

**LITHUANIAN
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY OF
NEW YORK**

BULLETIN



LITHUANIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

BULLETIN 175

MARCH 1996

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

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LPSNY CLUB NOTES, LETTERS, BALTIC PHILATELIC ACTIVITY

FROM THE EDITOR I am pleased to announce that starting the next Bulletin, and at least through the end of this year, we will be publishing a joint Bulletin for both the LPS of Toronto and the LPSNY. This means that the next Bulletin will have 20 pages in English and four or so additional pages in Lithuanian and/or English. In response to a question from a member in the letters below, the Toronto publication has ceased to exist as a separate publication. It is our plan to continue to publish at least 20 pages in English so that our members continue to receive the same number of pages in English they have become used to. Also, to help calm the legitimate concerns any members may have that this merger will transform the LPSNY Bulletin into a Lithuanian language only Bulletin, be advised I do not speak or write passable Lithuanian. On a different note, I am also pleased to report that our President has provisionally named, pending elections, Paul Barbatavicius as Co-auction manager. He promises to return our mail auctions to the former prominence they held when Walter Norton ran them (i.e., they are to run in each Bulletin). Your Editor has already sent to him fine material received from one of our esteemed European members, which should run in the next Bulletin. I must repeat, that as of now, there is no final merger of the two clubs, only of their Bulletins. This period will give both groups a chance to get used to each other before movement to the next step. Perhaps given this development our brethren in the leadership of the LPS (Chicago) will see the benefits of merging (one has to look no further than the excellent example set by "The Estonian Philatelist" and will allow their members to vote as we did).

Re merger plans - any bulletin should be in English as many of us Lithuanian collectors do not read Lithuanian. This fault is what I have written about to the Chicago club.

D.P.

I am once again struck by the quality of the work done for others that is shared each time in the bulletin. The article done by Andrew Kapochunas on the town cancellations was such a wonderful addition to the knowledge of the hobby. It will surely generate a new fervor in the collection of used Lithuanian stamps. As they should be, postally used. Thank you.

I am always excited to find the big brown envelope with the United Nations stamps in my mail. Your labors are appreciated!

P.W.

My condolences and deep regrets on Charles Matuzas' death. He was a friend, and one-time philatelic mentor of mine.

Further comments about the Bulletin (to which you seemed to take rather feral exception when I made some observations on 11.vii.93!):

The grammar is improving. Less like "migrant English", and more like the Queen's;

The Editorial content is still a little sparse. I do acknowledge the thinly stretched dedication of volunteer labour, but surely, there must be some more material about. Perhaps "borrowing" articles about Lithuanian philately appearing in the American philatelic literature? Or perhaps a little more "whip cracking" among your membership. Do not look to me: as a consultant physician, it is all I can do to keep up with reading my professional literature, and writing medical articles, let alone fulfilling my happy and leisure time interests. I have some ideas for articles on present day Lithuanian philatelic activities, but not the time.

I am quite happy about the merger with the LPS of Toronto, and the proposed, all encompassing name. It is distinct enough from the Chicago FD "Lietuva". Will that mean the Toronto-based "Filatelistu Zinios" will cease publication?

Yours sincerely,

Dr. A.S.

Appreciate your use of UN stamps.

Suggest the new name of the Society:
"Lithuanian Philatelic Society of America".

NEW MEMBERS

Robert V. Boos, Plainview, NY Peter Bylen, Westchester, IL

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Hirotaiki Araki, William C. Stoten and D. C. Pickering

ADLET

Seeking a philatelist in Lithuania, who would be interested in exchanging new Lithuanian stamp issues for new Australian ones. Please write to

Maria Kanas
121 Railway Tce.
Ascot Park 5043
South Australia

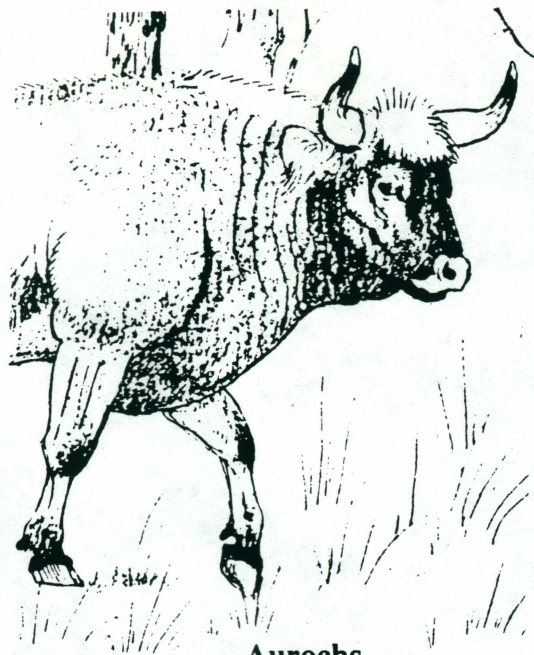
NEW POSTAGE STAMPS OF LITHUANIA - PART XIV

by Andrew Kapochunas

65th Issue
January 20, 1996

World Wildlife Federation: European Bison

Vilius Jurkūnas designed this issue, including the miniature souvenir sheet, for Pašto Ženklas. Printed offset on white paper with shiny gum at Budapest Securities Printers, the stamps are perforated 13 x 13 1/2 (Actually, closer to 13.4. The '95-'96 Christmas issue, also printed in Budapest, was perf. 13 1/2 x 13.) Each of the four stamps bears the official logo of the World Wildlife Fund: a giant panda. P-Ž issued a first day cover for each stamp (FDC 1996 1a-d) and four maximum cards (#'s 6-9).



Aurochs

Does the Lithuanian word “*Stumbras*” translate to “*Bison bonasus*,” the European bison and the subject of this set? Two of my three Lithuanian dictionaries define *stumbras* as Aurochs (*Bos primigenius*); one, agreeing with Pašto Ženklas, defines it as bison. Even the venerable “Encyclopedia Lituanica,” which I frequently use in our Bulletin, uses aurochs and bison interchangeably, as if they were the same animal. The last aurochs, from which some breeds of domestic cattle are descended, the great wild black bull of Crete and of mythology, died in Poland’s Jaktorow forest in 1627. Its closest living descendant is said to be the Spanish fighting bull.



Souvenir Sheet #6

The European bison today is found only in a nature preserve in Baltvyžis forest, the ancestral land of the Baltic tribe of Yotvingians (Sudavians). Between the two World Wars the forest was entirely in Poland, but now it lies partially in Poland where it is called *Puszcza Białowieska*, and partially in Belarus, where it is called *Belovezhskaia Pushcha*. Cities on either end are Balstogė (*Białystok*) and Brest Litovsk. The majestic beast has been fighting a losing battle with civilization since the 15th century, when official restrictions were first placed on bison hunting. Wars, over-hunting and the gradual clearing of the forest diminished the bison's numbers to only 350 by 1809. Steps were taken to protect and breed the remaining animals, but by World War I only 160 remained. The Russians, during World War II, could find only 16. In 1958 there were 90 bison in the Polish end of the forest and 59 in what was then Belorussia.

