

## The Participation of Women in Library and Bibliophile Societies, and as Friends of Libraries in Interwar Vilnius

### *Summary*

The purpose of this article is to review the participation of women in library and bibliophile societies, and as friends of libraries in interwar Vilnius, such as the Vilnius Branch of the Union of Polish Libraries, the Polish Bibliophile Society in Vilnius, and the Society of Friends of the Eustachy and Emilia Wroblewski State Library. Members of these societies consisted of librarians, literary figures and teachers. The largest membership of women belonged to the Vilnius Branch of the

Union of Polish Librarians (27), and the smallest to the Polish Bibliophile Society in Vilnius (3). Most active in the work of the societies were Helena Drege, Helena Hleb-Koszanska, Maria Kotwiczowna, Helena Romer-Ochenkowska. They were elected to the various boards, presented reports at society meetings, wrote and published works in both Vilnius and national publications, organized events and worked toward increasing the collections in Vilnius's libraries.

**Keywords:** interwar Vilnius, Vilnius libraries, librarian societies, bibliophiles.