



The Grand Duchy of Lithuania: *The French Connection*

Andrew Kapochunas, Paris Map Fair, December 9, 2020

On the night of June 23, 1812, Napoleon ordered three pontoon bridges to be built across the Nemunas River near Kaunas. The next morning, men began to cross and enter, for the first time, Russian territory – *what had been Lithuanian territory for over 500 years, Russian for just 17.*



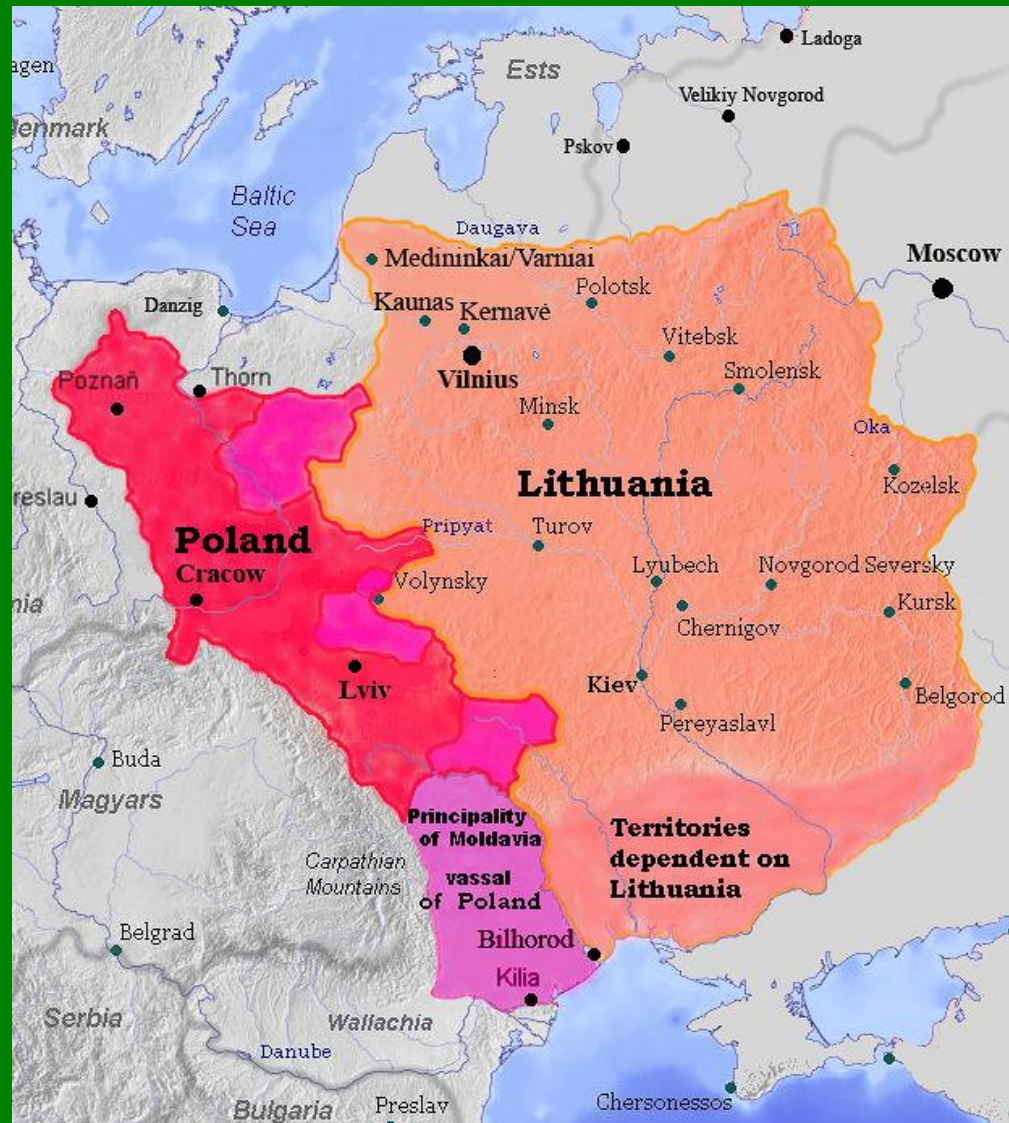
1896 Artist unknown: "The French Army Crossing The Niemen, 1812" [wikipedia](#)



John Heaveside Clark, M. Dubourg: "The Grande Armée crossing the Niemen" *McGill Univ. Libraries*

Mindaugas, the first ruler of the Grand Duchy (“*Grand Duchy*” because the supreme leader was a *Grand Duke*, “*Lietuvos Didžioji Kunigaikštystė*” in Lithuanian), was crowned Catholic King of Lithuania in 1253.

The **1386** Union of Krewo, a pre-nuptial agreement, resulted in **Jogaila**, Grand Duke of Lithuania, converting to Christianity, marrying 13-year-old **Jadwiga**, Queen of Poland, and being declared King of Poland.



“Lithuania in 1387” Author=M.K., Permission= {{Cc-by-sa-2.5

Jogaila's son, *Kazimieras Jogailaitis*, or Casimir IV, (*his Lithuanian mother was Jogaila's fourth and last wife*) was Grand Duke of Lithuania from 1440, and King of Poland from 1447. Under him, the Jagiellonian dynasty became a leading royal house in Europe, with not only Kings of Poland (1386–1572), and Grand Dukes of Lithuania (1377–1392, 1440–1572), but Kings of Hungary (1440–1444, 1490–1526), and Kings of Bohemia (1471–1526).



19th cent. Matejko: "Władysław Jagiełło" (Jogaila) [wikipedia](#)



1645 "Casimir IV" [wikipedia](#)

The 1569 Union of Lublin created the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth: the Grand Duchy maintained its political distinctiveness, with separate ministries, laws, army, and treasury.

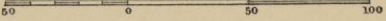


1902 Poole "Poland and Lithuania Before the Union Of Lublin," "Historical Atlas of Modern Europe," Oxford www.flickr.com/photos/uconnlibrariesmagic/

POLAND & LITHUANIA

BEFORE THE UNION OF LUBLIN 1569.

