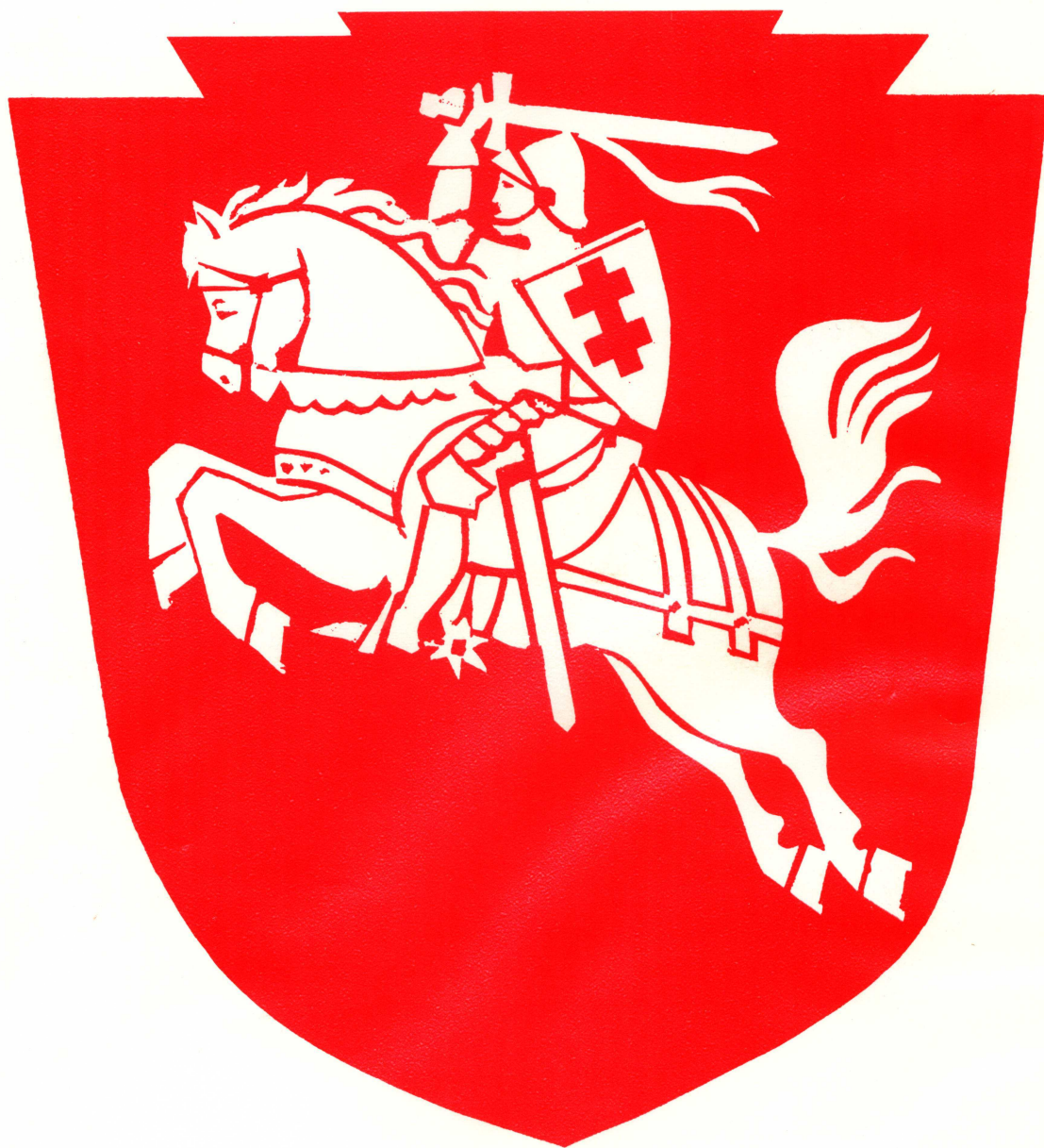


BULLETIN



LITHUANIAN PHILATELIC
SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

LITHUANIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

MARCH, 1991

BULLETIN No. 159

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MEMBERS WITH MATERIAL TO CONSIGN - KINDLY WRITE THE AUCTION
MANAGER.

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LPSNY CLUB NOTES, LETTERS, BALTIC PHILATELIC ACTIVITY

You got one of these from the last PMS mailing. I thought we should reproduce the application and send it out with the next LPSNY Bulletin. (Ed. Note: enclosed) There is useful information in the PMS newsletters and I'm sure that many of the Lithuanian collectors collect Memel as a side specialty, if nothing else.

Thank you for your prompt reply to request for Bulletin No. 158. I have purchased 1990/91 issues of Lithuania (Stereo Stamps) via Linn's Stamp News. I had no way of knowing if indeed these reflected the issues of this date.

My heart and my prayers have been for my mom's people (Tamilonis) for many years. I did not collect their stamps as all who we knew there have died. My dad is Polish and I have collected Polish stamps. Talking to my aunt a few years ago she urged me to collect from Lithuania - so finally I have.

My prayers have been answered both for Lithuania and Poland. Thanks be to God!

If I may, I'd appreciate joining the Lithuanian Philatelic Society. I have filled out the form you sent. I therefore include \$9.00 for this purpose and \$2.50 (payable to you) for Bulletin No. 158.

