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## Foreign Missions in Lithuania in 1919-1920

Dr. Vytautas Doniela, Sydney, Australia

EN

After Germany's surrender on November 11, 1918, the first to inspect the situation on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea were the British. The area was visited by a group of British warships led by Admiral A. Sinclair on board HMS Cardiff. As he mainly stopped at Liepaja (Latvia) and Tallinn (Estonia), in his rather pessimistic report to his Government Lithuania was not included.

### American Mission

Following a suggestion by Prof. R. Lord who was a member of the American Peace Delegation in Paris, a Mission to the Baltic was formed in the USA, on March 12, 1919, to investigate the calls of the newly formed states for economic and military assistance, especially for support of self-defence against the advancing Bolsheviks. The American Mission, composed of 11 officers, was led by Colonel W. Greene and included Lt. Col. E.J. Dawley, Major Devereaux, Mil. Attache J.A. Gade, an officer Robert Hale, a Lithuanian interpreter Corp. Šoliunas, et al. Col. Greene spent some time in Lithuania but eventually paid more attention to Latvia and Estonia.

The situation in Lithuania was investigated by Col. E.J. Dawley. He was chiefly interested in the military efforts to halt the Bolshevik advance, inspected the front line, reported on the quality and needs of the new Lithuanian army, and on the German troops staying in Lithuania to halt the Bolsheviks as mandated by the Allies in Para. 12 of the Compiègne Armistice of 11.11.1918.

The political situation in Lithuania and its territorial problems were observed in detail by officer Robert Hale who produced a Report concluding that Lithuania's position was critical and needed a foreign loan of some 30 million dollars. Also, Lithuania's army was seriously short of weapons, ammunition and clothing.

The findings of Green, Dawley, Hale *et al.* (assisted by observations made by British and French envoys) were summed up in their Memorandum of June 1919, addressed to the Allied Powers in Paris. The paper stressed the critical situation of the three Baltic States, requesting urgent assistance in weapons, clothing and financial support. The Memorandum also stressed the need to dispatch to the Baltic States a combined Allied Mission (British, French and American representatives with appropriate powers) led by a British general.

The (first) American Mission in the Baltics was active for several months. In principle, the Mission was supportive of independence for the new Baltic states or, at least, of a British mandate for Estonia and US mandate

for Latvia and Lithuania. These ideas clashed with the aim of a "unified" Russia insisted upon by the "White" Russian politicians active in the West. As a result of their opposition, Colonel Green and his Mission were recalled from the Baltics on August 4, 1919.

**Literature:** A. Tarulis, American Baltic relations 1918 - 1922, 1965; W. Greene, Letters of Warwick Greene 1915 -1928, 1931; [U.S.Govt.] Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States, [esp. vol. XII] 1947; [U.S. Senate Documents] Report by Robert Hale of Mission to Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania [66 Congress, 1st Session], vol. 15, 1919

**Philatelic:** For correspondence, the U.S. Mission used cachets and seals, surviving in official archives. The Mission's mail probably first went to Paris for further diplomatic dispatch. But individual members of the Mission may have also made use of Lithuanian postal facilities. Such covers would be recognizable by the sender's address, and in 1919 would stand out by American-style handwriting.

### American Welfare Missions

From early 1919 on, in addition to several military and diplomatic missions, the Baltic States were visited by several welfare organizations. The American "Child Feeding" was based in Warsaw but donated clothing to some 20,000 Lithuanian children as well. More solid support was arranged by American Relief Administration which came to Kaunas on March 15, 1919, and eventually arranged to sell medicaments, clothing and food for about 4.5 million dollars.

The American Red Cross Mission, led by army physician Col. E. Ryan (based in Riga), helped Lithuania by supplying a considerable quantity of medicaments, medical instruments and both food and clothing to hospitals. The Mission also handed over \$130,000 collected by US Lithuanians in 1916 and capped the sum by another \$100,000 from its own resources.

**Literature:** American Red Cross Reports and records, also items in US Lithuanian press. Some account is given in A. Tarulis, as above.

**Philatelic:** Cachets and seals survive in archival papers, but members of American Red Cross were provided with letterhead envelopes, and some have survived in private hands. Normally, mail for the U.S.A. by officials of the Red Cross was taken to Paris and prepaid there, but philatelically minded members also made use of Lithuania's postal services.

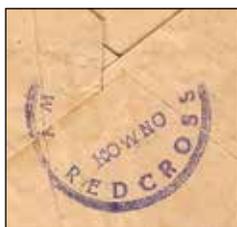


Fig. 1. ↑  
Circular seal of the American Red Cross used in Kaunas (Kowno).

Fig. 2 →  
A cover mailed by an official of the American Red Cross Mission taken to Paris and prepaid there, and forwarded to the US.



Fig. 3. A cover mailed by an official of the American Red Cross Mission taken to Paris and prepaid there, and forwarded to the US.

