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**The architecture in pictures and in graphic arts of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania
(current Lithuania, Belarussia and eastern part of Ukraine)**

The subject

My name is Katarzyna Węglińska. I am writing my dissertation in the History of Art field in Polish Academy of Science under the direction of Professor Andrzej J. Baranowski. My subject is: *The architecture in pictures and in graphic arts of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.*

The methodology applied

I use the materials included in Lithuanian, Belarussian, Ukrainian and Russian libraries and archives. I have checked Polish archives and libraries as well. I did a lot of my researches in situ, of course. I think it is a base of such studies for art historians. I compare thousands of pictures from the archives from different epochs. I read many reports and memories I speak Russian, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Belarussian as well as English, French, Latin which I use in my scientific work.

The issues

I examine the state of conservation of monuments nowadays. It is important to state to what extent the material things that survived are not only Polish but our common cultural heritage, for the whole Europe. In my researches I include examining of the heritage of art and culture of minorities like the Jews, Karaites, Tatars, people of different religions and languages. We all Europeans share this heritage which enriches us. I try to join the photos – contemporary and there ones from the archives with the literary texts, with the articles and press releases from the past – the text and the picture. Literature and art related to these areas is little known in Europe. And sometimes literature is intertwined with the history of art, which gives a new dimension to the art and is equally fascinating. It shows the space more fully. I deal with these areas for many years, from the history of art without missing a documentary film, not only in the form of documents, archives, but also literary stories about it. I wanted to refer to his myth and reality, looking through the prism of its art.

The aim

I would like to point out an important and little-known centers of art and culture: Polish, Lithuanian, Belarussian Jewish community in the region, present known only to few: the legacy of painters, as well as the architectural heritage and its present state of preservation. I have been doing researches in these areas for many years. I witnessed the destruction of the achievements of many generations living in these areas. It is worth to restore the memory of at least some of the places and people working in that area. The names of the painters: I. Lewitan, C. Soutine, J. Lipchitz, writers R. Gary, T. Venclova, palaces: Nieśwież, Mir, Podhorce or Vilnius, old forgotten and still existing cemeteries are just a few examples of cultural heritage in the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania. This theme has devoted little attention so far. And last but not least I look for the answer the question, it is this art on a local level or broad appeal? My aim is not only to examine the subject very deeply but also I want to share my results with others. In my opinion this cultural heritage is important for new generation who often forget about their past, about the history so much important for Europe generally, not only for Eastern one and for common future. I feel the strong need to have a lively exchange on this issues and methodological problems of art historical area studies in the region of Eastern Europe across different epochs with other participants. I want to exchange ideas and experiences.