I got so much enjoyment reading it. I hope to make up for my past by collecting the years prior to 1990.

That you may know, I am not young - I just was 70 on May 22. I have 13 children and a full life. I am studying for the Catholic Deaconate Ministry. I am a retired chemist (endocrinologist). I am a consultant (twice weekly). The rest of the time is devoted to my family, grandchildren and my ministry, but I want to add Lithuania to my life.

Just caught your address from Stamp Collector. The Baltic States fascinate me. Tell me more of your club.

I am writing for information about joining the Lithuanian Philatelic Society. I have recently joined the Latvian and have sent membership fee to the Estonian. I only just got your address from Mr. Ray Hafsaas on one of his pricelists of Baltic stamps.

I have a Latvian uncle who got me started in stamps 24 years ago and since that time have had much sympathy and concern for all the enslaved Baltic peoples. Recently I called in a question to Mr. Lennart Meri (Estonian Foreign Minister addressing a call-in news show on C-Span Television) a small thing but I did mention Live "Baltic Enslavements", seems the old League of Nations no longer means too much.

I've got a copy of this on VHS and often tape Baltic material for my Latvian uncle. Sometimes I get Lithuanian broadcasts on the SCOLA station and would be willing to make you a copy.

My Latvia will soon be as complete as I expect it ever will and have doubled my Lithuanian and Estonian efforts. I still need the Bermondts-Avalovs but am in process of nailing down the Afrika issue of Latvia, I've got the rest pretty well tied in. Hoping to hear from you.

How nice to see that Lithuania is issuing stamps once more. They will need to do more than that...

Would you be so kind as to send me a little information on the Society. You need only address it to my name and the PO box number and of course town and zip.

I should have been much more aggressive about collecting Lithuanian stamps than I have been. In recent years I have tended towards the West Indies.

I do wish the Society every success and I do hope that you are supporting the People of Lithuania in their efforts for complete independence from foreign powers. It is a wonderful country with a tremendous history, well defined culture and its own language. I hope to see the day when the last Russian leaves there and the last American leaves here. We do have to be consistent.

I would appreciate information about the Lithuanian Philatelic Society of New York. Being of Lithuanian descent I am interested in all things pertaining to my ancestors and the freedom of all Lithuania from the rule of Russia. Many thanks for your time.

New Members

- #532 Lynn H. Osier
- #533 William C. Stolen
- #534 Larry G. Ludwig
- #535 Richard E. Kalnins
- #536 Ruth E. Sadler
- #537 Joseph Januszka
- #538 Carol E. Macknis
- #539 David B. Talbott
- #540 George Ivanovs
- #541 P.C. Weisenbarger D.M.D.
- #542 Eugene R. Bell
- #543 HRSH Leonard Carr
- #544 James J. Gill
- #545 Floyd Leenerman
- #546 Ronald W. Yankowski

Contributor Members

We acknowledge the following members for their voluntary contributions over and above required 1991 dues.

Charles Matuzas, Vincent Alones, Jerome J. Norton, Dr. Vincent Krisciunevicius, Arnold Engel, Robert J. Konowicz, Allen Snyder III, Mike Renfro, George B. Lindberg, Vytautas Valantinas, Dennis O. Bartley, Vytautas Matonis, Lt. Col. John W. Balchunis, Lawrence E. Corr, Peter J. Plungis, Jan J. Volland.

If you have so far failed so far to pay your dues, kindly do so promptly.

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Klaipeda-Memel Postage Stamp Album

All German, French and Lithuanian issues loose leaf heavy stock about 40 illustrated pages Postpaid \$12.50.

Lithuanian Postage Stamp Album

For local issues, souvenir stamps and occupation stamps 3 ring loose leaf, heavy stock over 50 pages. Contains Lithuanian stamps overprinted by other countries. Displaced persons camp issues with souvenir sheets, cinderellas. There are no Scott numbered stamps. Postpaid \$15.00.

Commemorative Envelopes

The LPSNY for the first time since 1964, has had printed an LPSNY cachet on a number 11 envelope. In commemoration of the restoration of Lithuania's independence the LPSNY had about 500 of these covers cancelled with the special U.S. Postal Service cancellation produced for Lithpex XXIII; 1/3 dated October 26, 1990, 1/3 dated October 27, 1990, and 1/3 dated October 28, 1990. Set of 3 dates \$3.00 postpaid. Individual covers \$1.25 each postpaid (your choice of date(s)).

Back Issues of the LPSNY Bulletin

Bulletin #'s 1-157 - \$2.50 each postpaid.

Postage Stamps of Lithuania

\$20.00 postpaid.

Handbook Price List Supplement

\$10.00 postpaid.

Kindly send your orders and checks to Vincent Alones, 217 McKee Street, Floral Park, N.Y. 11001.

INTERVIEWS WITH CHARLES MATUZAS, JUNE 2 AND JULY 21, 1991

by Andrew Kapochunas

Charles Matuzas, President of the Lithanian Philatelic Society of New York, was also a founding member, in 1954. He was an editor of "Postage Stamps of Lithuania," 1978, the definitive handbook of Lithanian philately, and the first editor, beginning in 1955, of the society's Bulletin. Originally a single sheet, written in Lithuanian, the Bulletin switched to English with the ninth issue, dated June 2, 1956, by popular demand of the membership. Mr. Matuzas is also an accomplished filmmaker.

