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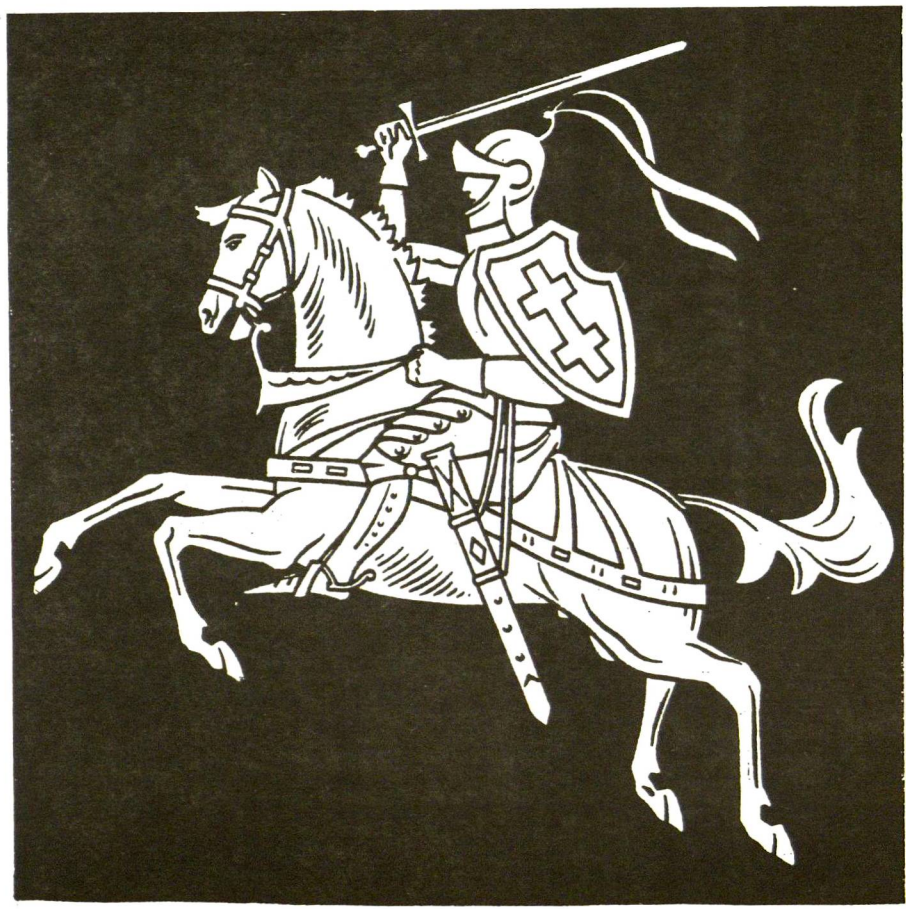
BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

P.O. BOX 3050, WORCESTER, MA 01613-3050

Volume 13, No. 2

February 1989



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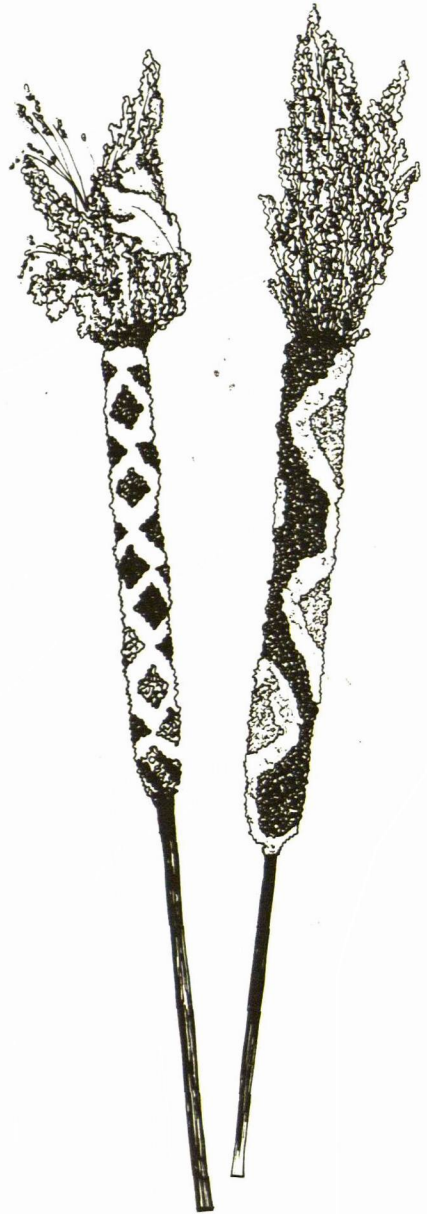
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Bridges published by the Lithuanian-American Community, U.S.A., Inc., ten times a year. Through the news journal, the publishers hope to re-establish ties between the detached mobile Lithuanian-Americans and their Lithuanian heritage by presenting items on Lithuanian culture, conditions in the homeland, events and personalities in America, and the aspirations of all who subscribe to the goal that Lithuania must and will be an independent free nation again.

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From the Desk of the Managing Editor

Each February, the Lithuanian Communities throughout the free world commemorate the restoration of the Lithuanian independence day, usually the Sunday before or after February 16th, which is the day in 1918, seventy-one years ago that the Lithuanian National Council — *Lietuvos Taryba* — issued the declaration of restored Lithuanian independence.

This month *Bridges* focuses in part on this important occasion and relates the events of seven decades ago to those of today. News items detailing current events, my thoughts on the Lithuanian National Anthem, Lithuanian Declaration of Independence and a verbatim translation into English of the documents are presented as the main topics of this month's issue.

It's true that there are striking similarities between the situation in Lithuania today and that of the turn of the century (ca 1905) when the thoughts of restoring Lithuania's sovereignty first came into the minds of Lithuania's intelligentsia during Lithuania's Renaissance. Thirteen years later, independence was restored. Based on current events in Lithuania, I wonder if Lithuania's independence will be restored, within thirteen years this time.

But, whatever the case, we here in the free world have the solemn duty to commemorate the 71st Anniversary of the Restoration of Lithuanian Independence and the 738th year of the Lithuanian Nation in a fitting way. This day for us is a day of joy that is touched with sadness, that brings a tear to our eyes and a lump into our throats. This is nothing to be ashamed of, because our emotions are real and not contrived. The passing of the day to remember independence must not end our activity, but rather should cement us together in our resolve for continuing activism, each in his own way on Lithuania's behalf.

We must remember that in this, the era of supposed warming-up of East-West relations, no concessions are forthcoming. There are those who feel that our commemoration is an anachronism, a remembrance of a time long-since passed. In all actuality, one cannot emphasize enough, the importance of remembering, lest we forget, if only once a year.

