

BRIDGES

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PAVYZDYS



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKA
1996 m. spalio 20 d.

REFERENDUMO BIULETENIS

ŽYMĖJIMO PAVYZDYS	
Pritariate nuostatai	Nepritariate nuostatai
TAIP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NE

Ar Jūs už tai:

Paikite tą atsakymą, kuriam Jūs pritariate, o kitą išbraukite



Ar kompensuoti gyventojų indėlius teisingai privatizuojant valstybės turtą?

Likęs neprivatizuotas valstybės (savivaldybių) turtas (valstybės ir savivaldybių įmonės, įmonių akcijos, kitas turtas), kuris pagal įstatymus gali būti išvalstybintas, yra privatizuojamas (daugiau nei 20 procentų mažinama valstybei ar savivaldybėms priklausanti kapitalo dalis) tik viešo parduomo būdu.

Likęs privatizuotinas valstybės (savivaldybių) turtas panaudojamas buvusios sovietinės valdžios iki 1990 metų sunaudotiems indėliams bei jiems prilygintiems kitoms gyventojų santaupoms kompensuoti, perduodant šį turtą Santaupų atkūrimo fondui, taip pat daliniam pensijų fondo atkūrimui.

TAIP NE

To Our Readers:

I recall the shock of the results of the Seimas elections in 1992. Suddenly, all of the recent bloodshed and years of striving for independence seemed cheaply exchanged for a promise of sausages and warm radiators. Of course, sitting in Washington, it was hard to understand the dashed hopes and disappointing drop in the standard of living that independence brought to the people of Lithuania. Sitting in Vilnius or Kaunas, the prospect of another winter of rising food prices and turned-off heat loomed ahead.

As it turned out, the heat would stay off until the former communists clinched their return to power through the presidential elections four months later.

Now, four years later, the people of Lithuania can judge for themselves the performance of their "close to the skin" compatriots in managing the affairs of state and the state of their well-being. *The Economist* reported in its October 12 issue,*

"The last time Lithuanians had a general election, in October 1992, they set a regional trend by handing power back to the (reformed) communists whose forerunners they had furiously ejected little over a year before. Poles and Hungarians followed suit. Reformed communists seemed to have recaptured the future. But now the Lithuanians are threatening to buck the trend again. In the general election on October 20, the right has at least a sporting chance of victory.

....Two [of the parties] the Christian Democrats and the conservative Homeland Union... are willing to form a coalition government. Opinion polls suggest they may together win a quarter of the votes, twice as many as the ruling Democratic Labour Party (the ex-communists), but not enough to win an outright majority. They may also manage to gang up with the Centre Union, a bunch of nationalists whose anti-corruption populism may gain them a tenth of the vote.

The next prime minister, if the right prevails, could be the Homelander's Gediminas Vagnorius, a former prime minister. In that event, Vytautas Landsbergis, Lithuania's first post-communist president and now the Homeland Party leader, might become parliament's chairman. The president's job, held by a wily ex-communist, Algirdas Brazauskas, is not being contested [until 1998]."

It will certainly be an interesting election to watch. As *The Economist* concluded,

"...the gap between rich and poor goes on widening. Crime is up. Unemployment is 8%. As elsewhere in

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the old Soviet Union, the very rich seem to flaunt their often ill-gotten gains, while the mood of the many is sour. Which is why the slogan of 'throw the rascals out' may well appeal."

Su viltim,

Diana S. Vidutis

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Asta Banionis

Election Previews: Vilnius and Washington, DC

It's election season in Vilnius, but the people of Lithuania will have the chance to elect only a new Parliament, not a new president — yet.

The Electoral Process in Lithuania

The election campaign to fill all 141 seats of the Seimas (Lithuania's unicameral legislature) began on September 20 after the Chief Electoral Commission approved and certified the list of candidates. Unlike in the United States, the campaign period in Lithuania is short — only 30 days (one isn't allowed to campaign on election day) and there are spending limits on the candidates and the parties.

When Lithuanian voters go to the polls on October 20, they will cast two votes rather than one. The first vote is for a candidate representing the voter's specific district; the second vote is for a party list numbered 1 through 24. If all the parties were strong enough to field their full complement of candidates, Lithuanian voters could be faced with over 7,000 names. Thankfully, there are only 1,347 names among the party lists and party endorsements, plus 29 individual candidates with no party affiliation. But voters may still be stacked up on election day outside the voting booths because the Parliament has added five referendum issues to the ballot, and it passed a law on voting procedure which allows voters to "rearrange" the listing of candidates on the party lists. This last device is sure to sow confusion and delay both in the voting and the counting of ballots, which is still done by hand.

Election Day is October 20, but with 1,347 candidates and 28 parties contesting for the 141 seats, it is doubtful that all the races will be decided on October 20 for two reasons.

Single-Mandate Districts (Local Representatives)

First of all, 71 members of the 141-seat Parliament are elected as representatives of a specific electoral district, they are called "single-mandate districts." The remaining 70 seats are distributed on a proportional basis to the political parties which garner more than 5 percent of the total vote. A candidate running in a single-mandate district cannot just win a plurality to win a seat in the Parliament. The candidate must receive over 50 percent of the vote; other-

wise, there is a run-off between the top two vote-getters. Many races may not be decided until mid-November when the run-off elections are expected to be scheduled.

Multiple-Mandate or Party Lists (At-Large Representatives)

Secondly, we will not know clearly who has made it into the Parliament's other 70 seats from the party lists on October 20th because many of the parties are running members listed on their party lists also in the single-mandate districts. If a candidate wins from the single-mandate district, his or her place goes to the next person on the party roster.

In many ways, the electoral formula for the Seimas is modeled on the Russian Federation's Duma. Divided similarly into single-mandate and multiple-mandate seats, this system also "redistributes" the votes cast for non-qualifying parties to the winners.

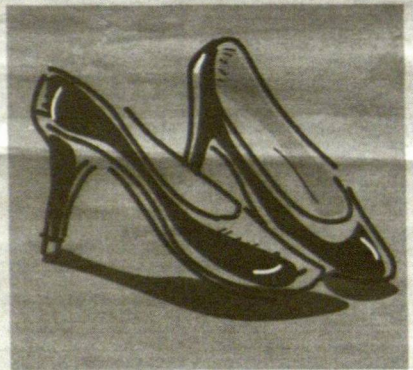
Votes cast for parties which do not clear the 5 percent barrier will be "redistributed" among the winning parties, again, proportionately. This is one of the weaknesses of the current electoral formula in Lithuania. In the 1992 Seimas elections, nearly 16 percent of all of the votes cast went to parties that did not clear the 4 percent hurdle (it was raised to 5 percent in August, 1996 by the sitting Parliament). These votes, when redistributed, gave the current ruling party, the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party (LDLP) (reformed communists), its slim majority to control the voting in the Parliament. In many ways, the electoral formula for the Seimas is modeled on the Russian Federation's Duma. Divided similarly into single-mandate and multiple-mandate seats, this system also "redistrib-

Tėvynės sąjunga: su humoru - apie „konkurentus“ ir save



LDDP:

jau privalgė, bet nori dar už žandų prisikimšti.



MOTERŲ PARTIJA:

sukurta vienai damai patekti į Seimą.



SOCDEMAI:

tik daug margų lozungų ir triukšmo...

The Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party: They've already eaten their fill, but still want to stuff their cheeks.

The Women's Party: created so that one madame can enter the Parliament (Seimas).

The Social Democrats: just a lot of colorful slogans and lots of noise ...

utes" the votes cast for non-qualifying parties to the winners.

Lithuania Doesn't Lack for Parties

We Americans are accustomed to a two-party system, despite the best efforts of Ross Perot and his loyal cadres to make a third party competitive during national elections. The myriad of political parties in a country as small as Lithuania seems baffling at best. There are actually 33 political parties registered with the Ministry of Justice in Lithuania, but only 25 have prepared lists of candidates to run for the 70 "multiple-mandate" seats in the Parliament. Two of the 25, the Democratic Party and the Nationalist Party, have a combined list of candidates (a coalition) which will have to clear a hurdle of 7 percent of the total votes cast before anyone named on their coalition list makes it into the Parliament. Three other parties are supporting individual candidates in the single-mandate districts and chose not to file party lists for the other seats.

Here is the complete list of the 28 parties participating in the October 20 Seimas elections in the order that they appear on the ballot:

Running party slates as well as supporting individual candidates:

Republican Party
Lithuanian Liberal Union
Lithuanian Center Union
Lithuania's Russian Union
Lithuanian Christian Democratic Union
Lithuanian Socialist Party
Lithuanian Freedom Union
Lithuanian Peasants Party
Lithuania's Polish Campaign Action
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party
Lithuanian Political Prisoners and Deportees Union
Lithuanian National Party's "Young Lithuania"
Lithuanian Freedom League
Lithuania's Logical Life Party
Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party
Lithuanian Democratic Party/Lithuanian Nationalists' (Union)*
Lithuania's Minority Alliance
Lithuanian Women's Party
Homeland Coalition - Lithuanian Conservative Party
Lithuanian Social Justice Union
Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party
Lithuanian Peoples Party
Lithuania's Economy Party
National Progress Party

[*Parties which have formed a coalition (combined slate) and must clear the 7 percent barrier]

Parties which have not submitted party lists, but are supporting individual candidates:

Independence Party
Lithuanian Reform Party
and the non-partisan organization called "Election 96"

What do we know of these parties? The strongest parties which are expected to clear the 5 percent barrier are few: the **Homeland Union - Lithuania's Conservative Party**, headed by Professor Vytautas Landsbergis; the **Lithuanian Center Union**, headed by Romualdas Ozolas; the **Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party**, headed by Algirdas Saudargas; the **Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party** (the former communists and President Brazauskas' party), headed by Česlovas Juršėnas; and a newcomer, the **Women's Party**, headed by former Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskienė. The rest of the parties have not been investing the time and effort in organizing their grass-roots structures.

Many of the newer parties are organized around the personality of a single individual. Even long-standing parties which currently have members in the Parliament, like the **Nationalist Party (3)**, the **Democratic Party (3)** and the **Social Democratic Party (7)**, are not expected to have representation in the new Parliament because they have squandered the opportunity over the last four years to build effective local organizations.

All candidates to the Seimas this year had to turn in financial disclosure forms (which approximate an income tax form) to the tax inspectorate when filing their candidacy with the Chief Electoral Commission. Candidates in the single-mandate districts had to turn in at least 1,000 signatures of voting residents for that district and pay a 657 litas filing fee which will be returned to them only if they win a seat in the Seimas. Each political party which filed a list for the multi-mandate seats had to pay fees in excess of 15,000 litas to register its candidates. Any candidate with previous links to "foreign intelligence services" was to openly declare such an affiliation when filing with the electoral commission. Only six individuals have done so, among them the Women's Party founder Kazimiera Prunskienė. All of them named the KGB as the foreign intelligence service. Wonder where the CIA was all those years?

The Homeland Union - Lithuania's Conservative Party (23 current Parliament members) will be fielding a party list of 120 candidates and 66 individual candidates in the single-mandate districts. The party is becoming a European conservative party with a platform calling for lower taxes, a strong defense, crime prevention through better law enforcement, and wider privatization of state industries. And, in a dramatic political move, it has backed the candidacy of Lithuania's former Ambassador to London, Raimundas Rajeckas, in the 28th Parliamentary district (Aukštaitija region). Mr. Rajeckas, a long-time Brazauskas associate, an economist and member of Lithuania's Academy of Sciences, is best known as

The Third or Middle Forces: they sweetly sing, make promises, but are too weak to accomplish anything.

The Peasants' Party: (wish) that in the Parliament things would be as backward as they were on the collective farm.

Homeland Coalition (swallows are pictured): we may not be the ideal, but we know what needs to be done and how to do it, we have the people and the experience. [Swallows are respected in Lithuania as exceptional and hard-working birds who build well-crafted nests of clay.]

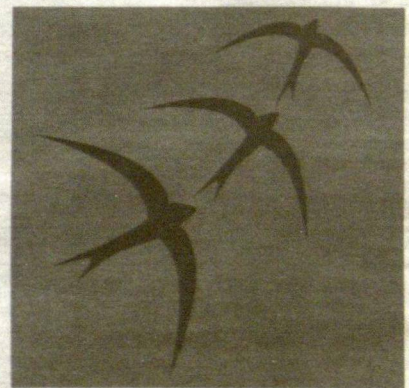
Tėvynės sąjunga: su humoru - apie „konkurentus“ ir save



"TREČIOSIOS", "VIDURIO" JĖGOS:
gražiai gieda, žada, bet per skystos, kad ką nuveiktų.



VALSTIEČIŲ PARTIJA:
kad ir Seime būtų, kaip atsiliekiančiame kolūky...



TĖVYNĖS SĄJUNGA:
ne idealas, bet nors žino, ką ir kaip daryti, turi žmonių ir patyrimo.

President Brazauskas' campaign manager in 1993. In January, 1996, during the height of the government-induced banking crisis in Lithuania, Mr. Rajeckas criticized President Brazauskas and denounced the ruling LDLP party and then-Prime Minister Šleževičius for their personal corruption and scurrilous policies which had impoverished the people of Lithuania and brought the country to near ruin. President Brazauskas recalled him from his post as Ambassador to the United Kingdom in early March. American-Lithuanian Jonas Dūdėnas, a banking consultant from New York, is a candidate.

Lithuania's Center Union (2 current Parliament members) has listed 92 candidates and is headed by one of its founders, former Deputy Prime Minister Romualdas Ozolas. The party describes itself as "a modern European party which has withstood the pressures of both the left and the right." The average age of this party's candidates is 41, which makes this group of politicians one of the youngest of Lithuania's parties. Their campaign platform proclaims that they know how to eliminate crime, eliminate poverty, guarantee the freedom of conscientious businessmen, and they know how to safeguard the individual, the nation and the country. Among the party's most notable candidates is Egidijus Bičkauskas, a lawyer and former prosecutor, who currently is a Center Party Seimas member. From 1990 through 1991, Mr. Bičkauskas was Lithuania's representative in Moscow appointed by the Landsbergis-led Parliament. A more controversial candidate of the Center Party is economics professor Kęstutis Glaveckas, who served as a member of the Politburo of the newly independent Communist Party of Lithuania in 1989-1990. He was a member of the Parliament which reestablished Lithuania's independence, but spent more time pursuing his personal business interests than fulfilling his duties as a member of that early Parliament.

The Lithuania Christian Democratic Party's (10 current Parliament members) list has 98 candidates running for the 70 multiple-mandate seats of the Parliament and over 40 in the single-mandate districts. They have caused quite a stir in the business community and among the state industrial managers with their party platform which calls for a sizeable increase in the income tax rate. Currently, income taxes, with few exemptions, are 33 percent for everyone. The Christian Democrats are calling for a progressive tax structure which taxes incomes of 300 litas/month or less at a zero rate; and taxes everyone else's income from 15 percent to 45 percent. The criticism is particularly vocal from the top income groups in the country because the Christian Democrats have been "understandably" vague about whether the highest rate of taxation (45%) would start with a 3,000 litas/month or 4,000 litas/month income. The Christian Democrats are also pledging to fight the rampant alcoholism in the country and to "renationalize" the production of alcoholic beverages. American-Lithuanian Feliksas Palubinskas, a professor of

business administration from Purdue University at Calumet, is a candidate.

The Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party (64 current Parliament members), the current ruling party, is fielding a list of 115 candidates and 64 additional candidates in the single-mandate districts. But there appears to have been a sizeable purge of current LDLP Seimas members — only 49 of 64 remain among the list of 115 candidates for the 1996 election. The top ten candidates in the party's list reveal the delicate balance of interest groups that make up this reformed communist party. The list is headed by the party's new chairman, Česlovas Juršėnas who still serves as the Speaker of the Seimas. Juršėnas replaced former Prime Minister Šleževičius when he was forced to resign from his party post as part of the fallout of the January banking crisis. Juršėnas' pre-independence career was centered in the Communist Party where he worked in the ideological and press/information bureaucracy. Prime Minister Mindaugas Stankevičius is second on the list. The current Minister of Agriculture, V. Einoris, who is fighting charges of massive corruption in his bureaucracy, is third in the list. The collective farm advocates are also represented in the top ten by current Seimas Agriculture Committee chairman Mykolas Pronckus. Mrs. Sigita Burbienė, who is a statistician and currently a member of the Seimas, has been rewarded for her vocal defense of the ruling party's accomplishments with the fourth slot. Artūras Plokšto, a member of the current Seimas representing the Lithuanian Poles Union, has come over to the LDLP for this election and is expected to deliver a sizeable number of votes from the Polish minority. Irena Šiaulienė and Justinas Karosas, both current LDLP Seimas members, and Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys, represent the elitist elements of the party who come from the ranks of Soviet academia.

The Lithuania's Women's Party will be running 66 candidates on its party list, with 37 of these candidates also competing in the single-mandate districts. The slate is headed by its founder, former Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskienė. There are seven men among the 66 candidates. One of them is Leonas Ašmantas (listed among the top ten party candidates), a former Energy Minister of Lithuania who served in five different governments, including the one Prunskienė headed. Ašmantas is credited with bringing the LDLP back to power in the October, 1992 Seimas elections by conveniently leaving the heat and hot water turned off throughout the country in the weeks preceding the election. The other distinguishing feature of Ašmantas' previous public service was that he failed to develop an energy policy for Lithuania which would make it less dependent on Russian energy sources. Energy Ministry salaries grew during his tenure and were the highest salaries in the country even counting the private sector. Many political commentators have said that the Women's Party was created solely as a vehicle for Prunskienė to come back to political office. If this is true, she certainly "puts her money where

her mouth is" because she herself paid the entire 20,000 litas filing fee for the Women's Party list with the electoral commission.

Many political commentators have said that the Women's Party was created solely as a vehicle for Prunskienė to come back to political office... There are seven men among the 66 candidates. One of them is Leonas Ašmantas [who] is credited with bringing the LDLP back to power in the October, 1992 Seimas elections by conveniently leaving the heat and hot water turned off throughout the country in the weeks preceding the election... The other distinguishing feature of Ašmantas' previous public service was that he failed to develop an energy policy for Lithuania which would make it less dependent on Russian energy sources.

And here are some tidbits about some of the smaller parties running candidates in the election:

Lithuania's Logical Life Party, founded in mid-summer 1996, by Vytautas Bernatoniš, a 55-year-old engineer with 23 patents, claims to have 700 members. During the first year of Lithuania's restored independence, Bernatoniš was mayor of the City of Vilnius but he left for Siberia in late 1991 to make his fortune there since he felt that Lithuanian officials were not listening to his advice. He says he formed this party on his return to Lithuania this year because, "fundamentally I am against parties." He believes Lithuania should elect non-partisan officials who would

run Lithuania on sound, professional ideas rather than party interests. The party is running 32 people in the Seimas elections and, true to their philosophy, only three of those candidates are members of the Logical Life Party.

Lithuania's Economy Party will field 118 candidates on the party's list. The list is headed by the party's chairman, Klemensas Šeputis, a vice-president of the Industrialists' Confederation from Kaunas. The party was formed in January, 1996. Not much is known about its platform. Rimvydas Valatka, a member of the editorial board of the Lithuanian daily *Lietuvos Rytas* describes the party as the "...dry swamp bed of the LDLP, in other words a LDLP-2." In his estimation, the party's list contains the names of "failed state factory managers, mediocre poets, journalists and professors. Four years ago most of them were afraid to openly declare themselves LDLP members, later they began to bite their fingernails. The Economy Party - is an attempt to demonstrate that the train never gets to its final destination."

This is one editorial writer's opinion. Enough said.

The Lithuanian Christian Democratic Union is a splinter group of the Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party discussed above, was founded by Florida urologist Kazys Bobelis, former chairman of the conservative exile organization, the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania. In 1992, Bobelis was elected from the single-mandate district in the city of Marijampolė and has been a member of Parliament (and head of its Foreign Relations Committee) for the last four years. After failing to collect enough signatures to become a candidate himself for president of Lithuania in the 1993 elections, he switched his allegiance to the LDLP (former communist) candidate, Algirdas Brazauskas. The Christian Democratic Union will field 25 candidates, of which 19 will also run in single-mandate districts. Jonas Genys, a former professor at the University of Maryland, is also a candidate.

Lithuania's Liberal Party has 820 members and is running a slate of 41 candidates, of which 35 will also compete in the single-mandate districts. The party's list is headed by its chairman, Eugenijus Gentvilas, who was a member of the Parliament that restored Lithuania's independence on March 11, 1990. Gentvilas took over the leadership of Lithuania's Liberal Party more than a year ago and has tried to change its image. Mr. Gentvilas is quick to say that the Liberals are not the party of businessmen. He believes that its current members are not corrupted by the epoch of socialism in Lithuania and, therefore, can carry out radical reforms. He believes that the Liberals can form successful working coalitions with the Conservative Party and the Christian Democratic Party. At the party's September 14, 1996 convention, Gentvilas expressed the hope that, even if there are no Liberal Party members elected to the next Seimas, there will at least be liberal ideas that will improve the work of the Seimas.



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO RINKIMAI
1996 m. spalio 20 d.

**DAUGIAMANDATĖS RINKIMŲ APYGARDOS
BALSAVIMO BIULETENIS**

Žymėjimo pavyzdys			
Balsuoti už sąrašą	Pareikšti nuomonę apie kandidatus iš sąrašo, už kurį balsavote		
	teigiamą	neigiamą	
	+	perbraukite kandidato pavardę V. Dauzda	arba perbraukite kandidato numerį 000

1	Respublikonų partija	<input type="radio"/>	K. Petraitis, R. Laktionkinas, D. Norkus, G. Mickus, A. Barvalnis, A. Taujanskas, N. Birickij, A. Jakubauskas, P. Dubaka, A. Stučka...	Partijos prašymu, šio kandidatų sąrašo reitingas nenumatomas. Rinkėjai, balsavę už šį sąrašą, nuomonės apie jame įrašytus kandidatus nereiškia.
2	Lietuvos liberalų sąjunga	<input type="radio"/>	E. Gentvilas, K. Trapiakas, K. Rimšelis, G. Steponavičius, J. Simonavičiūtė, A. Mellinas, G. Babrauskas, R. Stankaitis, J. Volkonovski, D. A. Barakauskas	
3	Lietuvos centro sąjunga	<input type="radio"/>	R. Ozolas, E. Bičkauskas, V. Cepas, K. Glaucikas, R. Čiupaila, A. Čaplikas, R. Melnikienė, A. Grumadas, K. Vaitukaitis, G. Sileikis	
4	Lietuvos rusų sąjunga	<input type="radio"/>	L. Dmitrijeva, J. Kobrin, T. Lavrenovas, A. Vasiljev, L. Kolcova, J. Utovka, V. Fedotov, A. Timofejevas, V. Rudenko, S. Dmitrijevas...	Partijos prašymu, šio kandidatų sąrašo reitingas nenumatomas. Rinkėjai, balsavę už šį sąrašą, nuomonės apie jame įrašytus kandidatus nereiškia.
5	Krikščionių demokratų sąjunga	<input type="radio"/>	K. Bobelis, V. Petkus, K. Antanavičius, A. Matulevičius, J. Genys, G. Tračevskienė, J. Jarašius, L. Zabulionis, S. Vidmantas, L. K. Jaskevičius	
6	Lietuvos socialistų partija	<input type="radio"/>	A. Visockas, M. Stakvičius, M. Bugakovas, V. Kazakevičius, O. Jakubonienė, R. Mukalnov, J. Vainauskas, K. Glebauskas, M. Šturmienė, V. Šugurovas	
7	Lietuvos laisvės sąjunga	<input type="radio"/>	V. Šustauskas, B. Pakėnas, G. Janušas, D. Bučinskis, G. Budnikas, A. Budnikas, E. Maciulevičius, A. M. Nešvasas, K. Jarašauskas, B. Mekionienė	
8	Lietuvos valstiečių partija	<input type="radio"/>	A. Vaižmužis, J. Kraujelis, J. Panariovas, R. Grigas, B. Pauža, V. Kambliūnas, A. Gedgaudas, S. Jankevičius, J. Bagdavičius, A. Dagys	
9	Lietuvos lenkų rinkimų akcija	<input type="radio"/>	J. Senkevič, R. Macekianec, V. Jefimovas, V. Tomševski, H. Jankovski, J. Bachmėtjeva, T. Filipovič, L. Talmont, G. J. Mincevič, M. Matuszevič...	Partijos prašymu, šio kandidatų sąrašo reitingas nenumatomas. Rinkėjai, balsavę už šį sąrašą, nuomonės apie jame įrašytus kandidatus nereiškia.
10	Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija	<input type="radio"/>	A. Sakalas, R. J. Dągys, A. Akstulnaitis, J. Valatka, V. Stasiūnaitė, N. Medvedev, R. Dovydenienė, A. Butkevičius, A. Sygas, R. Zuozas	
11	Lietuvos politinių kalinių ir tremtinių sąjunga	<input type="radio"/>	B. Gajauskas, V. Briedienė, P. Jakucionis, R. Vasilauskas, P. Musteikis, B. Sakalauskas, G. Dubauskas, A. Marišauskas, R. Krankaitis, P. Varanaukas	
12	Lietuvių nacionalinė partija "Jaunoji Lietuva"	<input type="radio"/>	S. Buškevičius, V. Mikėnas, A. Skimborauskas, E. Kričiūnas, D. Krelvyas, V. Puišys, S. Kapšaitė, G. Stanislovaitytė, G. Jasulionis, S. Zabienė...	Partijos prašymu, šio kandidatų sąrašo reitingas nenumatomas. Rinkėjai, balsavę už šį sąrašą, nuomonės apie jame įrašytus kandidatus nereiškia.
13	Lietuvos laisvės lyga	<input type="radio"/>	A. Terleckas, J. Gelėžius, K. Gaška, V. Čeponis, R. Goštautienė, L. Bartulevičius, A. Ornius, R. Tėvelis, A. Pronckus, A. Velykis	
14	Lietuvos gyvenimo logikos partija	<input type="radio"/>	V. Vaikšnoras, A. Liauškenė, R. Masliūnas, D. Suboč, A. Rastenas, P. Trukšnyns, E. Šabliuskas, S. Jarmalavičius, R. D. Barišauskas, Z. Pijauskas	
15	Lietuvos demokratinė darbo partija	<input type="radio"/>	Č. Jūrėnas, L. M. Stankevičius, V. Einoriai, S. Burbinė, P. Gylys, M. Pronckus, J. Karosas, G. Kirkišas, A. Plokštas, I. Šlaunienė	
16	Lietuvių tautininkų sąjungos ir Lietuvos demokratų partijos koalicija	<input type="radio"/>	R. Smetona, S. Pečiūnas, L. Mičiūnas, J. Tarilais, M. Treinys, V. Pastrauskas, A. Balazaitis, S. Janušionis, P. Noreika, K. Inta	
17	Lietuvos tautinių mažumų aljansas	<input type="radio"/>	R. Litvinovič, V. Škil, M. Vaškovič, J. Volis, N. Severinčik, M. Baburinas, O. Kiričko, V. H. Baranovskij, G. Fedosiuk, V. Trejakov...	Partijos prašymu, šio kandidatų sąrašo reitingas nenumatomas. Rinkėjai, balsavę už šį sąrašą, nuomonės apie jame įrašytus kandidatus nereiškia.
18	Lietuvos moterų partija	<input type="radio"/>	K. D. Prunskienė, A. Baranaušienė, L. V. Asmantas, M. Gerwickienė, M. L. Pinskienė, O. Žekienė, E. Mačiūskienė, Z. Žebrauskienė, V. Braziūnė, M. Karalienė	
19	Tėvynės sąjunga (Lietuvos konservatoriai)	<input type="radio"/>	V. Landsbergis, E. J. Kunavičiūtė, G. Vagnorius, A. Vidžiūnas, A. Kubilius, A. N. Stasiškis, B. T. Visockienė, S. Šaltenis, R. Pleikys, J. Avyžius	
20	Lietuvos socialinio teisingumo sąjunga	<input type="radio"/>	K. J. Jocius, A. Andriulis, J. Gavėnas, S. Petrašun, R. Trinkūnienė, Č. Račas, A. Stancetaitis, A. Bučmays, J. Majus, L. Pilelis	
21	Lietuvos krikščionių demokratų partija	<input type="radio"/>	A. Saudargas, P. Katilys, Č. V. Stankevičius, K. V. Kryževičius, M. Šerienė, S. Uždevinys, A. V. Pačackas, A. Šimėnas, F. Palubinskas, K. Kuzminkas	
22	Lietuvos liaudies partija	<input type="radio"/>	V. A. Lazinko, V. Krisiūnas, J. Burbo, J. Lev, J. Domarkas, J. Sapinskas, V. Juchnevičius, G. Dolženko, V. Levin, V. Podlipskas	
23	Lietuvos ūkio partija	<input type="radio"/>	K. Šepulis, L. Janauskas, E. Juclienė, B. Kučinskis, A. Bružas, A. Pečiūnas, A. Žvirblis, R. Rudys, A. Drillingas, J. Galdamavičius	
24	Tautos pažangos partija	<input type="radio"/>	E. Klumbys, R. Paušauskas, V. Jaskaitytė, A. Keršulis, A. Acus, S. Eitavičienė, V. Kolesnikovas, G. Kniukšaitė, V. V. Norkus, A. Sukackas	

Biuletenio žymas darykite tik mėlynai arba juodai

Reitingo lentelės tęsinys (pareikšti nuomonę apie to sąrašo, už kurį balsavote, likusius kandidatus)
Šioje lentelėje nurodyti numeriai yra tų kandidatų numeriai sąrašo, už kurį Jūs balsavote

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85
86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115

On Saturday, September 28, **Lithuania's Socialist Party** sponsored an academic conference on the topic "Lithuania and Socialism." The speakers addressed the question of how to return a socialist order to Lithuania. The conference was chaired by the vice-president of the Socialist Party, M. Bugakovas, who said in his opening remarks that, "despite being hustled out the door, socialism is returning to Lithuania through all the cracks in the wall and all the windows." Another Socialist Party vice-president, M. Stakvilevičius (currently a member of Seimas elected as an LDLP member) suggested that the way to create a socialist model for the future was to use a computer. Mr. Stakvilevičius also asked for suggestions to "improve the party's appearance on television" (during the campaign). Hearing none, he concluded his presentation. Thirty people attended the conference including speakers.