Q. How did you first become interested in collecting stamps, and how did your interest develop?

A. I was born in Vilnius and my mother brought me, her first child, in her arms to Ellis Island when I was only five or six months old. My father immigrated to the United States in search of work, went back to Lithuania to marry a girl from his village (my mother), came back to the U.S. where he joined him in Maspeth, New York. He died soon after, when I was four. As a child I became attracted to stamps, as did most kids then. Whether in Lithuania or the U.S., you understand, stamp collecting was considered a child's game, a child's hobby, and was despised by most adults, so I collected worldwide stamps until the pressures of school work and the discovery of girls combined to change the focus of my attention.

Later on, when I was in my thirties, my son developed an interest in stamps. I gave him the worldwide album I had had as a child, which contained pages for Lithuania and some Lithuanian stamps. I remember taking him to Gimbel's in New York to buy him more Lithuanian stamps. Then he, as I had before him, lost interest, and I was left, literally, holding the bag - of stamps! All this, of course, turned out for the good for me.

My interest deepened, and I was initiated in the serious study of Lithanian philately after the war by arrivals from displaced persons camps in Germany. Mike Slapsys, Steve Ivanauskas and I would get together and compare our collections, discussing varieties and our new acquisitions. The group of us meeting regularly began to grow and we decided to put a notice in the Lithuanian weekly *Vienybe*, announcing the formation of the Lithuanian Philatelic Society, and asking interested parties to meet on Sunday at the Winter Garden Tavern in Ridgewood, New York. We were surprised at the response - about 15 people showed up (including Vince Alones, who came only because his father noticed the announcement).

Later on, while attending a stamp auction, I met Dr. John Buchness. He was a member of the Collectors Club of New York, who both lectured on and wrote about Lithuanian stamps. He was to become a moving force for our society, coaxing us, complimenting us for our efforts, helping to educate us. He would invite a number of us to his house in a suburb of Baltimore for the weekend. We'd get there Saturday night, and we'd go over his extensive collections (full sheets of all the typeset issues, for instance!) and talk until 3 A.M. We'd go over errors, plate positions, varieties. The next morning, he'd take us all to church before we returned to his house to continue our discussions. I got into fields like proofs, errors and cancellation varieties gradually. I noticed, as an active exhibitor, that those sorts of pieces also helped in getting awards.

Later on, doing basic research for what I knew would become a definitive catalog of Lithuanian stamps, Dr. Buchness, I and others visited and studied the collections of people like Walter Norton, Joe Mulevich and Jonas Grigaliunas, in Cleveland. Grigaliunas, I recall, had purchased the collection of a Latvian named Platbarzdis who, as a member of the Latvian deligation in Kaunas, had acquired many rarities, including essay pairs of the Angel airmail issue. After Grigaliunas died, I tried to get his daughter to permit us to include illustrations of her father's collections in our handbook, but she refused. Most of his collections were offered some years back for \$200,000+, with no takers. Part of the collection has been auctioned off, piecemeal. The rest of the collection, I don't know its status.

It's hard for me now to keep up with new information - my eyes are failing and, for the most part, I rely on friends to read me articles and letters. Most of that information now is from Lithuania, where discoveries and revelations continue.

Q. What are your plans for the disposition of your collections and research material?

A. I still hope that my son or daughter will develop a serious interest in stamps. Right now, they're too busy earning a living and raising a family. Perhaps my granddaughter will become interested. I know that one of the reasons I wanted to come out with a catalog of Lithuanian stamps, and their prices, is that I've always intended to leave my collections - Lithuania and Memel are all that I have now - to my children.

My idea was that, if they dispose of my collection, my children will be able to look through my stamps while checking the catalog and price list, and so become aware of the tremendous differences in value of similar looking stamps. I also hoped to help others with the same concerns, collectors who were concerned about how their collections would be valued by their inheritors.

Meanwhile, I already have donated and shipped all my archives - my research, my correspondence with the stalwarts of Lithuanian philately, a complete collections of LPSNY Bulletins - to the Lithuanian Philatelic Association in Vilnius. The new head of the association there is the son of my former correspondent, Felixas Sausionis, of whom I'll tell you later.

Q. Before you were a philatelist, you were a filmmaker. How did that interest begin?

A. I went to Lithuania in 1935 to attend a Lithuanian/American congress. I met an American-born photographer who was also a filmmaker: Tony Kazlauskas. He took me under his wing and I learned the craft under his tutelage. Art flowed from his work - I learned an attitude, and approach from him, as well as the mechanics.

Later, while making a film on the 1938 Lithuanian Olympics, I made the acquaintance of Jonas Burba, an artist and stamp designer. He wound up making the titles for my Olympics film. I was not a stamp collector then, or I would have asked for his stamp drawings and proofs! I have a number of paintings in my house, and one of the scenes of the the Lithuanian countryside depicts a village Burba and I visited together early one Easter morning. It was quite picturesque, and Burba knew of it from having used the village for a poster he had done for the Lithuanian railroad.

I've always been interested in the visual arts, and, years later, I learned to make silk screens which appeared on the LPSNY Bulletin covers.

