



*PLACES RELATED TO CZ. MIŁOSZ'S LIFE
IN VILNIUS, IN 1920-1937*

1. Pakalnės Str. 7,
then ul. Pogdórna 5

A house in which Cz. Milosz
lived together with his
parents in 1920–1927

For many years our family lived on Pakalnės Street, house number five. It was a rented house in which we had an apartment on the first floor but it was very high from the ground...



2. Pamėnkalnio Street

Then it was called
ul. Portowa (in Polish),
Uosto g. (in Lithuanian)

For me the most important street in Vilnius was that of Uosto. Not perhaps a street at all because there was barely any house there but everything else that was on it such as: grassy hillsides and steep slopes. I used this street for many

years to go to school, then turning to Tauro Street or going some other way.

3. K. Kalinausko Str. 7, then - Mała Pohulanka 7

Žygimanto Augusto High School (now it is Vilnius College of Technologies and Design)

The school was on the Tauras hill and on the corner of Mala Pohulanka Street... An eighth-form state high school for boys (...). Our school had chosen Žygimantas Augustas, the most suitable personality for the place, as its patron.



4. Vilniaus Street

Then it was called
ul. Wileńska

The street with an exceptional name, heterogeneous, it always seemed different with every step you took but it was ecumenical, Catholic-Jewish, as well.

In Vilniaus Street, in its "artisan" part from the yard side, you could get into a library in which I had a subscription paid by my grandmother Miloszova from her modest pension. I used to go there often sent by her to fetch books when I was between the ages of twelve and thirteen.



5. J. Basavičiaus Str. 13, then Wielka Pohulanka 13

The Reduta Theatre (now The Russian Drama Theatre)



Vilnius was the city of theatres, especially when Osterwa's Reduta Theatre arrived there. So, just about in the middle of my school years (very early by the way) I used to go to the theatre in Wielka Pohulanka Street to The Reduta Theatre where a play *Sidas* was performed.

6. J. Basanavičiaus Str. 16, then - Wielka Pohulanka14

Tomo Zano Library (now a dwelling house)

(...) In my case surely there are many distortions because a child grows up in one place, he is in some kind of surroundings, some kind of atmosphere and he barely encounters other aspects of a city. On my horizon, let's say, king Žygimantas Augusto High School and Tomo Zano Library could be seen.



7. Universteto Str. 3, then ul. Uniwersytecka 3

Steponas Batoras University (now Vilnius University)

*In the autumn of 1929 I entered Steponas Batoras University to study Polish-
tics and started attending
lectures. (...) We wore special
Steponas Batoras University
caps decorated with wolves'
teeth - the symbol of our uni-
versity.*



8. Liejyklos Street

Then it was called ul. Ludwisarska

Many times, innumerable times in many years because I almost always lived in the new part of the city, meaning, behind the streets of Pylimo and Vilniaus, and namely Liejoklos Street headed from there towards Napoleon's Square and further to the university or the lively Didžioji Street.



9. Tauro Str. 5, then ul. Góra Boufałłowa 5

Steponas Batoras University dormitory (now a dwelling house)

Those were the years as I used to live in a dormitory on the Taurus hill... That particular one was a new dormitory. I had a small room, a bed, a small table... all that one needs to be happy.



VILNIUS MAP
IN 1937



The quotations used in the publication were taken from Cz. Milosz Starting From My Streets, Cz. Milosz Native Realm, A. Fiut Rebellious Self-portrait of Cz. Milosz, Cz. Milosz Gucio Enchanted, from Cz. Milosz's Nobel Lecture in the Swedish Academy of Science.

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10. Bokšto Street

Then it was called
ul. Bakszta

Bokšto Street was a very old, dark, narrow, awfully bumpy street, in some parts not more than two or three meters wide. Bokšto Street because it was so near to the university, i.e., almost in front of the corner of Didžioji and Snt. Jonas streets, was very important to students' life, because situated there was a Mensa. Not a canteen, not a pub, not a cafeteria, not a place for public catering, but namely – the Mensa.



11. Neris and Vilnelė confluence, T. Kosciuškos Str.,

then ul. Kościuszki. Academic Sports Alliance (ASA) dock



There were some kayaks in Vilnius – not many, but they were there, we used to like them quite a lot in the Vagabond Club. (...) The Neris is a swift river, we used to start from the ASA dock and even though it was very difficult we would row against the torrent. It was possible to sail up to Verkiai...