Indeed, changed circumstances, as some observers claim, could make our commemorations ironic at best, and cynical at worst. While the United States' East-West relations policy assumes that the Soviet Union will honor all agreed upon treaties, our eyes should now finally be, at long last opened wide, what with the continued trials and convictions of human rights activists and the defections of prominent persons and those not so prominent.

Even if indications are that the impenetrable iceberg which froze relations between the Soviet Union and the United States during the Cold War seems to be melting somewhat — taking the analogy a bit further, the top, as is characteristic of an iceberg, melts a bit, while for miles into the ocean's depths, the iceberg remains as solidly frozen as ever. So it is in the case of East-West relations. The facts remain though, that Lithuania and the forty-four other captive nations now under the Communist yoke are still very captive, and as in the case of the iceberg — frozen solid into the Soviet Bloc.

Observers say that in the name of pragmatism, the Western World regards speaking out on human rights issues for the enslaved nations as untimely. The least the western bloc should do is to make life for the oppressed a little more bearable. In my view, though, this is not enough. If we allow freedom-loving people to continue to live under the Communist system against their will, because to speak out is untimely, and do nothing, we all, each and every one of us would be guilty, singly and collectively of abandoning our brothers and sisters who struggle for their mere survival each day. We would be putting wood into the fire of oppression, that upon engulfing that precious freedom in flames, that freedom would be destroyed, becoming nothing but a smoldering pile of ashes.

The undeniable principle of liberty for all men is the basis for our own freedom because without the guarantee of freedom for all people, regardless of nationality, we are not truly free.

Eduardas V. Meilunas

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Šis žurnalas leidžiamas savaitiškai ir leidžiamas su
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Vilniaus redaktorius A. Smetona, vieningi bendradarbiai M. Biržiška, P. Bagašius, P. Klimas, I. Štamburka, agr. A. Stulginskis, dr. A. Šaulys
 ir A. Zimadaisovskas

№ 22 (70)

Vilnius, antradienis, 1918 m. vasario mėn. 19 d.

II metal

LIETUVOS TARYBA skelbia

Lietuvos nepriklausomybę

Lietuvos Taryba savo posėdyje vasario m. 16 d. 1918 m. vienu balsu nutarė kreiptis: į Rusijos, Vokietijos ir kitų valstybių vyriausybes šiuo pareiškimu:

Lietuvos Taryba, kaip vienintelė lietuvių tautos atstovybė, remdamos pripažintąja tautų apsisprendimo teise ir lietuvių Vilniaus konferencijos nutarimu rugsėjo m. 18—23 d. 1917 metais, **skelbia atstautanti nepriklausomą, demokratiniiais pamatais sutvarkytą Lietuvos valstybę su sostine VILNIUJE** ir tą valstybę atskirianti nuo visų valstybinių ryšių, kurie yra buvę su kitomis tautomis.

Drauge Lietuvos Taryba pareiškia, kad Lietuvos valstybės pamatus ir jos santykius su kitomis valstybėmis privalo galutinai nustatyti kiek galima greičiau susauktas Steigiamasis Seimas, demokratiniu būdu visų jos gyventojų išrinktas.

Vilnius, vasario 16 d. 1918 m.

Lietuvos Tarybos nariai:

Dr. J. Basanavičius, K. Bizauskas, M. Biržiška, S. Banaitis, P. Dovydaitis, St. Kairys, P. Klimas, D. Malinauskas, V. Mironas, St. Narutavičius, A. Petrulis, Dr. J. Šaulys, K. Saulys, J. Šernas, A. Stulginskis, A. Smetona, J. Smilgevičius, J. Staugaitis, J. Vailokaitis, J. Villeišis.

Editors Note:

On the opposite page, we have published a copy of the front page of *Lietuvos Aidas*, "Lithuania's Echo," which announced the restoration of Lithuanian independence, and the official Lithuanian text of the Declaration.

On February 16, 1918, the 20 members of the Lithuanian National Council — *Lietuvos Taryba* — formally adopted and signed the official declaration of the Restoration of Lithuanian Independence at 12:00 noon.

It was a document of but 106 words, yet this document summed up the will of the Lithuanian Nation to be reborn after over a century of foreign domination. What follows is my verbatim translation of Lithuania's Declaration of Restored Independence.

Vilnius, February 16, 1918

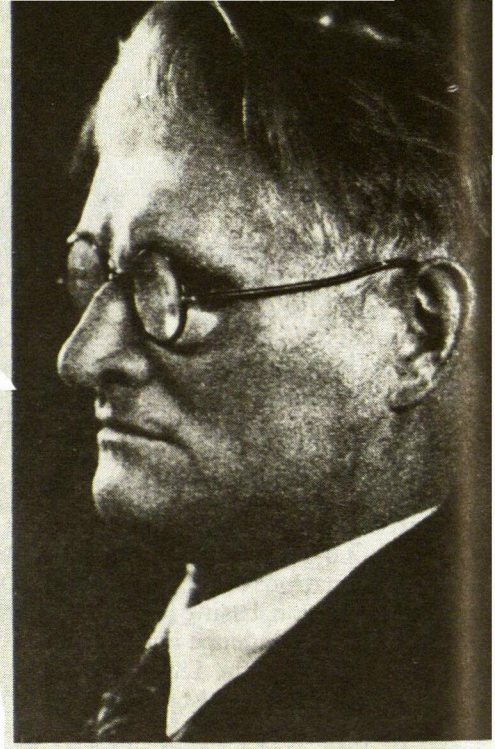
As a result of its meeting, The Lithuanian National Council stands unanimously resolved, to call upon Russia, Germany, and all other nations of the world, to recognize that the Lithuanian National Council, in its capacity as the sole voice of the Lithuanian Nation, basing itself on the principles of national self-determination, declares to the world the Restoration of Lithuanian Independence and the reestablishment of the Lithuanian State, based upon democratic principles, with its capital in Vilnius. The Lithuanian State declares that all ties with any nation previously existent are severed, that diplomatic relations be established with other free nations, and that a constitution governing the Lithuanian Republic be drafted and implemented by a Constituent Assembly duly elected by the Lithuanian people, in accordance with the principles of democracy and equality.

The 20 men who signed this declaration of the Restoration of Lithuanian Independence have rightfully taken their place of honor in Lithuania's 738-year-old history as architects of the Lithuanian Republic. These men took the bold step in the name of the entire Lithuanian Nation. The Lithuanian Republic was born.



The 20 members of The Lithuanian National Council listen as president of the council, Dr. Jonas Basanavicius reads The Declaration of the Restoration of Lithuanian independence.

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FIRST AND FOURTH
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SECOND PRESIDENT**



Reflection On The Lithuanian National Anthem

By *Eduardas V. Meilus, Jr.*

The Lithuanian National Anthem, LIETUVA TĖVYNĖ MŪSŲ, written by Dr. Vincas Kudirka, one of the Fathers of Lithuania's rebirth, was published in the Lithuanian underground journal *Varpas. The Bell*, for the first time in 1898 as *Tautiška Giesmė* — A National Hymn. This work was adopted as the reborn Lithuanian Republic's national anthem in 1919, seventy years ago this month, and one year after the restoration of Lithuanian independence on February 16, 1918.