By the way, Burba had always been given credit for the design of the Lithuanian Olympic semi-postals (Scott #B43-B46), and I'll tell you how I found out differently: While waiting at a train station in New York, a man waiting on the platform came up and introduced himself to me as Eduardas Krasauskas. He said he was an artist, not just an ordinary one, but a pretty good one, at that. I learned that he worked as a stamp designer under Jonas Burba, who, while supervisor or the department, actually spent most of his time away from the office, on commercial projects for businesses.

Eduardas claimed authorship of the design for the Olympic stamps, a claim that I was eventually able to confirm by means of a signed affidavit from a supervisor in the Communications Ministry who knew and worked with both men. This man actually remembered seeing Krasauskas working on the Olympic designs. Later on, I sent Krasauskas a copy of our catalog, which contained the first correct attribution of the design of those stamps and the Recovery of Vilnius Issue. His widow later wrote me that just as he had completed a "thank you" letter to me, he had a heart attack and died. His widow sent the letter to me, and I have it.

Krasauskas contributed to our Lithuanian handbook with a drawing of a map of Lithuania which previously had graced the Baltia Catalog, published in the German D.P. camps. Our handbook also had three other drawings by him: the Iron Wolf, the Statue of Liberty and the Vilnius Emblem on the obituary list of Lithuania's philatelic stalwarts.

I continued making films after the War, and I still have an unfinished project I would like to see completed by our New York Society. I made a 16mm silent film on Lithuanian stamps that has been shown at a number of meetings and lectures, and was loaned out to the Chicagoans. I'd add introductory titles (which would include that it is a film presented by the Lithuanian Philatelic Society of New York), narration and background music: Ciurlionis compositions on piano would be most appropriate. Imagine a single stamp projected on a wide screen, while a commentator describes its features! With so many people having VCRs now, many more people would be exposed to Lithuanian philately - copies could be sent for viewing to clubs all over the country and the world.

Q. What were the circumstances of the publishing of "Postage Stamps of Lithuania," and the later price guide?

A. There were originally two different manuscripts--one by Walter Norton, and one edited by a number of us: Jonas Grigaliunas, Steve Ivanauskas, Joe Mulevich, Dr. Vytautas Doniela, "Kazimieras Lietuvis" (a pseudonym for Kazys Milvidas we used to protect him from the communist authorities in Lithuania) and me. The manuscripts differed primarily in method. Walter's book would have been much bigger than the one that was published, because of his inclusion of numerous small differences in stamps which the rest of us felt were not worth including. Also, while Walter proposed a simple typewritten publication, the rest of us agreed with the old Lithuanian proverb: "If you're going to ride a steed, ride a good one!" We wanted a professional-looking publication.

Finding a publisher for our manuscript was not easy. I saw six possibilities, all of which were explored. First I went to a "vanity" publisher on Long Island, and told them we had raised about \$3,000. "Not enough," they said (although later on, the amount had become enough, and they tried getting us back). Then Ernie Kehr, the syndicated columnist who lived near me, and Abbott Lutz, both members of the Collectors Club of New York, approached the Philatelic Foundation. The Foundation kept dragging things out until finally Ernie got tired of their delays, and appealed to the Collectors Club.

In the meantime, I had approached the Lithuanian Foundation at a stamp exhibition in Chicago. An officer of the foundation said that they would decide on publishing after they reviewed the manuscript. Back in New York, I called to tell them I was sending the manuscript, but they changed their minds. Another possibility was the Collectors Club of Chicago, a suggestion Herbert Bloch, of

Mercury Stamps, made while I was in his office. He had heard that they had money available to publish manuscripts, and he had his secretary get them on the line while I waited. They were interested, and I sent them a copy of the manuscript. They came back with conditions which, at the time, we felt we could not agree to. In retrospect, we could have agreed to those conditions, and they would have published the handbook.

The sixth possibility existed through the influence of Paul BarbataVICIUS, President of the Lithuanian Philatelic Society of Toronto (which, despite my appeals, was the only Lithuanian philatelic society apart from New York to financially support publication of the catalog). Paul was close friends with the Franciscan friars in Brooklyn's Highland Park, who, among other things, published the Lithuanian weekly Darbininkas and books in Lithuanian. They'd all go up to Paul's summer place in Canada to fish, and there is no doubt in my mind that, if Paul had asked, they would have published the manuscript.

It turned out for the best, however, that the Collectors Club of New York published the book - they are a prestigious organization. Their decision not to publish the prices we had gathered turned out to be the best one too, because now the handbook will not become dated. We put out a price guide ourselves, in 1985. The prices we published had in mind the collector, not the speculator. We tried to use realistic values that would make stamps more affordable for the average collector. We saw no reason to include what might be temporary, sky-high values that might soon collapse. Were we to do an update, easy to do because all the data is on computer, we could easily add 10% to 20% to the values.

Q. Who would you consider the foremost expertisers of Lithuanian stamps today, outside of Lithuania?

A. The list would have included Walter Norton, Joe Mulevich and Herbert Bloch, of Mercury, who taught me how to distinguish forgeries of the Darius-Girenas overprints. I still have his study on them. Dr. Eisen of Chicago did a study of the Grodno/Gardinas overprints. Today, Dr. Vytautas Doniela, in Australia, and Vytautas Valantinas, in Chicago, are the only two I would mention.

Q. Are there still more discoveries and revelations to be made, do you think, concerning the issues of pre-War Lithuania?

