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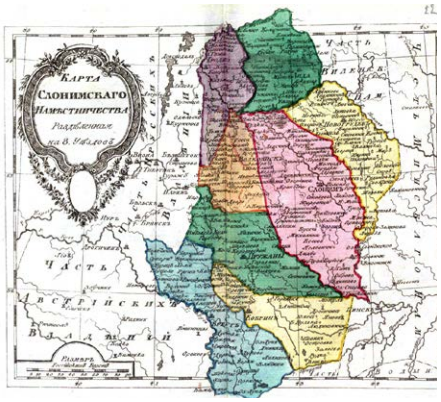

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Centenary of (Re-) Independence of Lithuania seen via Postal History

Dr. Vytautas Doniela, Sydney, Australia

On February 16, 2018 Lithuania as a state and Lithuanians as nationals will celebrate the Centenary of the proclamation of the *Nutarimas* (= Resolution) , also known as Declaration or Act, whereby Lithuania became an independent state. More exactly, Lithuania had been a sovereign political entity before, indeed a considerable power in Eastern Europe as far back as the Middle Ages. However, with time her potency had declined -- first as a result of a union with Poland, then due to the Union's repeated partitions by the neighbouring states: Prussia, Austria and Russia.

When the First World War broke out on August 1, 1914, Lithuania had been under Russian rule for some 120 years. After some early zigzagging battles, by late 1915 the entire ethnic Lithuanian territory was in German hands, accompanied by parallel German administration. As usual, early rule was exercised by a number of *Etappen-Verwaltungen* attached to the specific German Armies in action. This practice led to the formation of semi-military administrative units based on geography: *Litauen*, *Wilna*, *Suwalki*, *Grodno*, *etc.*

An overall administrative body for Lithuania (*Deutsche Verwaltung für Litauen*) was set up on September 16, 1915 in Tilžė/Tilsit (now russ. Sovietsk, in northern East Prussia). On April 15, 1916 it was moved to Kaunas/Kowno. Its cachet is seen in Fig. 1a. Later, this system was upgraded by three geographic stages to *Militärverwaltung Litauen* (see Fig. 1b, Fig 1c). After Germany's surrender, on November 15, 1918, German administration was reduced to *Zivilverwaltung Litauen*.

Fig. 1a. Pc with cachet "Dt. Verw. Litauen"

Fig. 1b. Pc with cachet "Milit. Verw. Litauen"

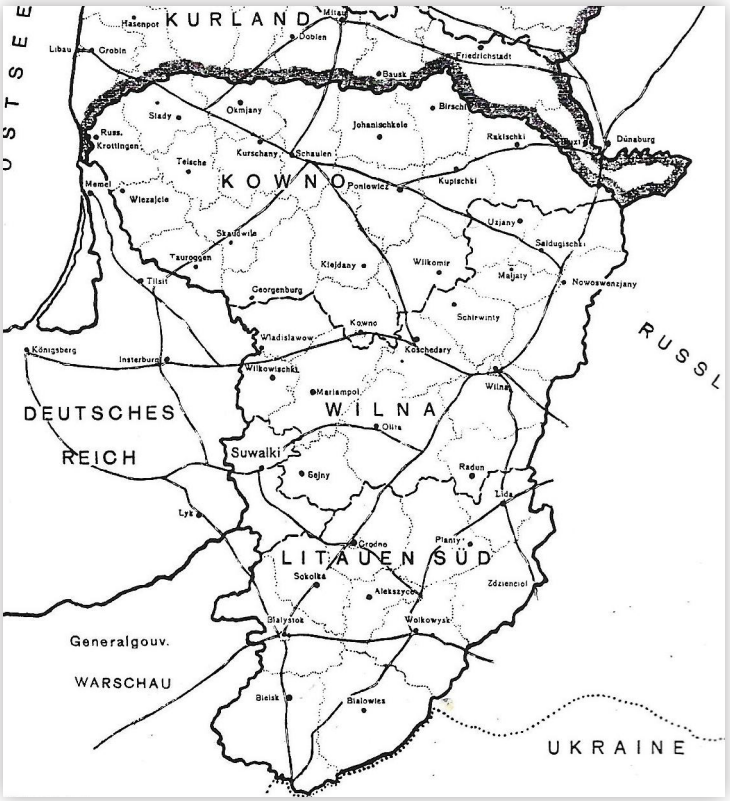

Fig. 1c. Map showing sub-divisions of "Litauen" in mid-1917.

