

BULLETIN



LITHUANIAN PHILATELIC
SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

LITHUANIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

DECEMBER 1989

BULLETIN No. 154

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

Very sorry to hear about Mr. Norton's passing. He did a fine job of producing worthwhile material for the bulletin. P.S. I appreciate the enhanced legibility of the recent newsletter.

Please extend my condolences to Mr. Norton's family about the death of Walter Norton.

I understand Walter Norton was the principal force in the production of the LPSNY Bulletin. Filling in the gap left by Mr. Norton's death may take a long time.

I am saddened to hear about his death. Over the years we had correspondence on many subjects I always enjoyed the LPSNY Bulletin and his comments to my questions.

I just received the September 1989 Bulletin with the sad news of Mr. Walter Norton's passing. Please accept my deepest condolences. Thank you very much for continuing with the Bulletin!

I am very pleased to see the latest issue of the Bulletin arrive. After Mr. Norton's death, I felt that the activities of the Society might cease. I wish the Society the best in continuing its activities and in producing the Bulletin which I have enjoyed for many years now.

Thank you for the new LPSNY Bulletin. The new method of printing is certainly an improvement. Congratulations!

It was with regret that I read of the passing of Walter, our long-time Editor and President. He was not only a pillar of our Society but in preserving our Society he also preserved our Heritage. I wish you well as his Successor.

I was very sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Walter Norton. I have enjoyed for so many years his excellent work of the LPSNY Bulletin. He will be sorely missed. My condolences to his family.

My sincere regrets over the passing away of Walter Norton. In my brief exposure to the literature of Lithuanian philately it quickly became apparent that he was a major, irreplaceable, figure.

I am sorry to hear of Walter's death. He will be missed. It is a very exciting time for all Baltic collectors. It appears that Lithuania will lead the way out of the Soviet Union. Then we just have the 45 years of postal history to catch up on. There has been little published regarding the republic's postal markings, due probably to the USSR not wanting to highlight non-Russian areas (the same is true for all non-Russian regions, not just the Baltics). It will be interesting to follow events.

Enclosed is replacement check. This is done regretfully, we all have such a short time among our fellow men. Mr. Walter Norton gave me assistance and guidance in my several research endeavors. His response to by letter inquiries are an integral part of my Lithuanian stamp collection. He set a high standard for all of us - we must honor him by attempting to do likewise.

The better printing of the Bulletin is greatly appreciated and I will be looking forward to the balance of issues in the future.

I am glad to see the Bulletin of the LPSNY back in business. Having not heard anything since the passing of my friend Walter Norton, I had feared that perhaps LPSNY was to become defunct. For about the last 10 years that I have collected Lithuania, the Bulletin has been the prime source of much vital information to me.

A great new bulletin. Keep it up and good luck.

I haven't been a member for several years since I had a disagreement with Walter about not receiving the bulletin. However, those times are past and we all owe a lot to Walter for all the good years he guided the society. Recent excitement about Lithuania possibly regaining independence has renewed my interest. Thank you and I look forward to a renewed society.

I was very sorry to hear the bad news about Walter Norton. Originally, I am from Philadelphia and every year I take a trip to Philadelphia and have tried to get in touch with Walter but had no luck on reaching him by phone. I learned about his death during the VAPEX Show held in Virginia Beach. I was very glad to learn that the club did not fold.

MEMBERS:

Recently Deceased:

#5 Walter E. Norton
#53 Dr. Constantine De Stackelberg
#169 John Keikulis
#318 Dr. Herman Krause
#414 A. Gruzdis
#494 Joseph Witkowski

Resigned:

#443 Norman L. Gary

MEMBERS - Do you know the current whereabouts of any of our fellow members listed below?

Mrs. E. W. Buckle
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Members may through September 30, 1990 acquire back issues (or if no more are available, photocopies) of all LPSNY Bulletins.

