ANNOTATIONS

Lietuvos Didžiosios Kunigaikštystės istorijos šaltiniai. Faktas. Kontekstas. Interpretacija [*Historical Sources of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: Fact, Context, Interpretation*], Vilnius: Lietuvos istorijos instituto leidykla, 2007. Pp. 452. ISBN 978-9986-780-91-5.

This publication offers an analysis of information contained in GDL historical sources from the first half of thirteenth to the end of the sixteenth centuries, as well as posing problems of interpretation and related aspects of the reliability of historical texts. The articles appearing in the publication are divided into several groups: annals and chronicles – the historical sources of GDL (the first half of the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries) (T. Vilkul *Some Sources of the Lithuanian Data in the Galich-Volyn'ian Annals*; D. Dąbrowski *A Story about Vaišelga (Vaišvilka). A Historiographical Essay*; J. Jurkiewicz *Is It Mere Plagiarism? Notes on the Authorship of 'Sarmatiae Europae Descriptio (1578)'*); Lithuanian Metrica (I. Valikonytė *The Search for Structural Pattern in the Oldest Court Books of the Lithuanian Metrica*; V. Mianzhinski *The Szlachta, Boyars, Courtiers, Landowners, Townsmen and Other Persons in Book No. 30 of the Metrica of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania*; D. Antanavičius *The 1641 Revision of the Books of the Lithuanian Metrica and the Formation of an Independent Group of Vice-chancellor Books*; A. Rachuba *A Book of the Lithuanian Metrica in the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences*; Z. Kiaupa *By Whom, for What Reason and Why the Lithuanian Metrica Was Searched in the Latter Half of the Eighteenth Century*, R. Šmigelskytė-Stukienė *Between Warsaw and Vilnius: The Lithuanian Metrica from 1792 to 1794*); groups of sources that formed alongside with the Lithuanian Metrica (public and private archives) and their destiny in seventeenth–eighteenth century (I. Ilarienė *Several Sources of the History of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania on the Trusteeship of Riga Archbishopric: A Formal Legal Basis of Lithuano-Livonian Relations in the Third and Fourth Decades of the Sixteenth Century*; F. M. Shabuldo *The Treaties of the Crimean Khan Mehmet Giray Concerning the Lands of Southern Rus*; R. Ragauskienė *The Oldest Documents in the Sixteenth-century Private Archives of the GDL Gentry (According to the Lithuanian Metrica)*; V. Voronin *The Belarussian Area in the Books of Moscow Clerks: A Historical Source of the War and*

Peace Boundary; A. Filiushkin *Description of Social Processes in the Former Lands of the Livonian Order during the Livonian War (1558–1583)*; A. Dziarnovich *The Fifteenth – Early Eighteenth Century Sources on Civilian Wartime Calamities: Among Facts, Political Accusations and Stylistic Cliches*; diplomatics (V. Polishchuk *Between Procedure and Formulary: An Analysis of Judicial Reform of 1564–1566 (According to 1558–1566 Castle Court Books of Lutsik)*; urban history sources (S. C. Rowell *Archival Interface: The Goschowiec in Gdańsk and Vilnius, 1442–1483*; A. Ragauskas *Historical Sources of the Vilnius City Voigtship in the Late-fourteenth to Late-eighteenth Centuries: Did Act Books of the Voigt Court Exist?*; E. Meilus *Vilnius during the Deluge (1655–1661) – Problems of Source Study*); expertise of the palaeography and source-study centres (A. Hrusha *Informativeness of a Published Historical Source (Palaeographical Aspect; Formulation of the Problem)*).

The articles manifestly reveal a new interpretation of old historical sources from the GDL and offer a contemporary understanding of their contents. The researchers seek to answer questions relevant to source reliability and search for the reasons, targets and tendencies that served as a pretext for their editing in the thirteenth–sixteenth centuries. The articles further contemplate the modern modes and measures of source publication and inquire into the issues of precision in conveying the text of the source.

