

French map-makers who depicted the Grand Duchy of Lithuania:

Anville, Jean Baptiste Bourguignon: 1697 - 1782

Bonne, Rigobert: 1727 - 1795

Briet, Philippe, SJ: 1601 – 1668)

Delamarche, Charles Francois, Felix: 1740 - 1823

Delisle, Claude & Guillaume: 1644 - 1726

Desnos, Louis-Charles: 1725 - 1805

Fer, de, Family: 1644 - 1720

Jaillot Family: 1632 - 1780

Lapie Family: 1777 – 1850

Le Vasseur de Beauplan, Guillaume: 1595 - 1685

Malte-Brun, Conrad, Victor Adolphe: 1775 - 1889

Manesson-Mallet, Allain: 1630 - 1706

Mentelle, Edme: 1730 - 1815

Michelot, Jean Charles Auguste: 1792 - 1854

Nolin Family: 1657 - 1762

Robert de Vaugondy Family: 1688 - 1786

Sanson Family: 1600 – 1730

Vivien de Saint-Martin, Louis: 1802 - 1897



1655: Levasseur de Beauplan (mapmaker) – Allard (publisher): “Nova totius Regni Poloniae Magniq. Ducatus Lithuaniae...”

Guillaume Delisle (1675-1726)

If Nicolas Sanson is the “father” of French cartography, then Guillaume Delisle (or de l’Isle) could be considered the “son,” the representative of the next generation of French cartographers. According to Carl Moreland and David Bannister, he was recognized as “‘the first scientific cartographer’ and the foremost geographer of his age.” Along with his contemporaries, he ushered in a new era of increased accuracy and integrity in mapping.

Guillaume Delisle was born in Paris on February 28, 1675, to Marie Malaine and Claude Delisle, a geographer and historian who studied under Sanson. A precocious child, Guillaume supposedly drew his first map at age 9. He was a pupil of Jean Dominique Cassini (1625-1712), an Italian astronomer appointed to the Paris Observatory by Louis XIV. Cassini introduced astronomical methods for measuring longitude and developed a method of triangulation with mathematician Jean Picard. These innovations paved the way for Delisle’s own rigorous geography.

In 1700, Delisle and his father were locked in an extended public plagiarism dispute against Jean-Baptiste Nolin, who had copied geographical discoveries that the Delisles claimed were original to their world map. Eventually a jury of experts (among them Cassini) ruled in favor of the Delisles. According to Mary Sponberg Pedley, “One result of this suit was to establish the young Delisle’s authority as a mapmaker through his command of a map’s sources.”

Delisle was elected to the Académie Royale des Sciences in 1702. This appointment granted him access to the most up-to-date information on discoveries in the New World and advancements in astronomy and geography. He published groundbreaking maps of North America that featured more accurate versions of the course of the Mississippi River, peninsular California, the Great Lakes, and Canada. Throughout his career, he carefully studied firsthand accounts and other cartographic sources and updated his maps as new information flooded in. His reputation as a master geographer led to his appointment as the Dauphin’s tutor and Premier Géographe du Roi in 1718.

On January 25, 1726, Delisle died in Paris. Although two of his brothers, Joseph Nicolas and Louis, were also cartographers, Delisle’s widow Marie Angélique carried on his business, selling his maps until her own death in 1745. She was succeeded by her son-in-law Philippe Buache. In 1780, Jean Claude Dezauche purchased the Delisle and Buache stock.

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.*



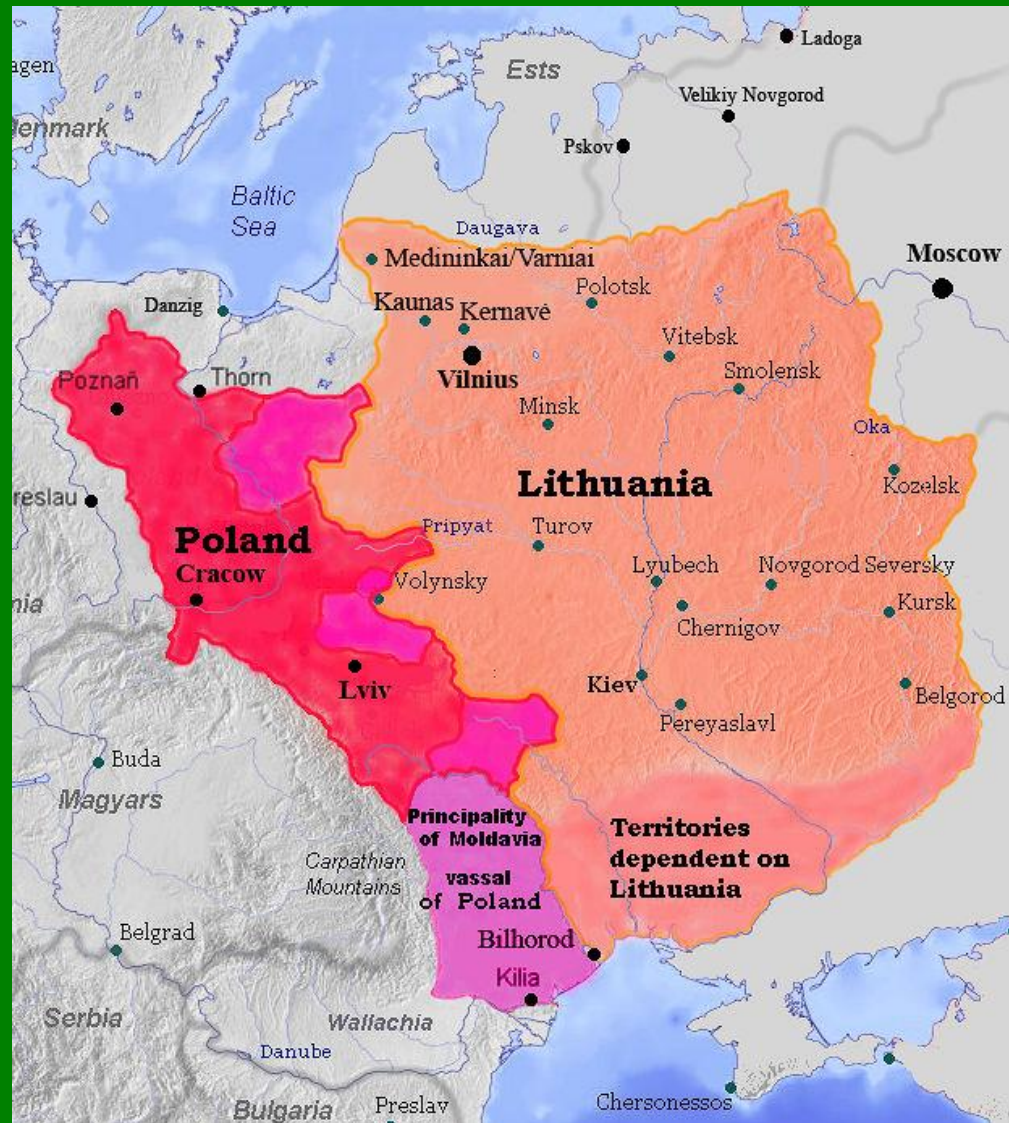
1896 Artist unknown: "The French Army Crossing The Niemen, 1812" [wikipedia](#)