The idea of independence being by no means extinct, during the war and despite restrictions, Lithuanian associations formed themselves both at home under German rule and within the continuing Russian empire. In Russia, active were several Lithuanian societies and their publications both in her capital, St. Petersburg, and in some provincial centres. Fig. 2 shows a cover from the Lithuanian weekly "Santara" of St. Petersburg, addressed to another hub of Lithuanian activity, the town Voronezh by the river Don.

General (later Field Marshal) Eichhorn in Lithuania in WWI

Dr. Vytautas Doniela, Sydney, Australia

The First World War affected Lithuania's territory from its very start. The early days were marked by border clashes between the czarist Russian forces and the units of German Eighth Army whose task was to guard Germany's eastern frontier at East Prussia. Before long the numerically superior Russian troops broke into, and took over, a considerable tract of German territory there. The Russian advance was stopped by a staff change on the German side when the command of its Eighth Army was handed over to Gen. von Hindenburg, with Gen. Ludendorff as his chief of staff. With the help of some troops hastily brought over from the Western Front, the Russian Second Army, led by Samsonov, was largely annihilated in the encirclement battles at Tannenberg.

As the fighting continued and additional forces were brought in by both sides, the Germans formed a new Army, now numbered their **Tenth**. It was formed on Jan. 26, 1915, followed by the appointment of its commander, Gen. Ltn. **Hermann von Eichhorn**, two days later on Jan. 28. 1915. Von Eichhorn had been envisaged to lead the German Fifth Army on the Western Front but his actual appointment at that time had to be suspended because of a serious accident.

The newly formed German Tenth Army consisted of XXI Army Corps, XXXVIII and XXXIX Reserve Corps plus some smaller units. Its High Command had its own field post office, as shown in Fig. 1.

Fig 1. Reg. cover showing reg. label and one of the cancellers assigned to the High Command of the Tenth Army.

Fig. 2. Gen. Hermann von Eichhorn

Independence Day on Lithuanian DP Camp Post Issues

Dr. Vytautas Doniela, Sydney, Australia

The pre-war Lithuanian annual tradition of commemorating the Day of Independence, on February 16, was continued when part of the nation fled the Soviet re-invasion in 1944 and sought shelter in the West. The post-war setting up of Displaced Persons (DP) camps in Germany provided the refugees with the means, at least symbolically, to continue the way of life and self-organisation that had existed before the exodus.

Alongside the various creative activities (obvious in the areas of artistic and literary self-expression) was the establishment of facilities of postal communication. Most DP camps set up an internal post office which - even if not integrated into the German postal system - did provide a voluntary and highly successful link between the normal system and life inside the camps. This arrangement , of course, was typical not only of Lithuanian assemblies but also of camps with a multitude of nationalities.

With time, as a sort of their pre-war national habits, some DP camps issued their own stamps. Such issues, of course, had no regular validity and could not be used for e.g. pre-payment of postal articles. Sometimes the intention was to raise funds for local services, sometimes the proceeds assisted such well-meant causes as the Red Cross or some patriotic project.

It is in this context that several Lithuanian DP Camp stamp issues were adapted to mark the traditional commemoration of **the Day of Lithuania's Independence**. The idea was taken up by three Camp post offices in post-war Germany: Augsburg-Hochfeld (U.S. Zone), Meerbeck and Seedorf (both in British Zone).

AUGSBURG-HOCHFELD (U.S. Zone)

After the Second World War, two Baltic refugee (Displaced Persons) camps were established on the outskirts of Augsburg, a prominent Bavarian town. The smaller camp at Haunstetten was integrated in 1948 into the larger one at Hochfeld which also had been set up as early as mid-1945. Eventually, Augsburg – Hochfeld became a major centre of Baltic refugee cultural activities. An internal camp post office serving the three Baltic nationalities was opened in early 1946. Attended by normally 5 employees it performed many postal activities and had its own specific postmarker. Although the facility did not have the status of a regular German post office, it was exceptional in having been granted a limited range of formal functions typical of medium size German post offices, including the right to accept and cancel registered postal items.