The **Lithuanian Social Democratic Party** currently has seven members in the Seimas. It has an honorable tradition in Lithuanian politics going back to the 19th century, but has had a difficult time resurrecting itself and becoming the vital party it could be defending the interests of the working man and woman of Lithuania. It allows the LDLP and various off-shoots to assert that claim. The party will field a list of 120 candidates and will run 71 of those candidates in all 71 single-mandate districts. It is not expected to do well in the elections because it lacks a real base of support and a relevant platform. Its campaign slogan in this election is "The LSDP wants to provide Lithuanian working people with the chance of creating a strong government under which not only the rich will feel themselves comfortable and safe." David Carville and Mary Matlin, do I have a client for you.

Among the 29 **non-affiliated** candidates who will compete in the single-mandate districts, the most interesting has to be Gintaras Petrikas, the president of the holding company EBSW and former chairman of the board of the Lithuanian State Commercial Bank. Petrikas, whose questionable business practices were mentioned in the last issue of **BRIDGES**, is under house arrest. Under indictment, but not having gone to trial or been convicted of anything (yet), he can run for the Seimas. Petrikas is running in the 13th electoral district (Kaunas Central District) because he says that he has a plan to rebuild the bankrupted EBSW and pay back his stockholders and the various banks from which he borrowed money over the last four years. Petrikas says that he can implement this plan if he is a member of the Seimas, and that is why he is running for office. His candidacy had been disputed, but a Vilnius court in late September reinstated him as a legal candidate, so we expect to see him on the ballot on October 20. The challenge to his candidacy had come from people who claimed that many of the 1,750 signatures Petrikas collected were invalid (1,000 valid signatures are needed). There were witnesses who said that they had been misled into thinking they were signing the petition for another person. Others claimed that they had been paid 15 litas to sign the petition.



Dick Durbin receives his CEEC award. He is joined by CEEC members including Regina Narušienė, left.

In the end, the court found 1,013 signatures to be valid and ordered the Chief Electoral Commission to reinstate Gintaras Petrikas as a candidate for the Seimas.

And Then There are the Referenda

During a special session of the Seimas called during the August recess, the ruling party, the LDLP, pushed through a change in the law that governs referenda. Referenda may now be initiated by one-third of the Parliament, not by a majority, as stipulated in the earlier law. When the Seimas resumed its normal schedule in September, the LDLP used the new law to adopt four referendum questions which will be added to the October ballots. A fifth was added to the ballot at the initiative of the Conservative Party.

All four referenda placed on the October ballot by the LDLP deal with changes to Lithuania's Constitution:

1. To reduce the number of seats in the Seimas from 141 to 111.
2. To establish a set Parliamentary election date on the second weekend of April every four years.
3. To allocate no less than half of the national budget to social welfare, medicine, education, culture and other social needs.
4. To recognize collective ownership as having the same legal standing and rights as private ownership or state ownership.

The fifth referendum initiated by the Conservative Party is:

5. To establish a special fund that would compensate individuals for the loss of their savings caused by the seizure of those assets by the government of the Soviet Union in 1990. The fund would be established with the proceeds from the sale of state property slated for privatization.

Presidential Elections Down the Road

For any BRIDGES readers who are Lithuanian citizens who might be interested in running for President of Lithuania, the elections are in February, 1998. Most of you, however, will have missed the eligibility date for this round. On September 19, 1996 the Seimas adopted a law which requires anyone running for president to have lived in the country for three years prior to the date of the election. Political pundits have already commented that this is the ruling

party's attempt to prevent the most popular figure in Lithuania today (according to public opinion polls), Chicago's own Valdas Adamkus, from running for President against Algirdas Brazauskas. Adamkus is a regional administrator for the US Environmental Protection Agency and has consulted extensively on environmental matters in Lithuania for the past 25 years. He figured in the last presidential elections as campaign manager for the late Stasys Lozoraitis, Lithuanian Ambassador to the US at the time of the elections.



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO RINKIMAI
1996 m. spalio 20 d.

Naujamiesčio rinkimų apygardos Nr. 1 BALSAVIMO BIULETENIS

PAŽYMĖKITE TIK VIENĄ KANDIDATĄ,
UŽ KURĮ BALSUOJATE

ŽYMĖJIMO
PAVYZDYS

ASMOLOKOV Vasilij	Lietuvos ūkio partija	<input type="radio"/>
BUTKEVIČIUS Audrius	Išsikėlė pats	<input type="radio"/>
GENZELIS Bronislavas	Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija	<input type="radio"/>
KOBRIN Jurij	Lietuvos rusų sąjunga	<input type="radio"/>
KUBILIUS Andrius	Tėvynės sąjunga (Lietuvos konservatoriai)	<input type="radio"/>
LOZURAITIS Albinas	Lietuvos demokratinė darbo partija	<input type="radio"/>
MATULIS Rimantas	Lietuvių tautininkų sąjunga	<input type="radio"/>
MICKUS Saulius	Lietuvos valstiečių partija	<input type="radio"/>
PILOTIENĖ Aurelija	Lietuvos krikščionių demokratų partija	<input type="radio"/>
PILVELIS Algirdas	Lietuvos reformų partija	<input type="radio"/>
RAČKOVSKIS Zigfrid	Lietuvos lenkų rinkimų akcija	<input type="radio"/>
RUSECKAS Gintaras	Respublikonų partija	<input type="radio"/>

Congressman Durbin has been a staunch and creative advocate for Lithuania's independence, security, and democracy over the last 14 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. Dick Durbin's mother is a Lithuanian immigrant from Jurbarkas, Lithuania. As a young girl she came to the United States in the 1930s and eventually married an Irish-American. She raised her son to love and respect the country of her birth, and Congressman Durbin has always been open to any Lithuanian-American, or Baltic-American who had an idea that would help Lithuania and the people of Lithuania. Dick Durbin is also one of the few members of Congress who has understood that it is in America's interest to help secure the democratic gains which have been won with such great personal sacrifice by the people of Lithuania, and all the nations of Central and East Europe.

On September 19, 1996 Durbin was one of four members of Congress honored by the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) which is made up of 18 organizations representing over 22 mil-

lion Americans of East European heritage. The other honorees were: Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), and Congressman Benjamin Gilman (R-NY).

Our Own Dick Durbin

The Clinton-Dole contest for President of the United States looks downright boring compared to the intrigue and high stakes atmosphere surrounding the Lithuanian Parliamentary elections, but there is one candidate that is of particular importance to Lithuanian-Americans this year. That person is Congressman Richard Durbin.

Dick Durbin is running for the United States Senate from the State of Illinois. If elected this November, he will be the first U.S. Senator of Lithuanian heritage. Lithuanian-Americans across the United States can be proud of Dick Durbin. Our favorite son. We wish him, "Daug laimės."

Paul Goble

Analysis from Washington: Baltic Hopes and Fears

Washington, September 13 (NCA/Paul Goble) — This week the three Baltic States found themselves caught between an assertive Russia and a West that appears to them more concerned about good relations with Moscow than about their security. In response, the three have taken public positions designed to enhance their security but which may ultimately highlight their lack of it.

Statements emanating from Moscow and Washington brought these fears and these actions to a head. On the one hand, a spokesman for Russian President Boris Yeltsin sharply criticized Estonia and Latvia on Tuesday for continuing to insist that treaties concluded in 1920 must serve as the basis for their relations with Moscow.

Sergei Yastrzhembsky said that this Baltic effort to “reanimate” treaties that no longer have any juridical validity was part of a broader plan to threaten the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation and the status of ethnic Russians living in Estonia and Latvia.

From the perspective of the Baltic governments, such a claim looks like an implicit threat to their security, especially since Yastrzhembsky pointedly noted that “the best security guarantee for the Latvian and Estonian republics is the development of good neighborly relations with the Russian Federation.”

On the other hand, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher indicated in a September 6 speech that NATO would not take up the issue of expansion until late spring or early summer 1997 and that in the intervening period the alliance would seek to conclude a charter with Moscow.

From a Baltic point of view, Christopher’s words — especially as amplified by senior American officials now visiting the Baltic capitals — demonstrated that they now have no hope for early NATO membership, that the West has not given sufficient thought to the Baltic security problem, and that their fate is once again to be decided by outside powers.

Each Baltic country has reacted in its own way. The Lithuanians have taken the most dramatic steps: On Monday, President Algirdas Brazauskas issued an appeal to the Lithuanian diaspora to come to the aid of Lithuania’s security. And the next day, the Lithuanian Defense Council announced that Vilnius would double the amount of money

it is spending on defense.

While Vilnius took this step ostensibly to bring the Lithuanian military up to NATO standards and thus make Lithuania a better candidate for alliance membership, its decision to do so now also appears to mirror growing Lithuanian worries about the future regardless whether NATO expands or not.

The Latvians also spoke out more sharply this week than in the past. Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs, for example, used a visit to Copenhagen to reiterate the common Baltic refrain that these countries have “no alternative” to ultimate NATO membership.

And he specifically ruled out the various arrangements — membership in the European Union or some kind of Nordic-Baltic security structures — that many in the West have proposed recently as possible substitutes for Baltic inclusion in the Western alliance. Even more, Birkavs argued that Baltic security concerns must be addressed before there is any expansion of the alliance.

And in Estonia, as in Lithuania, officials discussed this week the possibility of dramatically increasing defense spending. At the same time, President Lennart Meri sharply criticized Moscow’s suggestion that Estonia has territorial aspirations against Russia or is in any way mistreating ethnic Russians in his country.

And he told the visiting American officials that Washington needs to focus on Baltic security concerns and to expand the existing Partnership for Peace program into what Meri calls a Partnership for Security.

Obviously, as the date for a decision on NATO expansion approaches and as countries like the Baltic states conclude that they won’t be among the first taken in, such reactions will become more frequent.

That is because they reflect the very real fears of those who, as Latvia’s Birkavs said this week, must try to “sleep next to an elephant.” But in making such statements or taking such decisions, the Baltic States are adopting a high risk strategy: they call attention to a problem that they cannot by themselves solve. That in turn could leave them in an even more difficult position in the future.

Algis Rimas

Business and Investment News

Ingrida Bublys, Lithuanian-American Business Executive, named Lithuania's Honorary Consul in Cleveland

Congratulations to Mrs. Ingrida Bublys of Cleveland, Ohio on being appointed Honorary Consul of Lithuania in Cleveland. Mrs. Bublys, a Lithuanian-American business executive with extensive trading and investment experience in Lithuania, is owner and president of IB Associates, IBCommunications and Imports by Kelley. She is also a member of the LAC Council and serves on its Economics Committee. Mrs. Bublys' advice to Lithuanian business people on how to trade with U.S. companies was recently published in the LAC Business Directory which is being distributed in Lithuania.

Seimas-LAC Joint Committee Talks on Economic Cooperation

The Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas) and the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. (LAC) established a joint committee last year to explore areas for mutual cooperation and to discuss how Lithuanian-Americans could contribute to Lithuania's development. During its most recent session held this September in Vilnius, the joint committee discussed the Lithuanian economy and other topics. Lithuanian government ministers, LAC representatives and attending U.S. Embassy officials agreed to seek closer cooperation in encouraging Lithuania's economic development on the basis of a free market system. Both U.S. and Lithuanian economic development experts invited qualified Americans of Lithuanian descent to provide sound advice and promote trade and investment know-how in Lithuania.

Regina Narušis, chairperson of the LAC National Executive Committee, presented the joint committee a paper written by the LAC's Economic Relations Council discussing economic development and suggesting several approaches to attract investment funds. The paper reviewed current Western thinking on developmental strategies. It mentioned the importance of human capital as demonstrated by economists such as Paul Romer. It also discussed the potential barriers to economic growth erected by misdirected governmental regulation, as described

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by Robert Barro. Mancur Olson's writings on effectively using available resources in a competitive market environment were also raised.

The LAC report also included Alan Reynold's findings, printed in the Spring 1996 issue of *Orbis*, identifying a series of common features that marked many of the economic success stories of this century. He found that countries generally achieved economic growth and lower inflation by lowering tariffs and trade barriers, adopting a steady rate of exchange for their currency, and moderating their tax rates to reasonable levels. In addition, successful economic policies included the following: maximizing the private ownership of property, providing adequate legal protection to business, enabling real competition to take place on the basis of price and entry as well as exit from the market place.

Worldwide demand for private foreign investment is high and tips were provided on how to attract capital. Recommendations included adopting internationally accepted accounting and audit practices and circulating accurate information on company performance. Lithuanian business managers were advised to learn more about the U.S. market by using available sources, cultivating business contacts and visiting American trade and industrial fairs. American investment, at over 60 million dollars, currently ranks the third highest of any country in Lithuania, and prospects for additional investment are good. Comments from a sampling of U.S. investment fund managers indicated that, to invest in the relatively risky developing markets, they expected returns on investment of over 16 percent.

The LAC paper also discussed how Lithuanian-Americans could contribute directly toward improving that country's prospects. For example, Lithuanian-speaking experts could be invaluable in providing technical advice, and the LAC could compile a listing of such experts. Information exchange through the LAC could also benefit bilateral business development between the United States and Lithuania and provide guidance to foreign assistance agencies in planning specific programs and projects.

Recent Lithuanian Economic Developments

Lithuania's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 3 percent in 1995 to over 5.6 billion dollars, according to the latest revised figures announced by the Statistics Department

in September. Per capita GDP adjusted for purchasing parity was 3,771 dollars. The figures include, reportedly for the first time, the estimated production contributed by the country's illegal black market: it is estimated to account for 18 percent of all sales in Lithuania. Industry and Trade Minister Klimašauskas recently claimed that GDP growth in 1996 should exceed the officially forecast 3.5 percent rate as industrial production was stronger than anticipated.

Inflation in August dropped to zero. During the first eight months of the year it had averaged 10.3 percent. The official unemployment rate declined to 6.7 percent. More troubling were the trends in foreign borrowing. Foreign debt on September 1 reached almost 14 percent of the GDP and by year's end that ratio is expected to rise to 18 percent. The one billion dollar foreign debt figure now accounts for 33 percent of export earnings. Debt service in 1996 should reach about 5 percent of export earnings. In addition, the government has an outstanding domestic debt of 300 million dollars. The budget deficit is approximately 200 million dollars. According to the Finance Ministry, financing for the debt had been arranged but there is yet over 62 million dollars in uncollected tax revenues outstanding.