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/



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

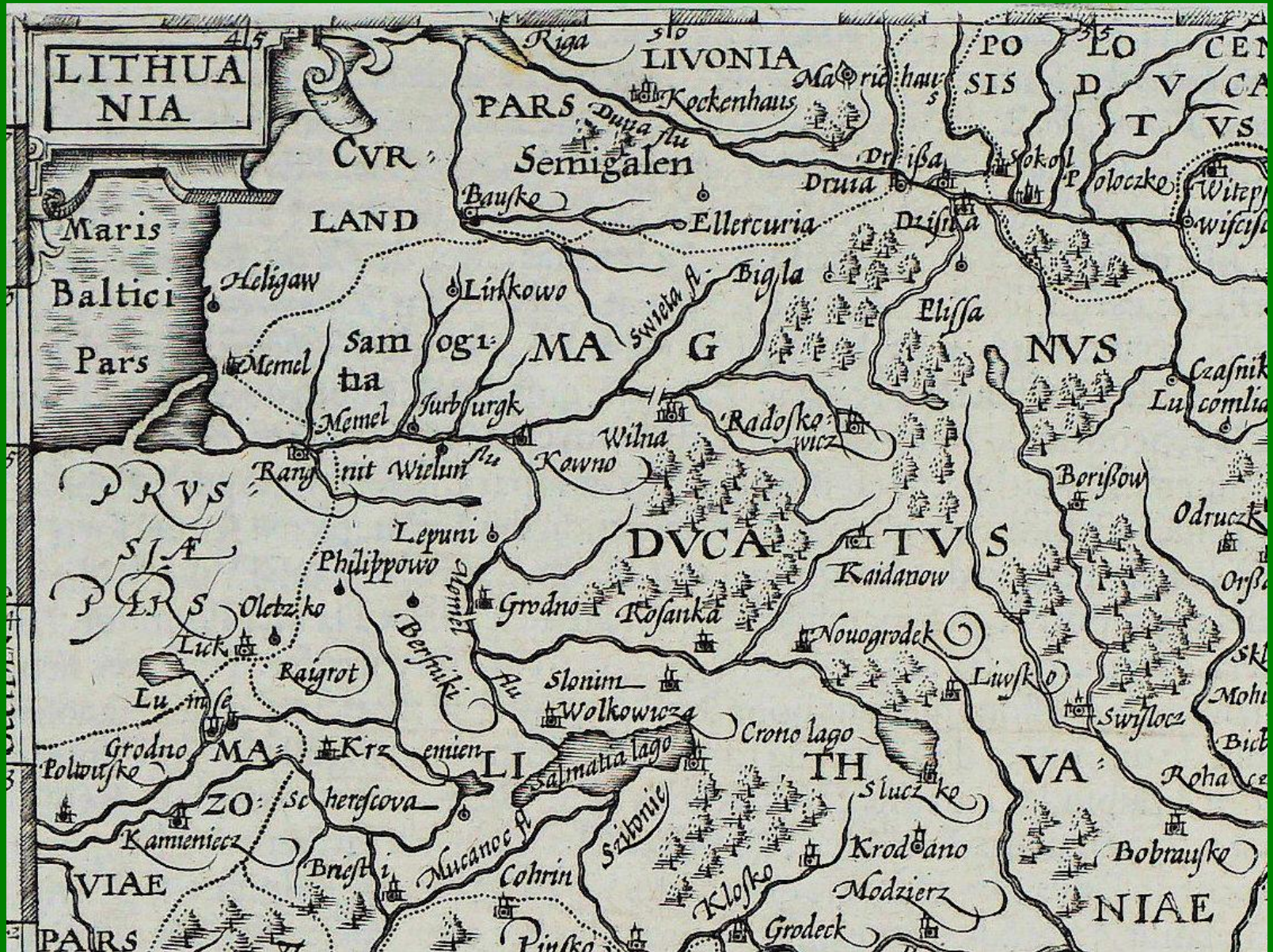


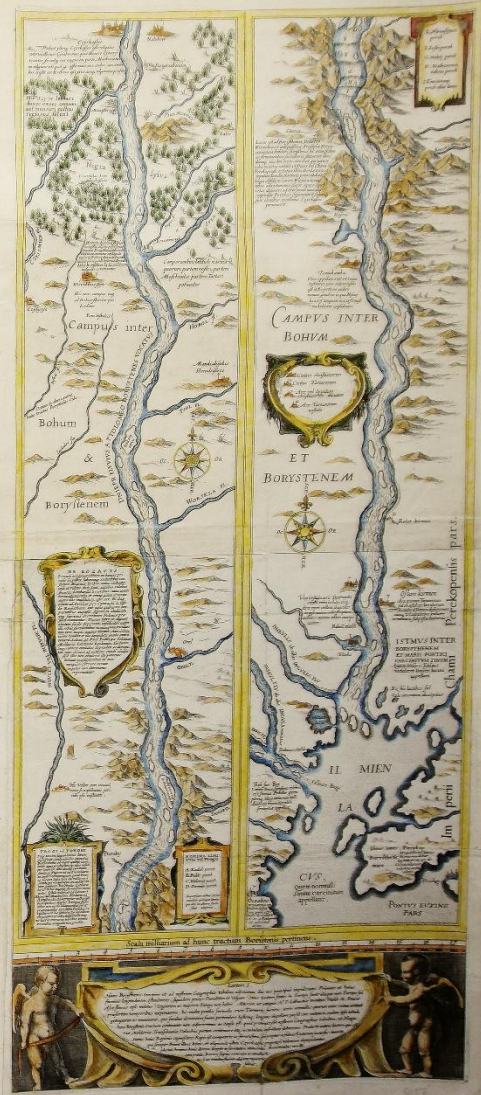
LITHVANIAE

135



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