A. Certainly. Here is one item I'd call "The Enigma of the Genuine Counterfeit." Our handbook warns of counterfeits of the 1922 overprints, among them Scott #126, the 1 cent on 30 sk. orange. Some years ago Vytautas Valantinas made a study of this "counterfeit" by blowing up reproductions of both the genuine and counterfeit overprints to almost the size of a full page. He compared to two overprints, noting their spacing and characteristics, to help us collectors distinguish between them.

Not long ago a block of four Scott #126 was offered for sale at an Ausarius Exchange (Grigaliunas) auction. Valantinas bid and acquired it. Along with the Scott #126 came three other blocks of four: Scott #'s 123, 124, and 125 (1 cent on 10 sk, on 15 sk, and on 20 sk). To his surprise, these three blocks had the same overprint as the #126 "counterfeit"!

Now there had been no known counterfeits of #'s 123, 124 and 125, so he began searching through an accumulation of singles for other examples of this same overprint, and found some on used copies. The results of this unexpected discovery after so many years? The verdict is that Scott #126 now is considered to have a second type of overprint, made from a different plate. This led directly to the rehabilitation of some other overprints (as it was realized that these overprints also utilized more than one plate): the 2 cent on 20 sk (Scott #130, the 2 cent on 75 sk (Scott #131, as well as the 3 cent on 1 Auk. (Scott #132), 3 Auk. (Scott #133) and 5 Auk. (Scott #134) of the Fourth Berlin issue (but not the granite paper Second Berlin issue overprints: Scott #'s 120-122).

In Lithuania, the postal archives, to which the Russians never permitted access, are now being mined. There are also government newsletters, memos and announcements from between the wars now being examined which occasionally mention some aspect of stamp or coin issuance. Each side, ours and Lithuania's, had information the other doesn't. Here are two recent examples of such revelations:

The 1934-1935 definitives Scott #'s 286-295) had almost no varieties, except for some imperfs of the 35c carmine (Scott #290). We now know, from an article in a recent Lithuanian philatelic magazine, that a three-man government commission refused to pay the printer for substandard copies of those issues, and demanded that quality replacements be printed. That commission also witnessed the destruction by burning of the rejected copies. The story, the reason for the remarkable consistency in printing, is finally complete. The editor of the Lithuanian Philatelic Associations's magazine, in researching the report in the government's archives, also discovered the emissions of each value - something our handbook lacked.

Another recent revelation has only led to more questions, a curious instance of two designers claiming credit for the same stamp! I have just written an article for the Bulletin about the affair, which starts with an obituary written by the journalist V. Kavaliauskas in a recent Lithuanian stamp magazine. He quoted the late artist Alfonsas Krivickas as denying having designed a stamp we gave him credit for, the 3 Litas Darius-Girenas issue (Scott #C83), and claiming credit for the design of both the 15c Peace issue (Scott #319), which we have credited to J. Maciutkevicius, and the 25c (Scott #320), which we listed as "designer unknown". It turns out now that we have good evidence that refutes Krivickas'/Kavaliauskas' assertion.

Q. With Lithuania's redeclared independence last year, have you seen evidence of resurgent interest in Lithuanian philately?

A. I've seen it. Collectors from all over Lithuania met and organized a Lithuanian Philatelic Association with chapters all over the country. The biggest chapter, in Kaunas, has since published 14 issues of a bulletin.

When the first new stamps came out last year, you had to stand on line at the post offices for hours to buy stamps. But with such enthusiasm there is danger, as well. Rutkauskas, deputy to the Minister of Communications, who had been head of the Lithuanian Philatelic Association before he resigned recently, wrote and asked my advice on choosing an agent to represent Lithuania's stamps abroad. In the meantime, I had received a letter from Sweden, from an agency already representing a few countries, for my assistance in presenting their proposal to the responsible parties in Lithuania.

I passed on that letter to Rutkauskas, with my recommendation, telling him that I thought it was between the Swedes and the Germans. At the same time I cautioned him on overproducing stamps, killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. I cautioned against allowing manipulations and machinations that would kill the confidence of collectors. The government chose the Germans, but I'm afraid of all the issues coming out in the millions. Now the "errors" are being offered for sale. It reminds me of what happened with the "Berlin" issue varieties, and with the issues of Central Lithuania's printer's waste.

I'd still like to see the Lithuanians create a plan for issuing stamps, and to not dream about making millions of dollars, because you never make millions, although they actually might, if they had a plan. Now Rutkauskas is gone, and the new head of the Lithuanian Philatelic Association is the son of Feliksas Sausionis. The grandfather, who left his collection to his grandson Gediminas, was a collector. Gediminas has a daughter and a son about six years old who his father vows will be a collector. You will soon have four generations of Lithuanian philatelists!

I will always remember Feliks as one who put a chink in the Iron Curtain. He defied the Russian government, and exhibited the stamps of Free Lithuania in exhibitions in Minsk! He originally got my name from someone in Australia in the 1960's. His first letter to me came with a selection of Russian stamps. I sent them right back, with the notation, "We don't collect trash!" The second letter included pre-War Lithuanian stamps, including some varieties, and from then on each letter contained a better grade of material: proofs, errors, covers, but many forgeries as well. I'd send them back with explanations of why they were forgeries and how to discern them. He would send me back letters I had sent him that had been opened, examined and clumsily resealed.