In early 1948 the Augsburg – Hochfeld Camp issued a set of 3 camp post stamps. The set consisted of 50 Pf and 1 M both designated "Porto" and 50 Pf designated "Express". Of course, they had no (German) postal validity.The set was designed by Edvardas Krasauskas, himself an artist and active member of the freshly formed but notably active “Baltia” philatelic association. The stamps were printed in sheetlets each containing two section of 10 stamps each, with the two "Porto" values located on the same sheetlet. The total issue consisted of 13,500 of each of the two "Porto" stamps and 24,000 of the single "Express" stamp. Specialists may have noticed that on and off some printer's proofs or waste are offered on the market as well.. (A basic but well illustrated listing of the Augsburg-Hochfeld issues is provided by the Jankauskas catalogue).

In the same year, 1948, in order to mark the traditional Lithuanian Day of Independence dated February 16, the Camp Committee arranged for the overprinting of part of the stamps with a text in black: "**L.R. 1918 16 II 1948**". The quantity of the stamps so overprinted was relatively small - only 500 of each of the 3 different stamps. (At later dates, similar overprints marked the Independence Days of the other two Baltic nations: Latvia and Estonia.

Fig. 1. The set of three stamps overprinted for Lithuania

Fig. 2. The Lithuania set with the First Day C.T.O.

Some keen collectors affixed the overprints to their postally dispatched mail. Understandably, the camp stamps had no postal validity and functioned as mementos only.

The Maps and Mapmakers that Helped Define 20th-Century Lithuanian Boundaries - Part 4:

The Third and Last Partition of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania; administrative boundaries of Lithuanian lands from 1795 to 1918

Andrew Kapochunas, Jersey City, New Jersey

Yes, "*Lithuanian* lands," because the name "Lithuania" did not disappear from maps after the Third Partition: it lived on both as named administrative entities within the Empire of Russia until 1840, and on maps by Russian and non-Russian mapmakers through World War I. What disappeared from maps was the "Grand Duchy of Lithuania" (*Lietuvos Didžioji Kunigaikštystė)*, or GDL. Fig. 1 below, a detail from an 1854 German Atlas, shows GDL losses in all three partitions: 1772, 1793 and 1795. Nearly 60 years after the disappearance of the GDL, the name "Litthauen" survives over the area of the former GDL, including even that area which became part of "Neu Ostpreußen" until after Napoleon conquered it in 1806.

After twice partitioning the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, in 1772 and 1793, the three powers – the Empire of Russia, the Kingdom of Prussia and "Austria" – considered

