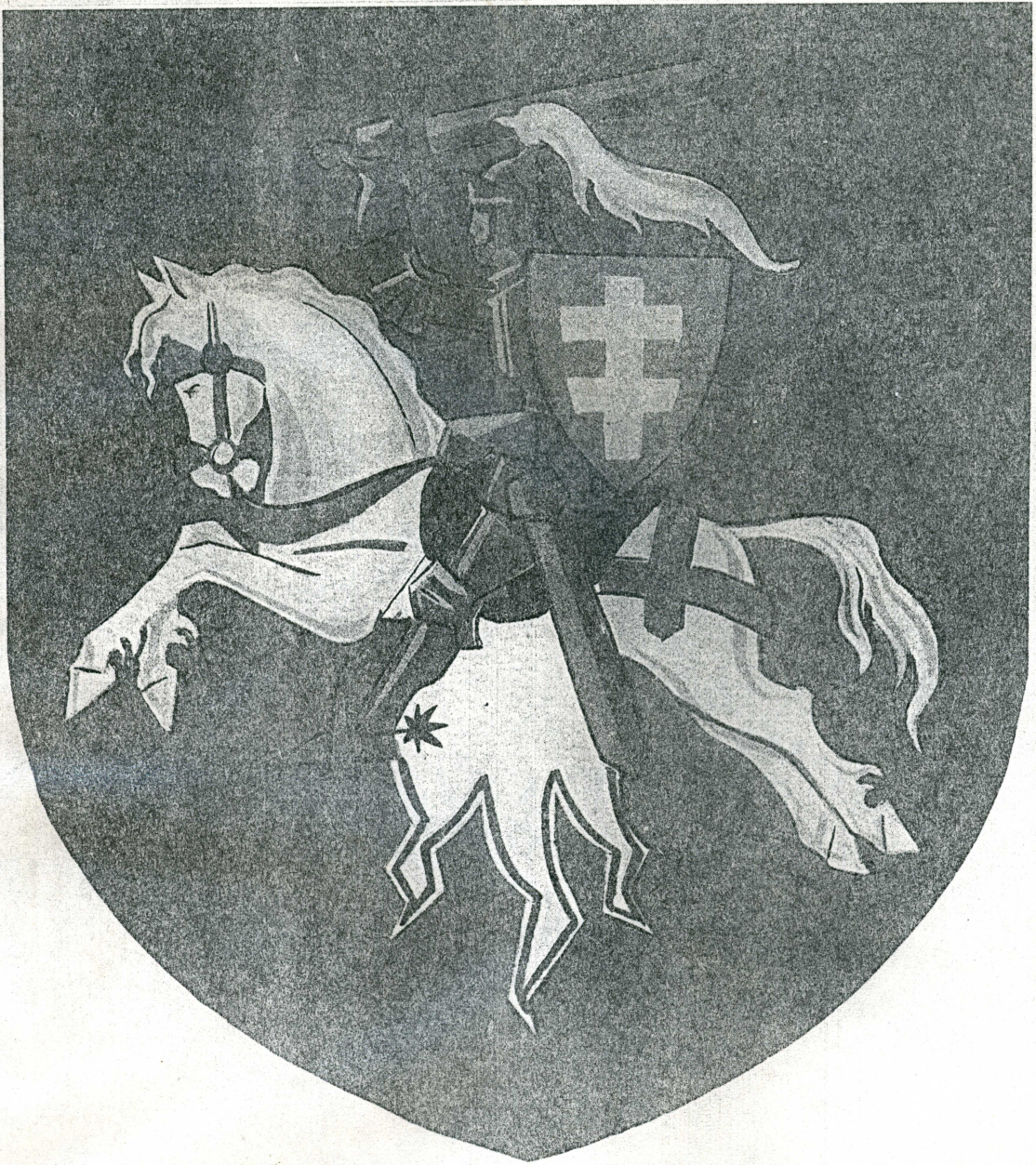


BULLETIN



Lithuanian
Philatelic Society
of New York

SEPTEMBER 1989

LITHUANIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

BULLETIN No. 153

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MEMBERS' MAIL AUCTION WILL RETURN IN THE NEXT ISSUE

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"Stamp Collector", Nov. 22, 1980

In his book, "Language in Thought and Action", S.E. Hayakawa writes: "A human being, then, is never dependent on his own experience alone for his information. Even in the most primitive culture, he can make use of his experience, friends and relatives, which they communicate to him by means of language. Therefore, instead of remaining helpless, because of the limitations of his own experience and knowledge, instead of having to discover what others have already discovered, instead of exploring the false trails that they explored and repeating their own errors, he can go from where they left off. Language, that is to say, makes progress possible.

Stamp Collectors demonstrate Hayakawa's point every day. They refer constantly to catalogues, handbooks, and general reference works, all of which are made possible by language. They talk to other collectors about which they "have already discovered instead of exploring and repeating their errors." They read philatelic periodicals to learn more of other's research and to keep current with new issues and new discoveries.

That stamp collectors have such a great need for information is one reason the hobby creates strong ties among its participants, and why collectors often develop family-like ties and regard for their colleagues. Whether rooted in mail correspondence or in face-to-face contact at shows in club meetings, the links among collectors further their pursuits.

The stamp collecting world is in many ways a constant brain storming session in that a collector can read of others' efforts and get useful ideas that he he might never had considered, or discard unusuable ideas before wasting the time himself. A collector can view exhibits to learn of new material and new ways of attacking certain problems. On a local level, the brain storming continues in club meetings. This communication is not merely a beneficial aspect of philately - it is vital to it.

There are undoubtedly huge numbers of important stamps and covers in attics and basements of non-collectors, to remain unknown for, who knows, how long. That is a fact of the hobby! But collectors who find notable material, or discover or invent new means of collecting, can contribute to the ever-growing body of philatelic knowledge by communicating with a collector friend or with any one in the stamp world.

