

## Beliefs and Magic of Raising Chickens in Lithuania (end of the 19th Century – Beginning of the 20th Century)

### *Summary*

The purpose of this article is to study the beliefs, magical actions, incantations of the traditional period (end of the 19th century – first half of the 20th century) aimed at all kinds of well-being of the hen farm (how and when to hatch, what measures to take in order for the hens to be orderly, so that vegetables, crops should not be dug up in order to keep them in their yard and be protected from predatory birds and other animals).

In the Lithuanian countryside, in the traditional period (end of the 19th century – first half of the 20th century), hatching, rearing, and all maintenance and protection of chickens was the concern of women. They also received the money received for the sold chickens or eggs

(chicken money). All the most important stages of activities related to raising chickens (hatching time, placement of chickens, protection of gardens, crops, „tying“ to your yard, protection of chickens from predatory birds and other animals) are accompanied by many different beliefs, magical actions, incantations, and during them are used objects (stove, table, house wall, braids, tub or lathe bow, animal (horse, cow) skull, pine broom, fence, wheel hub, wheel, sheets, chips, stone, tripod) become symbols guaranteeing that protection or success. All the objects listed here basically have stable symbolic meanings, which is why they are common in the rites of other works, as well as calendar and family holidays.

**Keywords:** hen, rooster, beliefs, magical actions.