Bulletins #	1 thru 107	\$1.00 each postpaid
	# 108 thru 127	\$1.25 each postpaid
	# 128 thru 150	\$1.50 each postpaid
	# 151 on	\$2.00 each postpaid

Starting October 1, 1990 the price of all LPSNY back issue bulletins will be \$2.50 each postpaid.

Kindly send your order and check to:

Mr. Vince Alones
217 McKee Street
Floral Park, NY 11001

SOME POSTAL HISTORY OF LITHUANIA
April - May, 1919

Walter E. Norton

A batch of seventy-two covers has recently come to light and appears to document a great deal of Lithuania's early postal history and the development of its postal system after just four months of operation.

All but two of the seventy-two covers were addressed to:

Kaunas
Pasto Valdyba
i uzsieni

One cover was addressed to:

Telegrafo Valdyba
Kaunas
i uzsieni

One cover was addressed to the United States:

Mister Mojzrym Wladyslaw
664 W. Portland Street
Baltimore, Md. America

All of these letters were mailed by provincial Post Offices and were addressed to the Main Post Office in Kaunas evidently for the purpose of forwarding their contents to their foreign destinations.

Since the only foreign destination that Lithuania had any Postal Convention with, at this time period, was Germany, so that mail was being sent from the Provinces addressed to Germany or other foreign destinations had to be forwarded to the Kaunas Main Post Office for further forwarding.

It seems odd that such foreign-destined mail from the Provinces, each had to be enclosed in a separate envelope for the forwarding to Kaunas; and on that envelope, the Provincial Post Office had to affix additional postage stamps to pay the tariff for its transmission to the Kaunas Main Post Office.

Even though some Provincial Post Offices sent five different letters for forwarding that same day, each was evidently separately enclosed in another envelope for their transmission. There must not have been any formal means for transmitting inter-agency mail, such as mail pouches; or perhaps the volume of such inter-agency mail was insignificant and did not warrant same.

In the absence of "Official" stamps or other special dispensation for the Postal Agencies to waive the use of postage stamps on inter-postal-agency mail, the Provincial Post Office had to affix ordinary postage stamps on such mail. Only one such letter was different. It enclosed three foreign-destined letters into a single envelope but franked the letter with three postage stamps and made a notation on the envelope: "Three Letters - Three Stamps".

It also seems odd that this batch included one cover sent from the PILVISKIAI Post Office addressed to the "Telegraph Administration" dated 25.IV.19. Evidently, the same postal conditions governed the forwarding as the letter was franked with the normal domestic letter postage of 30sk. What the contents of this letter may have been is subject to speculation. Most likely: A Telegram.

Another Letter addressed to the United States, dated 24.IV.19 was franked with Two 30sk. postage stamps to cover the foreign tariff; but since there was no Postal Convention with the United States, nor any Official Status in the Universal Postal Union in this time period, this letter must have lain in the Postal Archives as unforwardable, along with this whole batch of seventy-one letters sent to Kaunas as Inter-Agency postal mail for forwarding.

A variety of Hand Writing is found in the addressing on the envelopes. All are usually in Black Ink; though, several Provincial Post Offices, notably KEDAINIAI, SAKIAI and MICHELMONT used indelible ink or pencil; while, ZAGARE cancelled the postage stamp with Violet indelible ink, the address on the letter was written in Black Ink.

In general, The Hand-Writing was usually in Large Lettering and readily readable. The Spelling varies with the individual addressing the letters:

"POST" was spelled: "Pasta", "Pasto", "Pastu" and "Pact" or "Pacto"

"ADMINISTRATION" was spelled: "Valdyba", "Valdybai", or "Waldyba".

