

Dr. J.Kazickas Residence on Šv.Jono 13a in Vilnius

Reception hall on the ground floor
(design by I.Bėčienė)

Dr. J.Kazickas' apartments
on the first floor
(design by I.Bėčienė)

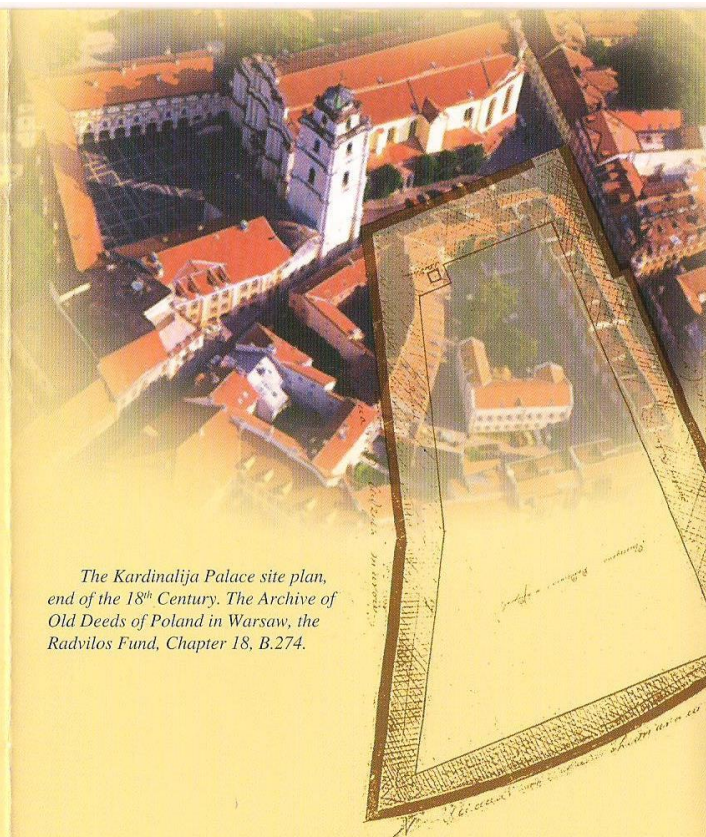
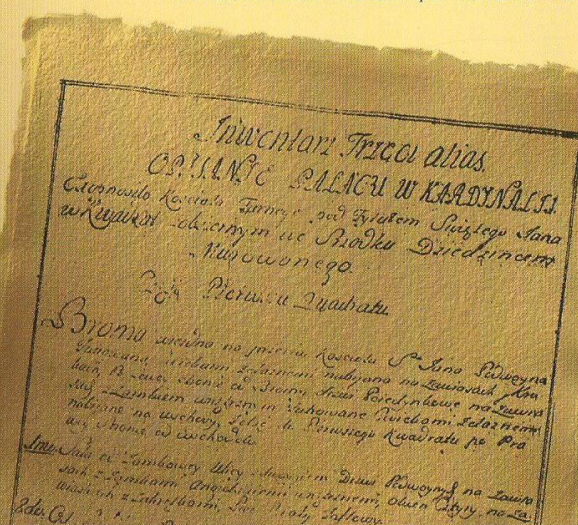


The building now marked as Šv.Jono 13a is located in the very heart of our Capital – the Old Town, near the magnificent St. John's Church, in the vicinity of Great Dukes of Lithuania's castles and impressive architectural ensembles – the University of Vilnius, the House of Independence Reconstitution Signatories, and the palaces of the Chodkevičiai and the Pacai. The building is standing in the courtyard of the ruins of the aristocrat Radvilos Palace on a slight increase, surrounded from three sides by new constructions, built on the foundations of the demolished Palace.

The Western side of the building on Šv.Jono 13 was part of the Radvilos Palace, also known as the *Kardinalija*. However, the building is not a peer to the oldest buildings around, as it was constructed at the start of the 20th Century as a post and telegraph department facility.