# Atgal į Sibirą

Justinas Sajauskas, Marijampolė

LT

241-ame „Lietuvos“ numeryje p. A. Brazdeikis gražiai pareklamavo mano sibirietiškus atvirlaiškius ir 2012 m. Kaune išleistą tų atvirlaiškių parodos Katalogą. Straipsnyje „Postcards from Siberia“ skaitytojai buvo supažindinti su tragiškais praėjusio amžiaus vidurio įvykiais o taip pat su tuo metu iš Lietuvos arba Lietuvon siūstais atvirlaiškiais. Noriu grįžti prie temos ir šiek tiek daugiau papasakoti apie pirmuosius man žinomus Sibiro atvirlaiškius – jų parašymo aplinkybes, adresatus, retumą.

Pirmoji sovietinė Lietuvos okupacija prasidėjo 1940 m. birželio 15 d. Lietuviai Sibirą pradėti tremti 1941 m. birželio 14 d. Šią datą kartoja daugelis Lietuvos – ir ne tik Lietuvos – istorikų.

Gal tas trėmimas iš Lietuvos buvo pirmas, o gal ir ne. Skaitinėdamas šiuolaikinio rusų autoriaus B. Sokolovo knygą „Visi antrojo pasaulinio karo mitai“ (Maskva, 2012 m.) aptikau tokį sakinį: „Jau 1940 m. rugpjūty prasidėjo žydų ir kitų tautinių mažumų deportacija (iš Lietuvos – J.S.), o 1941 m. birželio 14 d. atėjo ir lietuvių eilė“.

Šią teiginį patvirtina seniausias mano turimas „sibirietiškas“ atvirlaiškis iš Kazachijos į Vilnių (Kazachija lietuviams buvo tokia pat tremties vieta kaip Karelija, Komija, Altajus ar Tolimieji Rytai). Atvirlaiškis rašytas 1941 m. balandžio 3 d., Vilnių pasiekė tų pačių metų balandžio 15 d. – taigi prieš visuotinai pripažintą pirmąją tremtį (Pav. 1).

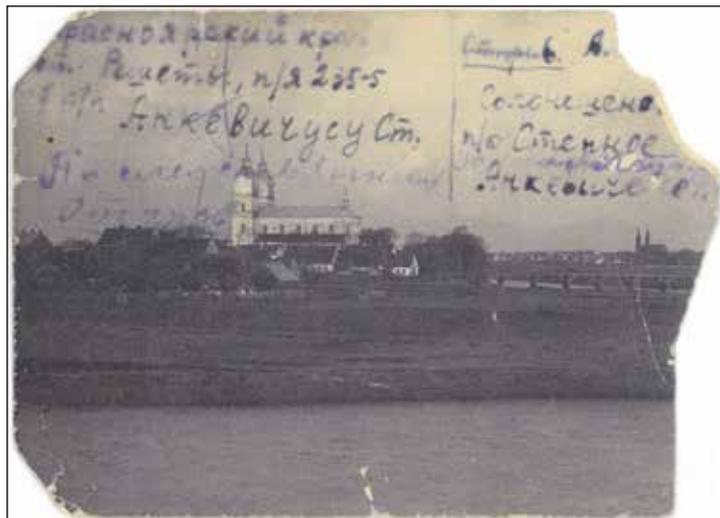
Kad šią žinutę į Lietuvą pasiuntė „tautinių mažumų deportacijos“ auka, liudija ir atvirlaiškio kalba: jis parašytas lenkiškai, adresuotas lenkei. Be to, laiško siuntėja nurodo, kad iki atviruko išsiuntimo ji gavo atvirlaiškį Nr. 4 ir laišką Nr. 3, o tais laikais laiškus numeravo tiktai kaliniai ir tremtiniai. Išeitų, B. Sokolovas teisus, 1941.06.14 d. trėmimas iš Lietuvos buvo ne pirmas?

Atvirlaiškis iš Kazachijos parašytas ant standartinio 1939 m. laidos SSRS atvirlaiškio blanko. O štai Rožės Ankevičienės 1942 metais iš Altajaus sovchozo į Rešotų lagerį vyrui pasiūsta žinutė buvo parašyta ant paprasčiausios fotografijos. Averse – adresai,



Pav.1. Atvirlaiškis iš Kazachijos parašytas ant standartinio SSRS atvirlaiškio blanko gautas Vilniuje 1941 m.

Fig.1. Postal card from Kazakhstan sent to Vilnius in 1941.



Pav. 2. Atvirlaiškis iš Altajaus sovchozo į Rešotų lagerį parašytas ant paprasčiausios fotografijos.

Fig. 2. Postcard from Altai sovchoz to Reshoty gulag camp written on a simple photo.

reverse- tekstas. Nei ženklų, nei voko. Reik manyti, ne iš gero gyvenimo (Pav. 2).