"FOREIGN" was spelled: "Uzseini", "Uzsieni", "Uzsienie", "Uzsienija", "Usienj" or "Uzrubezi" (Beyond the Border)

The Positioning of the Postage Stamp on the Letters Vary:

17-Upper Right	4-Upper Left	1-Upper Left & Upper Right
2-Center Right	4-Center Left	1-Lower Mid Center
7-Lower Right	22-Lower Left	1-Rev. Side: Center
		1-Rev. Side: Center and Upper Right

The Postage Stamps used for franking these letters addressed to the Kaunas Main Post Office by the Provincial Post Offices in late April 1919 were:

15sk. + 15sk. of the III Kaunas Type-Set Issue	(10)
30sk. of the III Kaunas Type-SSet Issue	(5)
30sk. of the IV Berlin Issue	(30)
10sk. + 10sk. + 10sk. of the IV Berlin Issue	(12)
10sk. + 20sk. of the IV Berlin Issue	(4)
15sk. + 15sk. of the IV Berlin Issue	(3)
30sk. + 30sk. of the IV Berlin Issue (USA)	(1)
30sk. + 30sk. + 30sk. of the IV Berlin Issue (3 Letters)	(1)

The Dates appearing in the Cancellations on this Batch of Letters is:

1- Apr. 14	4- Apr. 21	10- Apr. 25	2- May 5
2- Apr. 15	5- Apr. 22	1- Apr. 26	1- May 8
1- Apr. 18	6- Apr. 23	1- Apr. 27	1- May 9
2- Apr. 19	8- Apr. 24	1- Apr. 28	1- May 10

Thirteen Letters were undated, and mostly cancelled with the Provincial Post office Seal.

The week of April 21-26, 1919 evidently had the heaviest usage in this batch of letters and will be considered as representative in establishing this period of Lithuania's Postal History being herewith presented what had been accomplished after four months of Lithuanian Postal Administration efforts in the development of their Postal System from SCRATCH.

Only one of the letters was Registered and that was the one sent from KELME 8.V.19 to the Postal Administration in Kaunas. It bore a Provisional Hand-Written Registry Cachet "A 54 Kelme" and also had a KAUNAS *a* 14.V.19 Receiving Postmark.

FORMAL 29mm. CIRCULAR CALENDAR DATED CANCELS appeared only from Two Towns:

MARIJAMPOLE Post Office was opened in January 1919 (Puida) and its Cancels *a* dated: 22.IV.19 (1); 23.IV.19 (1); 25.IV.19 (6)

NAUMTESTIS Post Office was authorized to be opened on Dec. 26, 1918 (Puida) and its *a* Cancel appeared on One Cover dated: 26.IV.19 (1)

RUBBER STAMPED CIRCULAR CANCELS appeared from Three Towns:

KEDAINIAI Post Office was authorized to be opened on Dec. 26, 1918 (Puida) and its 32mm. Diam. Double-Lined Violet Circle with a "ooo" design is repeated 14 times along the inner edge of the circle with no text inside. Inside was usually a hand-written date or undated.

Undated (6); 19/IV (2); 21/IV (5); 23/IV (1); 24/IV (6); 25/IV (1)

RASFINIAI

Post Office came under Government Control in February 1919. (Puida) It used its LOCAL, 33mm. Double-Ringed Violet Circular Cancel:

Violet Cancel - Dated: 23.IV.1919
Blue Cancel - Dated: 9. V.1919

VIRBALIS
(See
Exhibit 2)

Post Office was opened in March 1919 (Puida) used a LOCAL 33mm. Diam. Black Double-Lined Circular Cancel with a two-Line text within: VIRBALIO
MIESTO

One Letter Undated; Other Hand-Written within Circle
Below the Text: 25.4.19

RUBBER STAMPED SINGLE-LINE, STRAIGHT-LINE ROMAN LETTERING CANCELS

SAKIAI

Post Office was authorized to be opened on Dec. 26, 1918 (Puida)

Cancel stamped in Violet with hand-written date below: 24.IV

POST OFFICE OFFICIAL SEALS USED AS CANCELS:

JURBARKAS
(See Exhibit 3)

Post Office Opened in January 1919 (Puida)

"JURBARKAS PAST-TELFGR." VYTIS Design in center, Four Letters were undated; One Letter dated: 22/April, cyrillic date stamp

TAURAGE
(See Exhibit 4)

Post Office was opened in February 1919 (Puida)

"TAURAGE PAST-TELEGR." VYTIS Design in center; Nine Letters - all undated

At this point, a question could be raised about the use of the Post Office Official Seal as a Cancellator? Was its use simply a Provisional Cancellation used in the absence of a formal cancellator? or, could it have been used to indicate that this was OFFICIAL INTER-POSTAL AGENCY Communication?

