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THE COVER
By Arunas Sakalauskas

Lithuania: Royal Mail 1697 – 1765

Dr. Vytautas Doniela, Sydney, Australia

The union of Lithuania and Poland, which was finalised at Lublin in 1569, resulted in a kind of dual state whose ruler was both the King of Poland and the Grand Duke of Lithuania. Apart from the dual state's gradual decline due to internal turmoil and before its final break-up in the partitions of 1772, 1793 and 1795, there were also periods when the ruler was elected, for personal and political reasons, from foreign dynasties.

The following envelopes and folded entires come from the period when the dual state was ruled by Saxonian kings as a result of a further "personal union" with Saxony. Usually, the covers and folded entires of the time display an intricate manner of addressing the noble addressee – in German, such ornate items are called Schnörkelbriefe. They are also interesting politically, as the respectfully crafted addresses list possibly all known titles of the king or nobleman in his capacity as a lawful ruler or as some other kind of sovereign over certain domains.

Fig. 1 shows a Schnörkelbrief dated 1703 enclosing a [lost] letter addressed to the Saxonian (Friedrich) August II. In addition to his title as King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania and sovereign of a number of smaller domains, it is worth noting the separate naming of Samogijtien (= Samogitia, Žemaitija). [For a summing up of the special status of Žemaitija / Samogitia, see toward end of this article]

The rule of the Saxonian dynasty in the 18th century started off by electing, in 1697, (Friedrich) August the Second (*1670, +1733), also known for his physical capacity as August the Strong (in German, August der Starke) who won the Lithuanian-Polish elections against his main opponent, the French Prince de Conti. For the country, August the Second's reign was a sequence of misfortunes, partly due to his taking an active part in the long-lasting and mainly unsuccessful War of the North against the Swedes. Lithuanian territory, in particular, was badly devastated by criss-crossing armies. Indeed, for several years (1705–1710) August II was replaced by the Polish nobleman Leszczinski but came back to reign until his death in 1733.



Fig. 1. A Schnörkelbrief dated 1703 enclosing a [lost] letter addressed to the Saxonian (Friedrich) August II.

August II partly resided in Poland. At his time, postal routes were already well looked after but his own special contribution to some areas in Europe was the introduction of so-called Saxonian post milestones which were set up along all important postal and trading routes to indicate the official distances amounting to an hour's journey, ca. 4.5 km. Eventually, this formed the basis for the creation of a unified calculation of postal charges. Moreover, August II put in a special clause in a treaty with Russia's Peter I (at Biržai in 1701) to improve the functioning of postal links.

Fig. 2 shows the outside of a folded entire, dated 1722, addressed to August II. Again, in addition to his title as King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, there is also Samogitien [Samogitia, Žemaitija] as another smaller but separate domain.

Fig. 3 shows top part of the first page of the inside of the preceding folded entire. The petitioner's request concerns some legal problems arising in a parish in Saxony.



Fig. 2. A folded entire, dated 1722, addressed to August II.

August II was succeeded by his son (Friedrich) August III (*1696, +1763) who, this time with Russia's pressure, was elected King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania and reigned from 1733 to his death in 1763. Although less pompous than his father

The Warrior's Cross Issue, 1929–1932

Dr. Vygintas Bubnys, Vilnius

In my opinion, the stamp series featuring the Warrior's Cross are by far the most common stamp series throughout the entire interwar period of independent Lithuania. In seven years, the monochrome and uniform postage stamp design in different colours and watermarks had been printed in almost 100 million copies and widely used to pay for postal services for nearly a decade. The design is also found on postal cards and stamped envelopes. By the way, these stamped envelopes continued to be used until 1941. At first glance, many philatelists would consider these stamps as plain and the most "boring". I had shared the same opinion for the first two decades I had been collecting stamps. Later, when my collection had grown in size, and I could analyse separate stamps more thoroughly, including the parts of sheets and the blocks of four as well as the parcel mail, it confused me even more and raised so many questions which could be answered by neither the philatelic literature nor the surviving archival documents. I do believe that

many serious philatelists are plagued by certain unanswered questions. I will share my opinion, thoughts and discoveries with my colleagues and I would be very grateful for your comments, contributions and critical remarks. With this article, I want to encourage my fellow colleagues to share the information about the stamps they own and which have never been described, including varieties and parcel mail that still raise unanswered questions.