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

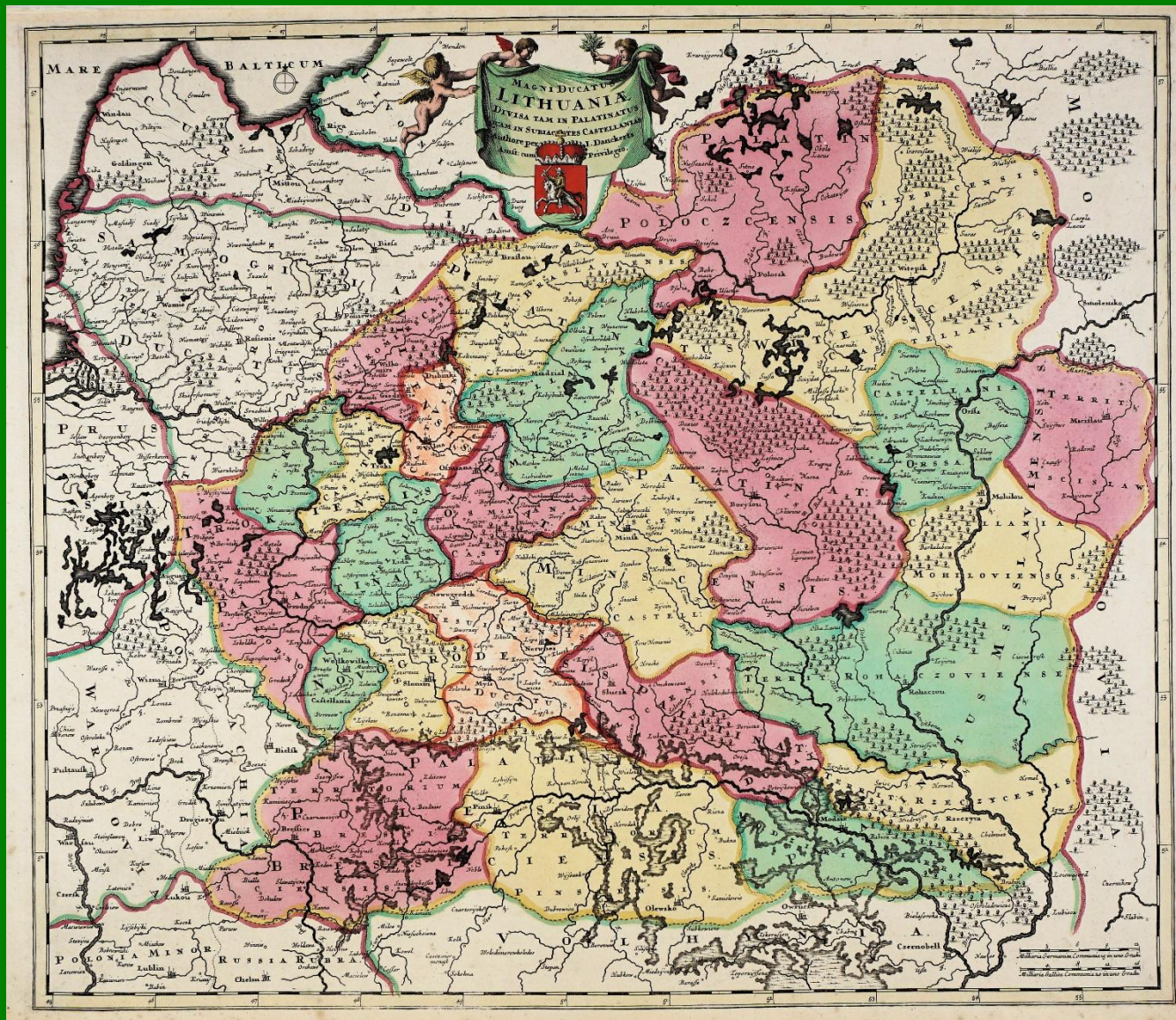




1658 Bucelin: Old World Auctions

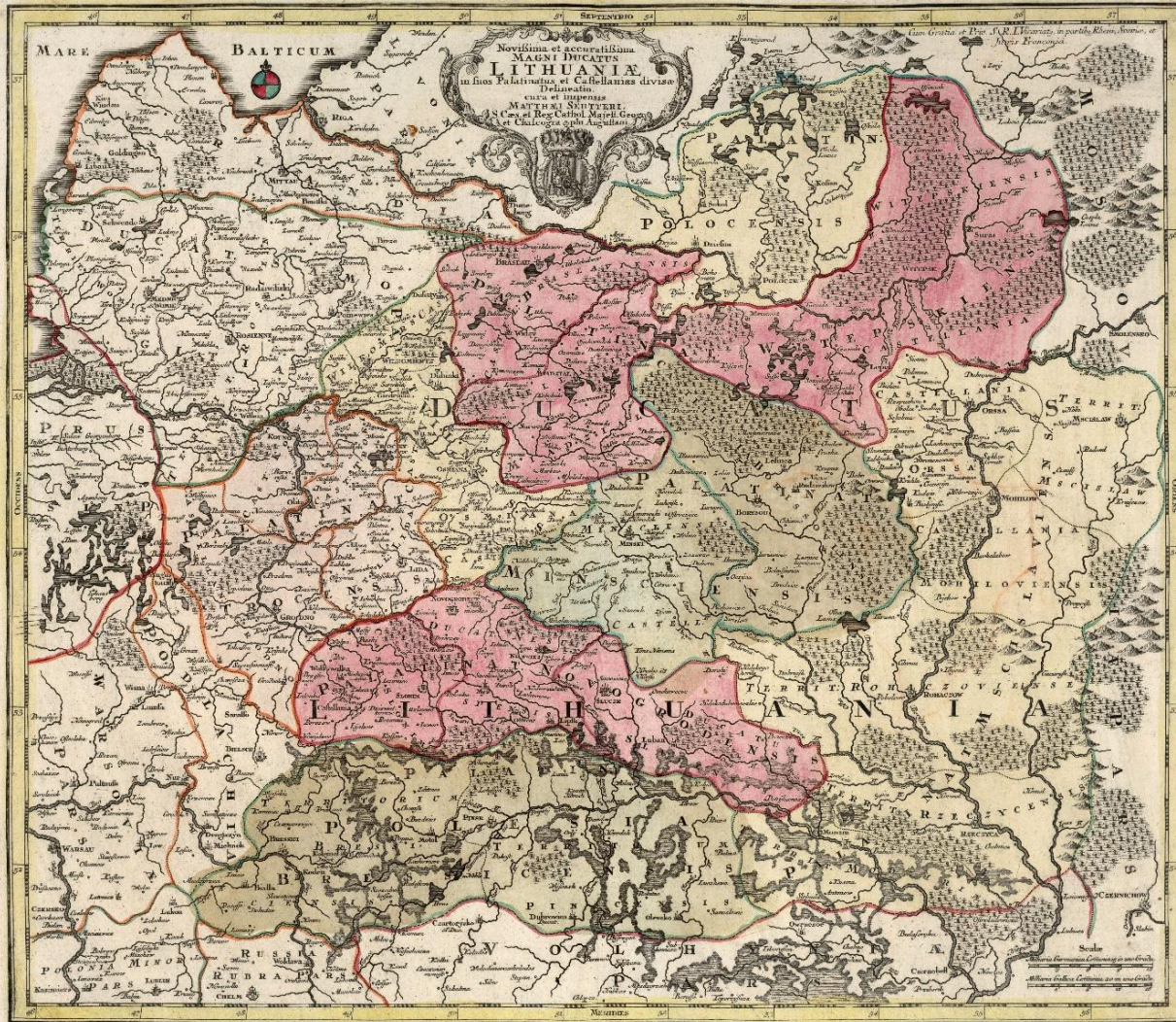


1690 Coronelli: "LITUANIA Dedicata All 'Illustrissimo Signore..," Venice, from "Atlante Veneta.." www.raremaps.com



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

Wenden

Novissima et accuratissima
MAGNI DUCATUS
LITHUANIAE

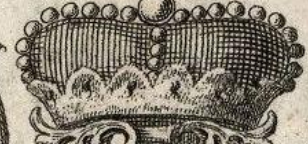
in suos Palatinatus et Castellanas divisae
 Delineatio,

cura et impensis

MATTHAEI SEUTTERI,

S. Cæs. et Reg. Cathol. Majest. Geogr.

et Chalcographi Augustani.