The anthem is heard at a variety of occasions here in the free world at public commemorations, youth camps, and other events. Recently the public singing of the anthem in Lithuania, forbidden for nearly five decades, has been sanctioned as part of *Atgimimas* — Lithuania's rebirth.

Whenever I sing those 16 lines, the following comes to mind; the Anthem begins:

Lietuva Tėvynę Mūsų, Tu Didvyrių Zemė

Lithuania, my country, land of might you'll ever be. You are the land where my father was born. This is where my roots are, deep in history. This is the land of heroes, not only of people like you and me. By reading history, one can see that many men and women defended Lithuania to their deaths. Because of this history, the Anthem continues:

Iš Praeities Tavo Sūnūs, Te Stiprybe Semia

From your past, your fond sons will gather strength from you. The 738-year history of Lithuania, the rule of Vytautas the Great, when Lithuania stretched from the Baltic to the Black Sea, when Lithuania was the most powerful nation in Europe, Lithuania's Golden Age in the 14th and 15th Centuries. It is from this that our brother and sister Lithuanians gather the strength to resist Soviet oppression.

Tegul Tavo Vaiki Eina, Vien Takais Dorybės

This is a goal for all of us to strive for — May you always walk down the roads of virtue. Lithuania has never been a warring nation, or had vainglorious visions of world conquest or domination. For that reason, I must note that not one word of the Lithuania National Anthem speaks of the glories of war or conquest. The Anthem continues:

Tegul Dirba Tavo Naudai Ir Žmonių Gėrybei

Let us all work for the betterment of the nation especially in these, the times of oppression, so that the culture, traditions and history of Lithuania, would never die.

Tegul Saulė, Lietuvos, Tamsumus Prašalina, Ir Šviesa, Ir Tiesa, Mūs Zingsnius Telydi

Fount of light, Lithuania, may your bright sun pierce all that is in darkness. Show us Truth's noble way and we will follow in your sight. All our efforts on Lithuania's behalf are in the spirit of truth, it is our righteous cause. We must vow to dispel all darkness, be it the darkness of oppression or the darkness of ignorance. Truth will set Lithuania free.

Tegul Meilė Lietuvos, Dega Mūsų Širdyse, Vardan Tos Lietuvos, Vienybė Težydi

In our hearts, Lithuania, love for you will flourish forever. In the name of our Lithuania, may unity flourish forever.

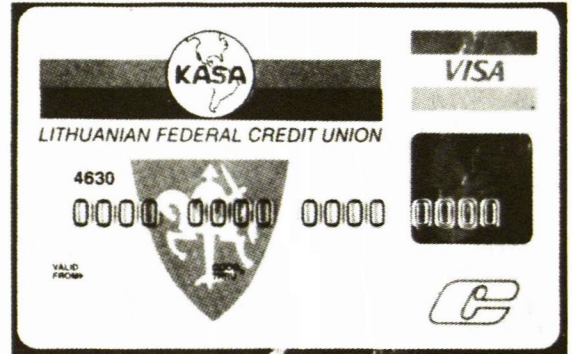
From reading my interpretation I'm sure that you have noticed that the Lithuanian National Anthem speaks of an inner strength and resolve that the Lithuanian people draw from our national culture, traditions, heritage and 738-year history as a nation.

Therein lies our hope for the return of Lithuania as a free and sovereign nation to the community of the world. Be proud when you sing our national anthem! Reflect on its meaning and history!

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Kosciuszko and Gorbachev

©by Albert Cizauskas

You may well ask: What has the Soviet ruler in common with a man who is remembered today, if at all, as a "Pole" who helped the American colonists gain independence?

Bridges' readers will recall that Kosciuszko was born in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania of Lithuanian-Ruthenian heritage (see *Bridges*, February, 1985). He was a hero of the successful American Revolution and of the unsuccessful rebellion of Poles and Lithuanians against Czarist Russia. What is less well known, and what is even more significant about Kosciuszko, is that the core of his political philosophy is his belief in the freedom of all men, even serfs and slaves, and in the need for education and economic independence to make this belief viable. He was one of the first statesmen-philosophers to understand that political freedom is a necessary precondition of social and economic justice. This message has particular significance today.

Leaders of the Russian Revolution of 1917 promised the masses both political freedom and economic welfare. In order to achieve these heroic goals however, Lenin and Stalin set up a "Dictatorship of the Proletariat," that is, in the name of the "people" that abolished political freedom in order to realize economic well-being. All economic resources and means of production were socialized, in theory belonging to all the people in common. What happened is that the people possessed nothing individually, because everything belonged to a dictatorial state in their name. Farmers were brutally collectivized by Stalin who butchered millions of uncooperative peasants in one of history's horrifying episodes of genocide. Laborers had no choice but to work for industries entirely governed from the Kremlin.



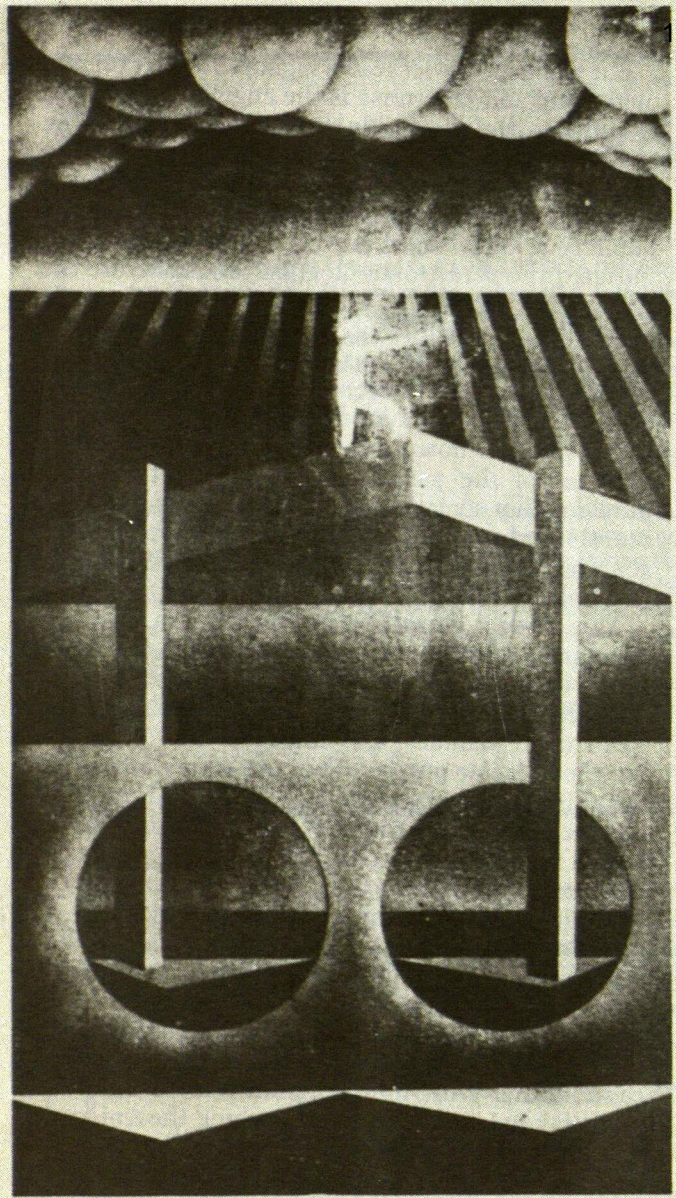
But what the Soviet leaders ignored is that private ownership and enterprise is the engine of economic growth. As the inevitable result, the people of the Soviet Union entered a long period of economic stagnation. Today, that economy is a basket case, and matters have so deteriorated, that Gorbachev has publicly acknowledged the fact. For this reason, he initiated the perestroika program to restructure the ailing Soviet economy. But in order to make more acceptable the hard sacrifices the long-suffering Soviet masses would have to endure, Gorbachev tried to bribe them with a pale imitation of political freedom, glasnost, or "openness" of expression. Anyone in the Soviet can now criticize openly the errors and excesses of the past 70 years of Soviet misrule, provided that socialism itself is not questioned. In a sense, Gorbachev's programs are a back-handed acknowledgement of the basic truth of Kosciuszko's principles.

