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ADOMAS VARNAS



This year, one of our most prominent painters, Adomas Varnas is celebrating his 90th birthday. He was born on Jan. 1, 1879 in Joniškis, Lithuania. He studied art at St. Petersburg, Russia and Cracow, Poland, where he was mostly impressed by landscape artist — professor Stanislavski. In 1905 he went to study art at Geneva's Ecole des Beaux Arts. At the same time Varnas took two different art classes: portrait painting and decorative art. In 1908, after graduating from academy of art, with highest degrees, he left for Sicily. The artist immersed himself into Sicilian mountainous landscape with its scenic seashores and its fishermen, producing many landscape art works.

In 1913 Varnas returned to his native Lithuania making its home in its capital Vilnius, where he worked not only as an artist, but also as a civic and cultural leader. With the advancing of the war, in 1915 he went to Odessa, Russia and after the war returned to Kaunas where he opened his own studio.

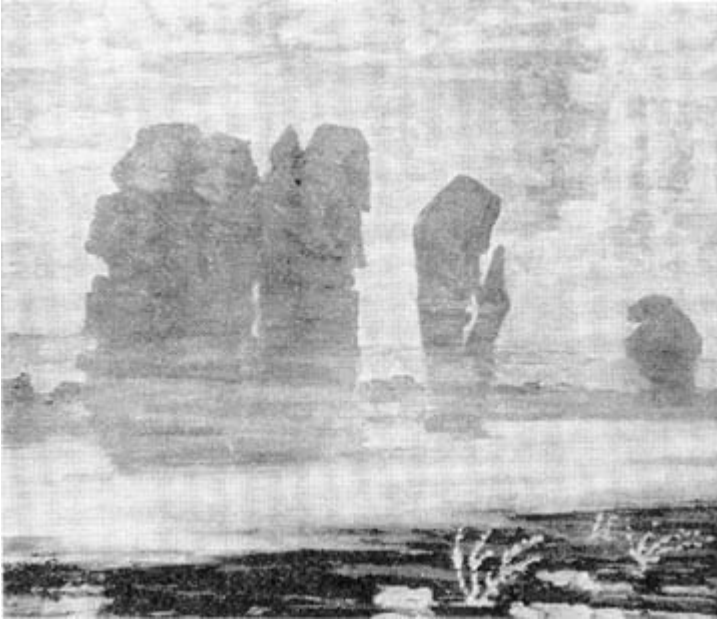
After Lithuania won its independence in 1918, the artist Varnas worked in theatre and opera, making his contribution by painting the sceneries. He won many prizes by designing playing cards, postage stamps, went to Prague to supervise the first printing of Lithuanian money. As a teacher, he taught art at Voronezh, Russia and in Lithuania's Vytautas the Great school, Kaunas Art school, State Art Institute. He spent five years collecting objects of Lithuanian folklore and making photographs of wooden crosses which were found alongside the roads.

During World War II, the artist Varnas fled Lithuania to Germany, and in 1949 he came to United States where presently he is still very active in both Lithuanian art and cultural life.

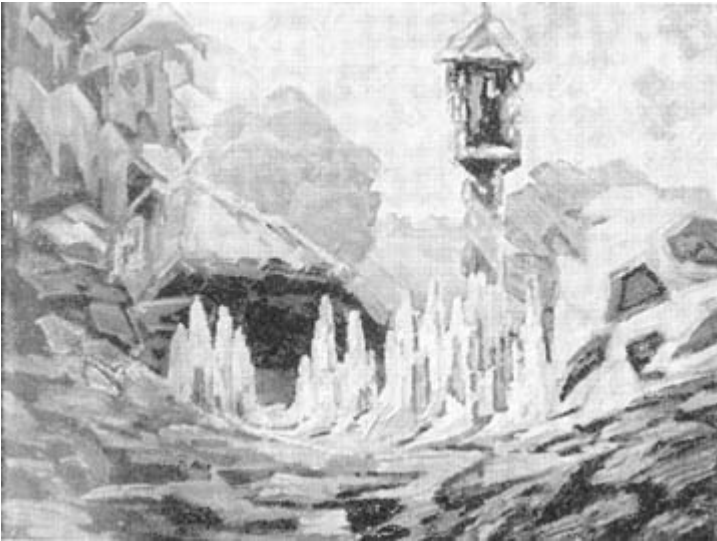
Varnas' art works can be divided into 4 periods. First period (1908-1913) includes his post graduate study works of portraits and landscapes. Second period (1914-18) includes portraits and political caricatures. The post war period was not very rich in numbers, but much richer in quality. Now the artist frees himself from romantic inclinations, concentrating more on the development of color problems. The third period (1918-1940) which coincides with independent Lithuania, shows the artist's intensified colorific aspirations in his portraits and his favorite subject - - landscape. To this period also belongs his graphic works, postage stamps, money projects, political caricatures, theatrical sceneries. In the fourth period from 1944 until present, the artist continues to paint mostly portraits and landscape. In this present period he painted monumental historical composition "The Coronation of King Mindaugas," in which the artist demonstrated a four year painstaking work of art. Artist's portraits represent the human face with all its simplicity, weaknesses and greatness. He

tends to include symbolic background in order to represent person's social position in life. He not only paints outward facial features, but he also reveals the personality of the sitter. In his oil paintings he represents realistic objects with somewhat slight touch of impressionism. His most characteristic elements are simplicity and sincerity. It is amazing, that during Varnas' long artistic life, spanning over 60 years, he never was influenced by developing new trends in art, such as expressionism, surrealism, or even abstract. Artist's objects never lost its true realistic form, he always remained faithful to nature. In his open air outdoor landscape scene paintings we see patient detailed study of nature as seen only through the artist's eyes. Therefore, besides historical and portrait paintings, Varnas to us is probably best known as truly exclusive landscape artist.

Saule Jautokas



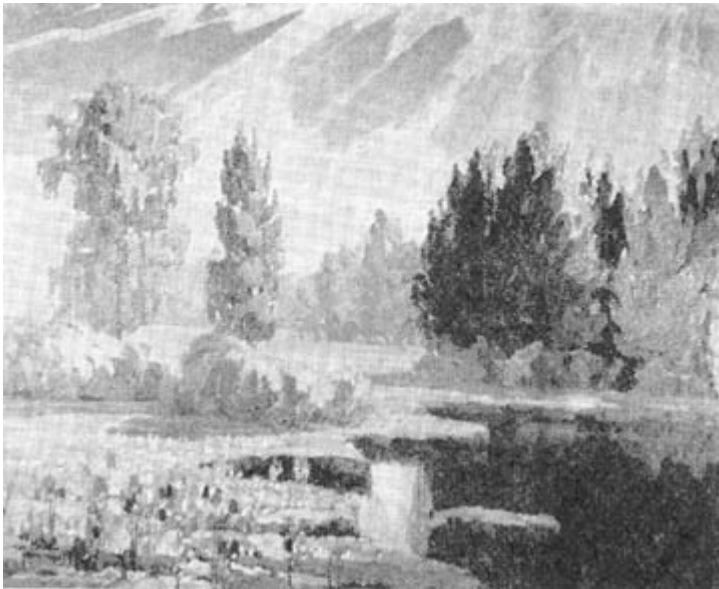
Morning prayer of the three giants



Farmstead



St. Casimir, ~~Grand Duke~~ Patron Saint of Lithuania ,



Summertime in Lithuania