed in this room. The white Historic-style furnace with rider and horses depicted on its crown and classic pilasters on its sides also catches the eye by an accessory of a completely different style – bust medallion in the Biedermeier style. It depicts a woman wearing a hat.

Visitors to this room have the opportunity to use free public Internet access, receive individual consultations with the librarian; there is a stock containing information and computer science journals, as well as publications introducing Lithuania, Vilnius, life in our country, language, culture, etc.

## REST ROOM

A small adjoining space with photocopier at which readers can make copies themselves from books and periodicals and where visitors may also take a look at exhibitions that are housed there; There are three doors here, one of which looks like a door to nowhere. Preserved polychrome fragments are also exhibited in this room. It includes fragments of three different periods; moreover, mouldings from a later period have been retained during the restoration. So, this single small room perfectly reflects how local taste preferences have been changing. The oldest layer depicts blue ribbons dating back to the 18th century, whereas the later layer is kind of pink colour, and the last one depicts a black frieze with brown grape leaves. The old furnace dating back to the end of the 19th century can be seen there.



## SECOND FLOOR HALL

Entering the second-floor hall, it might look like you've just entered a kingdom of lace. All ceilings and walls are decorated with white mouldings. They most likely appeared in this room at the beginning of the 20th century, when Joseph Tyszkiewicz initiated the repair of the building. When you look up at the ceiling, it becomes clear that the layout of the premises used to be different in the past because the polychrome ceiling is "separated" by the walls. The building has kept changing like a living organism. This room preserves mural fragments illustrating two stripes with sky-blue ribbons dating back to the 18th century and a fragment of a dado (lower part of the wall) painted during the first half of the 19th century. Oval decor elements with mirrors were usually used to visually enlarge the space and were quite popular in various palaces. During the reconstruction of the building, the white tile furnace (the early 20th century) was partially dismantled, replaced by inauthentic, damaged and defective tiles.



## HISTORY AND REGIONAL STUDIES SPACE

Turning from the lobby to the north side of the building, you enter the History and Regional Studies Space. It provides an open Library history stock where readers can borrow publications for home or read it in Library spaces. Items that cannot be lent out for home reading are marked with red stickers. There is also the Regional Stock at the innermost part of the room. This stock holds publications related to the preservation of the written regional heritage of Vilnius region (Vilnius and Alytus Districts) and its access to the public. Publications are not lent for home but can be read in the Library offering the convenience of reading anywhere within the premises of the Library. Part of this stock is stored in the Library repository and can be ordered and studied in the Periodicals Reading Room.

When you look up at the ceiling, you will notice a ceiling decorated in soft colours – it is a preserved polychrome on the ceiling. The furnace in this room now glows with white tiles, but the restorers found it painted in yellow oil paint; the furnace was dismantled and rebuilt, and the furnace wall on the other side was moved and installed here from the third floor. The room is decorated with a paper marbling decoration “A Piece of History with You” created by Aušra Lazauskienė. The seated figure of a pensive Christ created by folklore artist Vytautas Šibaila (1954-2016), who was a good friend of the Library, rests in a small niche here.



## RARE PUBLICATIONS READING ROOM

The reading room of rare publications stands out from all the rooms on the second floor with completely different décor colors. However, the dark colours of this room do not make a woeful impression and the room looks elegant. The hall is exceptional for its wonderful imitation of coffered ceilings. Fragments of mural painting dating back to the 19th century have been preserved on the wall and above the two-leaved doors decorated with flowers. Before the restoration, the ceiling was in a very bad condition and for a long time, it was supported by special supports to prevent it from collapsing. The painting “The Ride” painted by Albinas Petras Purlys is exhibited in the hall.

A part of the Library’s collection of rare publications is on display in the reading room. Visitors to the Library can get acquainted with signed books and the exposition of old periodicals. Publications, as well as other documents that are stored in the repository, can be read and studied at the Periodicals Reading Room on the second floor.



