

SUMMARY

Cultural landscape development in Laukuva environs /LAUKUVA I

By Filomena Kavoliutė

Vilnius University

The environs of Laukuva have been inhabited since the beginning of our era. Such attachment to a constant settlement, probably, has been predetermined by the infertile hard culturized acid soils.

Up to the very beginning of the 20th c. gentry villages had survived in the environs of Laukuva. Most of them had been established in the highest places of Laukuva ridge where lighter soils are spread. Besides, these were large 60–70 ha farms, so called *užusieniai* (beyond borders). The status of an individual farm-stead showed not only different property situation of its owners, but also personal liberties in the former serfdom society.

The environs of Laukuva–Padievytis as an old cultural landscape region distinguished themselves in the first half of the 20th c. by small wood areas and small arable land plots that made up hardly 25–50% of rural land area and intensively exploited small peat-bogs. Meadows and pastures predominated here.

During the land-reclamation carried out in the Soviet period in the second half of the 20th c. the environs of Laukuva lost a significant part of its historically conditioned agricultural landscape and also a part of its historical memory associated with it.