English Miles



Many mapmakers called the Commonwealth “Poland” or ‘Kingdom of Poland,” and depicted the Grand Duchy as a Polish province. In 2015 a Paris map dealer told me there are no antique maps titled “Lithuania”

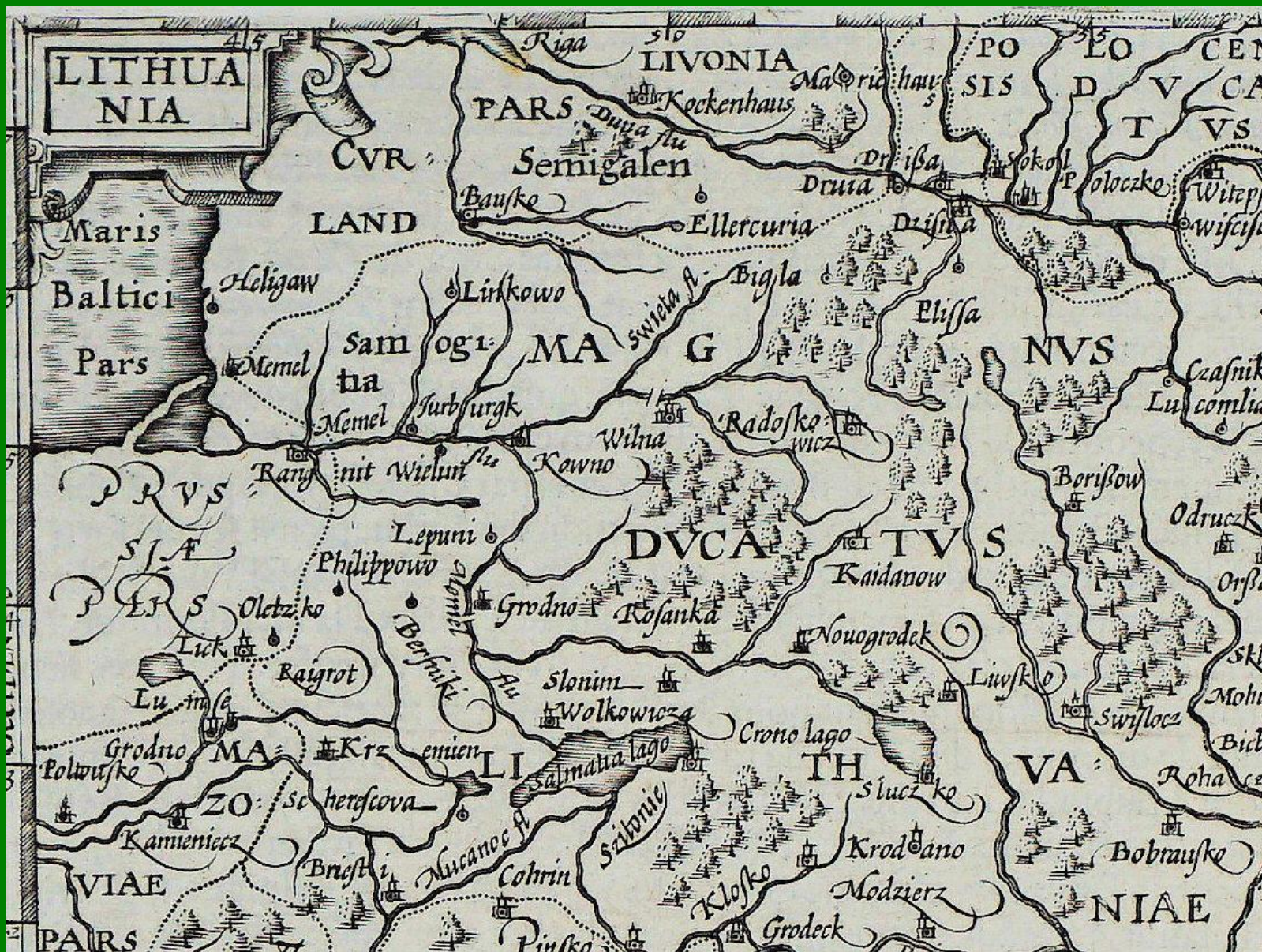


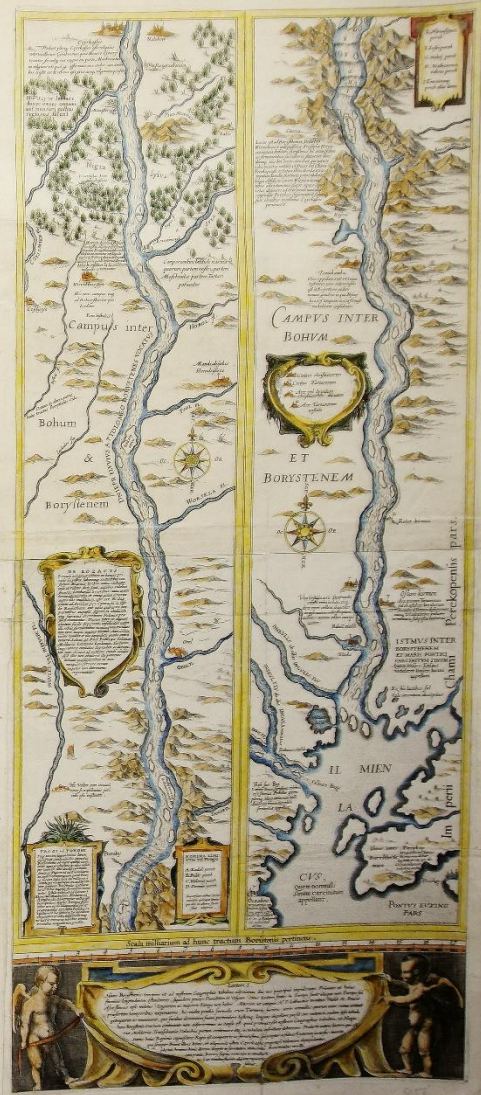
1596 Mercator, from “Atlas Cosmographia” U.S. Library of Congress