Nuotraukas iš šeimininio albumo atvirais laiškais pavertė ir kitas 1941 m. tremtinys, Sasnavos valsčiaus viršaitis Kostas Buragas. Tremiant jis buvo atskirtas nuo šeimos, jo rankose liko tik čemodanas su

## Back to Siberia

Justinas Sajauskas, Marijampolė

EN

In the 241st issue of the LPS Journal A. Brazdeikis gave a very nice presentation of my Siberian postcards and the Catalog published for their exhibition in Kaunas in 2012. In the article “Postcards from Siberia”, the readers were introduced to the tragic events that took place in the middle part of the 20th Century as well the postcards sent from and to Lithuania. I want to return to this topic and tell more about the first postcards from Siberia known to me: the circumstances of their appearance, addressees and their rarity.

The first Soviet occupation started on June 15, 1940. The deportation of Lithuanians to Siberia started on June 14, 1941. This date has been repeated by many Lithuanian and other historians.

Maybe this deportation from Lithuania was the first one or maybe it was not. When reading a book “All Myths of the World War II” (published in Moscow in 2012) written by a famous contemporary Russian author Boris Sokolov, I came across the following sentence: “The deportation of Jews and other ethnic minorities started in August 1940 (from Lithuania – J. S.), and on June 14, 1941 the turn of Lithuanians had come as well.”

This proposition is confirmed by the oldest “Siberian” postcard in my possession sent from Kazakhstan to Vilnius (to Lithuanians, Kazakhstan was just another place of forced deportation like Karelia, Komi, Altai and the Far East). The postcard written on April 3, 1941 reached Vilnius on April 15 of the same year; therefore, before the officially acknowledged beginning of the first deportation (Fig.1).

The fact that this message was sent to Lithuania by the victim of the “deportation of ethnic minorities” is supported by the language in the postcard: it is written in Polish and addressed to a Polish woman. Moreover, the sender claims that before mailing this postcard, she had received the postcard No. 4 and the letter No. 3. In those times, letters were numbered only by prisoners and deportees. Therefore, could it be the case that Sokolov is right and the deportation on June 14, 1941 is not the first one?

The postcard from Kazakhstan is written on a standard USSR postal stationery card issued in 1939. However, the message by Rožė Ankevičienė in 1942 from Sovkhoz in Altai to her husband in Reshoty Gulag Camp was written on a simple photo. The addresses are written on the obverse and the text is on

the backside. There is neither a stamp nor an envelope, most likely due to an economic hardship.

Another deportee, Kostas Buragas, was the other one who turned photos from the family album into postcards in 1941. He was a petty officer of Sasnava parish. During the deportation, he was separated from his family and all that he had left was a suitcase with a photo album. Therefore, he started sending these photos to the family that found itself on the other side of the world and wrote such “letters” from 1942 to 1944, until criminal prisoners found his hiding-place, stole the album and made playing cards out of his photos.

Since 5 “letters” written by Buragas have survived, one can make certain generalizations. First of all, it was necessary to write in Russian in order for the censors to understand the contents. All letters written by prisoners were inspected, crossing out the inappropriate portions of text. The confirmed letters (postcards) were marked with the stamp *Provereno* (“Checked”). In June 1942, when the military censorship was established, the confirmed letters supposed to have a stamp saying “Confirmed by the military censorship”. Sometimes one letter could be inspected even twice.

In the address, the name of the detention facility was coded with the combination of letters *p/ ja* (*pochtovyi jashchik*; “mailbox”) and several digits. It was forbidden to use words like “prisoner”, “resident of the camp”, “deportee”. I have seen only two postcards, where the words *slyedstvenny* (“investigation”) and *z/k* (the abbreviation of the word *zaklyuchyonny* “prisoner”) were left, probably because of the mistake of the censor.

Unlike Ankevičienė, Buragas wrote all of the text, including the addresses and the letter only on one, the clean side of the postcard-photo (Figs. 3, 4).

In 1944, Nasvytienė wrote from Altai to Kaunas. This postal card is interesting because the stamp has not been cancelled at the time it was sent. The censors, on the other hand, were watchful and left their mark (Fig. 5).

A small number of remaining letters written on birch bark are attributed to the early period of the Siberian letters. Most of the letters I have seen were written in 1945, the last year of war. A. Brazdeikis showed one of them in his review and the second one sent by Petras Gasiūnas from Reshoty Gulag is shown here. It differs from the first one, because, first of all, it has reached the addressee without the stamp and

# The Group 27 – Scarce Stamps from the Telšiai 1941 Overprinted Exposition

Keistutis Peter Devenis, Concord, Massachusetts  
Dr. Vitaly Geyfman, Scranton, Pennsylvania

EN

In June of 1941 Germany attacked Soviet Union and German troops entered and occupied Lithuania. In the early days of German occupation post offices of the larger Lithuanian cities overprinted the remaining Soviet Union stamps for use under German authorities. These overprints were in use until official “Hitler” stamps with OSTLAND overprint became available.

Telšiai overprinted a large variety of the Soviet stamps but different stamps were overprinted in different quantities due to availability of the stamps at the Post Offices. Of these, the Soviet Union Agricultural Exposition commemoratives were among the rarest.