By comparison with other countries, however, the debt is not so bad. As President Brazauskas has pointed out, measured on a per capita basis, Lithuania's foreign debt per person is a meager 231 dollars compared to 800 dollars for the Czechs, 1300 dollars for the Poles and 2400 dollars for the Hungarians. Also, Lithuania is a strong exporter whose exports account for over 50 percent of the country's rising production. Central bank reserves of foreign currency and gold are at a record 867 million dollars. Sigita Burbienė, the chairperson of the Parliamentary committee on economics, has added additional gloss to the Lithuanian economic picture by pointing out that compared to its Baltic neighbors, Lithuania has the most generous social welfare system combined with the lowest inflation rate. It also has the lowest wages in the Baltic. Monthly wages in July averaged 172 dollars compared to 205 in Latvia and 224 in Estonia. The minimum wage was increased on September 1 to 300 litas per month, equivalent to 75 dollars.

Pay figures, at least for executives, may be understated. The daily, *Respublika*, recently reported on a governmental study that found salaries of high government officials in 1994 to have made up only 32 percent of their total compensation. Bonus payments, awards and supplemental pay accounted for the remainder. Such practices reportedly are widespread not only in government but also in private business.

Foreign investment has increased by 40 million dollars in the first eight months of 1996. Cumulative foreign direct investment is estimated at 280 million dollars. The country's official company register lists some 5,160 foreign joint-ventures and foreign-owned companies. Most foreign investment currently originates in Germany which accounts for 18 percent of the total. Britain is in second

place with slightly less than the German figure. The U.S. comes-in third with 16 percent of total foreign investment.

The Statistics Department in mid-September announced the results of an opinion poll that reflects expectations by business executives. The sample consisted of 170 chief executives of private and state-owned manufacturing and processing companies that reportedly account for one-half of all industrial production in Lithuania. When asked to rate the present condition of the economy, 78 percent said it was performing satisfactorily, one percent said it was good and 21 percent rated it unsatisfactory. When requested to predict the economy's course over the next six months, 71 percent indicated no change, and 11 percent said it would get worse. Looking at the next annual quarter, 22 percent expected production to rise, 9 percent said it would fall and the remainder said it would remain at current levels. Regarding employment outlook, 49 percent of the polled executives thought there would be no change in employment levels in the near future but 46 percent predicted more job losses ahead. Among the leading problems faced by management, lack of product demand was mentioned as the primary obstacle, followed by lack of financing.

Lithuania Gets a Credit Rating

In early September, the U.S. credit rating company, Moody's, awarded Lithuania its first ever international credit rating for bonds and bank deposits. The rating of Ba2 matches that of Mexico, Venezuela and the Philippines. Ratings by other agencies, including Standard and Poor, are expected in the near future. According to bond brokers, the Moody's rating should result in an immediate reduction of borrowing costs for Lithuania. Its government should benefit from at least a one-quarter percent decline in interest rates on its treasury bonds. According to press reports, the relatively good rating was influenced by the fact that all political parties were willing to adhere to Lithuania's international commitments regardless of the outcome of the October Parliamentary elections and prospects of a change of government.

Some voices, however, especially in the banking and business sectors, have complained that the rating was too low. They blamed Lithuanian government ministries for failing to coordinate their reports to Moody's with private sector financial experts in the stock exchange and the commercial banks, and for downplaying the positive aspects of the banking sector which, to be sure, has been plagued in recent months by serious problems.

In other news of economic rankings, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recently graded the former East bloc countries on the extent to which they had completed privatizing state-owned industries. Lithuania was listed in fourth place from the top, having placed 80 percent of its industrial firms under private ownership. The Czech Republic, Hungary, and Estonia

surpassed Lithuania which, in turn, edged out Russia and Latvia. The OECD indicated a correlation between the extent of privatization and making a successful transition toward a prosperous economy in a free market system.

Banking Update

In the aftermath of Lithuania's banking crisis, the Central Bank suspended on September 19 the license of a tenth commercial bank, Kooperacijos. Earlier this year, licenses were withdrawn from Sekundės, Žemės, Apus, Ateitis, Nida, Kredit, Lietuvos verslas, Ekspres and Baltic Bank. On September 5, the Central Bank initiated steps to declare the Vakarų Bank bankrupt. At one time, Vakarų Bankas had accounted for over four percent of all bank deposits in the country.

Prospects appear good for the long-term survival of the two large commercial banks, Litimpeks and the Lithuanian Joint-Stock Innovation Bank (LAIB), that had been shut down late in 1995 and subsequently reorganized. Sufficient amounts of deposits are being converted to shares in the banks to meet minimum capital requirements and full operations are being restored. In the case of LAIB, its temporary administrator, Romas Visokavičius, is seeking additional government investments and guarantees. The State Commercial Bank, which recently had liquidity problems of its own, is back in operation following a management shake-up and an injection of government funds. The partially state-owned bank benefited from a government mandated shift of ministerial and local government accounts into the bank, and loans of over 27 million dollars.

In a further attempt to improve stability of commercial banks, the Central Bank issued a new ruling setting a ceiling on loans to any one borrower at not more than 25 percent of the lending bank's capital. The ruling meets one of the conditions set by the World Bank for continuing its lending to Lithuania. For more on Lithuanian borrowing from the World Bank and others, see the following item.

Large Loans to Lithuania

Three major loans have been finalized by Lithuania in September. A 75 million dollar one-year loan was syndicated through the J.P. Morgan Bank to finance the budget deficit. Twenty two banks participated. According to the Finance Ministry, the interest rate on the loan is less than 8 percent.

The U.S. company, Merrill Lynch, through its British-based banking affiliate, bought out a government bond

issue worth 50 million dollars. The one-year bonds were denominated in litas, the local currency, and carried an interest rate of 22 percent. Currency devaluation risk is considered minimal since the Lithuanian government signed a memorandum with the International Monetary Fund pledging to maintain the country's fixed currency exchange system at least until next October. Lithuania's currency board ties the litas to the dollar.

The deal generated controversy when Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the opposition Conservative Party, charged that the government paid too much by selling the bonds at a 22 percent interest rate, and suspected possible malfeasance. Finance Minister Krizinauskas defended the sale, claiming that market interest rates at the time averaged 23 percent and that previous similar bond issues offered to local banks were undersubscribed.

The third transaction, an 80-million dollar loan from the World Bank, is expected to be completed shortly. It would carry an annual interest rate of 7.4 percent and be repayable in 22 years. The loan is conditional on Lithuania's compliance with the World Bank's memorandum of July 4, which set forth various term reforms required to take place in the banking, energy and agricultural sectors and in social security policy. Proceeds of the loan would be largely channeled into those sectors.

Regarding banking, the World Bank required stricter supervision of commercial banks by the Central Bank, including the closing of banks failing to meet minimal capital and other performance standards. The three state banks, Commercial, Savings and Agricultural, were to be slated for privatization by next March.

On energy, outstanding consumer debt to the electricity and natural gas utilities was to be drastically reduced. Subsidies to utilities were to be eliminated in 1997 and central heating plants transferred to local authorities. In the agricultural sector, average tariffs on food commodities were to be reduced from 27.5 percent to 27 percent in 1997. Subsidies and the government's floor price for purchasing commodities would be gradually phased out.

As for social policy, the World Bank wants Parliament to legislate an increase in the retirement age and to allow private pension plans. The Lithuanian government appears to be complying with the banking provisions. A significant step to reduce consumer debt to the energy sector was recently taken when arrangements were made for local governments and state entities to refinance their energy bills through the State Savings Bank. In all, Finance Minister Krizinauskas believes the loan will go through.

Vytautas Černius

Taking Stock: Lithuania's Securities Industry is Ready to Chip in on the Growth of the Economy

We all recognize the importance of the American Securities Market in raising capital to fuel the growth of American business and industry. While Wall Street has always held an interest for me, I must confess that I knew very little about the mini "Wall Street" currently operating in Lithuania. Therefore, it was with considerable eagerness that I accepted an invitation to work for one month with the biggest privately-held securities brokerage firm in Lithuania — Vilfima.

My visit was under the sponsorship of the International Executive Service Corps (IESC). This organization, similar to the Peace Corps, sponsors retired executives to work in developing countries to impart American know-how and experience. I would like to share my impression of the visit with the readers of **BRIDGES**.

Laying a Cornerstone of Capitalism

Most of the laws governing the securities market in Lithuania were passed by the Lithuanian Parliament (the Seimas) in 1993 and 1994. These laws established a legal framework within which the securities market operates. The Seimas also instituted a Securities Commission under the Ministry of Finance whose purpose is to protect the interests of the investors and to ensure the proper functioning of the securities market.

The National Stock Exchange is a non-profit organization located in Vilnius that provides a forum for the trading of shares. The Exchange is set up to support both the initial public offering (IPO) of shares as well as secondary market operations.

Lithuania's National Stock Exchange operates on the model of the French Stock Exchange which differs from the American Stock Exchange. The basic approach is that, at the beginning of a day's session, sellers and buyers of shares put in a price at which the parties are willing to buy or sell shares. In cases where a match in sell-buy price occurs, a trade is completed. It does not seem to be an effi-

cient way to trade. Currently, the trading volume is low, and I have seen days when a listing of sell/buy orders would fill several typed pages with only two or three transactions successfully completed.

Most of the trading is the so-called "private trading." In this case, seller and buyer agree on a price privately and use the Stock Exchange to complete the transaction legally. What is important is that a system has been brought into existence for the trading of shares. With time, as Lithuanian investors learn of the potential profitability of trading, trade volume will increase. I believe this may happen fairly soon.

Baptism by Fire

During the last five years, the Lithuanian securities market underwent a difficult trial period. First, the industry was privatized with investors buying shares using investment checks which were issued by the government. Hence, a state-owned company became a privately-owned company with its management inexperienced in the free market, using obsolete equipment to produce goods under no quality control. Even worse, many non-operating factories were privatized and only later did the new owners realize that to get the factory operational would require a large capital expenditure — capital which was not available. Many of these new businesses went bankrupt.

The situation now is considerably improved. The new companies that are being formed, or are already operating, are based on much sounder management approaches forged the hard way over the last five years.

The National Stock Exchange is supported by a number of other important institutions. The Central Securities Depository has the responsibility of keeping track of the ownership of securities. Lithuania does not have stock certificates as we do in the United States. It uses the book entry method, where ownership is registered with the brokerage firm and with the Central Securities Depository. In practice

this is what we do in the U.S., too. When we trade in shares, very seldom do we get a stock certificate. Mostly, we leave it at the brokerage house. The financial settlement of the share transactions has to be completed in three days using the services of the Financial Settlement (Clearing) Bank.

Who's Making Money?

You might wonder, having read this far, how do the securities brokerage firms earn their living? Well, 98% of their business is in trading with government treasury bills, a debt instrument issued by the government of Lithuania. The maturity period for the bills is usually between one and three months. The annual interest rate early this year was about 30%. Now the interest rate is about 20%.

To become a stock broker in
Lithuania one must pass a very
difficult test — much more difficult, in
my opinion, than the Series 7 test
that American stock brokers must
pass in the US. In fact, most of the
stock brokers in Lithuania are former
physicists.

If one starts with 40,000 litas (\$10,000) and reinvests every month, at the end of one year the initial investment will have grown to 48,776 litas (\$12,194), less a very small fee (on the order of .1 - .2% of the face value per transaction). Each week there are two trading sessions for treasury bills. While I was in Lithuania in early 1996, the trading volume per session was between 15 and 30 million litas.

Vilfima handles about 25% of all the Lithuanian government's treasury bill transactions. Among their customers, one counts state-owned insurance organizations, Lithuanian and foreign banks, church dioceses, corporations and private citizens. About 40% of their customer base is foreigners, mostly Norwegians, Finns and Germans. It was a little disconcerting to me to see all these

foreigners making money hand-over-fist with only a trickle of Lithuanian-Americans participating.

Vilfima provides many services that an American Brokerage firm normally provides. Their staff can assist a company to incorporate under Lithuanian law and to issue the initial public offering of shares. During my stay with Vilfima, several West European companies used their service to explore and find an acceptable Lithuanian business partner or to help locate suitable investment opportunities.

I really enjoyed my discussion with their research department. Vilfima keeps track of many businesses and evaluates their shares for investment suitability. Their techniques are modern, and I am certain William O'Neill and Peter Lynch would find them impressive. Needless to say, to date there are only a few companies on their recommended list. However, the list is growing. There are more and more companies that are managed well, with growing quarterly earnings and increasing sales.

The most exciting part of my one-month visit was working with the personnel of Vilfima. Vilfima is the largest privately-owned brokerage firm in Lithuania. To become a stock broker in Lithuania one must pass a very difficult test — much more difficult, in my opinion, than the Series 7 test that American stock brokers must pass in the US. In fact, most of the stock brokers in Lithuania are former physicists. What impressed me most in working with these young people was their commitment to customer service, their impeccable professional behavior, and their thoroughness in the execution of trade orders.

To spend this one month in Lithuania was a tremendous experience for me. I worked pretty hard presenting seven seminars on American securities market and its products and business ethics. Dealing with these young people at Vilfima gave me confidence in the future of Lithuania. They were smart, practical, and fast learners.

Anyone interested in learning more about the securities market in Lithuania can request a brochure, in either English or Lithuanian, by writing or calling:

VILFIMA
Ukmergės 41-602
2662 Vilnius
Lithuania
Tel: (370-2) 72 42 59
Fax: (370-2) 72 42 79

Vitalia and John Dunčią

Lithuania, Land of Mary

Lithuania is often called the Land of Mary ("Marijos Žemė") in honor of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. The Catholic people of Lithuania have a special place in their hearts for the Holy Virgin as evidenced in part by the large number of hymns composed in her honor, e.g., "Marija, Marija," "Sveika Marija," and others. There are also numerous churches Lithuania dedicated to the Blessed Mother. There are even holy places where miracles have taken place through the intercession of Mary. We would like to tell you about the history of some of these miraculous places in Lithuania.

Our Lady of Šiluva

The holiest Catholic shrine in Lithuanian is located in Šiluva. There, the Blessed Virgin Mary, holding the Christ child, appeared to a group of shepherds in 1608 at the very spot where a large basilica now stands. She stood on a rock and seemed to be crying. One of the shepherds ran to town and told his Calvinist religion instructor, Michael Fiera, about it who in turn told another Calvinist religion instructor, Solomon Gradsky. Together they went to the apparition themselves and asked the woman on the rock why she was crying. Mary answered that in this very spot her Son used to be worshiped but now it was a field of rye.

Thus, Šiluva is to Lithuania as
Lourdes is to France, Fatima to
Portugal, and Medjugorje to Croatia.

The Calvinists declared that the apparition was satanic in origin. However, a 100-year old blind man, having heard about the apparition from the shepherds, declared that this woman was the Virgin Mary herself. He also stated that there used to be a church on that very spot 80 years ago which the Calvinist nobility had torn down. Word about the apparition reached the Bishop at Varniai. An investigative committee was dispatched. They took the 100-year old man to the site of the apparition where he suddenly regained his sight. The old man fell to his knees worshipping God. He then told the committee about a metal box which the last Catholic pastor of the destroyed church had buried at the site of the apparition. The box was excavated

and in it was found a neatly folded up painting of Mary holding the Christ Child.

It took 15 years for the Catholic church to get the land back, but eventually several churches were built at the site of the apparition. The miraculous painting currently overlooks the altar of the present church. In 1957, this painting was taken out of its frame for restoration and the fold marks from 300 years ago were clearly visible, lending credence to the above story.

