

bridges



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from the editor

Dear readers,

The year is coming to an end. It was proclaimed as the Year of World Lithuanians and many of us celebrated it. Some of us might have celebrated in very beautiful and meaningful ways. In this issue of Bridges, you will read about a unique way to commemorate the Year of World Lithuanians.

Also in this issue, you will have an opportunity to see quite a lot of tables with figures. Perhaps those tables will answer, at least partially, our "eternal" questions: how many of us, Lithuanians, are here, in the United States.

Statistics might be not everyone's "cup of tea". Therefore, to counter that, we can read beautiful and meaningful poems by Teresa Boguta.

For book lovers, please read a book review by Dalia Cidzikaitė, in which she writes about Tales from the East by a famous Lithuanian writer Vincas Krėvė, translated by Rimas Černius.

I hope you will enjoy reading about some bits and pieces from the life of Lithuanian Americans.

You are always welcomed to send in your stories to Bridges.

Karilė Vaitkutė
Editor

erratum

In the October 2019 issue of Bridges, on page 3, we erroneously wrote the name Daina Čyvaitė instead of Marija Čyvaitė.

A woman in traditional Lithuanian national costume stands in front of a wooden building with a thatched roof. She is wearing a white long-sleeved blouse with a red and white striped apron and a dark skirt with a red and white striped pattern. She has a red headscarf and a necklace. The background shows a rustic wooden building with a thatched roof and a wooden fence. The title "National Costume, a Part of Our Identity" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, serif font.

National Costume, a Part of Our Identity

Interview with Rasa Paulauskaitė Dooling and Emelia Dooling

By Karilė Vaitkutė

Nowadays, when browsing the Internet, we come across many beautiful photo sessions. Typically, people have photographs to commemorate important events in their lives: weddings, christenings, graduations. However, making a photo session featuring national costumes to commemorate the Year of World Lithuanians is not typical. I thought it was a wonderful way to celebrate and promote Lithuanian culture. I asked the two models, Rasa Paulauskaitė Dooling and Emelia Dooling, mother and daughter, about their experiences of making, owning and wearing a national costume.

Is it your first national costume?

Emelia: Yes, this is my first national costume and, to say the very least, I'm elated to have it. This isn't my mom's first, though. She had one prior to this. It was important for us to have costumes made for us this year in order to commemorate the world's Lithuania Year.

Rasa: No, this is not my first costume. When I was younger, I participated in a folk group in Klaipėda called Žilvinas, singing and playing the kanklės. Everyone in our group had coordinated costumes.

Why did you decide you wanted to own a national costume?

Emelia: Truthfully, I wasn't the one who came up with the idea to have my own costume made for me. I was given the opportunity to try on a pre-made costume in my size and the happiness I felt wearing it was indescribable, so I chose to ask to have my own made for me.

Rasa: I've wanted to have my own costume for many years. 2019 was the world's Lithuanian year, and I figured there is no better occasion to celebrate with the making of my very own national costume than this. I spent two months in Lithuania with my daughter this past summer, and having costumes made for the two of us meant a lot to me. This year will be, for that reason, forever engraved in my memory.

How did you pick the patterns and colors of the skirt and the apron? Do the patterns and colors signify anything?

Emelia: I had my costume made per traditional clothing from the Samogitia (Žemaitija) region. We made the decision to represent two different regions because my mom used to own another Klaipėda's region costume when she performed in a folk group playing the kanklės when she was younger. Personally, I feel a closer connection to Samogitia (Žemaitija). I stay there with my grandparents every summer.

Rasa: I was born in the region of Samogitia (Žemaitija), but, through most of my adult life, I worked and spent most of my time in Klaipėda, and so I consider Klaipėda to be the region closest to my heart. My daughter made the decision to choose to represent the Samogitia region in the style of her costume, and I thought it would be a good idea for her and for me to represent two different regions. Klaipėda and Samogitia are far from me on the map, but both always close to my heart.

How do you feel wearing a national costume?



Emelia: I feel beautiful. Even when the weather is hot, I feel very comfortable wearing all the layers of the costume. It feels right on me. I know it would be impractical to wear it forever, but I wish I could. I've inwardly struggled with my identity for some years. I'm only half Lithuanian, but I don't ever think about being of mixed ethnicities. I've always considered myself a full Lithuanian, but I don't necessarily exemplify all the latest Lithuanian standards of beauty or fashion. It's difficult to feel like you fit in somewhere when you look so obviously different. Wearing my costume makes me feel like a truer Lithuanian and I feel proud.

Rasa: First, I feel pride. I feel proud to be a Lithuanian. People buy so many different items of clothing. Fashion

comes and goes. The clothes you wear for the sake of fitting into a quota, or following the latest trends don't hold any significance, don't hold any worth. But having a national costume made, hand sewn, tailored to fit just you, that's personal. A national costume represents part of your identity. It's wearing a customized, beautiful piece of my country and my own history, and that's so special.

Where will you wear it?

Emelia: I recently joined a Lithuanian folk dance group, Berželis, and I plan to wear my costume to the Lithuanian dance festival in Philadelphia this upcoming year. I have already worn it to a cultural parade in the town adjacent to my hometown.

Rasa: I plan to wear my costume anywhere the opportunity to wear it is presented. I most look forward to wearing it at the 2020 Lithuanian Dance Festival in Philadelphia.

The national costumes were made by Genutė Pivorienė and her team in Klaipėda. Genutė specializes in Lithuanian national costume making more than 15 years. The dalmonas was embroidered by Irena Ungaro. All the photographs are by Augustina Jo Photography.





Participating in the parade in Waterbury.

Where do Lithuanians live in the USA?

By Siim Sööt, PhD
Emeritus, University of Illinois at Chicago

INTRODUCTION

The short answer is in metropolitan areas, mostly in the northeastern part of the country. Still, the largest center is Chicago. In recent years most of the large metropolitan areas have had declining numbers of individuals that indicate that they have Lithuanian ancestry, but the total for the country still remains well over 600,000 persons compared to approximately 80,000 Latvians and less than 30,000 Estonians.

The purpose of this report is to identify the major centers of Lithuanians by metropolitan area and examine how that has changed during this decade. Statewide tallies are also examined. Further, comparisons are made with the individuals that report ancestry for nearby nations, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Poland.

DATA

Data are entirely from the US Census American Community Survey (ACS). Every month the US Census mails 300,000 surveys to households across the nation. It asks numerous sociodemographic and economic questions including ancestry. Specifically, it asks for the ancestry of every individual in the household. The respondents may report many ancestries. Annually, more than three million surveys are returned, recorded and tabulated by states, counties, large cities and metropolitan areas.

The ACS provides one-year, three-year and five-year compilations. I have chosen the most recent 2017 five-year data (2013-2017) because it provides a particularly large sample (about 15 million) reducing the margin of error in the reported statistics. Even with this large sample, the margin of error for many of the metro areas discussed here is in the 200 to 500 range. The data are not precise, but provide the best available estimates regarding ethnic ancestry by metropolitan area. The data are reported as provided by the Census, but remember that the numbers are estimates and each number has a margin of error, not included in this report.

Further, it is important to remember that these data are self-reported and it is not possible to ascertain how Lithuanian these individuals “feel.” Also, throughout this article I will refer to these people as Lithuanians but many may have a primary ethnic identity that is stronger than their Lithuanian ancestry. Certainly, many do not speak Lithuanian.

Finally, data are available for both single ancestry and multiple ancestry as well as the total for the two. Through this report the total is used, i.e., if Lithuanian is one of the ancestries listed than the person is included in this report. Only about 30 percent of the approximately 640,000 total reporting any Lithuanian ancestry report it as a single ancestry.

METROPOLITAN AREAS

The Census provides data on 382 metropolitan areas but the focus here is on the largest centers. Among these Chicago has the largest number at 72,047 followed by New York, Boston and Philadelphia (Table 1). In fact, Chicago is not much smaller than New York and Boston combined. Los Angeles is the only metro area in the top dozen that is not in the NE quarter of the country. After the first twelve there are many outside the NE quarter including, in order, Miami, San Francisco, Phoenix, Tampa and Seattle. After these the next two are much smaller places in the northeast: Providence RI and New Haven CT. Denver is next followed by several sun-belt metro areas. Note that Houston, one of the five largest metro areas, is only 30th on this list; even lower in the 2007 data discussed below. As a whole, places in Texas, the second largest state, are not well represented here.

