ANNOTATIONS

Pirmieji pranciškonų žingsniai Lietuvoje XII–XVII a.: straipsnių rinkinys / Studia Franciscana Lithuanica 1 [The First Steps of the Franciscans in Lithuania in the Twelfth to Seventeenth Centuries], compiled by Darius Baronas, Vilnius: Aidai, 2006. Pp. 147. ISBN 9955-656-27-1

This book begins a new series of publications *Studia Franciscana Lithuanica* devoted to research into the history of all branches of the Franciscan Order active in Lithuania. The said series is to bring collections of articles, historical sources, archival and bibliographical information. This book consists of the material from the international academic conference ‘The Franciscans in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from its Establishment to the Seventeenth Century’ held on 18 September 2004. It focuses on the early history of the Friars Minor in the GDL: the Franciscan missionaries and martyrs in Lithuania in the thirteenth–fourteenth centuries; strengthening of the position of the Franciscan Order (Conventuals) in Lithuania in the fifteenth century: Vilnius example; the Franciscan Monastery and Virgin Mary’s Church in Vilnius (14th–17th centuries); the oldest Franciscan monasteries in Lithuania (15th century) based on visit statements of the provincials, Giovanni Donato Caputo (1569–1598) and Adomas Goskis (1612–1615); the Lithuanian vicariate and Franciscan monasteries in Pinsk and Drohiczyn; the Friars Minor – the Bernardines – in the GDL in 1468–1628.

D. Vilimas. ***Lietuvos Didžiosios Kunigaikštystės žemės teismo sistemos formavimasis (1564–1588)*** [Formation of the Land Court System in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (1564–1588)], Vilnius: Lietuvos istorijos instituto leidykla, 2006. Pp. 288. ISBN 9986-780-83-7

This book reveals attempts of the ruling circles of the GDL to navigate in the complex European politics at the close of the sixteenth century and to retain a state of Lithuania. One of the most interesting problems of that period is examined, i.e. creation of the new independent land-court in *powiats* (districts) managed by noblemen. Its development is discussed along with the work of the new land courts until coming into effect of the Third Lithuanian Statute in 1588. The study provides a list of officials of land

courts in *powiats* of the GDL by palatinate and by *powiat*. It also contains the following appendices: a list of all remaining record books of *powiat* land courts of that period, the general marking of *powiat* boundaries of the GDL in 1565–1566 and its translation into Lithuanian as well as a list of demarcation of individual *powiats*.

M. Čiurinskas. *XVI–XVII amžiaus Lietuvos Didžiosios kunigaikštystės biografistika* [The Genre of Biography in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the Sixteenth–Seventeenth Centuries] / *Senosios literatūros studijos*, Vilnius: Lietuvių literatūros ir tautosakos institutas, 2006. Pp. 237. ISBN 978-9955-698-34-0

The monograph is the first attempt to generalize the biographies of the sixteenth–seventeenth centuries as one of the genres in old Lithuanian literature. Biographical works written in both Polish and Latin are included. The material collected and analysed here consists of works that are in various aspects related to the cultural space of the GDL: written there, written by the authors residing there, related to Lithuanian specifics, or describing outstanding Lithuanian people. The monograph consists of three parts, the first of which reviews the evolution of the genre of biography in Europe. The second part is devoted to the biographical works of the sixteenth-century literature of the GDL. The third part deals with biographies of the seventeenth century; it discusses new phenomena and new types of biographies, characteristic features of the Baroque epoch and their ties with the Classical tradition. The book ends with a list of sources that includes all (not only discussed in the book) biographical works of sixteenth and seventeenth century data concerning which could be found – biographies and works of related genres, which are analysed in the context of the development of biography writing.