To make the compendium of articles more functional among the history researchers of Central and Eastern Europe, the articles are published in English, Polish, Russian and Belarusian with summaries in the Lithuanian and English languages.

Sandra Grigaravičiūtė. ***Lietuvos konsulatai Skandinavijoje 1921–1940 metais*** [*The Consulates of Lithuania in Scandinavia 1921–1940*], Vilnius: Vilniaus pedagoginio universiteto leidykla, 2007. Pp. 254. ISBN 978-9955-20-158-8

This monograph coherently offers and rationally substantiates the concept of the setting up and operation of Lithuanian consulates in Scandinavia covering four stages. The author divides her research period as follows: 1919–1923 – prologue to the development of the Lithuanian consular network in Scandinavia; 1924 – first half of 1929 – the stage of establishing the consulates; second half of 1929 – 1936 – the first stage of development; 1936–1940 – the second stage of development. The author notes that her analysis of the process of setting up and operation of consulates used a subject-motive-activity model. This means that each stage begins with an analysis of subjects and motives that predetermined the opening and development of the network of Lithuanian consulates (both honorary and

career) in Scandinavia, and ending with the study of consular activities in the field of trade, economic relations, propaganda, culture and politics. Some attention is focussed on the fate of honorary consulates of Lithuania in Scandinavia subsequent to the USSR occupation on 15 June 1940.

The exhaustive introduction is intended to discuss the theme selection pretext, the condition of origins (the latter are discussed in an extremely comprehensive manner) and scholarship, basic work, tasks and targets. It is noteworthy that Grigaravičiūtė has decided to develop a theme that is not intrinsic to Lithuanian historiography: thus far, the Lithuanian scholars have centred on the activities of representative offices, embassies of Lithuania abroad and on separate Lithuanian diplomats. The author holds an opinion that such situation was prejudged by the condition of origins – they are erratic, sometimes incoherent and incomplete. The second aspect emphasized by the author is the exceptional abundance of Lithuanian consulates in Scandinavian countries: in 1938 Sweden, Denmark and Norway were among the leading five according to the number of consulates. Such a situation significantly distinguished Lithuania from its neighbours. The author, therefore, sought to enquire into the causes of such options. Yet another advantage of the study is the author's aspiration to analyse the activities of Lithuanian consulates in Scandinavia from a wider angle. Here, the history of diplomacy of Lithuania's neighbours Latvia and Poland has served the best. A notably great number of similar tendencies in developing bilateral and multilateral relations with Scandinavian countries were observed by Grigaravičiūtė in the diplomacy studies of Poland and Scandinavia from 1918 to 1939.

The monograph contains comprehensive and informative annexes (15 charts reflecting the data on consulates of Lithuania, Latvia, Poland in Scandinavia 1920 through 1940; consulates of Scandinavia in Lithuania; consulates of Lithuania abroad; activities of the Danish-Lithuanian association and lists of members, etc.), extensive summaries in English and Danish, and indices of place and personal names.

Lietuvos didžiojo kunigaikščio Aleksandro Jogailaičio dvaro sąskaitų knygos (1494–1504) [*The Court Account Books of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Alexander Jagiellon*], comp. by D. Antanavičius and R. Petrauskas. Vilnius: Pilių tyrimo centras „Lietuvos pilys“, 2007. Pp. 568. ISBN 978-9986-9071-5-2

‘The major sources that enable us to discover the court organisation, its inner subsistence and the daily round are the treasury income-expense (account) books of the Court’, states R. Petrauskas, one of the compilers of this volume, when introducing the importance and significance of the published source. The extensive work where three chronologically earliest

account books (the first book covering 1494–1503, the second – 1498–1505, and the third – 1499–1503) of the Court of the Grand Duke Alexander of Lithuania (1492–1506) are published, should interest both the professionals and the public at large.