Overall the trend seems to be toward declining numbers. It is beyond the scope of this report to examine the reasons but it may be that the Lithuanian population has been aging and some of the new immigrants have not been totally tabulated in these data (Table 2). Nevertheless, by comparing the 2007 3-year data with the 2017 5-year data we observe some expected trends. First, Washington DC is the only metro in the top 17 with an increase. The DC area is increasingly attractive to non-native populations. Second, many of the fast-growing places outside the Northeastern quadrant such as Denver, Dallas, Seattle, Portland and Houston (Houston is not on Table 2) have experienced growth in Lithuanian population. Further the San Francisco area, while growing overall, shows a 2% drop in Lithuanian which is not a statistically significant change. Third, there is some consistency among the largest northeastern centers; declines that fall in the range from -18% to -25%.

Table 1. Lithuanian Ancestry by Metro Area, 2017 5-year data

Rank	Metro area	Lithuanian
1	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metro Area	72,047
2	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA Metro Area	50,250
3	Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metro Area	29,425
4	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metro Area	27,278
5	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA Metro Area	17,898
6	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area	15,705
7	Scranton--Wilkes-Barre--Hazleton, PA Metro Area	13,226
8	Pittsburgh, PA Metro Area	12,279
9	Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI Metro Area	11,961
10	Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT Metro Area	10,924
11	Worcester, MA-CT Metro Area	10,440
12	Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD Metro Area	10,370
13	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL Metro Area	9,423
14	Cleveland-Elyria, OH Metro Area	8,896
15	San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Metro Area	8,223
16	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ Metro Area	7,122
17	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL Metro Area	6,953
18	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA Metro Area	6,925
19	Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metro Area	6,398
20	New Haven-Milford, CT Metro Area	5,793
21	Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO Metro Area	5,715
22	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX Metro Area	5,343
23	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metro Area	5,310
24	San Diego-Carlsbad, CA Metro Area	5,180
25	St. Louis, MO-IL Metro Area	5,124
26	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI Metro Area	4,772
27	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metro Area	4,483
28	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI Metro Area	4,410
29	Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY Metro Area	4,345
30	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX Metro Area	4,144
31	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT Metro Area	3,768
32	Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ Metro Area	3,728
33	Sacramento--Roseville--Arden-Arcade, CA Metro Area	3,423
34	Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV Metro Area	3,342
35	Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI Metro Area	3,324
36	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL Metro Area	3,277
37	Columbus, OH Metro Area	3,189
38	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA Metro Area	2,950
39	Springfield, MA Metro Area	2,835
40	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA Metro Area	2,805
41	Rochester, NY Metro Area	2,792
42	Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC Metro Area	2,791
43	San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA Metro Area	2,785
44	North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL Metro Area	2,707
45	Austin-Round Rock, TX Metro Area	2,599
46	Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN Metro Area	2,461
47	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN Metro Area	2,407
48	Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA Metro Area	2,367
49	Portland-South Portland, ME Metro Area	2,253
50	Manchester-Nashua, NH Metro Area	2,240

Table 2. Change in Lithuanian Population 2007 to 2017; largest 2007 and 2017 combined

Rank	Metro area	2007 Lithuanians	2017 Lithuanians	07-17 change	% change 07-17
1	Chicago	91,791	72,047	-19,744	-19,744
2	New York	57,057	50,250	-6,807	-6,807
3	Boston	36,305	29,425	-6,880	-6,880
4	Philadelphia	33,766	27,278	-6,488	-6,488
5	Los Angeles	19,359	17,898	-1,461	-1,461
6	Washington	14,987	15,705	718	718
7	Scranton	17,752	13,226	-4,526	-4,526
8	Pittsburgh	14,066	12,279	-1,787	-1,787
9	Detroit	16,049	11,961	-4,088	-4,088
10	Hartford	14,615	10,924	-3,691	-3,691
11	Worcester	12,528	10,440	-2,088	-2,088
12	Baltimore	12,965	10,370	-2,595	-2,595
13	Miami	11,506	9,423	-2,083	-2,083
14	Cleveland	12,001	8,896	-3,105	-3,105
15	San Francisco	8,429	8,223	-206	-206
16	Phoenix	9,032	7,122	-1,910	-1,910
17	Tampa	9,483	6,953	-2,530	-2,530
18	Seattle	6,075	6,925	850	850
19	Providence	5,738	6,398	660	660
20	New Haven	9,975	5,793	-4,182	-4,182
21	Denver	4,242	5,715	1,473	1,473
22	Dallas	4,525	5,343	818	818
23	Atlanta	5,997	5,310	-687	-687
24	San Diego	6,335	5,180	-1,155	-1,155
25	St. Louis	6,497	5,124	-1,373	-1,373
26	Grand Rapids	4,446	4,772	326	326
27	Portland	3,921	4,483	562	562
28	Minneapolis	5,715	4,410	-1,305	-1,305
29	Bridgeport	4,416	3,768	-648	-648
30	Springfield	5,589	2,835	-2,754	-2,754

* Nearly all have multiple cities such as San Francisco-Oakland, Tampa-St.Petersburg

STATES

Any examination by states may present unexpected results. For example, the state of New York reports 44,362 Lithuanians while the metro area has more, 50,250. Further the metro area is the second largest after Chicago but the state's rank is only 5. This is because a large number of the metro numbers come from New Jersey and Connecticut, part of the metro area but clearly not in the state.

The states with the largest number of Lithuanians are found in two regions, the Northeast and the Great Lakes (Table 3). The largest number are in Illinois, largely due to Chicago's dominance. Adjacent states also rank high, Michigan (#8), Wisconsin (#14) and Indiana (#15). The largest region, however, is the Northeast with five of the top ten states, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Maryland is just beyond this at #11. Pennsylvania ranks second and is not far behind Illinois. Unlike Chicago in Illinois, however, there are

many metro areas that contribute in Pennsylvania. In the top 50 metro areas are, in order, Philadelphia, Scranton, Pittsburgh, Allentown and Harrisburg. The first three are in the top ten nationally.

In which state might there be the likelihood of a chance encounter with a Lithuanian? This would be greatest in Connecticut and Massachusetts, where there are 704 and 660 Lithuanians per 100,000 people respectively (Table 4). Illinois ranks third and is the only state in the top ten not in the northeast. Moreover all 15 above the national average of 199 per 100,000 are either in the Northeast or the Great Lakes region.

At the other end of the spectrum are the southern states with Mississippi being last with 26 per 100,000. Idaho is the only northern state among the last ten states. Both Georgia and Missouri and below 100 per 100,000 in part due to their large overall populations.

Table 3. States in rank order of Lithuanian ancestry, with ancestries for nearby nations

