



Medal "Gediminas", designed by sculptor V. Kašuba, 1975



LIETUVOS BANKAS

Lithuanian Commemorative Coins



Information is available at the Bank of Lithuania
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Coins are minted at the Mint of Lithuania

Lithuanian Commemorative Coins
Second edition

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**50 LITAS COMMEMORATIVE COIN
ISSUED TO HONOUR GEDIMINAS -
THE GRAND DUKE OF LITHUANIA**

(FROM THE SERIES „THE RULERS OF LITHUANIA“)

Silver 925

Diameter 34 mm

Weight 23.3 g

The words on the edge of the coin:

IŠ PRAEITIES TAVO SŪNŪS TE STIPRYBĘ SEMIA

(FROM THE PAST LET YOUR SONS DERIVE THEIR STRENGTH)

Designed by Antanas Žukauskas

Mintage max 10 000

Issue 1996

G E D I M I N A S

(ruled in 1316–1341)

Grand Duke Gediminas ascended the throne in 1316 after the death of his brother Vytenis. Before his coming to the throne Gediminas was famous as an organizer of the battles against the knights of the German Orders. At the end of the 13th and at the beginning of the 14th centuries he was especially active in the Samogitia. During the reign of Gediminas the foreign policy of Lithuania was re-orientated from the East towards the West. Gediminas widely used diplomatic methods in his struggle against the German knights. In the period of 1323–1324 Gediminas established relations with Pope John XXII through the intermediaries of the Archbishop of Riga in order to adopt Christianity. After that action the German Order was forced to sign a four-years treaty of peace with Lithuania. Gediminas was the first ruler of Lithuania who made the relationship with its neighbours better. In 1325 for the first time in the history of Lithuania a military union with Poland was established, and in 1338 an agreement on trade with the Livonian Order was made. The peaceful policy of Grand Duke Gediminas did not prevent him from expanding the territory of the Lithuanian state eastwards during his reign: the Duchies of Kiev and Galicia–Volunia were annexed. The state of Lithuania under the rule of Gediminas managed to gain control over a part of the lands settled by the Kuršiai and Žemgaliai.

The most important achievement of Duke Gediminas was the modernizing of the Lithuanian state and society. Over the years of Gediminas's rule well-trained cavalry troops appeared in the Lithuanian army beside the draftees; construction of buildings from bricks was implemented, an improved and more effective system of castles was created. In the first half of the 14th century the first medieval towns originated, independent merchant and artisan estates emerged.