TAURAGE had a Provisional, Single-Line, Straight-Line 37x9mm. TAURAGE cancel in use as late as 14.IV.1919 and later. The use of both cancellators concurrently might lead to the interpretation that the Seal was being used for Official dispatches.

ALYTUS Post Office Seal has also been used similarly on letters addressed to the Kaunas Main Post Office for foreign forwarding.

Our LPSNY Handbook for "Postage Stamps of Lithuania" lists the date for the issue of the IV Berlin Series of Postage Stamps as May 8, 1919. This batch of letters finds some of their values enjoying earlier use in some of the Provincial Post Offices:

10sk. - 19.IV.19 from KALVARIJA and KEDAINIAI
15sk. - 22.IV.19 from MARIJAMPOLE and VILKAVISKIS
20sk. - 23.IV.19 from MARIJAMPOLE
30sk. - 19.IV.19 from KALVARIJA and KEDAINIAI

As for the balance of the covers in this batch, we find a large assortment of Hand-Written, Manuscript Cancellations in use as late as May 1919 - four months after the Postal System had been taken over from the Germans on December 26, 1918. The details of the various Hand-Written, Manuscript Cancellations from the following Provincial Towns are here detailed:

KALVARIJA Post Office was opened in January 1919 (Puida)

Kalvarija
19 / IV

Hand-Written in Black Ink, Diagonally Upwards across the 30sk. Postage Stamp and tied to the cover (2).

KEDAINIAI Post Office was authorized to be opened on December 26, 1918 (Puida)

Use of the 32mm. Diam. Double-Lined Circle in Violet Ink with a "ooo" design repeated 14 times inside the circle along its inner edge with no stamped text inside.

Kedainie
19 / IV

Hand-Written on Pairs and multiple Pieces (3) the text "Kedainie" often undated, usually hand-written in Violet or Black Ink across the face of the stamps. On single stamps, the text is usually hand-written Diagonally Downward across the postage stamp and may be tied to the cover.

KELME Post Office was opened in March 1919 (Puida). A Registered Letter with a Provisional Hand-Written Registry Etiquette in Black Ink

A 54 Kelme

8-5-19 Kelme

Cancel reads Vertically Upwards. Cover also has the Receiving Post Mark of KAUNAS *a* 14.5.19

MICHELMONT
(See
Exhibit 5)

The name of this town was omitted from the list of Post Office openings in 1919 that were listed by K. Puida, and its location was quite an enigma for the Author. It seems that this town name had been used officially up to about 1921 and it can be found on some of the earlier maps.

MICHELMONT was the Railroad Station on the Kaunas-Siauliai line located 4km. South of ZEIMIAI whose Post Office was listed by Puida as having been opened in April 1919.

This unique letter was addressed to the United States as previously described and was most likely to have been placed on hold in the Archives together with the rest of this batch of covers since there was no postal convention existing for its forwarding. The two 30sk. postage stamps horizontally across the stamp and tied to the cover:

24 / IV 19
Michelmont

PILVISKIAI

This single letter of the batch was the one addressed to the

Telegrafo Valdyba
I Uzsienu

Pilviskiai
25-IV-19

Kaunas is not mentioned in the Address and the 30sk. postage stamp is manuscript cancelled in Black Ink. Puida mentions that this Post Office was opened in March 1919.

