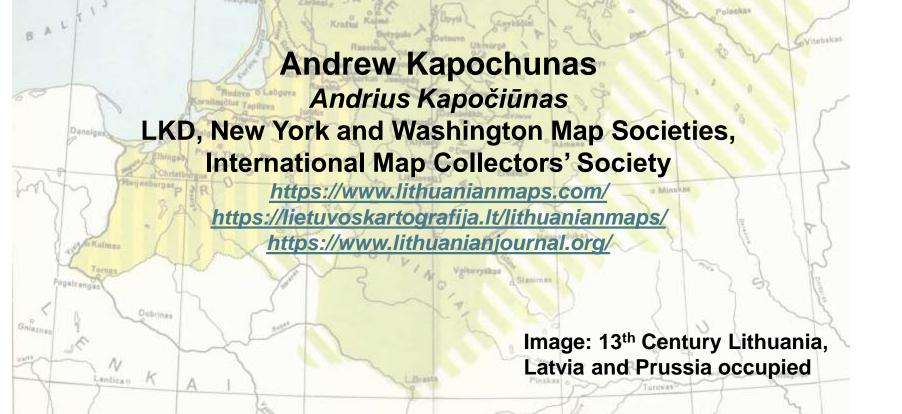


First Mention of "Lithuanians" on a Map Known Today Pirmasis "Lietuvių" paminėjimas šiandien žinomame žemėlapyje







NACIONALINĖ ŽEMĖS TARNYBA PRIE APLINKOS MINISTERIJOS



[March 2024 exhibition]

Istorinės kartografijos paroda LIETUVA EUROPOJE



Minint Lietuvos stojimo į ES 20-metį
Tarptautinės Žemės dienos proga
Nacionalinė žemės tarnyba
pristato parodą

LIETUVA EUROPOJE

2024-03-22



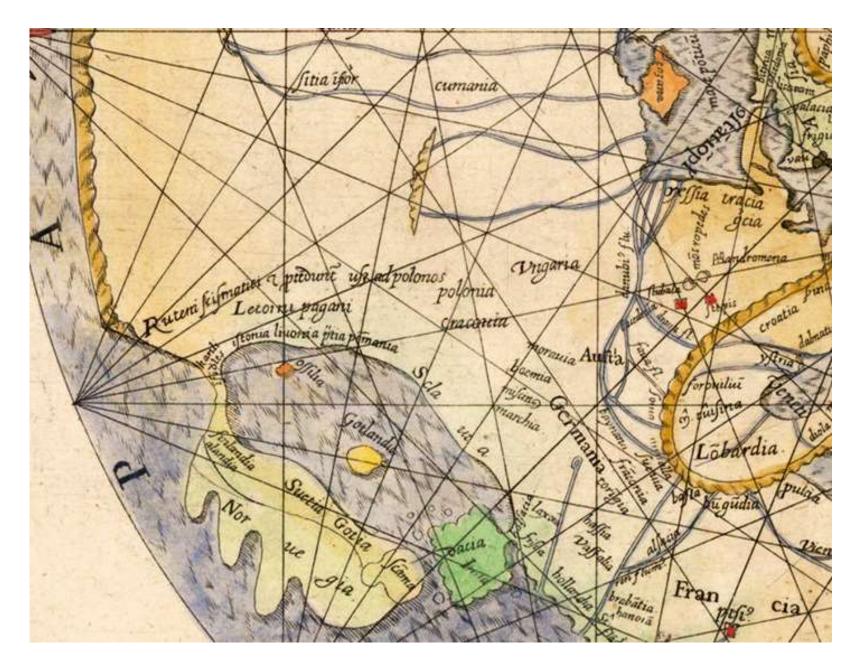
Pirmasis Lietuvos paminėjimas žemėlapiuose **LETOINI PAGANI** 1311 m. Pietro Visconte pasaulio žemėlapis



c. 1311 Pietro Vesconte's first *mappa mundi* (map of the world) reproduced in print for the first time in 1611 by Johann Bongars.

The detail image -boxed in red on the
image of the full map -shows the Baltic Sea
with North on the left,
and the label "Letoini
pagani," which certain
Lithuanian historians
translated as "Lithuanian
pagans."

https://exhibits.stanford.edu/ruder man/catalog/br930wz6088



I believe, instead, that "Letoini pagani" refers to Lettish/Latvian pagans. Why Letts and not Lithuanians?

Not just because the labels just below [West] say "estonia" and "livonia."

The Livonian Crusade of 1198-1290 had just ended, while the Lithuanian Crusade of 1283–1422 was just beginning.

A timeline will help clarify.

Historical Context: Istorinis kontekstas:

c. 7th **century:** Latvian language begins to diverge from Lithuanian

1009: The phrase "...in confinio Rusciæ et <u>Lituæ a paganis</u>..." appears in the annals of Quedlinburg Abbey

1198-1290: Livonian Crusade to convert Baltic and Finnic pagans

1211: Bishop Albert of Riga divides his lands, first mention of "...terra, quae <u>Lettia</u> dicitur..."