According to major stamp catalogues, three stamp denominations of 5ct, 15ct, and 30ct featuring the Warrior's Cross design were issued in 1929, printed on a sheet of paper with honeycomb watermarks. It is unknown, when the first stamps were put into circulation, but the first mentioning of a new 30ct stamp of the Warrior's Cross design can be found in the daily *Lietuvos žinios* No. 107 published on 14 May, 1929. The earliest known usage of this stamp was 16 May, 1929, i.e. two weeks earlier than the official issue date declared

in stamp catalogues. A cover from my collection franked by 30ct dark blue stamp is shown in Fig 1. It is unknown whether other denominations were put into circulation prior to the official issue date. In addition, I could not find out why did all catalogues claim that these stamps were put into circulation on 3 June, 1929; therefore, I am inclined to think that this assumption is based on some information either by a telegram or a letter sent to POs in relation to the introduction of new stamps, which was, by the way, practiced by the Post Board.

It is known that between 1931 and 1932, two stamp denominations of 2ct and 10ct have been re-issued and put into circulation. Were there other stamps of 5ct, 15ct and 30ct also printed in 1931–1932, if they were, was it a supplementary issue or had these stamps differed from the ones printed in 1929? My answer to this question would be a positive one; I would also like to add that the stamp sheet was different from the one issued in 1929 in several important aspects. **The stamps of 5ct, 15ct and 30ct had been printed twice, in 1929 and 1931–1932:** the total circulation of 5ct stamp was 12.2 million (2 million in 1929 and 10.2 million in 1931–1932), the circulation of 15ct stamps was 13.2 million (3 million and 10.2 million respectively), and the circulation of 30ct stamps was 24.4 million (4 million and 20.4 million respectively). The numbers from 1929 are known from the orders placed by the Post Board to Spindulys printing house, whereas the numbers from 1931–1932 can be found in the acceptance act of the Postage Stamp Printing Supervision Committee. When speaking about the circulation of stamps, I do not take into consideration how many of them had been destroyed due to their poor print quality in accordance with the decision adopted by Postage Stamp Printing Supervision Committee (according to the general Final Act of Stamp Printing No. 105, there was the total of almost



Fig. 1. A registered letter from Klaipėda to Bradford, UK sent on 16 May, 1929; one of the stamps used to prepay for the service is a 30ct dark blue stamp with a honeycomb watermark.

The 1934 Lituanica I Airmail Stamp

Dr. Vitaly Geyfman, Scranton, Pennsylvania

EN

In the last two issues of the Journal of the Lithuania Philatelic Society (No. 242 and No. 243) I wrote about the history of the largest known block of the 1935 Vaitkus Transatlantic Flight overprint and the 1935 Vaitkus overprint proofs. Going backwards, it would be interesting to review the origin of the stamp used for overprinting.

Shortly after the tragic death of the two Lithuanian pilots Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas during their unsuccessful attempt of direct transatlantic flight from New York City to Kaunas, the Lithuanian government and Postal Authorities issued a commemorative set of six airmail stamps, Scott C79-84.

Scott Catalog C80 (Mi 386, AJ 386) was designed by artist Juozas Gaučas. The artist drawing of the basic design (Fig. 1) was accepted for printing in 40 centų denomination, and with few additional corrections (LIETUVA instead of LIETUVOS, etc.) The entire set, including this stamp was engraved and printed by the famous printing facility "Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd." in New Malden, England.

Three different color proofs were rendered for committee evaluation. The carmine color frame with the blue center was chosen and approved to print on February 17th 1934.

Printing proofs, also known as "Bradbury proofs" of both frame and center (in issued colors) are known to exist as shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4.

The final stamp was issued without watermarks in sheets of 100 stamps [10 × 10] perforated 11½ × 11½ with gum.



Fig. 1. Scott Catalog #C80 (Mi 386, AJ 386) was designed by artist Juozas Gaučas. Image used with permission from Cherrystone auction catalogue June 2011. Current owner unknown.

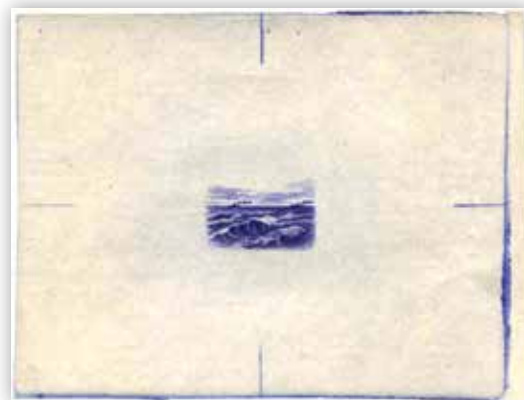


Fig. 2. Three different color proofs of Sc C80. Proofs from collection of V. Geyfman