This partial grant of free speech has been accompanied by a selective loosening of the harsh bonds imposed on religion. Certainly, the Russians, and even some of the captive non-Russian people, like the Lithuanians, are pleased by these changes, but they are also puzzled. They are asking, what does all this mean, and where will it lead to? Can Gorbachev, an enlightened despot in comparison with a monster like Stalin and a corrupt bureaucrat like Brezhnev, survive the byzantine politics of the Kremlin? Can freedom be rationed, and still be meaningful? Or is freedom like religion, a seamless garment which cannot be divided without losing its identity?

That's why it's important for Lithuanians to remember that February 12th is Kosciuszko's birthdate, and that another great humanitarian was born on this same day. In Lincoln's immortal words, the American nation was "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." Lincoln, however, was speaking of political and social freedom. Years earlier, Kosciuszko, as the leader of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, not only freed the serfs from their slave-like bondage, but also enfranchised them economically by promising them the right to own the land they lived on.

It's ironic that the Soviet Union, which denied political freedom as a temporary expedient in order to achieve economic welfare, is now a state which has neither. Gorbachev would do well to pay heed to the fullness of Kosciuszko's message, that genuine political freedom is an essential support of economic welfare, based on private ownership, and vice versa.

The disparate histories of Soviet socialism and American democracy have demonstrated the validity of this principle enunciated by a Lithuanian, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, two hundred years ago.

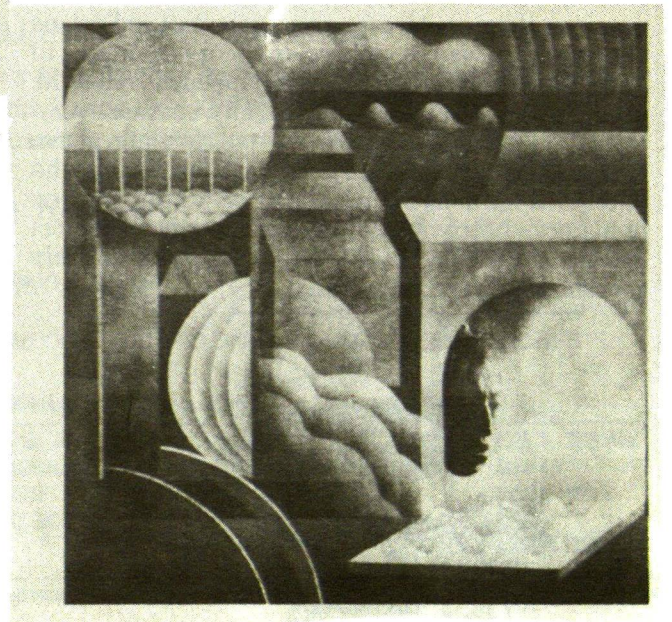


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Artist
Zita Godeika

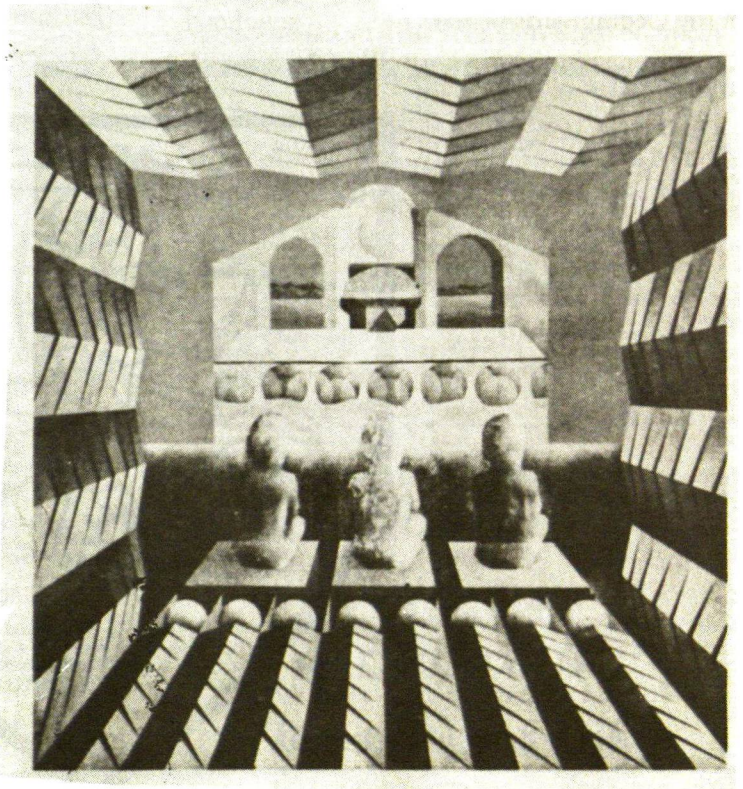
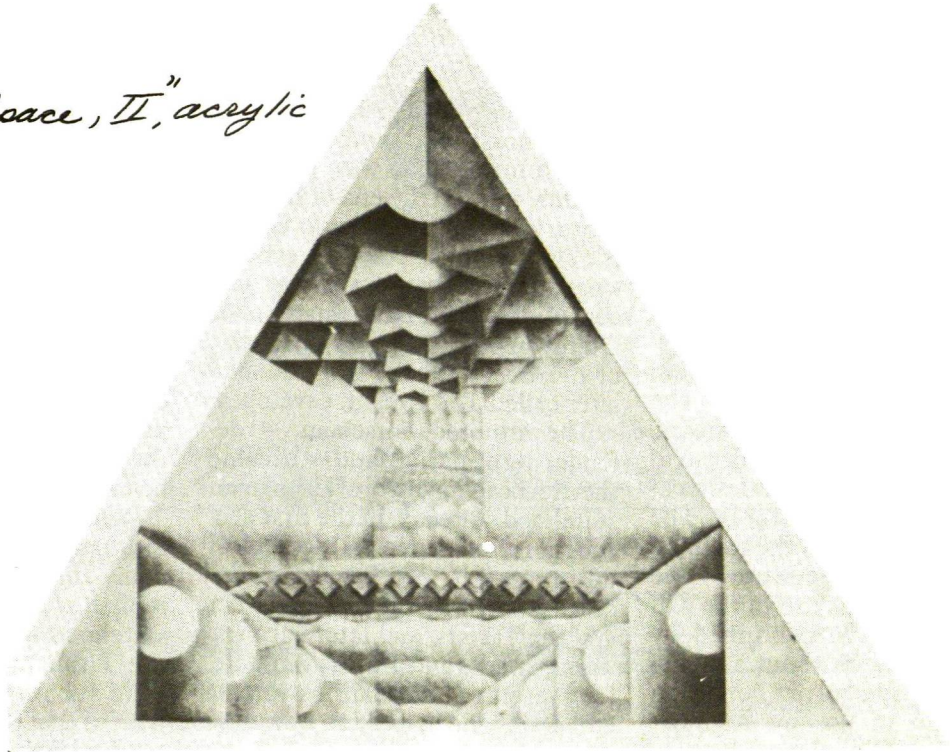
"Eternal Evening Reflections"
acrylic