All his mailings became exhibits for me in Congressional hearing that were held on the difficulties of getting mail delivered past the Iron Curtain. When I heard of the hearings, I volunteered to testify, and loaned them my examples of tampered mail and statements of confiscated articles. In my testimony, all of which is in the Congressional Record, I blamed the U.S. Post Office for the problems - for accepting the Russian's explanation that their mail tampering was an internal affair. Here are a couple of examples of how I successfully outsmarted the Russian censors:

I learned that a writer-journalist in Lithuania was writing a book about Lithuanians in cinematography and stars in Hollywood. He appealed to me and others for help. I had a scrapbook which included reviews, posters, etc., and sent it over. It became "lost." The U.S. Post Office gave up trying to help me find out what happened to the scrapbook, but I got friends in Lithuania to inquire and search, and they found the book in the archives of communism. It took six months, but I got the scrapbook back!

Another time I sent some \$300-worth (a lot of money, then) of blocks of four of the first two typeset issues to someone in Lithuania. They also got "lost." Well, my friends found the envelope, and it was sent back to me--with the blocks falling out of a disintegrating, poorly-made envelope. If that envelope had had to be carried one house further, I'm certain all would have been lost! I used both of these examples in my testimony.

As confirmation that the resurgence of interest is not limited to Lithuania, I recently got an order from England for 10 copies of the catalog, after not hearing from there for many years.

The recent Linn's article (July 15, 1991) announcing the new triangular Lithuanian issues, and their publishing a summary of the issues to date, is the kind of positive publicity that will continue if Lithuania's new stamp production doesn't imitate that of Central Lithuania. New collectors will be attracted into the fold, non-Lithuanians included, who will have a fresh enthusiasm for researching the hidden history of Lithuanian philately. For instance, little is known about the identity and makeup of occupational units in Lithuania during the first and second world wars. That's history waiting to be discovered.

I'm glad to have been able to see the resurgence of interest in Lithuanian philately, glad that we have fresh blood, like Jerry Norton, Walter's nephew, renewing the energy of the New York Society, and glad to see Lithuania again become more well known through philately.

The Editor of Philately in Lithuania Leonas Verzbolauskas was fortunate in his research to find in the Governments Main Archives a report on the issuance of the New Definitives of 1934-1935 (our PSL Nos 278-87).

The report detailed designs submitted, the competitions, printing and distribution of the stamps to the Postal Administration.

With all its detail, the government report lacked completeness. It failed to list the author-designers names (or a pseudonym) for the 2ct and 5ct values (with the three national emblems), or the 10ct and 35ct values (with the three largest cities emblems). The 25ct, 50ct, 1L and 3L values in the report mention only the pseudonym SARUNAS. The 5L and 10L values list the designers name, L. Vilimas, who according to Verzbolauskas was SARUNAS.

Our handbook lists the designers of the 2ct and 5ct values as V. Dobuzinskis and the 10ct and 35ct values as J. Gaucas; the 1L and 5L values as L. Vilimas, but does not list the designers of the 25ct, 50ct, 5L and 10L. Now we know him.

Thirty eight envelopes with designs were submitted by the submission deadline; the government received four more envelopes with designs after the submission deadline (and accepted them for judging).

The first awards went to two artists: L. Vilimas and K. Bucas. Second awards also went to two artists: A. Sepetys and P. Drasutis. Of all the award winning designs, only one design was selected for printing.

The report also lists the printing sizes (missing in our handbook) as follows:

#278	2ct	4,175,000
#279	5ct	5,140,000
#280	10ct	5,030,000
#281	25ct	2,000,000
#282	35ct	1,170,000
#283	50ct	2,030,000
#284	1L	2,025,000
#285	3L	1,000,000
#286	5L	455,000
#287	10L	117,500

Many of the 2ct and 5ct values turned out to be defectively printed and or perforated. The government appointed commission of three supervisors reported the defective work to the Postal Administration Director who in turn complained to the printer and advised the printer no payments on the printing would be made until the defective stamps were replaced with good quality stamps.

In all, this commission of supervisors found 2,253,137 defective 2ct, 5ct, 25ct and 50ct stamps and 456 sheets gummed together. All these stamps and sheets were destroyed. This supervisory commission appears to have done one of the best supervisory jobs of any stamp quality control commission. No errors or varieties are known except for the 35ct value imperf (perhaps only one sheet).

The 35ct and 10L values were printed in sheets of 100; all the other sheets of 200.

P.S. We who worked on our handbook know how difficult it was putting it together. We could not get into the archives of the Lithuanian government during Soviet occupation. Now with more freedom and accessibility, those in our footsteps may obtain more information, most likely piecemeal, for the Postal Administration was never inclined to register its reports systematically.

From the President

A well regarded member writes us that "philatelists" in Lithuania are playing all kinds of tricks. (Ed. note - purposely creating varieties and errors for their own personal profit and failing to destroy makalatura) Through the "back doors" of the printers they bring out all kinds of varieties and errors like the errors and varieties of the fourth Berlin issues and in similar volume. He advises he has received full sheets of all issues to date and has been sent quite a collection of these errors and varieties. He further notes, this does not contribute to serious philately or reflect well on Lithuania.

In addition to renewed interest in Lithuanian philately both here and in Lithuania we also notice increased demand for our handbook "Postage Stamps of Lithuania". In the past we tried smuggling (and sometimes succeeded) the handbook into occupied Lithuania. Many were confiscated. Now, it is not a problem for books to get in.