1660
1795
1795
1795
1772
Kurland
Semgallen
Livland
Estland
Litthauen
Samaiten
Lithauen
Weissrussland
Neu Ostpreußen
Mazowien
Podlachien
Volhynien
Busen von Riga
Windau
Pillau
Goldingen
Libau
Heiligen Cr.
Polangen
Memel
Tilsit
Ragnit
Königsberg
Labiau
Braunsberg
Friedland
Gross Jägerndf.
Gumbinnen
Wirballen
Neustadt
Wilkowiszki
Wehlau
Filippow
Lyk
Soldau (Dziatdow)
Neidenburg
Ostrolenka
Roxan
Pultusk
Modlin
Radzymin
Marschau
Praga
Grajewo
Czersk
Golenow
Warka
Makowiec
Goldingen
Hasenpoth
Windau
Mitau
Tuckum
Frauenburg
Ruhenthal
Neuhausen
Wolmar
Mojahn
Marienburg
Ronneburg
Dünamünde
Riga
Kirchholm
Uexkül
Erla
Wolmar
Walkhof
Lemsalen (Dmitrigrod)
Gemauerthof
Selsburg
Jakobstadt
Bauske
Selsau
Birze
Pozwolde
Dünaburg
Rositen
Rossiena
Upita
Krose
Tauroggen
Jurburg
Wilkomirz
Kiernow
Troki
Olita
Olkieniki
Wilno
Oszmiana
Olszany
Merecz
Grodno
Augustowo
Rajgorod
Lyk
Bialystok
Brzesc
Kobryn
Niemirow
Krupczyce
Pinsk
Karlusa Beresa
Rosenna
Lachowice
Selwa
Slonim
Laludek
Nowogrodek
Mir
Slobkowicze
Stolpce
Minsk
Njeswicz
Kletz
Slucz
Turow
Pripiec
Mozyr
Brahin
Ljubetsch
Czernigow
Homel
Reshitza
Lojowogrod
Snow
Nowe Miasto
Turka
Ssurash
Rogatschew
Kasanitze
Propoisk
Bychow
Mohilew
Mscislaw
Andrejkow
Smolensk
Sseno
Orscha
Witebsk
Polocz
Uswiaty
Sebesh
Drissa
Sokol
Dünaburg
Jakobstadt
Jlurt
Dwina
Ljuxen
Opotschka
Krasnoi
Sawolotschje
Welikija luki
Toropez
Chelm
Wolga
Kiverowna Horkaggen
Ostrow
Nowo Borisow
Borissow
Holowtschyn
Malatie
Zapiesanskaja
Beresa
Ljesna
Ekimanitze
Ekirinkowa
Andrejkow
Mscislaw
Malatie
Holowtschyn
Zapiesanskaja
Beresa
Moldilew
Bychow
Propoisk
Rogatschew
Kasanitze
Ssurash
Homel
Reshitza
Lojowogrod
Snow
Nowe Miasto
Turka
Czernigow
Ljubetsch
Brahin
Mozyr
Pripiec
Turow
Pinsk
Stolpce
Njeswicz
Kletz
Slucz
Mir
Slobkowicze
Laludek
Nowogrodek
Grodno
Augustowo
Rajgorod
Lyk
Bialystok
Brzesc
Kobryn
Niemirow
Krupczyce
Karlusa Beresa
Rosenna
Lachowice
Selwa
Slonim
Olita
Olkieniki
Wilno
Oszmiana
Olszany
Troki
Merecz
Kiernow
Wilkomirz
Tauroggen
Jurburg
Rossiena
Krose
Upita
Mitau
Tuckum
Frauenburg
Ruhenthal
Neuhausen
Wolmar
Mojahn
Marienburg
Ronneburg
Dünamünde
Riga
Kirchholm
Uexkül
Erla
Walkhof
Lemsalen (Dmitrigrod)
Gemauerthof
Selsburg
Jakobstadt
Bauske
Selsau
Birze
Pozwolde
Dünaburg
Jlurt
Dwina
Ljuxen
Opotschka
Krasnoi
Sawolotschje
Welikija luki
Toropez
Chelm
Wolga
Kiverowna Horkaggen
Ostrow
Nowo Borisow
Sebesh
Drissa
Sokol
Polocz
Uswiaty
Witebsk
Orscha
Sseno
Smolensk
Andrejkow
Mscislaw
Malatie
Holowtschyn
Borissow
Zapiesanskaja
Beresa
Moldilew
Bychow
Ljesna
Ekimanitze
Ekirinkowa
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Oszmiana
Olszany
Troki
Merecz
Kiernow
Wilkomirz
Tauroggen
Jurburg
Rossiena
Krose
Upita
Memel
Heiligen Cr.
Polangen
Liebau
Goldingen
Windau
Pillau
Busen von Riga

Exit French Memel Stamps

Dr. John D. Neefus, Chesapeake, Virginia

There is an untold story about the transition from French to Lithuanian postal authority. The French authority turned over the management of post offices to the Lithuanian authorities after the Memel occupation in January of 1923. The first French stamps released by the new Lithuanian postal managers were Michel 120 – 123. These were followed by the overprinting of Lithuanian fiscal stamps in *Markių* values for postal use.

Germany monetary inflation problems found their way into the Memel territory using the German Pfennig/Mark system. It had been determined by the Lithuanian postal authorities that Pfennig/Mark system would be replaced by the Centas/Litas monetary system. The first Centas/Litas valued stamps were set to be released April 16th. In an emergency move, Michel 119 was overprinted with 100, 400 and 500 Mark values. Thus, April 13, 14 and 15, the last Mark valued stamps were Michel 164, 165 and 166. It must have been assumed the first Klaipėda printed postage for the territory could have been sold out.