There have been many miracles which have taken place through the intercession of Our Lady of Šiluva as demonstrated by the multitude of silver hearts and other artifacts decorating the church, each one representing an answer to prayer. Thus, Šiluva is to Lithuania as Lourdes is to France, Fatima to Portugal, and Medjugorje to Croatia.

Every year, Šiluva celebrates the birth of Mary from September 8-15. Pilgrims from all parts of Lithuania descend upon the small village and, by the end of the week, 50,000 communion hosts have been handed out to the faithful. During Soviet times, every attempt was made to prevent the people from attending this commemoration. However, the authorities were never successful, and the tradition has not been broken since September 8th, 1786 when a golden crown blessed by Pope Pius VI was placed on the head of Mary in the miraculous painting.

Aušros Vartai (Gates of Dawn)

The second holiest shrine in Lithuania is the Chapel of the Gates of Dawn (Aušros Vartų Koplyčia) located in Vilnius' old town above the eastern gate of the old city wall. This tiny chapel contains a painting of the Madonna clothed in expensive silver and gold handiwork. The painting is considered to be miraculous as attested to by the hundreds of silver hearts, arms, and legs adorning the walls of the chapel.

The origins of the painting are uncertain. Some experts believe that the unknown artist who painted a portrait of Barbara Radziwill (Barbara Radvilaitė) c. 1540 was the same one who painted this portrait of Mary. Eventually in 1688, the Carmelites became the caretakers of this portrait when they brought it to their wooden chapel above the Gates of Dawn. The great Vilnius fire of 1715 destroyed the chapel but the Carmelites managed to rescue the

Blessed Mother's portrait from the burning ashes. A new brick chapel was built and the painting was ceremoniously installed in 1719, where it has remained ever since.

In 1944, the Russians bombed Vilnius, but three bombs that landed by the chapel miraculously failed to explode. Two of the bombs, weighing 50-100 kilograms each, ricocheted off of a nearby wall and landed onto a sidewalk, leaving craters where they hit. The third bomb weighed twice as much and landed in the street, straight in front of the chapel where the Madonna is visible through a window. A few days later, a couple of fearless men rolled the unexploded bombs onto a sidewalk where they remained unexploded for a whole month. Thousands of people actually witnessed this sight. All three bombs were later taken to nearby woods where they were easily detonated. Nobody could explain why the bombs had not exploded upon original impact. The marks left by the bombs remained until 1977 when the entire street in front of the chapel was repaved.

After the 1944 Russian bombing of Vilnius, the city was once more engulfed in flames due to the war. The wooden roof of the chapel caught fire and collapsed, surrounding the altar in flames. There was no fire-fighting equipment or running water available. Kazimieras Mackevičius, who took care of the chapel, was sure he would witness the final destruction of the Madonna's painting. Instead, he witnessed a sudden strong wind which blew out the fire like one blows out a candle. Again, the miraculous Gates of Dawn Madonna was saved.

Pivasiūnai

The church in the village of Pivasiūnai, located 25 km. northeast of Alytus, is home to a miraculous painting of the Madonna holding the Christ Child. The church was originally built in 1648. It was destroyed by fire twice, once in 1766 and again in 1825, and both times rebuilt by the Benedictines. The painting was miraculously rescued from each of these fires. Pilgrims visiting this church experienced numerous miracles but the records of these witnesses were lost in the two fires. However, there have been numerous miracles since then.

Because the original church records were destroyed, no one really know the true origin of the Pivasiūnai Madonna. Tradition has it that a farmer came across the painting while plowing his field. He presented it to his pastor who put it in the church. The next day, the farmer again unearthed the same painting while plowing his field and again he brought it to his pastor, who again put it in the church. This series of events was repeated several more times when finally the pastor and his congregation decided to build a church where the farmer was plowing, and that is where the present church stands. There are scratch marks observable on the painting which, according to tradition,

were supposedly made by the farmer's plow when the painting was originally unearthed.

This miraculous painting is adorned with many silver and gold hearts and stars, reminiscent of the Madonna at the Gates of Dawn. On September 14, 1988, one day before the feast of Žolinės (the birth of Mary, an important holy day in Lithuania) Pope John Paul II sent a crown which Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevičius placed on the head of the Christ Child in the painting. This is the time when the Church in Pivasiūnai holds an 8-day retreat/festival called "atlaidai," as does the Church at Šiluva.

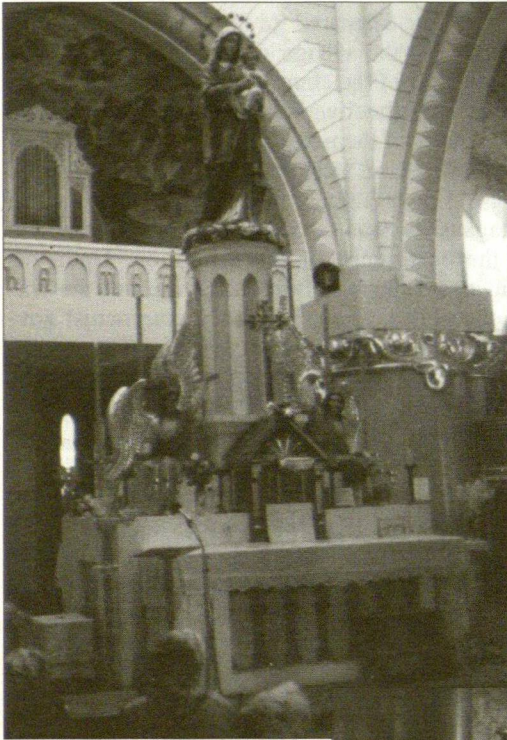
Žemaičių Kalvarija

There are two other famous and miraculous paintings of the Madonna in Lithuania. The first is in the Church of Žemaičių Kalvarija, a village about 24km northwest of Telšiai. This village is famous for its stations of the cross which were created by Bishop Jurgis Tiškevičius in 1637. The bishop himself measured the distance between the stations so that they would be the same as in Jerusalem. The bishop built a chapel at every station, and even spread soil obtained from Jerusalem around each one. He also obtained a relic of the cross which is still there even to this day.

Over the main altar of the church hangs the miraculous painting of the Madonna holding the Christ Child. It is in a golden frame and Mary and Jesus are covered in silver and gold vestments. The painting was originally brought from Rome and housed in the nearby Dominican monastery where it came to be considered miraculous. It was then moved to the church where, in 1643, it was officially proclaimed by the diocese of Žemaitija to be miraculous. A book listing all of the miracles was also written that same year. Unfortunately, this book perished in the church fire of 1896.

Pažaislio Madonna

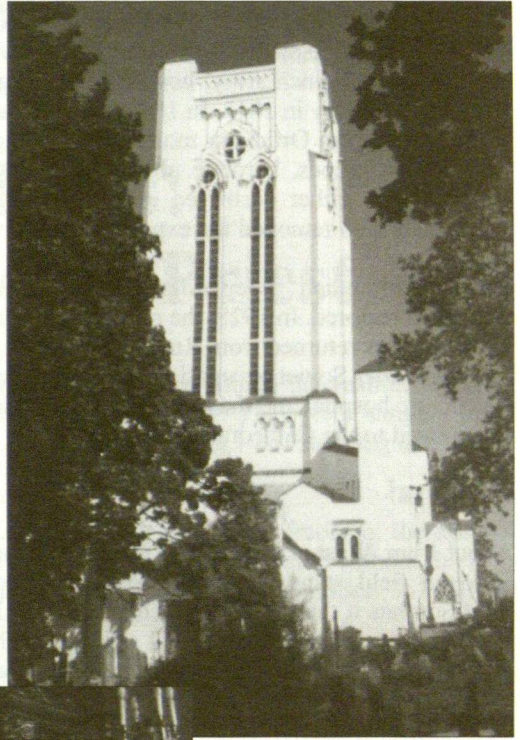
The fourth and final miraculous painting is that of the Pažaislio Madonna. The village of Pažaislis near Kaunas is home to the famous baroque monastery which was begun in 1664 by Kristupas Zigmundas Pacas, a wealthy nobleman. He and his wife, Klara (who could trace her ancestry to the rulers of the Byzantine Empire), had a baby boy who lived for only 8 days. In their deep sorrow, they decided to dedicate their lives to the monumental task of building a monastery for which they spent 8,000,000 Lithuanian gold pieces (auksiniai!). According to their wishes, they were buried in the church basement by the doorway. People entering or leaving the church would have to walk over their graves, next to which were inscribed these words: "Passerby, please step on this stone brick under which lies a grave sinner."



Left: The main altar in Our Lady of Šiluva Basilica. The rock to the left of the altar is where Mary appeared to the shepherds in 1608.

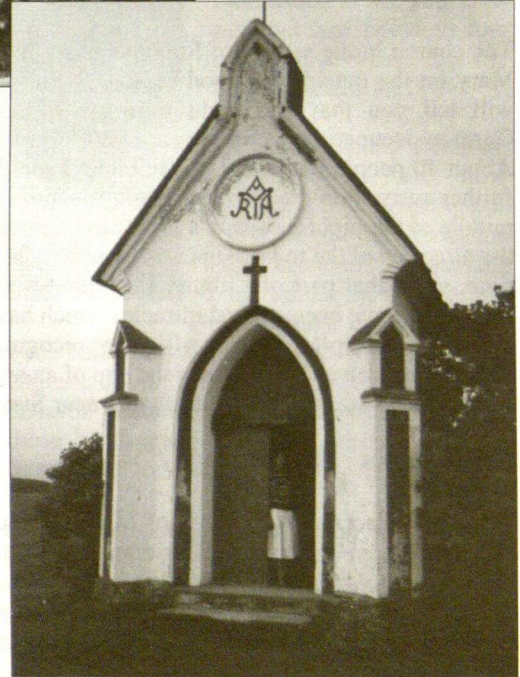
Right: Our Lady of Šiluva Basilica.

Below: The Gates of Dawn Madonna (Auštos Vartų Marija).



Left: The Gates of Dawn Chapel (located above the old city gate).

Right: The small chapel west of Svedasai built by Liucijonas Marikonas in 1850.



Eventually, the monastery was finished by others with materials and craftsmen imported from as far away as Italy. The retreating French army, however, looted and vandalized the monastery in 1812. In 1832, the Russians converted it to a Russian Orthodox monastery. During this time, the Italian frescoes, baroque altars and other expensive artifacts were either destroyed or painted over in black paint. They also removed the expensive cooper roof.

During Lithuanian independence, the monastery was somewhat restored. In 1928, the miraculous painting of the Madonna was returned from Russia and placed back in the Church. Under Soviet occupation, the monastery became a psychiatric hospital and the miraculous Pažaislio Madonna was moved to the Cathedral in Kaunas.

Švedasai

About 1 km. West of the town of Švedasai in the middle of an open field stands a tiny chapel in honor of Mary. Tradition has it that in this tiny chapel, which measures 4 meters long, 3 meters wide and 6.5 meters high, Mary appeared to estate owner Liucijonas Marikonas. He had built this Gothic-style chapel in about the year 1850. He had been praying the rosary daily for his sick daughter when Mary appeared to him. Before World War II, there had been three silver hearts on the wall testifying to three miracles which apparently had occurred. These silver hearts have since then been replaced by three metal plaques on which words of thanksgiving are inscribed. The chapel contains an altar on which rests a status of Mary holding the Christ Child. The chapel is always bedecked with freshly cut flowers and garland made of wildflowers.

Simonys

The church in the village of Simonys has a few statues of Mary on the outside for good reason. Some of the locals will tell you that one night during WWII during the German occupation, Mary appeared on top of the church. About 40 people witnessed this miracle. People who lived further away from the town of Simonys claimed that in the middle of the night they saw a bright light emanating from the direction of the town. This was extremely strange at the time, since that part of Lithuania did not have electricity yet. There have been several miracles which have occurred there, but this place is not officially recognized by the Catholic church as having been the site of an apparition by Mary. The same is true for the chapel near Švedasai.

Skieionys

One of the recent appearances of Mary occurred on July 13-14, 1962 in the town of Skieionys, located 16 km. southeast of Anykščiai. This event was so much talked about in Lithuania that an article describing the event appeared even in the communist daily newspaper Tiesa

(the "Truth"). Mary appeared to an 18-year old girl, Ramutė Macvytė, in the village church's field and then later at the main altar of the church. According to Tiesa, it was at this time when the town's people began to gather in the church and many of them saw a light. Even the leadership of the collective farm were present and all of them fell to their knees. The infamous ex-Catholic priest turned atheist, A. Ragauskas, was dispatched by the government to disprove the occurrence of the apparition. Upon his arrival, the local people tried to attack him, but he was protected by the police. Even though the communist government prohibit believers from visiting Skieionys, thousands of people would go there anyway. For example, during the first anniversary of the apparition July 12-13, 1963, 10,000 people visited the church.

There are several more places in Lithuania where Mary has reportedly appeared, and all of the apparition sites are listed in the accompanying table. We decided to write only about the apparitions most familiar to us. We hope that your faith does not depend on miracles and apparitions, since Christ Himself said: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). These miracles and apparitions only reinforce in our hearts that God has not forgotten His faithful in Lithuania. He sends his earthly mother Mary to comfort us in times of trouble and to point the way to Jesus Christ. We all hope and pray that more and more Lithuanians will turn to the Lord, as Mary urges us to do in her apparitions, and that one day the greatest miracle of all will take place — the spiritual renewal of the entire country of Lithuania.

Sites of Apparitions of Blessed Virgin Mary in Lithuania

1.	Šiluva chapel	1608
2.	Pusalotas church	15th century
3.	Geivonys church	16th century
4.	Skudutiškis	16th century
5.	Ugonys spring near Betygala	1657
6.	Alksnėnai	1867
7.	Aucė church	1927
8.	Simonys church	1446, 1670, 1941
9.	Sietynas village near Vepriai	1960
10.	Janonys village near Skieionys	1962
11.	Maženys village	1964
12.	Girkalnys church	1943
13.	Krivintiškiai village	1967
14.	Duokiškiai village south of Kamajai	1968
15.	Kerunaujiena	1969, 1970
16.	Gulbinėnai	1982
17.	Peleniškiiai	1984
18.	Joniškėlis church	1985
19.	Žemaičių Kalvarija church	1990

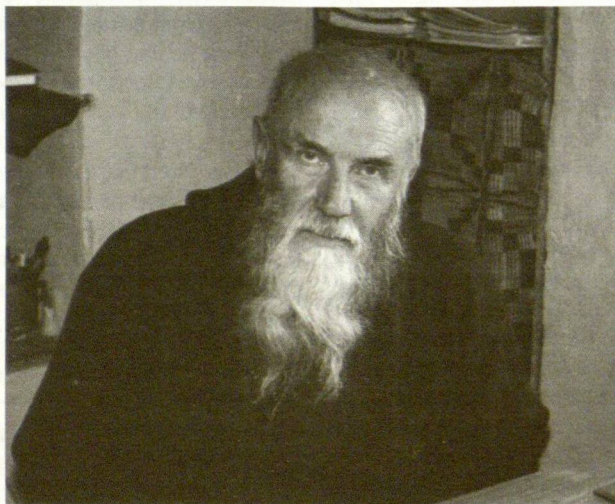
Edward Baranauskas

Father Stanislovas: A Humble and Sincere Priest

When I visited Lithuania in 1988, I had the opportunity to visit Paberžė, a small town in eastern Lithuania about 30 kilometers (19 miles) north of Vilnius. It is rich in history, for it was here that Rev. Antanas Mackevičius, who preached in this small church, organized a band of peasants to join the anti-Russian rebellion of 1863. He was one of the leaders of this armed insurrection but, unfortunately, it failed. He was captured and met his untimely end on the gallows in Kaunas on December 28, 1863.

