

SUMMARY

Kernavė in the 13th–14th c. (people's every day life and occupations)

/MUSNINKAI. KERNAVĖ. ČIOBIŠKIS

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The research data of Kernavė archaeological monuments' complex present a lot of information about East Lithuania's inhabitants' material and spiritual culture, about ethno-cultural changes that took place in this region since the Stone Age till the Middle Ages. In the 13th–14th c. Kernavė was one of the most important Lithuania's administrative-political defensive and economical centers. It was the town, whose main population part's livelihood source became not agriculture and close to it farming branches, but trades, commerce and, most probably, waging war.

Three main functional zones have been established in the Middle Ages town of Kernavė: administrative-defensive (the mounds, except the Pilis (Castle) Hill), living-defensive (the mound of The Pilis (Castle) Hill) and the living one (the town in the valley of Pajauta and the part of the town north from the mound of Lizdeika Hill). The mound of the Hill was the principal castle of Kernavė and the Ruler's residence, in which a great part of luxury witnessing things was accumulated.

The inhabitants of Kernavė specialized in different trades, they had mastered various production technologies while agriculture, cattle-breeding, hunting and fishing were auxiliary occupations for the most part of the population. Merchants used to come here from foreign countries while the merchants from Kernavė also took part in the regional commerce and trade activities.

The everyday life features of the 13th–14th c. Kernavė were similar in many attitudes to the daily life of East Lithuania's country population of later periods. The cultural orientation of Kernavė town population was directed towards that of Eastern Slavonic towns. The analysis of Kernavė–Kriveikiškiai cemetery shrouds witnesses it. The results of anthropological research don't confirm the supposition that a greater part of Middle Ages Kernavė people were made up of the comers from the Kernavė lands. The similarities of material culture were influenced first of all by the political and ethno cultural contacts of ethnic Lithuanian lands population with the Slavonic lands population that were in the composition of the Lithuanian State.

In the 14th cent. Kernavė was burnt twice during the hostile war marches (1365 and 1390). The archaeological research data fixed in the written sources confirm these historical facts. The fire of 1390 stopped the development of Kernavė.

The investigations in Kernavė are continued. Their data will assist to answer many still unsolved problems and they will allow knowing better the past of the Lithuanian nation and one of its least known pages—its everyday life.