

VYTAUTAS THE GREAT
(ruled in 1392–1430)

Vytautas is the most renowned ruler of Lithuania of all times, the only one in Lithuanian history to be called the Great. The expansion of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania “from seas to seas”, and especially the victory in the Battle of Grunwald in 1410, in which Vytautas led united Polish and Lithuanian army forces, usually are considered the manifestations of his greatness. It was in this battle that the Teutonic Knights, who had jeopardized the state of Lithuania for several ages, were defeated.

Yet the most significant merit of Vytautas was the reformation of the state of Lithuania and its society, and its introduction into the ranks of Central European countries. At the beginning of the rule of Vytautas, the newly christened Lithuania had no writing and schools, no big towns, crafts, no heavy cavalry – the striking power in a battlefield. Whereas at the end of the rule of Vytautas, the state was already as powerful as never before and after. Not

only was the threat of the Teutonic Knights eliminated, but Lithuania was also declared a sovereign state (in the meeting in Lutsk in 1429). Only the death of Vytautas prevented Lithuania from becoming a kingdom. The country was undergoing centralisation of rule, rapid development of crafts and trade; a layer of wealthy landlords capable of good armament was formed. A network of record offices operated, the first schools appeared, and writing of chronicles began. All this laid the foundation for the introduction of European culture in Lithuania. Thus, Lithuania’s origins of becoming a European-like country stem from this epoch. Vytautas is called the Great in world literature as well – there was hardly another historic ruler to have faced greater challenges and found a way to overcome them with success.

Dr. Alfredas Bumblauskas



50 LITAS COMMEMORATIVE COIN
 ISSUED TO HONOUR VYTAUTAS
 THE GRAND DUKE OF LITHUANIA
 (FROM THE SERIES "THE RULERS OF LITHUANIA")

Silver 925

Quality Proof

Diameter 34.0 mm

Weight 23.3 g

The words on the edge of the coin:
 IŠ PRAETIES TAVO SŪNŪS TE STIPRYBĘ SEMIA
 (FROM THE PAST LET YOUR SONS DERIVE THEIR STRENGTH)

Designed by Antanas Žukauskas

Mintage 2 500

Issue 2000



Medals "Vytautas", designed by sculptor V. Kašuba, 1975

Information is available at the Bank of Lithuania
 Tel. (370 2) 68 03 16
 Fax (370 2) 68 03 14
 http: //www.lbank.lt



Coins are minted at the Mint of Lithuania

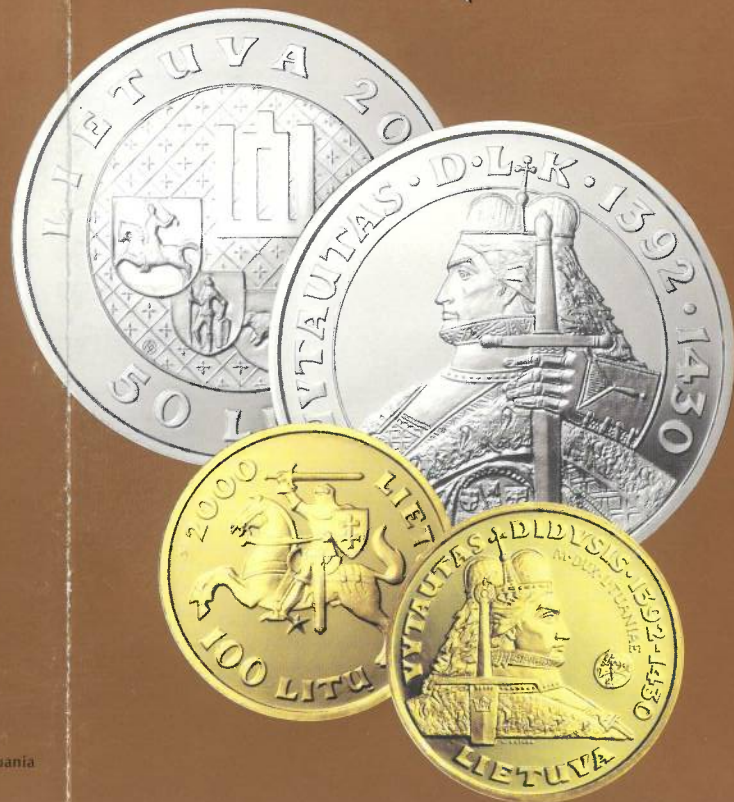
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LIETUVOS BANKAS

Lithuanian Commemorative Coins



100 LITAS COMMEMORATIVE COIN
 ISSUED TO HONOUR VYTAUTAS
 THE GRAND DUKE OF LITHUANIA
 (FROM THE SERIES "THE RULERS OF LITHUANIA")

Gold 999.9

Quality Proof

Diameter 22.3 mm

Weight 7.78 g

The words on the edge of the coin:
 IŠ PRAETIES TAVO SŪNŪS TE STIPRYBĘ SEMIA
 (FROM THE PAST LET YOUR SONS DERIVE THEIR STRENGTH)

Designed by Antanas Žukauskas

Mintage 2 000

Issue 2000