Many of our readers spread information by writing letters to the editor; telling him and fellow readers of a new find or a potentially useful idea. Philately is in some ways an individual permit, as when a collector spends most of his time with stamps and reference books instead of with other collectors. But, unfortunately, many such collectors exhibit their material and/or publish records of what they discover, so that others can also benefit. It is that sharing of information and experience, that, as Hayakawa states makes progress possible.

Knowleged shared is not dimished, but enhanced; because the progression of ever increasing information benefits everyone involved. And sharing what you learn is a way of repaying the information bank and other collectors for all your past withdrawals.

LPSNY CLUB NOTES, VOX POP POTPOURRI, BALTIC PHILATELIC ACTIVITY!

In the next three LPSNY BULLETINS, LPSNYer DAVID FREESTONE will continue to give us the British angle of collecting Lithuania and we will be looking at the Air Post, Commemorative and Definitive Postage Stamp Issues, emphasizing what is NOT in the catalogues. David will also be looking at the various Societies who can help the collectors of Lithuania and what Literature is available. If you are tired of the sameness of the British Commonwealth, as he was some years ago, he suggests why not have a "go" at Lithuania. The more people who collect Lithuania, this fascinating country, the more quickly its mysteries can be unraveled and revealed!

AT PHILEXFRANCE '89, CONGRATULATIONS are in order for at least three of our LPSNY members who won awards at this International FIP Exhibition held in Paris, France, July 7-17, 1989. LARGE VERMEILS were awarded to ANDREW CRONIN AND JOZEF KUDEREWICZ; WHILE A LARGE SILVER went to PAUL BARBATAVICIUS.

While collecting stamps often wanes in summer's doldrums, collectors can still enjoy their hobby by expanding their philatelic knowledge through books. Reading about trends, price fluctuations and new issues are important, but the real fun involved in stamp literature is in discovering interesting and little-known facts about how the stamp originated, how it was printed and how it became a RARITY? Most serious collectors continue to follow their hobby in the summer with subscriptions to trade publications; but, extra leisure time makes many ambitious; and for them, an assortment of books is available from dealers, or through mail order!

The Annual Outing of your LPSNY was held Sunday, July 16, 1989 at the home of LPSNYer VINCENT ALONES in Floral Park, on Long Island, in New York. The meeting was scheduled to be held under the Fruit Trees in the Orchard; but, Mother Nature interfered with Rain Showers so the meeting was moved indoors. What a Surprise! On entering the First Room, we found ourselves in the Library - a room whose bookcases covered the walls from the floor to the ceiling, just loaded with his library of books and magazines, journals covering Vinnie's main hobbies, Numismatics, Medals, Decoration and, of course, Stamps. The Walls of the next room were covered with Certificates of Participation and Awards in the various conventions and exhibitions in which he had participated. and featuring his Exhibits of medals, Decorations, Coins and Stamps. The walls of the Third Room were covered with Plaques awarded to Vince for his participating Exhibits. The Fourth Room displayed the various Trophies that he has garnered from his hobbies. What an Exhibition, What a Day! Vince is also well known for his Volunteer Firemanship!

A must for our members who have been unsuccessful in unraveling the early Air Mail Postal History in the Baltics. In the No. 3 1989 Issue of "Krajejs", the Journal of the Latvian Philatelic Society, in English, is a fourteen page article, well illustrated, entitled: "The Baltic States Air Mail History, 1920-1930, contributed by LPSNYer ARNOLD ENGEL. No doubt, much Research was involved in unscrambling the Pro-1926 Air Postal History which is being detailed at some length. This will be welcomed to the Postal History buffs of the Lithuanian Air Mail Services. The Article is Edited by their English Language Editor LPSNYer Maris Tirums. This is recommended reading and study! Additional information may be obtained from their Chief Editor LPSNYer J. Ronis, of 7 Lowes Avenue, Brampton, Ont. Canada L6X 1R8.

LITHPEX IX - April 22/23, 1989 - LITHUANIAN PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, Sponsored by:
TORONTO LITHUANIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY at the Toronto Lithuanian
Community Home, 1573 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA.

LITHPEX IX - EXHIBITION ENTRIES.

COURT OF HONOR - EXHIBITS by INVITATION

- Exhibit 1 - PAUL BARBATAVICIUS Scarborough, Ont. Canada
"LITHUANIAN DISPLACED PERSON'S MAIL" From German D.P. Camps.
- Exhibit 2 - WALTER E. NORTON Philadelphia, PA U.S.A.
"MY FAVORITE LITHUANIAN POSTAL HISTORY COVER" 1914 - 1941
- Exhibit 3 - WALTER E. NORTON Philadelphia, PA U.S.A.
"A STAMP COLLECTOR'S DREAM COLLECTION OF LITHUANIA"
Mounted on Album Pages that are decorated with LITHUANIAN FOLK ART
DESIGNS!

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS - GROUP 1 - LITHUANIA

- Exhibit 4 - ALGIRDAS RUZGAS (VERMEIL AWARD) Woodhaven, NY U.S.A.
"LITHUANIAN SEMI-POSTAL ISSUES OF 1938-1939 COMMORATING
LITHUANIAN NATIONAL OLYMPIC GAMES, LITHUANIAN BOY &
GIRL SCOUT JAMBOREES EUROPEAN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
GAMES"
- Exhibit 5 - JONAS VARIAKOJIS (VERMEIL AWARD) Chicago, IL U.S.A.
"SELECTED PAGES OF LITHUANIAN IMPERFORATE VARIETIES and
ERRORS"
- Exhibit 6 - RAIMONDAS LAPAS (GRAND AWARD) Melrose Park, IL U.S.A.
"FORBIDDEN WORDS, CENSOR MARKINGS of ETHNOGRAPHIC
LITHUANIA, 1915 - 1921"
- Exhibit 7 - K. KAMINSKAS (SILVER-BRONZE AWARD) Toronto, Canada
"600th JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY of CHRISTIANITY in LITHUANIA
'MARIAN YEAR'"
- Exhibit 8 - STASYS VAIVADA (SILVER AWARD) Toronto, Canada
"SELECTED PAGES of LITHUANIAN POSTAGE STAMPS"
- Exhibit 9 - V.L. STABACINSKAS (SILVER-BRONZE AWARD) Toronto, Canada
COVERS FROM LITHUANIAN SCOUT JAMBOREES, IN AMERICA,
CANADA & AUSTRALIA; 500TH JUBILEE OF CHRISTIANITY IN
LITHUANIA; 1989 INDEPENDENCE DAY IN LITHUANIA"
- Exhibit 10 - EDIS MACIJASKAS (SILVER-BRONZE AWARD) Toronto, Canada
"SELECTED POSTAGE STAMPS OF LITHUANIA"
- Exhibit 11- PETRAS TOLVAISA (SILVER AWARD) Toronto, Canada
"SELECTED PAGES OF LITHUANIAN POSTAGE STAMPS"

