



LIETUVOS BANKAS

Lithuanian Commemorative Coins



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Coins are minted at the Mint of Lithuania

Lithuanian Commemorative Coins
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Lithuanian Commemorative Coins



50 LITAS COIN TO COMMEMORATE
THE **120th** BIRTH ANNIVERSARY
OF MIKALOJUS KONSTANTINAS ČIURLIONIS,
A SINGER OF BEAUTY AND HARMONY,
TALENTED PAINTER
AND CLASSIC OF NATIONAL MUSIC

Lithuanian Commemorative Coins



Silver 925
Diameter 34 mm
Weight 23.3 g

The words on the edge of the coin:
PASAULIS KAIP DIDELĖ SIMFONIJA
(THE WORLD AS A GREAT SYMPHONY)

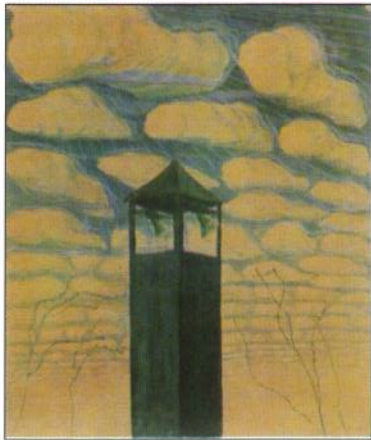
Designed by Antanas Žukauskas

Mintage 10 000

Issue 1995

The bird of darkness flew away and it became light...

M. K. Čiurlionis



Spring. 1907–1908

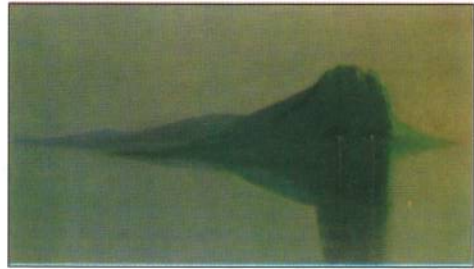
MIKALOJUS KONSTANTINAS ČIURLIONIS (1875–1911)

Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis was born on September 22, 1875, in Varėna, in a family of an organist. He spent his childhood in Druskininkai. From the age of five he was taught by his father to play the piano and to read the notes of music.

Music and art studies

The little pianist was brought to duke M. Oginskis' orchestra school. There he played the flute, created the first pieces of music. In 1893 his sponsor sent the talented youth to study at the Warsaw Conservatory which Čiurlionis graduated from with honours. In the period from 1901 to 1902 he studied composition in Leipzig. Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis returned to Lithuania as a mature, talented musician, choirmaster, the author of the first Lithuanian symphonic poem, as well as the author of many pieces for the piano.

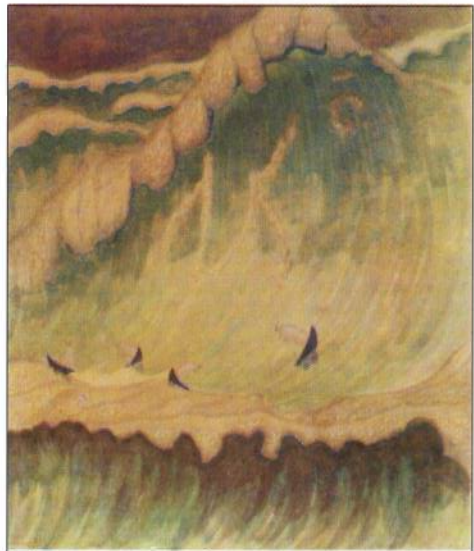
Soon afterwards he was caught by an overmastering passion to paint, and once again he went to Warsaw. A graduate of two conservatories and a professional musician Čiurlionis became a student of an art studio. He painted much and with great diligence. In 1904 he became a student of the Warsaw Art School. At that time his talent of an artist became evident. Failing to avoid some influence of European Romanticism and Symbolism, he managed to paint a lot of original pictures. His paintings were subtle, emotional, and full of expression, beauty of nature and fantasy. The creations of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis were in the centre of attention at the picture exhibition of the Warsaw Art school arranged in Petersburg in 1906. Critics wrote: "... he is original, does not imitate anybody, has his own way of expression".



