

ISSN 1031-3958

Lithuanian Papers

www.lithuanianpapers.com

**ANNUAL JOURNAL OF TUU (TASMANIA UNIVERSITY UNION)
LITHUANIAN STUDIES SOCIETY (Australia)**

Volume 31 – 2017



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Lithuanian Papers - Volume No.31/2017

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Lithuanian Papers

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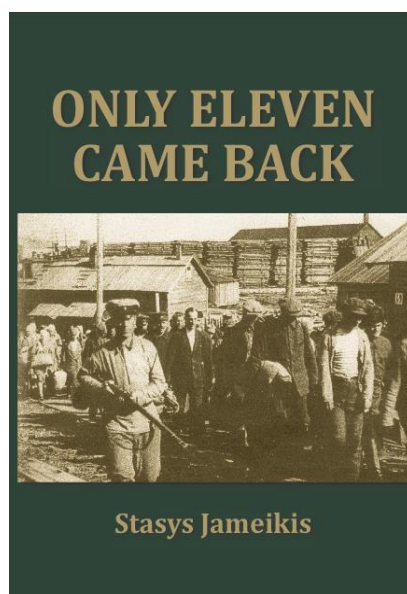
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Donations to: Commonwealth Bank BSB 067102, Account No.00904299

USA Rep.: A.&D. Polikaitis, 1501, Valeroft, Westlake Village, CA. 91361.



***Only Eleven Came Back* -The Book You Must Read**

A significant achievement of the Lithuanian Studies Society this year has been the publication of *Only Eleven Came Back* by Stasys Jameikis, translated by Regina Share. The book has had an unusual history, and it is thanks to Regina that we were able to see it published here in Tasmania.

Regina gives her own account of her first encounter with the story: “I first heard it in Lithuanian, on a car radio, as we sped towards Vilnius on a summer evening in 2015. The conversation had lapsed and it was dark. There were no distractions, nothing to diminish the drama of what I heard. The reading on the radio was simple and powerful, and I was deeply moved. It described an innocent man’s heartbreaking goodbye to his wife and to his mother in June, 1941, before being deported to a forced labour camp.”

The next morning Regina phoned the radio station for details of the book, and she was given the title and the author’s name. So off she went to the main bookstore in the city to buy the book. “No,” she was told, “there is no such book.” “How come?” she wondered.

Still puzzled by this, Regina returned to Hobart shortly afterwards. Then, a few months later, she was asked if she would translate a book from Lithuanian into English. She explained that she would have to decline as she was particularly busy, teaching Lithuanian (among other things), but added, “Who is the author anyway?” “It’s Stasys Jameikis, and the book is *Only Eleven Came Back*.” The

missing book! The one the bookshop people had claimed, did not exist... “Yes,” said Regina, “I will translate it.”

The book is an inspiring eyewitness account of a Lithuanian man’s courage and survival. After thirteen years in cruel captivity, Stasys Jameikis, one of the eleven survivors, recorded his experiences during the years after his return home. This powerful and moving story has captivated readers young and old. Extracts are available on the Internet. Go to www.lithuanianpapers.com select Issue No.30/2016; and read the last article, *The train to eternity*, by Stasys Jameikis, translated by Regina Share.

*The book is now available in English translation and may be ordered by mail from:
LSS, PO Box 777, Sandy Bay, Tas.7006, Australia.
Price \$20 per copy, including postage to any address in the world.*



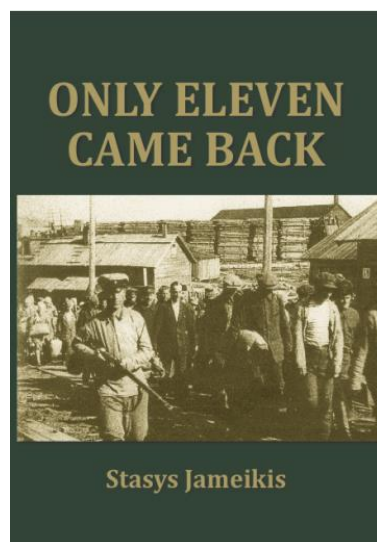
A rare photo: Inside a Soviet concentration camp.

For Australian reviews of this book, see the following pages >>

BOOK REVIEW:

Only Eleven Came Back

***Only Eleven Came Back*, by Stasys Jameikis. Translated by Regina Share. Hobart: Baltic Research Foundation, 2017, 168 pp. R.R.P \$19.95.**



This compelling book tells the tragic story of the Russian deportation of 1,505 men in 1941, sent from Lithuania to the concentration camps in the icy Archangel region for forced labour. People of higher education and those in position of authority, “the enemies of the people”, the intelligentsia, were arrested, taken from their offices and their homes, and deported. Professors, lecturers, teachers, directors of institutions, people from the art world, reservist army officers, these were the victims of Stalin’s terror. If they were not found at work, their mothers, wives and children were taken as hostages.