LITHPEX IX - April 22-23, 1989: TORONTO LITHUANIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
COMPETITIVE - GROUP 2 - REST OF WORLD

- Exhibit 12 - ANTANAS LAURINAITIS (SILVER AWARD) Toronto, Canada
"SELECTED PAGES OF CANADIAN POSTAGE STAMPS"
- Exhibit 13 - V.L. STABACINSKAS (SILVER AWARD) Toronto, Canada
"SELECTED PAGES OF VATICAN CITY POSTAGE STAMPS"
- Exhibit 14 - ANTANAS DILKUS (Failed to Exhibit) Toronto, Canada
"POPE JOHN PAUL II - SECOND VISIT TO HIS HOMETLAND - POLAND"
- Exhibit 15 - ANTANAS SUPRONAS (GOLD AWARD) Toronto, Canada
"POSTAL HISTORY OF THURN & TAXIS"
- Exhibit 16 - JADVIGA BUTKUS (SILVER AWARD) Toronto, Canada
"VATICAN CITY - SPECIAL EVENTS CANCELLATIONS"
- Exhibit 17 - ANONYMOUS (BRONZE AWARDS) Toronto, Canada
"PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES"

COMPETITIVE - Group 3 - NUMISMATICS

- Exhibit 18 - JONAS AUGUSTINIUS (VERMEIL AWARD) Chicago, IL U.S.A.
"COINS, BANK NOTES & MEDALS - DECORATIONS OF THE
MONARCHY & REPUBLIC PERIODS OF LITHUANIA"

JUDGE'S JURY

Walter E. Norton, Chairman
Dr. Miet Kamienski
Andrew Cronin

B O U R S E

1. Toronto Lithuanian Philatelic Society
2. L. Dobo Angrophila Etobicoke, Ont.
3. J.K. Stamps Scarborough, Ont.
4. Maddy's Philatelic Service Niagra on the Lake
5. Z. Antkowiak St. Catherine's, Ont.
6. J. Rudnicki Toronto, Ont.
7. M. Liubenski Toronto, Ont.
8. Leslie Stamps Toronto, Ont.
9. Seniunas Gold & Coins Hamilton, Ont.

LITHPEX IX - April 22-23, 1989 - TORONTO LITH. PHILA. SOC. EXHIBITION

GRAND AWARD EXHIBIT OF RAIMUNDAS LAPAS

Chicago, IL U.S.A.

FRAME 1

- Page 1 - TITLE PAGE: "FORBIDDEN WORDS" WWI CENSOR MARKINGS FROM ETHNOGRAPHIC LITHUANIA
- Page 2 - INTRODUCTION TO POSTAL HISTORY OF CENSORSHIP IN LITHUANIA
- Page 3 - 3 Kop. Russian Postal Stationery Post Card posted 25.8.14 with Violet, Unboxed, Single Straight Line
- "PROSMOTRINO" (Examined)
- Page 4 - "RUTA" Lithuanian Candy Factory Letter franked with a 3 kop. Romanof Stamp posted from SHAVLI (Siauliai) 28.10.14 with a Violet Single, Straight Line
- "PROSMOTRINO VOENNOI TSENSOR" (Examined Military Censor)
- Page 5 - "OTKRITO PISMO (Post Card) franked with two 2Kop. stamps sent from PANEVEZYS (Undated) to KOVNO with a Violet Two-Line
- "PROSMOTRINO VOENNOI TSENSOR / GENERAL MAJOR L.C. VLIKO
(Examined by Military Censor)
- Page 8 - 1915 FIELD POST CARD with a red, Three-Line
- "PROSMOTRINO / VOENNOI TSENSOR / DOBROVOLSKI" of the Kovenskoe Artel. Division (Kaunas Craftsmen) (Examined / Military Censor / Dobrovolski)

FRAME 2

- Page 1 - Post Card Addressed to OSTROV with a Red Single Straight Line
- "VOENNOI TSENSOR" (Military Censor) within a Red Single-Lined Oval.
- Page 2 - Letter franked with a 4 kop. postage stamp sent from POKROI 9.2.15 (Pakruojis) to ZHAGOR (Zagare) with a Red Two-Line
- VSKRITO VOENNOI TSENSOR / SHADOVSKI VOENNOI TSENSOR No. 23
(Opened Military Censor No. 23)
- Page 3 - Post Card franked with a 3 kop. Romanof stamp sent from Plungjani (Plunge) 28.3.15 to Onikshti (Anyksčiai) 4.4.15 via JANOVO (Jonava) with a Two-Line Red
- Opened Military Censor
Plunge Military Censor No. 20
- Page 4 - Stampless Letter Addressed to the Danish Red Cross, Prisoner of War Division in Copenhagen, Denmark - Received 13.6.15 with a Two-Line Violet
- Opened Military Censor
Military Censor No. ??.