"In The Beginning", acrylic



10

"Inner Space, II," acrylic



"And They Are Waiting"

acrylic

Vytis — The Knight

by *Edmundas Rimša*
"Kultūros Barai"

January 1989 (289), p. 1

The Lithuanian state emblem is one of the oldest and most beautiful state symbols in Europe and has a history of over 600 years. In a section of the legendary Lithuanian chronicles, it is written that the symbol of a horseman with sword, mounted upon a steed first began to be used by Narimantas the father of Traidenis (circa 1269-1281). The horseman symbolized the ruler defending his native country by the sword. However, its use in the XIII century cannot be confirmed by reliable sources. Without a doubt, however, the symbol of a horseman was already in use by Algirdas, Grand Duke of Lithuania. The symbol was passed onto his son Jogaila from whom it was adopted by his cousin Vytautas and other members of the Gediminaitis family.

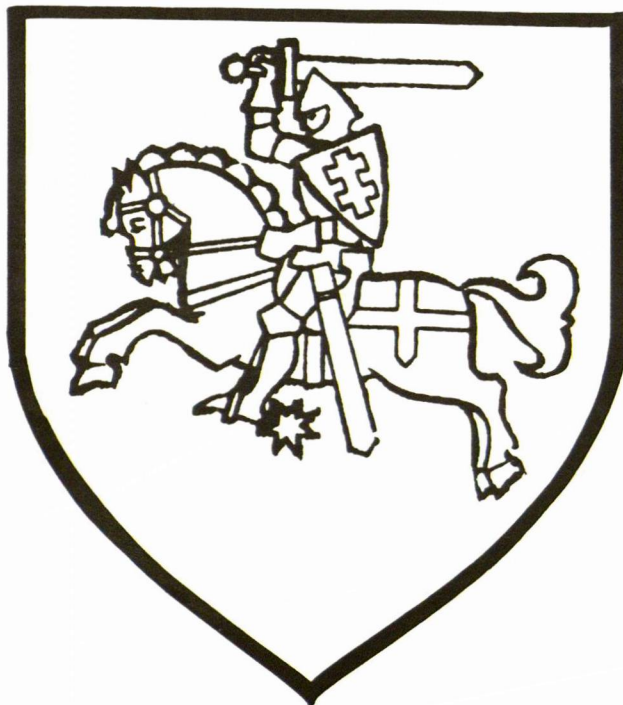
From the very beginning the seal of the horseman symbolized the ruler himself, and was put into heraldic form at the end of the XIV century and given specific colors; the symbol then took on a general significance. That is the way the coat of arms of the Lithuanian Grand Dukes, and, at the same time, that of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, later called The Knight, developed.

The armored horseman — defender of the native land — became the irrevocable symbol of Lithuanian statehood. Already, in the first decades of its existence, its ideological meaning was confirmed in unceasing wars with the German Order and the Tartars, and later with the Turks, Swedes and the Russian state. It represented Lithuania in overseas embassies and in treaties, as well as in the reception of honored guests or in driving enemies from the land. One can say that the history of The Knight is the history of Lithuanian statehood.

In 1795 after the Third Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian state and annexation of Lithuania by Russia, it was abolished. True, in 1845 with the establishment of Vilnius province The Knight was used again but only as a symbol of the province and city of Vilnius. The Knight regained its status as the state symbol in 1918 with the re-establishment of the independent Republic of Lithuania, but, after 22 years, it befell the same fate as it did 145 years before.

Reorganization and rebirth in Lithuania forced many to look at many things differently. With the rebirth of life and the ideas of real statehood, the historical symbols of the Lithuanian state and nation were reborn. One would like to believe that this is not only for now but for all time to come.

*translated from the
 Lithuanian by T.A.M.*





TOURS TO LITHUANIA 1989 SCHEDULE

APRIL

LITHUANIA & BELGIUM 14 DAY TOUR WITH 8 DAYS IN LITHUANIA
9 nights Vilnius, 1 Moscow, 2 Brussels
TOUR #414 April 14-27..... \$1,799 from Boston & New York
..... \$1,982 from Chicago

MAY

LITHUANIA & FINLAND 14 DAY TOUR WITH 10 DAYS IN LITHUANIA
9 nights Vilnius, 2 Kaunas, 1 Helsinki
TOUR #511 May 11-24..... \$2,109 from Boston & New York
..... \$2,292 from Chicago

LITHUANIA & RUSSIA 13 DAY TOUR WITH 7 DAYS IN LITHUANIA
4 nights Vilnius, 3 Kaunas, 2 Moscow, 2 Leningrad
TOUR #515 May 15-27..... \$2,159 from Boston & New York
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LITHUANIA & AUSTRIA 15 DAY TOUR WITH 10 DAYS IN LITHUANIA
8 nights Vilnius, 3 Kaunas, 2 Vienna
TOUR #525 May 25-June 8..... \$2,299 from Boston & New York
..... \$2,482 from Chicago