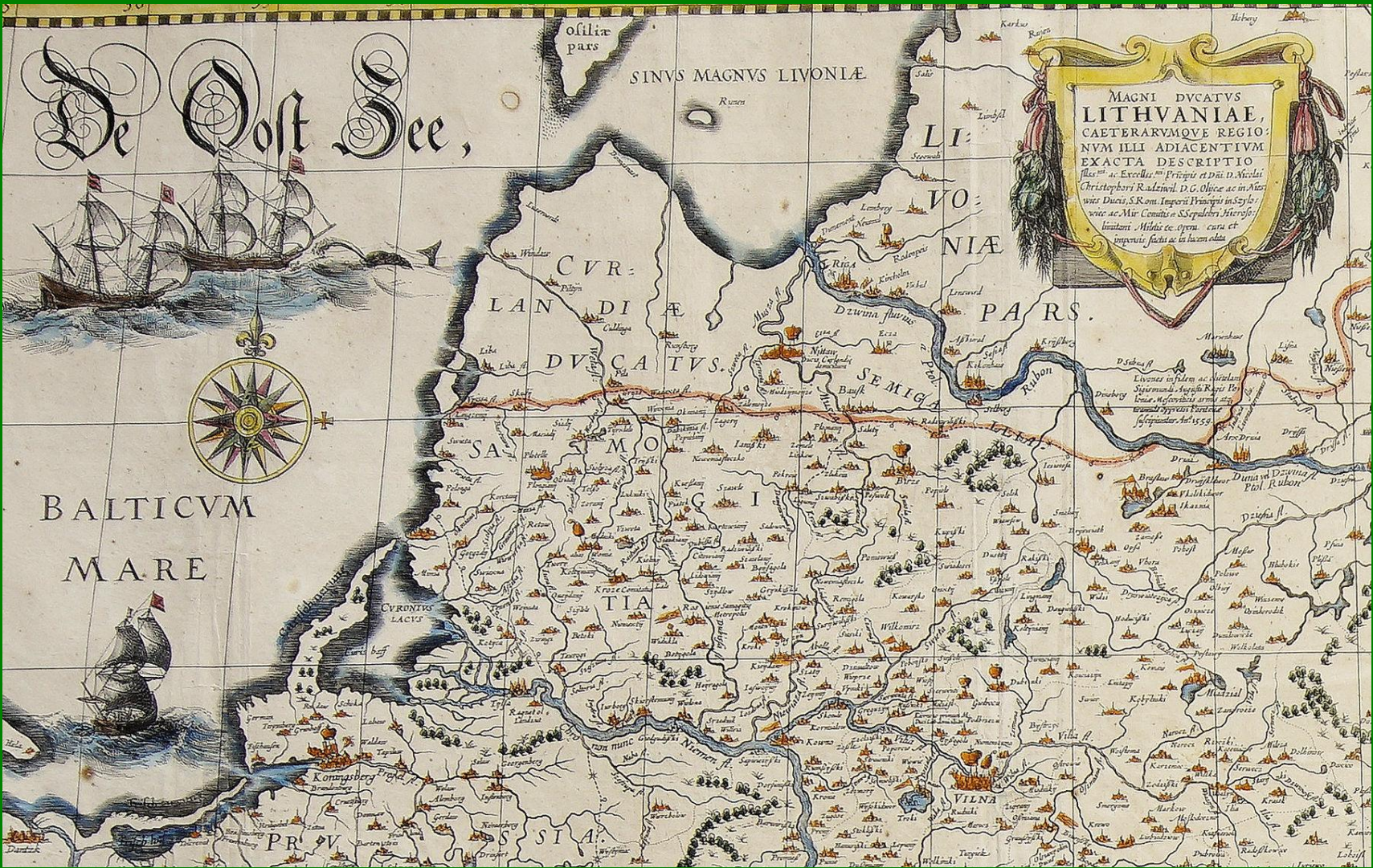


1610 Mercator – Hondius: "Lithuania" www.antique-maps.lt





c. 1634 [dated 1613] Gerritsz – Blaeu: "Magni ducatus LITHVANIAE" www.antiqve-maps.lt





1634 Mercator – Hondius: The Osler Map Library





1641 Hondius – Janssonius - Schenk "Magni Dvcatus Lithuania" www.lpmaps.lt



Essentially: “Muscovy invades, Lithuanians repel”
(Smolensk is 398 km / 247 miles from Moscow)



1648 Blaeu copied/published a reduced and re-oriented version of the 1613 map in his "Atlas Maior" Konnklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague



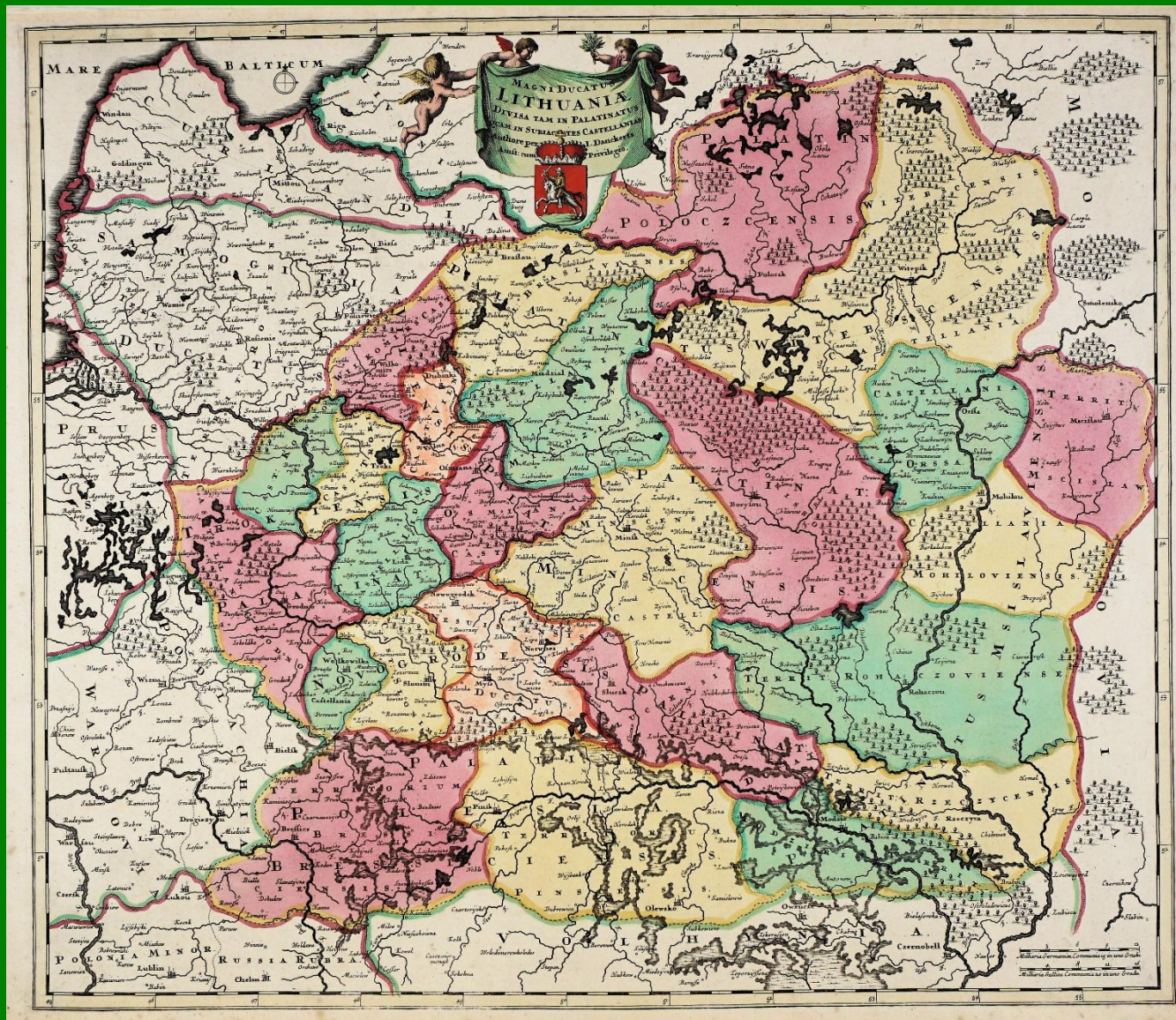


1658 Bucelin: *Old World Auctions*



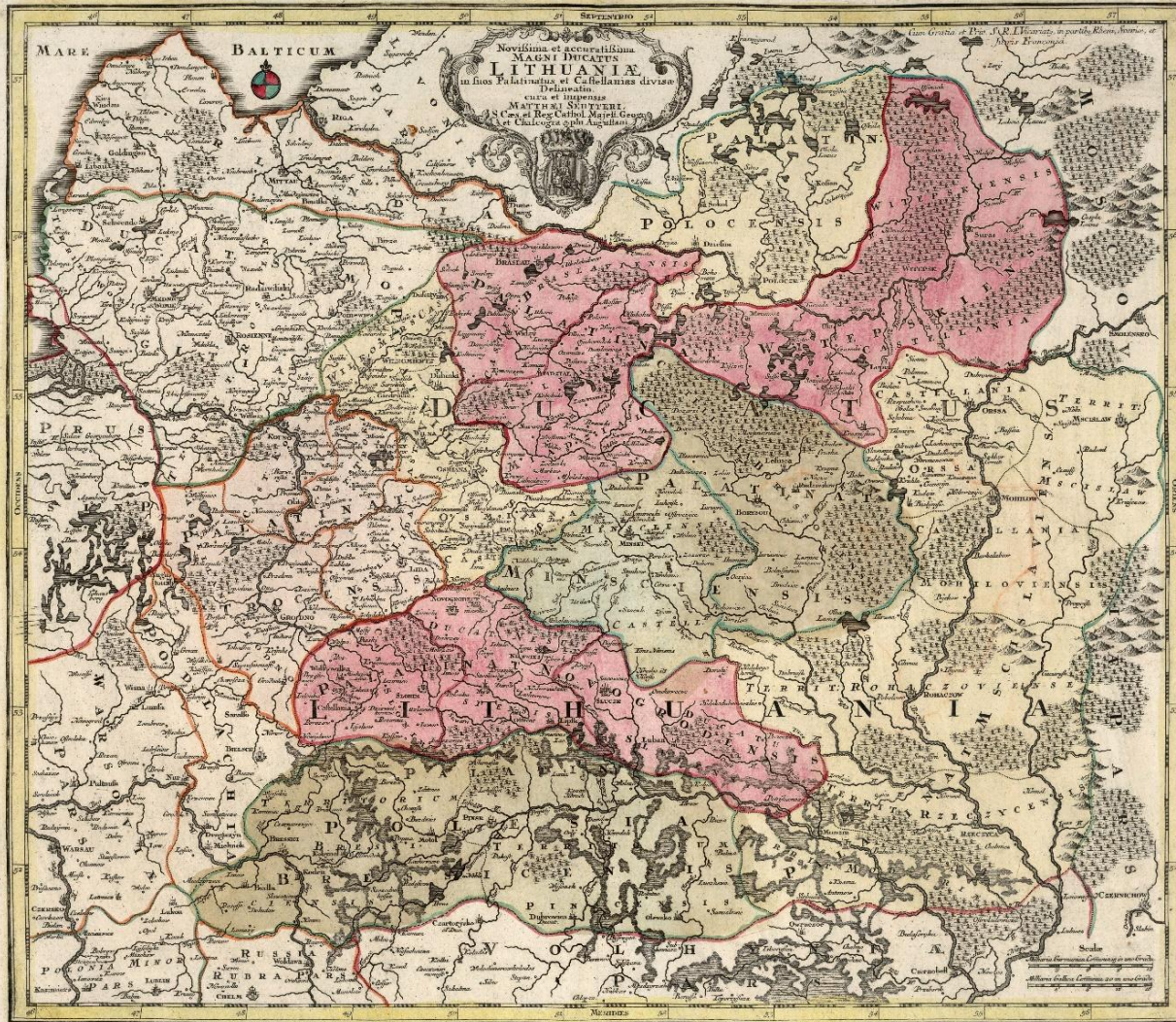
1690 Coronelli: "LITUANIA Dedicata All 'Illustrissimo Signore..," Venice, from "Atlante Veneta.." www.raremaps.com





c. 1690 Danckerts: "Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae, Divisa Tam In Palatinatus," Amsterdam.
www.ancient-maps.it





1735 Seutter: "Novissima et accuratissima Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae in suos Palatinatus et Castellanas divisae Delineatio..," Augsburg, 2nd State. www.davidrumsey.com

Novissima et accuratissima
MAGNI DUCATUS
LITHUANIAE

in suos Palatinatus et Castellanas divisae
 Delineatio,
 cura et impensis

MATTHÆI SEUTTERI,
 S. Cæs. et Reg. Cathol. Majest. Geogr.
 et Chalcographi Augustani.



CARTE DV GRAND DVCHÉ DE LITVANIAE, dressée par le Rev. Pere Jean Nieprecki, de la Soc. de Jezu en Lituanie, & recueillie par J. Mayer de la Soc. Geogr. par les Soins des Mémoires de Koman.



1749 Homann - Niepreckis - Mayer: "MAGN. DVCATVS LITVANIÆ.," Nürnberg.
 Historische Karten der Staats- und Universitäts-bibliothek Bremen

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MAGNI DVCATVS
LITVANIAE
in fvos PALATINATVS
et DISTRICTVS DIVISVS