LITHPEX IX - GRAND AWARD EXHIBIT OF RAIMUNDAS LAPAS, continued

FRAME 2 continued

Page 5 - 3 kop. Postal Stationery Post Card sent from VILNA 7.4.15 to SHKOD (Skuodas) with a Three-Line Violet

"Opened Military Censor / SHKUDSKII Military / Censor No. 1"

Page 6 - Stampless Letter with Postage Due "T" sent from VILNA 11.6.15 to Danish Red Cross, Copenhagen with a Violet Two-Line

"Opened Military Censor / VILENSKI Censor No. 93"

FRAME 3

Page 1 - 7 1/2 pf. Ob.Ost Postal Stationery Post Card sent from WILNA 5.10.15 to GRODNO with a Violet Local Censor "W" and a Crossed out Violet Rubber Stamped Three-Line text:

----- nicht zu ermitteln
Post verbeitung des Mil.
Kreis amts Grodno stadt"

(Receiver Unknown/Delivery prohibited by Military/Grodno City District Office)

Page 2 - Registered Letter No. 470 franked with 5 - 15pf.(2) Yellow-Brown Ob.Ost stamps sent from MARIAMPOL *** 14.12.16 to WILKOWISCHKI with Violet "K." KAUNAS Local Censor Marking

Page 3 - Field Post Card sent from ROSSIENIE (Raseiniai) 14.8.18 to RIGA with a Violet SIAULIAI "Sn" Local Censor Marking.

Page 4 - 5pf. Germania Postal Stationery Post Card sent from MEMEL **d 22.4.16 to Berlin with a Violet Boxed "ML" Censor Marking.

Page 5 - Letter franked with 15pf. (Yellow-Brown) Germania Postage Stamp sent from MEMEL **d 25.10.16 with a Violet Three-Line

"Gepruft
Mit litauische Verwaltungs
stelle General Komandos L.G.K. 2"

Page 6 - Letter franked with 15pf. Postage sent from HEYDEKRUG ** 17.8.17 (Silute) to KONIGSBERG with Violet Two-Ringed "ML Censor Marking.

FRAME 4

Page 1 - Post Card franked with a 40sk. Fourth Berlin Issue Stamp sent from TELSIAI *a* 12.XI.19 to MUENCHEN, Germany with a Violet Curved "CENSURA" within a Single-Line Circle without an Initial Logo therein. Also, a Violet Boxed "M.P.k." Censor Marking of Konigsberg.

Page 2 - Registered Letter No. 97 sent from MANNHEIM, Germany on 24.12.19 to TELSIAI 9.1.20 after having passed through Lithuanian Censor "A" within a Violet Single-Line Circle.

Page 3 - Registered Letter No. 4062 franked with Two 60sk. Stamps of Fourth Berlin Issue and sent from KAUNAS "a" 29.XII.19 to Wisconsin, USA, received on 1.22.1920 after having passed through the Lithuanian Censor "B" Censor Marking within a Violet Single-Ringed Circle.

LITHPEX IX - GRAND AWARD EXHIBIT of RAIMUNDAS LAPAS, continued

FRAME 4 continued

Page 4 - Registered Letter No. 623 franked with Four 30sk. Stamps of the Fourth Berlin Issue and sent from KALVARIJA *a* 27.XI.19 to DETROIT, Mich. USA. received on 1.2.20 after passing thru Lithuanian Censor "C" with a Violet Single-Ringed Circle.

Page 5 - Registered Letter No. 1128 franked with two 60sk. Stamps of the Fourth Berlin Issue and sent to KAUNAS *a* 10.XII.19 after passing thru Lithuanian Censor "D" within a Violet Single-Ringed Circle to EYDTKUHNEN 13.12.19 and Konigsberg "M.P.k." Violet Boxed Censorship.

Page 6 - Registered Letter No. 458 franked with 20sk. + lauks. Stamps of the Fourth Berlin Issue, sent to KAUNAS *a* 5.12.19 to EYDTKUHNEN 11.12.19 after passing thru Lithuanian Censor "E" in a Violet Single-Ringed Circle as well as thru Konigsberg "M.P.k." Violet Boxed Censorship.

FRAME 5

Page 1 - Registered Letter No. 1538 franked with 60sk. + lauks. of Fourth Berlin Issue and sent from KELME *a* 6.VII.20 to BROOKLYN, NY U.S.A. after having been Censored by Lithuanian "Censorius / No. 5" in a Small Sized Violet Box.

Page 2 - Letter franked with 20sk. - 30sk. Stamps of Fourth Berlin Issue and sent from KREKENAVA *a* 17.v.20 to KAUNAS after having been Censored by "Censorius/ No. 6" in a Small Sized Violet Box.

Page 3 - Letter franked with 10sk. - 40sk. Stamps of Fourth Berlin Issue and sent from LINKUVA (Manuscript Cancel) 15.VII.19 to PHILADELPHIA, PA U.S.A. after having been Censored by "Cenzuruotas / No. " In a longer sized Violet Box.

Page 4 - Letter franked with 20sk. + 40sk Stamps of Fourth Berlin Issue, sent from VEIVERIAI (Manuscript Cancel) 13.XI.19 to DETROIT, Mich. USA after having been censored with a Violet Single-Straight-Line Unboxed "Kariskas cenzorius".

Page 5 - Letter franked with 6Mk. Central Lithuanian Postage Stamp sent from WILNO *o* 25.12.20 to WARSAW, bearing a Three-Line Violet Censor Logo Text: "Sekcija Defenzywy/Cenzurowano/Referat Dreizy i Cenzury".

Page 6 - Registered Letter No. 503 franked with 20Mk. Central Lithuanian Postage Stamp, sent from WILNO 2 **? 11.5.21 to HOLYOKE, Mass, USA and passed through with an Imperfroate Polish Censoring Sealing Strip with text: "CENZUROWANO"

PROTECT COLLECTIONS FROM STICKY WEATHER!

Many stamp collectors put away their albums for the summer to enjoy vacations and out door activities. When autumn rolls around, they discover the result of their neglect: Stamps - ruined; some even beyond salvage because preventative measures were not taken against the heat and the humidity.

