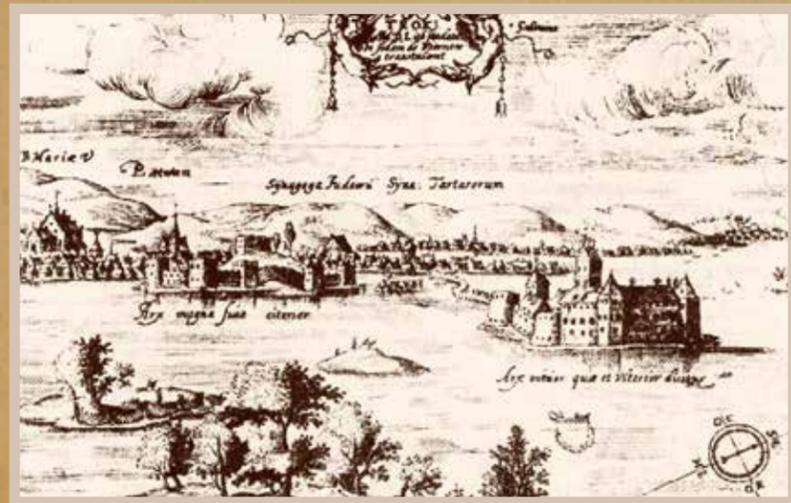


The map's makers disputed the earlier "fake and even opposing" depictions and descriptions of Lithuania, arguing that Lithuania was a civilized country, on par with the other European states. It is worth to loosely quote these arguments: "The Grand Duchy of Lithuania is a very big and great country. It is irrigated by ponds full of fish, lakes, large and deep rivers. It is full of fine forests, where one can hunt, collect honey. There are good, clear, easily navigable roads, and a traveller, arriving from Poland, can come here without getting their feet wet. Here there grow all sorts of grains, which mature and give a good crop. The noblemen have beautiful palaces or castles; on the outside they are decorated in the foreign style, and inside they are richly furnished. Some are surrounded by stone walls, parapets and have military cannons. The Lithuanian people enjoy many freedoms. They are very friendly, civilized and welcoming; they gladly accept visitors, entertain them, invite them to visit and nicely escort them. Lithuanian clothing is rather fancy, characterized by variety, while the people are tidy."

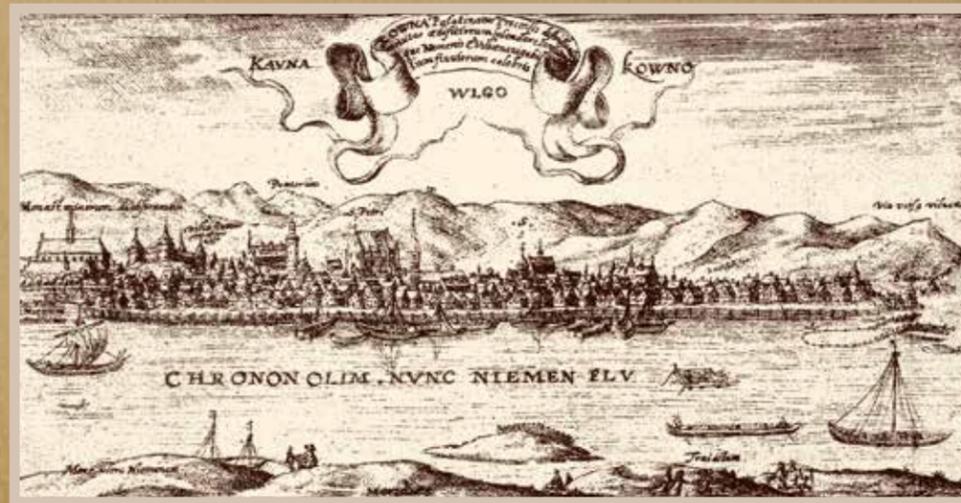
The map meant to incorporate well-known panoramas of early 17th century Lithuanian cities. But, for unclear reasons, this was abandoned. This idea, however, lived on in unique depictions of Lithuania's cities: T. Makovskis etched the most important Lithuanian centres — Vilnius, Kaunas, Trakai, Gardinas, as well as the cities of the Radvilas — Biržai, Nesvyžius, Kleckas, Olykas. The depictions of these two groups of cities differ in their chosen point of view. The historical cities are depicted from a lower angle, while Biržai and Nesvyžius — from a bird's eye view, almost as if to emphasize the urban planning characteristic of the Radvilas — regular city plans.

Therefore, the 1613 map of Lithuania is a true document of the advancement of Lithuanian civilization in the first half of the 17th century and one of the most eminent — in terms of both science and art — creations of the epoch.

Prof. Dr. Alfredas Bumblauskas



Panorama of the city of Trakai. Engraving by Tomas Makovskis. 17th c. Image from Wikimedia.org



Panorama of the city of Kaunas. Engraving by Tomas Makovskis. 1600. Image from Wikimedia.org



100 LITAS COIN DEDICATED TO THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE FIRST MAP OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA

Silver Ag 925
Quality proof
Diameter 42x42 mm
Weight 56.56 g
Edge of the coin: smooth

Designed by Rolandas Rimkūnas, Eglė Rimkūnienė and Giedrius Paulauskis

Mintage 4,000
Issued in 2013

Information is available at the Bank of Lithuania
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LIETUVOS MONETŲ KALYKLĀ

The coin was minted at the UAB Lithuanian Mint
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Lithuanian Collectors Coins

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The publication uses a fragment of the map "Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae...exacta descriptio..."

(Amsterdam, circa 1635), held at the Vilnius University library.