The exhaustive foreword (offered in Lithuanian and English) introduces not only the sovereign Alexander but also presents a wide panorama of his reign period: political situation, the then prevailing internal actualities and challenges of the country encountered by Alexander after he was made grand duke of Lithuania in the summer of 1492 following long and successful reign of his father Casimir (in fact lasting 52 years): wars with Moscow, the Union of Mielnik and election of Alexander as king of Poland, developments and changes in the reign of the country. The work pays due regard to the specific nature of the sovereign's court, and, certainly, widely exposes circumstances and reasons that gave birth to the court account books.

The contents of Alexander's court account books obviously reflect institutionalization of the court of the sovereign and the entire life of the state. The information encoded in these books substantiates the lists of central and internal positions that existed in the GDL, and shows the positions which became apparent in the course of Alexander's reign; further, it serves as yet one more indicator of the expanded court organisation. The published sources contain a great deal of information relating to the main group of residents in the court, i.e. the *curienses* or *dworanie*, whose main role lay in representing the court of the sovereign: e.g. the *curienses*, as a core vehicle of the court, were supposed to form a constant escort for their sovereign and to secure the exclusiveness of the grand duke's court. Part of them, however, performed both the administrative and the judicial tasks. The multinational constitution of the *curienses* is also apparent: in addition to Lithuanians, roles and Ruthenians, the sources mention German, Czech and Hungarian subjects of the sovereign descending from Croatia, Wallachia, Silesia and Prussia.

The court account books provide substantial amount of information about the other members of the sovereign's court as well, i.e. the *cubicularii* or *camerarii*, chaplains of the sovereign court's chapel, the court of Helena – the Muscovite princess who was the wife of the sovereign. Finally, the published source avails the possibility to find out more about Alexander's personality and his every-day life, namely, his self-understanding, his habits of reigning and favourite amusements (hunting, music).

Thus, the laconic and, visually, unemotional records of the court account books offer a chance to accurate readers to approach the every-day life of the grand duke and his entourage, and to gain an alternate look at the history of Lithuania dating back to the close of the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth centuries. Wishing to make the publication more

comprehensible not only to scholars but to a wider circle of readers as well, the authors offer the text of the original in Latin with a translation. Lots of historical details contained in the source are supported by brief comments. The book ends with an enormous index of names of people and places (with commentaries).

Kauno istorijos metraštis [*Kaunas History Annual*], vol. 8, Kaunas: Vytauto Didžiojo universiteto leidykla, 2007. Pp. 356. ISSN 1822-2617.

The present *Kaunas History Annual*, like previous issues, incorporates articles covering the history of Kaunas in the 16th–20th centuries, analyses the problems related to heritage protection, presents the material of the seminar, reviews the books and surveys of the basic scientific-historical conferences held in the city.

The most extensive publication contained in this volume is the study of Aušra Jurevičiūtė ‘Organizations of War Invalids in Lithuania in 1923–1940’, where the author analyses the establishment of the three military organisations that operated throughout the interwar period as well as their activities in developing the body of law favourable to their members; examines the role in the patriotic education of society, the press publications and relations with similar foreign organisations.

Bronislovas Genzelis, the author of the article ‘The Kaunas Elite’s Influence on Lithuanian Cultural Life (16th –17th cent.)’, basically focuses on the personalities of Abraomas Kulvietis and Albertas Vijūkas-Kojalavičius, emphasising their role which explicitly demonstrates that national feelings were perceived as early as the Renaissance epoch. Employing the visitation and inventory material Vaida Kamuntavičienė in her article ‘St. Peter and Paul Parish, Kaunas in the 17th Century’ discusses the circumstances that gave rise to the advent of the parish, pictures out the household of the parish priest, as well as enquires into the spiritual care, and educative and charitable activities. The issues of mentality are increasingly securing their niche in the Lithuanian historiography. Rasa Varsackytė, in her article ‘Bearing in the Presence of Death: Testaments of Kaunas Dwellers of the 17th and 18th Centuries’ strives to discern the manifestations of different ethno-confessional and social groups, the encounter of the contrasting epochs of Baroque and Enlightenment. Romualdas Girkus and Valdas Urbanavičius, the authors of the article ‘Kaunas in the Topographical Map (1798–1800) of the New Province of East Prussia’ unfold the story of quest for the genuine topographical documents relating to this map. The development of the beer industry (establishment, merger of breweries, turnover of owners, production capacities, etc.) in Kaunas (end of nineteenth – first half of the twentieth centuries) is featured by Vilma Akmenytė and Giedrė Milerytė in their article ‘Private Interests of Public Persons:

from “Bliumental” to “Ragutis””. Arvydas Mikalauskas in his article ‘Trade Unions of Civil Servants in Interwar Kaunas’ seeks to reconstruct the major spheres of activity of trade unions of civil servants and to answer the question whether the unions were capable of solving the organisational, economic, legal and even cultural problems of their members. Actually, several articles in the publication *Kaunas History Annual* are linked with the history of national minorities. Aistė Morkūnaitė-Lazauskienė in her article ‘The Germans of Kaunas in the City Council in 1918–1934’ analyses not only the participation of the German community in Kaunas city council but their relations with the representatives of other nationalities as well. The problem of minorities is also explored by Tomasz Błaszczak in his article ‘The Activity of Belarusian Emigrants in Kaunas in 1919–1926’. He deals with the structures and activities of Belarusian institutions in Kaunas. Vilma Akmenytė’s article ‘The “Sidabrenia” Fellowship of Latvian Students at Vytautas Magnus (Lithuanian) University and at the Community of Lithuanian Latvians (1927–1938): Identity Differences’ also deals with the problems of foreign-born Kaunas residents. Bernaras Ivanovas in his article ‘Anti-Polish Attitudes in Kaunas and Their Reflection in the Press of Christian Democrats’ emphasizes that Kaunas was that specific place where the echo of anti-Polish sentiments was especially sound due to the abundance of local Polish organisations and active nationally-driven youth. Jonas Švilpa’s article ‘Kaunas under the Influence of Comintern Intelligencers’ Contacts’ touches a far-between theme – the intelligence radio contacts of the Lithuanian Communist Party with the Comintern. Simonas Strelcovas in his article ‘Internment Camps of Polish Soldiers in Kaunas and Its Districts (1939–1940)’ surveys the general situation in Lithuania, however focuses on the internal structure and peculiarities of two camps, i.e. the Fourth camp at Kulautuva and the Seventh camp in Kaunas.

A few articles in the publication are designated to the heritage protection issues: ‘Confessional and National Communities History Signs Reflected in Restored Mural Paintings’ in Kaunas by Gintaras Kušlys and ‘The Dwarf of the Solidarity Square in Kaunas: Inheritance Aspect’ by Sabina Krūminaitė.

Column *Seminaras* of the present volume of *Kaunas History Annual* also introduces the works of three postgraduate students of Vytautas Magnus University: Giedrė Sabaitytė – ‘Repercussions of Witch Hunting in Kaunas during the 16th and Early 17th Centuries’; Vaiva Mockutė ‘Kaunas City in the Works of the Painters in the 1920s and 1930s’ and Lija Janauskienė ‘Learning of Dressmaking Handicraft: Trade Schools and Courses in Kaunas 1926–1940’. The publication also features reviews and a science chronicle.

Kryžiaus karų epocha Baltijos regiono tautų istorinėje sąmonėje [*The Era of Crusades in the Historical Consciousness of the Baltic Peoples*], Comp. R. Trimonienė, R. Jurgaitis. Šiauliai: Saulės delta, 2007. Pp. 328. ISBN 978-9955-732-23-5.

Both collected works on Lithuanian history and studies by individual authors published so far, have viewed the period of Crusades, which in the thirteenth century turned from Palestine to the Baltic region, from a political and military angle. The present collection of articles in Lithuanian, Russian, English and German supplements the period of Crusades with new facts and newly presented interpretations of the known facts, particularly with research into socio-cultural problems. It also attempts to take a fresh look at inconsistencies of the epoch, causes for prevailing stereotypes and emerging myths in the historic and cultural mind of the Baltic nations, to distinguish regional peculiarities, and identify prospects for research.