Preserving collections begins with the storage of the stamp albums. The traditional rule is to store the albums in an upright position, like library books, and NOT in a pan-cake like fashion. The reason is that the pages have to breathe. If the albums are stored one atop another, the weight and heat combine to soften the gum that holds the stamps. The gum then runs on the paper and sticks.

Perhaps, most vulnerable to humidity are the mint stamps and panes (sheets). Once the moisture works into the gum on the backs of the stamps, they tend to curl. If the temperature drops, the cool air hardens the one-softened gum, which then dries out and cracks, lessening the stamps worth.

To reduce the chances of damage to mint stamps, collectors should insert an interleaf, such as tissue-like paper between the pages to prevent stickyness. Do not use wax paper as an interleaf because the wax might stick to the mint gum.

Used stamps, without gum, are also susceptible to humidity. As the moisture increases, mold and mildew may form on the stamps. Used stamps may turn a rust color because of the humidity.

While dehumidifiers are the best defense against moisture in the air, other measures also must be taken to safeguard the collections. Albums should be stored in the coolest rooms in the house, usually on the first floor. Closets that are not opened, sometimes, are the coolest storage areas.

Collectors who go on vacations sometimes believe that they can outwit burglars by storing collections in the attic or in the basement. The intruders may miss the collections; but, the stamps may not survive the humidity in the attic or in the basement dampness mildew.

The threat of moisture and humidity can be reduced by placing silica gel next to the collections. The odorless gel is a drying agent that is sold in hobby shops. It is inexpensive, is sealed in packets and can easily be recycled.

The gel changes color when it has absorbed a high degree of moisture. But, don't throw it away, it can be dried out and reused.

Those who work out on their collections during the summer months should use the old reliable tool of the hobby: TONGS.

Often, collectors will handle stamps with their fingers in the cooler months without any perceptible damage; but, in the summer, such a practice will cause stamps to stick.

In hot weather, small amounts of oil are present on the finger tips even after the hands have been scrubbed.

SO, USE TONGS

A look at the fascinating philately of this intriguing
country in a four part series

In 1918, Lithuania was in a turmoil after four years of warfare. The country had been overrun by the German Occupation Armies. After the armistice had been signed, a group of Lithuanians tried to set up their own postal service and system. Between 16 and 29 November, 1918, four people were appointed to a Postal Committee.

The German Authorities did everything they could to hinder their work. No promises were made available in Vilnius, their capitol, even though the main Post Office building was unoccupied.

On 9 December, 1918, the Committee decided to occupy the rooms of the former Postmaster of Vilnius. A door, leading into the Post Office court yard was smashed down, the broken glass window panes were replaced and the room was connected to a supply of electricity.

The Germans threatened to evict the Lithuanians and to arrest those responsible; but this never happened. At the same time, negotiations were taking place with the Germans to take over the country's Post Offices and warehouses.

The Polish Authorities became aware of what was happening and hired people to tear down Lithuanian posters and notices. Only later was it made known that this was being carried out at the request of the Germans.

Toward the end of December, 1918, the German Occupation Army was beginning to disperse; and, on 24 December, the German Authorities issued an order to the Lithuanians to take over all Post Offices immediately. On 1, January, 1919, the Germans handed over in Vilnius, the main telephone and telegraph headquarters building - after making sure that telegraph service was inoperable.

The first Lithuanian Post Master, Benedict Tamosevicius, wanted to overprint the German "Postgebiet Ob. Ost" postage stamp remainders of which were generally available; but he was unable to obtain these stamp remainders from the Lithuanian German administration.

The only solution was to print their own emergency postage stamp issues almost overnight. At that time, the sole print shop in Vilnius was owned by Martynas Kukte who knew how to print books and forms; but he had never printed postage stamps. Juozas Strazdas, an employee at the print shop, designed the First Lithuanian Issue. (Scott #1-2)

The shop had a small supply of worn-out type from which to construct the 20 cliches required to make up the printing plate. Juozas had seven of the letter "u" for the last letter of the word 'skatiku' and had to resort to using 12 inverted 'h's; and in one cliche, an inverted acute accented Polish 'n'.

The first Vilnius Issue consisted of the 10 and 15sk stamps which were the most urgently needed to domestic use. (Figure 1) Each printed sheet consisted of twenty stamps on buff paper, arranged as four rows of five stamps. The outer edge of each sheet was left imperforate. Using a hand-operated printing press, 250 sheets of each value were produced.

Four days later, the 10 and 16sk. values were reprinted, but much thicker type was used for the numerals. (Scot #3-4). Four additional values were also printed: the 20sk., 30sk., 40sk. and 50sk. (Scott #5-8). Of these, the smallest quantity printed was of the 40sk. value - only 13,780 stamps.

While all this was going on in the south of the country, the inhabitants of the City of Raseiniai, in the Northeast part of the country, assembled in a mass meeting on 30 September, 1918 and elected a committee of twelve to direct and control their affairs. They also declared themselves as the "Republic of Raseiniai".

The German administration did not interfere. With the work of the Council; and, late in November, the Germans disappeared - taking with them their postal system - one man. The council then authorized the printing of a two-color 15 kopek stamp under the surveillance of their Chief of Police. (Figure #2)

These were printed in sheets of 48 stamps, eight columns by six rows. Each column is subtly different, but all stamps within the column are identical. 14,400 were issued. In January, 1919, a second printing was made, totalling some 22,224 stamps. The earliest postmark recorded is 1 February, 1919. This stamp is not listed in Gibbons; but is shown in Yvert (24a) and in Michel (L1).

The issue was officially authorized by a decree of the Kaunas Postmaster who had been supplying postage stamps to the area. Perhaps one day, Gibbons will include this stamp in its rightful place among the four provisional stamp issues.

The stamp itself is fascinating. There are mitred and butt corners, and frame breaks, which help to allocate and identify individual copies to the correct vertical column in the sheet pane.