53

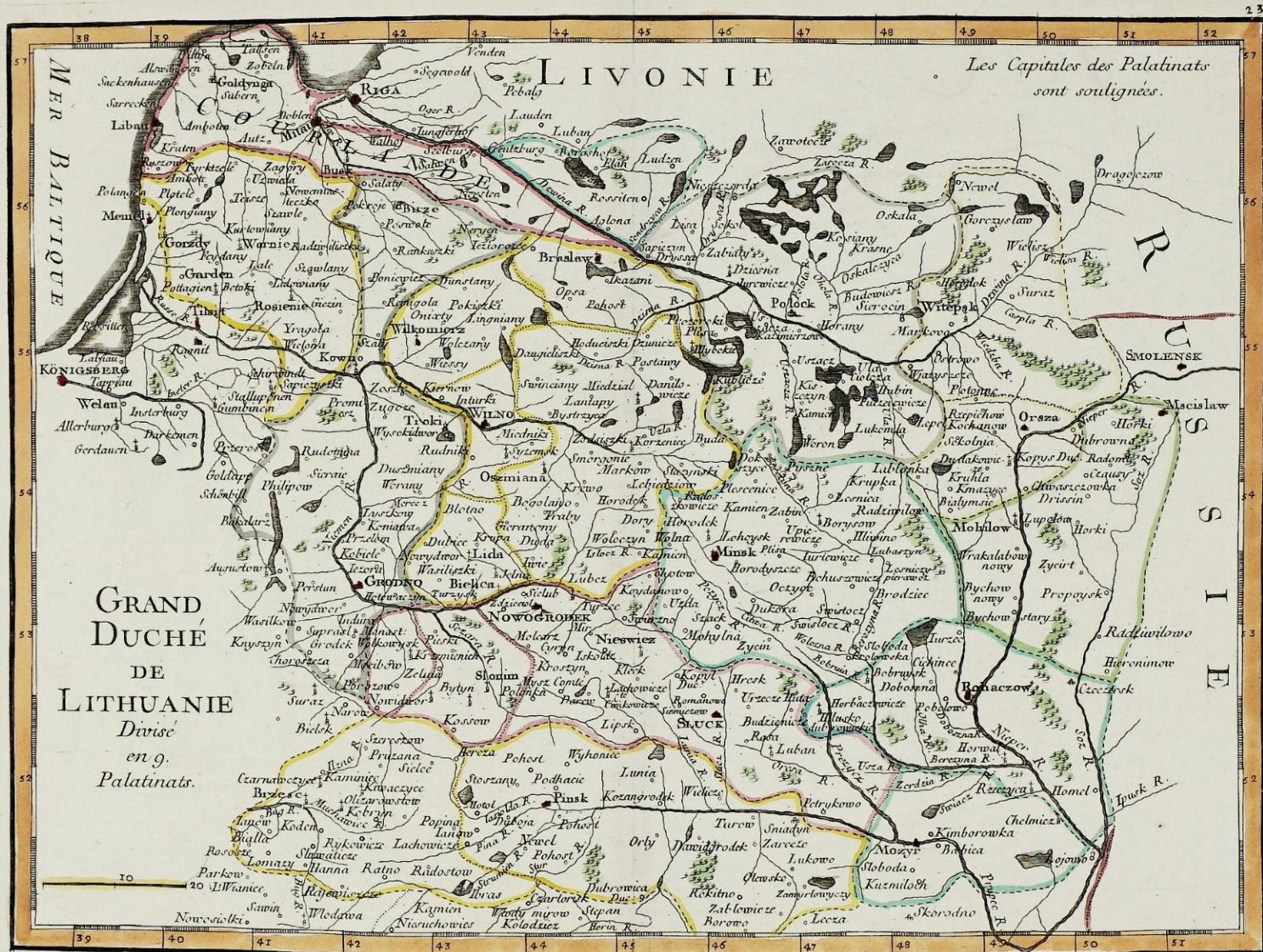
*delineatus a Rever. Dño. Ioanne
Nieprecki Soc. Iesu. simulque
exactiore locorum positione
quantum fieri potuit correctus
a Tobia Majero.*

*Norimbergae
Impensis Homannianorum Heredum,
1749.*

C. P. S. C. M. G

52

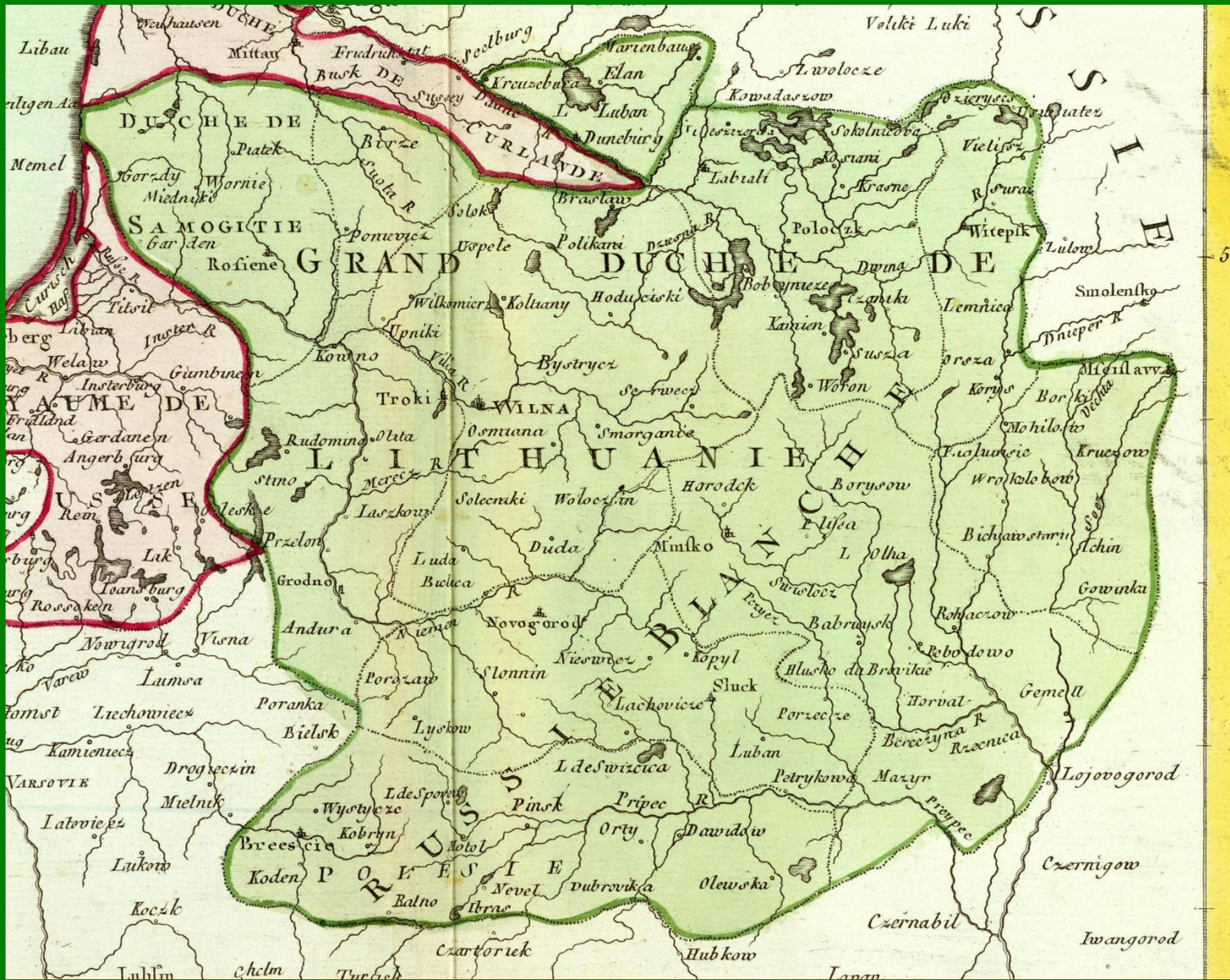




1756 Le Rouge: "Grand Duché de Lithuanie, Divisé en 9 Palatinats," Paris. www.anticque-maps.it



1761 Robert de Vaugondy: "Grand Duché de Lithuanie divisé par Palatinats...", Paris, "Atlas Portatif, Universel et Militaire..." www.antique-maps.lt