Sachsen
 Werra

Caltsenow
 Kockenhausen
 Creutzburg

Lichstien

Dunenburg

Dodina

Quadassaw

Nieszerda

Niesewa

Lifna

Statna

P O L O

Arx

54



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

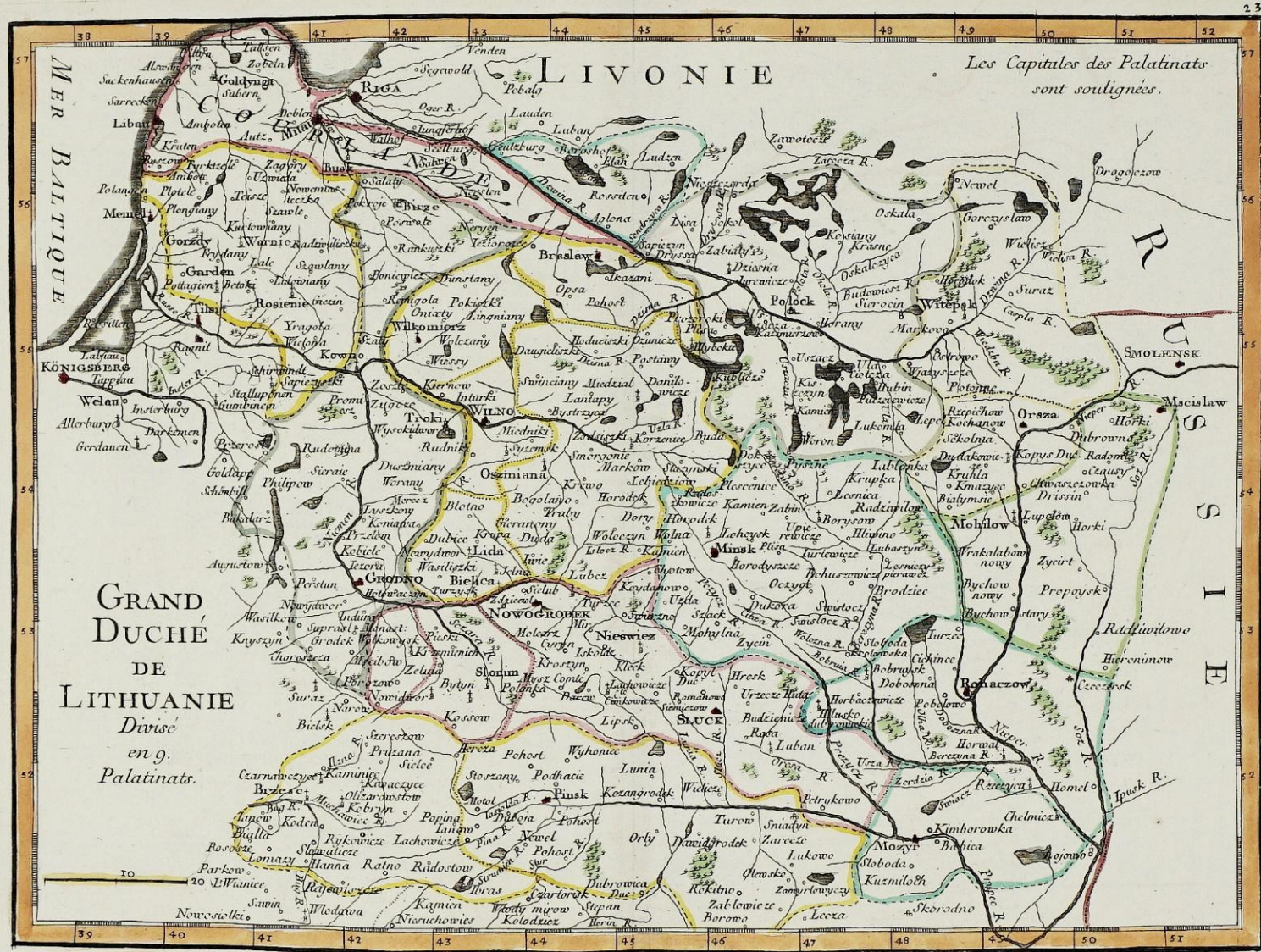
Impensis Homannianorum Heredum,

1749.