On the night of 5 January, 1919, the Poles occupied the city of Vilnius and took control of the Telephone Central. The occupation was to have been carried out with the consent of the German authorities for earlier that day, it was reported that German officers had been seen in the building with a number of Poles.

The Lithuanian Government and its offices had been rapidly moved to Kaunas; but, two members of the Postal Committee stayed behind to look after Lithuanian interests. The Polish occupation of Vilnius, however, was short-lived; for on the 6th of January, 1919, the city was captured by the Russian Bolsheviks.

Lithuania had previously placed on order definitive postage stamps from the firm of H.S. Hermann in Berlin; but delivery was delayed because of strikes in the printing works. The Postal Committee was forced to print additional provisional postage stamps - the Kaunas Provisional Type-Set issues. (Scott #9-26).

The first of these appeared at the Post Office windows on the 29th of January, 1919 (Figure #3). Only the four low values were printed. To produce the twenty cliches required to make up the printing plate, the printer needed 520 small letter 'o's to form the border. He did not have enough and had to use larger capital 'O's to make up the quantity.

There were two printings of the First Kaunas Issue (Scott #9-12) both of which were prepared on a hand-operated press in a print shop previously used by the German Occupation Forces. The First Printing was with an overall sheet pane size of 136 x 111 mm. The Second Printing of 5 February, 1919, using slightly larger paper, 141 x 115 mm.

The appearance of the large 'O's in the border frame, their spacing of the small 'o's in the top and bottom borders, together with the Straight Edges and other constant characteristics, enable complete sheets of each value to be reconstructed. 1,000 sheets of each value were printed.

The most spectacular variety in this First Kaunas Issue is the '5' for '15' error. (Scott #10a) This was created by the numeral '1' falling out of the printing plate; but, the mishap was noticed by the printer and the numeral was replaced. This error occurs in Clicher #16 of the First Printing and in Cliche #10 of the Second Printing. Only 13 copies are known of the Cliche 16, and 200 copies of the Cliche #10 are believed to exist. (Figure #6)

Stamps soon ran out, and the Second Kaunas Provisional Type-Set issue was prepared. (Scott #13-19). The basic cliches from the First Issue are retained, with changes made in the layout of the text inside the border (Figure #4). By now, the German Print Shop had been taken over and renamed the Lithuanian Government Printing Establishment. Specialists have determined that there were three printings of the 20, 30, 40 and 50sk. and only two printings of the 10 and 15sk. values. (Figure #5)

The 60sk. value is an anomaly design-wise, it belongs to this issue; but it was never printed with it. It formed a part of the Third Kaunas Provisional Type-Set Issue; being one pane within a large sheet that contained all values.

On 17 February, the first stamps from Berlin arrived. (Scott #30a, 31a and 33a) (Gibbons #27-29). One hundred sheets of each value were received, put on sale in several Post Offices and sold out within a week. Two constant varieties are well worth looking for on this issue. On the 10sk value, there is a broken 'U' in 'LIETUVOS' (Figure #6). On the 30sk value, there is a broken 'K' in 'ZENKLAS'. One hundred of each are believed to exist.

Once again, the Post Office ran out of postage stamps, and the Third Kaunas Provisional Type-Set Issue was printed (Scott #20-26). Initially, the 10, 15 and 20sk. values were produced in the familiar format of small sheets of twenty stamps (Figure #7).

Towards the end of February, 1919, the Government took possession of the Dabartis printing works which had a reasonably modern book and newspaper printing machine. Stereo cast plates were required and a large sheet plate was prepared. This was made up of panes of all values for the Third Kaunas Provisional Type-Set Issue together with one pane of the 60sk. value of the Second Kaunas Provisional Type-Set Issue. (Scott #19)

Each pane within the large sheet format consisted of 20 cliches and there were eight panes - four in each row. The top row consisted of the 30, 20, 15 and sk.10sk. The bottom row consisted of the 60sk. (Scott #19) an sk.60sk., (Scott #26), and sk.50sk. and sk.40sk. Within such a sheet make-up, it is possible to find so-tenant pairs of two values; and where the corners of four panes meet, blocks of four containing four different values (Figure #8).

The Second Berlin Issue (Scott #30-39) arrived in Lithuania on 20 March, 1919. 1,000 sheets of each value were authorized; but the printer found that he did not have enough of the grey-granite paper and substituted white paper with a Wavy Line Watermark, giving rise to the Third Berlin Issue. (Scott #40-49)

Security in the Berlin printing works was very poor and the Lithuanian Government found out that their stamps were being sold in the German Stamp Shops prior to their having reached Lithuania. The Lithuanian Government ordered an immediate change in the colors and in the designs of the tope values for the fourth and final Berlin Issue. (Scott #50-60) - the printing of which was strictly supervised. The former Lithuanian Government representative was given a severe gaol sentence for his laxity!

The Second, Third and Fourth Berlin Issues abound in varieties which are not catalogued but are keenly sought after: Perforation errors, double paper, displaced, double, inverted and missing centers, offsets, etc. Those issues have them all. (Figures #9-10)

In the end, the Lithuanian Government gave up and in the summer of 1920 printed its own Berlin design-style stamps at the Margolinas Printing Works in Kaunas. (Scott #92-92d) Three values were printed; the 15, 20 and 40sk. A few sheets were issued Imperforate but the majority were issued Perfs: 10.75 or 11.25.

The initial printings were on Honeycomb Watermarked paper. The sheet was printed in a 9 x 10 stamp format, the Watermark ran vertically. Where the format was 10 x 9 stamps, it ran horizontally. In January, 1921, a small quantity was issued on Unwatermarked Paper.

Catalogues are not much help when collecting Lithuanian postage stamps in any detail. The fascination is with what is not mentioned. A look at Gibbons shows that the Berlin printings were issued in various perfs. The real situation is that things are not as complicated as they might be.

The First Berlin Issue was Perf. 10.25 for all three values; and additionally, 11.25 x 10.25 for the 15 and 30sk. values.