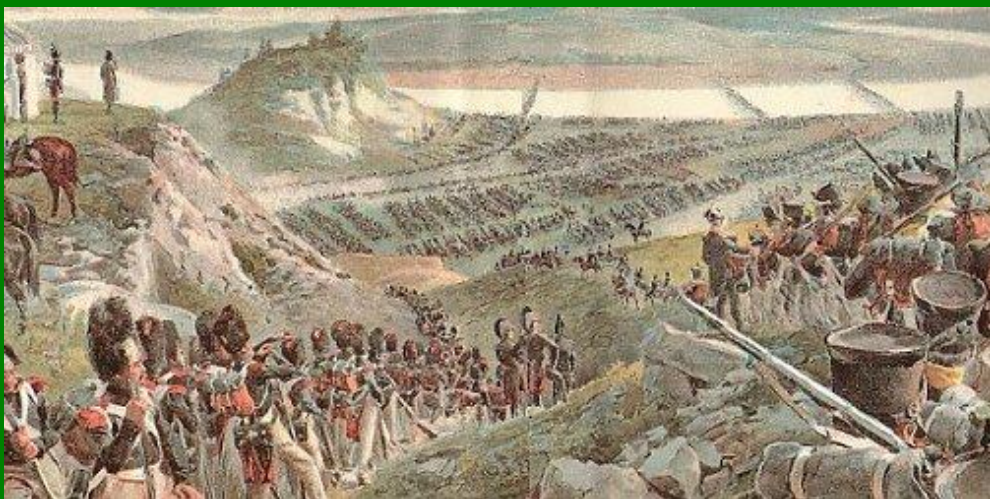


A year after the 2nd Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth: 1794 von Reilly - Busching and Fabri: a set of four maps of the Grand Duchy. www.raremaps.com

There were three partitions – not of “Poland/Pologne” but of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth: 1772, 1793 and 1795. With the last partition, Russia and Prussia annexed the remaining part of the Grand Duchy



1804 Haas - Malte-Brun: "Carte des Partages de la Pologne..." Paris.
www.davidrumsey.com



When Napoleon stood on a hilltop overlooking the Nemunas River to Russia, he was standing on what had been Grand Duchy land only 17 years before.

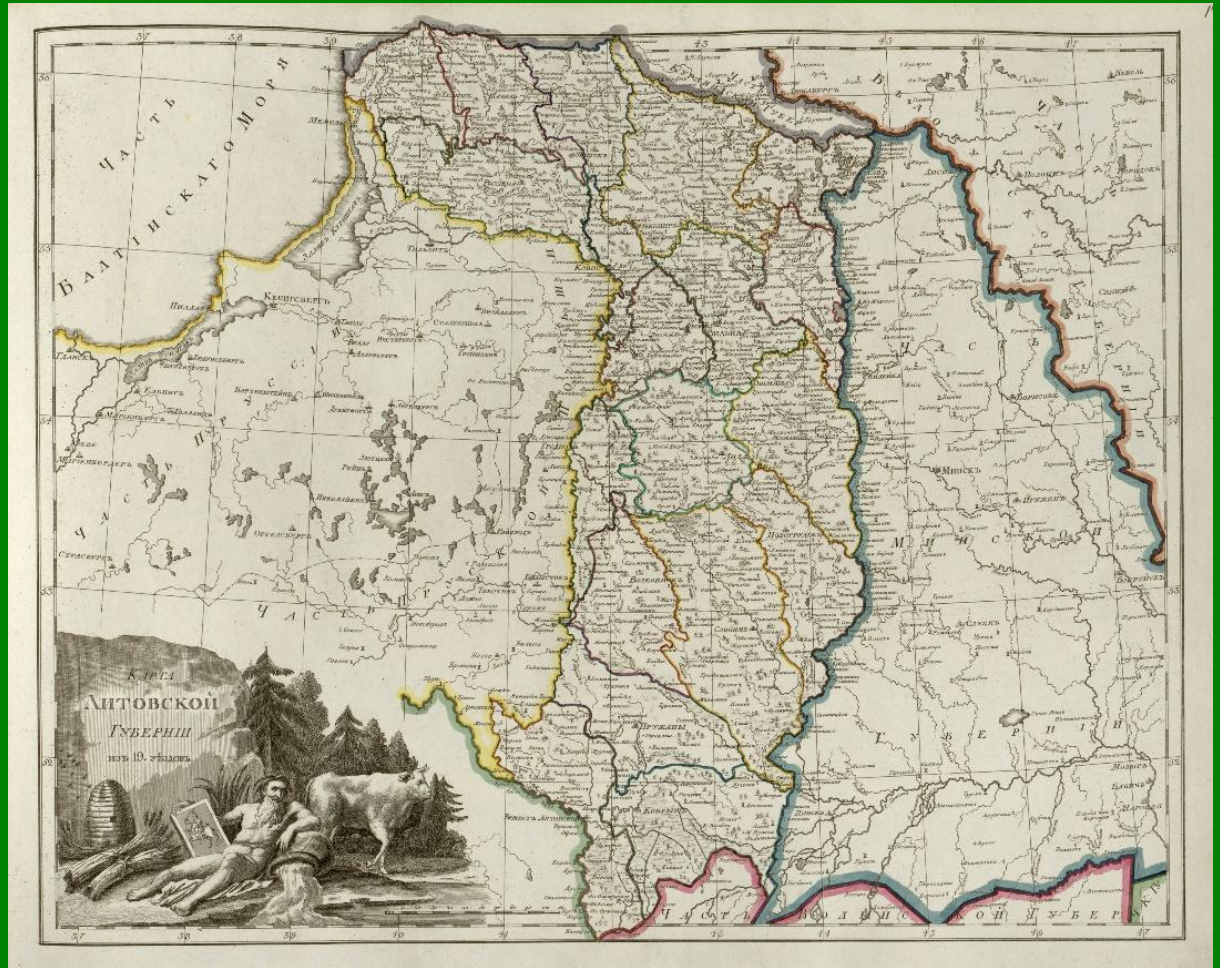


1837 Bansaer - Falkenhagen Zaleski: "POLAND in 1795, after the third Partition." www.easteurotopo.org

Following the 1795 partition, Russia divided the last of the Grand Duchy between the **Vilna** and **Slonim guberniyas**.

In December 1796 the two were merged into **Litva guberniya**, its capital: "Vilna."

In September 1801 Litva g. was divided into the **Litva-Vilna g.** and the **Litva-Grodno g.**, which lasted until 1840.



1800 Вильбрехт (Viľ'brekht): "Литовской губерния" (*Litovskoi guberniya*), St. Petersburg. [wikimedia](#)

Former Grand Duchy lands then in “New East Prussia” were, in 1806, conquered by Napoleon and overrun in the Greater Poland Uprising. The **1807 Treaties of Tilsit** gave those lands to the Duchy of Warsaw. (*The 1815 Congress of Poland gave those lands to "Congress Poland"; they remained in nominal Polish hands until WWI.*)



Napoleon signed the first of two Treaties of Tilsit in a pavilion on a raft on the Nemunas River

Adolphe Roehn:
“Entrevue de Napoléon Ier... sur le Niemen. 25 Juin 1807.
Collection: The Palace of Versailles

Map ordered by Napoleon in preparation for his invasion of Russia:

**TABLEAU D'ASSEMBLAGE
DE LA CARTE
DE LA RUSSIE EUROPÉENNE**
EN LXXVII FEUILLES,
exécutée
au Dépôt général de la Guerre.
PARIS M.DCCC.XII.