The first section 'New Research into the Relevant Issues of the Battle of Saule (Šiauliai)' closely links ideas of Andris Šne and Artūras Dubonis: both authors consider dominant scholarly assumptions afresh. The article of Sne 'The Battle of Saule in 1236: Old Myths and Contemporary Research' claims that historians' efforts to present this battle as an example of the Baltic unity and the major fact in overwhelming the Teutonic Order are exaggerated. Dubonis, on the other hand, focuses on participation of Pskov soldiers on the side of the Teutonic Order in the said battle (article 'Novgorod against Lithuania: Evidence from the Battle of Saule') and questions the assumptions prevailing in the historical scholarship. A broader context is provided by Ernestas Vasiliauskas in his article 'Lands of Semigallia in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries': identification of those lands might be useful in both analyzing directions of expansion of Lithuanians and Žemaitians towards the North Baltic lands, and the progress and organization of Crusades in the thirteenth century.

The majority of the articles are published in Section II 'Crusades in the Baltic Region: From Ideology to Practice'. They discuss the image of Crusades mission in the thirteenth and fourteenth century. Marian Dygo in the article 'Misija ir Kryžiaus žygis Livonijos christianizacijos pradžioje' (Mission and Crusade at the Beginning of the Christianization of Livonia) contemplates when and how the christening of Livonia happened and whether it was evangelization or an act of violence. Edvardas Gudavičius raises the question of the formation of Lithuanian national consciousness and its difference from the Baltic nations in the thirteenth–fourteenth century and discusses it in his article 'A Few Remarks on the Birth of National Self-awareness of the Lithuanians'. Henadz Sahanovich in the article 'Crusades and Muscovites in the GDL: from Ideology to Practice' emphasizes that the Teutonic Order in the fourteenth-century battles against Lithuania was actually fighting against Orthodox Christians of the GDL as

well in an attempt to become also the protector of the Eastern Christians. Tatjana Vilkul searches answers to the question to what territories might be related mentioning of Lithuania (*Litva*) in the twelfth-century Russian chronicles in her article 'Facts about Lithuania in the Twelfth-century Kiev Compendium (informational context)'. In his article 'The Teutonic Order Occupies Prussia – Its Depiction and Perception in the Literature of the Teutonic Order of the Thirteenth–Fifteenth Century' Krzysztof Kwiatkowski analyzes the texts of *Cronica terre Prussie* by Peter Dusburg and *Kronike von Pruzinlant* by Nicholas von Jeroschin and explores the following question by a lexical method: what image of *occupation* is provided by these sources? S.C. Rowell in his article 'The New Crusaders: GDL and Byzantine Relations at the Turn of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries. Was Vytautas the Great the First Lithuanian Crusader against the Turks and Tatars?' discusses whether the crusading Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas was using possibilities provided by the ideal to attract international finances and military power for the implementation of his political goals. The attempts to realize the idea of Crusades in the second half of the fifteenth century in fights against the Turks and Tatars are discussed in the article 'An Idea of the Crusades in the Second Part of the Fifteenth Century and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania' by Rita Regina Trimonienė.

This section is also devoted to the daily life of the period in question and practical issues of organizing Crusades. Piotr Oliński in his article 'Standards of Monasteries and Missionary Crusades. Influence of Christianization in the Baltic Region on the Life Standards of Monks of the German Order' discusses statutes of the Teutonic Order of 1244–1249. The article by Rimvydas Petrauskas 'Distant Camaraderie: Personal Relations among Officeholders of the Teutonic Order and Lithuanian Rulers' clearly reveals the system of conduct rules created thanks to personal contacts and obligating both battling sides as well as regulating negotiations for truce and treatment of prisoners, their redemption. Ain Mäesalu in the article 'The Role of Crossbow in Crusades into the Baltic Lands in the Thirteenth Century' makes an assumption regarding a far greater significance of the said weapon in the Baltic Crusades than we used to believe.