- 142 30 ct **Stumbras: Bison Bonasus - side view** multicolored (Scott [Sc] #529, valued \$0.15 mnh and used)
Printing: 500,000
- 143 40 ct **Stumbras: Bison Bonasus - a pair** multicolored (Sc #530, valued \$0.20 mnh, \$0.15 used)
Printing: 500,000
- 144 70 ct **Stumbras: Bison Bonasus - mother & calf** multicolored (Sc #531, valued \$0.35 mnh, \$0.15 used)
Printing: 500,000
- 145 1 Lt **Stumbras: Bison Bonasus - a group** multicolored (Sc #532, valued \$0.50 mnh, \$0.25 used)
Printing: 500,000
- S.S. **Stumbras: Bison Bonasus - Miniature Souvenir Sheet, 8 stamps** multicolored (Sc #532a, valued \$1.20 mnh, \$0.70 used)
Printing: 10,000

66th Issue
February 2, 1996

Famous Lithuanians

Designed by A. Ratkevičienė, this issue was printed offset on white paper with shiny gum, perf. 13 x 13 1/2, by Budapest State Printers. Latest in a continuing yearly set of three honorees -- always designed by Ms. Ratkevičienė, always printed in Budapest, the perforation and gum varying year to year -- that began in March, 1993. (AK: *Beginning with this article, to introduce some slight measure of consistency in my descriptions of stamps, I will use the "Wonder Color Gauge," from M. Meghrig & Sons to describe Pašto Ženklas colors.*)

- 146 40 ct **Kazys Grinius: 1886 - 1950** violet to light brown; "Lietuva" in light blue (Sc #533, valued \$0.20 mnh, \$0.15 used)
Printing: 500,000

Grinius was the third president of the Republic of Lithuania, elected June 7, 1926, deposed in a coup the night of December 16-17 that same year by military officers who concluded in their wisdom that his regime was soft on leftists. He continued serving Lithuania in other, more minor public service capacities, stood up in 1943, along with two other civilians, to the occupying Germans, protesting their killing of Jews and their expropriation of Lithuanian farms -- died and was buried in Chicago.



146



147

- 147 1 Lt Balys Sruoga: 1896 - 1947 blue; "Lietuva" in rose red (Sc #535, valued \$0.50 mnh, \$0.25 used)
Printing: 500,000

Balys Sruoga, born in Baibokai, in the county of Biržai, received his Ph.D from the University of Munich in 1924 for a dissertation on the poetical devices in Lithuanian folk songs, published later in Lithuania as "*Dainų Poetikos Etiudai*." He taught at the University of Kaunas from 1924 - 1940, and at the University of Vilnius from 1940 - 1943, teaching Russian literature and folklore, and history of world theater. He published articles frequently on those subjects, wrote narrative poems (which have since been translated into many languages) and historical dramas. He was one of the 46 Lithuanian intellectuals arrested by the Germans on March 16, 1943 and sent to the Stutthof concentration camp near Danzig (now *Gdańsk*). When the Germans retreated in the face of the Soviet advance early in 1945, Sruoga was found, barely alive, and was returned to Vilnius. He resumed his teaching and wrote his memoirs of the concentration camp, "*Dievų Miškas*" -- "Forest of the Gods," the old Prussian name for the camp's location.

- 148 1 Lt Antanas Žmuidzinavičius:
1876 - 1966 olive yellow;
"Lietuva" in lemon (Sc #534,
valued \$0.50 mnh, \$0.15 used)
Printing: 500,000



148

Žmuidzinavičius was a painter, born in southern Lithuania, in Seirijai. He began his art training in Warsaw in 1898 and exhibited in his first show there in 1902. After a year in Paris, he came to Vilnius in 1906, and was elected chairman of a committee which organized the first show of Lithuanian artists, which opened on January 9, 1907. Of the 213 paintings shown, 35 were his landscapes. That same year he helped organize, and became president of, the Lithuanian Art Society (*Lietuvių Dailės Draugija*). The following year he traveled to Western Europe and America, where he raised money for the Art Society within Lithuanian communities. He returned to Vilnius, but, following a life-long preference for studying in museums and nature, soon left to learn the art of fresco painting in Hamburg, and arctic landscape painting in far northern Norway. He returned to Vilnius just before the start of the War, and moved to Kaunas after Independence. He returned to the United States in the 1920's, and showed his paintings at exhibitions in Chicago, Washington and New York. Returning to Lithuania, he not only headed up the Lithuanian Art Society, but the National Guard (*Šaulių Sąjunga*), acting as its president from 1929 - 1934, and was even occasionally the editor of its publication, The Bugle (*Trimitas*). After WWII, he continued both teaching in Lithuanian art schools, and exhibiting: a retrospective in Moscow in 1951, Vilnius and Kaunas in 1956, up to his last show, in Palanga in 1963. His life-long collection of Lithuanian art, folk art and ethnographic items, as well as many of his own pieces, are now housed in museums in Vilnius, Kaunas and in the museum bearing his name, founded in Kaunas in 1965. Generally peaceful and idyllic, his landscapes, which have been compared with Millet's, still bring to mind the beauties of nature.

Lithuanian Independence Day: Signers of The Declaration of Independence

Designed by J. Zovè, who has been responsible for this continuing series honoring the 19 signers since it began in 1993. All sets have been printed in Budapest on white paper, but this is the first with shiny gum instead of dull or invisible gum. This issue's perforation is 13 1/4 x 13 (compared with last year's 12). The design looks unchanged from last year's but the denomination is in smaller type, the honoree's name is on one line instead of two, and the reverse-printed Pillars of Gediminas is both shorter and thicker.



149



150

149 40 ct Vladas Mironas: 1880 - 1953 pale gray-green to pale yellow
Printing: 500,000

Mironas, a Catholic priest and statesman, was born in Panemunis in Northeastern Lithuania. Ordained a priest in 1904, he was assigned the post of chaplain of secondary schools in Vilnius. He renewed his friendship with his former schoolmate, Antanas Smetona (later first president of Lithuania), and encouraged the Lithuanian priests in his diocese to promote Lithuanian consciousness among parishioners. His annoyed pro-Polish bishop, Edward von Ropp, transferred him for three years to a Belorussian parish near Bialystok. Despite his isolation, he helped found the newspaper *Viltis* (The Hope) which laid the foundation for the Lithuanian Nationalist Union. After being transferred back to Lithuania his nationalist efforts increased -- he helped organize the Vilnius National Conference in 1917, was elected to the Council of Lithuania, became its vice-chairman, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was elected to the third Parliament (*Seimas*), and, following the coup which removed President Grinius from office, he became one of the closest advisers to the military's choice for president: Antanas Smetona. In 1929 he was appointed Chaplain of the Armed Forces. Smetona asked him to become Prime Minister in 1938, a post he held until he resigned on March 27, 1939, upon Germany's acquisition of the Klaipėda (Memel) region. Imprisoned by the Soviets in 1940, he was freed by Lithuanians upon German occupation, and returned to pastoral duties. He was arrested by the Soviets in 1947 and deported to Russia. He died in Vladimir prison in 1954, according to the "Encyclopedia Lituanica," not 1953, which appears on the Pašto Ženklas stamp.