The Soviet Union Agricultural Exposition commemoratives were printed in sheets of 36 stamps. Each sheet contained 4 blocks of 9 different stamps connected in a *tete-beche* fashion with potentially 6 vertical and 6 horizontal *tete-beche* pairs in each sheet. Central block of 4 consists of one of each four stamps.

There were two distinct overprinting sessions. During the 1<sup>st</sup> printing only 3 sheets with the Uzbekistan, Moscow, Leningrad, and Byelorussia stamps were overprinted. There were 9 of each stamps in the sheet and total of 3 sheets overprinted making it only 27 of each of the above overprinted rarities possible.

The “Group 27” stamps are the rarest Lithuanian stamps with fewest printed numbers. There are other scarce Lithuanian stamps, but they are either varieties or errors of larger numbers of printed stamps or hand stamped overprints, such as Alsėdžiai, Anykščiai and Pajūris. “Group 27” stamps have captured the interest of the authors to locate more stamps because of the ability to plate each stamp not only by position but also by sheet so that each stamp can be investigated and described individually, much like one of the world’s best known stamps, the 1918 US upside-down Jenny bi-plane. Only one sheet of 100 inverts was discovered.

In the LPS issue No. 238 (2010), K. Devenis presented 29 stamps from “Group 27”. Recent expertizing by V. Geyfman under auspices of LPS has determined that 4 of these stamps were fraudulent: 2 from Viennafil Auction in a horizontal *se-tenant* canceled pair Leningrad – Byelorussia and 2 from Dr. Doniela – Byelorussia and Uzbekistan. Therefore, the 2010 article examined 25 genuine stamps rather than 29.

Since the 2010 article there were quite a few additional genuine stamps found and evaluated by Dr. Geyfman. At the present time in 2015 the number of known genuine “Group 27” stamps has increased from 25 to 44.

Table 1. Each of the presently known genuine stamps from the “Group 27”:

	Uzbekistan	Moscow	Leningrad	Byelorussia	Total
	Overprint Type II	Overprint Type II	Overprint Type III	Overprint Type III	
Devenis	4	7	6	6	23
Matuzas sale	2	1	2	1	6
Geyfman	1	1	3	1	6
Köhler sale	1	2		1	4
Ex Bender	1		1		2
Doniela		1			1
Rubini	1				1
Pečeliūnas				1	
	10	12	12	10	44

Matuzas sale stamps are from Cherrystone Auction where purchasers and current owners are not known. Köhler sale stamps are from Heinrich Köhler Auction on March 24, 2012 where purchasers are not known. Rainer Bender who submitted scans of his stamps for the 2010 article has passed away later in 2010.

It is important to note that the most recent plating study of the first Telšiai Agricultural issue printing

produced unexpected but welcomed results. In 2010 the 3 sheets were classified as having a Low, Middle and High overprints. The erroneous assumption was made at that time that the level of the overprint remained constant throughout the given sheet. Fig. 1 below shows an example of ¼ sheet with Block of 9 Mechanization Pavilion Type III (1<sup>st</sup> printing) stamps. Arrows point to different overprint levels in the vertical plane.

# Estimating the Value of Memelgebiet Cancellations

Dr. John D. Neefus, Chesapeake, Virginia

EN

Collecting Memelgebiet cancellations can be as rewarding as collecting the stamps under them. Do you know if you have Memel cancellation of value? I will attempt to give the reader some knowledge of the factors that exist in assessing the relative value.

The smaller the number of cancellations from a postal entity, the greater is their value. When cancellations are compared to other cancellations we have the basis for comparing value. Positive factors and the negative factors can be found in collecting Memelgebiet stamp cancellations. Consider these factors:

1) Is the cancellation from Memel? It helps if you know the geography of the territory. As an example, a town like Ragnit or Tilsit in East Prussia, was on the Memel border just across the Neman (Nemunas) River and its cancel can be found on Memelgebiet overprinted Germania stamps. These are collectable curiosities but of little value.

2) The cancellation collector should have a reference list for the 68 towns of the Memel territory. He or she should know if any of these towns or cities had multiple cancelling devices used sequentially or concurrently.

3) Some knowledge about post offices is necessary. Generally, the larger the post office, the lower the relative value of its cancelled stamps. During the Memel period, the German system of classing post offices was based upon the amount of mail processed. The larger to smaller post office classes were Class I, Class II, Class III or Agencies. The first three classes had their own building. The agency had shared housing with a business (i.e. bank, grocery store, train station, etc.). The cities of Memel and Heydekrug had Class I post offices; Russ and Pogegen had Class II post offices and Pökuls, Plaschken and Wischwill had Class III post offices.

4) The city or town population is an important factor in determining cancel relative value. The greater the population, the more the need to communicate through a variety of postal entities. What we know about city and town populations of Memel are based on the 1915 and the 1925 population censuses.

5) The use of specific cancelling devices can possibly indicate value. The single-ring cancelling device (containing name, date and sometimes time) dates back to before 1900, yet some 8 towns used these devices on Germania stamps; 15 towns on French stamps and 10 on Lithuanian Markių issues.