PRIENAI

This Post Office was opened in January 1919 (Puida) and the cover has a hand-written Cancellation in Black Ink reading

Prienai
10 / V 19

The Cancel reads Vertically Upward across the postage stamp but is not tied to the cover.

SEDA

Puida lists this Post Office as having been opened in February 1919, and the single cover in this lot has a hand-written Cancel text in Red Ink

SEDA
28-4-19

reading diagonally Upward across the 30sk. postage stamp of the IV Berlin Issue but is not tied to the cover.

SAKIAI

This Post Office was authorized to be opened on December 26, 1919 and the several covers in the batch all bore manuscript cancels, hand-written variously in Violet Ink:

SAKIAI/23/IV Horizontally tied to cover
SAKIAI 5/ V Vertically tied to cover
SAKIAI 5/ V Horizontally tied to cover
Rubber Stamped SAKIAI 24/IV Horizontally tied to
Cover
Rubber Stamped SAKIAI 11/ V Horizontally tied to
Cover

VILKAVISKIS

This Post Office was authorized to be opened December 26, 1918 (Puida)

Four Covers, all manuscript cancelled on 28 / IV in Black Ink Diagonally Upward to the Right across a single stamp that is not always tied to the Cover.

Vilkaviskis
28 / IV / 19

Also, two covers franked with vertical pairs of the 15sk. stamps of the IV Berlin Issue, with a hand-written cancel as above but not tied to the cover.

VIRBALIS

This Post Office was opened in March 1919 (Puida). In addition to the two covers listed previously bearing Rubber Stamped Circular Cancels, this cover bears a Hand-Written Cancel in Black Ink reading diagonally upward across the 30sk. postage stamp and is tied to the cover at both ends of the town name.

Virbalis
27/IV 19

ZAGARE

This Post Office was opened in April 1919 (Puida) and in this lot, we find four covers franked with III Kaunas Provisional Type-Set postage stamps all bearing a two-line Violet Hand-Written Cancel, located entirely within the postage stamp.

Zagare
14/IV 19

ZIEZMARIAI (See Exhibit 6)

This Post Office is listed by Puida as having been opened in May 1919, but the evidence on this cover seems to indicate that it was already in operation on April 23, 1919.

THIS WAS THE ONLY COVER franked with Three 30sk. postage stamps of the IV Berlin Issue cancelled with a hand-written test in Black Ink across the three postage stamps as pictured below:

23/IV 23/IV 23/IV
Z i e z m a r i a i

Additional Notation hand-written on the cover as previously mentioned in this article:

"3 Letters / 3 Stamps"

It is only in rare instances that such finds of Postal History material comes to light and enhances our knowledge on the postal activity existent at that certain time period, particularly, in this case, in the absence of any official postal documentation.

KAUNAS TYPESET ISSUES STUDY

LPSNYer Mr. V. Valantinas has submitted to our Society for printing a monumental study of the Kaunas type-set issues including the so called Mariampole issue. The study consists of 93 pages with tables and 20 x 20 full sheet photos. We ask the members for their input, whether we should serialize it in the Bulletin or print it as a separate publication. Do any other members have articles/studies ready for submission? Please let us know.

FOR SALE: Because of poor health and impaired vision, V. Romanas is offering an album of Lithuania with 44 full sets and 24 not full. Similarly offering Memel-Klaipeda, some 600 covers from Soviet Russia, Rome, Etc., USA plate blocks, full sheets with face value of \$500.00 and some United Nations. Anyone interested write to: V. Romanas, 160 Seneca St. Pittston, PA 18640.

FOR SALE: Our Handbook - Postage Stamps of Lithuania - a wonderful gift for family, friends and now Libraries in Lithuania. Price \$18.00 each postpaid. Also our Handbook Price List Supplement, \$10.00 each postpaid. Kindly send your order and check to [REDACTED]

VINCENT W ALONES
217 MC KEE ST
FLORAL PARK, NY 11001

EXHIBIT 1

SOME POSTAL HISTORY OF LITHUANIA
APRIL - MAY 1919



Cover franked with 30 sk (4th Berlin vertical pair and single, 10 sk red) pen cancelled Kedainie in violet ink and hand cancelled by 32mm circular double-lined violet "o□□o" design canceller, undated, to Postal Administration to Foreign Lands, Kaunas.