Visitors from all over Lithuania as well as foreigners are attracted to Paberžė for its historic significance. At the time I was there, people were drawn by the personality of Rev. Mykolas Dobrovolskis, the pastor, known to everyone as Father Stanislovas. He ranks among the most popular of local clergymen and, in my opinion, is among the most outstanding people in Lithuania. He is a tall man with a flowing white beard and wears the brown belted cassock of the Capuchins.¹

Father Stanislovas invited me to take a leisurely look around the interior of the small church, the well-kept cemetery, and the rectory which had the aura of a museum instead of a residence. The walls of the kitchen were lined with shelves of copper kitchenware: pots, kettles, frying pans, cups and plates. But the room that impressed



¹Capuchins: a branch of the Franciscan friars, founded about 1525 by Matteo da Bassi, who advocated a return to the observance of the most rigid rules of St. Francis. In 1528, Pope Clement VII issued a bull authorizing them to wear the pyramidal hood (*capuccio*), to go barefoot, to grow beards, and to live as hermits. The order has always been a prominent one, numbering among its members many men of wealth and education. It reached its zenith in the 18th century, but suffered severely in the suppression of the monastic orders in France and Germany.

me the most was the one that stored the vestments, some dating back to the 19th century. They were hanging from many racks, and I had the feeling I was standing in a sacred place.

Now that Lithuania has regained its freedom, there is no problem traveling around the countryside without the fear of being apprehended by the Soviet police. A visit to Paberžė should be on everyone's list.

When I visited Lithuania in 1992, after a four year absence, relatives took me to see the 18th century church at Dotnuva which, to me, resembled a cathedral. To my surprise, I had the pleasure of meeting Father Stanislovas once again. He

was now the pastor of the parish, having left Paberžė where he had served for 25 years. I learned that he came here at the request of Cardinal Sladkevičius to restore the Capuchin Monastery, which had been established in the 18th century but had fallen to ruin during the years of the Soviet occupation.

With Lithuania's freedom, many stories are now appearing in various periodicals and journals about the harsh life many Lithuanians endured during the years in Soviet labor camps. One of

those was about Father Stanislovas. From what I saw of him, I was impressed with his boundless energy, friendliness, and wonderful personality. How he managed to survive under those harsh and unbearable conditions in the labor camps is a tribute to his strength and courage.

Mykolas Dobrovolskis (Father Stanislovas) was born on September 29, 1918 on an estate not far from Paberžė. Lithuania was part of Czarist Russia at that time, and at the end of World War I the borders of Eastern Europe were not clearly defined. His birthplace was occupied by Polish troops and was a part of Poland from 1920 to 1939.

He was christened Stanislaw Dobrowolski but Lithuanized his name to Stanislovas Dobrovolskis. He took the monk's vow in 1937, and was ordained a priest on March 25, 1944 at the time when Lithuania was under German occupation.

After the Soviets reoccupied Lithuania, the war against religion began in earnest. The clergy, monks, and nuns became the primary targets for elimination. Father Stanislovas visited hundreds of parishes in the years following his ordination and the churches were always full, filling even the churchyards, when he said Mass. However, one day in the autumn of 1948 everything came to an end. Father Stanislovas was arrested by the Soviet police, then known as the NKVD, and taken to their headquarters. He was isolated and underwent questioning for over four months. He was kept in a cellar with no sunlight and no fresh air, as were the others who had been arrested. No one was allowed to go outside to walk around.

The questioning was very strange. The interrogators had copies of Father Stanislovas' sermons and asked him about their meaning, twisting everything he had preached. In the fifth month of his incarceration, word was brought to Father Stanislovas' cell that he had been sentenced to ten years in labor camps for anti-Soviet agitation. There was no trial.

Father Stanislovas was sent to a prison in Kaunas first, then to Vilnius and then to Leningrad (now again St. Petersburg) which resembled a huge human distribution center. Political prisoners were gathered here, put on trains and sent on their way heading north. The further north the trains went, the fewer and fewer trees were seen. When the prisoners finally arrived at their destination, they were herded into barracks. It was cold and no one had any idea where they were. It seemed to be another human distribution center with many camps. The administrative center of this complex was named Inta. It was impossible to count the number of the many different nationalities represented there. They came from every corner of the Soviet Union.

Ordinarily, one would think that only criminals would be sent to penal colonies such as this one, but this was not the case here. The greatest majority of the prisoners were well-educated people such as doctors, engineers, lawyers, professors and clergymen. Bishop Pranciškus Ramanauskas of Telšiai and Father Alfonsas Svarinskas were his fellow prisoners. Even revolutionaries from the 1917 uprising and Lenin's former chauffeur were here.

Life in the barracks for the first few months was too difficult to describe. Even after an exhausting day of work, the camp inhabitants found it difficult to sleep because of all the bedbugs. "You feel like you are about to go out of your mind" from the biting, recalled Father Stanislovas. Later, these pests were exterminated and the prisoners were allowed to go to the bathhouse.

Father Stanislovas worked in the mines. Those who worked above ground had to work 10 hours a day, while those below ground worked 8 hours a day. The amount of food each prisoner received was determined by the amount of work he did, based on a quota. Those who were unable to work, or did less than their quota, received less than the norm. If the prisoner met the quota by 100%, he would get more bread.

Father Stanislovas received twenty grams of bread (less than one ounce), 60 grams of fish (a little over two ounces), three spoons of buckwheat and two spoons of soup every day. Prisoners died in the coal mines. Some collapsed on their shovels.

Life began to improve slowly following the death of Stalin in 1953, and even more so after the arrest and execution of Beria, the chief of the dreaded Soviet Secret Police. Numbers were removed from the prisoners' uniforms, the barracks were left open at night, the bars were taken off the windows, and each prisoner was allowed to write two letters a month instead of two a year. Visitors were now permitted.

After Khrushchev came into power, he publicly denounced the crimes of Stalin. He sent a commission with absolute authority to the countless numbers of camps to investigate the injustices done to some of the prisoners. Father Stanislovas was interviewed, and his file was examined. He was asked several questions, and they wanted to know how long he had been there. His answer was eight and one-half years. After some deliberation, the decision was made to "forgive" the rest of his sentence, and he was released to go home.

Upon his return to Lithuania, for the first time in all those years, Father Stanislovas heard the sound of trees rustling in the wind. This was a sound that had been missing from the tundras of Siberia where there are no trees. You cannot imagine the feeling he had, just to hear that sound.

After his return, Father Stanislovas was assigned to the small village parish of Vertimai. A few months later, he was searched out once again by the police. Father Stanislovas was stunned to learn that he had to go back to Siberia to finish out the remaining 18 months of his sentence because he had been "wrongly released." Father Stanislovas was returned, as was Father Kazimieras Vasiliauskas (who is now a monsignor and the rector of Vilnius Cathedral), to face hard labor and a life in prison once again.

Both priests worked in the mines at the Vorkuta labor camp and, as Monsignor Vasiliauskas recalls, Father Stanislovas tried to do the most difficult and disgusting work so that others would not have to do it. Father Stanislovas felt that it was no tragedy when priests were sent to those camps because priests were meant to suffer.

Upon his second return, Father Stanislovas saw that the war against religion continued with the same intensity as before. Not only was life still made uncomfortable for the clergy, but those who attended Mass were also harassed. To discourage as many people as possible from coming to the church, the police would write down the license plate number so those who came by automobile.

Father Stanislovas was issued an internal passport with the restrictions that he could not live in any of the larger cities in Lithuania, or even stay overnight in Vilnius. According to Soviet law, a former political prisoner could not return to where he once lived. The Commissioner for Religious Affairs (a government agency) then assigned Father Stanislovas to the parish of Juodeikiai. He was questioned frequently and his living quarters were regularly searched. When the police found out that he attended a retreat for

priests, his residency permit was revoked and he could not stay with the parish. Father Stanislovas then went to a small village to live, but he was a priest without a church. Eighteen months later, a law was passed stating that everybody had to work, and the government had no other choice but to assign him to another parish. A few years later, in 1966, he was sent to Paberžė.

Father Stanislovas was loved by his parishioners in Paberžė. He helped all those who came to him for spiritual counseling. His doors were always open to troubled teenagers who had no place to go for advice. There was never an empty bed in the rectory.

Father Stanislovas' spirit and strength were never broken, and those difficult years are swept away by his vision of a brighter future for his beloved Lithuania.

RELIGION

Irena Jomantienė

A True Apostle of Christ

Excerpts from an article that appeared in *The Baltic Independent*, December 23, 1994-January 5, 1995.

It was one of those miserable Lithuanian winter days — bleak sky, incessant drizzle. Dotnuva, a hamlet situated in the very centre of Lithuania, would not differ much from hundreds of other provincial settlements with their ugly Soviet-era constructions, if not for an 18th century church of cathedral proportions towering above a renovated adjacent monastery.

Father Stanislovas, a Capuchin monk and a priest, was holding mass in a spacious and artistically decorated church. The surprisingly strong voice of the 76-year-old priest echoed high above the vaults of the church when he prayed for the eternal happiness of one of the departed members of his flock.

It is hard to believe that this humble and sincere priest in dark brown capuchin, ready to serve simple countryside people, ranks among the most popular of local clergymen and among the most outstanding people in Lithuania.

Father Stanislovas was transferred by the Cardinal to Dotnuva to reconstruct the Capuchin monastery, established there in the early 18th century. After four years, the place, which had been left in almost ruins by local authorities, is hard to recognize. The bulk of the money came from one of the Capuchin brothers, a Lithuanian who raised the money in Germany.



The church at Paberžė, August, 1988.

However, most people associate Father Stanislovas with Paberžė, a village 20 km from Dotnuva and his parish for 25 years.

Paberžė had previously been a remote place forgotten by God. It became, over the years, a Mecca for all those who

sought answers to existential questions or were suffering from spiritual problems.

“I think there are two prisons,” he continues. “Those who stayed in their homeland, but were forced to lie and to lead a double life, were also miserable prisoners.”

That is why Father Stanislovas protests so actively against those who rummage in the currently open KGB archives with the intention of punishing everyone for their trespasses in Soviet times.

As a true apostle of Christ, Father Stanislovas tries to reduce evil not by punishment or aggression, but by daily sacrificial work.

At his spacious house, students of philosophy and teenagers trying to kick a drug habit were equally welcome. Throughout the year, people arrived to see Father Stanislovas, to stay for a while in his presence and to listen to his sermons.

“Very traditional as a priest, he is surprisingly free at the same time. He is with the unfortunate and doubts in the righteous — a true Christian indeed, so seldom encountered these days,” says the poet Vaidotas Daunys, one of the frequent visitors to Father Stanislovas.

Father Stanislovas cannot even remember himself when exactly he settled in Paberžė — at the beginning it was one of those provincial parishes he was appointed to after



Paberžė, August 1988. A memorial for Father Antanas Mackevičius, one of the 1863 leaders.

returning from the Inta and Vorkuta hard labour camps where he spent ten years.

“That was a special prison for intellectuals,” recalls Father Stanislovas. “Our company was political prisoners from European countries so, despite exhausting manual labor in the mines, we were privileged to converse in Spanish, German or French.”

“I think there are two prisons,” he continues. “Those who stayed in their homeland, but were forced to lie and to lead a double life, were also miserable prisoners.”

That is why Father Stanislovas protests so actively against those who rummage in the currently open KGB archives with the intention of punishing everyone for their trespasses in Soviet times.

As a true apostle of Christ, Father Stanislovas tries to reduce evil not by punishment or aggression, but by daily sacrificial work.

“As a believer, I am trying to be useful and to participate in the divine process of the world’s creation,” says Father Stanislovas, “since God did not complete this world but left it for Man to do.”

Edward Baranauskas

An Interview with Monsignor Alfonsas Svarinskas

The November 1995 issue of **BRIDGES** featured an article I wrote about Monsignor Alfonsas Svarinskas, Chief Chaplain of the Lithuanian Army. This past summer, my wife and I went to Lithuania to see if any changes had taken place since our last trip. We had many interesting experiences, and I would like to share one of them with you. We had the honor and privilege of visiting, once again, Monsignor Alfonsas Svarinskas at his residence in the old part of Vilnius.

I was saddened earlier this year when I learned that Monsignor Svarinskas was dismissed from his position as Chief Chaplain of the Lithuania Army. During the course of our conversation, I asked him if he would forgive me if I asked this question could he tell us why he was dismissed? I told him that a lot of people could not understand why this had happened.

He replied that he would be more than happy to answer any of my questions, and that he had no objections if our conversation were published in the press back in the United States.

In 1991, Monsignor Svarinskas was a deputy in the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, which the Parliament was then called. After the collapse of the Soviet Empire in the summer of that year, he was appointed Chief Chaplain of the newly organized Lithuanian Army.

In 1992, elections were held for a new Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas) that resulted in a landslide for the LDDP, the re-named Lithuanian communist party. A few months later, the Lithuanian people elected Algirdas Brazauskas, former communist party secretary, as president. Monsignor Svarinskas did not run for Parliament in 1992 and remained as the Army's Chief Chaplain.

The present government, according to Monsignor Svarinskas, is not interested in reviving the Lithuanian Army. There is not much money allocated for the Army in the state budget. The Army Chief of Staff describes the present situation as follows: everything is all right, but we don't have any bullets.



Vilnius, August 1996. Edward Baranauskas and Msgr. A. Svarinskas.

Why was he dismissed as Chief Chaplain? Some members of the Parliament accused Monsignor Svarinskas of making the atheists in the Army kneel against their will. In October of 1995, the members of Parliament decided that soldiers could fulfill their religious beliefs on their free time, which was usually between 8 and 10 pm. This poses another question; where can members of the Army go to pray between those hours?

On January 16, 1996, the Seimas voted to have Monsignor Svarinskas leave his duties in the Army because they claimed he was too involved in politics. What did they mean by that? Monsignor Svarinskas attended meetings where people voiced their concerns and made certain demands of their government. He visited the former KGB headquarters, participated in the reburial of the partisans who fought against the Soviets during the postwar years, and blessed the monuments dedicated to them.

Monsignor Svarinskas was informed by the Army Chief of Staff that the Seimas came to an agreement with the bishops that he should be relieved of his duties as the Army's Chief Chaplain. Only after that did Cardinal Sladkevicius write him a letter to let him know that he was officially relieved of his Army duties, and that he would be sent to the Archdiocese of Kaunas for assignment as a pastor of a large parish outside of Kaunas.