The third section 'Crusades in the Historical Mind and Cultural Tradition of the Baltic Nations' contains articles analyzing expressions of the cultural and historic tradition memory in the seventeenth–twentieth century. The article by Aleh Dziarnovich 'Reminiscence of the Crusades Period in the GDL of the Seventeenth Century' claims that the reminiscence of the Crusades period in memoirs of GDL boyars developed along with the expansion of sarmatism and expressed the unified cultural and political consciousness of the nobility of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. Alvydas Nikžentaitis in his article 'Crusades in the Historical Consciousness

of Lithuania' analyzes street names and notes that figures of the Crusades period were replaced gradually with historical persons. Similar ideas are supported by Eva Eihmane in her article 'Baltic Crusades in the Mirror of the Contemporary and Later Generations'. The author discloses that in the modern historiography of Latvia the focus of both the researchers and the public tends to turn from the Baltic Crusades to the complicated history of the twentieth century. Meanwhile Birutė Salatkienė in her article 'The Image of the Epoch of Crusades in Museum Exhibitions in Lithuania' claims that exhibitions of the period in question at Lithuanian museums reflect it as a heroic period in the history of Lithuania – as a life-and-death struggle of the developing state against aggression of Christian Europe. Janusz Trupinda believes that paintings of the twentieth century depicting Prussian occupation reveal the historic consciousness of the relevant period (article 'Historical Paintings in the Grand Refectory of Marienburg Castle as an Example of Political Perception of Prussia's Occupation by the German Order in the Early Twentieth Century'). The change of historiographic tendencies is reflected in the article by Miroslav Voloschuk 'Campaigns of Ludwig of Anjou to Lithuania in the Nineteenth–Twentieth Century Polish Historiography'. Meanwhile questionnaires of pupils and students provided in the article by Arūnas Gumuliauskas 'Formation of the Image of Crusades in Lithuanian High School' indicate that the old stereotypes of Crusades are still prevailing.

Mykolas Römeris, Dienoraštis: 1918 m. birželio 13-oji–1919 m. birželio 20-oji [Journal: 13 June 1918–20 June 1919]. Ed. Bronius Makauskas, Rimantas Miknys. Vilnius: Versus aureus, 2007. Pp. 536 ISBN 978-9955-34-017-1.

A lawyer, politician, scholar and publicist – even described in such a broad manner, the personality of Michal Pius Pascal von Römer (1880–1945) will not be described sufficiently. A part of his heritage is 40 volumes of his journal written between 1911 and 1945 and reflecting the background of political, social and cultural life in Lithuania in the given period.

This well-illustrated book publishes Volumes 25 and 26 of the Journal (covering a period from 16 June 1918 to 20 June 1919) which mainly discuss and analyze relations between Lithuania and Poland, including the circumstances in which the independence of Lithuania and Poland was established as well as military and diplomatic activities of Józef Piłsudski while occupying Vilnius in April 1919. The editors claim that the material of the Journal is so 'subjectively authentic that it allows conducting socio-cultural researches of the role of a person in the historically changing

society transforming from the traditional (caste-based) to the modern (democratic) society, and is useful in understanding the genesis of the problems encountered by the modern society, peculiarities of its mentality, may assist in shaping the historic memory’.

The introduction by Miknys, ‘Mykolas Römeris – Lietuvos modernybės aušros metraštininkas, analitikas ir politikas’, reveals a colourful and human personality of the author of the Journal as reflecting himself and everything that was around him. It also presents ‘the psychological situation of the person on the verge of the historical tradition and modernity’. Still the introduction was not meant as an exhaustive Römer biography. Miknys attempted to define the worldview of the author of the Journal as precisely as possible, to introduce and analyze his ideas and activities in the periods before and during the war (1905–1918) associated with statehood prospects of Lithuania and Poland. The main focus is perhaps on the analysis of the development and eventually doubts of Römer’s concept of the state of Historic Lithuania.