JUNE

LITHUANIA & SWITZERLAND 20 DAY TOUR WITH 15 DAYS
IN LITHUANIA
14 nights Vilnius, 2 Kaunas, 1 Moscow, 1 Zurich
TOUR #608 June 8-27..... \$2,599 from Boston & New York
..... \$2,782 from Chicago

LITHUANIA & AUSTRIA 15 DAY TOUR WITH 10 DAYS IN LITHUANIA
8 nights Vilnius, 3 Kaunas, 2 Vienna
TOUR #615 June 15-29..... \$2,399 from Boston & New York
..... \$2,582 from Chicago

BALTIC STATES, RUSSIA & FINLAND 7 DAY TOUR WITH 7 DAYS IN LITHUANIA

5 nights Vilnius, 2 Kaunas, 2 Tallinn, 2 Riga, 2 Leningrad, 1 Helsinki
TOUR #622 June 22-July 8..... \$2,699 from Boston & New York
..... \$2,882 from Chicago

LITHUANIA, RUSSIA, SWEDEN & FINLAND 18 DAY TOUR WITH 7 DAYS IN LITHUANIA

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JULY

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13 nights Vilnius, 2 Kaunas, 3 Warsaw, 1 Zurich
TOUR #704 July 4-25..... \$2,759 from Boston & New York
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TOUR #713 July 13-27..... \$2,269 from Boston & New York
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AUGUST

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..... \$2,572 from Chicago

LITHUANIA & AUSTRIA 15 DAY TOUR WITH 10 DAYS IN LITHUANIA
8 nights Vilnius, 3 Kaunas, 2 Vienna
TOUR #810 August 10-24..... \$2,399 from Boston & New York
..... \$2,582 from Chicago

LITHUANIA, RUSSIA & FINLAND 15 DAY TOUR WITH 7 DAYS IN LITHUANIA

6 nights Vilnius, 2 Kaunas, 2 Moscow, 2 Leningrad, 2 Helsinki
TOUR #814 August 14-28..... \$2,459 from Boston & New York
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Lithuanian Information Center



Government Allows Lithuanian Independence Groups To Rally Against Hitler-Stalin Pact

(Washington, Lithuanian Information Center) Soviet authorities have granted two Lithuanian pro-independence groups permission to stage a joint rally against the Hitler-Stalin Pact, reports the Brooklyn-based Lithuanian Information Center.

According to a joint statement by the Lithuanian Freedom League and the Lithuanian Democratic Party, the demonstration "commemorates the anniversary of the partition of the Lithuanian Republic's territory by two imperialists." In a secret protocol signed January 10, 1941, the USSR agreed to pay Germany 7.5 million gold dollars in compensation for a strip of ethnographically Lithuanian territory known as Suvalkai that was then under Soviet control, but which officially had been assigned to the German sphere of influence under the terms of an earlier secret protocol to the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

According to a reliable source in Lithuania, the Vilnius city government agreed to allow the rally, but ordered the site moved from Gediminas Square to Hil's Park (Kalnų parkas). Meeting organizers agreed to the new site, located less than a mile from Gediminas Square, on the condition that news of the change be published in the state-controlled press. Today's edition of the Vilnius newspaper *Vakarinės Naujienos* carried a news brief about the rally in the park.

Official Soviet reaction thus far to the rally is in marked contrast to a previous demonstration, also sponsored by the Lithuanian Freedom League, to commemorate one of the provisions of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. The Freedom League was warned not to stage a rally last September 28. When tens of thousands of Lithuanians gathered anyway, they were repeatedly attacked by hundreds of militia equipped with riot gear.

Soviet Authorities Move To Exert Greater Control Over Sajūdis

(Washington, Lithuanian Information Center) In another sign that Soviet authorities are attempting to tighten their grip over the largest grassroots movement in Lithuania, government searches were conducted at locations where the movement's publications are mass produced.

A representative of the Lithuanian Movement to Support Perestroika, or *Sajūdis*, confirmed from Vilnius that the inspections took place and said inspectors were investigating whether unsanctioned publications were being produced. The spokesman added that last month the government ordered tighter control of duplicating machines.

The inspections come in the wake of news that at least eight independent publications put out by *Sajūdis* — including its largest, "Atgimimas," which has a circulation of 100,000 — were put under state censorship for the first time in December. Since then, government censors reportedly have been deleting passages that, in their judgment, contain military and other strategic information.

In another sign that the government is adopting a tougher attitude toward *Sajūdis*, Lithuanian state media announced last week that the organization's assets, said to exceed one million rubles, have been frozen because *Sajūdis* has failed to adopt organizational statutes, as required by banking rules. The state-run bank's move is expected to hurt the election campaigns of *pro-Sajūdis* candidates who had been expecting financial support from *Sajūdis* in their effort to win seats to the new Congress of People's Deputies.

50,000 Lithuanians Rally For Independence

(New York, Lithuanian Information Center) Fifty thousand people demonstrated in the Lithuanian capital for two hours in support of restoring full political independence to Lithuania, reports the New York-based Lithuanian Information Center.

Two leading demonstration participants, Mr. Antanas Terleckas and Mr. Vytautas Bogušis, reached separately by telephone in Vilnius, estimated that at least 50,000 people gathered at Vilnius Hills Park to listen as two dozen speakers condemned the Soviet presence in Lithuania and called for the removal of the Red Army from the formerly independent Baltic state.

According to Terleckas, the leader of the Lithuanian Freedom League, and the master of ceremonies at the rally, several speakers urged Lithuanian youth to refuse service in the Red Army.

Rally participants approved by acclamation a resolution directed to the United Nations' Decolonization Committee "protesting the continuing colonization of the three Baltic states" and asking that "the question of terminating the occupation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia be included in the next session of the U.N. General Assembly."

The rally, called by the Lithuanian Freedom League and the Lithuanian Democratic party to commemorate the anniversary of the last secret Nazi-Soviet protocol signed to dispose of Lithuania's territory, was sanctioned by the local Vilnius government.

According to Terleckas, Soviet authorities even rented sound equipment to the demonstration organizers and made no moves to interfere during the course of the rally.