Rank	State (+DC)	Population	Lithuanian	Finnish	Estonian	Latvian	Polish	Russian
	USA	321,004,407	638,018	644,554	29,101	86,785	9,265,548	2,741,864
1	Illinois	12,854,526	79,268	18,171	1,147	5,683	892,676	114,937
2	Pennsylvania	12,790,505	71,183	8,915	834	4,226	815,848	176,180
3	California	38,982,847	49,238	54,695	3,747	10,022	487,549	408,993
4	Massachusetts	6,789,319	44,795	22,550	1,235	4,032	308,587	104,890
5	New York	19,798,228	44,362	16,077	3,439	8,394	899,899	390,430
6	Florida	20,278,447	36,384	26,615	2,522	4,994	485,973	203,541
7	New Jersey	8,960,161	32,275	6,068	1,604	4,350	501,761	168,730
8	Michigan	9,925,568	28,066	96,870	625	4,330	827,706	70,923
9	Connecticut	3,594,478	25,313	5,901	1,224	1,747	268,093	60,029
10	Ohio	11,609,756	21,133	17,394	1,043	3,120	432,667	71,897
11	Maryland	5,996,079	17,606	5,266	1,159	2,642	184,731	72,551
12	Texas	27,419,612	15,580	16,667	757	2,402	287,595	84,616
13	Virginia	8,365,952	14,440	7,864	1,008	2,405	154,650	53,436
14	Wisconsin	5,763,217	13,041	38,033	475	3,011	501,548	39,128
15	Indiana	6,614,418	11,122	4,959	244	1,607	208,533	21,821
16	Washington	7,169,967	10,758	45,653	1,351	3,548	134,979	85,814
17	North Carolina	10,052,564	10,564	7,900	459	1,381	145,644	44,133
18	Arizona	6,809,946	10,451	15,146	592	1,305	156,078	51,091
19	Colorado	5,436,519	9,933	11,246	513	2,333	133,528	58,390
20	New Hampshire	1,331,848	7,576	8,806	194	526	57,377	11,684
21	Georgia	10,201,635	7,340	6,493	470	1,235	108,115	42,866
22	Oregon	4,025,127	6,016	21,627	727	1,351	70,691	49,995
23	Minnesota	5,490,726	5,409	98,055	522	2,486	250,781	40,695
24	Maine	1,330,158	5,401	7,151	48	469	30,583	9,828
25	Missouri	6,075,300	5,351	3,606	354	662	103,695	28,465
26	South Carolina	4,893,444	4,920	3,958	299	564	66,563	17,444
27	Nevada	2,887,725	4,766	5,013	106	482	58,165	25,594
28	Tennessee	6,597,381	4,395	4,098	127	578	72,272	19,153
29	Rhode Island	1,056,138	4,187	1,505	78	227	40,826	9,985
30	Nebraska	1,893,921	3,246	1,840	81	765	65,908	11,351
31	Iowa	3,118,102	2,754	2,706	228	916	39,881	9,188
32	Kentucky	4,424,376	2,708	2,032	22	297	40,392	10,481
33	Delaware	943,732	2,654	425	48	107	39,385	7,293
34	Kansas	2,903,820	2,321	1,828	49	276	41,193	18,499
35	DC	672,391	2,066	647	76	427	14,904	10,336
36	Utah	2,993,941	2,030	6,030	193	336	25,513	11,048
37	Vermont	624,636	2,024	2,194	69	429	22,459	7,625
38	Alabama	4,850,771	1,938	1,903	64	340	28,366	8,382
39	Oklahoma	3,896,251	1,881	2,588	241	281	33,437	10,380
40	New Mexico	2,084,828	1,801	2,255	281	378	22,477	8,886
41	Arkansas	2,977,944	1,752	1,182	65	141	24,369	4,839
42	Louisiana	4,663,461	1,649	1,558	72	286	22,977	8,483
43	West Virginia	1,836,843	1,605	792	88	74	33,369	5,495
44	Montana	1,029,862	1,306	6,645	144	184	19,946	9,820
45	Hawaii	1,421,658	1,205	1,540	155	326	12,259	5,733
46	Idaho	1,657,375	1,094	5,466	20	385	20,067	7,576
47	Alaska	738,565	1,088	4,601	57	134	15,938	9,542
48	Mississippi	2,986,220	780	763	59	63	12,928	3,543
49	Wyoming	583,200	547	2,694	82	155	10,300	4,536
50	North Dakota	745,475	411	4,514	101	219	18,069	20,951
51	South Dakota	855,444	285	4,049	3	154	14,298	10,638

Table 4. Number of Lithuanians per 100,00 Population

Rank	State (+DC)	Population	Lithuanians	Per 100K
	USA	321,004,407	638,018	199
1	Connecticut	3,594,478	25,313	704
2	Massachusetts	6,789,319	44,795	660
3	Illinois	12,854,526	79,268	617
4	New Hampshire	1,331,848	7,576	569
5	Pennsylvania	12,790,505	71,183	557
6	Maine	1,330,158	5,401	406
7	Rhode Island	1,056,138	4,187	396
8	New Jersey	8,960,161	32,275	360
9	Vermont	624,636	2,024	324
10	Washington DC	672,391	2,066	307
11	Maryland	5,996,079	17,606	294
12	Michigan	9,925,568	28,066	283
13	Delaware	943,732	2,654	281
14	Wisconsin	5,763,217	13,041	226
15	New York	19,798,228	44,362	224
16	Colorado	5,436,519	9,933	183
17	Ohio	11,609,756	21,133	182
18	Florida	20,278,447	36,384	179
19	Virginia	8,365,952	14,440	173
20	Nebraska	1,893,921	3,246	171
21	Indiana	6,614,418	11,122	168
22	Nevada	2,887,725	4,766	165
23	Arizona	6,809,946	10,451	153
24	Washington	7,169,967	10,758	150
25	Oregon	4,025,127	6,016	149
26	Alaska	738,565	1,088	147
27	Montana	1,029,862	1,306	127
28	California	38,982,847	49,238	126
29	North Carolina	10,052,564	10,564	105
30	South Carolina	4,893,444	4,920	101
31	Minnesota	5,490,726	5,409	99
32	Wyoming	583,200	547	94
33	Iowa	3,118,102	2,754	88
34	Missouri	6,075,300	5,351	88
35	West Virginia	1,836,843	1,605	87
36	New Mexico	2,084,828	1,801	86
37	Hawaii	1,421,658	1,205	85
38	Kansas	2,903,820	2,321	80
39	Georgia	10,201,635	7,340	72
40	Utah	2,993,941	2,030	68
41	Tennessee	6,597,381	4,395	67
42	Idaho	1,657,375	1,094	66
43	Kentucky	4,424,376	2,708	61
44	Arkansas	2,977,944	1,752	59
45	Texas	27,419,612	15,580	57
46	North Dakota	745,475	411	55
47	Oklahoma	3,896,251	1,881	48
48	Alabama	4,850,771	1,938	40
49	Louisiana	4,663,461	1,649	35
50	South Dakota	855,444	285	33
51	Mississippi	2,986,220	780	26

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS

It is also useful to consider the Lithuanian population in contrast to other ethnic groups in the United States from nations close to Lithuania. The initial introduction to Table 3 showed that Illinois had the most Lithuanians but while there are roughly the same number of Finns in the US, they tend to be in the Midwest with Minnesota and Michigan having the largest number. Table 3 also shows that there is much more similarity with the distribution of the Polish population. While there are nearly 15 times more Poles than Lithuanians, Illinois and Pennsylvania have among the highest numbers after New York which has the most. Michigan is also near the top for both groups but not so for the Russians for whom Michigan is not in the top ten. Interestingly California, with numerous large cities, has the most Estonians, Latvians and Russians but is only #3 for Lithuanians and only #6 for Poles. As indicated at the beginning of this report most Lithuanians live in metro areas, over 91% (Table 5). Metro areas

have at least one city that is over 50,000 in population so it's more than the lower limit for urban areas (2500). The 91% is significantly higher than the 85.7% for the national population. It is also considerably higher than the 78% figure for the Finns who settled in large numbers in northern parts of Minnesota and Michigan.

Finally, as indicated above, Census respondents are able to list multiple ancestries. Some list none, while others list only one. Single ancestry respondents account for 70% of all respondents. For Lithuanians the figure is much lower, 29.5%. This is similar to the 31.4% for Finns and 32.7% for the Poles. Immigrants from these three nationalities arrived in large numbers beginning approximately one hundred years ago and many early arrivals are well integrated into the general population. The 42.0% for the Latvians and the 43.9% for the Estonians suggests that a higher proportion may be attributable to large numbers that came after WWII.

Table 5. Number and Proportion Living in Metropolitan Areas

2017 5yr data	United States	Estonian	Finnish	Latvian	Lithuanian	Polish
Total	321,004,407	29,101	644,554	86,785	638,018	9,265,548
In metro area	274,973,496	27,063	502,506	80,869	582,352	8,300,735
Percent metro	85.70%	93.00%	78.00%	93.20%	91.30%	89.60%

Table 6. Number and Proportion Reporting Only One Ancestry

2017 5yr data	United States	Estonian	Finnish	Latvian	Lithuanian	Polish
Single ancestry	321,004,407	188,108,143	202,644	36,457	188,464	3,032,587
Total ancestry	274,973,496	268,341,783	644,554	86,785	638,018	9,265,548
Percent metro	85.70%	70.10%	31.40%	42.00%	29.50%	32.70%

SUMMARY

The Lithuanian population disproportionately lives in metropolitan areas largely located in the northeastern part of the nation. The large group in Chicago is at the center of a second large group in the upper Midwest (Great Lakes region).

Lithuanians totally dominate the number who identified one of the Baltic Republics as their ancestry. Lith-

uanians account for a total that is six times larger than the combined total for Estonians and Latvians. They are nearly equivalent to the number reporting Finnish as their ancestry and while the number of Lithuanians has declined in the last decade there are still approximately 640,000 who report Lithuanian as one of their ancestries.

ENROUTE

Poems by Teresa Boguta



ENROUTE: FLYING OVER AMERICA

The land is white
And dove grey
Delicate lacy patterns of snow
And forest hilltops and necklaces of sinewy
streams

Virgin blue sky above and beyond

My dove grey and blood red bird
Flies purposefully with grace and dignity across
a peaceful continent.

Oh pioneers,
How you trekked and hauled and rode and
fought
Your way across these wide and fertile plains,
These lush and primordial forests, skyscraping
mountains to at last
Arrive and become and unite into one nation.
At first under God and now under siege by the
Prince of this world.

