



Exhibit of the Month

A SMALL BOTTLE

Museologist Simona Gustaitytė

- Brown glass, deformed by heat;
- the bottle is rectangular, while its neck is wide cylindrical;
- height – 8.3 cm, length – 5 cm and width – 2.5 cm
- the beginning of the 20th century.

The exhibit was found during the archeological excavations in the field of mass massacre in the 1960s in Kaunas Ninth Fort. It reminds us of the bloodiest period in the history of the Ninth Fort: the occupation of Nazi Germany in Lithuania. In 1941–1944, the Ninth Fort was used as a site of mass extermination: approximately 50,000 people were shot in a field near the building. The condemned people (women, men, children and the elderly) whose race or political views did not comply with the ideas of the regime, were brought to the ditches, which had been dug in advance, shot there and sprinkled with a layer of quicklime and earth. In 1943, when the war turned against the Nazis, attempts were made to destroy the traces of the crimes. For this purpose, a special group of 64 prisoners was brought to the Ninth Fort, who had to dig up the remains of the victims and burn them on fires near the field of massacre.

The glass bottle, which possibly belonged to the murdered victim, testifies to the above-mentioned processes of the destruction of people and their remains: the fragments of quicklime are visible on its surface, and the glass is deformed by the heat of the burning bodies. There are no labels or embossed inscriptions on the bottle. It seems likely that the small-sized container was used to store remedies as this type of bottles was often used by pharmacists and drug manufacturers. Ointments for external use were often stored in wide-necked bottles.



KAUNO
IX FORTO
MUZIEJUS

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