

Choir Conductor Associate Professor
Rolandas Aidukas,
Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre

The Book “Greimas Close and Far” by K. R. Kašponis

Prof. Dr. Karolis Rimtautas Kašponis' book “Greimas Close and Far” („Greimas arti ir toli“) is a significant work about the childhood of one of the founders of semiotics, linguist, researcher of Lithuanian mythology Algirdas Julius Greimas (1917-1992). The book, written in English and Lithuanian and abundant with illustrations, is based on the exposition “The Childhood of Algirdas Greimas“. The book is reviewed by Kaunas Technology University Prof. Dr. Darius Kučinskas and Vytautas Magnus University Assoc. Prof. Romaldas Misiukevičius who were the co-workers and curators of the exhibition.

The idea of the book belongs to President of International Association for Semiotic Studies Prof. Erro Tarasti. He suggested K. R. Kašponis writing a work about Lithuanian period of A. J. Greimas' life. K. R. Kašponis decided to concentrate on A. J. Greimas' childhood in Kupiškis where the author of the book spent his schooling years. Thus, lots of facts about A. J. Greimas were already known to K. R. Kašponis. The sources for the book were A. J. Greimas' utterances about childhood, state and private archives, mass media of that time, and words of his contemporaries.

The book contains A. J. Greimas' biography which reflects the crucial moments in his life including the establishing of Paris or Greimas School of Semiotics. It is pointed out that A. J. Greimas is a world-famous linguist and researcher of mythology. A. J. Greimas is one of the best known Lithuanian scientists in the world who can be in some aspects compared to Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis.

A. J. Greimas' works are translated to many languages and have a very high citation index, i.e. 1911 times in the period from 1966 to 1990 compared to citation index of Nobel prize winners with average citation index of 900.

The book “Greimas Far and Close” gives the guidelines for development of semiotics the founder of which he was. The book also overviews exposition “The

Childhood of Algidas Greimas”, presents the list of the most important for Lithuania names “100 Most Prominent Lithuania’s People” and the monument “The Tree of Unity” in Vilnius. The book masterly comprises several genres: a biographic essay, the catalogue of exhibitions, historical-informational publication, photo album, collection of aphorisms, the collection of important documents.

K. R. Kašponis’ book “Greimas Close and Far” is an excellent example of immortalization of Algirdas Julius Greimas’ name.