Hear ye and heed the lament of the native,
The red man whose spirit walks the horizon
between land and sky
Seeking the buffalo long gone, the eagle tat-
tered and dismayed,
The beaver and his kin
Fleeing, ever fleeing, become unwilling
nomads.

We too, on the edge of the millenium
Are fleeing, ever fleeing our past.
Away with the old, forward ever forward the
march of progress
Tramples the delicate fiber of lace, the fabric of
our planet .

The pattern, dove gray and white erodes
And melts into one endless greyness.
The birds of the air do not land upon the con-
tinent for eons.

Till one day, all becomes pure again,
White again, virgin and blue,
Birdsong and forest breeze soar and mingle in the
perfumed valleys.

We return to paradise,
From planets afar,
To our reborn and ever greening earth,
Become for us through the Lord
Redeemed and glorious.

*Virgin America flight 205
To San Francisco from Chicago
January 13, 2014*

EARTHQUAKE

I have seen
The future
On the SFO airport train

The well-fed
Fit and
Sprightly
Crowd

Ageless
Childless
Clueless

To when the train
Will stop
Without warning
As the earth begins to heave
And slide

Us like peas in a pod
Back into the
Primordial soup

The long-awaited
Dreaded
Prophesized
Celebrated
Inescapable

Final
Abyss

2.
This train is bound for glory
This train
The travelers with baggage
The travelers without
The young professional with
ipad
The student with earbuds
The gum-chewing,
Newspaper reading
Bicycle-toting
Spike heel wearing
Silent as the morning
Commuter crowd

3.
Now the long dark tunnel ends

And the sunshine
Transmutes
Our silent passage

Just the soft whistle
Of the whooshing train
Gently as a barge
Swaying on The Bay currents
Gliding through the sunlit val-
leys
Between the hills
Of the City by the Bay.

4.
Ticky-tacky houses
Punctuated by 7-11's
Straight-up-the hill streets

Eucalyptus, pine and magnolia
In jumbled profusion
Chant

We breathe in
We breathe out
We swing downdog
We rise sun salutation

We are serene
We are relaxed
We Ohmm
We amen
We green

We alive
For you
For us
For mother earth

Ohmmmmmm

5.
But the earth
Shall be soothed
But briefly

Restless is her sleep
Tossing and turning
Hour by hour
Century by century

And midstream into the
Millenium
Beneath her mantle's chrysalis

Always emerging
The new earth
The never before seen planet
Armored in techtonic plates

6.
She is Diana
She is the goddess
The warrior maiden
In battle against
Her own creatures

Oh beware children
Of earth
Be not asleep
When she returns
As the huntress
To capture and slay you

7.
We hide in our steel caves
We flee in our subway trains
We have packed our bags to
depart

But the earth has trembled
The abyss has opened
And all, everyone of them
The man in the blue shirt
The i-padded girl
The music lover and the pagan

Suddenly
Without warning
Skew vertically
And slip slowly away
Into the foggy
Unknown

1/19/11
*Written on the Bart
From SF city to SFO airport*

AGAIN

Again

On the train
Barreling through tunnels
Tunneling through hills
Skipping over valleys and vil-
lages
And ocean tidepools
On my way

Again

Among
The myriad faces
Going to undisclosed places
Walking with purpose
Running in despair
Drifting like flotsam and
jetsome
Amid the trash strewn
alleyways

Again

Along
The edges of high rise cities
Clinging to life
The sad and lonely faces
Of those who traveled far
But got nowhere
Walked a thousand mile trip
Between daybreak and sunset
On the same streets
The same intersections
Of life and death

Again

Seeing
But not believing
Touching
But not loving
Longing
But not hoping
Broken and wounded

Again

Let me see the sun
Just once
Again
Bathe in the sweet waters
Of your love
Just once again
Be free of this vale of tears
Flying free
Among the stars
Once
Again

10/28/15

SFO airport

Ready to depart for Chicago

Virgin flight #204

WOLVERINE AMTRAK CHICAGO - DETROIT

Crawling through the rust belt
going slow on the track
drifting past freight trains
a staccato of color and form
boxcar, tanker, blue, grey, tan

Stretching out along the great lake shore
the hulking giants of a bygone iron age
hibernate in icy solitude
mysterious escarpments,
chimneys like the pillars of hades
reaching toward the sky
their dead eyes no longer gleam with fire

Blue factories, red rust factories
black and grey and green factories
ironworks, bridges, power stations
huge black structures straddling the horizon
lacy steel tentacles reaching out to grasp
like giant insects from an alien planet
Then slowly the hulks vanish from view

as the wolverine speeds eastward

In-between the tracks
narrow strips of land harbor
wispy swamp grasses
whispering of landscapes ancient and forgotten
shorebird ghosts from neolithic beaches
rustle in the grey winter fog
a hint of a river, a memory of a lagoon

The land begins to revive
trees and grasses stretch out languorously
undulate with small hillocks, vales, tide pools,
a stand of oak trees,
a tribe of ash running along the crest
chanting an ancient melody to soothe
the wounded spirits seeking
a place to rest.

winter

4/3/2015



BARBED WIRE

Along the continental divide
the rivers of life flow westward
but I am wasting away
on the lee side, in the desert
buffeted by the sand storms of time
each grain like a shard of glass
cuts and wounds my heart

I can see
the other side
straining to touch
through the barb-wired wall
the velvet lush softness of my joy
there in perfect fullness
unreachable
Barbed Wire

The wolf and the jackel
can sense my demise
circling ever closer
tumbleweed armies roar through the night
like wraiths seeking victims
my heart in vivisection opened and exposed
beats on - dripping it's life blood
to the ground

And yet - behold
each drop that falls on that infertile plain
springs up a rose

red blossoms, vines, and leaves
growing entwining embracing
that tangled, rusty, barbed divide

Oh Mystical Rose
that melds into each atom and absorbs
the pain, the knife edge agony
the sting of perdition
till the edifice of deathly barbs
becomes a greenwood of life
A gentle, fragrant breeze wafts
between the branches and awakens
my prone and lifeless limbs

Transmuted, weightless, shining bright
I rise and pass with ease
through that divide,
before impenetrable
now translucent and shimmering

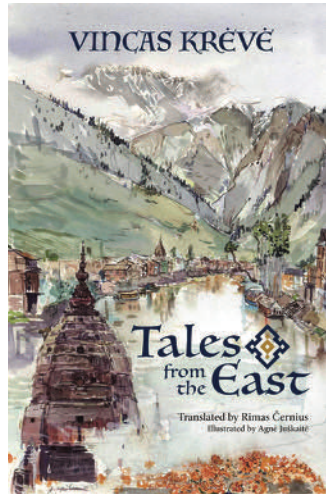
A shaft of light
a drop of dew
I flow
I melt into the golden
radiant stream of perfect joy

5/13/2018
Enroute by Teresa Boguta @2019

Krėvė's Oriental Tales for Grown-Ups

By Dalia Cidzikaitė

Vincas Krėvė
Tales from the East
Translated by Rimas Černius.
IBJ Book Publishing, 2018.



Only a handful of people know that Vincas Krėvė-Mickevičius (1882–1954), the famous Lithuanian writer, wrote his most significant literary works as an émigré. Critics believe that the writer's sojourn in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, rendered him one of the most prominent orientalist of the twentieth century in Lithuanian literature. According to writer Mykolas Vaitkus, Krėvė's oriental story "Pratjekabuda" could

"Pratjekabuda" was originally published in the literary and art journal *Vaivorykštė* (The Rainbow). Krėvė considered the story one of his most significant works on the Orient, and, as Černius notes in his introduction, it reveals the writer's "philosophy placed on the foundation of ancient India."³ The story is a highly stylized philosophical parable that recounts a man's life, death, and awakening. Regimantas Tamošaitis describes "Pratjekabuda" as embodying what the author considered the essential ideas of Romanticism, i.e., the power of human spirit, personal freedom, and an individual person's rebellion against the stagnant world order, which, the critic notes, have been too bold and even alien to the earthbound and agrarian Lithuanian culture.⁴

have been published in any celebrated European literary almanac of that time.¹ Unfortunately, during a period in which the West was fascinated with the Orient, no such translation into German or English language appeared, leaving this Lithuanian author and his oriental texts unknown to the world.

In an interesting aside, Černius points to another prominent Western writer who wrote on oriental themes: Hermann Hesse. For Černius, Hesse's *Siddhartha*, which came out in 1922, nine years later than Krėvė's work, is very similar to "Pratjekabuda." The translator suggests that the two tales would make for an interesting comparative study.