Stillness. 1904–1905



The Altar. 1909



Sonata of the Sea. Finale. 1908



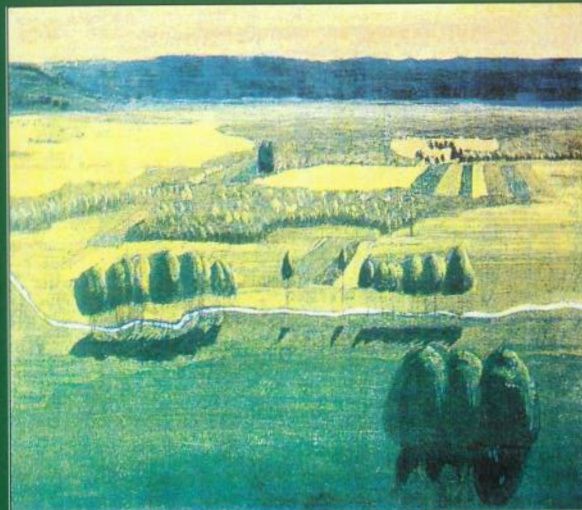
Sonata of Spring, Allegro. 1907

In Vilnius

Upon finishing his art studies, Čiurlionis together with P. Rimša and A. Žmuidzinaičius organised the first Lithuanian art exhibition in 1907. Having settled in Vilnius, he joined the Lithuanian cultural activities: he was training the "Vilniaus Kanklės" choir, harmonising Lithuanian folk songs, writing articles on music and art. His bright and sincere friendship with Sofija Kymantaitė, a writer and journalist, and later his wife, started in Vilnius. Love gave him "strong, white wings", he was absorbed in his creative work, painted and arranged exhibitions. These were the brightest pages of his life book.

In Petersburg

Looking for friends who could share his views and a job, in autumn of 1908 Čiurlionis took his pictures and came to Petersburg. His life was difficult, he failed to find a job. M. Dobužinskis, a painter, helped him to establish contacts with a famous Russian group of artists known as "The World of Art" which arranged an exhibition of the pictures of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis in the "Art Show-room" (in 1909). Critics singled out the works of a gifted artist, were fascinated by his imagination, musical harmony, and emotional way of expressing his feelings. This exhibition made Čiurlionis' name known in the world of art, his pictures were included in the lists of other big exhibitions. Together with Sofija, Čiurlionis became immersed in creative activities: he painted, played his own compositions at the meetings of the Lithuanian community, worked on the opera "Jūratė". Unfortunately, hard and exhaustive work, and money deficiency ruined his health, he fell seriously ill, and on April 11, 1911 he died before he was thirty six years of age. Čiurlionis is buried in Vilnius, in the Rašų cemetery.



Raigardas, II. 1907-1908

Music and art created by Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis

Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis is the classic of national music. His symphonic poems prepared the ground for the professional music in the reviving Lithuania. Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis was one of the first composers who started to meticulously harmonise folk songs. He created the famous symphonic poems "In the Forest" and "The Sea", and compositions to the choir. His musical heritage consists of more than 200 musical compositions for the piano, the first three parts of the string quartet, the clavier of the symphonic overture "Kęstutis", the cantata "De profundis". In addition, more than 250 paintings, pastels, 60 graphics, 300 sketches and drawings have survived. They are subtle philosophical musical creations expressing mysterious Universe and human world, and the meaning of human life on the Earth. Fragile pastels are preserved and exhibited in the Kaunas Gallery, it is difficult to transport and exhibit them in other countries. The name of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, nevertheless, is pronounced with love and respect in the whole world.

Commemoration of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis

The artistic heritage of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis is an enormous treasure of the Lithuanian culture. Interest in his pictures and music is not diminishing. The Vilnius Art School bears the name of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis. The musical competitions named after Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis are held in Vilnius and the concerts of their winners are arranged in his house-museum in Druskininkai. One of the peaks in the Pamirs mountains also bears Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis name. Lithuania, free again, is celebrating the 120th birth anniversary of its son with the belief in his ideals of kindness, beauty, harmony and faithfulness.