12. Vokiečių Street, then it was called ul. Niemiecka

Vokiečių Street in Vilnius was the one that mostly resembled the streets of a big city. I used to come to Vokiečių Street at different stages of my life – but first of all, as a small boy together with my grandmother Miloszova. (...) While concluding my studies at university I started entering into relationship with it again, when I was going to performances played in Yiddish at Jewish theatres on tour or together with Pranas Ancevičius visiting small restaurants in side streets



13. Aušros Vartų Str. 7B,

then ul. Ostrobramska 7

Conrad cell in the Basilian monastery where literary Wednesdays evenings used to take place

The Polish Writers' Union Vilnius department did not have a premises but the ones in the Basilian monastery where at the age of Philomats a prison was situated and Mickevičius was imprisoned there.



14. Pilies Str. 2, then ul. Zamkowa 2

The editorial Office of the literary journal Žagary (now Swedbank)



We wanted a publication of our own. Editor-in-chief Stanislovas Mackevičius hospitably suggested to us that we publish a literary supplement to his SLOWO (...). That is how ŽAGARY appeared in spring of 1931.

15. Gedimino Avenue 1, then ul. A. Mickiewicza 1

Rudnicko Cafe (now Ūkio Bankas)

The only place of gathering of our circle was Rudnicko Cafe on the corner of Mickevičiaus street and Cathedral Square where surely all of the worlds literati, journalists and professors used to sit and drink coffee. There I was a kind of a snob, not the others' attitude towards me. That's how undangerous and homelike it was in this cafe of Vilnius...



16.1 Vytauto Str. 15,

then ul. Witoldowa
Vilnius Radiophone (until the end of 1935)
Now in Vilnius University Childrens Hospital the Radio Station Museum is situated there



16.2 Gedimino Avenue 22, then ul. A. Mickiewicza 22

Vilnius Radiophone (now The State Small Theatre of Vilnius "Vilniaus mažasis teatras")

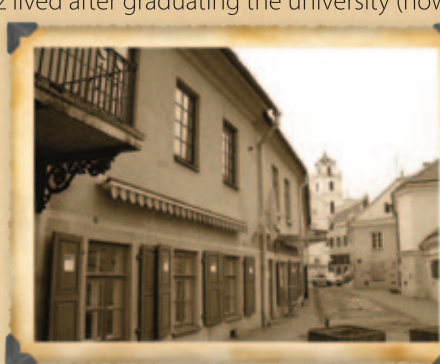


It was very difficult to get a job in Vilnius. Luckily in Radiofono Station a friend of mine Byrski worked and he employed me. (...) Sometimes I used to read a lecture and sometimes my poems were read on the radio.

17. Literatų Alley 11, then Zaulek Literacki 11

A house in which Cz. Milosz lived after graduating the university (now it is a dwelling house)

(...) I am renting a room in a house with walls that were almost two metres thick, it was on a narrow street cobbled with rough stones and famous for its old curiosity shops. Its name today is to me dear but menacing and symbolic: the alley of Literati.



18. T. Vrublevskio Str. 8, then ul. Arsenalska 8 (in Polish),

Arsenalo g. (in Lithuanian)

The Eastern European Research Institute (now it is Lithuanian Science Academy's Vrublevskių Library)

The Eastern European Research Institute was found in the 1920s as a higher school with three year courses, having to prepare specialists able to solve problems of the Baltic countries, Belarus and Russia. (...) Bujnicki was its secretary since the foundation. (...) I used to visit Bujnicki every several day in the Institute building, on the corner of Arsenalo and Žygimantų streets.



19. T. Vrublevskio Str. 6,

then ul. Arsenalska 6 (in Polish), Arsenalo g. (in Lithuanian)

A house in which Cz. Milosz spent his last night in Vilnius (now an office building)



(...) a house No. 6 in the middle of Arsenalo Street which I used to visit constantly, since my first high school classes, because my relatives lived there, to tell the truth, rather distant ones, the Pavlikovskiai (...). On Arsenalo Str. 6 I felt myself at home and because it was the city centre I used to come by very often just to stretch my legs out on a sofa. I also wrote some poems there which I still like. In that appartement I spent my last night in Vilnius, before travelling to Warsaw to go through a green wall in 1940, which was more dangerous than I wanted.