Krėvė's oriental stories were first translated into English almost one hundred years later. In 2012, Rimas Černius translated "Pratjekabuda" and a few other short stories on the Orient. Five years later, *Tales from the East*, collecting five of Krėvė's works on oriental themes, was translated by Černius and published in the United States. Krėvė's oriental stories have never been very popular among critics or readers. Upon its first publication in 1913, "Pratjekabuda" received very mixed and conflicting reviews. Mykolas Vaitkus was fascinated by the story, declaring that it would fit well in the best literary almanac in Europe. Writer and translator Kazys Puida was more reserved. According to him, the story is "a philosophical riddle that no reader will be able to crack."²

The other stories in Krėvė's *Tales from the East* are rooted in Zoroastrianism and Islam. Černius remarks that the story "The Vessel in which the Kings Keeps His Best Wine" has the flavor of an Arabic morality tale and is perhaps the most accessible of the five tales in the collection. For critic Albertas Zalatorius, the style of "The Vessel" closely approximates the genre of legend.⁵ In "The Land of Azerstan," Krėvė expresses his affection for the people of Azerbaijan and for the country where he spent ten years of his life. The story "Opposing Powers" is a Zoroastrian account of the creation of the world, with a traditional plot posing two camps, good and evil. Zalatorius opined that Christian readers will find it a counterpart to the Biblical motif of the Tree of the Knowledge. The story "Woman," which is grounded in Islam, is yet another counterpart to the Biblical account in Genesis of the creation of the world.

Although the author calls his oriental texts "tales," his stories are far from traditional tales. They convey some of the oldest metaphysical ideas of ancient India and Persia, which Krėvė grounded in the Upanishads, the ancient Sanskrit texts that contain some of the central philosophical concepts and ideas of Hinduism and in Persian mythology.

In addition to its oriental themes, Krėvė's *Tales from the East* stands out for what critic Vincas Maciūnas termed a decorative oriental style.⁶ Krėvė uses words that fit that genre and makes comparisons and repetitions characteristic of tales and legends. The translator does his best to

transmit the author's rich and elevated style.

Here is an excerpt from "The Vessel in which the Kings Keeps His Best Wine" in which, after deliberating for twenty-one days, his ministers and advisors advise the king:

– Noble king and God-given ruler of us all! All of us here assembled have deliberated for a long time, and we have agreed that the most famous and respected man is Arkazar, who rules the neighboring country in the name of his king. He is the most virtuous and wisest of all virtuous and wise men, and there is no other man like him in that respect. His soul is as deep as those bottomless seas which the people call dead seas. His heart is pure and full of love for others, and it is serene like the expanse of the morning sky on a bright day. But, noble king, he cannot become your daughter's husband, and you will not be able to call him your son and let him rule the country which you rule, because as much as his soul is noble and pure, so is his physical appearance ugly and repulsive to the eyes; everyone who looks upon him is disgusted.⁷

Krėvė, an émigré himself, was highly appreciated by Lithuanian-Americans. On February 27, 1953, Professor Alfred Senn, speaking at the University of Pittsburgh, appraised Krėvė as the most prominent Lithuanian writer of all time, with his rivals for the title being the celebrated Kristijonas Donelaitis and Maironis. Senn dismissed Donelaitis for lacking of originality. According to Senn, Donelaitis's hexameter merely imitated the style prevailing in Western European literature at that time. Though Senn did not offer any criticism of Maironis, he nevertheless judges that Krėvė surpassed him. "Even if Krėvė had written only realistic dramas and short stories, he would be worthy of the highest honor and recognition, perhaps even the Nobel Prize," intoned Senn.⁸

Senn's remark about the Nobel Prize was not just rhetorical. In 1952, at the commemoration of Krėvė's 70th anniversary, Senn announced to the writer and assembled guests that he had organized a commission to work toward the Nobel Prize for Krėvė. Unfortunately, the professor's plans did not bear fruit.

Alfonsas Nyka-Niliūnas, a Lithuanian émigré poet, also attests to Krėvė's significant role in Lithuanian literature and among Lithuanian emigrants in the US. Two days after the news about Krėvė's death reached the poet, he wrote in his diary: "Krėvė died in Philadelphia [the day before]. It is as though the Nemunas, the Vilnius Cathedral, or Šatrija Hill had perished; he was so deeply rooted in my consciousness."⁹

Krėvė's importance in the consciousness of the Lithu-

anian diaspora and his greatness did not die with the writer. His works have continued to be taught in Lithuanian Saturday schools. New generations of Lithuanian emigrants zealously read his works, especially the historic ones. Therefore it should not come as a surprise that the translator of Krėvė's *Tales from the East* arose from the second Lithuanian emigration wave, also known as the DP generation. Having started translating Krėvė's oriental tales as a special project under guidance of Paul Friedrich, Černius completed his work in the Master of Liberal Arts Program at the University of Chicago. It is commendable that the student Černius's work bloomed into the book.

Černius frequently contributes to the monthly *Draugas News* and to the newspaper *Draugas*, both published in Chicago. He is also one of the translators of the book, *We Thought We'd Be Back Soon* (Aukso žuvis, 2017). I hope that Černius will continue introducing readers of English to Lithuanian literary gems.

Notes:

1. Vladas Turčinavičius, "Kūrėjas, kurio pėdos gimtinės žemėje, o akys aprėpia platųjį pasaulį." In <http://alkas.lt/2012/12/05/v-turcinavicius-kurejas-kuri-opedos-gimtines-zemeje-o-akys-aprepia-platuji-pasauli/#more-98159>
2. Albertas Zalatorius, "Gaivi Oriento versmė." In Vincas Krėvė, *Pratjekabuda. Rytų pasakos*. Vilnius: Petro ofsetas, 2008, p. 15.
3. Rimas Černius, "Introduction." In Vincas Krėvė, *Tales from the East*, p. iii.
4. Regimantas Tamošaitis, "Krėvės apysaka apie gyvenimo miegą ir pabudimą." In Vincas Krėvė, *Pratjekabuda. Rytų pasakos*. Vilnius: Petro ofsetas, 2008.
5. Albertas Zalatorius, *ibid.*
6. Vincas Maciūnas, "Krėvės kūrybinis žodis." In Vincas Krėvė, *Raštai, t. VI. Bostonas: Lietuvių enciklopedijos leidykla, 1961.*
7. Vincas Krėvė, "The Vessel in which the King Keeps His Best Wine." In Vincas Krėvė, *Tales from the East*, p. 87.
8. Vladas Turčinavičius, "Kūrėjas, kurio pėdos gimtinės žemėje, o akys aprėpia platųjį pasaulį." In <http://alkas.lt/2012/12/05/v-turcinavicius-kurejas-kuri-opedos-gimtines-zemeje-o-akys-aprepia-platuji-pasauli/>
9. *Ibid.*

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LAC XXII Board of Directors 2nd Annual Meeting

Ingrida Misevičienė

LAC XXII Council Presidium Secretary

Loreta Timukienė

LAC Executive Committee Vice-Chair for Information



LAC XXII Board of Directors Presidium (from left): Nerija Orentienė (Chair), Artūras Žilys, Ingrida Misevičienė, and Rima Girniuvienė

On October 11-13, 2019, in the Lithuanian American capital Chicago the LAC XXII Board of Directors second annual meeting took place. Representatives from more than 20 states as well as a big group of guests participated. Among the honored guests were Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the United States of America and Mexico Rolandas Kriščiūnas, Consul General in Chicago Mantvydas Bekešius, acting Consul General in New York Gitana Skripkaitė, Members of Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania Dr. Žygimantas Pavilionis, Prof. Stasys Tumėnas, Chairman of the Republic of Lithuania Parliament and the World Lithuanian Community Committee Antanas Vinkus, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania in Pennsylvania Krista Bard, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania in Colorado Dr. Jonas Prunskis, Vice President of the Lithuanian Canadian Community Joana Kuraitė-Lasienė, the Lithuanian Foundation Board Chair Audronė Karalius, the Lithuanian Foundation President and CEO Tauras Bublys, the Lithuanian Foundation representatives Saulius Čyvas, Marius Kasniūnas, Jūratė

Mereckis, Laima Apanavičienė, Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute Director Violeta Smieliauskaitė-Fabianovich, US Lithuanian Youth Association Chair Rima Žiūraitis, members of the Lithuanian Riflemen's Union in Exile.