A newer cancelling device used prior to World War

I and a holdover from use in East Prussia found use in Memelgebiet. This cancel had a circular two-ring shape that had a date bridge of 8-9 mm and had thin vertical bars above and below the date bridge extending toward the inner ring. Six cities and 28 towns used this type of cancel for a short period of time in 1920 until a newer cancellation was introduced on November 1, 1920. The cancel was similar to the prior device except the thin vertical bars were removed and inserted between the lower arcs was the word "MEMELGEBIET". On April 16th 1923 a Lithuanian style canceller was introduced in the city of Memel, now the city of Klaipėda. German type cancels remained in use until they had a Lithuanian type replacement.

The time usage for Germania stamps was 3 months; for French overprinted stamps was 33 months and for the Lithuanian Markių and Litas stamps was 30 months.

6) Time of post office operation is an important factor. The post office agencies listed below were closed in the year, month and day if known as shown:

1920 Sokaiten in August

1921 Minge in July, Rucken on September 30th, Uszpelken also on September 30th.

1922 none

1923 Berzischken on February 28th, Robkojen on September 30th, Bismarck and Gillandwirszen in December

1924 Kolletzischken on January 1st.

We do not know all of the facts. We do know that 40 Memel towns had cancelling devices only used in 1920, but for what period of time within 1920? Specialist should note that the first MEMEL [ \* \* c ] cancel with its flat back "c" went out of use on December 20th when the post office closed. The next morning December 21st the second MEMEL [ \* \* c ] cancel with the round back "c" came into use.

Two post office agencies were opened during this time period. They were Uebermemel on October 14th and Uszpirden on October 18th, 1920. These two agencies were the only agencies allowed to use the new "MEMELGEBIET" cancel prior to November 1st 1920.

(7) The types of German cancelling devices used in Memel are described below along with their type:

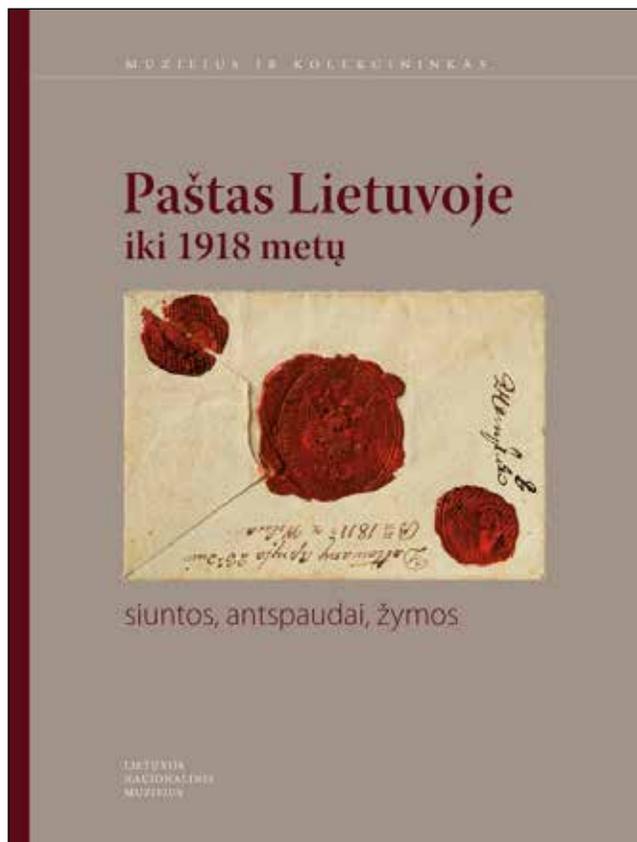
100 type is a single circle containing only the town name, date, time and stars.

## The Post in Lithuania Before 1918: Parcels, Postmarks and Postal Markings

### Paštas Lietuvoje iki 1918 metų: siuntos, antspaudai, žymos

Julija Normantienė, Vilnius

EN LT



**EN** The book "The Post in Lithuania Before 1918: Parcels, Postmarks and Postal Markings" is a result of long-term cooperation between the National Museum of Lithuania and the well-known Lithuanian collector Vyginas Bubnys. Referring to the collector's experience and the collection, which he has amassed and systemised in the course of many years, as well as the factographic data found in archival sources and historiography, the book describes the postal network in Lithuania in the 19th–20th centuries, its development and importance in society's economic, cultural and social life.

The intense development of crafts and trade in the world in the second half of the 17th century produced a necessity to maintain permanent relations not only among different states and cities, but also among individuals. Under the conditions of technical progress of that time, postal networks were best suited

for communication; thus, state institutions gradually took over the organisation and control of postal activity from private individuals. In the late 18th century, when in the majority of the world's countries the organisation and funding of postal activity and the charges for postal services became a state monopoly, Lithuania already was part of the Russian Empire. Therefore, in the present book, which describes the development of the post in Lithuania in the 18th–19th centuries, the period from the Third Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1795) to the proclamation of the independent state of Lithuania in 1918 has been chosen as a reference point.