SIGNES CONVENTIONNELS

Ville de Gouvernement Blason d'Empire
Ville de Grade ou de District Armoiries
Ville Frontière Pavé
Forteresse Grande Boute de Fort
Bourg Petite Boute de Fort
Village à Clocher ou à Tour Clocher
Cimetière Croix
Village, Manufacture Croix de Commerce
Bâtiment Religieux Croix de Bâtiment

Sur les Bâtimens des Bâtes de Fort sont désignés en blanc et en rouge.

ALPHABET HARMONIQUE.

Caractères des Caractères Russes et Symploques et Valeurs	Valeur Française.
1. А. А.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
2. В. В.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
3. Г. Г.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
4. Д. Д.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
5. Е. Е.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
6. Ж. Ж.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
7. З. З.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
8. И. И.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
9. К. К.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
10. Л. Л.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
11. М. М.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
12. Н. Н.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
13. О. О.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
14. П. П.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
15. Р. Р.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
16. С. С.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
17. Т. Т.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
18. У. У.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
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20. Х. Х.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
21. Ц. Ц.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
22. Ч. Ч.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
23. Ш. Ш.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
24. Щ. Щ.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
25. Ъ. Ъ.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
26. Ы. Ы.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
27. Ь. Ь.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
28. Э. Э.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
29. Ю. Ю.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
30. Я. Я.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
31. И. И.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
32. О. О.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
33. У. У.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
34. Э. Э.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
35. Ю. Ю.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
36. Я. Я.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
37. А. А.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
38. Б. Б.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
39. В. В.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
40. Г. Г.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
41. Д. Д.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
42. Е. Е.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
43. Ж. Ж.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
44. З. З.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
45. И. И.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
46. К. К.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
47. Л. Л.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
48. М. М.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
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50. О. О.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
51. П. П.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
52. Р. Р.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
53. С. С.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
54. Т. Т.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
55. У. У.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
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58. Ц. Ц.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
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62. Ъ. Ъ.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
63. Ы. Ы.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
64. Ь. Ь.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
65. Э. Э.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
66. Ю. Ю.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.
67. Я. Я.	Appartient à une seule lettre russe.

**TABLEAU D'ASSEMBLAGE
DE LA CARTE
DE LA RUSSIE EUROPÉENNE**
EN LXXVII FEUILLES,
exécutée
au Dépôt général de la Guerre.
PARIS M.DCCC.XII.

SIGNES CONVENTIONNELS

SIGNIFICATION FRANÇAISE
des mots Russes de la Carte, susceptibles d'être traduits.

A	B	K	P
Ашук	Ашук	Кашук	Пашук
Башук	Башук	Кашук	Пашук
Гашук	Гашук	Кашук	Пашук
Дашук	Дашук	Кашук	Пашук
Еашук	Еашук	Кашук	Пашук
Жашук	Жашук	Кашук	Пашук
Зашук	Зашук	Кашук	Пашук
Иашук	Иашук	Кашук	Пашук
Кашук	Кашук	Кашук	Пашук
Лашук	Лашук	Кашук	Пашук
Машук	Машук	Кашук	Пашук
Нашук	Нашук	Кашук	Пашук
Оашук	Оашук	Кашук	Пашук
Пашук	Пашук	Кашук	Пашук
Рашук	Рашук	Кашук	Пашук
Сашук	Сашук	Кашук	Пашук
Ташук	Ташук	Кашук	Пашук
Уашук	Уашук	Кашук	Пашук
Фашук	Фашук	Кашук	Пашук
Хашук	Хашук	Кашук	Пашук
Цашук	Цашук	Кашук	Пашук
Чашук	Чашук	Кашук	Пашук
Шашук	Шашук	Кашук	Пашук
Щашук	Щашук	Кашук	Пашук
Ъашук	Ъашук	Кашук	Пашук
Ыашук	Ыашук	Кашук	Пашук
Ьашук	Ьашук	Кашук	Пашук
Эашук	Эашук	Кашук	Пашук
Юашук	Юашук	Кашук	Пашук
Яашук	Яашук	Кашук	Пашук

1812 "Carte de la Russie Européenne en LXXVII feuilles exécutée au Dépôt général de la Guerre"
Bibliothèque Nationale de France: www.gallica.bnf.fr

(Lithuanians knew something about invading and burning Moscow in the Fall – they succeeded in November 1368 and November 1370, during the Lithuanian-Muscovite wars, not having to travel as far as Napoleon did: less than 250 miles from the Grand Duchy's border)

Common wisdom: Napoleon's greatest mistake was launching his invasion of Russia on June 24, 1812. His army then took 82 days to come within 3 miles of Czar-torched Moscow on September 14.