Ordinary labourers and many card-carrying members and supporters of the Communist party also ended up in the Gulags.

On 15th June 1940 the Soviet Red Army marched into Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. A year later the mass arrests began, and the first victims were transported in appalling conditions to concentration camps on the shores of Lake Onega and remote places in the huge tracts of icy forests of Northern Russia. In the years 1941-’43, men were executed by firing squad, died during interrogation, and – by far the greatest number - died of starvation. Their fates represent the fates of those who never returned.

Living on starvation rations they worked in the forests, dragging huge logs and carrying them on their shoulders to the water’s edge, standing all day in water wiring the logs together, ready to be sent floating off, raft-like, as far as Petrozavodsk. From Lake Onega they were trucked east and north to the heart of the taiga, to one of the many Puksoozero camps. Thirteen years later, only 11 of those 1,505 men returned home.

In the decades after his final release one of the eleven survivors, Stasys Jameikis, recorded the horrors of his years in the camps. Every aspect of the captives’ existence is described in vivid detail. There is no superfluous emotion, just sheer confrontation with hell. “How did I survive?” Jameikis asks. How did he maintain the will to live? His story records near superhuman endurance and

perseverance in the throes of starvation and illness—perhaps the most striking example being that under these terrible conditions he steeled himself to defeat severe tuberculosis.



Stasys Jameikis, author of the book, *Only Eleven Came Back*: photographed before his arrest in June, 1941 (left), and after release from his last concentration camp in 1954(right).

This self-discipline over thirteen years in the most appalling conditions reflects his ability to close his eye to the dehumanising world which surrounded him as he lay finely poised between life and death. We seem to follow his spirit as we read of his ordeal, and one's own spirit is thereby enhanced.

It took Stasys Jameikis 20 years to record these experiences. The book was published in Lithuanian, the first edition in 1994, a second edition in 2014. The latter edition was financially backed by Mrs Ina Kasputienė in memory of her grandparents who died in Siberia. In 2016 Regina Share, a graduate of the University of Tasmania, was asked to translate Stasys Jameikis's book into English. The translation reads altogether well, surely conveying Jameikis's words and intent. In her task, Regina was supported by members of The Lithuanian Studies Society at the University of Tasmania. The English translation has been published in Australia in his memory of Stasys Taškūnas, engineer, one of those victims who died in a concentration camp in July 1942., and as a tribute to the 1,504 innocent victims who suffered with him.

The Baltic community in Tasmania is modest in size, but has been active and purposeful over many years. Perhaps its major public contribution has been to bear witness to the evils of Soviet Russia, sometimes when others remained silent. One recalls, for example, how this voice was altogether to the fore in local denunciation of the Australian government's recognition in 1974 of Russian suzerainty in the Baltic region. That worthy tradition is now further enhanced.

Reviewed by Michael Roe and Leone Scrivener.

Emeritus Professor Michael Roe is the former Professor of History at the University of Tasmania. He is the author of several books, including "Australia, Britain, and Migration, 1915-1950".

Leone Scrivener has written and co-edited a number of books, including "The Philip Smith Centre, a Place for Learning". Prior to retirement she was a teacher of Matriculation English.

This book is available from booksellers, or may be ordered directly from the publishers:

BRF, PO Box 777, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7006. Australia.

Price \$20, including postage to any address in the world .



* Kotlas is approx. 500 km fr. Arkhangelsk

EDITOR'S COMMENT:

A great part of the Arkhangelsk region lies astride the Arctic Circle and is an icy, mountainous wasteland. In the south, however, there are large tracts of forest, plus significant deposits of aluminium bauxite and other metal ores.

Life in these difficult climatic conditions is so hard that ordinary civilians refuse to work there. Consequently, the Soviet state has kept sending thousands of prisoners to the labour camps of Arkhangelsk Region.

In the above map, each black dot represents a forced labour camp or a complex of several camps. In 1980, there were at least 100,000 prisoners in the three major forced-labour camp complexes: *Oneglag*, *Kargapol'lag* and *Sol'lag*.

Source: SHIFRIN, Avraham, *The First Guidebook to prisons and concentration camps of the Soviet Union*. Uhdinger/Seewis: Stephanus Edition, 1980, pp.163-164.

Book Readers' Feedback

Thousands of innocent local people were deported from the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) to Russia and Siberia, in 1941-1953. To avoid bad publicity, their fate was frequently shrouded in total silence.

However, one young man named Stasys Jameikis survived his 13 years' cruel treatment in Soviet concentration camps and later wrote a book titled Only Eleven Came Back. This title reflected the fact that, when arrested in 1941, Stasys was in a group of 1,505 men. By 1953, only 11 of them were still alive and returned home.