M. Paknys. *Vilniaus miestas ir miestiečiai 1636 m.: namai, gyventojai, svečiai* [Vilnius and Its Townspeople in 1636: Houses, Residents and Guests], Vilnius: Vilniaus dailės akademijos leidykla, 2006. Pp. 318. ISBN 9955-624-71-X

By finding, preparing and publishing the census of Vilnius houses of 1636 Mindaugas Paknys has done a priceless favour to all researchers of this city's history. In addition, on the basis of this publication and historical scholarship the author prepared a solid study on various houses and their owners as well as other residents in Vilnius of that period and in what way those houses had been inhabited during the visit of the ruler and

his court to the capital of the GDL; the author provides substantial data on the court. Streets of Vilnius, jurisdictions, suburbs, various houses and construction-related issues are discussed in great detail. The author provides a highly valuable analysis of the development of streets in the Old Town. The chapter ‘*Gyvenamieji namai*’ (‘Residential Houses’) is particularly elaborate. On the basis of the list and other data it describes in detail what homes of Vilnius residents looked like. A chart concerning capacity of the town stables is a good reflection of social layers of Vilnius residents. The study on almshouses, especially on The Holy Trinity Almshouse, is truly remarkable. Owners of Vilnius houses and issue related to them are also discussed. The chapter about occupational division of the owners of houses is particularly valuable. Useful data are also provided in the section about Jewish houses in Vilnius. The author describes how guests were accommodated in houses of Vilnius residents on the basis of an established duty and other issues related to that. A considerable amount of additional information is provided from the books of the Lithuanian Metrica of the first half of the seventeenth century. Memoirs of contemporaries such as Maciej Vorbek-Lettow (the grand duke’s doctor) and particularly the GDL chancellor Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł, widely employed by the author render the study diverse and supplement it with additional details.

Matas Pretorijus. *Prūsijos įdomybės arba Prūsijos regykla = Deliciae Prussicae, oder Preussische Schaubühne, T. 3: Senovės prūsų idololatrija. Kn. 4; Senovės prūsų šventės. Kn. 5; Senovės prūsų konsekracijos. Kn. 6*, compiled by I. Lukšaitė in cooperation with M. Girdzijauskaitė, S. Drevello, J. Kilius, M. Čiurinskas, Vilnius, 2006. Pp. 801. ISBN 9986-780-89-6

Publication of the famous monument of seventeenth century Prussian scholarship continues. The introductory article analyses the information sources of the presented books by Matthaeus Praetorius, their value and characteristics. The third volume publishes the fourth, fifth and sixth books of *Deliciae Prussicae, oder Preussische Schaubühne* in the original language and their translation into Lithuanian. The fourth book discusses the faith of the Old Prussians, priests and sites of rituals. The fifth book is devoted to the Old Prussian calendar, annual festivals and observed rituals. The sixth book describes customs and rituals of family festivals, sanctification of homes and cattle. In all his books the author compares the available data with the antiquity and paganism of other European nations. The publication also contains bibliographical and subject comments, names, an index of geographical locations and ethnonyms as well as an index of words and phrases which Matthaeus Praetorius considered to be Baltic.

G. Potashenko. *Staroverie v Litve: vtoraja polovina XVII – nachalo XIX vv.: issledovania, dokumenty i materialy* [Old (Orthodox) Believers in Lithuania: the second half of the seventeenth to early nineteenth century, documents and materials], Vilnius: Aidai, 2006. Pp. 543. ISBN 9955-656-30-1

The book covers the origins of Old Believers, a sect of the Russian Orthodox Church and the early period of Old Belief, Russia's fight against Old Believers, emigration of Old Believers to the GDL. It discusses the religious and social position of Old Believers in the GDL and significance of the Old Believers' issue to the international relations. The author is interested in limits of the freedom of faith, factors for religious tolerance, the geography of Old Believers' settling and origins of the old tradition of Orthodoxy. The position of Old Believers in 1795–1825 in Vilna Gubernia after the Russian Empire occupied Lithuania is analysed, the geography of Old Believers' settlements in that gubernia, the number and migration of old Believers are described. The so-called Feodosian period (1699–1823) of the Old Believers' history in the north-western GDL and Vilna gubernia is examined separately. Creation of the first parishes of Old Believers, the life, work, teachings of Feodosii Vasiliev, his polemic with other trends of Old Believers and spread of his teachings are discussed.

