

SUMMARY

About Paragaii manor owner and painter Nikodemas Erazmas Ivanauskas

/PAPILE II, III

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The paper deals with the life and creative heritage of Paragaii landowner Nikodemas Erazmas Ivanauskas, who was also a professional painter little known in the Lithuanian history. The activities and creation of other painters of that period were covered by many investigations; hence, they were more or less familiar. While those painters who lived in their manors in the province received significantly less attention.

Ivanauskas formed himself as an artist under the influence of the art academies of St. Petersburg and Munich. The character of the painter's creation should be linked with the Realism tendencies in painting and emotional attitude of neo-romanticists towards the world. During his early creative stage Ivanauskas constantly took part in the cultural and exhibition activities both in Russia and Poland. Since the 1880s he painted and copied pictures of religious content for Žemaitija (Samogitian) churches. He led a rather secluded way of life in the manor of Paragaii, accumulating all his energy for creation. His art heritage enriches the ranks and art context of Lithuanian painters at the end of the 19th c. and the first half of the 20th c.

The personality of Ivanauskas reflects how, in a time, the belonging to an upper social class endues it with a new quality based upon the arguments of cultural level, education and talent at the turn of the 20th c. Although the society growing more democratic was changing the accustomed way of life and views, the dominating stereotypes and standards formed during centuries were changing very slowly. He strove to preserve and keep the manor inherited from his parents, but this caused his certain seclusion because of the then stiff province environment at the turn of the 20th c. The life of this artist and landowner allows feeling some duality between historical reality and illusions or, more exactly, the collision between idealism and reality.