150 40 ct Jurgis Šaulys: 1879 - 1948 olive to pale yellow
Printing: 500,000

Šaulys was born in Balsėnai, county of Tauragė. As a student in Palanga, and later in Kaunas, he was caught passing out underground Lithuanian publications. He moved to Vilnius in 1900 and joined the Lithuanian cultural movement, helping to organize language classes and plays. He became known as one of the "Twelve Apostles of Vilnius" who defended Lithuanian concerns before the Polish religious officials and Russian political officials. In 1902 he helped establish the Democratic Party. He then moved to Tilže, East Prussia to edit *Varpas* (The Bell) -- the secret organ of Lithuanian liberals. He continued editing despite moving to Switzerland to study, and eventually receive a doctorate in Economics. He returned to Vilnius in 1912 and edited the daily newspaper *Lietuvos Žinios* (News of

Lithuania). He was the secretary-general of the Council of Lithuania and, together with other members, signed The Declaration of Independence on February 16, 1918. Upon independence, he joined the foreign service, and served as envoy extraordinary or minister plenipotentiary to Germany, Switzerland, the Vatican and Poland. After Poland's fall in 1939 he became minister to Switzerland, and served in that post until the Swiss closed the legation in 1946. He died in Lugano two years later, survived by his Italian opera star wife, Mafalda Salvatini. A lifelong bibliophile, he donated, in 1938, over 600 old printed items concerning Lithuania's past to the University of Kaunas; the rest of his library was acquired by the University of Pennsylvania in 1952.

68th Issue
April 27, 1996

Europa

This year's "Europa" issue was issued as a miniature sheet of ten stamps, designed by K. Katkus, printed on white paper with shiny gum, perf. 13.3 x 13, at Budapest Printers. Katkus has designed every Lithuanian "Europa" issue since the first, in 1993.



151

151 1 Lt Europa: "Barbora Radvilaitė: 1520'22 - 1551 - Lietuvos Nacionalinis Muziejus" multicolored, with a band of yellow green on the selvage
 Printing: 500,000 (stamps?)

The noble Lithuanian family Radvilas (in Polish, *Radziwiłł*, in Latin, *Radvilius*) arose in the early 1500's and was awarded the title of "Princes of the Holy Roman Empire." They were a major influence on Lithuanian and Polish affairs until the late 1600's, and continued to have influence until the late 1700's, when they lost their dominant position to the Pacas (Pac) family. Family estates numbered in the thousands, and it was said that in traveling from Biržai to Kiev, a Radvilas would not have to spend even one night at an estate that did not belong to a relative. Nicholas Radvilas, nicknamed the Black, 1515-1565, was chancellor -- and actual ruler of -- Lithuania for nearly 15 years. His political career began in 1542 when he was appointed marshal of the royal court. As a result, he became close with Sigismund Augustus, grand prince-designate of Lithuania and heir to the Polish throne. Through Nicholas, Sigismund met, courted and finally married Barbora (Barbara), a widowed first cousin of "the Black." Sigismund became king in 1548, but because Barbora was not of royal blood, she was not immediately recognized as Queen. Nicholas successfully campaigned in her behalf among Polish nobility, and Barbora was finally crowned Queen of Poland in 1550.

69th Issue
May 4, 1996

Vytis

On May 4, P-Ž issued (with no advance notice in its press releases) a Vytis 40-centai definitive stamp in a design inaugurated April 9, 1994 by A. Každailis. The new stamp joins the previously issued 5, 10 and 20-centai denominations in print. No production data is available at this writing, but the stamp is printed offset on white paper, perf 13 1/2, with dull gum. The earlier issues were all printed by Gosznak Printers, Moscow, but were perf. 12 with shiny gum.



152

152 40 ct Vytis magenta

Folk Costumes of the Klaipėda Region

The sixth set in a continuing series which began in 1992, was designed, as was every set, by R. Lelytė:

<u>Featuring</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Denominations</u>	<u>Printer</u>	<u>Perf.</u>	<u>Gum</u>
Suvalkiečiai	Oct. 18, '92	200, 500, 700	Leipzig	13 x 13 3/4	Semi-shiny
Dzukai	Oct. 30, '93	60 ct, 80 ct, 1 Lt	Moscow	12 1/4	Shiny
Žemaičiai	June 25, '94	5 ct, 80 ct, 1 Lt	Moscow	12	Shiny
Aukštaičiai	May 20, '95	20 ct, 70 ct, 1 Lt	Moscow	12	Shiny
Klaipėdiečiai	May 25, '96	40 ct, 1 Lt, 1 Lt	Budapest	13.3 x 13	Shiny



153



154



155

153	40 ct	Folk Costumes of the Klaipėda Region multicolored
154	1 Lt	“ “ “ “ “ “
155	1 Lt	“ “ “ “ “ “