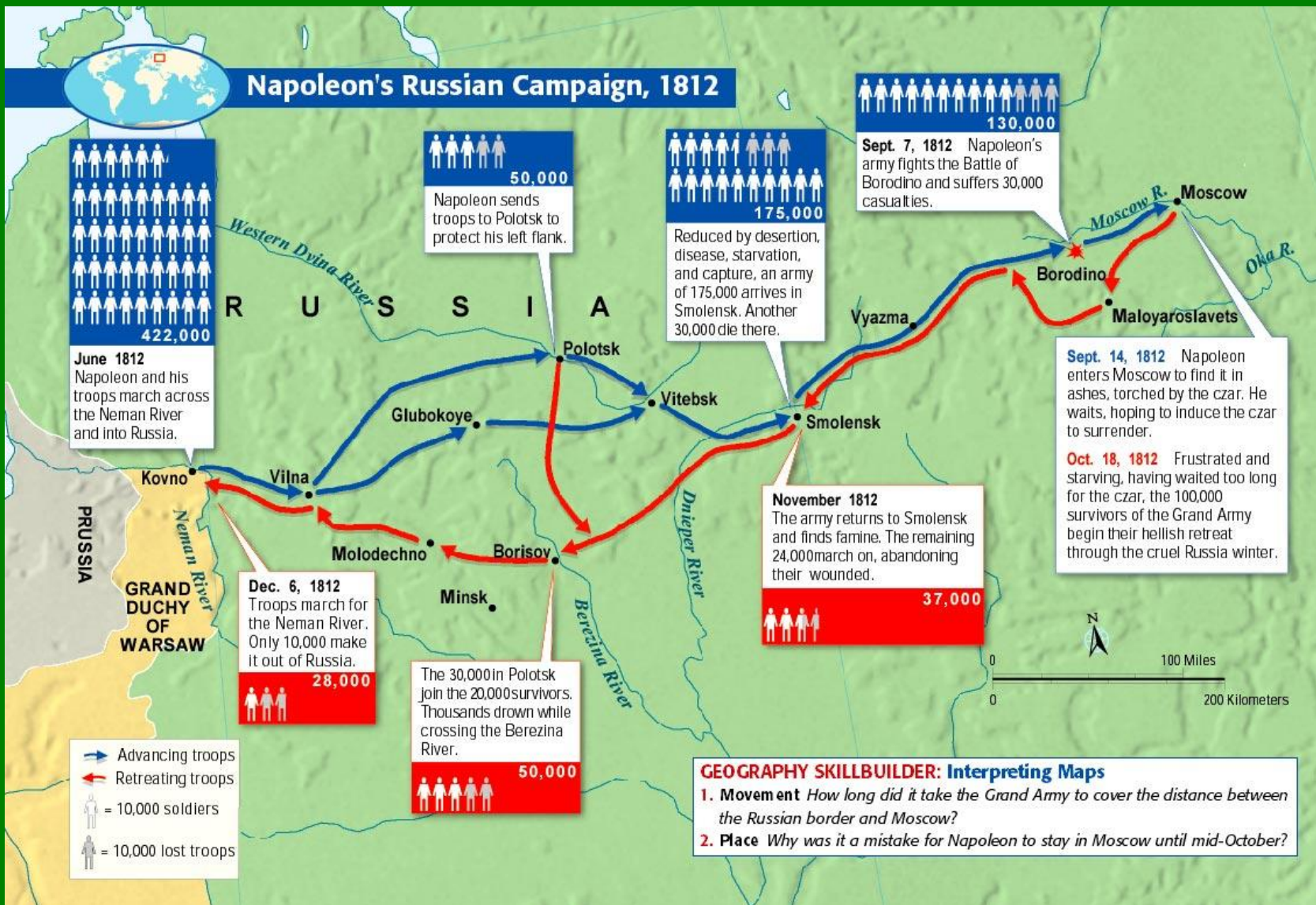
But why did Napoleon spend 20 days in Vilnius, from June 28 to July 17, delaying his march to Moscow?



wikipedia: Photo by DAVID ILIFF. License: CC BY-SA 3.0

Could Napoleon's fascination with the 300+-year-old Church of St. Anne in Vilnius have something to do with his delay?

According to a well-known (*at least among Lithuanians!*) legend, Emperor Napoleon, after seeing the church during the Franco-Russian War in 1812, expressed a wish to carry the church home with him to Paris "*in the palm of his hand.*"



Mr. Yankey's World History Class, Owasso Mid High School, 8800 N 129th East Ave, Owasso, OK 74055



1851 Adolph Northen: "Napoleon's Retreat from Russia" *wikipedia*

June 1, 2003, Vilnius: Reburial of 3,000 French soldiers found in 2001, 30%+ of whom French scientists said were killed by lice-transmitted typhus.



Petras Malukas/AFP/Getty Images

March 20, 2019: a plaque and information stands were dedicated on “Napoleon’s Hill” (63 m./207 ft) in Kaunas, where Napoleon observed his troops crossing the Nemunas, by French Ambassador to Lithuania Ms. Claire Lignières-Counathe.



www.visitkaunas.net



200 metų žimolės. 200-
year-old oak in
Mažeikiai, Lithuania,
by Aras Mīleska

LithuanianMaps.com

When viewing this site repeatedly, ALWAYS RELOAD/REFRESH (or try "Ctrl" + "F5") BEFORE VIEWING SO THAT YOU DON'T SEE AN OLD, CACHED, VERSION!

Hello/Labas! I'm Andrew Kapochunas (*Andrius Kapočūnas*, born in the Lithuanian-Estonian Displaced Persons camp in *Kempton - Allgäu, Germany*) and this site reflects my interest in maps of the historic Lithuanian area: "The Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania," 1569 - 1791, followed by the Grand Duchy of Lithuania within the "Polish Republic," 1791-1795. At one point it covered 400,000 square miles and was the largest country in Europe. According to Steven Seegel, in his 2012 "Mapping Europe's Borderlands," it "...comprised parts of 14 Central and East European countries — Austria, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Russia's Kaliningrad Oblast, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, the Slovak Republic, and Ukraine..." In 2010, Richard Butterwick, in *Central Europe*, Vol. 8 No. 2, wrote of "...the successor states, nations, and nation-states of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Latvia, Poland, Russia, and Israel (to name but the principal ones)." My focus here is the area represented today by the three Baltic republics, eastern Poland, the Kaliningrad Oblast, and Belarus — if you or your ancestors are from these areas, you will find maps here of interest.



I update LithuanianMaps.com every week with about ten new maps, town views, or sea charts. Totals as of the beginning of December:

Totals to date (*site launched 2008*):

- **4,273** uniquely-colored maps of the historic-Lithuanian area in downloadable jpegs
- **705** higher-magnification detail images of some of those maps, where the basic image is not high-definition
- **666** topographic maps from the 19th century onwards showing the area in high definition
- **263** historical maps of the Lithuanian area -- maps created and published long after the time depicted
- **207** political maps of Europe from 900 to 1943 showing Lithuania and/or Poland
- **188** 19th century and earlier town views, plans, and prints
- **184** ethnographic maps, categorizing peoples by tribe, language and/or religion
- **152** maps of European Russia, 1550 to 1948, showing Lithuania within and outside the Russian Empire
- **115** maps of Lithuania Minor / Prussian Lithuania
- **68** mapmaker biographies, many with illustrations and keys to identifying states of their maps
- **60** sea charts of the Baltic, 1547 to 1946, focusing on the seacoasts of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia
- **56** hotlinks to additional map resources, including upcoming map fairs
- **27** playing/collectible cards with images of maps
- **6** articles about maps of the historic Lithuanian area
- **0 advertisements or items for sale: this site is 100% educational**

My published articles about maps of the historic Lithuanian area:

"The Maps and Mapmakers that Helped Define 20th-Century Lithuanian Boundaries." A series:

"Part 1: Administrative Boundaries of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania Just Before the Partition of 1772" (2014)

"Part 2: The First Partition of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, 1772 -- Its Description and Depiction in Maps" (2015)

"Part 3: The Second Partition of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, 1793 -- Its Description and Depiction in Maps" (2016)

"Part 4: The Third and Last Partition of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania; administrative boundaries of Lithuanian lands, 1795 to 1918 (2017)

"Part 5: The Role of Ethnic Maps and their Makers in Determining Lithuania's Post-WWI Borders" (2019)

"Part 6: Post-Versailles, Mapmakers Struggle to Depict Lithuania" (2019)

Thank you, Merci, Ačiū!

Questions?