1231: Danish Census Book (Liber Census Daniæ) mentions "Littonia" paying tribute to the Danes

c. 1236: Grand Duchy of Lithuania established

1236: Pope declares a Lithuanian Crusade after Livonian Brothers of the Sword lose to pagans

1251-53: Mindaugas baptized and then crowned (first and last) "King of Lithuania"

1263: Mindaugas assassinated, Grand Duchy re-established as pagan for over 120 years

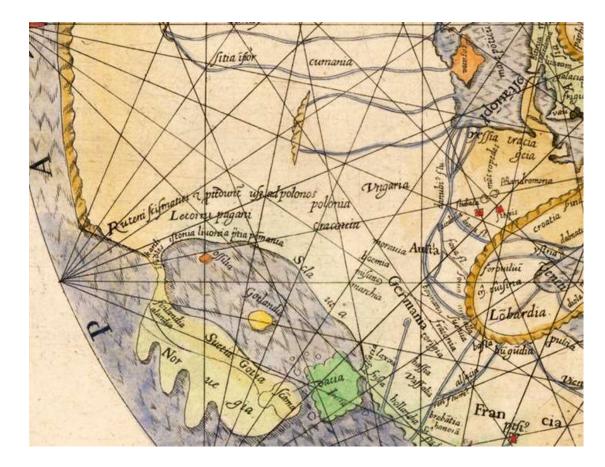
1283: Lithuanian Crusade led by Teutonic Knights begins (does not end until 1422)

c. 1311: Bongars publishes, in 1611, Pietro Vesconte's first *mappa mundi* (circular world map)

1321: Sanudo publishes second Vesconte *mappa mundi*

1325: Dulcert/Dalorte creates his first Portolan (vellum – calfskin – sailing chart)

1375: Cresques Abraham and his son create The Catalan Atlas





1311 Vesconte Mappa Mundi (Detail) first published 1611

1321 Vesconte Mappa Mundi (Detail)

On the right, the **1321** Second *mappa mundi* created by Vesconte, as published by Sanudo with manuscript labels reflective of early 14th century practice, rather than the 17th century labels added to Vesconte's 1311 map. "*Letoini pagani*" as it no doubt would have looked in 1311, along with "*livonia*" and "*estonia*."

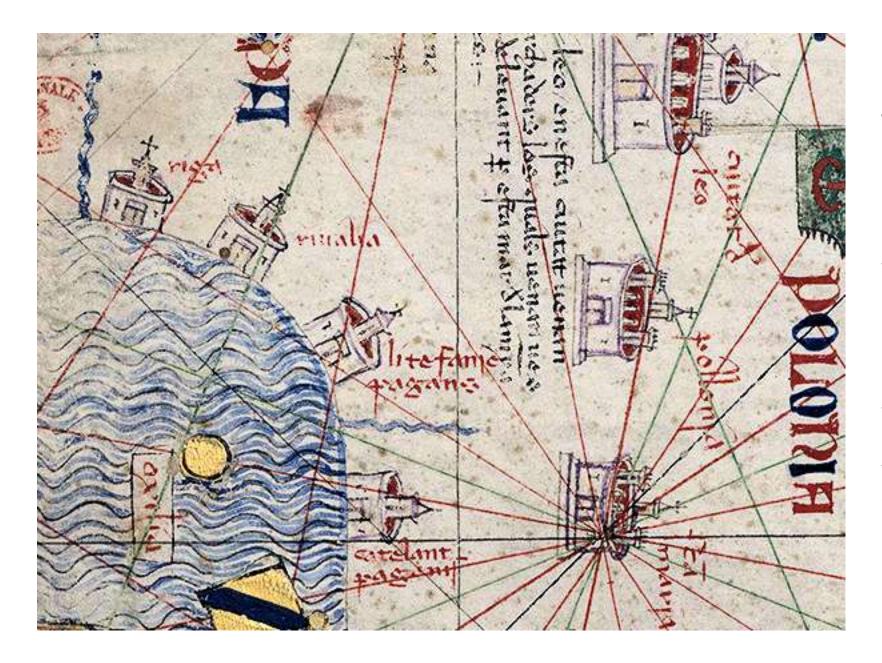
British Library, Additional MS. 27376*, ff. 187v-188.