C. P. S. C. M. G

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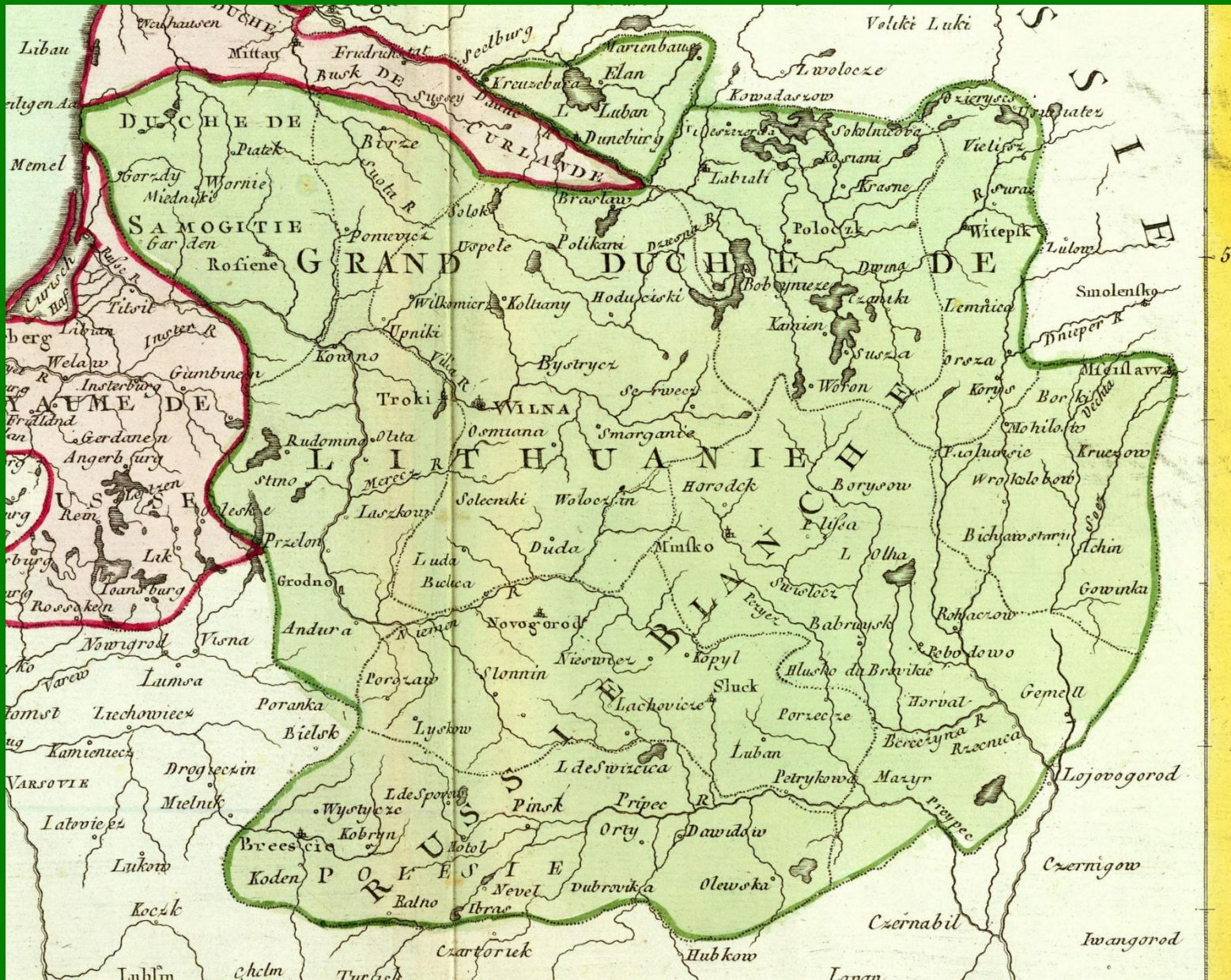




1756 Le Rouge: "Grand Duché de Lithuanie, Divisé en 9 Palatinats," Paris. www.antiqne-maps.lt



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



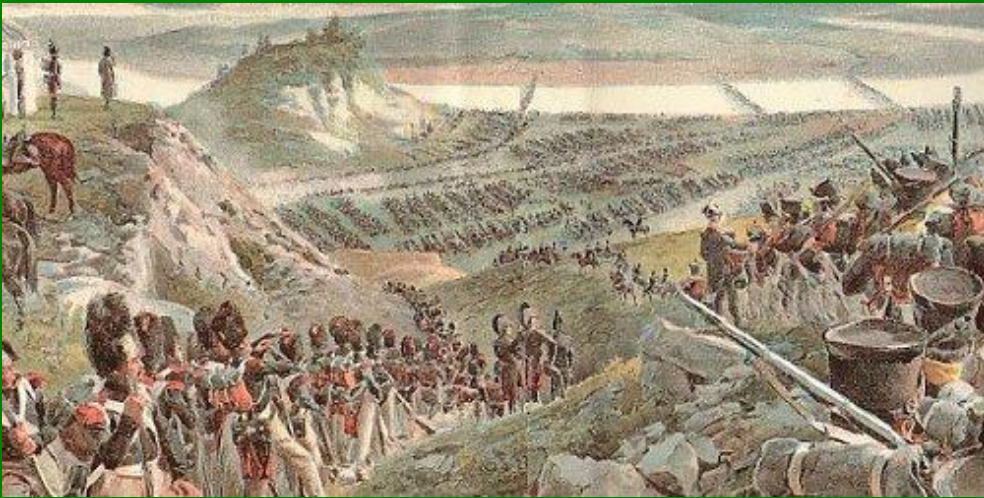


A year after the 2nd Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth: 1794 von Reilly - Busching and Fabri: a set of four maps of the Grand Duchy. www.raremaps.com

