

SUMMARY

The individual experience of ethnic-cultural identity in the narration: Pranas Virakas about the environs of Seredžius (the end of the 19th cent.–the 6th decade of the 20th cent.)

/SEREDŽIUS

By Irena Regina Merkienė

Lithuanian History Institute

In a local community constantly obliged by economic and religion relations there exist intravertic not so easily disclosed for an outsider's glance ethnic, group and individual inner experiences having developed besides easily noticeable in the history course outer cultural heritage. P. Virakas' reminiscences of Seredžius' environs and other ethnographic notes are valued as an ethnographic source. The period and separate everyday life fields are disclosed in a complex way in his reminiscences, the conception of the narration is oriented into the far future when a new generation will miss the accurate knowledge about the life of a concrete period. The holistic life perception forced the narration author to look for artistic expression means and the work subject structure items in the previous literature and fiction of memoirs character having narration features.

The action in the narration supported by reminiscences was developing in a distant past and the artistic wit was limited by catchwords and beautifully interweaved sequence of events trying not to violate individually perceived truth. It arises as an imperative of the whole work limiting any deviation from its artistic opinion. An individual truth in the junction of two world outlooks in the Soviet Lithuania brought to the conflict between the author's life experience and the conjuncture ideology representing the institutional obligations. The consequence was a narration of a differently thinking man ideologically unacceptable and isolated from the society for which it was assigned.