

MSGR. JURAS' ARCHIVE ORGANIZED BY PROFESSIONAL ARCHIVISTS

In October, 2025 two professional archivists (Sigita Baranauskienė and Inga Vizgirdienė) from the Lithuanian Central State Archives (LCSA) came to ALKA to organize Msgr. Juras' archive.



LCSA archivists Sigita Baranauskienė and Inga Vizgirdienė.

Msgr. Juras was an especially significant person in the Lithuanian diaspora. In 1922 he



began collecting Lithuanian books and books about Lithuania, as well as Lithuanian periodicals, Lithuanian folk art and art created by Lithuanian artists in exile. That was the beginning of the American Lithuanian Cultural Archive (ALKA).

By 1972 Msgr. Juras' archive had grown significantly and was housed in a new building in Putnam, CT. That year the ownership of ALKA was transferred to the Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Sciences (LCAS).

One of the most interesting archives at ALKA was the collection of Lithuanian exhibits from the 1939 World's Fair. When World War I broke out, the exhibits could not be returned to Lithuania. They ended up in Msgr. Juras' archives.

The Bronze sculpture of Vytautas the Great at the Lithuanian National Museum.

In 2017 LCAS shipped the exhibits to Vilnius and transferred ownership to the Lithuanian National Museum. One of these exhibits was a plaster sculpture of Vytautas the Great created by the Lithuanian sculptor Vytautas Kašuba. The museum used the plaster sculpture to cast a bronze statue which now stands next to the museum for all to see.

Msgr. Juras' archive consists of 22 boxes. The LCSA archivists did a fantastic job organizing them. Their archive description is available on-line at

https://www.lkma.org/pdf_files/juras_archyvas.pdf



The American Lithuanian Cultural Archive (ALKA) in Putnam.

When storing old documents, it is important to reduce the amount of acidity surrounding the paper. The LCSA archivists stored Msgr. Juras' archive in acid-free folders, in acid-free boxes.

LCSA archivists have been organizing ALKA archives since 2014. They have organized the archives of BALF, the Lithuanian Encyclopedia, writer Father Vaitkus, historian Zigmas Raulinaitis as well as many other archives. By paying for the time and travel expenses of

these professionals, the Director of LCSA, Dalius Žižys, demonstrates that the history of the Lithuanian diaspora is truly important to Lithuania. LCAS is grateful for this support.



**A Portion of the Organized Msgr. Juras Archive.
(photo by Jurgis Šermukšnis)**

Please visit ALKA on the internet at
<https://www.lkma.org/alka.htm> .

*Mirga Girniuvienė
LCAS President*