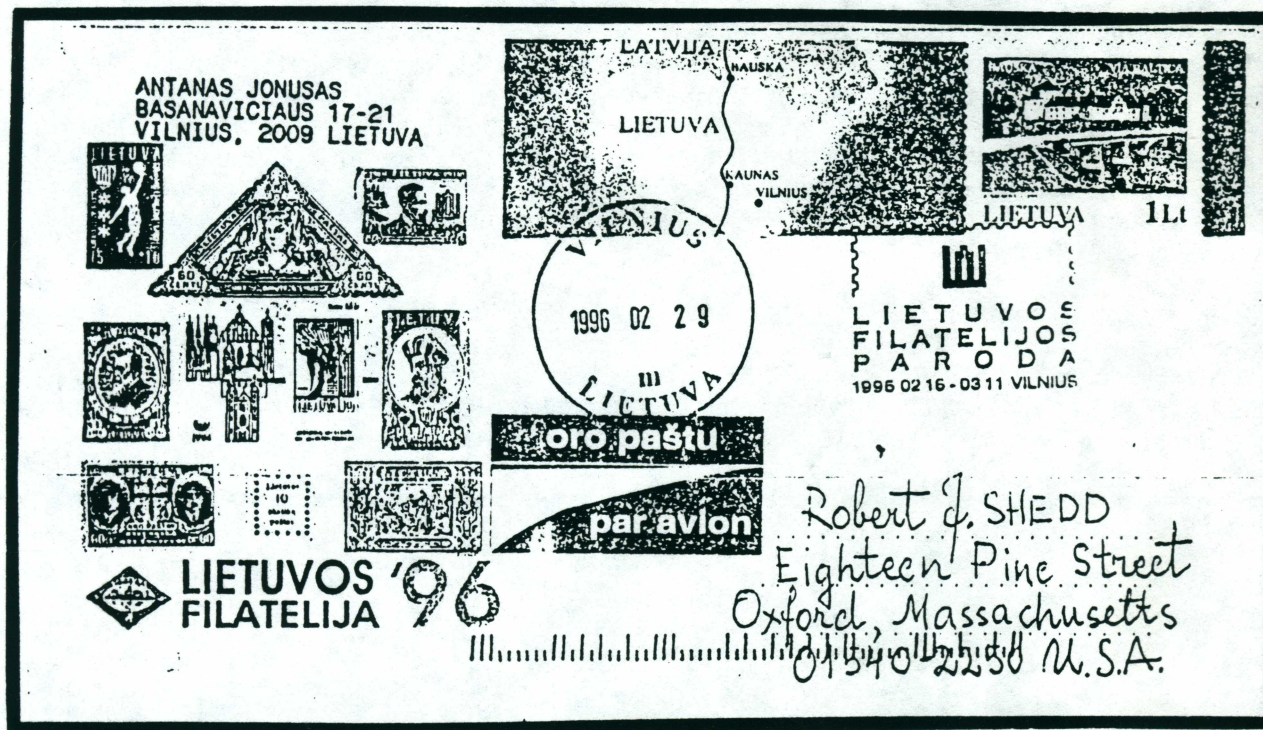
Printing: 500,000 each

Klaipėda, the third largest city in Lithuania after Vilnius and Kaunas, is an important ice-free seaport on the Baltic. The Danė (Akmena) river flows through the city, emptying into the Courish Lagoon, which is separated from the Baltic by a strip of sand, the Courish Spit. The city was already an important trading center in Roman times. Thirteenth century Teutonic Knights found fortifications and tanneries in the area, and soon the German name for the area: Memel (also Memela, Memila, Mimela, Memil and other variants) appeared in print. The word is thought to derive from the name of the nearby Nemunas River. The Lithuanian name for the city, "Klaipėda," first appears in print in the early 1400's. The Livonian Order and the Bishop of Courland erected the city of Memelburg in the area in 1252. In 1328 the Livonian Order ceded their rights to the area -- which had become a staging point for Teutonic Knight attacks into Lithuania -- to the Prussian Order. Lithuanian forces repeatedly attacked the fortress, but did not regain the area until the 20th century. Memel's development as a city was slow -- it had been a stepchild to Königsberg since 1466, when the Teutonic Knights chose it over Memel as their capital. The Versailles Peace Treaty of 1919 carved out Memel and an adjacent area of 2,848 square kilometers from East Prussia to be administered by the Allied and Associated Powers until some link to the emerging state of Lithuania could be forged. The French sent a small military contingent and an administrator. Impatient with the progress of incorporation, Lithuanians formally took over the postal system on January 24, 1923. On February 5, Lithuanian stamps overprinted "Klaipėda, (Memel)" in Kaunas were issued, to be used in place of overprinted German and French stamps. On February 16, 1923 the Conference of Ambassadors agreed to accept Lithuanian control over the area, which was in effect until March 22, 1939, when, under pressure from Nazi Germany, the area became part of the Third Reich. After the war, under Soviet occupation, the area again became part of Lithuania, and lost any separate status.

LPSNY Q & A

9601: "I thought you might like to see a copy of a letter I received with one of the stamps from the Via Baltica sheet (one of the stamps Pašto Ženklas decided not to number on the theory that no one would ever cut up the souvenir sheet to use the individual stamps for postage). -- Robert J. Shedd

AK: Thank you for visual proof that P-Ž was being unnecessarily stingy in assigning numbers.



Pašto Ženklas Stamp-Issuing Plans for 1997

<u>Sequence #</u>	<u>Title of Issue</u>
1, 2	450th Anniversary of first Lithuanian book (stamp and a block)
3, 4	Signers of the February 16 Declaration of Independence
5-7	Famous Lithuanians
8, 9	Europa: Tales and Legends (10-stamp sheet)
10	100th Anniversary: the Botanical Park, Palanga
11, 12	Joint Issue with Latvia and Estonia: Ships (stamp and a block)
13, 14	Red Book of Endangered Species: Bees
15-17	Coats of Arms of towns
18, 19	Museum reproductions
20	Related to the history of the Lithuanian postal system
21	600th Anniversary: first School at Vilnius Cathedral
22, 23	Christmas and New Year's
24	Second Sport Games of Baltic Sea countries
25	Lithuanian flag planted on the highest peaks on five continents

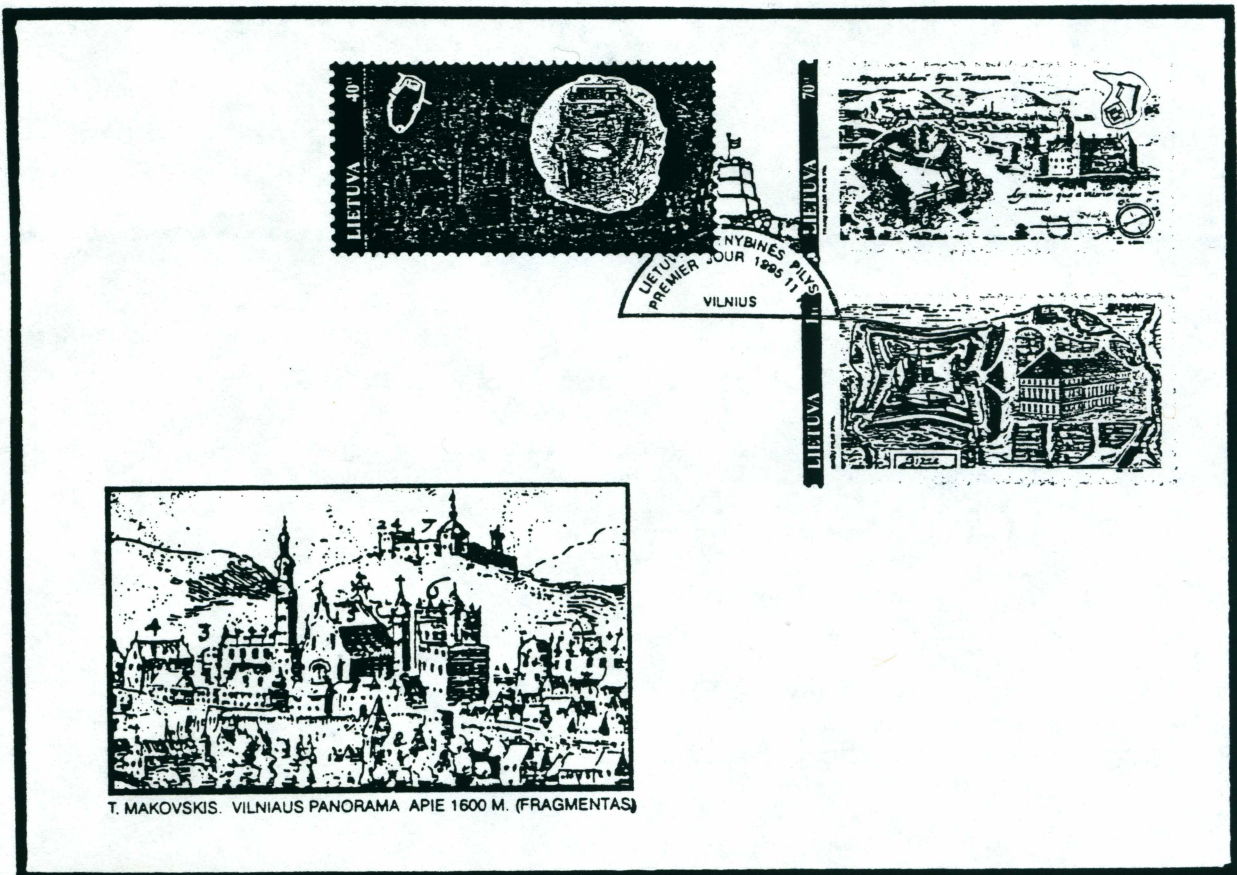
COMMEMORATIVE, SPECIAL AND FIRST DAY CANCELLATIONS OF THE REESTABLISHED REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA - PART XI