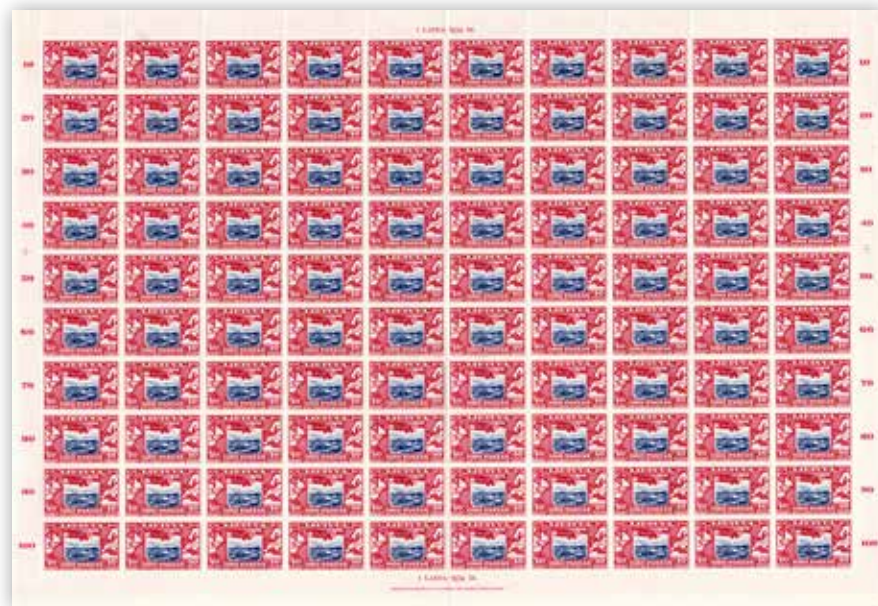
Fig. 3. → Proof of the frame. Collection Geyfman.



Fig. 4. ↓ Proof of the center. Collection Bubnys.



← Fig. 5. A full sheet of Scott C80.



Dr. Vitaly Geyfman
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Philatelic Exhibition KAUNAS-2015 / Filatelijos paroda KAUNAS-2015



Audrius Brazdeikis, Houston, Texas

EN

The Union of Lithuanian Philatelists (Lietuvos Filatelistų Sąjunga) held a successful exhibition in Kaunas on November 19–22, 2015.

The national competitive exhibition, held at the Vytautas Magnus University, included diverse exhibits covering the classes of Traditional Philately, Thematic Philately, Postal History, Youth Philately, and Literature entries.

Awards were sponsored by the Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuanian World Center, and Kaunas City Council. The winners of the philatelic exhibition Kaunas–2015 announced at the awards ceremony on November 22, 2015:

Traditional Philately Class

1. Antanas Burkus "Rheinland-Pfalz Land Stamps Designed by V. K. Jonynas" (single frame) [Bronze].
2. Henrikas Kebeikis "Queen Victoria Stamp - World's First Postage Stamp" [Large silver].
3. Edmundas Liesis "The First Kaunas Issue 1919" (single frame) [Gold].
4. Jonas Linkevičius "Stamps of Central Lithuania – Trial Printings and Varieties" (single frame) [Bronze].
5. Tauras Jonas Nainys "The Second Standard Vytis Issue 1991" (single frame) [Silver].

Thematic Philately Class

1. Antanas Jasulaitis "Christmas" [Silver].
2. Henrikas Kebeikis "Gagarin" [Large silver].
3. Viktoras Kirila "The Red Cross" (single frame) [Bronze].
4. Vladas Miežanskas "Young Tourist Jamborees Letters-souvenirs" [Silver].
5. Jonas Načiūnas "Olympic Javelin flight" (multi-frame) [Silver].
6. Ričardas Vainora "White Stork" (single frame) [Silver].

Postal History Class

1. Vyginas Bubnys "Mail during Lithuanian State Destruction Year 1939–1941" [Gold].
2. Liudas Mažylis "Postmarks of Kovenskaya Gubernya from 1860s" [Large Vermeil].
3. Liudas Mažylis "Field Post Offices of German Empire 1915–1919" (single frame) [Diploma].
4. Juozas Urbonas "Lithuanian exile mail" [Gold].

LT

2015 lapkričio 19–22 d. Kaune, Vytauto Didžiojo universitete buvo surengta nacionalinė filatelijos paroda „Kaunas-2015“, kurią suorganizavo Lietuvos Filatelistų Sąjunga.

Parodos lankytojai galėjo susipažinti su tradicine ir temine filatelija bei pašto istorija. Lankytojai taip pat galėjo dalyvauti viktorinoje, kurioje jie buvo kviečiami ištaisyti pašto ženkluose pasitaikančias gramatines klaidas, nustatyti jų nominalus, tarp eksponatų rasti laiškus, kuriuos rašė įžymūs žmonės.