## SECOND STAIRCASE

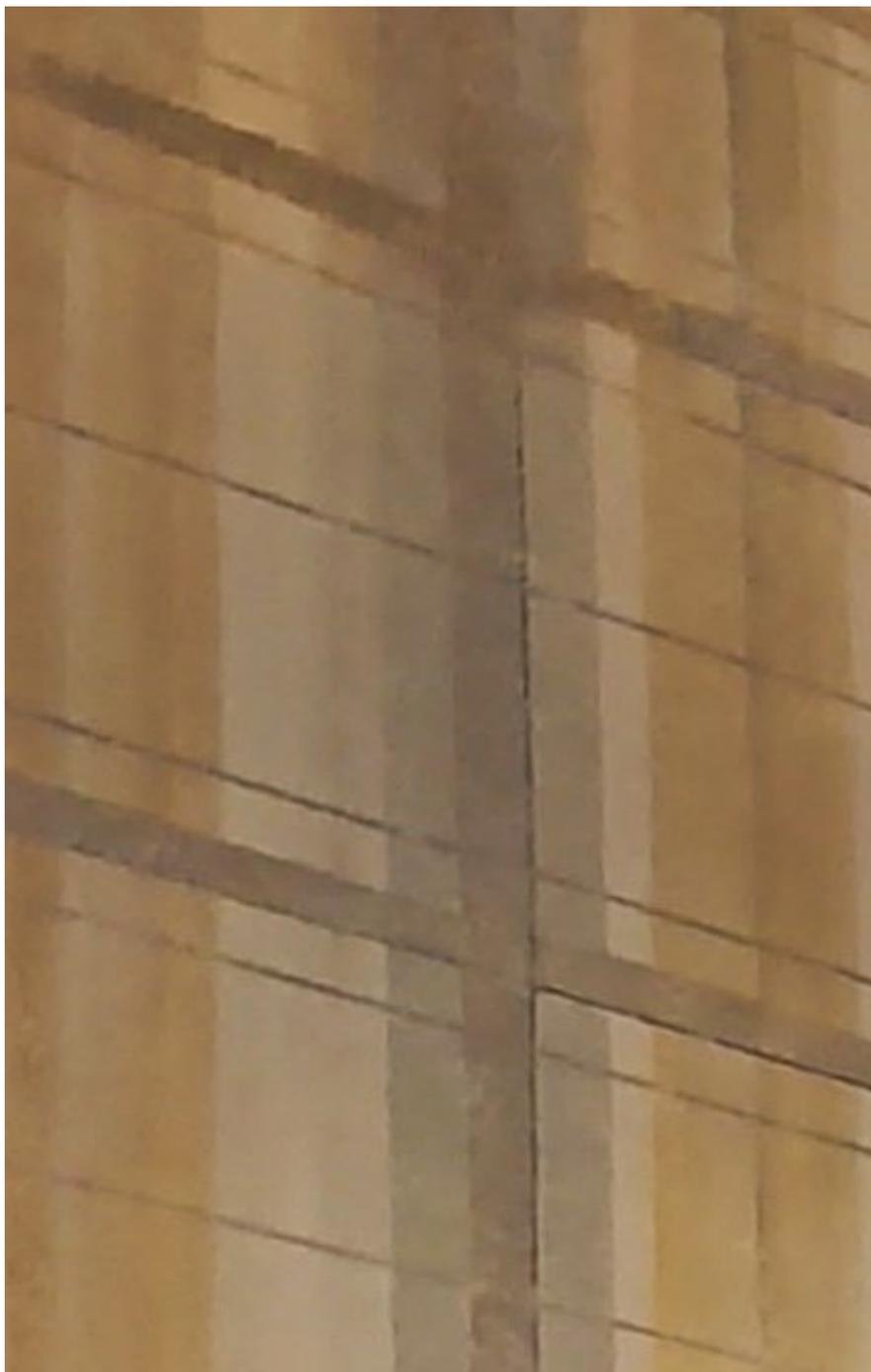
The palace building, as previously mentioned, is U-shaped. There were two staircases in the palace that used to be rented out. The first staircase was intended to be used for only the palace owners while the second staircase was for the residents who rented the apartments in the palace building. The second staircase is more ornate, with mouldings and mirror elements preserved there. If only the niches on the walls could talk, they would tell a different story of the building – obviously, the entrances to the apartments were in different places than they are now. Looking down at your feet, you'll see time-sculpted stairs, which take back to the history of over a century, and the extant elements remind us that carpets were once fitted there. When you look up at the ceiling you will see zenith skylights that bring natural light to the staircase.