A. Baublys. *Lietuvos evangelikų reformatų bažnyčios sinodas: organizacija, bažnytinė savivalda ir konfesinės inteligentijos formavimas 1795–1830 metais* [The Lithuanian Calvinist Synod: Its organisation, church management and shaping of confessional intellectual elite in 1795–1830], Vilnius: Versus aureus, 2006. Pp. 502. ISBN 9955-699-04-3

The monograph discusses the changes of 1795–1830 in the policy of managing the church pursued by the Lithuanian Calvinist Synod. At that time the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth ceased to exist and the occupation administration introduced its own policy which essentially altered conditions both of political and spiritual life in the country. The sources of this research are decisions of synods in the period 1795–1830 which disclose the internal structure of the policy pursued by Calvinist Synod, their authority and directions of work. The book consists of four parts. The first part examines the synod organisation and the inter-synod management of the church focusing on the venue, date and duration of work, regulations of sessions, officials, decrees and the synod composition. The second part discusses the administrative territorial policy of the synod and that of relations with the state. The third part overviews the spiritual and personnel policy of the synod. The policy related to languages and publishing of confessional writings is described, remuneration of priests, social security of their family members, discipline issues of priests and other subjects are covered. The fourth part analyses the educational policy of the Synod (primary, secondary and higher education).

V. Merkys. *Tautiniai santykiai Vilniaus vyskupijoje 1798–1918* [National Relationships in Vilnius Diocese in 1798–1918], Vilnius: Versus aureus, 2006. Pp. 479. ISBN 9955-699-42-6

This book discusses the development of the ethnic make-up of the Vilnius Diocese, the ethnic phenomenon of Belorussian Catholics (also ‘*tutejszy*’ or ‘locals’), the position of the Lithuanian Catholics, work of priests in the diocese, the language of instruction in religion classes at schools, distinguishing models of Catholic national assimilation and attempts to Russify the Church, and also analyses a number of other subjects. It manages to disclose multiple interwoven ties of ethnicity, nationality and Catholicism. It describes a lengthy change of the national assimilation and its consequences, methods and possibilities of their evaluation. The author considers the national assimilation of Catholics in the Diocese of Vilnius as a more complicated process (than a number of authors who wrote on the subject before him), determined by many factors, namely the expression of modern Lithuanian and Polish nations, traditions of social strata of the former political Lithuanian and Polish nations, historical, social and cultural obligations, fight of the nations undergoing modernisation against Russification, especially against its ethnic religious aspects, also spread of universal Catholic values, a clash between the Western Catholic and Eastern Orthodox cultures. The author’s new approach towards some traditional stereotypes of historiography is particularly valuable.

V. Drėma. *LDK miestai ir miesteliai: iš Vlado Drėmos archyvu* [Cities and towns of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: from Vladas Drėma heritage] Eds. A. Lėverienė, A. Mickevičius, R. Mosiejienė, Vilnius: Versus aureus, 2006. Pp. 854. ISBN 9955-699-46-9

The archival material collected by the author in a few decades is published almost without any editing. The book covers the GDL cities, towns and villages with their churches, monasteries and manors. The abundance and variety of sources provided by Vladas Drėma is an inexhaustible source for further studies. The published material is presented alphabetically. The data of each town or small town are presented consistently chronologically. Some locations are introduced only by an excerpt of a few lines from sources, whereas others deserved a few pages. In total, the archival information concerning 747 locations is published. The material is supplemented with photographs, plans, drawings and fragments of carvings. Extracts are presented in Lithuanian, Latin, Polish, Russian, French and German. The abbreviations used by the author and referring to archives, manuscripts and library funds are also presented unchanged. Manuscript shelfmarks have also been kept as they were when Drėma worked.

Alytus. Ed. Antanas Tyla, Vilnius: Lietuvos istorijos instituto leidykla, 2006, Pp. 489. ISBN 9989-780-79-9

This volume of the serial publication of historical sources *Lietuvos magdeburginių miestų privilegijos ir aktai* is devoted to Alytus. The life of Alytus as a self-governing city of nearly 200 years (the sixteenth to eighteenth century) is a significant heritage covering the development of towns and rights of townsmen in Lithuania. The publication presents 203 documents: charters of rulers concerning granting, approval and implementation of Magdeburg rights, deeds regarding elections of the magistrate officials (burgomasters, judges, *suolininkai* (assistants of the town governors), appointment and installation of *wójt* (the town governor) or his deputy, appointments of parish priests, legalisation of new townsmen, selling, giving as a gift, pledging, appropriation of property, fight of townsmen for restoration of self-rule rights in 1776. The publication is an important collection of historical sources concerning the spread of Magdeburg town law (regulated in Central Europe) in the GDL and its influence on the administrative, cultural and economic development. The book reveals the specifics of implementation of such rights in Alytus and enables its readers to compare the city in question with other Magdeburg cities of Lithuania.