Parodos parodos laimėtojai ir dalyviai buvo apdovanoti prizais, kuriuos įsteigė Vytauto Didžiojo universitetas, Pasaulio lietuvių centras ir Kauno miesto savivaldybė:

Tradicinės filatelijos klasė

1. Antanas Burkus „Rheinland-Pfalz žemės V.K.Jonyno piešti pašto ženklai“ (vieno stendo) [Bronza]
2. Henrikas Kebeikis „Anglijos karalienės Viktorijos laikų pirmieji pasaulyje pašto ženklai“ [Didysis sidabro]
3. Edmundas Liesis „Kauno pirmoji laida 1919 m.“ (vieno stendo) [Aukso]
4. Jonas Linkevičius „Vidurio Lietuvos pašto ženklai – bandiniai ir nuokrypos“ (vieno stendo) [Bronza]
5. Tauras Jonas Nainys „1991 m. antroji standartinė Vyčio laida“ (vieno stendo) [Sidabro]

Teminės filatelijos klasė

1. Antanas Jasulaitis „Kalėdos“ [Sidabro]
2. Henrikas Kebeikis „Gagarinas“ [Didysis sidabro]
3. Viktoras Kirila „Raudonasis kryžius“ (vieno stendo) [Bronza]
4. Vladas Miežanskas „Jaunųjų turistų sąskrydžių 1958–1960 m. siuntos-suvenyrai“ (vieno stendo) [Sidabro]
5. Jonas Načiūnas „Olimpinis ieties skrydis“ [Sidabro]
6. Ričardas Vainora „Baltasis gandras“ (vieno stendo) [Sidabro]

Pašto istorijos klasė

1. Vyginas Bubnys „Paštas Lietuvos valstybės naikinimo metais, 1939–1941“ [Aukso]
2. Liudas Mažylis „Kauno gubernijos pašto antspaudai nuo 1860-ųjų metų“ [Didysis paauskuotas]
3. Liudas Mažylis „Kaizerinės Vokietijos karo lauko paštai 1915–1919“ (vieno stendo) [Diplomas]
4. Juozas Urbonas „Lietuvių tremties paštas“ [Aukso]

5. Juozas Urbonas "Mail of Znanavyskai Region" [Silver].
6. Ričardas Vainora "Lithuanian Post 1990-1993" [Vermeil].
7. Leonas Veržbolas "The Letters of Religious Communities of the 19th Century – Beginning of the 20th Century" (single-frame) [Diploma].
8. Rasa Zozaitė "Editorial Mailbox of "Kauno Laikas": 1990–1993, From the USSR to Lithuania" (single-frame) [Bronze].

Literature Class

1. Martin Bechstedt "Litauen. Handbuch der Briefmarken des unabhängigen Staates 1918–1940/41. Teil II: Die Marken der Litas-Währung 1922–1940/41" [Large Vermeil].
2. Journal of the Lithuania Philatelic Society (No. 241–243) (Ed. Audrius Brazdeikis) [Large Vermeil].
3. Vyginas Bubnys, Julija Normantienė "Mail in Lithuania Until 1918" and "Mail in Lithuania in 1918–1940" [Gold].
4. Vytautas Fugalevičius, Martin Bechstedt „Lietuvos pašto antspaudai / "Poststempel in Litauen 1918-1940/41" [Large Vermeil].
5. Tobias Huylmans "Memelgebiet Handbuch der Stempel 1920–1925" [Large Vermeil].
6. Antanas Jankauskas "Special Lithuanian Postage Stamp Catalogue" (1918–2012)" [Gold].
7. John D. Neefus "Memel / Klaipėda. Philatelic Handbook. Parts 1–3" [Vermeil].

Youth Philately Class

Aistė Urbonaitė "Lithuanian Theme in Polish Postage Stamps" [Silver].

The Jury

Eugenijus Ušpuras (chairman)
Juozas Augutis
Gediminas Sausionis

The exhibition received considerable attention from fellow philatelists and the general public. Overall, the event resulted in the great promotion of philately.

Congratulations to the hard-working organizing committee who made it all happen:

Liudas Mažylis (chairman)
Vyginas Bubnys
Antanas Jankauskas
Henrikas Kebeikis
Edmundas Liesis
Eugenijus Ušpuras
Leonas Veržbolas

We now look forward to the national philatelic exhibition in 2018 commemorating the centenary of Lithuanian postage stamps.

5. Juozas Urbonas „Zanavykų krašto paštas“ (vieno stendo) [Sidabro]
6. Ričardas Vainora „Lietuvos paštas 1990–1993 m.“ [Paukušotas]
7. Leonas Veržbolas „Religinių bendrijų laišakai 19 a.–20 a. pradžioje“ (vieno stendo) [Diplomas]
8. Rasa Zozaitė „Kauno laiko“ redakcijos paštas 1990–1993 m.: nuo SSRS iki Lietuvos“ (vieno stendo) [Bronza]