The LAC Board of Directors is comprised of 60 persons elected for a three-year term and the chairs of 10 LAC chapters. During the annual meeting, participants discussed the Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival which will take place in 2020 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Board of Directors members came from different states in the US and had a good chance to visit Lithuanian venues in Chicago and its surroundings, including the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, the Lithuanian Archives and Research Institute, the Lithuanian World Center. Participants also had an opportunity to enjoy concerts performed by Česlovas Gabalis, Tomas Varnagiris, Nida Grigalavičiūtė, Aura Kižytė, Rimantas Pažemeckas, Sandra Avižienytė, Dainava ensemble men's sextet, Suktinis folk dance group. The next annual meeting will take place in the fall of 2020 in Atlanta, Georgia.



Participants and honored guests of the LAC XXII Board of Directors second annual meeting.



LAC National Executive Committee Chairman Arvydas Urbonavičius presented the LAC banner to the members of the Lithuanian Parliament.



During the meeting.



Dainava ensemble men's sextet performed at the banquet.

our community

Pipiry Ratelis



“Pipiry ratelis” (roughly translated to “Little Peppers’ Circle”) is a mom and tots playgroup that was formed in 1998 by four Lithuanian American moms, eager to give their toddlers an opportunity to be exposed to elementary learning and socialization in the Lithuanian language. Interest in the program grew rapidly, so Pipiry ratelis moved its home from one of the founder’s basements to the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, where the program continues after 21 years.

Together with a parent and/or grandparent, the toddlers as young as 18 months through the age of 3, come to “Pipiry ratelis” to learn Lithuanian children’s songs, play games, listen to stories, do table crafts and socialize in a fun and safe setting. The program is run in the Lithuanian language and is led by Egidija Nefiodovienė on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30am to 11:30am. Check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pipiruratelis/>



Boston Lithuanian School Celebrates its 70th Anniversary

By Nojus Aušra



The morning of September 14th, 2019 marked the 70th annual opening of the Boston Lithuanian School (BLSM). Students and parents eagerly waited for the school doors to open while the teachers prepared the main hall. As they entered the building with bouquets and pots of flowers, the teachers welcomed them at the entrance, standing as columns arched with traditional Lithuanian woven sashes that the children passed under. Once inside, rows and rows of attendees faced the front stage, where Principal Gaila Narkevičienė introduced the school staff. Having been the principal for 10 years now, Narkevičienė displayed her pride in the school by revealing that BLSM has now boasted over 6,000 students in total. The ceremony continued with the speeches of several other individuals: Father Peter DeFazio of St. Peter's Lithuanian Church gave his blessing to the school; the President of Lithuanian American Community of New England District Regina Balcaitiene directed her welcoming words to the youngest and oldest students, bidding them to continue their studies and appreciation of Lithuanian heritage; Estera Saunelaite of Taupa Lithuanian Federal Credit Union graciously donated \$500 for the benefit of the school; and assistant principle Ramunė Keegan revealed a certificate of Lithuanian School Excellency that was gifted to BLSM when she attended a seminar in Lithuania.

Boston Lithuanian School has therefore reached many important milestones that exhibit the dedication of the parents, students, and teachers to their Lithuanian heritage. The Lithuanian community in Boston have tried hard to mirror the devotion to their culture that native Lithuanians have shown historically, who have faced many hardships with cultural erasure. As a result, BLSM

has succeeded in fostering a community for Lithuanians that permits the celebration of their common culture. The school is always looking to further expand their influence by reaching out to more Lithuanian families (and the local community) to help enhance the Lithuanian community. You can show your support for Boston Lithuanian School's mission by attending the 70th Anniversary Dinner on November 16th through blsm.org/lt/70tix, or by donating to the Boston Lithuanian School by check (281 Maple Street, Danvers MA, 01923), or by Paypal (Donate button on <https://blsm.org/en>).



November Anniversary

235 years ago



On November 11, 1784, Teodoras Narbutas was born.

Teodoras Narbutas (Polish: Teodor Narbutt; 8 November 1784 – 27 November 1864) was a Polish–Lithuanian romantic historian and military engineer in service of the Russian Empire. He is best remembered as the author of a nine-volume Polish-language history of Lithuania.

Life

Teodoras Narbutas was born in 1784 in the village of Szawry, near Hrodna (modern Belarus) in the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, to a notable szlachta family of Trąby coat of arms. Early in his youth, his fatherland was partitioned between Russia, Austria, and Prussia. After graduating from a Piarist college at Lyubeshiv, Narbutas entered the Vilnius Academy, where in 1803 he graduated in engineering. He then moved to Saint Petersburg, where he joined the Cadet Corps. He served in the Imperial Russian Army, where he became a captain in the field engineering corps. He took part in the 1807 and 1812 Russian campaigns against Napoleon Bonaparte. In 1809 he constructed the Bobruysk fortress (modern Babruysk, Belarus), for which he was awarded the Order of Saint Anna.

At the same time, since 1813 he became interested in archaeology and started to organize numerous excavations across the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania. His passion for history, culture, and folklore of the lands of former Grand

Duchy was first shown after 1817, at which date he started to write historical articles for various Vilnius-based newspapers. He also started to collect copies of documents related to the ancient history of Lithuania, which were published in 1846 in an anthology *Pomniki do dziejów litewskich* (Monuments of Lithuanian History). Among the most notable primary sources, he published was the 16th-century (?) *Letopis of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania*, also known as the *Bychowiec Chronicle*, after its founder Aleksander Bychowiec.

Between 1835 and 1841 he published a monumental, 9-volume history of Lithuania, covering the period from prehistoric times to the Union of Lublin. Although largely based on folk tales, dubious and often falsified sources, the book had a tremendous impact on both historiography of Lithuania, and later on Lithuanian National Revival. Its Lithuanian translation became the first history of Lithuania written entirely from a Lithuanian perspective. Paradoxically, the book underlined the Ruthenian past of Lithuania, and as such was highly acclaimed by Russian historians and authorities alike. For it, Narbutas was awarded by Tsar Nicholas I of Russia a gold ring set with a ruby, the Order of Saint Anne and the Order of Saint Vladimir. In 1856, Narbutas published yet another collection of texts, comprising original primary sources and his own forgeries. Among the most popular of the latter was *von Kyburg's Diary*, a fabricated account of Lithuania in the 13th century.

Throughout his life, Narbutas remained an active member of the Archaeological Commission of Vilnius, as well as a notable engineer. Between 1847 and 1852 he constructed a parish church in Eišiškės (Ejszyszki in Polish), now Lithuania. Although loyal to Imperial Russia, the anti-Russian January Uprising brought an end to his family. His wife, Krystyna Narbutas née Sadowska was sentenced to forced resettlement to Siberia and was not allowed to return until 1871. His older son, Ludwik Narbutas, became a notable commander of the Polish forces in the area of Lida and was killed in 1863 in the fight against the Russians. The younger son Bolesław was sentenced to death by the Russian authorities, but his sentence was later changed to life imprisonment because of his young age. Narbutas's only daughter Teodoras had to flee the country and was sentenced to forced labor in absentia. Narbutas himself died in 1864 in Vilnius.

Legacy

Narbutas's nine-volume history of Lithuania (1835–1841) is the first work to separate the history of Lithuania from that of Poland. The work ends with the Union of Lublin (1569) and the death of King Sigismund Augustus (1572) because Narbutas believed that Lithuanian history ended with the formation of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth and Augustus, the last ruler of the Gediminian-Jagiellonian