Stasys's book was originally published in the Lithuanian language, in 1994. The second edition appeared in Lithuania, in 2004. The English translation had to wait until this year (2007).

The book has attracted a great deal of interest in Australia. A few extracts from readers' feedback are reproduced below

.

Remarkable

I have just finished reading the publication *Only Eleven Came Back* by Lithuanian Stasys Jameikis and found it quite a remarkable book. The horrors experienced by the Lithuanian deportees in particular were scarcely believable and it is a wonder that anyone survived the privations which these men underwent. Russia certainly has a lot to answer for, but of course those responsible for the atrocities would never have been brought to account. Full marks to Regina Share (the translator) for her efforts in publicising the inhumanities endured by the deportees.

Don Cameron,
West Wodonga, Vic.

Heart-rending

Only Eleven Came Back is a heart-rending book written beautifully and it brings to life the dreadful sufferings of good men who were taken suddenly from Lithuania and "only eleven came back". This is an important record to add to the history of the Second World War. Many Australians do not know how much European, and particular Baltic, countries suffered.

Mary Binks,
Evandale, Tas.

Congratulations

Congratulations on a lovely publication. The translation is excellent and easy to read. (This is not what we sometimes find with other English translations).

(Dr.) Kazys Zdanius,
Melbourne.

Outstanding work

I am extremely pleased that your Foundation enabled me to purchase the biographical work *Only eleven came back*. It is an outstanding work, revealing the atrocities of the Soviet occupation. I would like to purchase three more of these books to give to people who need to be told what happened to our people.

Tiiu Reisser,
Murtoa, Vic.

Touching

I found the book *Only Eleven Came Back* a very touching account of Mr. Jameikis's horrifying experiences. One comment I would make, however, is that (apart from a footnote mentioning that he had died) there is no record of his date of birth/date of death. In my opinion, this should be included, as a matter of history.

Gillian Simmons,
Perth, Tas.

PUBLISHER'S REPLY: Yes, Mrs Simmons, this was a serious omission, and we sincerely apologise for it. The oversight will be corrected in the next edition of the book.

Stasys Jameikis was born on 21 March, 1914 in the village of Gipėnai, district of Zarasai, Lithuania. He died at the age of 76, on 18 June, 1990, in the city of Kaunas.

Valuable Reading

In my opinion, the book *Only Eleven Came Back* has filled a huge gap in our own knowledge. In particular, it is highly valuable reading for young Lithuanians.

Victor Adams-Adomavičius,
Brisbane, Qld.

A Moving Commemoration in Tasmania

Hon Elise ARCHER, MP
Parliament of Tasmania

The annual commemoration of the 1941 Baltic deportations was held at the Moonah Arts Centre (Hobart) on Saturday, 17 June 2017. A small group of descendants gathered for the event, which has been held in Tasmania since the 1950s.

“We gather to remember all the ones who were deported and the many who didn’t survive,” said Mr Merv Kožikas, President of the local Lithuanian community and event organiser. “The Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were severely affected by the deportations during and after the Second World War, with an estimated 10 per cent of the population either deported or killed. The local Baltic States community gathers every year to commemorate, but also to ensure we learn from the past,” Mr Kožikas said. “We are very grateful for the support of our local member, Elise Archer, who always attends our events to show her support for our community.”

Former University of Tasmania staff member, Dr Al Taškūnas OAM, who taught Lithuanian Language and Literature, gave an historical account of his childhood and of his own father’s sudden and inexplicable deportation.

“This is an important commemoration for our local Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian communities and a very moving tribute to the horrors that they or their ancestors endured,” Ms Archer said.



The Speaker of the Tasmanian House of Assembly and Member for Denison, the Hon Elise Archer MP (seated, first left), with local Baltic community members and guests. Hobart, 17 June, 2017.

Lithuania's National Anthem

Original words and Music by Vincas KUDIRKA,

Lithuania, land of heroes,
Though our fatherland thou art
From the glorious deed of ages shall
Thy sons take heart.

May the children, day by day,
Labour in the narrow way.
May they strive, while they can,
For the greater good of man.

May the sun of Lithuania pierce
The darkness of the night.
And the light of truth and honour
Guide our steps aright.

May the love of our dear land
Nerve and strengthen heart and hand.
We will strive while we can,
For the brotherhood of man.

Source: WILSON, Harold C., *Lithuania: The Indestructible Soul*. Vilnius: Žara Publishers, 2002.pp.42-43. Translator's name not indicated.



A group of young Lithuanians at Juliaus Janonio high-school in Šiauliai.