The coins were photographed by Arūnas Baltėnas

Designed by Ilona Daugėlaitė

Published by the Bank of Lithuania, Gedimino pr. 6, LT-01103 Vilnius

Printed by UAB Lodvila, www.lodvila.lt



100 LITAS COIN DEDICATED TO THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE FIRST MAP OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA

Map of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1613

In 1613 in Amsterdam, under the initiative of Mikalojus Kristupas Radvilas-Našlaitėlis (Mikołaj Krzysztof Radziwiłł-Sierotka), the first map of Lithuania, drawn in Lithuania, was printed. Its author was Tomas Makovskis (Tomasz Makowski), painter for the Radvilas at the estate in Nesvyžius (Nesvizh). Short biography of the artist: he was born in Palenkė (Podlachia) in 1575, possibly the son of the overseer of the Nesvyžius estate. From archival documents and other historical sources we know only about the period of Makovskis' life from 1600–1613, which he spent at the estate of Mikalojus Kristupas Radvilas-Našlaitėlis. These seem to be the most important and intense creative years for Tomas Makovskis. In this period T. Makovskis illustrated books with his engravings and prepared the famous Radvilas map, printed in 1613.

This first cartographic creation in Lithuania was equal in precision and aesthetic expression to other European maps of that age and in some aspects even surpassed them. This map was created by referencing the newest topographic measurements of Lithuania's territory (the topographic calculations were done by English-born professor at Vilnius University, the Jesuit Jokūbas [James] Bosgrave),

and it satisfied the most strict cartographic requirements of the time. In the map, the localization of many cities, towns and locations was specified, and the precise course of the river Dnieper was drawn (a separate map is dedicated to it). For the first time, the administrative division of the state was depicted; not only the cities having Magdeburg rights were listed, but also towns with trade rights. Specially designated (marked with a duke's hat) were the Radvilas lands of Biržai, Dubingiai, Nesvyžius, Kleckas, Olyka. The historical border of Žemaitija (Samogitia) was defined. Medininkai (Varniai) was labelled as the centre of the diocese, Raseiniai—as the centre of the township and was described as the metropolis of Žemaitija. Kernavė was labelled as the old capital of the dukes. Vilnius — as the state's capital, the city of the dukes. Also it was noted that Vilnius was the residence of the Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic (i.e. the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church) diocese, mentioning that the Greek bishop was commonly called *vладыка*.

The map reflects historical and political topicalities. In the beginning of the 17th century, the main enemy of Lithuania was Russia, therefore the most information



Panorama of the city of Kleckas. Engraving by Tomas Makovskis. 17th c. Image from Wikimedia.org

is on battles with Russia. For example, two of the most notable victories against Moscow are mentioned. Next to Orša (Orsha), a note proclaims: "Here in 1514, under orders of Žygimantas the First [Zygmunt I Stary], Duke Konstantinas Ostrogiškis [Konstanty Ostrogski] defeated a Muscovite army 40,000 strong." The map also writes about the battle of Ula: "By this castle, a 30,000 strong Muscovite army, led by Tsar Šuiski [Vasili IV], was defeated in 1564 by the army of Mikalojus Radvilas [Mikołaj Radziwiłł], duke of Dubingiai and Biržiai, who was under the orders of Žygimantas Augustas [Zygmunt II August]."

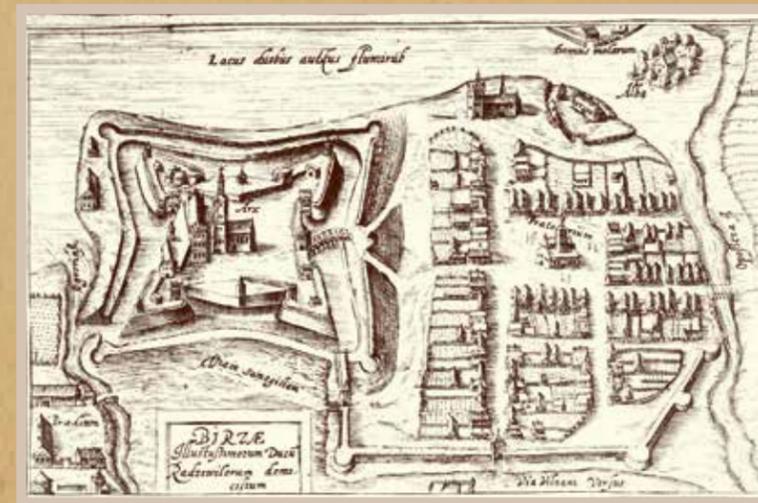
All the way to the second half of the 18th century, maps of Lithuania were drawn in European atlases according to the 1613 map: cartographically speaking, Lithuania became a part of Europe. For comparison: Poland was only accurately represented in the second half of the 18th century. Also, even though the 1613 map was for military purposes, it was also the country's visiting card and ideological manifesto. Even decades after the Union of Lublin, the GDL was depicted with clearly pre-Lublin borders.



Portrait of Mikalojus Kristupas Radvila Našlaitėlis (1549–1616)
Artist and engraver Lukas Kilianas (1579–1637), released by Dominicus Custos, Augsburg, 1604–1616. Paper, copper engraving, 15x12 cm. LNM



Panorama of the city of Vilnius. Engraving by Tomas Makovskis. 1600. Image from Wikimedia.org



The fortress and city of Biržai. Engraving by Tomas Makovskis. Early 17th c.
Kept at the Biržai Region Museum (BKM 10056)



Panorama of the city of Nesvyžius. Engraving by Tomas Makovskis. 1604. Image from Wikimedia.org