D. Staliūnas. *Žydai Lietuvos ekonominėje-socialinėje struktūroje: tarp tarpininko ir konkurento* [The Jews in Lithuania's economic-social structure: between middleman and competitor], Vilnius: Lietuvos istorijos instituto leidykla, 2006. Pp. 230. ISBN 9986-780-88-8

This collection of articles analyses the place of the Jewish community in the social and economic life of Lithuania. The book opens with a discussion of laws in the GDL restricting economic activities of this ethno-confessional group, but mainly focuses on the impact of the policy pursued by the Russian Empire and the Republic of Lithuania on economic activities of the Jews and their turning from middlemen to competitors in the Lithuanian society undergoing modernisation.

G. Isokas. *Lietuvos girių ir medžioklės istorija* [History of Lithuanian Forests and Hunting], Vilnius: Mintis, 2006. Pp. 495. ISBN 5-417-00904-0

For the first time in Lithuania the development of forests, woods and their fauna is discussed concisely throughout all the geological periods from the Devonian (410 million years ago) to the Neogene (1.6 million years ago). Woods and their fauna are described in later historical periods as well, i.e. from the first inhabitants in the territory of Lithuania to 2004. The main aim of the book is through a description of the use and protection of forests, afforesting, hunting, forest bee-keeping and fishing to foster material

and spiritual relationships between people and forests. The book broadly discusses the period when the nature existed without people. It describes stones, fauna and flora of geological ages. Natural diversity, stages of development, relationship between people and the nature as well as specific features of ethnic culture and nature-related customs are described. The book analyses instances of mythology, folklore, archaeology and literature which reveal the mythical philosophy of life and romantic concept of the nature. In addition, the author writes about nature sanctuaries, national and regional parks, other protected territories. The forest administration of historical periods is described along with domestic and working conditions of foresters, deforestation and afforesting. The book contains 91 tables, 9 diagrams, 326 illustrations and 13 maps which remarkably supplement the presented material. The book is intended not only to foresters, naturalists, historians or economists but to all friends of nature.

G. Vilkelis. *Lietuvos ir Lenkijos santykiai Tautų Sąjungoje* [The Relations Between Lithuania and Poland at the League of Nations], Vilnius: Versus aureus, 2006. Pp. 232. ISBN 9955-601-92-2

The monograph focuses on the little discussed and rather obscure field of Lithuanian policy and diplomacy in the inter-war period – the League of Nations. Backstage activities of the Lithuanian diplomats in the League of Nations and the uncompromising fight for Vilnius is discussed employing archival data, vast literature of various countries and testimonies of witnesses of the events.

Whoever saves one life...: the efforts to save Jews in Lithuania between 1941 and 1944. Comp. D. Kuodytė, R. Stankevičius, 2nd ed., Vilnius: Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania, 2006. Pp. 238 ISBN 9986-757-67-3

This is a collection of letters, articles and documents relating to the Holocaust in Lithuania and the efforts of many Lithuanians to save Jews from death. It is only by reading various accounts of this difficult period that one can form a true picture of what happened during World War Two. By confronting the issue head-on, this book attempts to give a broad but detailed account of the fate that befell the Jewish people, and the attempts that were made to rescue them. The book consists of an introductory article, 21 accounts of rescuers, 9 texts (articles, letters and testimonies) of rescued people writing about those who saved them, and lists of righteous gentiles. At the end the index of biographical names is given.

