



LIETUVOS MOKSLŲ AKADEMIJOS
TEODORO GROTUSO FONDAS
LITAUEN, AKADEMIE der WISSENSCHAFTEN
THEODOR von GROTHUSS STIFTUNG

Vokietijos ir Baltijos šalių prekybos rūmai

For the support to build a monument for
Theodor von Grothuss in Žeimelis (Lithuania)

To whom it may concern

Theodor von Grothuss is the author of theory of electrolysis. The first theory of electrolysis was written in Rome (1805; C.J.T. de Grothuss, M'emoire sur la d'ecomposition de l'eau et des corpsqu'elle tient en dissolution `a l'aide de l'electricit'e galvanique, Rome, 1805, p. 15 and de Grothuss, C.J.T. (1806). "Sur la d'ecomposition de l'eau et des corps qu'elle tient en dissolution `a l'aide de l'electricit'e galvanique". *Ann. Chim. (Paris)* **58**: 54–73))) and was quickly translated from French into English and German. Freiherr Christian Johann Dietrich **Theodor von Grothuss** (January 20, 1785 – March 26, 1822) was a German chemist known for establishing not only the first theory of electrolysis but also in formulating the first law of photochemistry in 1817.

Theodor von Grothuss was born in 1785 in Leipzig, Germany, during an extended stay of his parents away from their home in northern Lithuania. From 1808 on he lived at the estate of his mother in northern Lithuania (Gedučiai village, Pakruojis region, Šiauliai district). Gedučiai village is located not so far from small town Žeimelis (Fig. 1). There he conducted research on electricity and light with the limited research equipment he could assemble.



Fig. 1. Theodor von Grothuss street in town Žeimelis.

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Gedučiai estate in which we believe Theodor von Grotthuss has performed his unique experiments still exists. However, the condition of the building in Gedučiai estate currently is unfortunate emergency. We hope very much, that Gedučiai estate area must be included in the European scientific heritage list. On 19 January 2007, the opening of Theodor von Grotthuss Auditorium took place at the Faculty of Chemistry of Vilnius University. Lithuanian Academy of Sciences together with Vilnius University in November 2010 invited the scientific community in the White Hall of Vilnius University to the commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the birth of Theodor von Grotthuss. In 2015, we celebrated the 230th anniversary of the birth of Theodor von Grotthuss, and this year is the 235th since the birth of the scientist. Each year, one Chemistry doctoral student in Lithuania is awarded a Theodor von Grotthuss grant. Theodor von Grotthuss is one of the most famous scientists in the world. It is known today as a classic of electrochemistry and photochemistry, having developed the first theory of electrolysis and established the basic laws of light exposure. In 1994 the Lithuanian Support Foundation of Theodor von Grotthuss was established to revive the memory of the famous German-Lithuanian scientist, to support Lithuanian education, science and culture, and to maintain international scientific relations.

The gypsum sculpture of Theodor von Grotthuss (sculptor Kęstutis Balčiūnas) is exhibited in the Žiemgala Museum in Žeimelis (Fig. 2).

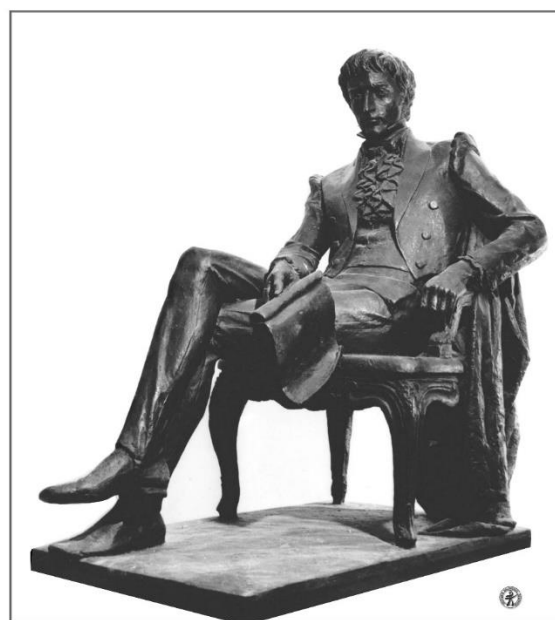


Fig. 2. The gypsum sculpture of Theodor von Grotthuss.

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In our opinion, Lithuania should perpetuate the memory of Theodor von Grotthuss by erecting a bronze monument in memory of Theodor von Grotthuss in the central square of Žeimelis. Sculptor Kęstutis Balčiūnas and his daughter architect have prepared a project for the construction of a bronze sculpture in Žeimelis Square. Pakruojis district municipality has undertaken to arrange the infrastructure for the construction of the monument. The Theodor von Grotthuss Foundation is responsible for finding funds for the casting of the bronze monument. The total cost of casting is about 30-40 thousand Eur if the work will be carried out by the German company Ernst Strassacker GmbH & Co KG Kunstgiesserei.

The Theodor von Grotthuss Foundation is asking for your support to build the bronze monument to Theodor von Grotthuss. The names of all sponsors, institutions and companies will be engraved on the memorial plaque. Your support is a huge contribution to the fostering of Lithuanian culture and the preservation of scientific memory.

Theodor Grotus Foundation Board:

Prof. Aivaras Kareiva - Chairman of the Board

Edita von Grotthuss

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