I and we appeal to our members to buy a copy of our handbook and donate it to libraries in Lithuania. Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid of Brooklyn has sent several containers of books and clothing to Lithuania and will help us get your gift to a Lithuanian library. Please mail \$20.00 with a few extra dollars for shipping costs to me at my address on page 906v and we will get your book to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. We will take care to insert your name and address as donor in the book.

LET'S LOOK AT THE FACTS - WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

C. Matuzas

Many stamp collectors including me became acquainted with V. Kavaliauskas when he was working in New York on assignment as a reporter-correspondent for several behind the Iron Curtain news agencies.

I read his obituary about the artist Alfonsas Krivickas, who designed some of independent Lithuania's stamps in the most recent Lithuanian Philatelic Association publication, Philately in Lithuania.

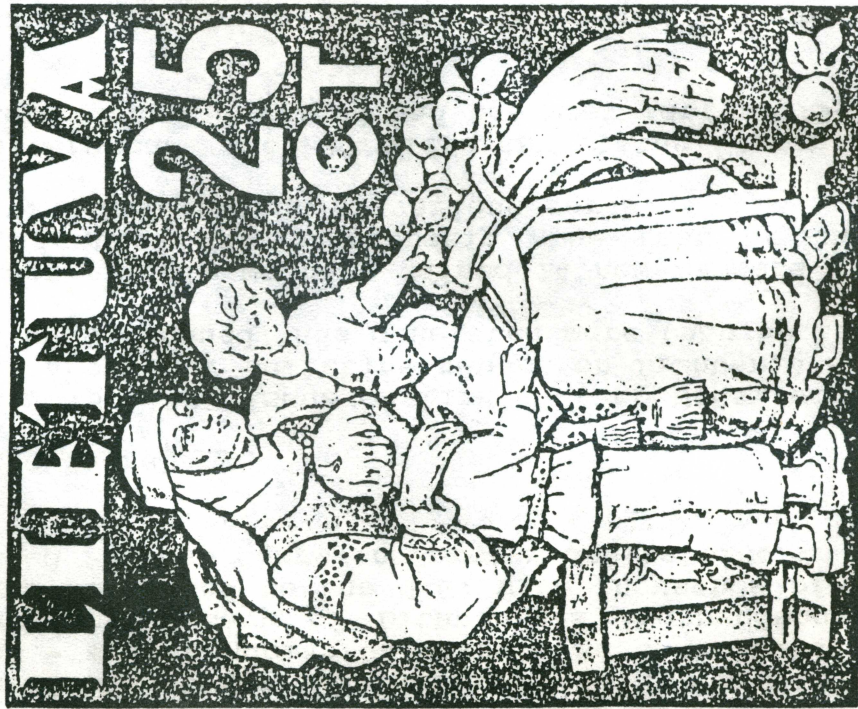
Kavaliauskas met this artist some ten years ago in Germany where he was living after he fled Lithuania as did thousands of others and he not too long ago visited him again. According to Kavaliauskas, he was the last living designer of any independent Lithuania postage stamp.

Kavaliauskas asked Krivickas about the Darius-Girenas issue (PSL #C82) where his name is mentioned as designer of the 3L value stamp. Krivickas denied designing this stamp and said he was only 15 years old when it was made. Kavaliauskas asked Krivickas what stamps he did design. Krivickas said he designed the 15ct and 25ct values of the peace issue (PSL #'s 308-309). He said he was an art school student when he participated in the competition with his designs and was awarded first prize. He also said an artist from the Postal Administration wanted to change his design (to take out the left arm and hand) but finally agreed to leave the design alone.

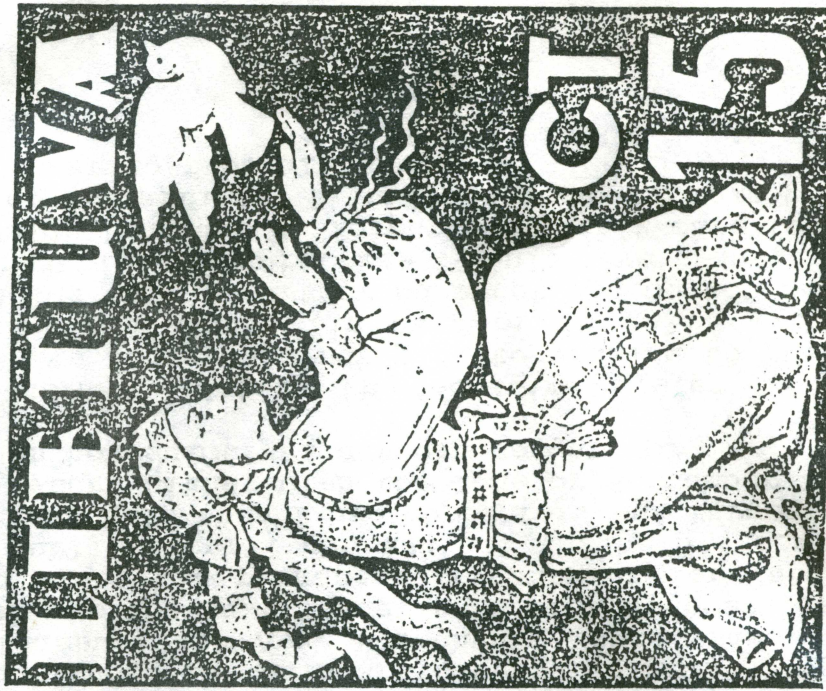
Our handbook states that the 15ct value was designed by J. Maciutkevicius and that the 25ct value designer is unknown. I have clear proof of Maciutkevicius' involvement, copies of both the 15ct and 25ct designs with the signatures of J. Matciutkevicius dated February 5, 1940 for the 15ct and January 29, 1940 for the 25ct (see page 9077) and consider him the designer.