Over several hundred years, the Radvilos Palace and the surrounding area were closely related to the image and the life of Vilnius and the entire country as well. This is a place where the most prominent members of the Radvilos family lived and worked for over 200 years. Later on it was occupied by one of the most important institutions for interpersonal communication – a post and telegraph and telephone station. Only the west wing and the courtyard building of the Radvilos Palace stood to see the present day, the latter being customised in 1999-2001 to become the place of residence for Dr. J.Kazickas.

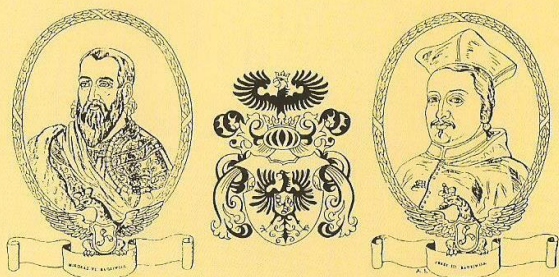
Excerpt from the 17th Century inventory lists of the *Kardinalija*. The Archive of Old Deeds of Poland in Warsaw, the Radvilos Fund, Chapter 18, B.275, 1662.



The *Kardinalija* Palace site plan, end of the 18th Century. The Archive of Old Deeds of Poland in Warsaw, the Radvilos Fund, Chapter 18, B.274.

The Ancient History of the Building and its Surrounding Area. Researchers into the pro-history of the Vilnius City think that the place on Šv.Jono 13 and 13a where the buildings are now located was very important and even had a certain impact on the development of the Vilnius City. Back in the 13th to 14th Century, it was part of the City's oldest marketplace. When the St. John's Church was constructed, the area covering the City's old marketplace was gradually developed. Construction of the nearby Pilies and Didžioji streets was forced by branches of trading routes that led to the Vilnius castles from Medininkai and Rūdininkai.

The existing corner lot at the intersection of Šv.Jono and Pilies streets in the 16th Century nested several wooden-stucco buildings owned by the Kiev Bishop J.Filipovski and the house of the Vilnius Voivode, the Chancellor of the Lithuanian Great Duchy Albertas Goštautas and his wife Sofija Vereiskytė Goštautienė. After the death of Albertas Goštautas in 1529, the house came into possession of his son, the Trakai Voivode Stanislovas Goštautas.



*Mikalojus Radvila the Black (1515-1565)
The Radvilos crest The Trumpets
Cardinal Jurgis Radvila (1556-1600)*

The Radvilos Era. After Bishop J.Filipovski died, the house was taken over by the Vilnius Capitula. Around 1541, it was rented by the Vilnius Marshall Mikalojus Radvila the Black, who was one of the major political players of the time.

In 1562, the building and the adjacent house of the Goštautai was turned by M.Radvila the Black into the first Protestant centre in Vilnius and in Lithuania, complete with a school supported by M.Radvila, a library, and a preaching facility for Calvinists who came from Europe.

When Mikalojus Radvila the Black died on May 28, 1565, his property was divided among his sons Mikalojus Kristupas, Albertas, Stanislovas and Jurgis (1556-1600). When the youngest of the brothers Jurgis became the Vilnius Bishop in 1579, and the first Cardinal of Lithuania in 1583, the eldest brother declined his ownership of the building on Šv.Jono Street for the benefit of Cardinal Jurgis under the deed of apportionment as of 1586. Later on, the Cardinal inherited the nearby Goštautai place. The buildings were connected, forming the spacious courtyard of the colossal Radvilos lot. A Catholic chapel was erected, accompanied by the Cardinal's residence and apartments for the servants and the suite. The Palace was soon accepted under the name of the *Kardinalija* (the Cardinal's Residence). The name held until the World War 2.

In 2001, the research into the history of the building and the surrounding lot examined the 17th – 18th Century inventory lists of the *Kardinalija*, which were kept in the Archive of Ancient Deeds in Poland and had been little known to the science before. The inventory lists revealed that although starting from the 17th Century the Radvilos would stay there but only on a few occasions, the Palace was nonetheless one of the grandest and most amazing residences in Vilnius.