SOME POSTAL HISTORY OF LITHUANIA
APRIL - MAY 1919



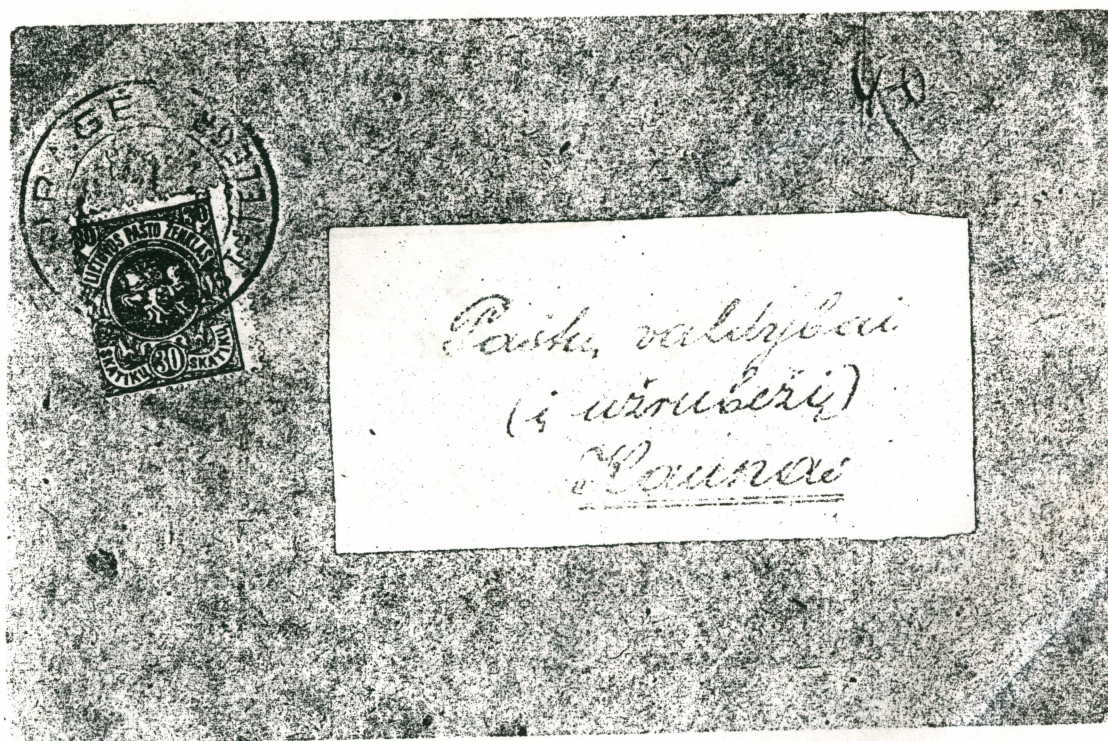
Cover franked with 30 sk (4th Berlin 30 sk buff single)
hand cancelled Virbalio Miesto 25-4-19 by 33mm circular
double-lined black cancels to Postal Administration to
Foreign Lands, Kaunas.

