

Department of
Cultural Heritage
of Lithuania

Archaeology and the history of resistance in Lithuania in the 19th and 20th centuries: searching for the benefit

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1863–1864 (January) Uprising against the Russian Empire

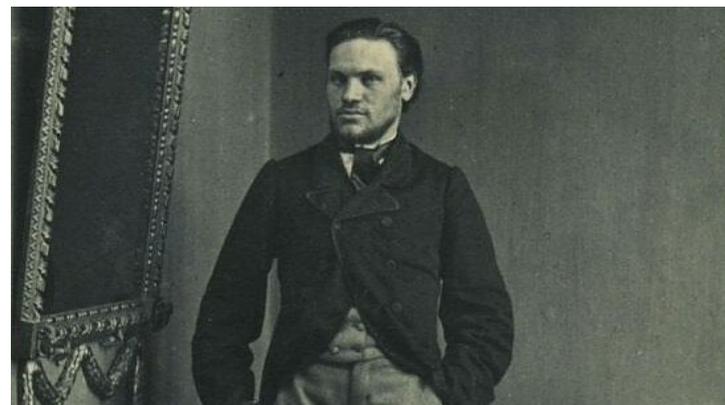


1863–1864 Uprising, drawing by Artur Grottger

In the territory of the former Commonwealth of Two Nations, a large-scale insurrection against the oppression of the Russian Empire took place in 1863–1864. Multi-national and multi-cultural society of various social classes and ranks joined the struggle for freedom, equality and independence. The imperial administration responded with harsh repressions, imprisoning the participants of the uprising and sentencing them to death or deportation to Siberia. Twenty-one rebels were publicly executed by hanging or shooting in Lukiškių Square in Vilnius in 1863–1864.



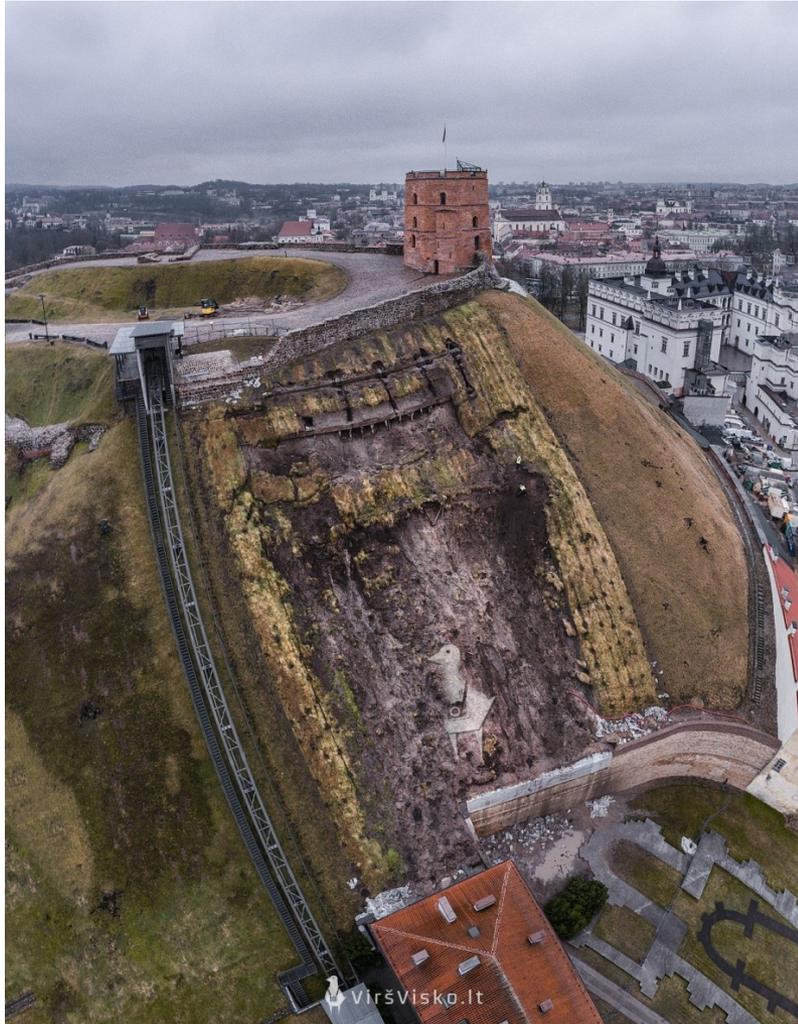
Zygmunt Sierakowski, or Zigimantas Sierakauskas



Konstantinas Kalinauskas, or Konstanty Kalinowski,
one of the leaders of the 1863 uprising



Gediminas's Castle Hill slopes (2016, 2017)



Place where twenty remains were found



The archaeologists of the National Museum of Lithuania discovered the remains of twenty participants of the Uprising of 1863–1864 on Gediminas Hill



Photo by K. Stoškus (LRT.lt)



Photo by V. Balkūnas (15min.lt)

Only the burial of Rev. Stanislovas Išora hasn't been found yet.