The Second Berlin Issues has only five stamps with varying perfs. either 11.25 or 11.25 x 12 for the 10, 15, 20 and 30sk. values; and either 11.25 x 12 or 14 for the 40sk. value. The 30sk. value was Perf. 14 and all other values were 11.25 x 12.

On the third Berlin Issue, all stamps are Comb Perforated 14 with the exception of the 30sk. value, which was line Perf. 12.25.

Catalog values can be a nonsense with Lithuania, particularly with publishers who do not carry stocks of the country. Lithuania is a popular country because it has a beginning and an end. Many issues are relatively easy to obtain and a basic collection can be put together without too much expenditure if you ignore the listed rarities. There are only seven mint stamps catalogued in Gibbons at 100 pounds or more; but be prepared to pay full catalogue, and even more, at times.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

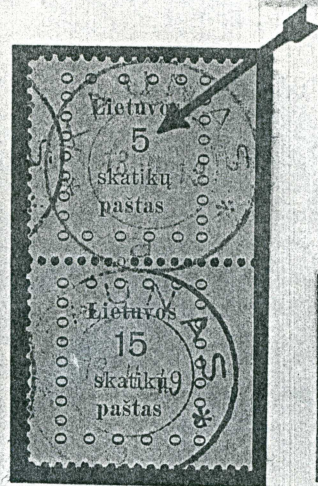


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

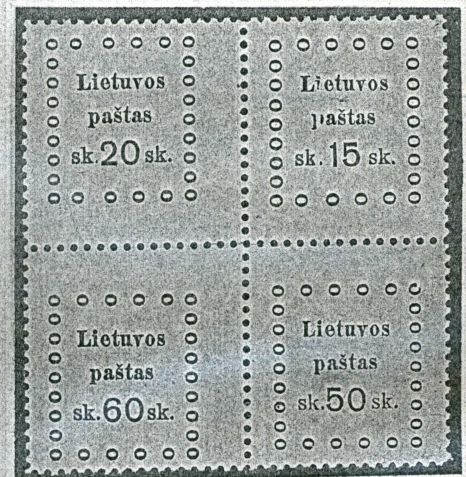


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

May 7th marked the anniversary of the abolition of the Press ban on Lithuanian Letters. Following the unsuccessful revolt in 1863, in Lithuania, the Russian Governor-General of Lithuania - Count Nicholai Muraviev arbitrarily forbade the printing of all books and publications in the Latin-Polish characters, that is, in Lithuanian.

Muraviev and his successor, Kaufman, who issued a Formal Decree in 1864 to the main effect, felt that if the Russian Cyrillic letters were substituted for the Latin-Polish characters, the Lithuanian peasantry would be gradually absorbed into the Russian nation.

This use of "GRAZHDANKA" or Russian Cyrillic characters in Lithuania language works was not widely accepted, actually was boycotted by the Lithuanians. If effect, the Lithuanian printed word was banned and forty years of darkness fell upon the Lithuanian people.

Hindered, but not halted, such Lithuanian Patriots as Bishop M. Valancius of Samogitis (Zemaitija), had Lithuanian books in the Latin characters printed and reprinted in East Prussia, and then smuggled back to Lithuania. Thus, the Heroic Age of the Lithuanian Book Smuggler or Book-Legger (Knygnesiai) began. Brave peasant men and women, like Bielinis, risked life and limb to bring the Lithuanian printed word to the peasants.

Thousands of Book-Smugglers were imprisoned, deported or killed; yet, their efforts kept the Lithuanian language alive. In 1883, the first Lithuanian language patriotic newspaper "AUSZRA" was followed by Dr. Kudirka's "VARPAS", "SALTINIS", "TEVYNES SARGAS" and other newspapers.

Yet, officially, the Press Ban remained. Lithuania, the only country in Europe where a foreign ruler - Tsarist Russia - did not permit the living language of the indigenous population (Lithuania) to be used in public or in print. This anomaly lasted for forty years.

The Lithuanians themselves took various measures to overcome the ban legally. Memoranda, petitions and appeals were drafted and submitted to the various Russian Imperial Ministers and Agencies - but to no avail! Two Court cases speeded up the Repeal of the Press Ban.

In St. Petersburg, ANTANAS MACIJASKAS printed a map of Lithuania and Latvia using the Latin Characters. The map was confiscated in Vilnius. Macijauskas brought the case against the Russian Police Chief of Vilnius all the way to the Russian Imperial Senate, arguing that no law existed on the Russian Statutes that prohibited the use of Latin Characters in Lithuanian books and publications. MACIJASKAS won his case.

The Second Case was that of POVILAS VISINSKAS. This Liberal Activist posted placards printed in Latin characters in JONISKIS, publicizing a Lithuanian comedy. The police took him to court. VISINSKAS fought the case right up to the Highest Judicial Instance, the Imperial Senate - and he WON!

A public opinion favorable to the Lithuanian language was developing among the Russian Intelligentsia and liberal administrators. Finally, on May 7, 1904 Governor-General SVIATOPOLK-MIRSKY officially announced the abolition of the Press Ban.

The Lithuanian Intelligentsia was quick to take advantage and strove to make up for the period of darkness; newspapers and books in Lithuanian proliferated at accelerated speed to the surprise of the Russian Officials.

Today, eighty-five years later, we should reflect on the courage and faith of your forebearers in the printed Lithuanian Word.

Scott Nos. 272-277B and C71-C78, commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Newspaper "AUSZRA" Founding and its collaborators and Writers.

As has been previously mentioned, how, as Tischler and Grewingk had experienced, our people's culture, from long wars with the Germans, Poles and Gudai, weakened greatly, that finally became fatal by Christianity with all of its installed consequences; about which the best attestations are found in the Christian era mounds. Though the new faith's preached ideas changed much of the material life; nevertheless, the Lithuanian spiritual sphere yet lingered for a long time their old traditions; particularly, the belief in the old dogma of the soul's immortality, with its associated necro culture.