Literatūros klasė

1. Martin Bechstedt „Litauen. Handbuch der Briefmarken des unabhängigen Staates 1918–1940/41. Teil II: Die Marken der Litas-Währung 1922–1940/41“ [Didysis paukušotas]
2. Filatelistų draugijos „LIETUVA“ žurnalas (Nr. 241–243) (Red. Audrius Brazdeikis) [Didysis paukušotas]
3. Vyginas Bubnys, Julija Normantienė Dvitomis „Paštas Lietuvoje iki 1918 metų“ ir „Paštas Lietuvoje 1918–1940 metais“ [Aukso]
4. Vytautas Fugalevičius, Martin Bechstedt „Lietuvos pašto antspaudai 1918-1940/41“ [Didysis paukušotas]
5. Tobias Huylmans „Klaipėdos krašto pašto antspaudų žinynas 1920-1925“ [Didysis paukušotas]
6. Antanas Jankauskas „Lietuva. Specializuotas pašto ženklų katalogas (1918-2012)“ [Aukso]
7. John D. Neefus „Memel / Klaipėda. Filatelinis žinynas. 1–3 dalys“ [Paukušotas]

Jaunimo klasė

Aistė Urbonaitė „Lietuva Lenkijos pašto ženkluose“ [Sidabro]

Parodos žiuri

Eugenijus Ušpuras (pirmininkas)
Juozas Augutis
Gediminas Sausionis

Paroda susilaukia žiniasklaidos dėmesio ir gausaus lankytojų rato.

Tuo pačiu, norėčiau kuo nuoširdžiausiai padėkoti Organizacinio komiteto nariams be kurių indėlio ši paroda nebūtų praėjusi taip sklandžiai:

Liudas Mažylis (pirmininkas)
Vyginas Bubnys
Antanas Jankauskas
Henrikas Kebeikis
Edmundas Liesis
Eugenijus Ušpuras
Leonas Veržbolas

Nekantriai laukiame Nacionalinės parodos 2018 metais, skirtos pažymėti pirmo lietuviško pašto ženklo 100-ąsias metines.





The Maps and Mapmakers that Helped Define 20th-Century Lithuanian Boundaries - Part 3:

The Second Partition of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, 1793 – Its Description and Depiction in Maps

EN

Andrew Kapochunas, Jersey City, New Jersey

In the previous – and second – installment of this series, I ended by saying that the Second, 1793, Partition was inevitable – on that, scholars agree. Where I might differ with some is in my agreement with Norman Davies, who has said: “The Partitions were a necessary part of the process whereby reform had to be obstructed if Russian supremacy was to be maintained. The Republic of Poland – Lithuania was not destroyed because of internal anarchy, it was destroyed because it repeatedly tried to reform itself.”¹ When legal reform failed, revolts followed, revolts which Russia had to suppress – but only with the agreement and assistance of Prussia and/or Austria, each of whom demanded territory for their help.

My research regarding the First Partition showed that both its written descriptions and map depictions often wildly varied, and were mostly incomplete and inaccurate. Does that pattern repeat itself for descriptions of the 1793 Partition? (I will confine myself, as always in this series, to discussing what happened to GDL territories as they were constituted prior to the First Partition.) Absolutely! Here is a selection of descriptions of GDL losses from some of the same sources I quoted in the previous installment, as well as some new sources:

1. “The Russians annexed the remainder of White Russia up to the Dnieper and Daugava rivers, including the city of Minsk.”² [Sadly, because this is by a Lithuanian historian, this is not just an unfortunate choice of name for a GDL voivode since the 14th century, not a Russian province, but it is also incomplete.]

2. “Russia took 100,000 square miles of the eastern provinces, thereby annexing the remainder of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.”³ [An eminent British historian and his team of advisors and editors get it completely wrong.]

3. “...Russia received the lands of the palatinate of... Minsk, the eastern part of Vilnius palatinate, [and] the land of Brest...”⁴ [Only partially correct.]

4. “Russia received the... Minsk Voivodeship, and parts of the Vilnius Voivodeship, Nowogródek Voivodeship, Brest Litovsk Voivodeship and the Volhynian Voivodeship.”⁵ [Incomplete.]

5. “The Russian empire of Tsaritsa Catherine II progressively annexed almost all of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: ...the city of Minsk in 1774...”⁶ [Perhaps just a typo on the date, which should be 1793, but also a woefully incomplete summary of the Second Partition by one of my favorite historians.]

6. “By this second partition of Poland, the eastern Polish province of... Lithuania [was] absorbed by Russia.”⁷ [Yet another prominent historian in his time, an American, gets it completely wrong.]

7. “In 1772 the western provinces of Belarus were annexed to the Russian Empire and in 1795 Riecz Pospolitsa [Polish for the Polish Republic] was divided between Russia, Austria and Prussia.”⁸ [The government of Belarus not only gets the First Partition results wrong, it simply forgets about the Second Partition.]