All stamps from Mi 120 through Mi 166 remained valid through June 9, 1923. Then only the Centas/Litas monetary system printed stamps could be used. The United States "Dollar" was set as the standard in the exchange rate between Marks and

Mi 164

Mi 165

Mi 166

A registered cover to Bern franked with Mi 164-166 and additional franking with postmark "KLAIPĖDA c -2.VI.23".

Heinrich Köhler Auction 362
Lot No 3638

the Litas. The Michel catalog notes that the exchange rate varied between 20 and 81 Marks to 1 Centas. It took 100 Centų to equal one Litas.

Michel 164 to 166 can be found with both German and Lithuanian style cancellations. I have only seen the KLAIPĖDA city cancellation. These must have a cancellation date between April 13, 1923 and June 6, 1923. The German and Lithuanian cancellations usage never overlapped in their period of use. Thus, German cancels with MEMEL in the top arc cannot have a date beyond April 15th. The list of "first usage" of Lithuanian style cancels in other Klaipėda towns is important to know to determine whether a Michel 164-166 stamp cancellation is valid. The German type cancel should be dated prior to the first usage date. First usage dates of Lithuanian style cancelling devices can be found in both the Neefus "Memel/Klaipėda Philatelic Handbook" Part I page 113 and the recently released Tobias Huylmans' handbook of Memel cancellations.

Michel Memel 164 to 166 having a Lithuanian type cancellation are interesting and not common. Some may even consider Lithuanian style cancels on Michel 164 to 166 as rare.

Šventoji. Laiveliai Jūroje /Šventoji. Small Ships in the Sea

Ričardas Vainora, Kaunas

LT

Lietuvos paštas 1940 birželio 1 dieną išleido dešimties ženklinių atvirukų seriją su pašto ženklu „Geležinis vilkas“. Viename iš šių atvirukų dvi jachtos ir užrašas „Šventoji. Laiveliai jūroje“. Aštuoniuose serijos atvirukuose pavaizduoti konkretūs pastatai, statiniai, Aušros vartuose esantis paveikslas. Dar viename – pajūrio kopos, paprasta žvejų valtis. Nežinomi tik panaudotų fotografijų autoriai, daugiau jokių klausimų dėl šių atvirukų lyg ir nekyla. O dešimtame atviruke nežinomos konkrečios jachtos, su savo istorija, pavadinimais ir savininkais. Pasižiūrėkime į šį atviruką atidžiau ir pabandykime nustatyti ką jame matome.

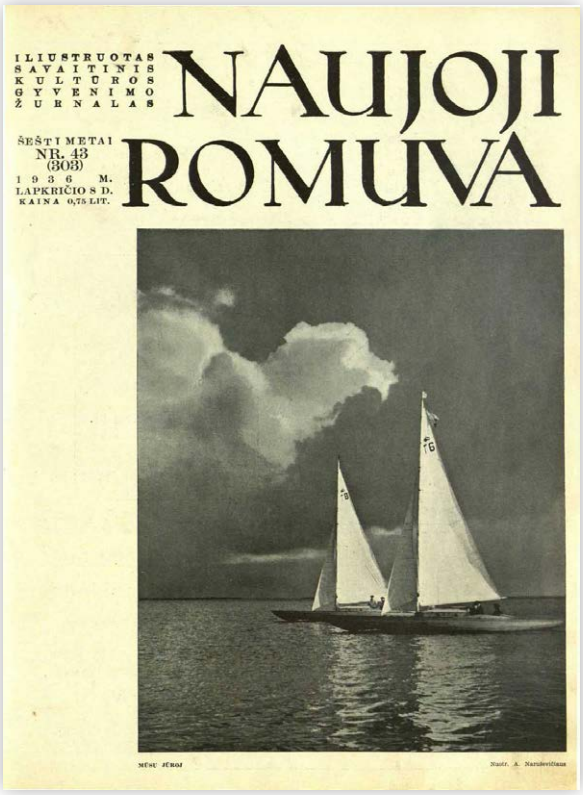
Šią nuotrauką randame ir ant Kaune leisto žurnalo „Naujoji Romuva“ 1936 m. lapkričio 8 Nr. 43 viršelio. Sužinome du svarbius faktus: kad nuotraukos autorius – žinomas tarpukario fotografas Antanas Naruševičius ir kad fotografuota ne vėliau kaip 1936 metais. Taip pat matome kad nuotrauka pradžioje vadinosi „Mūsų jūroj“. Deja, jau buvo 1940 metai, jūra jau nebe mūsų, liko tik siauras priėjimas prie jos nuo Palangos iki Šventosios, tad ir pavadinimą teko pakeisti atviruką išleidžiant.

