

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY
KLAIPĖDA UNIVERSITY
SOCIETY OF THE LITHUANIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

International Scientific Conference

**HILLFORTS.
FROM EMERGENCE TO THE PRESENT DAY**

Vilnius, Klaipėda
19th–21st of October, 2017

Hillforts are prominent landmarks in the modern landscape spreading widely throughout many European regions. During the prehistoric and early historical times hillforts had various functions: they served as the defensive, residential, administrative/political, production, trading and religious centres. The emergence of hillforts indicates significant changes within past Societies, thus making hillforts an invaluable source of information, an important window to a better understanding of our past.

Archaeological investigations of hillforts started at the beginning of the 19th century and continue until the present day. However, many hillfort related scientific issues, have not been solved yet. These are questions relating to the emergence of hillforts, the subsequent development and the end of their use as fortified settlements. Further considerations relate to the issue of protection and access for the general public.

By stressing the importance of hillforts and acknowledging them as being a testimony of national identity, Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania has declared 2017 as the *Year of Hillforts*. This initiative is sincerely supported by the Department of Archaeology of Vilnius University and the Institute of Baltic Region History and Archaeology of Klaipėda University. For this occasion, the 9th International Scientific Conference ‘in honor of Prof. Jonas Puzinas’ will be held on the 19th-21st of October 2017 in Vilnius and Klaipėda Universities. This conference is also dedicated to the 60th anniversary of prof. Albinas Kuncevičius in appreciation of his contributions to hillfort studies, and especially to his work on Dubingiai and Senieji Trakai hillforts.

Venue for the Conference: Vilnius University & Klaipėda University.

Conference dates: 19th–21st of October, 2017

Conference languages: Lithuanian and English.

Conference fee: 50 €.

Publication of Conference: The Conference proceedings will be published in the peer-reviewed publication in 2018.

Other information:

Please submit the preliminary title of Your paper by 5th March, 2017, to
e-mail: algimantas.merkevicius@if.vu.lt

Additional information about the Conference will be presented in 3th of April, 2017.

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Conference Organising Committee:

Eugenijus Jovaiša (Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania).

Valter Lang (Department of Archaeology, University of Tartu).

Algimantas Merkevičius (Department of Archaeology, Vilnius University; The Chair of the Organising Committee).

Andrejs Vasks (Institute of Latvian History, University of Latvia).

Gintautas Zabiela (Institute of Baltic Region History and Archaeology, Klaipėda University).

Agnė Žilinskaitė (Society of the Lithuanian Archaeology).

Vladas Žulkus (Institute of Baltic Region History and Archaeology, Klaipėda University).

Organising Institutions:



On behalf of the Organising Committee,

Assoc. Prof. PhD Algimantas Merkevičius