8. “In the First Partition... Russia took northeast Belarus... In the Second Partition... Russia took 250,000 square kilometers in Ukraine and Belarus.”⁹ [The many scholars the author credited with having “corrected many embarrassing errors” in his book failed to catch these two.]

9. “The second partition was far more injurious than the first. Russia received a vast area of eastern Poland, extending southward from its gains in the first partition nearly to the Black Sea. To the west, Prussia received an area known as South Prussia, nearly twice the size of its first-partition gains along the Baltic, as well as the port of Gdansk (then renamed Danzig). Thus,

¹ Norman Davies: “God’s Playground: A History of Poland, Volume I – The Origins to 1795.” Columbia Univ. Press, 1982, p. 527

² Juozas Jakštas: “Lithuania to World War I,” in “Lithuania: 700 Years,” edited by Dr. Albertas Gerutis, 6th Edition, Manyland Press, 1984, p.109

³ Norman Davies: “God’s Playground: A History of Poland.” New York, Columbia Univ. Press, 1982, p. 537

⁴ Z. Kiaupa, J. Kiaupienė, A. Kuncevičius: “The History of Lithuania Before 1795.” Vilnius: Lithuanian Inst. of History, 2000, p. 355

⁵ Adam Nowicki: “Dzieje Polski: od czasów najdawniejszych do chwili bieżącej.” Księgarnia Polska, 1945 p. 152, as quoted in

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Partition_of_Poland

⁶ Timothy Snyder: “The Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999.” New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 2003, p.25

⁷ Israel Smith Clare: “Library of Universal History, Vol. VI – English Reformation to the Fall of Poland,” New York, R.S. Peale, J.S. Hill, 1897. p. 2471

⁸ <http://Belarus.by>: The official website of the Republic of Belarus

⁹ Daniel Stone: “The Polish-Lithuanian State, 1386-1795,” Vol. IV, “A History of East Central Europe,” Seattle, Univ. of Washinton Press, 2001

Late 20th-early 21st Century depictions of the Second Partition

It is commonly said, even among Lithuanians, that Lithuania disappeared from the map after the Third, 1795, Partition. Readers of this series of articles already know that it happened, depending on the mapmaker, well before 1795. A

selection of contemporary depictions on the Internet for the “Second Partition of Poland” (search for “Second Partition of Lithuania,” and you get the same results) gets you:



Fig. 13, from www.ancestry.com



Fig. 14, Halibutt, “Republic of Poland After Second Partition,” from wikimedia

In Fig. 15, the last contemporary example, “Žmudž” (*Žemaitija*) gets a shout-out (and identifies the anonymous mapmaker as either Polish, or replying on Polish sources), along with “Ruś Biała” (*White Russia*) and “Ruś Czarna” (*Black Russia*), but the GDL and Lithuania are nowhere to be seen.

The Second Partition’s terms and annexations led to the Insurrection of 1794, also known as the Kościuszko Uprising (*Tadas Kosciuszka*), after the Lithuanian general. The “Lithuanian” General, you ask? His 1806 will begins: “Know all men by these presents that I, Thade Kosciuszko, formerly an officer of the United States of America in their Revolutionary War against Great Britain, and a native of Lithuania...do hereby will and direct that at my decease...”¹⁴

The uprising failed, and the Third, 1795, Partition, would officially eliminate the GDL – but not “Lithuania,” as you will see in the next article in this series – from the map.

(To be continued.)



Fig. 15. “Poland after II Partition,” from the Web Chronology Project: www.thenagain.info/WebChron/Introduction.html

14 “The Massachusetts Law Society Journal,” Vol. XX, December, 1949

New Handbook on Postal Markings Published

EN

Audrius Brazdeikis, Houston, Texas

New "Pašto Antspaudai – Poststempel in Litauen – Postal Markings in Lithuania" handbook has been published by Vytautas Fugalevičius and Martin Bechstedt.

The specialized postmarks handbook can be purchased by contacting the author: m.bech@t-online.de

This handbook is published as the fourth part of a comprehensive handbook series on Lithuanian philately and postal history, includes all Lithuanian postal markings from 1918 through 1941, with new information on earliest and latest known dates of use, and the value of postmarks. Additional illustration can be seen online: <http://lithuanianphilately.com/news/new-postal-markings-handbook/>

In the introduction to the handbook, Martin Bechstedt writes:

The collecting of postmarks and cancellations is not as old as that of stamps. Since the sixties of the last century interest in this field has grown steadily. Behind the iron curtain a courageous Lithuanian philatelist, Kazys Milvidas, presented a copied list of markings to a small circle of collectors in 1975; a few examples reached the USA. The work was tremendous: 1747 different markings were noticed.

