

## Preface

Starting from this volume, the serial has undergone some changes. First of all, it will have a new editorial board. With a view to ensuring solid scientific content, as of this year the editorial board includes international members. Noted experts from abroad in the field of information and communication science, book science and the history of language and culture have kindly agreed to join the editorial team alongside their Lithuanian colleagues. From now on, the members of editorial board of the biennial serial *The Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences* (*Lietuvos mokslų akademijos Vrublėnkių biblioteka*) are (in the alphabetical order): Prof. Dr Habil. Zenona Atkočiūnienė (Vilnius University); Prof. Dr Habil. Grasilda Blažienė (The Institute of Lithuanian Language); Dr Rima Cicėnienė (The Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences); Dr Reda Griškaitė (The Institute of Lithuanian History); Prof. Dr Galina Kovalchuk (The Vernadsky National Scientific Library of Ukraine); Dr Tomasz Makowski (The National Library of Poland), Dr Giedrė Miknienė (The Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences), Prof. Assoc. Dr Sigitas Narbutas (The Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences) and Dr Aleksandr Susha (The National Library of Belarus). The Executive Editor is Dr Daiva Narbutienė (The Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences).

Another token of renewal is the unified appearance of the texts. Based on the experience of preparing the previous volumes and of the bibliometric indicators used for the evaluation of publications registered in the international database “Lituanistika”, the serial now has a new system of presenting the structure of scientific text, references, footnotes and cited literature.

The two years that are the subject of most publications in the serial mark a crucial period in the history of the Library. In 2009 the Ministry of Science and Education issued an official letter asking the Commission for the Improvement of State Administration (the Sunset Commission) to evaluate options for the optimization of this Library along with several other libraries of state significance. Owing to subsequent upheaval in the press and strong protest voiced by the Library’s readers both from Lithuania and abroad, the idea was for a while dropped. The majority of articles on the matter in the press were collected and later published in the publication *The libraries of state significance in Lithuania* (*Valstybinės reikšmės bibliotekos Lietuvoje* 2010). This volume contains texts which were either not included in the publication above, such as the *Žinių radijas* interview, or were specially written about the events and personalities of those years (the memoirs about the period by the former director of the Library, Dr. Juozas Marcinkevičius).

Similar to the previous volumes of the serial, this one accords most attention to studies of the most significant pieces of written heritage kept in WLLAS (articles by Rima Cicėnienė, Edita Keršulytė, Aida Grybienė, Justina Kučinskaitė and scientific articles of other authors). Algirdas Brukštus and Birutė Railienė present and discuss a masterpiece of the Lithuanian history of science, a lecture by Vilnius University professor Andrius Sniadeckis, in which the latter overviews and evaluates the development of chemistry from the oldest times to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The manuscript of the lecture is kept in WLLAS; it has been translated into Lithuanian and prepared for publication by Irena Katilienė.

This volume includes a short overview of the activities of the Library for 2009–2010 prepared by Leokadija Kairelienė. It also contains pieces on Lithuanian people of note, including those staff of the Library without whose hard work and dedication this institution of memory would not have become that which it now is.

We express our thanks to the reviewers, Assoc. Prof. Dr Alma Braziūnienė and Assoc. Prof. Dr Edmundas Rimša, who gave this publication their utmost attention and provided valuable advice, as well to many other colleagues due to whose efforts this volume became more substantial and presentable.

*The Editorial Board*