by Andrew Kapochunas

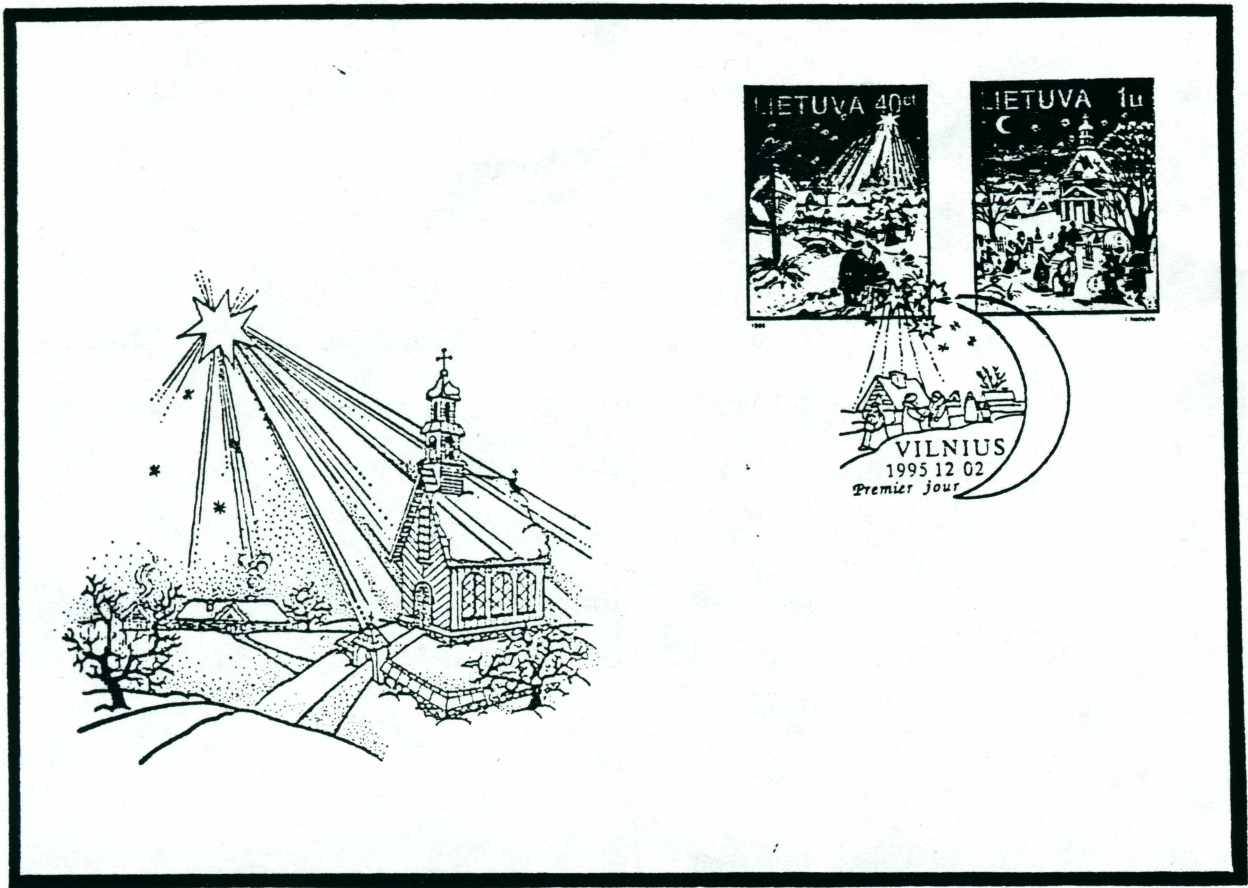
SC140. November 18, 1995: VILNIUS - PREMIER JOUR 1995 11 18 LIETUVOS GYNYBINES PILYS. (Defensive castles) Designed by E. Gūzas, who also designed the stamps the cancel commemorated, Lith. #'s 137-139 (Sc #'s 524-526), showing castles in Vilnius, Trakai and Biržai. He also designed the Pašto Ženklas cacheted cover -- FDC 1995 - 14 -- (10,000 were printed by "Littera") depicting a fragment of a panorama of Vilnius in 1600 by T. Makovskis.

SC141. December 2, 1995: VILNIUS - PREMIER JOUR 1995 12 02. A crescent moon and stars cancel was used on the first day of issue of Christmas stamps #'s 140 and 141 (Sc #'s 527, 528), along with P-Ž envelope FDC 1995-15 in violet ink (25,000 were printed by WALKI Paberisto, Estonia). All were designed by I. Načiulytė. An envelope with an identical cachet design, but printed in two colors, yellow and purple, on front and back, lacking the "FDC 1995 - 15" on the reverse, was also issued for the holidays (another 25,000 by the same printer), as were two other unstamped envelopes, one with a Santa and snowflakes (designed by N. Jurgelionienė, 500,000 printed in Estonia), another with an angel and pine sprig (also by Jurgelionienė, 113,600 printed by "Spauda" in Lithuania).

SC142. December 2, 1995 - January 6, 1996: ALYTUS - KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS. (Christmas Mail) Pašto Ženklas repeated its use of a special Christmas cancel for holiday mail, an oversize green ring with a red dateline in the middle. This year, there were 14 different such cancels, compared with seven last season, which were used from December 4, 1994 to January 6, 1995. Alytus is a new site for '95-'96. Additional cancels are described in alphabetical order.



SC140



SC141



SC142

- SC143. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: DRUSKININKAI - *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. A repeat.
- SC144. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: KAUNAS - *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. A repeat.
- SC145. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: KLAIPĖDA - *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. A repeat.
- SC146. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: MARIJAMPOLĖ - *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. New site.
- SC147. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: PALANGA - *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. A repeat.
- SC148. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: PANEVĖŽYS - *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. A repeat.
- SC149. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: ŠIAULIAI - *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. A repeat.
- SC150. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: TAURAGĖ - *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. New site.
- SC151. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: TELŠIAI - *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. New site.
- SC152. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: UTENA - *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. New site.
- SC153. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: VILNIUS - *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. A repeat.
- SC154. Dec. 2, 1995 - Jan. 6, 1996: VILNIUS PPC *KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS*. A repeat.