In the period under description, different postal systems operated in various parts of the present territory of Lithuania. With the aim to describe them more consistently, the book is divided into four chapters. In the chapter "The Post in Lithuania in the Period of the Rule of the Russian Empire. 1795–1915", the principles, structure and administration of the Russian postal system are described. The geographical distribution of the first post offices in the present territory of Lithuania under Russian rule is presented, the means of registering and delivery of dispatches, as well as the delivery rates are surveyed. The chapter presents a description and images of the earliest postmarks, and describes their development from a line indicating the place name, which came into use in the late 18th century, to a circular postmark used till the beginning of World War I.

The chapter "The Post in the Užnemunė Region. 1815–1866" is constructed according to a similar principle. It covers a period of 50 years, during which the south-western part of Lithuania, Užnemunė, belonged to the autonomous province of the Russian Empire – the Kingdom of Poland. In Užnemunė the work of post offices was organised according to the Prussian postal system, which prevailed in the Kingdom of Poland and was different from the one used in other domains of the Russian Empire at that time. Therefore, until their incorporation into the postal system of the Russian Empire in 1866, the Užnemunė post offices used different postmarks and postal markings, and the procedure of payment for postal services was also different. In this chapter the reader will find a list of the first post offices in Užnemunė, and will learn

traktą tarp Prūsijos ir Rusijos, Klaipėdoje intensyviau pradėjo veikti Prūsijos pasienio paštas, iki 1920 m., kai, vykdant Versalio taikos sutartį, Klaipėdos kraštas buvo perduotas valdyti Prancūzijai.

Rusijos imperijos pašto įstaigų evakavimas į šalies gilumą, jų darbo reorganizavimas pirmomis Pirmojo pasaulinio karo dienomis ir Vokietijos karinės administracijos Lietuvoje įkurtų Oberosto pašto įstaigų veikla aprašoma skyriuje „Paštas Lietuvoje Pirmojo pasaulinio karo metais. 1915–1918 m.“ Čia pateikiama informacija apie Rusijos ir Vokietijos karo cenzūros įvedimą, civilių ir karių korespondencijos tikrinimą, karo lauko pašto įstaigų darbo organizavimą bei civilių asmenų susirašinėjimo apribojimus Oberosto

teritorijoje 1916–1918 m.

Knyga gausiai iliustruota pirmą kartą publikuojamais pašto vokais ir atvirlaiškiais iš turtingos Vyginto Bubnio kolekcijos. Šie iki mūsų dienų išlikę dokumentai liudija, kaip anuomet mūsų valstybės teritorijoje gyvenę žmonės naudojosi pašto ryšiais, siekdami ekonominio, kultūrinio ir asmeninio bendravimo.

Antrojoje knygoje „Paštas Lietuvoje 1918–1940 m.: valstybės pašto kūrimas ir veikla, ženklų leidyba“ išsamiai aprašoma nepriklausomos Lietuvos valstybės pašto veikla, parodomas pašto žinybos kūrimas, jos darbo organizavimas, pašto ženklų leidybos praktika, apžvelgiami su tuo susiję sunkumai.

## The Post in Lithuania in 1918–1940: The Establishment and Activity of the Public Post, and the Issuing of Postage Stamps

### Paštas Lietuvoje 1918–1940 metais: valstybės pašto kūrimas ir veikla, ženklų leidyba

Julija Normantienė, Vilnius

EN LT



**EN** It took a year after the restoration of independence of Lithuania on 16 February 1918 before the necessary conditions for establishing post offices were built in the state. In December 1918 as few as ten post offices were taken over from the Germans, and due to difficult economic conditions and political circumstances, it was not until 1919–1920 that the majority of post offices came into operation. It was not easy to create the public post system from scratch, without the necessary economic basis. The funds, equipment and specialists, as well as the experience of providing postal services were missing. It took several years and a great deal of efforts to build an organised and efficient postal system of the Lithuanian state, which successfully functioned in the general structure of the Universal Postal Union until the Soviet occupation in 1940.

The history of the Lithuanian post from 1918 to 1940 has so far not received wider research attention; among the published sources, only some small articles published in the magazines of the philatelic communities of Lithuanians in exile can be mentioned. Therefore, while preparing this book, most attention was dedicated to the documents held in the Lithuanian Central State Archive and publications in the Lithuanian press of the interwar period. Conclusions and generalisations were made referring to the data and facts found

# The Maps and Mapmakers that Helped Define 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Lithuanian Boundaries - **Part 2**: The First Partition of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, 1772 – Its Description and Depiction in Maps

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In the previous – and first – installment of this series, we established a geographical starting point for the dismemberment of the 11 provinces (*vaivadijų*) of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (*Lietuvos Didžioji Kunigaikštystė*) by the Empire of Russia. My intention was to then focus on the Russian administrative boundary changes of the lands they acquired. But, as I reviewed the literature and maps describing the First, 1772, Partition, I was struck by the disparate descriptions and cartographic depictions of that seemingly straight-forward event. I decided to present a summary of that event and its immediate aftermath in the annexed regions. The next two articles, then, will cover the Second (1793) and Third (1795) Partitions.