SOME POSTAL HISTORY OF LITHUANIA
APRIL - MAY 1919



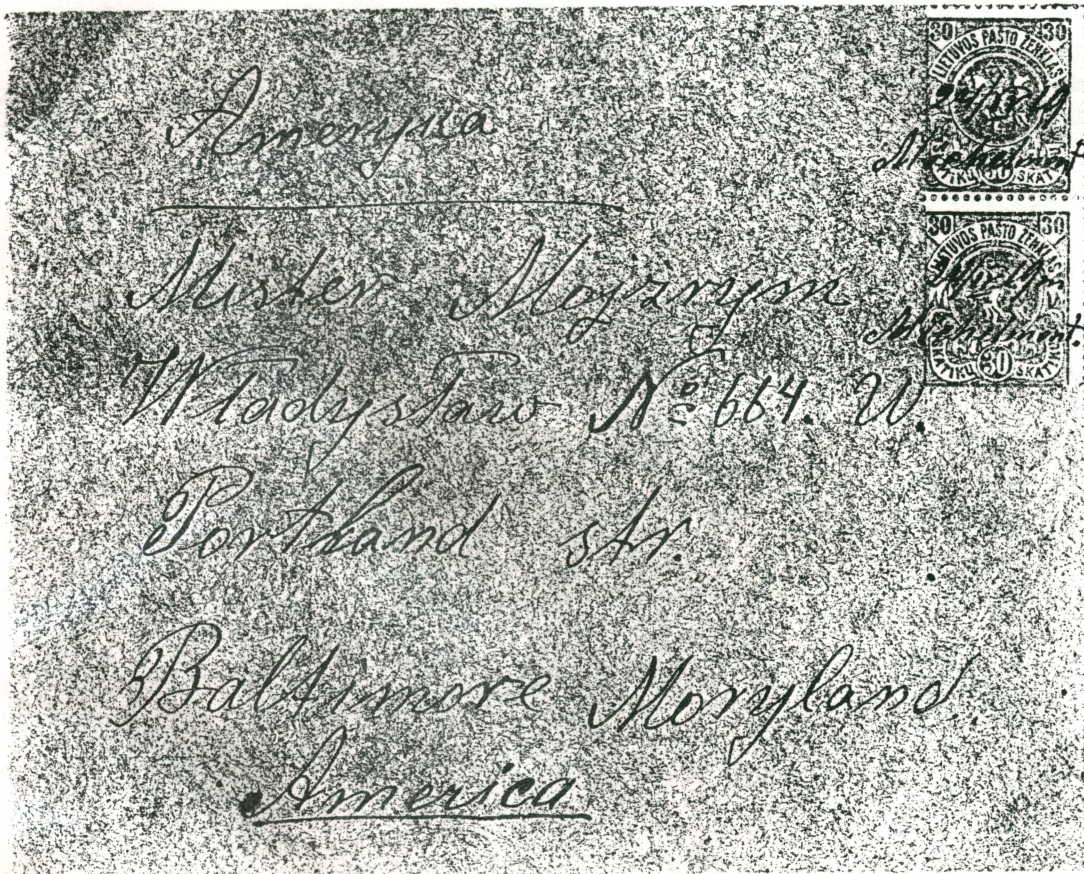
Cover franked with 30 sk (4th Berlin 30 sk buff single)
hand cancelled Jurbarkas Past.-Telegr. (Vytis design in
center), 22 Apr. 1919 (cyrillic hand date stamp), 33mm
circular double-lined violet canceller to Postal Administration
to Foreign Lands, Kaunas.

SOME POSTAL HISTORY OF LITHUANIA
APRIL - MAY 1919



Cover franked with 30 sk (4th Berlin 30 sk buff single)
hand cancelled Taurage Past.-Telegr., undated, by 33mm
double ringed violet circular cancel to Postal Administration
to Foreign Lands, (hctograph label), Kaunas.

SOME POSTAL HISTORY OF LITHUANIA
APRIL - MAY 1919



Cover franked with 60 sk (vertical pair of 4th Berlin 30 sk buff) black pen cancel Michelmont 24/IV 19 addressed to Baltimore, Maryland, America; no receiving cancel.

SOME POSTAL HISTORY OF LITHUANIA
APRIL - MAY 1919



Cover franked with 90 sk (horizontal strip of three 30 sk buff) black pen cancelled Žiezmariai 23/IV with additional hand written notation 3 letters/3 stamps, to Postal Administration to Foreign Lands, Kaunas.