Monsignor Svarinskas does not want to take that job. If he did, he feels that he will be too occupied with his duties in the parish to participate in the blessing of monuments and the reburial of partisans, which he is now doing twice a week. The last time Monsignor Svarinskas did this was in Žemaičių Šiluva where he blessed a monument. Plans are being made to make a shrine there similar to the one in Lourdes, France.

On September 8, 1995, "Tautos Šventė" (a national holiday), a lot of soldiers, former partisans and some bishops came to Šiluva for "atlaidai," a religious holiday. They baptized soldiers, and some of them received Holy Communion. Soldiers were also baptized in Vilnius in St. Casimir's Church where twenty-five of them received their first Holy Communion. Monsignor Svarinskas participated in the annual convention of former partisans in Ariogala.

In the future, Monsignor Svarinskas plans to attend a meeting of the parishioners in Klaipėda whose church was converted into a concert hall by the Soviet authorities but is now an active church again.

In pre-war Lithuania, there were 26 Army chaplains. Now, because of the shortage of priests, there cannot be that many. A decision was made to have 12 chaplains, one for each district (apskritis) of Lithuania. Because the Vilnius and Kaunas districts are much larger, they will be assigned two chaplains. After all of these documents and paperwork

were completed, Archbishop Bačkis of Vilnius protested because he felt that the matter should first be settled by the Pope.

The Church has established the position of a Chief Chaplain in the Army. The present Parliament and government have never passed a law to legalize it and, until they do, there is no need for one as far as they are concerned.

Even though Monsignor Svarinskas is no longer the Chief Chaplain, he still retains his rank as colonel. Rev. Alfonsas Bulota, the military Police Chaplain in the Archdiocese of Kaunas, took his place and was given the rank of major in the Lithuanian Army.

Rev. Bulota recently granted an interview to a journalist from Lietuvos Aidas. He was asked several questions, and one of them was why he thought Monsignor Svarinskas was relieved of his duties.

"All of Lithuania knows Monsignor Svarinskas. He is a very strong person, and very sincere. He spent many years in the gulag, and is uncompromising in his beliefs. He tells it straight, and to the point."

As Rev. Bulota stated, knowing the political situation in Lithuania, it is very easy to understand why he was dismissed.

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Rasa Mažeika

Of Cabbages and Knights

Yes, there are some reliable, scholarly books on Lithuanian history in English, and quite a few articles. A bibliography of pre-1979 works on all topics is provided by Adam and Filomena Kantautas, "A Lithuanian Bibliography" (University of Alberta Press, 1975, supplement 1979). This is in most major research libraries. The standard textbook, now somewhat dated and perhaps a bit too patriotic but still good is "Lithuania: 700 Years," ed. Albertas Gerutis (New York: Manyland books, 1969, repr. 1984). More specialized studies: (of course, I know most about my own area of medieval history — someone else will have to provide references in modern history)

1. Stephen Rowell, *Lithuania Ascending: A pagan empire within East-Central Europe, 1295-1345* (Cambridge University Press, 1994). This is the most scholarly work in English on Lithuanian medieval history, by a Cambridge-educated Englishman. It has many useful maps, geneological tables, discussion of sources. The author also has published many articles in English — I can send a list to interested readers. At present he is preparing another book for Cambridge University Press on fifteenth-century Lithuania.
2. Romuald J. Misiūnas & Rein Taagepera, *The Baltic States: Years of Dependence, 1940-1980* (University of California Press, 1983)
3. (Despite the title, most articles in English or German) *La Cristianizzazione della Lituania, Pontificio Comitato di scienze storiche. Atti e Documenti II* (Vatican, 1989).
4. Eric Christiansen, *The Northern Crusades: The Baltic and the Catholic 1100-1525* (Minneapolis and London, 1980).
5. Good sections on the Crusade in Lithuania in Norman Housley, *The Later Crusades* (Oxford, 1992):322-375 and Jonathan Riley-Smith, "The Crusades: A Short History" (London, 1987):161-165, 211-215.
6. The classic on European nobles in the Crusades in Baltic lands: Werner Paravicini, *Die Preussenreisen des europaischen Adels* 2 vols. (Sigmaringen, 1989-1995).

There are many good articles in the English-language *Encyclopedia Lituanica* (Boston, 1978), and in the scholarly journals *Lituanus* and *Journal of Baltic Studies* which

are in many university libraries. There are, of course, many articles in German in the *Zeitschrift fur Ostforschung* and *Jahrbucher fur Geschichte Osteuropas* as well as in other journals too numerous to list.

For history and archaeology of the medieval period, see bibliographical article: Rasa Mažeika, "The Grand Duchy rejoins Europe: Post-Soviet developments in the historiography of pagan Lithuania" in the *Journal of Medieval History* 21 (1995):289-303. I would be happy to post a copy to those who do not have access to the journal.

Note especially the articles by Rowell as well as those by Michael Giedroyc, eg: M. Giedroyc, series of 3 articles on "The arrival of Christianity in Lithuania" in *Oxford Slavonic Papers*, new series, 18(1185):1-30; 20(1987):1-33; 22(1989):34-57.

Would it be considered self-advertisement to mention some of my own articles? I am a Canadian-born Lithuanian with a Ph.D. in medieval history who wrote my dissertation on Grand Prince Algirdas and have published mostly in English (a few articles in Lithuanian). Some easily available articles:

1. Rasa Mažeika, "Was Grand Prince Algirdas a Greek Orthodox Christian?" in *Lituanus* 33 (1987):35-55
Seeks to prove Algirdas remained a pagan despite ruling a Rus city
2. "The relations of Grand Prince Algirdas with Eastern and Western Christians" in *Cristianizzazione della Lituania* (Vatican, 1989).
3. "Of cabbages and knights: Trade and trade treaties with the infidel on the northern frontier, 1200-1390" in *Journal of Medieval History* (Cambridge) 20 (1994):63-76.
4. R. Mažeika & S.C.Rowell, "Zelatores maximi: Pope John XXII, Archbishop Frederick of Riga and the Baltic Mission 1305-1340" in *Archivum Historiae Pontificiae* 31(1993):33-68.
5. R. Mažeika, "Female combatants in the Baltic crusade chronicles" in *From Clermont to Jerusalem: The Crusades and crusader societies, 1095-1400* (will be published by the International Medieval Institute at Leeds Univ. in 1997).

Geoff Vasiliauskas

UNESCO Project and a History of the Lithuanian Language

Bibliophiles take note: there is a good chance UNESCO will sponsor a project proposed by Vilnius University to scan the extensive rare books collection of Vilnius University Library into a digital storage format, thereby preserving pieces of the collection deteriorating quickly as well as making the information housed in the library available to the whole world via Internet.

This is an important project.

Martynas Mazvydas' *Katekizmas* is among the books in the collection, as well as the entire corpus of legal literature from the past. Letters of support should be sent to the Secretary General of UNESCO, Mr. Fredrico Mayor, in Paris at UNESCO headquarters, stressing the value of the project for the preservation of an important piece of world culture and history, the unique nature of the collection at VU, etc. Who knows, you may profit personally someday from the preservation of our heritage.

Also, there has been talk of the great academic and student of Lithuanian dialects, Zigmās Zinkevičius' *History of the Lithuanian Language*, recently translated into English. I have never seen the seven-volume set, nor even the

Lithuanian condensed version, but have read the English version as well as his *Lietuvių dialektologija*, an excellent treatment of a wide variety of features of Lithuania's dialects.

The English-language *History of Lithuanian* is worth reading, even if there are some unclear passages in the translation and some annoying mistakes with the editing. He dismisses a Balto-Slavic protolanguage convincingly, then moves on to more pressing matters. I would have liked to see more citations of Sanskrit or Vedic forms, which would have added clarity. Nonetheless, he cites many proto Indo-European (IE) connections with modern and archaic Lithuanian words and declensions.

Also, you could try writing Dr Zinkevičius himself at work, lki@ktl.mii.lt (Presumably this is LKI, *Lietuvių kalbos institutas*, the dreaded language police. I hold onto the hope of secularizing their authority, perhaps someday they could create a phone-bank and a terminal bank for that matter for answering practical questions of usage and style on the part of the public, instead of fining talking heads for stressing the wrong syllable, or the right syllable in a nonofficial way.)

Review of S.C Rowell's A Pagan Empire within East-Central Europe 1295-1345

Cambridge University Press

The history of Lithuania has usually been seen through Polish eyes, where the Christian Poles civilized the barbarous Lithuanians.

This book shows that, far from being idol-worshippers on the dark periphery of Europe, the Lithuanian princes were the equal of their Christian counterparts in diplomatic skills and political subtlety, and quite familiar with the latest ideas and technology of the Western Christian world.

The tolerance of the Lithuanian rule especially in religious matters is stressed.

This is an abridgement of a book review in the British journal 'History Today,' June 1996 issue.

Rowell argues at length against those historians who incline to the notion that Lithuania's rulers covertly sought to bring themselves and their subjects within the fold of Catholic Christianity, and his meticulous analysis of the documentary evidence is persuasive. ... Rowell is one of those rare beings blessed with linguistic ability, for his references include works in most of the Slavonic as well as the major west European languages. This has enabled him to range across the entire continent in the quest for sources.

The final result is a rich detailed portrait of a state in full vigour, whose rulers were neither closet Catholics nor primitive barbarians.

Ramunė Kubilius

Bits and Pieces

Anniversary of Lithuanian High School in Poland

The March 11th High School (Kovo vienuoliktosios) Lithuanian High School, the only Lithuanian high school in Poland is in Punkskas, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The school began work on September 1, 1956 with 30 students and has graduated 900 students since then.

The school was built with Soviet Lithuanian funds and the present name is new since the re-establishment of Lithuania's independence. Today, 16 full-time educators teach at the high school. There are 130 students in the 1st-4th classes. They study major subjects in Lithuanian, following Poland's Education Ministry guidelines, but their texts are in Polish. Lithuania sends some textbooks which the teachers adapt to Polish guidelines.

The 40th anniversary celebration was attended by Lithuania's Education and Culture Ministry Secretary Remigijus Motušas, Lithuanian World Community President Bronius Nainys, the Lithuanian Ambassador to Warsaw, the General Consul to Seinai, etc.

(TEVIŠKĖS ŽIBURIAI, 8/20/96)

Rumšiškės Turns 30

The Lithuanian Open Air Museum in Rumšiškės celebrates its 30th anniversary in 1996. The celebration began on July 12th near the oldest building in the Žemaitija portion of the park where a special anniversary wayside cross was blessed by the pastor of Rumšiškės.

The museum, actually a park, is a miniature of old-time Lithuania. The idea for the museum was borrowed from the Skansen museum in Sweden. The idea for preserving old-time buildings in a natural setting was conceived in 1957 by the Estonians.

The park is divided into little villages representing typical buildings and styles for Žemaitija, Aukštaitija, Dzūkija and Suduva. The architects and project managers have taken great care to preserve the authenticity of the layout of the park (farm buildings, windmills, etc.) which offer building styles from the end of the 18th century to the beginning of the 20th century. There is a working/operating chapel in the Aukštaitija region, and a museum operating on the grounds.

A large estate dwelling has been moved from the Kedainiai region to near the museum. Some speculate that Rumšiškės may now have become the largest open air folk museum of its kind in Europe.

(TEVIŠKĖS ŽIBURIAI, 8/27/96, from a longer write-up by V.Kst.)

Scholarship in Memorium

The Lithuanian Jesuit Fathers based in Chicago have established a memorial scholarship fund in memory of the five Kaunas Jesuit high school students who drowned in a boating accident not far from the Pažaisliai convent on September 4th. Many parents sacrifice in order to send their children to the Catholic school, and the fund would enable the school to provide assistance to the more needy families. Send donations to the Jesuit Fathers: Scholarships, 2345 West 56th Street, Chicago, IL 60636.

(DRAUGAS, 9/19/96)

Baltic Documentary Film

The U.S. Cronkite Ward & Company documentary film company is planning to film about the Baltics tentatively entitled "The Revolution Continues."

The film company was founded in 1993 by CBS veteran Walter Cronkite ("Valteris Crokitas" in Lithuanian!-rk) and producer-writer Jonathan Ward ("Dzonatanas Vardas" !-rk) who for a long time supported and created documentary films. Now the company has bureaus in New York and Washington and has pooled together a group of talented filmmakers who are releasing informative and important television programs. Cronkite Ward & Company programs have already received awards—on the Holocaust, and the great books series analyzing the effect of world literature on mankind is in its third year. The new film on the Baltics will attempt to examine separately the different historical backgrounds, ethnic roots, problems and roads to the future of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

(Dienovidis, 9/13/96)

Krėvė Letters Donated

Literary historian Vincas Maciūnas, through his son Vytautas Maciūnas (former President of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.) donated 454 valuable letters written by

revered Lithuanian writer, Vincas Krėvė, to the Vilnius University Library. The letters, to a total of 62 persons, were written between 1944 and 1954. Vincas Maciūnas, who now resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was Director of the Vilnius University Library during the difficult war years of 1942-1944. The donor knew the value of the letters since he himself was a literary historian with a doctorate from Vytautas Magnus University (1938). He had known the Krėvė family in Vilnius and later in the post-war years in the United States.

Through the efforts of Professor Alfred Senn, Vincas Maciūnas had been successfully recruited to work at the University of Pennsylvania Library. Dr. Senn had also recommended V. Krėvė to the Slavic Languages and Literature Department.

In 1950, Vincas Maciūnas provided an overview of V. Krėvė's works at a celebration of the author's 70th birthday. He later edited six volumes of the author's works. V. Krėvė died July 7, 1954.

[from letter of Vincas Maciūnas]

Lithuanian Calendars

150 years have passed since the first Lithuanian calendar appeared. This was "Metų...1846" (Economic Yearly Reader of the Calendar Year 1846 of the Lord by Laurynas Ivinskis (1810-1881)...Earlier, a Russian-language calendar by Pranciškus Skorinas appeared in 1522 in Vilnius entitled "In the small journey's book." In 1596, the brotherhood of the Holy Spirit published a Polish-language collection entitled "Everyday Prayers" in which there is a section on the various phases of the moon...Later calendars had astronomical news, medical advice, church news, literary excerpts. Some were censored because of unfavorable reviews...

/from an article by Stasė Matulaitis/
(TARP KNYGŪ (In the World of Books), August 1996)

The Largest Flag

Kaunas athletes Valdas Usas and Aidas Varanauskas reached a Guinness world record. They raised a 212.28 square meter Lithuanian tricolor flag. That was the world's largest flag flown in the air.

(DARBININKAS, 9/20/96)

Scouting in England

The European Lithuanian Scouting Association (LSS) conducted a camp July 27-August 5 in England's "Sodyba" camp about 30 miles from London, not far from Headley Park. The region is interesting for its old English farms,

and the main building of "Sodyba" was built in 1846. The Lithuanian Scouts have been camping there for 47 years.

The camp was different this year since it drew 67 scouts from Lithuania, most of whom had travelled three days by bus. There were fifty campers/instructors/hosts from England and seven scouting instructors from Canada and the United States.