## THIRD FLOOR LOBBY

The third floor of Sofia and Joseph Tyszkiewicz Representative Palace was added to the property in the 18th century and decorated only in the 19th century, this is why mural painting on this floor is considered to be less valuable, but it is much more preserved. When restoring mural paintings on this floor, efforts have been made to preserve and demonstrate the integrity of the interior décor. In the lobby, where the readers' lounge is established, the polychrome ceiling is preserved, with different examples of the moulding in the corner of the ceiling, further emphasizing the décor trends or taste of the owners of different periods. Two portraits of Adam Mickiewicz, created by Lithuanian classic painters Valentinas Antavičius and Vincas Kisarauskas, are exhibited in the hall.

This room hosts book exhibitions to reveal the wealth of the Library stock. Library stocks are kept on the third floor, from which readers can choose publications and read them either on the Library premises or borrow them for home reading. Items that cannot be lent are marked with red stickers.



### **ART STOCKS (HALL 3)**

Art publication stock is placed in 4 third floor halls, one of which is decorated with imitation checkered fabric. The Biedermeier, an influential German and Austrian style of interior design, was adopted in the territory of the Russian Empire in the 1910s. Biedermeier is characterized by wall decoration with imitation fabric (decorative boxes, squares). This style of decoration became popular by the middle class because such walls were matched with unsophisticated furniture. Unfortunately, but the mural painting is preserved on only one wall of the room, the authentic ceilings were destroyed during previous repairs or reconstruction. In this hall, the reader can choose from a wide selection of painting, graphics and photography books. Some publications are not lent for home (they are marked with a red sticker).

From this room, we can walk into another hall dedicated to art publications.



## **ART STOCKS (HALL 4)**

In this hall stands a furnace, which was moved here from another space (originally it was not built there as in Soviet times this furnace also used to “travel”). And its heating wall was moved to the History and Regional Studies Space established on the second floor. Several layers of oil paint had to be removed from the elements of the terracotta furnace crown details. A stamp found on the accessories of this gorgeous crown confirms that the furnace tiles were manufactured in Merein and Libo factory in Vilnius. The crown depicts two angels holding the coat of arms together with many bunches of grapes and shell motifs.

This hall houses a collection of music, theatre, film and choreography books and stock of other publications. Sheet music books can also be found in this part of the art stock. Some publications kept here are not lent for home reading (they are marked with a red sticker).

A few steps down and you find yourself at the Media Library space.



## **MEDIA LIBRARY**

The ceiling of this room is lowered, meaning it is a former space of the palace servants. From here, walking through the small door, narrow stairs, once used by those who served in the palace, leads down to the Library yard.

Media Library space allows Library visitors to listen to music and watch movies. All types of media (vinyl records, CD, DVD, video cassettes) are available here. Some of the records are also lent for home. Each time you use any of the items contained in this stock, you should remember the importance of copyright and related intellectual property rights, without infringing the copyright of the right holders.



## IMAGE ATTIC

You can sit both quietly in the attic, watch movies or listen to music, and come here with a group of friends (fifteen seats await you here). This place can be reserved in advance.

It is also a great place to enjoy the views of the Old Town of Vilnius. A courtyard belonging to the house on Trakų St. 12, and also the architecture of Vilnius Church of the Holy Spirit, Church of St. Johns and Gediminas Castle can be admired through the windows.