This is Abraham Cresques and his son Jehuda's **1375** "Catalan Atlas" (*Catalan: "Atles català"*) created in multiple panels that were later attached to wood, drawn from the Atlantic Ocean to China, with North at the top of each panel. Boxed in **red** on the third panel from the left is an area in which a 2001 paper by Stasys Vytautas Kazakevičius and Birutė Ruzgienė, both then at

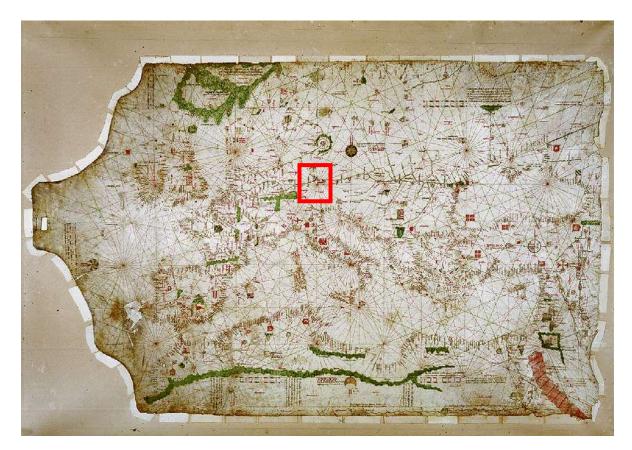
the Institute of Geodesy, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, says the label "Litefanie Paganis,' that is, pagan Lithuania," is actually the first mention of Lithuanians on a map. From the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, via:

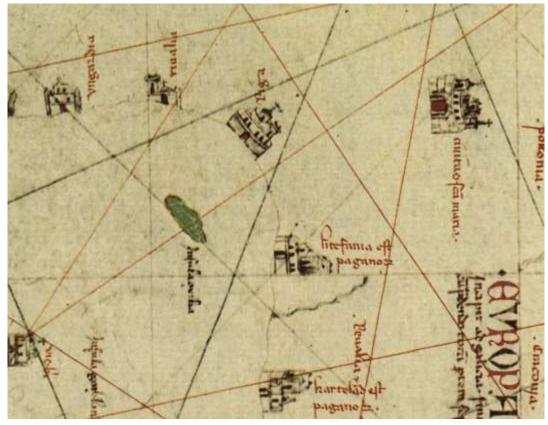
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catalan_Atlas#/media/File:1375_Atlas_Catalan_Abraham_Cresques.jpg



This detail image of the **1375** Catalan Atlas has North on the left, to make it easier to see and read the label "Litefanie Paganis," which I, at the time of the March 2024 Ministry exhibition, agreed with S. Kazakevičius and B. Ruzgienė that this label, with the Nemunas below, and a label for Riga above was the correct first mention of Lithuanians on a map known today.

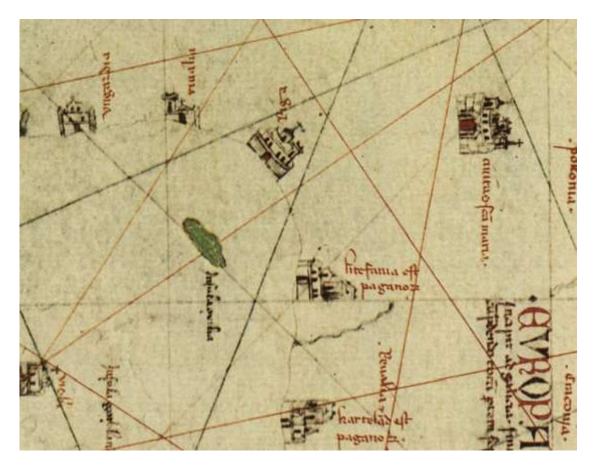
I now believe I was wrong.

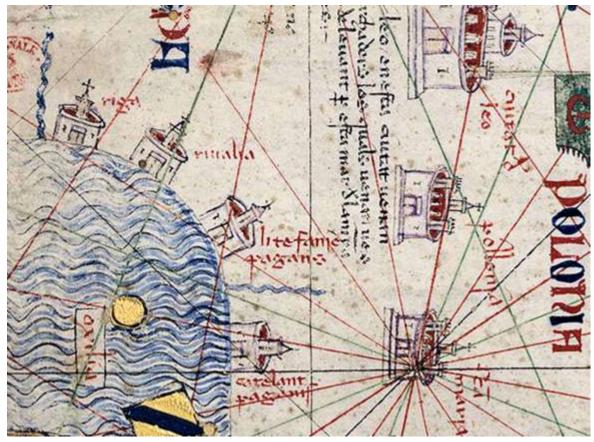




Not displayed in the Ministry's March 2024 exhibition – a map of which the curators were perhaps unaware -- is this **1325** Portolan (*nautical*) chart by Angelino Dulcert/Dalorte, with North at the top, from the collection of Prince Orsini of Florence. The image was published in 1929 by the Royal Geographic Society. The area boxed in **red has** the label "**Litefania est paganos**" with the river Nemunas beneath it, and a label for Riga to the north.

My thanks to Arv Jarasius, a US subscriber to my LithuanianJournal.org, for bringing it to my attention.





1325 Dulcert/Dalorte portolan (detail)

1375 Cresques Catalan Atlas (detail)

I now am satisfied – until yet another contender is identified – that the first mention of "Lithuanians" on a map has been correctly identified.