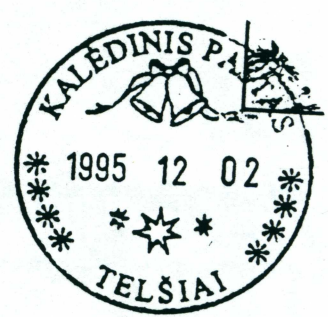
SC144



SC148



SC150



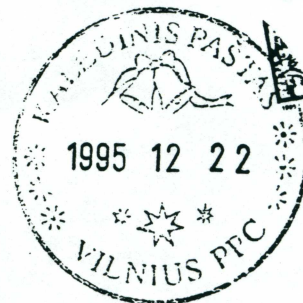
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SC152



SC153



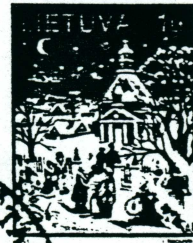
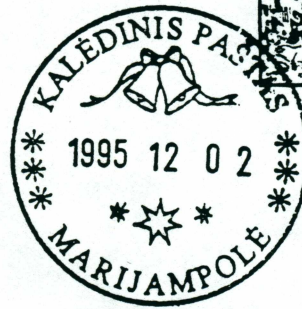
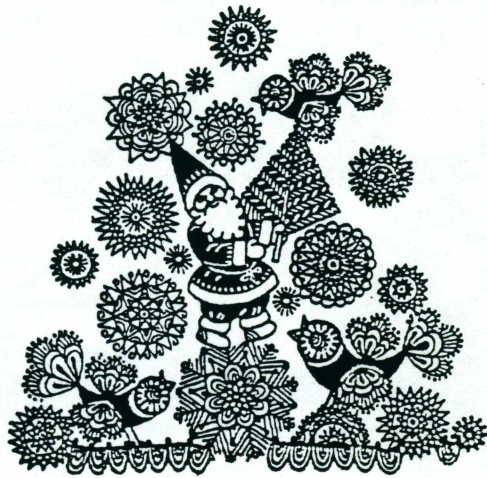
SC154



SC158

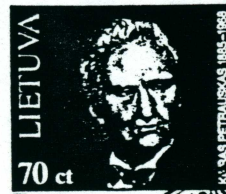


SC160



SC146

LIETUVOS OPEROS
IR BALETO TEATRAS
A. Vienuolio 1
2600 VILNIUS
L I T H U A N I A



Registruota
RECOMMANDÉ
LIETUVOS
OPEROS
IR
BALETO
TEATRAS
1920
1995



JONAS VARIAKOJIS
3715 W 68 ST
CHICAGO IL 60529
U S A

SC155

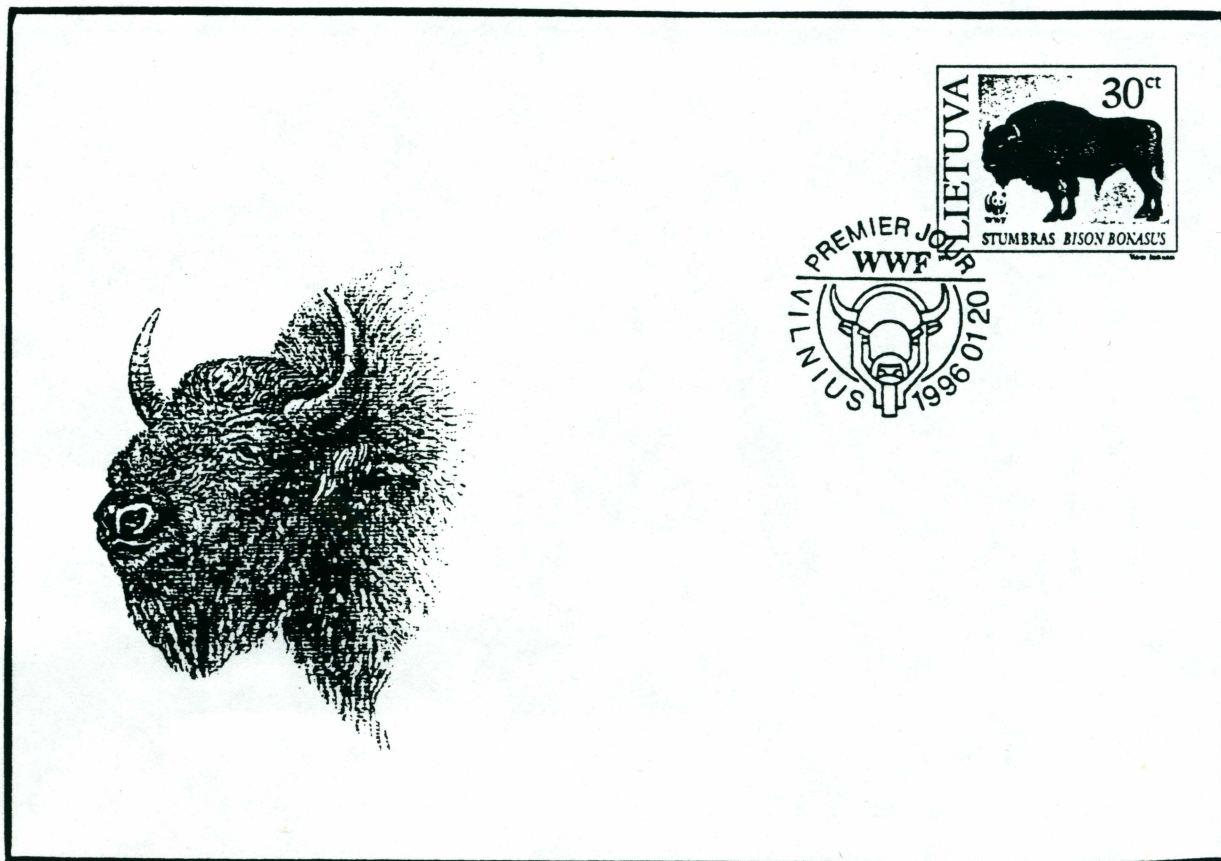
SC155. VILNIUS - LIETUVOS OPEROS IR BALETO TEATRU - 75 - 1995 12 31. 75 years of Lithuanian opera and ballet theater, designed by H. Ciparis, as was a P-Ž cacheted cover, printed in an edition of 10,000 by the printing firm of A. Jakštas in Kaišiadorys.

SC156. VILNIUS - PREMIER JOUR - WWF - 1996 01 20. Stylized bison's head, used with first day of issue of bison stamps and souvenir sheet, Lith. #'s 142-146 (Sc #'s 529-532a), and four different P-Ž cacheted envelopes: FDC 1996 - 1a - 1d. While the stamps, special cancel and four maximum cards (#'s 6 - 9, printed by LTD of Lithuania - Czechia "JIČIN" in editions, in order by #: 20,000, 19,000, 17,000 and 20,000) were designed by V. Jurkūnas, the envelope cachets were designed by V. Skabeikienė. The envelopes (FDC 1996 - 1a is illustrated) were all printed in editions of 13,000 by JSC WALKI PABERISTO in Finland.

