

# AUTHENTIC FINDS: CLOTHING, JEWELLERY

The clothing worn by the rulers and court who lived in the Vilnius Lower Castle Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania is described in written sources, with additional information coming from iconographic material and archaeological finds. During excavation work fragments of silk, baize, silk velvet, damask and other textiles were unearthed. Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland Casimir Jagiellon presented the Venetian ambassador, who visited Vilnius in 1474 and Trakai in 1477, with an outfit of black and purple-coloured damask decorated with marten furs. In 1560 the papal legate Bernardino Buongiovanni mentioned that the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland Sigismund Augustus dressed in a practical manner but owned all types of clothing: from Hungarian to Italian styles, embroidered in gold, and lined with sable, wolf lynx and black fox furs. The dowry of Sigismund Augustus' sister Catherine, who married the Duke of Finland John III Vasa, included outer layers of clothing featuring velvet, brocade, shimmering gold and silk interwoven with gold sewn in a German style, as well as warmer clothing from tabin – a dense Italian silk fabric, ornamented textiles, and red and black velvet embroidered with pearls and gemstones. There was also mention of clothing sewn from satin and damask, corset-back dresses, summer clothing, outer layers that served as winter cloaks lined with sable fur, lynx feet, and fur clothing from sable, beaver and ermine, as well as various fur-lined hats, scarves for wrapping around the hair, berets, tuckers, various summer head coverings and mittens. During a reception for

Moscow envoys in Vilnius in 1601, Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland Sigismund Vasa wore German style clothing: a short black baize cloak embroidered in gold, a gold tucker and a German black hat that was decorated along the sides with gemstone adorned pins.

Research of the Vilnius Lower Castle territory where the grand ducal palace stood has revealed several thousand leather object details, ranging from gloves, money pouches, purses, knife scabbards and belts. A valuable collection of various models of mens, womens and childrens shoes from the 14th–16th centuries has also been amassed. One of the more interesting finds from this set was a low shoe with a wider front part. This kind of model of shoe was fashionable in Western Europe in the first half of the 16th century and reflected Italian Renaissance costume trends. A similar model of shoes, covered with raspberry-coloured velvet, is currently on display at the Wawel Royal Castle in Poland. This pair of shoes was worn by Sigismund Augustus in 1530 during his coronation ceremony.

Aside from clothing details, a number of pieces of jewellery were also found: rings, earrings, medallions, pendants, pins, mounts, amulets, bracelets, brooches, chains and belt fragments. Different production techniques and metal alloys were employed in the creation of these jewellery items. The gold rings encrusted with gemstones and decorated with multi-coloured glass enamel are particularly decorative; one of the rings, found in the layer dating to the second half of the 15th century, bore the maker's mark.



Child's boots, late 14th–early 15th century, LDKVR

Early 16th-century low shoe with a cork sole, reconstruction by Arūnas Puškorius, LDKVR



Low shoes, 17th century, LDKVR



Purse decoration, 14th–early 15th century, LDKVR



Low shoe with a wider front part, early 16th century, LDKVR



Purses, late 14th century, LDKVR



Stone mould for making rings, late 14th–early 15th century, LDKVR



Signet rings, silver gilt, late 14th–15th century, LDKVR



Signet rings with a person's hand, a swastika and a gothic letter M, 14th–15th century, LDKVR

Mould-cast tin rings with a widened diamond-shape setting and a widened openwork hexagonal front part, late 14th–early 15th century, LDKVR



Ring with the cross of the Order of Malta, gold, enamel, 16th century, LDKVR



Signet ring with a silver inlay, gold, late 14th–early 15th century, LDKVR



Ring with a precious stone, gold, ruby, late 16th–early 17th century, LDKVR



Ring with the maker's mark on the inside, gold, late 15th–early 16th century, LDKVR



Glove, 15th century, LDKVR



Ring with foliate decoration, gold, enamel, 15th century, LDKVR



Penannular brooch, 14th–15th century, LDKVR



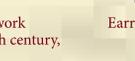
Piece of an openwork earring, gold, 16th century, LDKVR



Earrings with pendants, late 14th–early 15th century, LDKVR



Remnants of a low shoes with a cork sole, early 16th century, LDKVR



Pins, 14th–15th century, LDKVR



Piece of woven cloth with foliate decoration, silk, damask, late 16th–early 17th century, LDKVR



Pearls, 16th century, LDKVR