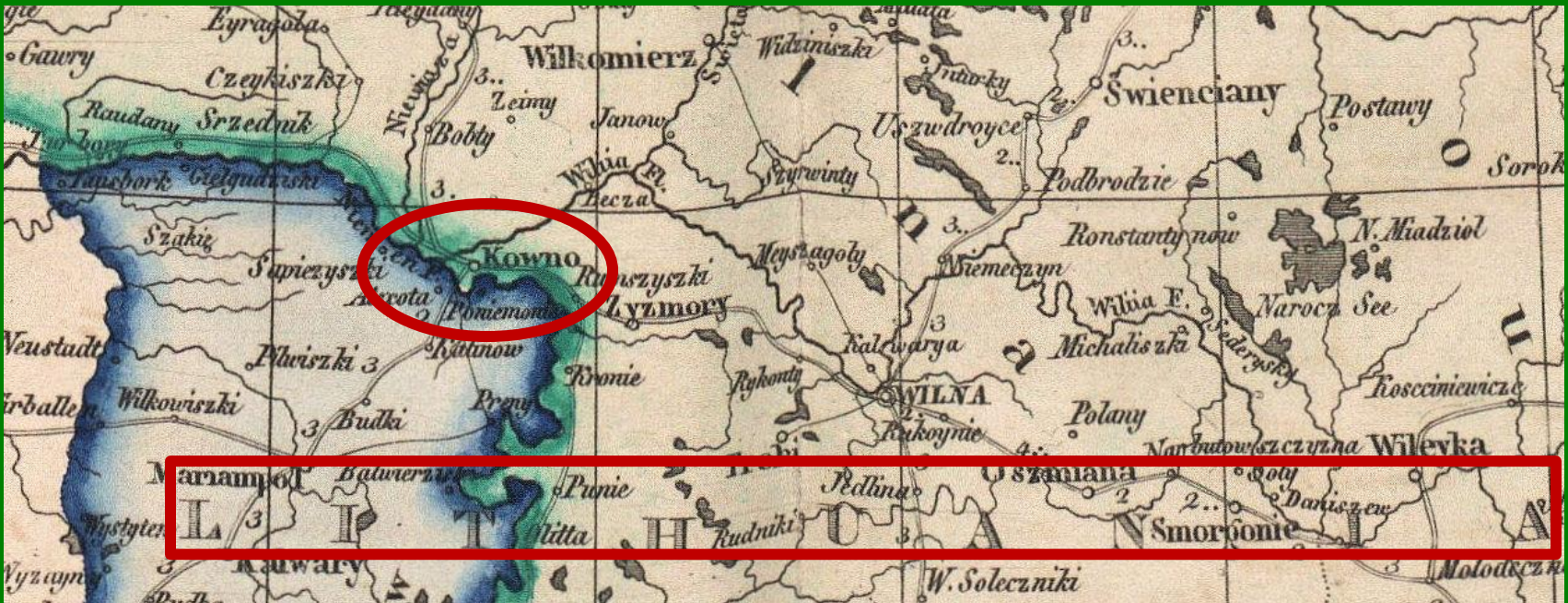
There were three partitions – not of “Poland/Pologne” but of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth: 1772, 1793 and 1795. With the last partition, Russia and Prussia annexed the remaining part of the Grand Duchy



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.