Ant jachtų burių matome numerius T6 it T8. Lietuvos buriuotojų sąjunga buvo įsteigta 1935 06 04. Ji įstojo į Tarptautinę jachtų lenktynių sąjungą (dabar tai Tarptautinė buriavimo federacija) ir savo jachtoms žymėti gavo raidę T. Tad aišku kad nuotraukoje Lietuvai priklausę laiveliai ir kad fotografuota ne anksčiau kaip 1935 metais. O kurios jachtos turėjo numerius T6 ir T8? Štai čia prasideda painiava.

1936 04 28 mūsų buriavimo laivynas padidėjo dviem „hai“ tipo jachtomis: „Rūta“ (savininkas – gydytojas Valteris Didžys, 1896-1977) ir „Budys I“ (priklausė jūrų skautams). Niekas neabejoja kad šios jachtos ir gavo minėtus numerius. Tačiau išlikusiuose dokumentuose, Lietuvos jūrų

Pav 1. Ženklinis atvirukas „Šventoji. Laiveliai jūroje“.

Fig 1. Postal card “Šventoji. Laiveliai jūroje / Les canots sur la mer”



Pav 2. Žurnalo „Naujoji Romuva“ 1936 m. Nr. 43 viršelis.

Fig 2. Cover of the Naujoji Ramuva (1936).

EN

On June 1, 1940, Lithuanian Post released a series of ten Iron Wolf (*Geležinis vilkas*) postal cards. One of these postal cards displayed two yachts with the bilingual caption “*Šventoji. Laiveliai jūroje / Les canots sur la mer*” (Šventoji. Small ships in the sea). Eight postal cards in the series depict specific buildings and constructions. Another one portrays the seaside dunes and a fishing boat. Only the authors of the photos remain unknown, there seem to be no other mysteries about these cards. As for the tenth postal card, the names, histories and owners of the depicted specific yachts remain unknown. Let‘s examine this postal card closer and attempt to describe what we see.

We can also find this photo on the cover the magazine *Naujoji Romuva*, published in Kaunas in 1936. We discover two facts: the author of the photo is a prominent interwar photographer, Antanas Naruševičius, and it was taken no later than in 1936. We also note that the photo was called “In Our Sea” (*Mūsų jūroj)* at first. Unfortunately, it was already 1940, and the Baltic sea was no longer ours, only a small area of access between Palanga and Šventoji belonged to Lithuania, so the title of the photo also had to be changed before printing the postal card.

We can see the numbers T6 and T8 on the sails of the yachts. The Lithuanian Yachtsmen Association was founded in 1935. It joined the International Yacht Racing Union (now the International Sailing Federation) and received “T” as the letter to register its yachts. So which yachts had the numbers T6 and T8? This is where the story becomes complicated.