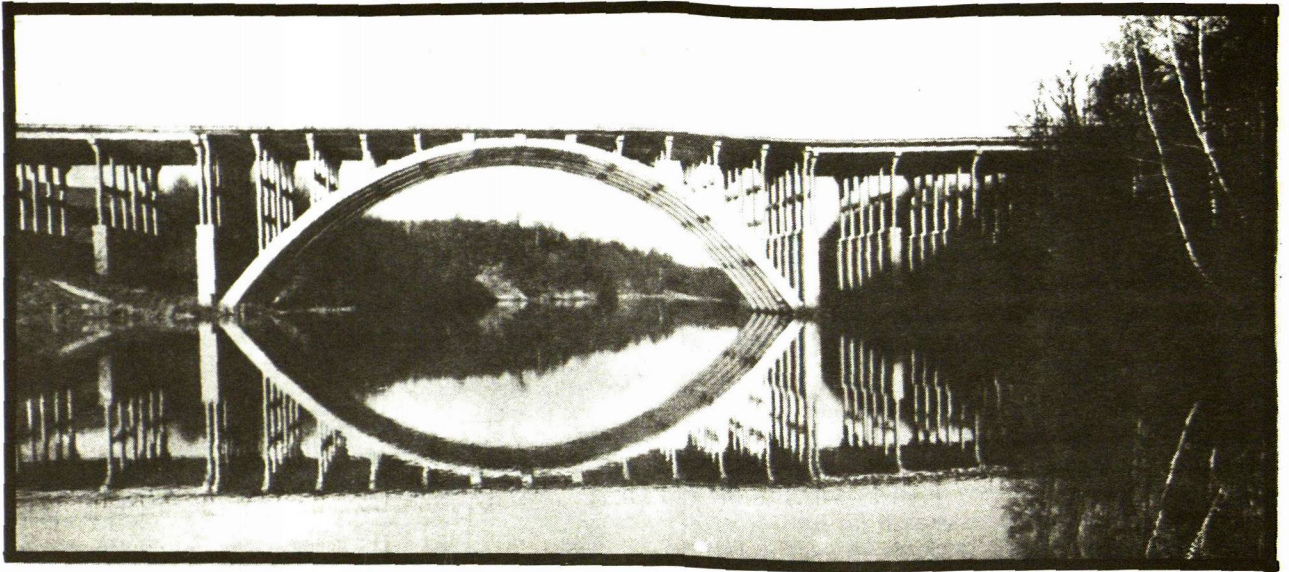
Bogušis, a member of the Lithuanian Helsinki Group, said that the tone of the placards held by rally participants was harshly critical of the Soviet regime. Some called for the removal of "the Soviet occupier" while others directed their barbs at Lithuanian Communist Party First Secretary, Algirdas Brazauskas. There was no official government presence at the rally.

Both Bogušis and Terleckas said that all age groups were well represented at the demonstration.

In addition to the Lithuanian Freedom League and the Lithuanian Democratic Party, other unofficial groups whose spokesman addressed the rally were the newly formed Lithuanian National Youth Association and the Lithuanian Helsinki Group.



Lithuania's memorial to those who died in the struggle for independence both known and unknown.



Bishop Steponavičius Allowed To Return To Vilnius from Exile

(Rome, *Lithuanian Information Center*) Bishop Julijonas Steponavičius, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Vilnius, has been granted permission by the Soviet government to return to Vilnius to resume his official duties there after almost 28 years of internal exile, reports the Rome bureau of Lithuanian Information Center.

Bishop Steponavičius has turned down previous offers by the Soviets to reside in Vilnius because he was not granted permission to carry out his duties as apostolic administrator.

In a telephone interview with the Lithuanian Information Center, the Cardinal's secretary confirmed that Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevičius was informed of the decision yesterday by Petras Anilionis, the Commissioner for Religious Affairs. Anilionis told the Cardinal by telephone that Bishop Steponavičius will be allowed to return to the capital city of Vilnius and carry out his duties unimpeded. This decision was reportedly approved by the Council of Ministers.

Steponavičius was born in Miciunai on October 18, 1911, completed his studies at the University of Vilnius in 1936 and was ordained the same year on June 21. After serving as a school chaplain and parish priest, he was consecrated bishop on September 11, 1955 and appointed auxiliary bishop of Panevežys.

Two years later, the Vatican appointed him apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Panevezys and the Archdiocese of Vilnius, with the rights of residential bishop. He assumed these duties in 1958.

On January 24, 1961, he was arrested by Soviet authorities and exiled to Žagarė, a town in the northern part of the Archdiocese of Kaunas. Since then, he has been unable to exercise his duties as ordinary. Bishop Steponavičius has been neither tried nor convicted of any crime. At regular intervals, he has written to the government asking for an explanation of his exile. He never received a response. Petitions on his behalf by the clergy and faithful had also gone unanswered.

On the 50th anniversary of his ordination, the Bishop received a letter from the Holy Father, who called him a "symbol of strength" for the Church in Lithuania because of his resistance to government interference in Church affairs.

The 77-year-old Bishop made his first visit to the Holy Father last October. He was denied permission to make his *ad limina* visit to the Holy Father in 1983.

Lithuanian Pro-Independence Groups Rally

(Washington, Lithuanian Information Center) Two organizations which advocate full political independence for Lithuania staged a joint rally on Tuesday, January 10, in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius to mark the anniversary of one of a series of agreements between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union that transferred control of Lithuania to the USSR, reports the Brooklyn-based Lithuanian Information Center.

The Lithuanian Freedom League and the Lithuanian Democratic Party issued a public statement dated December 30, inviting fellow Lithuanians to join them in Vilnius' Gediminas Square at 6:00 p.m. on January 10 "to commemorate the anniversary of the partition of the Lithuanian Republic's territory by two imperialists." In a secret protocol signed January 10, 1941, the USSR agreed to pay Germany 7.5 million gold dollars (31.5 million Reichsmarks) in compensation for a strip of ethnographically Lithuanian territory known as Suvalkai that was then under Soviet control, but which officially had been assigned to the German sphere of influence under the terms of an earlier secret protocol to the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

The rally was the third demonstration in less than six months in Lithuania commemorating agreements signed between the Nazis and the Soviets which led to the occupation of then-independent Lithuania. The previous rally, also organized by the Lithuanian Freedom League on September 28, 1988, attracted tens of thousands of Lithuanians who were attacked by several hundred militia. The militia violence triggered a wave of popular resentment against local Soviet officials and apparently was a contributing factor in the Kremlin's decision shortly thereafter to remove Lithuanian Communist Party First Secretary Ringaudas Songaila.

In a telephone interview with the Lithuanian Information Center, Lithuanian Freedom League leader Antanas Terleckas said that local Vilnius officials had been notified of plans for the rally, adding that "the government may take measures against us."

Terleckas characterized the Lithuanian Democratic Party as the "left wing" of the Lithuanian Movement to Support Perestroika, or Sajūdis, because it shares the Lithuanian Freedom League's goal of restoring full political independence to Lithuania. Sajūdis is officially on record as favoring economic, cultural and political autonomy for Lithuania.



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1989 Wall Calendar featuring a photo of the new Lithuanian Cardinal
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Gera Gaspadinė

Recipes are found in *Family Favorites — From Our Best Cooks* published by the American-Lithuanian Roman Catholic Women's Alliance (1982) used with permission.