Another Lithuanian collector, Vytautas Fugalevičius, living in Germany under the name of Witold Fugalewitsch, has compiled a book of Lithuanian markings with supplements from other philatelists, comprising the periods of tsarist time, first and second Republic, German, Russian and Polish occupation. The book, entitled „PAŠTO ANTSPAUDAI LIETUVOJE – POSTSTEMPEL IN LITAUEN – POSTAL MARKINGS IN LITHUANIA“, published in 1985, including all postal markings such as official standard cancellations, registration marks, field post, railway, toll cancellations, auxiliary cachets and many more. The author's aim was to create a comprehensive book with all markings which you can take under your arm and go to exchange events. Soon a second edition became necessary and was eventually published in 1990. It has become an internationally acknowledged standard book in this field, but has been out of print for a long time.

Nowadays the collecting of markings is common in philatelist circles, so the time is right for a new edition of this handbook. The aim to present all markings used on Lithuanian ground in one book is no longer possible to achieve. There is too much information about markings the collector expects today, like duration of use, classification, variations and values. Additional information about the localities such as number of inhabitants, function and profile are helpful in order to assess the value of a cancellation.



The third edition, now part four of the comprehensive handbook of Lithuanian philately and postal history, comprises all postal markings between 1918 and 1940/41, the period of the first independent Republic of Lithuania. It starts with the different types of Lithuanian standard cancellations („Normstempel“). This classification is new, because there is no such systematisation available today, so we hope our typing will set a standard for the future. Chapter one presents all known postmarks and cancellations in the same manner with the widely introduced old „Fugalewitsch-numbers“, now enlarged with information about typing, duration of use and assessments of values. This is a never-ending work, and all interested collectors are invited to add their own knowledge to this book! To honour the initial work of Mr. Fugalevičius one must say that since the second edition from 1990 only eight new items have been detected (others newly mentioned in this book are disputed)! As the Lithuanian cancellations were also used on Memel/Klaipėda stamps, and those of the German 'Reich' and the Soviet empire too, this is indicated with the capitals K, M, O and S.

Like the second edition this book includes Cyrillic cancellations from the first Soviet occupation period 1940/41, but the number has so largely increased from 54 to 174, that they have to be numbered newly. Looking at the list of localities in chapter 11, you will find all numbered. This number together with a leading 'K' (German 'kyrillisch') and a, b, c etc. will indicate the cancellations, for example 'K46b' is BABTAI b. The large numbers of provisional markings detected in recent years are numbered in the same manner. These are also presented for the first time in a full summary. The items have increased from about 50 known in 1990 to 238, see the overview list

in chapter 8! The provisional markings are of great interest these days, so this part will, we hope, satisfy a demand.

In chapter two you will find background information, which will make the collecting more serious and interesting. There is a historical survey of Lithuania, a list of the counties and all known postal localities in tables. If you have only a fragment on a stamp, the list of locality names with same endings such as '-iai' or '-kės' and circular cancels indicating districts like „APSKR.“ will assist you in identifying standard postmarks. At

the end you will find literature and sources (not a bibliography) and supplements like a glossary of Lithuanian postal terms, the Lithuanian alphabet and for the MEMEL/KLAIPĖDA collector an overview of this popular field.

We hope that this new book will help you to expand your own collection and make you an expert on Lithuanian markings so that you can be part of the future development in this field!

Schlesen / Bargteheide, summer 2015

Naujas pašto antspaudų vadovas

LT

Audrius Brazdeikis, Houston, Texas

Išleistas nauja Vytauto Fugalevičiaus ir Martin Bechstedt knyga. Knygą galima įsigyti iš autoriaus: m.bech@t-online.de

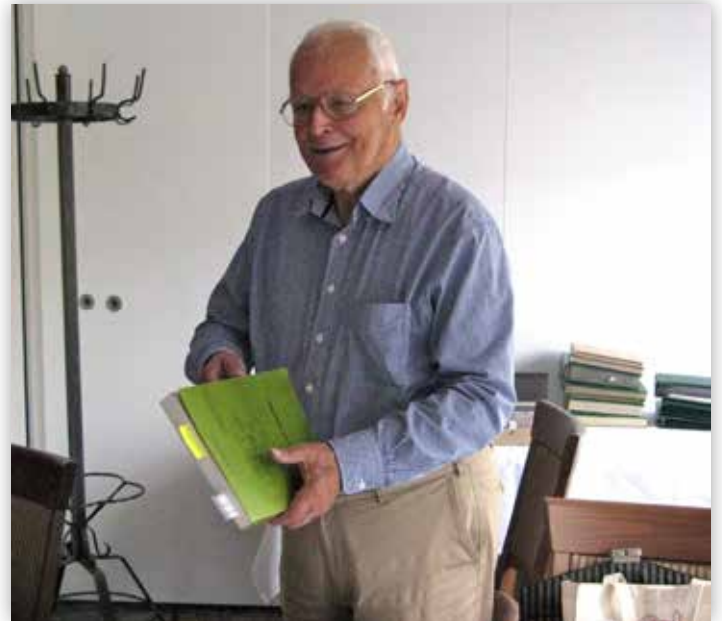
Įžangoje p. M. Bechstedt rašo:

Pašto antspaudų rinkimas prasidėjo vėliau negu pašto ženklų. Tik po 1960 m. palengva buvo atkreiptas dėmesys į Lietuvos pirmosios respublikos (1918–1939/40) laikotarpį. Pirmąjį sisteminių sąrašą, kurį matė tik siaurokas rinkėjų ratas, sudarė kaunietis Kazys Milvidas 1975 m. Bet puikias rinkimo galimybes rodė tai, kad sąrašas jau įtraukė 1747 antspaudus.

Skatinant ir remiant finansiškai iš JAV, 1985 m. pasirodė pirmoji Vytauto Fugalevičiaus (vok. Witold Fugalewitsch) antspaudų vadovo laida. Šitas darbas davė pagrindą tolimesniam šios srities plėtojimui. Jo vadovas jau buvo taip sudarytas, kad įtraukė įvairius antspaudavimo variantus: taigi, šalia standartinių ir provizorinių antspaudų, ten tilpo registracijos, pašto vagonų, lauko pašto, telegrafo, sukaktuviniai antspaudai ir taip toliau.

Be to, V. Fugalevičiaus knyga neapsiribojo vien tik pirmąja respublika (1918–1939/40), bet įtraukė visus žinomus antspaudus, kurie buvo naudojami Lietuvos teritorijoje apskritai - taigi, rusiškus, vokiškus, lenkiškus, taip pat ir antspaudus iš Klaipėdos krašto. Autorius norėjo, kad visi antspaudai būtų prieinami vienoje knygoje. Knygos paplitimą palengvino tai, kad aiškinamasis tekstas buvo pa-teiktas trimis kalbomis: lietuviškai, vokiškai ir angliškai. Šiandien V. Fugalevičiaus knyga yra platus standartinis ir tarptautinėje plotmėje antspaudų rinkėjų pripažintas vadovas. Netrukus prireikė antros laidos, kuri su nemažai papildymų pasirodė 1990 metais ir šiandien jau senokai išpirkta.

Todėl jau pribrendo laikas trečiai laida. Antspaudų rinkėjai pageidauja vadovo su naujausia informacija. Reikia ne tik antspaudų atvaizdų, bet ir tokios informacijos kaip naudojimo laikotarpis, klasifikacija, antspaudų vertė, žinios apie pašto vietas - vietovės dydis, geografinė ir ekonominė padėtis, ir taip toliau. Visa tai padeda suvokti antspaudų dažnumą ir



Vytautas Fugalevičius at the annual meeting of the „Forge Litauen“ in Ehlershausen 2013 explaining the history of his handbook

vertę. Čia pateikiamas darbas yra tik pradžia, nes informaciją reikia nuolat papildyti. Kaip ir visada, tenka kreiptis į rinkėjus, kad jie prisidėtų savo srities žiniomis - nes tik tokiu būdu plečiasi dalyko supratimas.

Nebeįmanoma įgyvendinti ankstesnį norą, kad visi antspaudai sutilptų į vieną vadovą. Jau vien tik detalus pristatymas tų antspaudų, kurie buvo naudoti 1918–1940/41 metų laikotarpyje, užima visą knygą. Todėl šalutinius antspaudus tenka palikti planuojamai antrai knygai, kuri apims ir tuos antspaudus, kurie atsirado po 1990 metų. Kad V. Fugalevičiaus vadovas yra labai išsamus, parodo tai, kad per 24 metus po pirmos laidos pasirodymo buvo atrasti tik 6 nauji standartiniai antspaudai. Todėl ši sritis, galima sakyti, jau beveik pilnai užbaigta. Bet provizorinių nuvertinimų atveju stovima dar pačioje pradžioje.

Tegu ši naujoji laida, kuri sudaro išsamaus Lietuvos filatelijos ir pašto istorijos vadovo ketvirtąją dalį, pateikia besidomintiems rinkėjams reikalingą informaciją - ir tegu ji sulaukia plataus pripažinimo kaip ir ankstesnės laidos. Mes žiūrime optimistiškai ir tikimės, kad šis darbas daug kam daug padės.

Schlesen / Bargteheide, 2015 vasara

JOIN THE LITHUANIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Lithuania Philatelic Society (LPS) was founded in 1946 in Chicago, Illinois. It is bilingual organization (English and Lithuanian). The Society's journal (ISSN 2381-5884) is well illustrated and comprehensive in scope, contains articles primarily in English, distributed free of charge to society members and major libraries in Lithuania



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