The viewpoints of the three groups were quite different. Some attempts to mix the groups were not easy: not all of the Brits spoke Lithuanian, not all of the Lithuanians spoke English. The campers ranged in age from 13 to 18. The scouting instructors wanted to teach scouting skills: knot tying, hiking, map reading, camp kitchen skills, etc. while some campers wanted to socialize. One of the most difficult and interesting assignments for each "skiltis" (group) was to build a field campsite, eat there, and spend the night. It's too bad that some "skiltis" members chose to drift away from their group towards the campsites of their friends.

What began as an example of bad communication ended as an example of an examination in the art of flexibility. All of those who wanted to learn something new did so. It was interesting to camp in a new place, in a foreign country, to make new acquaintances and new friends.

(DRAUGAS, 9/25/96, from an article by Donatas Ramanauskas)

Textiles and Leatherwork

On September 11th, Vilnius played host to the 5th Baltic Textile and Leatherwork Fair. Two hundred and twelve firms from 27 countries exhibited at the fair. More than 100 Lithuanian companies represented the sewing, weaving, shoe and fur production industries. About 45% of the participants were from overseas: Great Britain, Sweden, Ukraine, Japan, Russia, Germany, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Spain, Belgium...A co-organizer of the fair is Germany's MesseFrankfurt. According to Udo Traeger, Vilnius has become a regional center for the Baltic textile industry, and the fair is an ideal place for Western European countries to network and look for ties with the East European market.

(DRAUGAS, 9/25/96)

Lithuanian Language Courses in Seattle

Lithuanian 101 is being taught at the University of Washington at Seattle during the Fall Quarter 1996. The instructor is Jūra Avižienis. Contact the UW Scandinavian Department at (206) 543-0645 for more information.

Baltic Studies

The Lithuanian Foundation gave a grant of \$75,000 to the University of Washington Baltic Studies Endowment, moving the Program closer to its goal of \$775,000 by the end of 1998. \$700,000 remains to be collected.

A student of the first ever Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI) held in 1994 at the University of Washington, Mary Kelly of Lawrence, Kansas has completed her doctoral dissertation, entitled: *Born Again Lithuanians; Ethnic Conversions and Pilgrimages and the Lithuanian-American Resurgence of Identity*. Mary incorporated research about the Seattle Lithuanian Community into this work.

Lithuanian Weaver Featured

Weaver Kati Meek of Alpena, Michigan, is writing a book about Lithuanian weaving. On a recent visit to the Northwest, she interviewed weaver Emilija Tutlys, the 1994 Governor's Heritage Award recipient and a Lithuanian national treasure, whose work she plans to feature in her book, *A Flaxen Past*. Kati hopes to complete her book by the end of 1997.

Not Sleeping in Seattle

The Seattle chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. will sponsor a Christmas tree straw ornament workshop on December 1, 1996; the annual Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration in Seattle will take place February 8, 1997; the Seattle Daughters of Lithuania will have their annual Lithuanian Easter Egg Dyeing Workshop on March 23, 1996. The President of the Washington State Chapter of the LAC is Rasa Raisys (206) 725-1764.

(All above items from the Tulpé Times, August 1996)

The Lithuania - Tasmania Connection

Commencing next year (1997), the Lithuanian Studies Society at the University of Tasmania (Australia) is launching a \$4500 scholarship (about US\$3500) for the best student undertaking an Honours research project on Lithuania or Lithuanians, at the University of Tasmania.

In the Australian university system, a student who completes his/her normal Bachelor's programme with high merit may be permitted to stay on for an extra year and undertake a research project in a specialised field. This is known as the "Honours year." It requires writing a research dissertation and, if satisfactory, the work is rewarded with a Bachelor's degree with Honours, or a Graduate Diploma with Honours.

The University of Tasmania already offers ten general Honours scholarships (worth \$4500 each) for which ALL candidates i.e., those studying Lithuanian topics or any other topic, may compete. The proposed new Lithuanian Honours scholarship, on the other hand, will restrict eligibility to only those candidates proposing to write dissertations on Lithuania and Lithuanians. We hope, it will also increase students' general interest in Lithuania.

The University of Tasmania has already promised to assist us with advertising, publicity and administrative work. All we need now is the money...Ideally, a donation of US \$3500 from one benefactor would get the project started for one year. A larger amount would ensure longer continuity.

In all such cases, the scholarship will be named after the donor.

If such great generosity proves not possible, we will be very grateful to receive all contributions, no matter how small — because we need your moral support and a friendly assurance that we are not absolutely alone in this venture.

Many thanks in advance -
Amanda Banks, President; and
Al Taskunas, Treasurer,
Lithuanian Studies Society at the University of Tasmania
Post Office Box 777,
SANDY BAY, Tasmania 7005. Australia

Political Parties in Lithuania

Lithuania's Publishing House "Litera" has published a book edited by Dr. Algis Krupavičius entitled *Politinės partijos Lietuvoje* (Political Parties in Lithuania). The project was accomplished over a long period of time, but the editor hopes it will provide a good pre-election overview of the political party situation in Lithuania. Dr. Krupavičius, a Political Science Professor at Kaunas Technological University, spent the 1995/96 academic year at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, as a visiting professor conducting graduate level seminars. While in America, he had the opportunity to lecture on his area of expertise and to visit with various Lithuanian-American political scientists with whom he had remained in contact from Lithuania. Previously, he had spent several months in England. As Dr. Krupavičius was likely to say, it is possible to study Lithuania's political parties and governmental politics from afar, thanks to today's technology (the Internet, news releases, etc.)

"Litera" may be reached by contacted Dalia Čeliesiūtė in Kaunas, fax: +370-7-755353

Jeanne Dorr

Lithuania's Forgotten Children

They don't vote and they don't cause sensational headlines. Theirs are the weakest voices and their burdens are lost among a population trying to survive Lithuania's economic problems of unemployment and low wages. But they are there, day after day, and they number in the thousands. They are found in every large city and in the smallest villages. The fortunate ones are living with grandmothers, aunts, or in foster homes. The unfortunate are living on the streets or in the bus and train stations. These are Lithuania's forgotten children. They are also Lithuania's future.

In 1994, I wrote a series of articles about Lithuanian Orphan Care for **BRIDGES**. I never in my wildest dreams imagined the compassion and generosity which **BRIDGES** readers would show in response to these articles. Initially, I felt the readers would be bored with so many articles about children, but your responses are overwhelming. Many of you took the time to comment about the stories and to tell me of your interest in Lithuania's children.

And so, two years later, I returned to Lithuania with the idea of once again bringing to light the plight of Lithuania's forgotten children. For the next few months, I invite you to travel with me and to meet the children and the people who are trying to help them. You might shed a few tears but you'll also find yourself chuckling because Lithuania's children are her most precious commodity.

Picked Up by One's Own Bootstraps

I traveled to all the borders of Lithuania and to her cities and villages. I saw hope and hopelessness. I saw changes for the better and changes for the worse. But most of all, I saw the faces of Lithuania's children. I held a newborn child in my arms at the Alytus Children's Hospital for children with birth defects, and I dried the tears of a child in Anykščiai when her father abandoned his family for alcohol. It is because of people like you, the **BRIDGES** readers, that this family will remain intact. Through your generosity we will be able to help this mother feed and clothe her children.

Over and over I have received thanks, on your behalf, from the people you have helped through Lithuanian Orphan Care. I saw the success story of one young man we literally picked up by his bootstraps in 1994. He was an orphan with no hope and no money for further education. He wanted

to learn to make furniture. We provided him with a sponsor and moved him to Vilnius. It wasn't easy; he was homesick for his two brothers and became discouraged. But he was encouraged by Mr. and Mrs. Svoba, who are in charge of Kaimo Vaikai, the Lithuanian Countryside Children's Fund. Mr. Svoba is also the editor of the newspaper *Valstiečių Laikraštis*. He and his wife were never too busy to listen to the young man's problems or to give him bus fare to go home. Under their guidance, he began to gain confidence. To this day, he never forgets to stop by the newspaper office to chat with them.



I saw this young man while I was in Lithuania this summer and he told me he was doing so well that he was going to continue his furniture-making education for another two years. He was accepted for study by a "master" teacher.

Although he is now 18, his student stipend through Orphan Care will continue so that he will have every possible opportunity to be a success. When we met him, he had his younger brother in tow. The youngster was told by his older brother in no uncertain terms that he, too, will have to study hard so that his sponsor will also be proud of him.

This is the goal of Lithuanian Orphan Care — not to give handouts but rather to give loans, loans that will be repaid not with money but by one person's helping another.

What is Lithuanian Orphan Care?

Lithuanian Orphan Care is part of the Lithuanian-American Community's (LAC) Human Services Division. We work with the Countryside Children's Fund (Kaimo Vaikai), Mrs. Grazina Landsbergis, and a number of priests, teachers and schools. We are not involved with the Lithuanian government as we have neither the time nor the money to deal with the red tape of a bureaucratic system. Our referrals come from the people who write or call the people we are involved with in Lithuania to obtain help for themselves or for others.

Such a call came from a woman in a small Lithuanian town asking for help for her neighbor. It seems, every time she went outside to feed her dog, the neighbor's children ate the dog's food. Their mother was dead and their father was out of work.

Life is better now that we have sponsors for these children. Another one of our goals is to keep families intact or to place children in foster homes or small group homes. There are many good and caring people in Lithuania who love children and are willing to do this work, but they cannot do this without our help.

Some people become upset when they learn that we deal with the children of alcoholics. How can we turn our backs on those who need our help the most? I can assure you that these families get not one cent of the money. The children, not the parents, are given a meal each day, often in school, with some bread to take home for the weekend. They leave their "good clothes in school so their parents can't sell them."

How could we tell these children we couldn't help them because they must pay for the sins of their parents. We can't and we don't. Thanks to the generosity of people like you, these children will not be doomed to failure before they reach adulthood. They know that somewhere, far across the ocean, someone cares about them.

Words of Wisdom

I would like to share a very personal experience with you. Last Labor Day weekend my family and I were discussing the commercialism of the upcoming holidays. I guess we

are what is known as average middle class. There are a lot of things we'd love to have but don't really need. But we



have the most important things — each other and our health.

We decided to forego the Christmas hassle. The truth was that I knew I could not please a house with three men in it. Whatever I bought for them would be dutifully admired and placed in a drawer or closet where it would not be seen until Spring cleaning time. So we agreed — no presents. Actually, we were all quite relieved. Now my younger son would not have to spend Christmas Eve in the mall trying to buy his parents a gift which would also be placed in a drawer or a closet. I figured what we would spend, and mailed a check in that amount to a friend who is a priest in Alytus (the same one I wrote about in the April issue of **BRIDGES**). I told him to provide for children in his parish but that I wanted the gift to be anonymous.

This year we traveled to the small village of Rumbony. There is a tiny wooden church where our friend holds Mass every Saturday because the pastor is 93 years old. The housekeeper is a middle-aged woman who has a heart bigger than herself. She has taken in eight orphan children and also takes care of eight very old people who have no family and nowhere to live. They all survive by working the land and preserving fruits and vegetables for the winter. They have a cow, a goat, chickens and a few pigs. All the children three boys and five girls ranging in age from 5 to 17, were either working in the fields, picking berries, or fishing for what would be dinner that night. The housekeeper told me how worried she was last year because she had no shoes or warm clothing for the children. She didn't know how she was going to send them to school when it got cold.

Imagine her surprise when our friend came to say the Saturday Mass and he called to the children to help him unload the car. With my check he had bought them winter coats, boots and warm clothing, but he wouldn't tell them

who had sent him the money. When I told her the check was from me, she started crying and kissing both my hands. The children's eyes flew open and they all started to thank me at the same time. As I looked around I saw no toys but I did see happy children. I asked the 13-year old girl about her life in the village. Her response was, "We're so lucky now that we have a 'mother' to take care of us. We're even luckier because we have two 'fathers' and some children have no one." What words of wisdom from a child!

During our visit to Rumbonys an old vehicle similar to a school bus pulled up to the rectory. Apparently, a very old woman had died and, since she had no family, she was to be laid out in the rectory. Without being told what to do, the older children approached the bus and, very gently, carried the body into the rectory. Their respect for death, as well as for life, was astounding.

Before leaving Lithuania, I referred these children to the Countryside Children's Fund for they are all in need of sponsors, the sooner the better. I know that the **BRIDGES** readers will once again come through and help this "family."

Giving a Helping Hand

The cost to sponsor a child is \$150 a year but ANY donation is deeply appreciated. If 15 people donate \$10 each, we can sponsor another child. You will receive the name, address, age, and name of the child's caregiver. The family does not receive your name as some sponsors wish to remain anonymous. Other sponsors write to their children and still others have visited the families in Lithuania. It is entirely up to the sponsor how to handle the situation.

The holidays are fast approaching. As you sit at your table with friends and family, please think of the forgotten children who will go to be hungry. As you automatically move up your thermostat this winter, think of the children who will be going to bed without heat. And as you gather with friends for the holiday season, remember the forgotten children. You are the only hope some of them will have.

BRIDGES readers have been very generous. Needy children in several schools are being fed every day because families, during their deepest hours of grief, have asked that donations be sent to Lithuanian Orphan Care in memory of their loved ones. Others donate in lieu of birthday, anniversary, or Christmas gifts or to honor the memory of a deceased family member. Some families or groups of friends get together and sponsor a child. Whatever you do, it will be the right choice.

I owe so much to so many people. Once again, I spent time with Dr. Albina Prunskis, honorary president of Lithuanian Orphan Care. She put me to shame with her energy. I couldn't keep up with her going from village to village.

I cannot adequately thank Birutė Jasaitis, the president of Lithuanian Orphan Care, for all her help with my many requests. Birutė has a full time job and sets here alarm for 5:00 am so that she can start her Orphan Care work early in the day.

To the entire Orphan Care Committee, thank you for giving so much of yourselves to Lithuania's children. Not only do they raise money, they also handle mountains of paperwork and details involved in a program of this magnitude.

I would be remiss if I did not thank **BRIDGES** editor Diana Vidutis who, each month transfers these very long articles on to a computer.

But I am most grateful to you, the **BRIDGES** readers, who have opened your hearts to the forgotten children. They are no longer forgotten because YOU have made them YOUR children. You have given me the opportunity to share my thoughts and my feelings with you.

I also want to thank the many organizations who have invited me to speak to them about Lithuanian Orphan Care and also those who have issued invitations to me to write for their local newsletters. If anyone has doubts that this journey to Lithuanian was not a labor of love for me, try sitting in a 2 X 4 outhouse with a bee whizzing around your head!

I'd like to end this article with a quote I recently read. Unfortunately, I do not know the author's name.

These are no strangers, they are only children you have never met.

Please write your tax deductible checks to LITHUANIAN ORPHAN CARE. I would appreciate it if you could add a note that your donation is through **BRIDGES**. This makes it faster for the committee to forward your name to me so that I can thank each and every one of you generous readers. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about this program. Checks may be sent to:

Lithuanian Orphan Care
2711 W. 71st Street
Chicago, IL 60629

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