The name "Christian" for the Lithuanians, as we interpret their mounds, we see that yet in the XVII - XVIII centuries, they would incorporate in the old style, usually lesser artifacts, which clearly attests to its weakening, and failing people's culture. The Prussian Lithuanians, Protestant even to this day in spots, so continue.

With the Catholic Church's banning the cremation of bodies, the ancient people began burying their dead without cremation; but, it seems that they avoided burials near Catholic churches; so the Samogitian Bishop I.M. Karpis, in his 1737 published "*Epistola pastoralis*" instructed Priests to bury bodies no where else than in the consecrated cemeteries, especially close to the churches.

The Priests would often explain to the ordinary people (*Rudiorubus*) that, in those places where prayers were often offered for both the living and the dead, such interred deceaseds could receive help and be freed of sins.

Practically, the same was said by other Samogitian Bishops - supposedly Ant. Tiskevicius, who in his published book (1752) "*Synodus Dioecesis Miednicensis*" referring to, that those buried in the Parish Churchyards or in consecrated ground, such would receive fourteen day indulgences from their sins; and instructed Priests to force their parishioners to bury their deceased by the Church, and forbade them to bury them in the fields or forests as they had done in former times. "*Inhibeant passim in camis sylvique more ethnicorum sepeliri.*"

With great difficulty, it appears, that the Priests forced people to bury the deceased near Churches; so that, up to 1795, it was being fulfilled. In that year, there was a government ban on all burials in Church Yards; so that people, once again, made burials in their own village cemeteries, skipping the Bell Tower announcements and not informing the Priests about their deceased.

In the Samogitian Bishoprics, where the Clergy hierarchy more or less was concerned for the Propagation of the Christian Faith education and the Lithuanian language, so we notice that the ancient necrology continued so long, that the status of Christianity must have been much poorer in the Vilnius Bishopric amongst the Lithuanians were in churches throughout prevailed the unintelligible Polish language.

From the Vatican's Envoy Aleksander Kumulejaus (*Kumuleus*) who, in 1895 made an inspection of the Vilnius Diocese, we are informed that in those Dioceses, due to the ignorance of the Priests in not knowing the Lithuanian language, the people here were without any education about "Salvation" and the necessity of accepting the Holy Sacraments; and they lived, it might be said, like insane beasts (*iumenta insipientia*), ignorant of these Sacraments and even of God himself; and the greater part of the children mostly died without ever having been baptised.

From the Vilnius Diocese, Bishop Abraham Viono published in 1633 "*Constitutiones Synodarum Dioc. Vilensis*", we find, that at that time, throughout the Diocese on certain Holy Days, the people held feasts for the soul of the deceased on altars near the Church and in other cemeteries - drinking and fighting - so that the Bishops placed a ban on them.

Such feasts and celebrations in cemeteries continued somewhat later, in 1710, Bishop Brzostovskis also placed such a Ban; but, such also in Ad. Mickevicius' times, then and today, we till hear of such celebrations in places; particularly amongst the Lithuanian Guda people.

What was the status of Christianity in the Vilnius Diocese amongst the Lithuanians? Yet, in the XIX century beginning, we are informed that, from Bishop J.N. Korvin-Kossakowski, who in one "pastoral letter" of June 1, 1800, issued, in writing, about the people of the Diocese, who were "a rude people in this place had no knowledge and darkness remains" and adds: "that besides, the people did not know the first thing about Religion S."

If these fully competent attestations are sufficient to show that the christening Catholic Faith, The Lithuanians hung onto their ancient customs, tied in with the hecra cult; so, again from another angle, is the important fact, we can find more or less light that requires explanations for those Lithuanian Mound Memorials; which, without a doubt, are one of the more important evidences of this ancient necro culture.

Because, if the Lithuanians in their language have until now held onto these evidences of antiquity; and, if they, from their own type of religion to lately, have held to their customs and opinions about the soul of persons and their honoring in the oldest of ancient forms; then, it will be found that it is impossible to find it accidentally in those forms of art which are tied in with that cult; from our forefather's period, signs, which we find even in their burial mounds.

Information about the erection of Monuments on the Graves of the ancient Lithuanians, unfortunately, is lacking. From Chronicles, it is known that on the graves of heroes and on those of Mighty Individuals, Monuments were erected. Thus on the the Grave of Princess Pojata, on the shores of Lake Zasliu, her son, Prince Kukovaitis had erected a monument that people honored for a very long time; and, on the grave of Prince Kerno, opposite the Deltuva, had been erected "Honoris ejus statua ligne, quae deinde divinis caeremonis per plures annos culta". And on the grave of Prince Spero, there stood a monument which people honored and made gifts.

Prince Utenis erected near the Sventosios River, a monument on his father's grave "Statuam pedestrem". Of these ancient wooden monuments, none have endured; and only a few stone relics have been found - in Prussian territories.

TO THE MEMBERSHIP:

It is with great regret that we advise the membership of the passing, at age 82 in September, 1989, after illness, of our longtime Editor and President, Walter E. Norton (Norkevicius).

This is "his" bulletin, having been prepared but not printed prior to his demise. Fortunately, we have other articles he prepared for future bulletins which we will publish in succeeding issues along with a suitable IN MEMORIAM.

Please address future bulletin correspondence to J. Norton, LPSNY, P.O. Box 432, Syosset, NY 11791. We also ask the membership for help, especially with scholarly articles, news and information about our members and Lithuanian philately. Dues for 1989 are past due and payable. If you have yet to pay them, please send them promptly. Also, dues for 1990 are now due, and are \$8.00 US. Checks should be made payable to V. Alones, 217 Mckee Street, Floral Park, NY 11001.

1990 looks to be an extraordinary year for Lithuania, and Lithuanian philately as well. New Soviet approved Lithuanian (LTSR) currency and new Lithuanian (LTSR) stamps are expected to be issued by Summer 1990. We will do our best to keep you advised.