Photo by V. Balkūnas (15min.lt)



Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas, one of the most prominent fighter and symbol of the Lithuanian Anti-Soviet Resistance (1944–1953)





Abandoned so called 'Orphan Cemetery' in Vilnius



Photo by V. Balkūnas (15min.lt)



Photo by archeologist Gintautas Vėlius



Newly published books about the Uprising against the Russian Empire in 1863–1864

1863–1864 metų
sukilėlių kelias į mirtį
ir atgimimą



Perlaužto kryžiaus KODAS

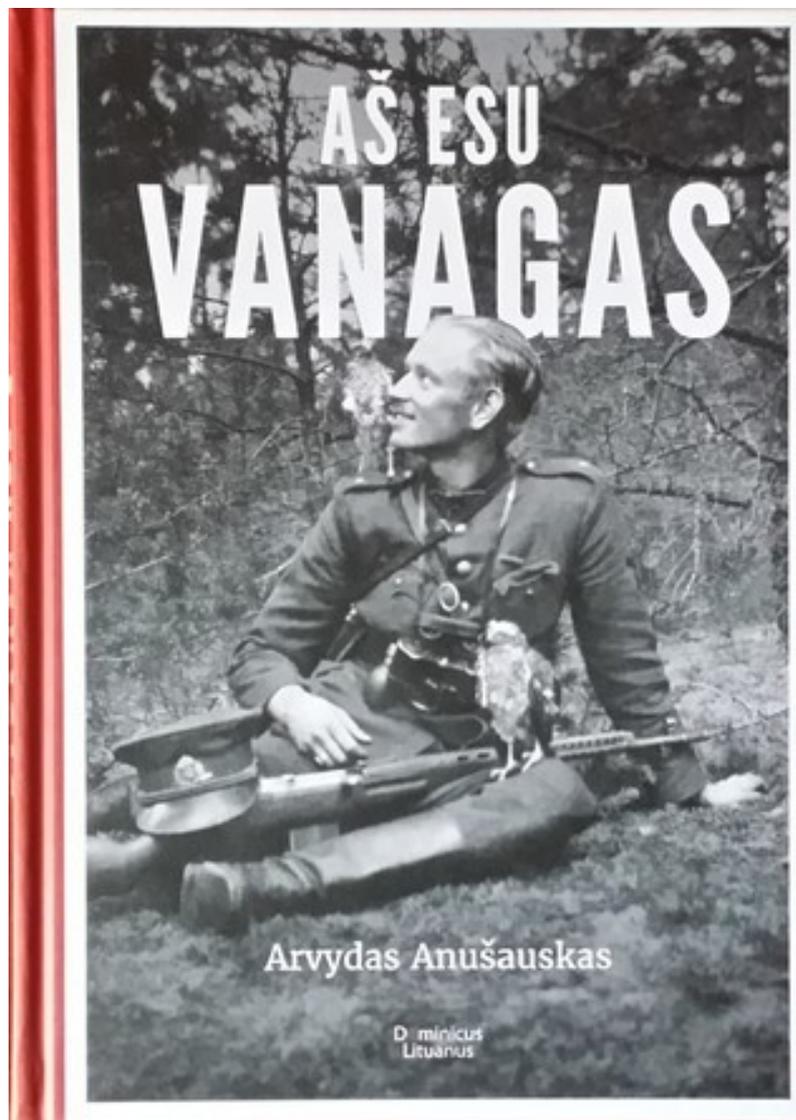
Lietuviški 1862 metų plakatai

Parengė
Aldona Prašmantaitė





Newly published book about Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas





Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas' reburial in Vilnius



Photo by J. Kalinskas (15min.lt)



Photo by M. Ambrasas (Irytas.lt)



Adolfas Ramanauskas-Vanagas' reburial in Vilnius (Antakalnis cemetery)



Photos by Ž. Gedvila (15min.lt)



Reburial of 1863 Uprising leaders: pivotal moment in relations of Lithuania, Poland and Belarus



Photos by V. Kopūstas & L. Balandis (15min.lt)



Reburial of 1863 Uprising leaders: political aspect



Photo by V. Kopūstas (15min.lt)