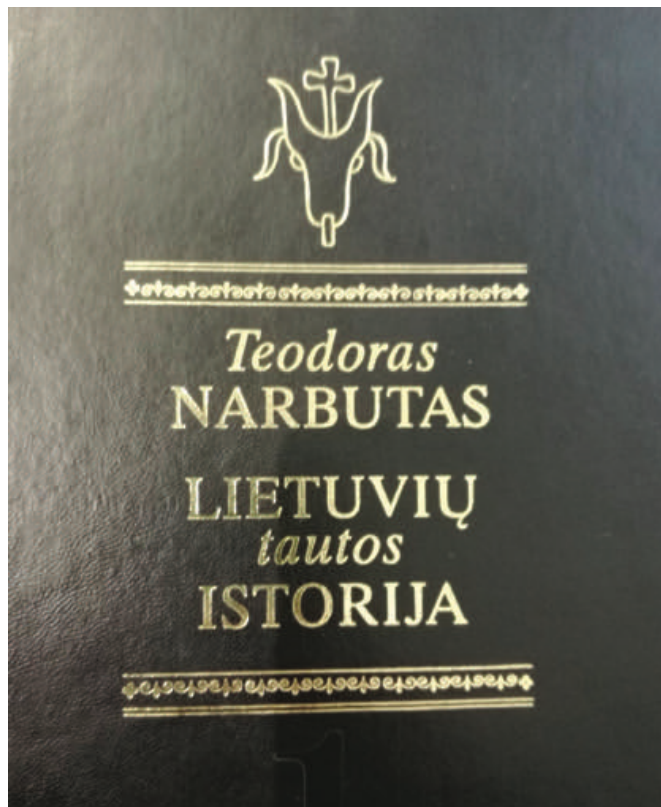
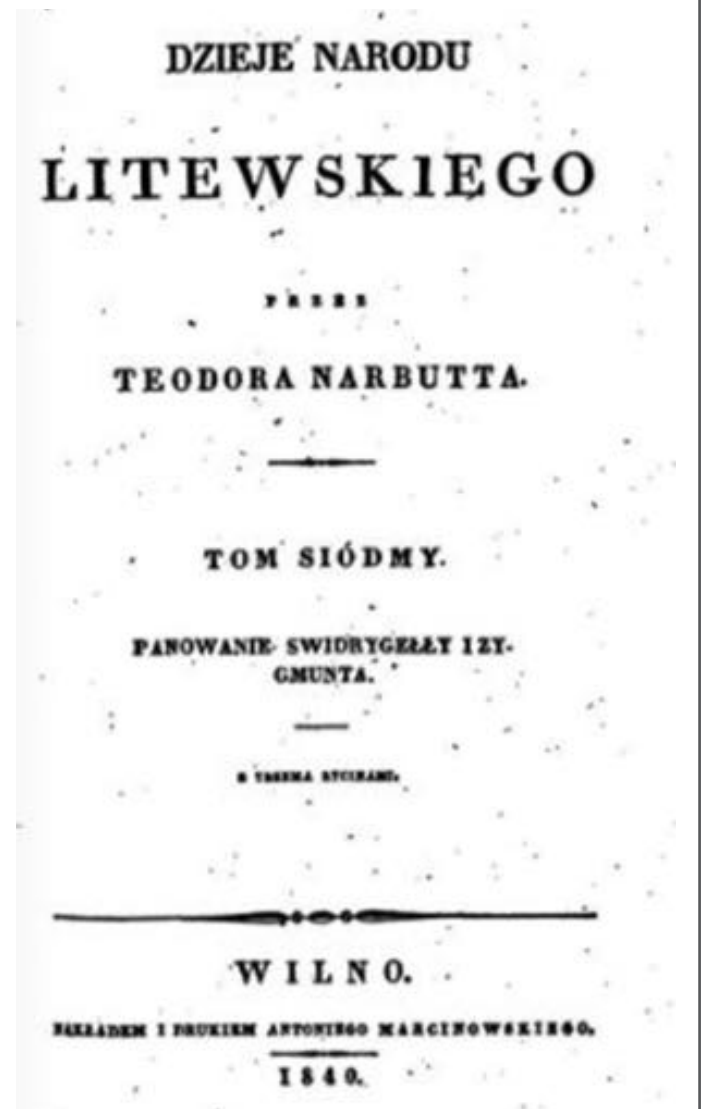
this month in history

dynasty. There are a number of historical inaccuracies in his books, for example, Narbutas propagated the legend of Lithuanian lineage from the Romans. Narbutas was preparing a corrected second edition at the time of his death, only the summary of the Lithuanian history was published: *Dzieje narodu litewskiego w krótkości zebrane* (1847).

Both of these studies are critically regarded by historians because of historical inaccuracies, but Lithuanians in the 19th century, during an era of the rising national consciousness, welcomed every opportunity to derive patriotic inspiration from the past. Narbutas maintained contact with the leading Lithuanian activists of his day and corresponded extensively with Simonas Daukantas, who in the same romantic spirit wrote the first Lithuanian-language history of Lithuania.

His lack of critical judgment in differentiating between the authentic and spurious sources lessened the value of his work today, but his contributions remain very important to the Lithuanian history. Narbutas revealed many unknown historical sources, the most famous being the *Bychowiec Chronicle*. It is the most comprehensive version of the Lithuanian chronicles, compiled from manuscripts dating from the first half of the 16th century. He has also collected and made copies of many original manuscripts, which have provided sources for historical studies later.

Source: *The Internet*



Security

...500 U.S. troops from the Army's 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry from Fort Hood, Texas are scheduled to rotate to Lithuania next month as part of the Atlantic Resolve campaign to keep 6,000 troops in Europe on 9-month duty. The battalion-sized unit with 30 Abrams tanks, 25 Bradley armored vehicles, and 70 wheeled vehicles will replace a unit from the 1st Infantry Division from Fort Riley, Kansas. They will be based at the Lithuania training facility in Pabradė near the border with Belarus. Lithuania will provide lodging and logistical support.

...Ukrainian President Zelensky welcomed 35 captives from Russia including 24 sailors captured by Russia in the Sea of Azov off of Crimea as part of a prisoner exchange for 35 Russians released by Ukraine. The Russian group included Volodymyr Tsemakh who commanded a separatist air defense unit close to where a Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 from Amsterdam was shot down in 2014 killing all 298 people on board. The Dutch government is not happy with the release of Tsemakh prior to a trial in The Hague on the shooting down of the airliner headed to Kuala Lumpur.

...Kurt Volker, the State Department Special Envoy to Ukraine, abruptly submitted his resignation to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Sources indicated that he was caught in the middle of efforts by President Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, to find negative information about former Vice President Joseph Biden and other Democrats. As one of Mr. Volker's last official duties, he participated in President Trump's meeting with President Zelensky on the sideline of the UN General Assembly. Mr. Volker is scheduled to be deposed by the House of Representatives.

...Lithuania accepted delivery of 110 Unimog U5000 off-road trucks with a capacity of 5 tons manufactured by Germany's Daimler AG. They join 88 that have already been delivered and will eventually total 340 trucks on a 2015 contract which cost 70 million euros. The remaining 142 are scheduled for delivery in 2020-2021. The per-unit cost is low because of the bulk purchasing capacity of the NATO Support and Procurement Agency.

...There is a Russia and Belarus plan on entering an "economic confederacy" or union by 2024. The plan has been considered for 20 years and Lithuania is adopting a "wait and see" attitude. The Russian daily, Kommersant, cited a Kremlin spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, that an integration roadmap is expected to be released to the public before the end of 2019. President Gitanas Nausėda, who said

that he prefers a border with Belarus rather than a unified Russian – Belarus, has stepped up efforts to work with Minsk on energy security. Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius indicated that the topic of visa-free travel is possible as relations between Lithuania and Belarus improve.

...John Bolton, President Trump's National Security Advisor, resigned under pressure because of many differences of opinion including Bolton's hard-line with Russia and President Trump's plan on hosting Taliban leaders at Camp David. Bolton recently returned from Belarus where he met with President Lukashenko to discuss supplying American oil to Belarus to reduce their dependence on Russian energy.

...Two Belgian F-16AM Viper jets operating out of Lithuania's Siauliai airbase intercepted two Russian TU-160 Blackjack strategic bombers and two Russian SU-27 dual-engine Flankers fighters above the Baltic Sea. The TU-160, listed as the largest fastest strategic bomber in operation, is dubbed the "White Swan" by the Russians. The U.S. is listed as an operator of two SU-27s which it "purchased in 2009 from a private entity and used as aggressors in training".

...A German submarine U-31 and its escort, FGS Oste, visited the Lithuanian Seaport at Klaipėda for an exchange with the Lithuanian Navy leadership, crews, and Mayor. The last visit by German submarines was 18 years ago by U-16 and U-26.

Business

...Mikron Kaunas, the Lithuanian branch of the Swiss-based Mikron Group, opened with 15 employees including engineers for its industrial automation division for the global automotive component industry. It has 400 m2 for engineering and administrative functions plus 900 m2 for production. It plans on recruiting 50 specialists including additional engineers, technicians, and CNC machine operators. With 1300 employees, Mikron has facilities in Boudry and Agno Switzerland with divisions in Germany, Singapore, China, and the U.S. with shares listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange.

...Hollister Inc., an independent employee-owned company headquartered in Libertyville, Illinois had a grand opening of its new manufacturing facility in Kaunas with 140 associates with plans on employing 350 more by the end of 2020 and 500 by the end of 2022. Production of ostomy products began in June of 2019 and continence care products will begin in the 3rd quarter of 2020. Hol-

current events

lister has manufacturing and distribution centers in 90 countries.

