

## **Modernization of the Dining Rooms in Lithuanian Manors from the Mid-1700s to Early 1900s**

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### **Annotation**

There are no studies on the historical development of manor houses' interiors from the mid-1700s to early 1900s in Lithuanian art history that delve into the interior in terms of function, planned structure and form. The focus most often is on researching general features of manor architecture (building volumes, style development, estates' spatial structure). Because of this, this doctoral thesis analyses the issue of manor interior modernization in a narrower perspective, concentrating on one space in manor houses of highest-level nobility: the dining room. The dissertation aims to reconstruct the structure and image of the dining space in the context of manors' modernization processes from the mid-1700s to the early 1900s. The work investigates the causes of the emergence, prevalence and change of the dining room, the development of planning, form, structure, equipment and decor during that period. Object research complements the historiography of the development of the Lithuanian nobility's culture. The methods of monads and clues and the social history of art were chosen to approach this micro-historical research, using historiographical and factual research methods and comparative analysis. The newly found data and the insights based on it provide a broader view of manor houses' planning and decoration phenomena and aspects of the nobility's lifestyle, cultural and social contacts. From the perspective of regional art and architecture history, the thesis is significant in that it covers the manors of the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania in Lithuania, Belarus and Poland, and ties them into an aggregate of common cultural tradition. In the Lithuanian art history framework, the research is important because it rethinks the processes of manor modernization in the context of Lithuanian historical and social development and broader European modernization processes. It also analyses their social, political, cultural settings and how the everyday home environment, in this case – the dining room, responded to them. This study is expected to be used as a practical aid for manor managers and heritage experts.