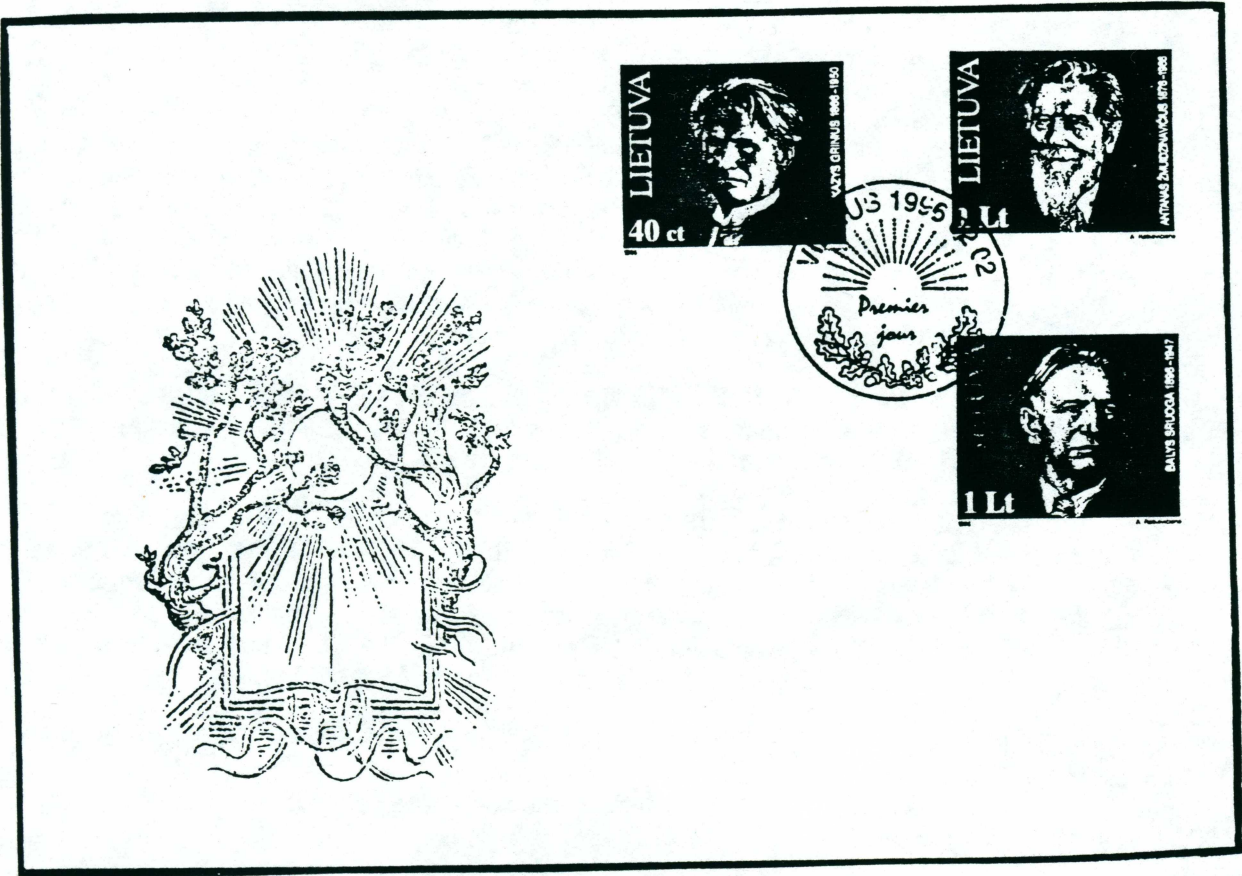
SC157. VILNIUS - PREMIER JOUR 1996 02 02. Special cancel with sun and oak leaves, used on first day of issue of stamps #'s 147-149 (Sc #'s 533-535), Famous Lithuanians, with P-Ž cacheted cover FDC 1996 - 2, all designed by A. Ratkevičienė. The envelopes were printed in an edition of 100,000 by WALKI PABERISTO in Estonia.

SC158. BIRŽAI 1996 02 02 BALIUI SRUOGAI - 100. 100th anniversary of the birth of Balys Sruoga 1896 - 1947. Special cancel used in Biržai on first day of issue of stamp # 148. No official P-Ž cover.

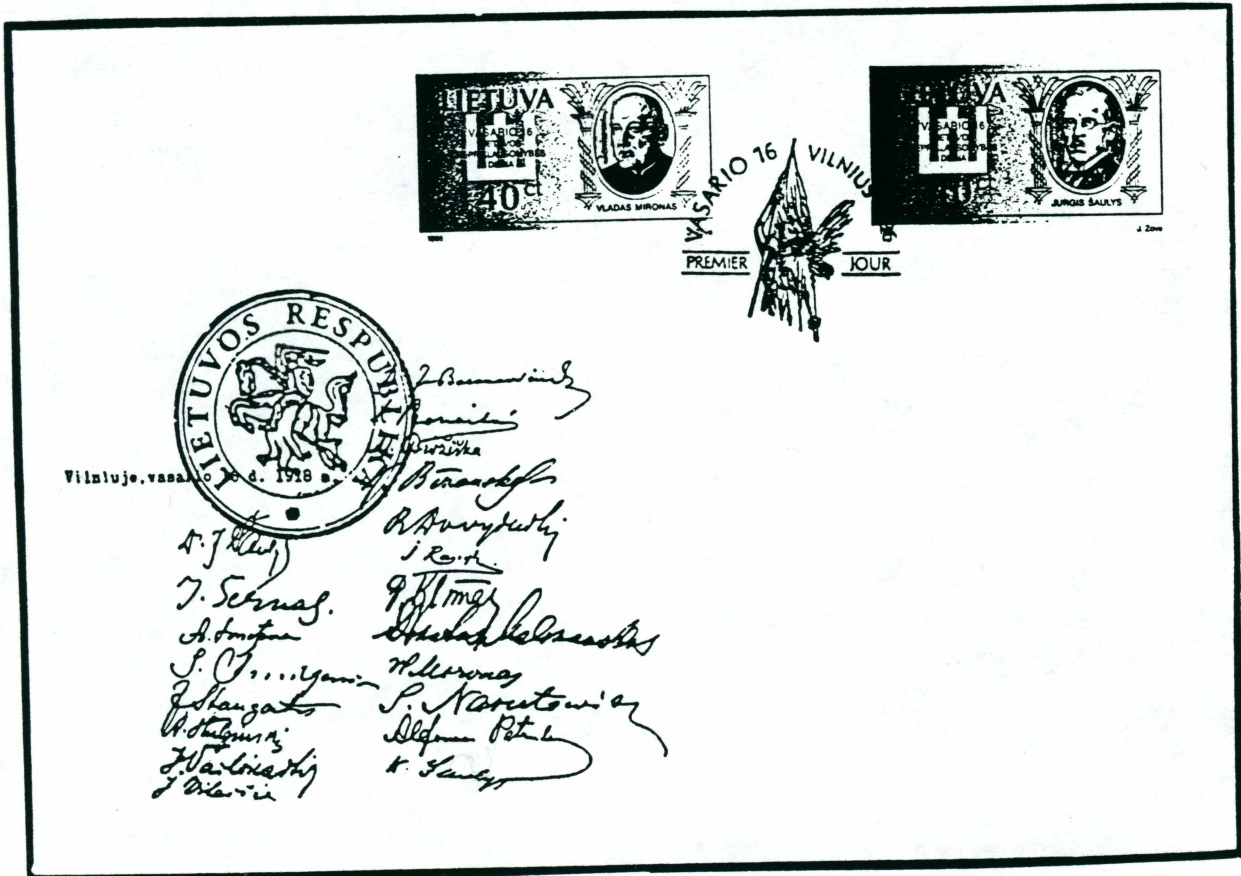
SC159. VILNIUS - PREMIER JOUR - VASARIO 16 1996. Special cancel used in conjunction with first day of issue of stamps #'s 149, 150 (Signers of the February 16 Declaration of Independence) and P-Ž cacheted envelope FDC 1996 - 3, all designed by J. Zovė. 100,000 of the envelopes were printed by WALKI PABERISTO, Estonia.