When the last owner of the Palace, Stefanija Radvilaitė-

Vitgenstein died in 1849, the *Kardinalija* came into possession of the Russian State Treasury, and later sold to the post department of the Province of Vilnius.

The Russian and Polish Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Department Era (1849-1939): In 1851, a post and telegraph office was set up at the Palace. In 1908 to 1911, during the construction of a two-storey telephone station building, the old Radvilos stables were demolished. Architectural analysis of the building's cellar showed that several fragments of its foundation were used in the new solid arched foundation of the building. The construction was carried out under the project by engineer V.Shpakovski. On the ground floor of the building, the Vilnius Technical Bureau established a stationary power station. The house also nested a workshop, a newspaper distribution expedition and a post office mailroom. In front of the building, a small garden with a parterre and a few trees was set up.

In 1920, the post and telegraph office at the intersection of Pilies and Šv.Jono streets was turned over to Poland. In 1925, the courtyard building was essentially reconstructed under the project of said engineer V.Shpakovski. The reconstruction embraced set up of a state-of-the-art underground junction of the secret international communication cable St.Petersburg-Warsaw-Paris that covered a significant part of the courtyard area. The cable itself had been laid during the times of the Tsar Russia. A telephone commuter in the building operated during the years of the German occupation and long after the war had ended.

The Post-war and Soviet Era. During the war, the old *Kardinalija* was partially ruined and stood unattended until the year of 1959 or so. Around 1965-1970, during the years of cold war escalation, the underground vault equipped by the Poles was transformed into an extra security telephone station and a complex telecommunication junction designed for nuclear war and monitored by the KGB. After the KGB moved out, the building was occupied by the Lithuanian Communications Development Office, which, inter alia, monitored the secret international cable and the underground vault with the telephone station. Upon re-institution of the Independence, these facilities that used to bear enormous military and political importance for the Soviets, lost their former value and were disassembled. The building's new occupant was *Lietuvos Ryšiai* (*Lithuanian Communications*), a branch of *Lietuvos Telekomas* AB that inhabited the place until the year of 1995. The same year the building was made private property and reconstruction and redevelopment was started and then however put on hold.

Dr. Juozas Kazickas' Residence. The situation changed when Dr. J.Kazickas bought the building in the mid-1999. The renovation, restoration, construction and interior installation works that were commenced the same year were conducted by 30 construction and design and research companies. Their performance was strictly monitored by construction engineer Antanas Bardauskas. The technical blueprint for the building on Šv.Jono 13a was drawn by company *Numas*, architect V.Nasvytis being the supervisor of the architectural aspect, professor V.Ražaitis – the constructor, and R.Gaškienė – the architect of the blueprint. Dr. J.Kazickas, who then resided in the USA, assigned supervision over this complicated project to his relative – Rolandas Auksakis.



The refurbishment crew at the turn of the Century

As an active member of Lithuania's social life and being aware of the vast heritage of the 19th Century Lithuanian estates and residence places, Dr. J.Kazickas decided to furnish his Vilnius residence in the spirit of the Lithuanian aristocrat palace that is so peculiar of this Old Town site. Such a decision emerged both out of respect to the unique architectural heritage of Lithuanian estates and cities, and conversations with R.Budrys, Director of the Lithuanian State Museum of Fine Arts, and experts of Lithuania's cultural heritage. The internal decoration blueprint for the building on Šv.Jono 13a was ordered at the Monument Restoration Institute with architect Idalija Bėčienė, who designed the interior of the President's Office, the Vilnius Teachers' Palace (Vilniaus 35 – currently a bank), the Šešuolėliai Palace, etc. When drawing the interior design blueprint, the architect observed the analogue interior designs of residences and estates of Lithuanian towns and cities that were distinctive of the time the house was built, and the eclectic style of decor of that time.

The premises were decorated by a well-known American decorator of residential houses Claudia Riuger, who brought furniture acquired in Western European and American antiques shops. The courtyard was designed by daughter to the famous emigration architect J.Arbas Rasa Arbas from California, who is renowned for her designs of original luxurious gardens in undersized spaces.

Historian Sigita Gasparavičienė