For hundreds of years before the First Partition of the Republic of Two Nations (*Abiejų Tautų Respublika*), which hereafter I will refer to as the GDL, “Lithuania” was often missing from maps of Europe and of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, its lands labeled “Poland,” long before Russification, and later Polonization, accomplished the same result. This practice is akin to calling the “United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland” (the UK’s formal name) just “England.” The practice continues to this day, as evidenced by the many historical maps in atlases and online depicting the boundaries of the pre-partitioned Commonwealth. You can see the evidence at my site: <http://www.lithuanianmaps.com/MapsHistoricalUpTo1795.html>

“Poland” disappeared from maps too – but for a much shorter time, and only from Russian-produced maps, despite a secret amendment to the agreement signed by Russia, Austria and Prussia following the Third (1795) – and last – Partition:

“In view of the necessity to abolish everything which could revive the memory of the existence of the Kingdom of Poland, now that the annulment of this body politic has been effected ... the high contracting parties are agreed and undertake never to include in their titles ... the name or designation of the Kingdom of Poland, which shall remain suppressed as from the present and forever ...”<sup>1</sup>

## Descriptions of the First Partition:

The reasons behind the First Partition, summarized in the first article, are many and complicated, but the

influence of Russia’s military on Empress Catherine II is primary:

“...the military party was openly in favor of direct annexations. They believed that Russia’s interests could best be served by seizing the territory of her neighbors on every possible occasion. Chernyshev, the Vice-President of the War College, expressed this view when, at the new [as of 1762] Empress Catherine’s council called to discuss the [1763] death of the King of Poland [Augustus III], he proposed an invasion of Polish Livonia and the palatinates of Polotsk, Witebsk, and Mscislaw.”<sup>2</sup>

Nine years later, those were the areas annexed – and a bit more, for good measure.

Here’s a selection of how that event has been described:

1. “The occupation of the Grand Duchy followed. Russia annexed the lands up to the Daugava and Dnieper rivers, including the cities of Polock and Vitebsk; it also annexed Latgalia, which had belonged to Lithuania since the sixteenth century.”<sup>3</sup>

2. “Catherine confined herself to Polish Livonia, and to the counties of Polotsk, Witebsk, Mscislaw, and Homel.”<sup>4</sup>

3. “...Russia obtained 92,000 sq km of the Republic’s territory (this was GDL territory: the palatinates of Polock, Mstislavl, Vitebsk, part of Minsk palatinate, Livonia).”<sup>5</sup>

4. “Russia came into possession of the commonwealth territories east of the line formed roughly by the Dvina [Daugava], Drut, and Dnieper Rivers—that section of Livonia which had still remained in Commonwealth control, and of Belarus embracing the counties of Vitebsk, Polotsk and Mstislavl.”<sup>6</sup>

5. “The Russian empire of Tsaritsa Catherine II progressively annexed almost all of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: the cities of Polotsk in 1772, Minsk in 1774, and finally Vil’no [his approximation of the Russian version of the name] in 1795. By incorporating Lithuania, Russia absorbed elites who spoke Polish, peasants who spoke (for the most part) what we would now call Belarusian, and towns inhabited in the main by Jews.”<sup>7</sup>

6. “As a result of the First Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the eastern part of Belarus was annexed by the Russian Empire and was incorporated into the newly formed Mogilev, Pskov and Polotsk guberniyas.”<sup>8</sup>

7. “In 1772 the western provinces of Belarus were annexed to the Russian Empire.”<sup>9</sup>

8. “Russia took the Palatinate of Mstislavl and part of the palatinates of Polotsk, Vitebsk and Minsk.”<sup>10</sup>

Fig. 3 is a detail of a folding map glued to linen published by T.C. Lotter in Augsburg soon after the actual partition. The state of cartographic knowledge in this area being what it was, the inaccurate shapes – especially of “Livonia Polonica” – are to be expected, but “MAGNUS [D]UCATUS [LI]THUANIAE” is clearly