SC156



SC157



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SC160. VILNIUS - LIETUVOS FILATELIJOS PARODA 1996 02 16 - 03 11. Special cancel, designed by R. Baradinskas, used at a stamp exhibition in Vilnius. 6,000 P-Ž covers, with a cachet similar to the special cancel printed in green, were prepared by LTD Mažasis Skorpionas.

SC161. KAUNAS JUOZUI URBŠIUI - 100, 1996 02 29. Signature special cancel designed by R. Baradinskas to commemorate the birth Juozas Urbšys. No stamp or official P-Ž cover. Urbšys was a general staff officer during Lithuania's fight for independence from Russia, retired as a captain in 1922, and joined the diplomatic corps. After serving in Berlin, Paris and Riga he returned to Lithuania, rising within the government to become minister of foreign affairs from 1938 - 1940. He and his family, along with Prime Minister Antanas Merkys were the first to be deported to Siberia by occupying Soviet troops, on July 16, 1940. Merkys died abroad, but Urbšys was allowed to return in 1956, whereupon he took to translating French authors into Lithuanian.

SC162. VILNIUS, PIRMAJAM TELEFONO ABONENTUI - 100, 1996 03 14. Special cancel, designed by V. Meilūnas, commemorating the first telephone subscriber, 100 years ago. M. Kibildis designed an official P-Ž cover printed by V. Burdenkov in an edition of 8,700.

SC163. VILNIUS, Jurgiui Bieliniui -150, 1996 03 16. The cancel was designed by A. Načiulis; the cacheted envelope, printed in an edition of 5,000 by S. Katkus' TYPO graphic laboratory, was designed by A. Ratkevičienė. Jurgis Bielinis, 1846 - 1918, was one of the principal organizers of book smuggling from East Prussia during the Tsarist ban on Lithuanian publications -- he was known as King of the Book Smugglers. Early on he collaborated with Bishop Valančius; later on he operated independently, managing a secret distribution center in the county of Panevėžys.

SC164. ELEKTRĖNAI, PASAULIO LEDO RITULIO "D" GRUPES ČEMPIONATAS 1996 03 25-31. Special cancel, designed by V. Gudelis, honoring the Lithuanian team's world championship in hockey, Group "D." Gudelis also designed a P-Ž cover printed in an edition of 5,500 by Mažasis Skorpionas.

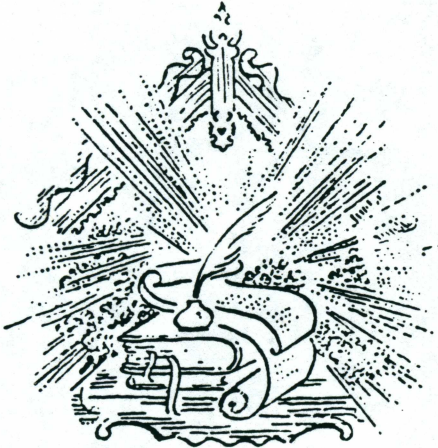


SC162

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oro paštu

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SC163



SC164

-9399-

SC165. LIETUVOS PAŠTAS - 1996 04 19-21, TARPTAUTINĖ FILATELIJOS PARODA, MIUNCHENAS. Special cancel designed for use at a philatelic exhibition in Munich.

SC166. VILNIUS - PREMIER JOUR, EUROPA, 1996 04 27. No production information at this writing.

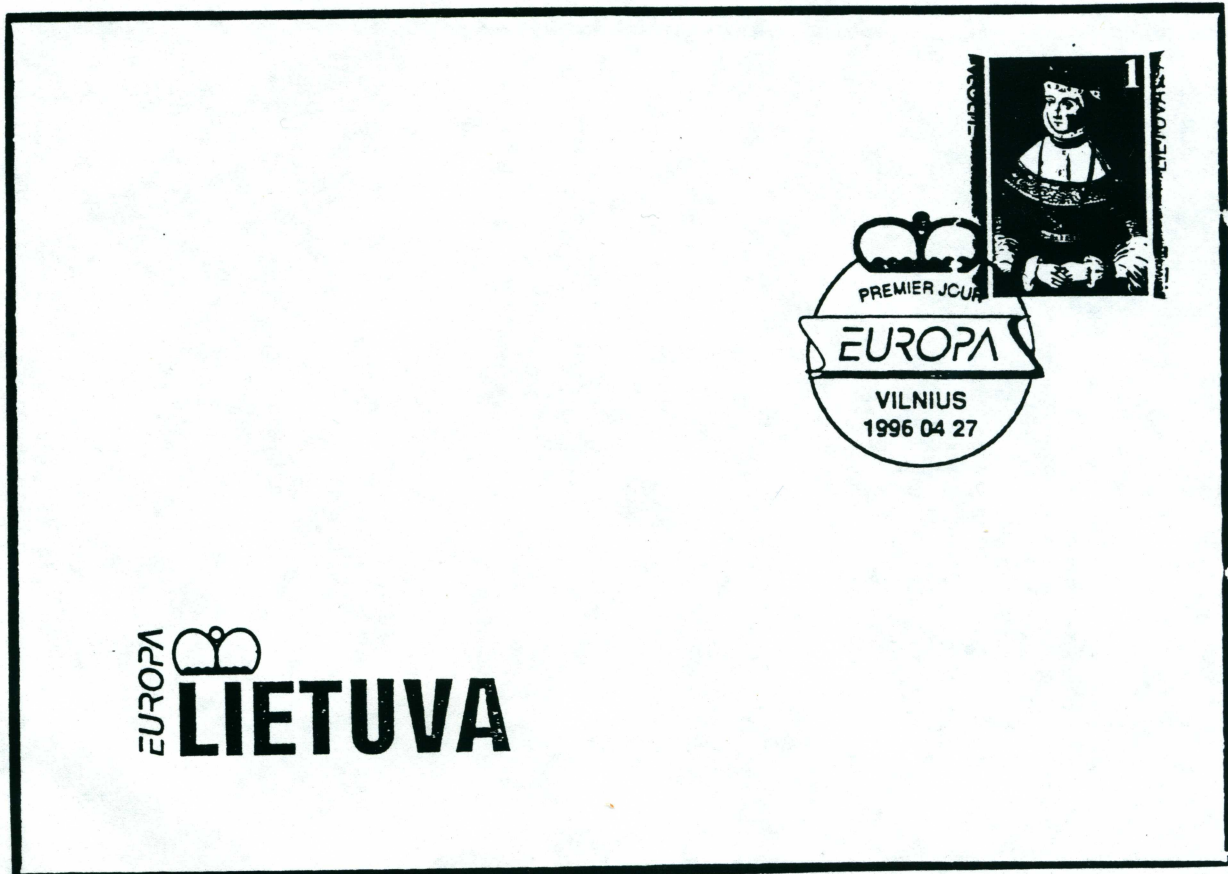
Illustrated: A new Vilnius cancel was noticed in January, as illustrated below. Subsequently, it was learned that the "EMS" (Express Mail Service?) post in Vilnius began using the new cancel on December 8, 1996.



SC161



SC165



SC166