As for the Darius-Girenas Litas value stamp that A. Krivickas denies having designed, we have been able to locate who the real designer was, an unknown artist named Romanas Krimakas, who submitted his design under the pseudonym RATAS. On the designs approval with his name is also his address, Ukmerges pl.48a. The design when approved, was bought by the Postal Administration.

There are two Lithuanian Child issues out of eight with their designers unknown in our handbook. The 3rd regular issues stamps were designed by two artists: V. Jomantas designed the 5ct., 10ct., 1 L. and 3 L. values; A. Sepetys the 15ct., 25ct., 50ct., 60ct. values.



Lithuanian Macaulay's 1940. 2.5.



Lithuanian Macaulay's 1940. 1.25.

All the Lithuanian Child's 3rd Air Post issue stamps were designed by V. Jomantas, except for the 40ct., and 60ct. with Grand Duchess Birute. The Artist of these two stamps is still unknown but on the bottom of the stamps are initials A.G. The A.G initials may be of painter - artist Adomas Galdikas'. He contributed two designs to the 2nd Anniversary of Lithuania's independence issue. Adomas Galdikas emigrated to the U.S. with thousands of others from the Displaced Persons Camps in Germany and settled in Brooklyn, N.Y.

From the Secretary

The July 15, 1991 issue of Linn's Stamp News, with the half page article about our Bulletins report on Lithuania's new stamps and covers being issued, has generated more than 50 letters.

From that article we have gained 14 new members. I sent out over 20 applications for membership, the rest of the letters were requesting information of various sorts.

The letters came from 17 different states, Japan, Sweden, Canada and Puerto Rico. Maryland had the most letters (5) and California had 4.

I am still answering the correspondence I found waiting for me after I returned home from my vacation.

To the Membership

On behalf of the Society, my further apology for the delay with the March 1991 issue. Due to ill health, I lost the services of my longtime secretary, Kathy Hess, who graciously typed for us Bulletins #153 - 158. On behalf of the membership I wish to thank her here and wish her full recovery from her difficult illness.

I have substituted the main article I originally prepared for the March 1991 issue with Andy Kapochunas' interviews. I will do my best to get out the next Bulletin as soon as possible, but as yet am working without a permanent replacement for Kathy. This is a volunteer publication; I can use all the help I can get and I am receiving less help than I had hoped for. Our largest mail auction ever will return either with the June or September 1991 Bulletin, depending on how quickly I can get caught up.

One last subject. Unlike the sometime system of the previous Editor, I have not and do not plan to decline to print an article just because I disagree (in part or in full) with its content and/or conclusions. I further have not and do not plan to decline to print an article just because I would have translated a sentence from a foreign language differently or don't care for the sentence structure of the article. I invite comment on this policy and look forward to hearing from all members.

LITHUANIAN GEMS

With this bulletin, we initiate "Lithuanian Gems", highlighting and describing an outstanding Lithuanian card or cover. For this issue, we chose a Lithuanian Scott #1 first day card written by the Lithuanian patriarch of national resurrection and first signer of its Declaration of Independence, Jonas Basanavicius on behalf of the Lithuanian Learned Society (Mokslo Draugija).

From shortly after its formation, the Learned Society became the focus of Basanavicius' life and the Society was virtually identical with his person. For those members not familiar with the Mokslo Draugija, the Learned Society collected, preserved, promoted and publicized Lithuanian heritage and was indispensable in the resurrection of Lithuania.

The postcard is sent to the Editorship of Vienybe in Kowno at 34 Litzmanns Strasse by Dr. Basanavicius, 21 Ostrabrama Strasse, Wilna. Note that even the "father of Lithuania" on this first day of the functioning of the Lithuanian state posts and the first day of issue of Lithuanian postage stamps wrote the addresses on this card in German. The card is franked with 2x 10sk (positions 11 and 12) of Lithuania Scott #1 cancelled Wilna (black straight gothic 18 x 6mm).



The message on the back side translates as follows:

Vilnius 27.XII.918

Dear Editorship of Vienybe, Kaunas:

To fill in the 1918 Vienybe issues completely for the Learned Society Library, there is a shortage of these issues Nos. 21, 22 and 23. Therefore, dear Editors, please send those number to the Learned Society (Ostrabrama Str. No 21).

I express my sincere respects
Dr. Basanavicius

Vilnius 27. XII. 918.
Gerb. „Vienybės“ redakcijon
Kaune.
Kad papildžius šis 1918 m. „Vienybės“
kompletą, skirtą draugijos bibliotekoj
trūkstą to laikraščio N 21, 22 ir 23,
todėl gerbiamosios redakcijos
prašau tuos NN M draugijon
(Ostrabrama Str. N 21) atsiųsti.
Tiesiogiai pagarbūs žodis
D. Basanavičius