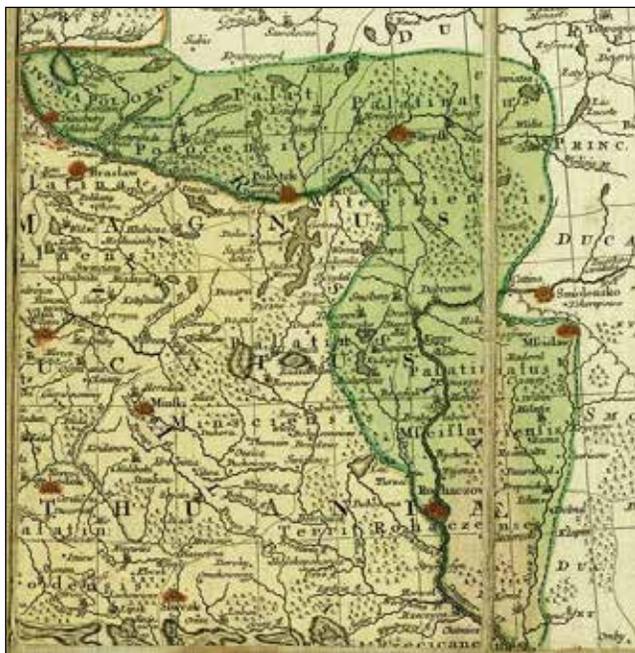


Fig. 3. 1773 Tobias Conrad Lotter: detail from "MAPPA GEOGRAPHICA ex novissimis observationibus repraesentans REGNUM POLONIAE ET MAGNUM DUCATUM LITHUANIAE," Augsburg. Image from <http://RCIN.org.pl>

identified as the former ruler of the annexed areas.

Also in 1773, in a detail from a map (Fig. 4) by Tobias Mayer - Homann Heirs, the positioning of “[MAGN] VS DVCATVS” and “[LIT]VANIAE” clearly identify First-Partition-annexed areas as belonging to the GDL.



Fig. 4: 1773 Tobias Mayer - Homann Heirs: "Mappa Geographica REGNI POLONIAE..." Nürnberg. Image from <http://alexandremaps.com>



Two years after the First Partition, a French map-maker (in Fig. 5) pushed “[D]UCHE DE [LI]THUANIAE” left and to the west, and had the “Palatinat de Mscislaw” mistakenly shown as having been bisected in the First Partition, while the western half remained in the GDL – whereas it had been entirely annexed.

In 1775, the Homann Heirs published a map (Fig. 6.) in Nürnberg which set the record straight, at least for a while. “Charte von Russisch Litauen...” by its very title made clear that the annexed lands of the First Partition were of Lithuanian origin, and that those lands were the provinces of “Livonia, Witepsk, and Mścislaw, as well as a part of the provinces of Polotsk and Minsk.”

T.C. Lotter, in 1778, six years after the First Partition, not only correctly identified the annexed lands as having belonged to “MAGNUS [D]UCATUS [LI]THUANIAE,” but does it on a map (Fig. 7.) boldly entitled – not “Poland,” as was typically the case – but “Magnus Ducatus LITHUANIA.”

Fig. 5. 1774 Jean Janvier - Jean Lattre: “Royaumes de Pologne et de Prusse, avec le Duché de Curlande...,” Paris. Image from Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps: <http://raremaps.com>

# Hiroataka Araki

John Variakojs, Chicago, Illinois



**Hiroataka Araki holding his LPS Honorary Member plaque**

We have written extensively about Mr. Hiroataka Araki, our good-will ambassador in Japan, but every year brings new events taking place as a result of Mr. Araki's philatelic exhibitions and journalism about Lithuania. Not only does he exhibit Lithuanian postal items at stamp exhibitions in Japan, but he also writes numerous articles about Lithuania and Lithuanian postal issues in philatelic magazines, bulletins and trade journals. Mr. Araki has been exhibiting Lithuanian Post material since 1993. Lately his Lithuanian exhibits have appeared at regional stamp shows in Kawagoe, Saitama and national exhibitions in Tokyo, Japan. In recognition of his accomplishments, Mr. Hiroataka Araki was recently elected Honorary Member of the Lithuania Philatelic Society.

On September 13, 2014, at SAIPEX 2014 in the City of Kawagoe, Mr. Araki exhibited 5 frames (80 leaves) of a comprehensive collection of covers, titled "The Postal History of Lithuanian Registered Mail 1989 – 1996." Each cover was fully described as to the topic, date and postage used in the transitional ruble - talonas – litas period. Mr. Araki also placed a photo of the Honorary plaque alongside Frame #1. According to Mr. Araki,

almost all visitors who looked at his Lithuanian exhibit admired it greatly. SAIPEX2014 was not a competitive exhibition, hence no awards were issued.

On October 31, 2014, at JAPEX2014 in Tokyo, Mr. Araki exhibited the same collection of covers "The Postal History of Lithuanian Registered Mail 1989 – 1996." The Exhibition closed on November 2, 2014. Running against strong showing, Mr. Araki won a Vermeil Award in spite of showing exhibits of postal items of only about 25 years ago.

At the time of this writing Mr. Araki is preparing the above exhibit, translated into English language, for an international exhibition that will take place on April 24 – 28 in Taipei City, Taiwan.



**Hiroataka Araki next to Frame 1 of his exhibit and his Honorary plaque at SAIPEX2014**

In the City of Kawagoe journal YUSHU No. 271 (August 20, 2014) Mr Araki writes about Lithuania becoming a member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2014 – 2015 term. He also writes that on January 1, 2015, Lithuania will adopt the Euro as its official currency. Mr. Araki shows a Lithuanian cover and a tete-beche stamp that, for the first time, shows the denomination in both 1.35 Litass and 0.39 Euro.

