This volume of *Acta Historica Universitatis Klaipedensis* was inspired by the international conference ‘The Principle of Nationality during the First World War. What did it Mean, How did it Manifest itself, and Why did it Prevail?’ held at the Lithuanian Institute of History in Vilnius on 11–12 December 2014. The conference was organised by the Lithuanian Institute of History (Vilnius), in collaboration with the Institute of Baltic Region History and Archaeology (Klaipėda) and the Institute for the Culture and History of the Germans in North Eastern Europe (Lüneburg, Germany). Its four panels focused mainly on German and Russian political strategies on national issues, the Polish factor as a model of interaction between national and imperial principles, the aspirations of the national movements in East-Central Europe during the war, and the national, and in a broader sense, cultural images that formed under the influence of the war. Presentations on these subjects were given by speakers from Russia, Germany, the USA, Poland, Great Britain, Latvia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic.

This collection eventually ended up with just some of the papers submitted by the participants in the conference. The most important reason for this is the fact that some of the speakers have already published the material that was presented at the conference, either before it or immediately afterwards.

Our thanks go to our colleagues Vytautas Petronis and Darius Staliūnas for their contribution to the organisation of the conference, and to the Research Council of Lithuania for sponsoring it.

Vasilijus Safronovas, Česlovas Laurinavičius

**SUDARYTOJŲ ŽODIS**

Inspiracija šiam serijos *Acta Historica Universitatis Klaipedensis* tomui atsirasti tapo 2014 m. gruodžio 11–12 d. Vilniuje, Lietuvos istorijos institute, vykusi tarptautinė konferencija „Nacionalinis principas Pirmojo pasaulinio karo metais: ką jis reiškė, kaip reiškėsi, kodėl įsivyravo?“ Konferenciją rengė Lietuvos istorijos institutas (Vilnius) kartu su Klaipėdos universiteto Baltijos regiono istorijos ir archeologijos institutu bei Šiaurės rytų Europos vokiečių kultūros ir istorijos institutu (Liuneburgas,