## ADAM MICKIEWICZ READING ROOM

This palace space underwent a major metamorphosis: at the end of the 20th century the room needed an emergency repair, the floor joists were bent, the parquet floorboards damaged, the furnace had cracks and frayed areas, and nobody even suspected of the existence of four arches as they had been walled up. Today the renovated room with the restored all-in-one interior of the 1930s creates a favourable and long-lasting impression. Soft pink coloured walls and the imitation of the checkered fabric match the cupids soaring in the four arches. There is a bouquet of roses adorned with a blue ribbon on the ceiling; A trim with lush green holly leaves and pink roses furl around the ceiling. Dalia Klajumienė, an interior design researcher, says that this is a typical Biedermeier style of interior decoration. The room creates a light, playful atmosphere of a room-garden. The restorers, restoring the drawings at the ceiling of the room, which had been preserved unequally, finished the destroyed portion of the ceiling with lighter stroke colour. There is a nice brown glazed tile furnace in the very corner of the hall. Its tiles were made in a factory in Pruszkow (Poland, near Warsaw).

The sculpture “Muse” (Marilla) created by Romualdas Kvintas is also exhibited in the reading room.

The Mickevičiana collection is displayed on specially adapted furniture. Library meticulously accumulates and preserves collection that is continuously complimented with Adam Mickiewicz works and publications about the life of the poet, his environment and his works of creation. You can study these publications, as well as those stored in the repository, at the Periodicals Reading Room established on the second floor.



## AUSTRIAN AND SWISS LITERATURE READING ROOM

This hall was one of the first to be restored (about the year 2000), however after the last restoration it slightly brightened up, the walls became yellow (which were previously ... grey). A green glazed tile furnace looks spectacular there. From the corners of the hall ceiling, four different angels with the gryphons whose tails are grape leaves look at the visitors. The ceiling medallion is decorated with unusual decor elements, i.e., gryphons that are displayed on it, look different with gorgeous and fluffy tails. The 3rd floor polychrome dates back to the 19th century; Restorers uncovered fragments of a wall with a decorative element of the ceiling frieze that dates back to a period when it was still the two-floor building.

Austrian and Swiss Literature Reading Room has been established in this space since 1994 and is a perfect example illustrating the Library's ongoing successful international collaboration. There is the only collection of Austrian publications in German language in Lithuania, which was complemented by the collection of Swiss publications in German, Italian and French languages in the year of 2000, moreover, the collection of the Principality of Liechtenstein with books about the history, politics, economics, culture and customs of that country were added to the collection in 2004. The publications are arranged in a systematic alphabetical order, most of them may be lent for home reading by the Library.



## FICTION HALLS

Visitors can find fiction books in two halls located on the third floor of the Library. One of the halls is impressive in size with a polychrome decorated in green and grey. The hall is decorated in the Classic style: the ceiling frieze is adorned with ornaments of teeth, pearls and acanthus in the grisaille style, making it look like a 3D style effect. The fragments of earlier paintings have been uncovered both on the eastern and the western walls of the hall. Openwork ventilation grille has also been preserved. The hooks in the ceiling medallions indicate the exact locations where the chandeliers hung.

In this hall, you can choose from a wide range of English, American, French, German, Spanish and Portuguese, Slavic fiction in Lithuanian and foreign languages. All works of literature may be lent for home reading.

The second hall of works of fiction is different in size and décor style as compared to the larger one. The 3rd-floor layout plans indicate that there are no fragments of ceiling or wall paintings left in this hall, they were found and uncovered later and fascinate visitors with its strangeness today. There is a round medallion framed with a rhombus in the centre of the ceiling, and the pattern around the ceiling resembles a stencil painting. An older brown painting can be seen nearby the ceiling medallion.

Readers will find Lithuanian, Polish and Belorussian fiction, as well as speculative fiction, crime fiction and travel books in this hall. All works of literature may be lent for home reading.