On April 28, 1936, our sailing fleet was joined by two Hai-type yachts: *Rūta* (owned by Dr. V. Didžys and *Budys I* (owned by the Sea Scouts). There is no doubt that these are the

Philatelic Exhibition "Lituanica-2018" Regulations

1. Online philatelic exhibition LITUANICA-2018 is being held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Lithuania and 100th anniversary of the first Lithuanian postage stamp.
2. Philatelic exhibition is organized by the Union of Lithuanian Philatelist (*Lietuvos Filatelistų Sąjunga - LFS*) and the Lithuania Philatelic Society (LPS).
3. The exhibition will be held between November 1, 2018 and February 1, 2019 at the website http://lituanica2018.lt.
4. The Lituanica-2018 Exhibition is governed by the General Regulations (GREV) and the Special Regulations (SREV) of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits.
5. Participation is open to all collectors who are members of either LFS or LPS and youth collectors. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to accept submissions from other philatelists if their exhibit content is related to Lithuania, Central Lithuania or Memel territory. Participation is open to all collectors who are members of either LFS or LPS and youth collectors. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to accept submissions from other philatelists if their exhibit content is related to Lithuania, Central Lithuania or Memel territory. The applicant submitting the exhibit assumes full legal responsibility that he/she is the owner of postage stamps, postcards, envelopes and other material displayed in the exhibit, and has prepared the exhibit for demonstration purposes for the exhibition period.
6. Exhibits must be prepared and comply with all rules and regulations of the Philatelic Exhibition LITUANICA-2018.
7. Application for participation at the philatelic online exhibition must be submitted no later than June 1, 2018. Exhibitors shall submit electronically one Exhibit Application Form for each exhibit applied. Exhibit Application Form can be found online at http://lituanica2018.lt/entry-form/. Every participant can enter up to three exhibits.
8. Notification of acceptance or rejection shall be sent to the applicants no later than July 15, 2018. Applicants who are admitted to the Philatelic Exhibition will receive detailed information regarding the procedure of exhibit submission.
9. Classes of Online philatelic exhibition:

   A. Non-Competitive Exhibits
   B. Competitive Classes:
      1. Traditional Philately
      2. Postal History
      3. Thematic Philately
      4. Youth Class
      5. Single frame exhibits
      6. Revenues
      7. Open Philately
10. Every exhibitor shall be allowed 1 or 5 frames. Each frame can hold 16 sheets according to GREX, arranged in four rows of four (4 x 4). There can be exhibits of 8 frames (128 sheets), but only those exhibits which have received previously at least a large vermeil or higher medal award at the FIP International Exhibitions. Youth class exhibit shall be allowed 5 frames.
11. The Open class is allowed to include up to 50 % non philatelic items in the exhibit.
12. All exhibits must be mounted on white pages. The standard page format is A4. Larger sheets can be accepted but they must be in multiples of the standard size. A3 page counts as two A4 pages, so only 8 pages in one frame (or 4 rows of 2 pages) are allowed.
13. Exhibits are written up in Lithuanian or in one of the FIP Languages. Every competitive exhibit must have the introductory page with exhibit title, author's name, and a short summary in English. All exhibit pages must be numbered consecutively, at the front bottom right hand corner.
14. Each exhibitor shall scan his/her own exhibit according to the Exhibit requirements. Only scans in .jpg or .jpeg format will be accepted. Each scan (page) shall be scanned in 24-bit RGB colour at 300 dpi. resolution. Scan (page) numbering 101, 102...116 (1 frame, total 16 pages) or 101,102...516 (5 frame exhibit, total 80 pages).
15. Exhibits in the Competitive Classes will be judged by appointed and accredited by FIP judges in accordance with principles laid down in the GREV and SREV.
16. The Jury will allocate awards and special prizes in accordance with Article 8 of the GREX. Donated prizes, which have been accepted by the Organizing Committee, will be placed at the disposal of the Jury to additionally recognize the best exhibits.
17. For further information and contacts please visit our website at http://lituanica2018.lt/contacts

Organizing Committee:

Eugenijus Uškuras, President of the Union of Lithuanian Philatelists
Audrius Brazdeikis, President of the Lithuania Philatelic Society
Vygintas Bubnys, Board Member, Union of Lithuanian Philatelists
Antanas Jankauskas, philatelist

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 USA and Lithuania

THREE REASONS TO JOIN LPS:

- Subscription to the Society's Journal
- Free stamp authentication service
- Discount on back issues of all LPS and LPSNY bulletins and journals

We currently have 130 active members of various ethnic origins, but predominantly Lithuanian. Most of the members reside in the United States, but we also have members in Europe (Lithuania, France, Germany), Canada, Japan and Australia.

APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP AT
http://lithuanianphilately.com/lps/