...Lithuania's Grigeo paper and wood industry group says that it has canceled its planned 150 million euro investment in a new cardboard factory due to softening economic conditions including the canceling of a 30 million euro investment by Invalda INVL, one of the Baltics' largest asset management groups. Grigeo, which is listed on Nasdaq Vilnius Stock Exchange as a blue-chip Main List, is to pay 1 million euros for termination of the agreement to BSGE Salvus, a subsidiary of INVL.

...Lithuania's Minister of Finance, Vilius Šapoka, expects the GDP to grow by +3.7 % in 2019 but slow down to + 2.4% in 2020 due to negative global trends, political decisions, and Brexit. He expects growth in domestic demand. Wages have been growing by +8.5% in 2019 and are expected to be +6.7% in 2020 due to positive migration flows.

...President Gitanas Nausėda met with 29 members of the American-Lithuanian Business Council to discuss the investment climate and business relations. Last year saw trade increase with the U.S. by 7.4% to nearly 2 billion euros.

...Burger King plans on opening restaurants in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania which are among the few nations that don't have Burger King restaurants.

...Twelve percent of Lithuanian dairy farmers left the market in 2018 because of low milk prices and difficulty in obtaining feed during a prolonged drought. One farmer calculated that it cost him 0.23 euros to produce a liter of milk for which he only receives 0.21 euros from the milk processing company. Unless the pricing changes, the farmers are threatening to boycott the lowest paying milk processing company.

General

...A Lithuanian movie, *Nova Lituania*, won the best movie award at the Athens International Film Festival over 11 other entries. Directed by Karolis Kaupinis, 32, the black & white film, set in the 1938 Kaunas, tells the story of efforts by a geography professor (based on the real Kazys Pakštas) to save Lithuania by establishing an overseas reserve colony to ensure the continuity of Lithuanian statehood in case the country was assimilated by Germany and Russian as happened in the 1940s. The movie had a positive review in *Variety*.

...An architectural firm from Madrid, Spain has won over 250 submissions to design the National Concert Hall in Vilnius. Arquivio Architects won the 60,000 euro prize and envision three volumes and a new plaza featuring an open, multifunctional art center, and a 1,700 seat premium classical music concert hall with natural acoustics and a smaller hall with 500 seats. The project is slated to kick off in 2021.

...Half of Lithuania's delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) boycotted the session in Strasbourg to protest Russia's return to PACE after it was excluded because of the annexation of Crimea in 2014. Although the opposition parliamentarians did not attend, the two ruling members elected to attend the session decided to attend the session and outline their position in opposition to the reinstatement in light of Russia's refusal to implement the Council of Europe's resolutions on aggression against Ukraine, the downing of MH17 flight and human rights abuses in Russia. The four-man delegation boycotted an event marking the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe.

...The Seimas approved President Gitanas Nausėda's proposal to dismiss two judges on Lithuania's Court of Appeal. Judge Kestutis Jucys and Judge Konstantinas Gurinas were involved in a high-profile judicial corruption case.

...The Seimas ruling party has joined the opposition's initiative to ban flavored e-cigarettes. Cherry, vanilla, and mint flavors will be banned in July. Estonia already has a ban and Sweden plans to introduce a ban next year.

...President Nausėda presented Life Saving Cross awards to 38 people who saved Jews from the Nazi genocide. Most of the awards were posthumous and the awards were presented to family members on September 23, the anniversary of the liquidation of the Vilnius Ghetto.

...The Lithuanian government will assist four Ukrainian students from the war-torn areas of Luhansk and Donetsk to finance their studies at Lithuanian universities.

...The Panevėžys bypass section of the Via Baltica Highway is now completed by a local contractor, Panevėžio Keliai, for 44.6 million euros which were funded by the EU and local authorities. It includes 3 lanes in both directions and the lanes can be reversed to reduce congestion during peak periods. The next section to be upgraded will be between Marijampolė and Lithuania's border with Poland.

Please verify all events, as places and times are subject to change.

ONGOING

Most Fridays,
4:30-7:30 p.m.
**Friday Fish Fry at the
Rockford Lithuanian Club**
716 Indiana Avenue,
Rockford, Ill.
Open to the public. Weekly
specials vary. First Friday
of the month—Lithuanian
dumplings.
Info: lithuanianclub.org,
815-962-9256

Every Sunday,
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
**All-You-Can-Eat Lithuanian
Brunch Buffet**
Lithuanian Club and Gintaras
Dining Room
877 E. 185 St., Cleveland, Ohio
\$15 per person; \$6 kids 6-12
Info: lithclub@gmail.com,
216-531-8318

First Sunday of the Month,
12-4 p.m.
Lithuanian Brunch
The Avenue Restaurant, 71-22
Myrtle Ave., Glendale, N.Y.
Reservations strongly
recommended.
Info: 347-725-3853
First Sunday of the Month
**Rockford Lithuanian Club
General Membership
Meeting**
716 Indiana Avenue,
Rockford, Ill.
Open to all members.
Info: lithuanianclub.org,
815-962-9256

Every Third Saturday,
Mar-Jun & Sep-Nov,
1-3 p.m.
**Amber Roots Lithuanian
Heritage Club**
Lithuanian Music Hall,
2517 E. Allegheny Ave.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Use Tilton Street entrance.
Bring a dish to share.
Info: milliemarks@aol.com

**Exhibit "For Freedom:
Lithuanian American Sup-
port for Lithuania's Inde-
pendence and Recognition"**
Balzekas Museum of
Lithuanian Culture
www.balzekasmuseum.org

DECEMBER

December 1, 2019
at 1:00 PM
**Concert at the Nativity BVM
Church**
Chicago, IL
Vivaldi's "The Seasons"
Viktorija Čepinskienė, violin
and Giedrė Špečkauskaitė,
piano

December 3, 2019
at 6:30 PM
**Concert Viva Vivaldi
Viktorija Čepinskienė (violin)
and Giedrė Špečkauskaitė
(piano)**
Pleasant View Lutheran
Church
801 W 73rd St, Indianapolis,
IN, 46260

December 6, 2019
at 7 PM
**World Lithuanian Center
Christmas Tree Lighting**
World Lithuanian Center
14911 127th St.,
Lemont, IL, 60439

December 7, 2019
9 AM-3:30 PM
**Lithuanian World Center
Christmas Bazaar**
World Lithuanian Center
14911 127th St.,
Lemont, IL, 60439

December 7, 2019
at 10 AM
**Christmas Tree Ornament
Workshop**
Balzekas Museum of
Lithuanian Culture
6500 S. Pulaski Rd.,
Chicago, IL

December 7, 2019
at 3:30 PM
**Musical Fairy Tale for
Children**
By Teatriukas Užtrauktukas
Theatre Group
Siela Gallery
14911 127th St., Lemont, IL,
60439

December 7, 2019
at 5 PM
**Christmas Eve and
Masquerade Ball**
Latvian Lutheran Church
5500 SW Dosch Rd. ,
Portland, OR, 97239

December 8, 2019
10 AM - 2:30 PM
**Lithuanian World Center
Christmas Bazaar**
World Lithuanian Center
14911 127th St., Lemont, IL,
60439

December 8, 2019
at 12:30 PM
White Christmas
25092 Marguerite Pkwy,
Mission Viejo, CA, 92692

December 8, 2019
at 1 PM
**Youth Center Annual
Banquet**
5620 S. Claremont Ave.,
Chicago, IL, 60636

December 15, 2019
at 1 PM
**Concert by Svajone Pop
Music Group**
Nativity BVM Church
6812 S. Washtenaw,
Chicago, IL, 60629

December 21, 2019
at 7 PM
**Dainava Chorus Christmas
Concert**
Nativity BVM Church
6812 S. Washtenaw,
Chicago, IL, 60629

December 22, 2019
at 12:30 PM
**Meeting with Mission
Siberia 2019 participant
Marija Čyvaitė**
World Lithuanian Center
14911 127th St.,
Lemont, IL, 60439

FEBRUARY

February 22, 2020
at 5:30 PM

**"As if in a story... Liūnė
Sutema – woman and poet"**
A play written and performed
by Audrė Budrys Nakas about
Zinaida Nagytė-Katiliškienė -
poet Liūnė Sutema, who was
born in Lithuania in 1927, but
fled her native land during
the Second World War. The
piece includes moments from
the life of Zina Katiliškienė as
well as the poetry of Liūnė
Sutema. The play is
performed in Lithuanian.
Balzekas Museum of
Lithuanian Culture
6500 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago,
IL 60629

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Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
**Karite Vaitkute
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