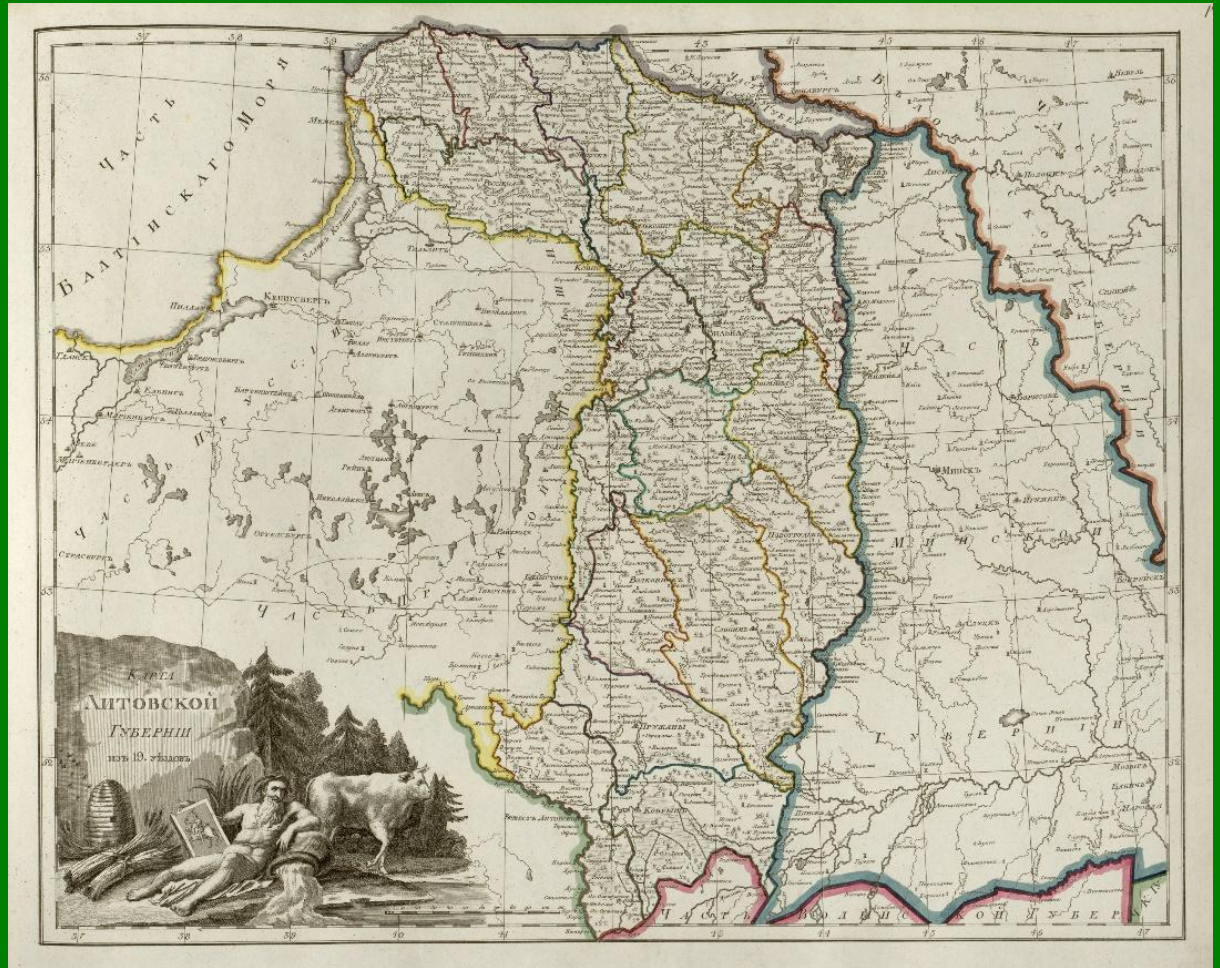


1837 Bansemer - Falkenhagen Zaleski: "POLAND in 1795, after the third Partition." www.easteurotopo.org

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

(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.

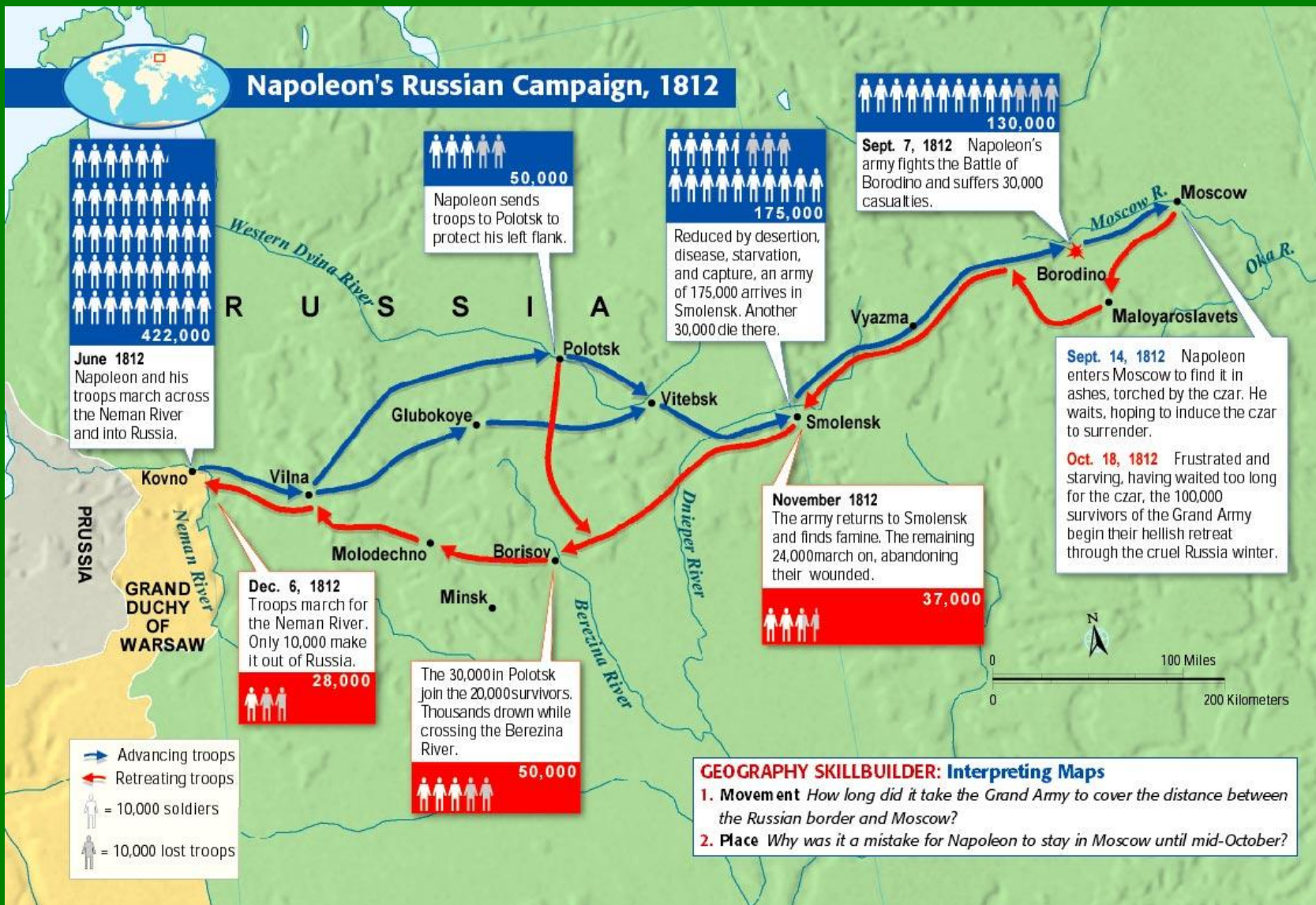
But why did Napoleon spend 20 days in Vilnius, from June 28 to July 17, delaying his march to Moscow?



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.*"



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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?