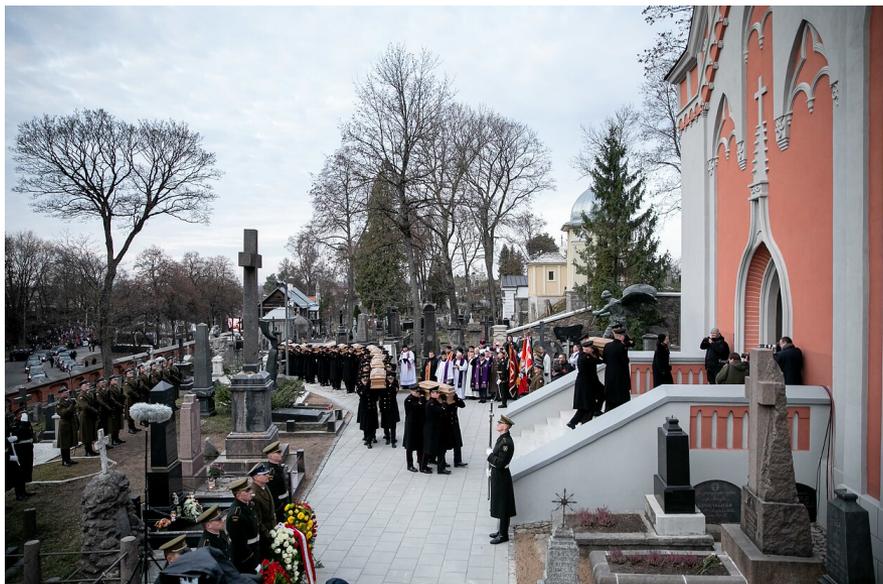
Photo by A. Ufartas (Delfi.lt)



LRT.lt



Reburial of 1863 Uprising leaders: Rasos cemetery



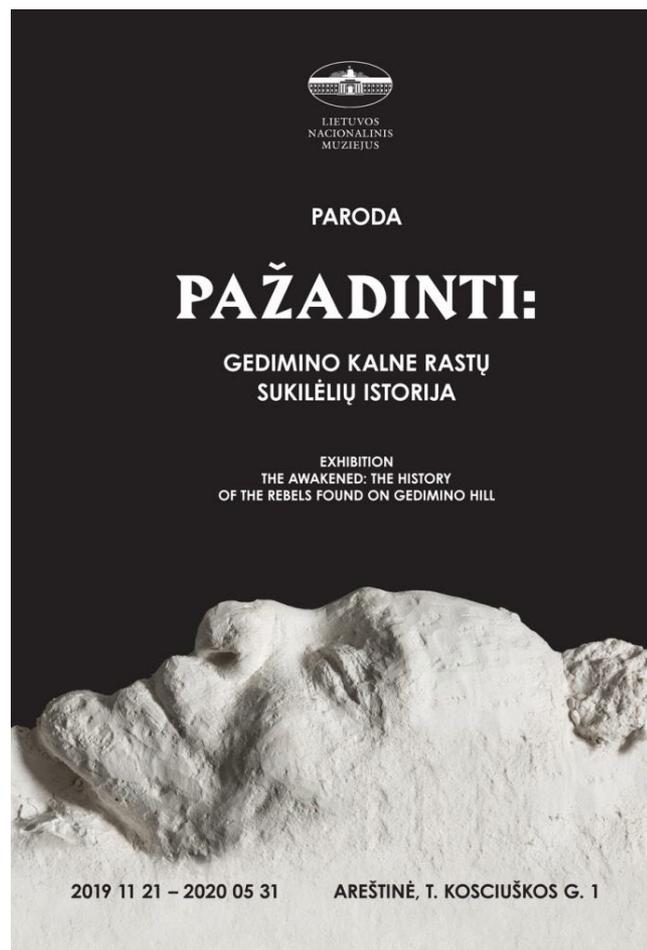
Photos by D. Umbrasas (LRT.lt)



The exhibition dedicated to the discovery of the remains of the participants of the Uprising (called *The Awakened: the History of the Rebels Found on Gediminas Hill*)



Sculpture 'Rebels' (by Konstantinas Bogdanas) model near exhibition place



The exhibition poster



The Awakened: the History of the Rebels Found on Gediminas Hill





Final Thoughts

- Discoveries of these two burial raised its interest not only in the related historical events but also in the archaeological science itself;
- It looks like the public became more interested in the 19th century history due to this episode;
- The recent Lithuanian cases have shown that archaeologists elevated the value and importance of the very science of archaeology in the eyes of the public are embarking on its formation;
- Archaeology proved to be able to push forwards the boundaries of the historical narrative.