S. Vaitiekus. *Tuskulėnai: egzekucijų aukos ir budeliai (1944–1947)* [Tuskulėnai: Execution Victims and Henchmen (1944–1947)], 2nd ed., Vilnius: Lietuvos gyventojų genocido ir rezistencijos tyrimų centras, 2006. Pp. 366. ISBN 9986-757-73-8

The aim of this study is to disclose the mid-twentieth-century Soviet mechanism for carrying out the death penalty, its organizers and executors. The author surveys the penal policy of the Soviet regime in 1944–1947 and discusses the Soviet state security committee (NKVD-NKGB-MGB) as the organizer and instrument of terror against Lithuanian people, special courts in Lithuania and ‘death accounting’ of war tribunals. Soviet legal grounds for death sentencing are analysed, actions and formalities after passing of the death sentence are described. The carrying out of the death penalty (organizers, place, time and methods) is discussed in detail. The study reveals that the organizer of executions was Department ‘A’ of NKGB-MGB of Soviet Lithuania. The author describes Vilnius inner prison of NKGB-MGB and the shooting cell, analyses the procedure of execution and explains how the victims of Tuskulėnai cemetery were killed. The chronology and victim list of NKGB-MGB of Soviet Lithuania are provided. The personalities of some condemned people (resistance members, those charged with war crimes and crimes against civil residents) are presented in greater detail. Documentation of carrying out execution is analysed, circumstances and reasons for selecting Tuskulėnai are revealed. Furthermore, the author pays some attention to the process of burying bodies of the victims. Participants of executions and executioners are described (officials of Department ‘A’ of NKGB-MGB of Soviet Lithuania, related to carrying out of the death penalty, representatives of the military prosecutor’s office – participants of the executions, executioners of NKGB-MGB, the so-called ‘special group’). The study discusses thoroughly how traces of the crimes were covered and how the secret of Tuskulėnai was revealed. Commemoration of Tuskulėnai victims is one of the key issues of the book. Five annexes to the book contain the following: list of war tribunals which passed death sentences in 1944–1947, composition of the tribunals, chronology of executions and a list of people killed during each execution, alphabetical list of all people killed in 1944–1947, and alphabetical list of uncovered and identified persons.

Z. Kiaupa. *Lietuvos kultūros vertybių kelionės iki 1990 m.: praradimai ir sugrįžimai* [The Peregrination of Lithuanian Cultural Values before 1990: Losses and Recoveries], Vilnius: Versus aureus; Kultūros paveldo departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos kultūros ministerijos, 2006. Pp. 141. ISBN 995-699-43-4

The aim of this study is to disclose in what directions the movable cultural heritage of Lithuania moved outside the territory of Lithuania. The book describes the natural and forced movement of movable cultural heritage,

particularly when transporting such items from the country of origin to another state and also in cases of forced change of owners. The monograph consists of two parts. The first part discusses the notion of the movable cultural heritage of Lithuania abroad and the second part overviews journeys of the movable cultural heritage of Lithuania. In clarifying the notion of the movable cultural heritage of Lithuania abroad, its types are listed and the movement of movable cultural heritage is defined. In addition, the study discloses relations between historical sources abroad and the movable cultural heritage, briefly describes the general cultural heritage. In the second part of the book the author examines what types of the cultural heritage were lost by the GDL and how it attempted to retrieve them until 1795, also takes a closer look at journeys of the cultural heritage in the period of the occupation by the Russian Empire (1795–1918), focuses on the efforts of Lithuania to recover its cultural heritage in the period of the restored independent state of Lithuania (1918–1940). The fate of the cultural heritage during the years of World War Two and the Soviet times is also described.

1991 metų sausio 13-oji Lietuvoje naujausių mokslinių tyrimų kontekste: mokslinių straipsnių rinkinys [13 January 1991 in Lithuania in the Context of the Newest Research: Collection of Articles], Vilnius: Vilniaus pedagoginio universiteto leidykla, 2006. Pp. 298. ISBN 9955-20-139-8

The reports presented at an academic conference (under the same title as the book), and scholarly articles are published in this collection. It introduces the reader to unknown or little known issues of the Lithuanian fight for freedom, especially the events of January 13. The authors of the articles are historians, lawyers, sociologists and archivists. The collection covers such questions as the origin of the Lithuanian reform movement Sąjūdis; historiographical problems of the Sąjūdis period; the Soviet aggression against Lithuania in January 1991: international legal aspects; the defence of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania during the days of January 1991 (activity of the departments of national defence); January 13th: challenges to freedom and possibilities of response; the duality of consciousness of nation and state: the lesson of 1991; freedom and constitution; liberation from Soviet pressure: regularities and peculiarities; re-establishing the independence of the Republic of Estonia 1987–1991; memorial sense of defence of Lithuanian independence in 1991; and accumulation and safekeeping of documents of the Rebirth period.