RŪGINĖ JUODA DUONA (Dark Rye Bread)

Angelė Garsienė, Worcester, MA

6 lb. rye flour (coarsely ground)
2 qt. water
3 Tbsp. salt
2 Tbsp. sugar
3 pkg. yeast

The ideal way to start this dark rye bread is to saturate 2 or 3 slices of black bread. If this is not available, follow these instructions: dissolve salt in hot water (not too hot); divide the flour in half (using 3 pounds at a time); gradually pour the flour into the water, beating this with a wooden spoon. Dissolve yeast with sugar and pour into the mixture; beat well.

Thickly top this with flour; cover with cloth and let leaven for 24 hours in a warm place, then, when well leavened, pour the rest of the flour on and knead well.

Let rise (about 1-1/2 hours). Put in bread pans and bake — initially at 400 degrees for 1 hour. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and bake for 30 minutes more.

The mixing bowl for this bread MUST be WOODEN. The crust will be softer if you cover the baked bread with a wet cloth (moistened with cold water).

ROSETTES

Juliana Rotsko, Cicero, IL

2 c. flour
3 tsp. sugar
3/8 tsp. salt
1-2/3 c. milk
3 eggs
1/2 gal. Crisco (or 2 lb. can)

Mix dry ingredients together. Beat eggs by hand; add eggs and milk to dry ingredients alternately, stirring well each time.

To fry, put rosette iron into melted Crisco, having shortening deep enough to cover the iron. Heat to 375 degrees on candy thermometer; remove iron from the hot shortening. Drain a moment on paper towel and lower into cup of batter to no more than 3/4 inch depth of iron. Lower into hot fat and fry until delicately brown. Remove from shortening. Slip rosette from iron and drain, inverted on paper toweling.

If batter will not cling to iron, fat is not at the right temperature. It may be either too hot or too cold.

Rosettes are difficult to remove from iron unless they are pried off as soon as sufficiently cooked to be firm.

Drop into fat to finish frying; turn to brown evenly. Take out of the shortening with a flat whisk and drain. Use pan with heavy bottom to keep shortening evenly hot.

Makes approximately 90 to 100 rosettes.

NAPOLEONAS

(Napoleon Torte)

Marija Dabrila, Worcester, MA

4-5 c. flour
1-1/2 lb. unsalted butter, softened
2 Tbsp. Crisco shortening
2 Tbsp. sour cream
1 tsp. salt
1 egg

Sift flour onto pastry board. With pastry blender or two knives, gradually cut softened butter and Crisco into flour until crumbly. Add sour cream and salt. Continue until it begins to form a dough. Beat the egg until light and add to dough.

Divide dough into 12 or 13 parts. Pat each one flat and wrap in towel carefully so they do not touch. Place in freezer for 2 to 3 hours.

Afterwards, roll each piece of dough until very thin on very lightly floured board.

Roll each layer to fit into 10 to 12 inch ungreased cake or pie tin. Prick all over with a fork.

Bake each layer in preheated 400 degree oven for 4 to 5 minutes; cool. Stack layers on top of each other and trim so all are even. Save trimmings for crumbs. Put layers together with filling.

Filling

1-1/2 lb. unsalted butter
1/2 pkg. lemon pudding mix
1 oz. rum extract
1/2 oz. lemon extract
4 Tbsp. hot milk
1 c. powdered sugar
Juice of 1 orange
1 egg yolk

Cream butter and sugar. Blend in pudding mix, 1 tablespoon at a time. Add 1 tablespoon hot milk at a time, mixing well until all is added. Add rum extract gradually, lemon extract and orange juice; mix well. Beat egg yolk until light and frothy and add to mixture; mix well.

Spread filling on each layer and over top. Sprinkle trimmed off crumbs over the top layer.

(Recipe from Mrs. L. Stoškus with a few innovations of my own.)

LEGATION OF LITHUANIA
2622 16TH ST.
WASHINGTON, DC 20009

BERZO SAKA AND FROSTING

(Birch Log)

Panevėžys, Lithuania

2 Tbsp. unsalted butter, softened
5 egg whites
5 egg yolks
3/4 c. sugar
2 Tbsp. lemon juice, strained
Grated rind of 1 lemon
1/2 c. regular flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
Filling — recipe follows
Frosting — recipe follows
Cake:

Rub bottom and sides of jelly roll pan with softened butter. Lay a wide strip of wax paper in it. Extra paper may extend over edges of pan. Rub more butter, only over paper in pan, not on the strips that are over the edges. Scatter some flour over the wax paper in pan. Tip pan from side to side to spread flour evenly. Turn over and tap bottom, dislodging excess.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In mixing bowl, beat egg whites until they form stiff peaks.

In another bowl, beat egg yolks briefly. Add sugar, lemon juice and about 1 tablespoon of lemon rind; blend well. Mix a large tablespoon of whites into yolks. Pour this mixture over remaining whites and fold together very carefully. Fold in flour alternately with baking powder until well blended.

Now, pour into jelly roll pan; spread evenly to all four corners.

Bake in middle of oven for about 20 minutes. The cake will draw away from sides. Insert toothpick in center, and if it comes out clean,

cake is done. Invert cake onto another sheet of wax paper, peel off top layer of paper very carefully. Let cake cool to room temperature before filling and rolling it.

Filling for Birch Log

3/4 lb. pitted prunes
1-1/2 sticks unsalted butter
2/3 c. sugar
1 egg yolk
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
2 oz. chocolate

Have butter at room temperature and chocolate melted and cooled. Place prunes in a 1-1/2 to 2 quart saucepan. Cover completely with cold water. Bring to a boil over high heat. Lower flame and simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes or until prunes are soft. Drain and puree through food mill or rub with back of spoon through a fine sieve set over a bowl. Discard the skins.

MANO DUONA

(*Jenny's Lithuanian Bread*)
Jenny Kucin, Chicago, IL

2 pkg. dry yeast
1/2 c. warm water
1 c. water
1/2 lb. butter or margarine
1/4 c. shortening
1 c. cold water
2 tsp. salt
1 c. sugar
2 eggs
7-1/2 to 8 c. flour
2 Tbsp. shortening

Soak two packages of dry yeast in 1/2 cup of warm water for at least 5 minutes, without stirring. Set aside.

Mix and bring to a boil the next 3 ingredients. Pour into a large bowl and add the next 3 ingredients. Add 2 well beaten eggs and the yeast mixture. Stir with wooden spoon until well mixed. Add 7-1/2 to 8 cups of flour, a cup or two at a time, stirring well with wooden spoon until the dough begins to pull away from the bowl. Cover and let rise until double in size.

Put on a floured board and divide in half. Knead each half about 15 times. Shape in two loaves and put in well greased pans. Cover and let rise until they are higher than the pan.

Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 40 minutes.

After bread is removed from the oven, take some shortening and wipe the tops for a soft crust.

Beat the egg whites until stiff and fold into the batter. Spoon into a buttered cake pan (angel food pan is good) and bake at 325 degrees for 55 to 60 minutes.