## ART STOCKS (HALL 2)

There are several entrances to this hall: visitors may either enter it from the 3rd-floor lobby or the Austrian and Swiss Literature Reading Room or the first Art Stocks Hall. Thus, there are three entrance doors, a white tile furnace in the corner, and a restored painting imitating moulding painted in grisaille technique on the ceiling. During the reconstruction, the furnace located in this hall was dismantled, the tiles were cleaned, and non-original tiles, which had been installed in the Soviet era, were removed, and furnace doors were replaced. Furnace tiles were produced by Merein and Libo factory in Vilnius. Crown of the furnace is in Neo-Rococo style. Art publications in the field of fine and applied arts, helpful drawing books for learning how to draw, books on handicraft techniques can be found in this hall. Some publications kept here are not lent for home (they are marked with a red sticker).



## **ART STOCKS (HALL 1)**

Art publications, displayed in the adjoining area of the Library, surround a historicist-style white tile furnace adorned with a terracotta decorative crown. The crown depicts the typical elements of the historicist style: coats of arms and crowns. This is the only room on the third floor where no traces of polychrome have survived. This is surprising because half of a vivid drawing can be seen on the ceiling of the adjacent room.

Art publications displayed in this hall provide readers with an opportunity to get acquainted with art theory and history, design, architecture and urban development. Some publications kept here are not lent for home reading (they are marked with a red sticker).

## **OPEN STOCKS**

This area is like a navigation centre in the Library. In this hall visitors of the Library can find out where to look for publications, how the Library stocks are arranged, pick up reserved and ordered books, and get acquainted with the latest news, and popular publications. There are several self-service machines and computers where readers can access and search the Library catalogue.

The hall is decorated with a ceiling painting, which is divided into two parts, and a painting “Hourglass” painted by the artist Raimonda Bateikaitė.



## NONFICTION LITERATURE

On the third floor of the premises, that have not been renovated yet, (reconstruction of this part of the building took place during the period from 1989 to 1991) some of the Library's open stocks, i.e. non-fiction literature may be found. The materials of this open stock are available to readers, including books and other publications arranged and grouped into three sections depending on the field of study: social and humanitarian sciences (philosophy, psychology, theology, sociology, politics, economics, law, pedagogy, ethnography, philology); natural and life sciences (natural sciences, medicine and geography) and engineering and technological sciences (engineering). Books and other publications on history, regional studies and computer science can be found on the second floor of the Library. The Library lends out most of the publications. Books and other items marked with a red sticker are not lent out and must be read only at the Library itself.



## **CHILDREN LIBRARY SECTION**

This is the part of the Library that serves children. The Children Library Section occupies 10 rooms of various sizes, three of which are in the building numbered 12 on Trakü Street. Following the reconstruction, the Children Library Section was opened to readers at the beginning of the year 2014. The premises where the Children Library Section is located perfectly illustrates of how complicated it is to adapt a heritage building for Library use. Walking around the Children Library Section you will be surprised with many discoveries.

## **ROOM “UNDER THE DOME”**

It is the only room in the Children Library Section that is decorated in polychrome. The room is covered by domes that were decorated already in the 19th century. During the restoration of this room, it was found that all parts of the ground floor under the windows were reset, which confirms the prediction that on the first floor there used to be commercial premises that could be accessed directly from Trakü Street. Various components and parts of the staircase leading to the basement were found in this room; these stairs dates back to the 20th century, the interwar period.

Chamber music events, educational activities, exhibitions of publications are held here today; children gather here to play electronic games.

## STRANGE PLACE



It refers to a corridor in the Children Library Section. Some call it the shortest street in Vilnius, while others call it the passage between two buildings. There are two signs on the walls of the corridor. On the right side – 12 Trakų St., whereas on the left – 10 Trakų St. This is probably because the owner of both buildings was Sofia Tyszkiewicz. It was probably the most convenient way to move from one building to another, without worrying about getting the feet wet. A decorative panel, which is an impressive example of Soviet decorative art, created by Audronė Skarbaliiūtė-Glinskienė can be seen in this corridor.

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