***Litvak* from Downunder, Perched on the Edge of Scientific Discovery**

Harry GORFINE

Hon. Senior Fellow, University of Melbourne

My great grandparents Simon and Rachel Gorfine were *Litvaks* who by all accounts originated from Vilnius (Wilna). Many of you will know the *Litvak* descriptor, but for those of you for whom it is an unfamiliar term it means Lithuanian Jew or as I'd prefer to call them, Jewish Lithuanians (<https://tinyurl.com/hb6hr7g>).

Our surname derives from the Yiddish words *Gor Fayn* which means 'good and fine' or 'really fine' as it is used in two Yiddish songs; one about gefilte fish i.e. Jewish fish patties, the other '*Mayn Yingle*' about a doting father lamenting that the long hours he works prevent him from seeing his young son while he's awake.



It has been said, tongue-in-cheek, that the author, Dr Harry Gorfine (*pictured*), has been helping to eradicate an introduced pest crayfish species from the Zeimena River in a different way – by fishing and eating them. Jokes aside, this voracious North American Signal Crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) was misguidedly imported by Swedes into Europe during the 1960s and it still out-competes the native Nobel Crayfish (*Astacus astacus*). Photo: Žilvinas Pūtys.

A Litvak is a member of the orthodox Ashkenazi Jewish community that has existed in one form or another in the current territory of Lithuania at least as far back as the 14th century and possibly earlier. The designation is sometimes used to encompass those Jewish people from the Baltic States more generally and neighbouring Belarus, northeast Poland, and Ukraine; indeed what was once the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL) stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea (Saul Issroff provides a comprehensive description <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/litvak2.txt>). Litvaks are regarded as autochthons i.e. original or indigenous inhabitants having been granted the Privilege of Vytautas the Great (unrestricted freedom of religion, trade and mobility and protection from intolerance) in the GDL during the 14th century http://litvakai.mch.mii.lt/the_past/privilege.htm).

What possessed my great grandparents to undertake two arduous migrations to end up 15,000 km from the land of their birth is a mystery, but those of you who are part of the Lithuanian diaspora will have some insight. Family lore was that they had walked “100 miles” from Vilnius and subsequently boarded a ship to London where they lived in the East End until immigrating to Australia. As a child I had no idea about Lithuania’s location, let alone its history, but was informed that Vilnius was renowned as a centre for learning which had produced many academics. As impressive as this might have sounded, in reality my forebears were poor illiterate Jewish tailors. The inquisitiveness of my youth was transient and it was not until several decades later that my interest was rekindled and by virtue of good fortune during 2007 I had the opportunity to visit *Lietuva* (Lietuva) for the first time.

I arrived in Vilnius during mid-summer, and like the typical tourist I visited sites of historic and cultural significance such as Trakai Castle and the Hill of Crosses on the outskirts of Šiauliai. I was struck by the contrast between the architecturally ornate heritage buildings, including the traditional wooden houses, and the drab grey buildings of Soviet collectives and apartment blocks constructed in the German *Plattenbau* style which punctuated the landscape.

I distinctly recall being perplexed about why I was feeling so hot when the temperature was a mere 28C as I was unused to the humidity that accompanies warm summer days in Europe. I remained in Lithuania for five weeks and was sufficiently impressed that I made plans to return the following year to further explore the country as well as my ancestral past.

There was a scientific conference scheduled for the summer of 2008 in Warsaw that I wanted to attend and Vilnius provided a suitable and inexpensive base from which I could travel to Poland and elsewhere in Europe.

During the past 35 years I have worked as a fisheries biologist for the Victorian Government in Australia, focussing mostly on assessing the stock status of invertebrate dive fisheries. I also hold honorary associate positions at the University of Melbourne and RMIT University. In 2008 during my second visit to Lietuva I contacted Prof. dr. Osvaldas Rukšėnas who was at that time the Dean of Natural Sciences at Vilnius University, enquiring about faculty who might share my research interests in fisheries biology.

A delightfully helpful academic, Prof. dr. Rukšėnas, who following a restructure is now Director of the VU Biosciences Institute, introduced me to dr. Linas Ložys, who is Head of the Laboratory of Marine Ecology at the Gamtos Tyrimų Centras (Nature Research Centre or NRC). For those readers who reside in Australia, NRC is similar to CSIRO, but as its name indicates it is confined to the natural sciences of ecology, botany and geology-geography. Over the past nine years I have enjoyed a highly productive collaboration, a recent highlight being the acceptance and online publication of a paper titled 'Habitat use and migratory behaviour of pikeperch *Sander lucioperca* in Lithuanian and Latvian waters as inferred from otolith Sr:Ca ratios' in the journal *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*. Pikeperch or zander is a species highly sought after by commercial fishers and recreational anglers and may be found alongside *lydeka* in the *Žuvys* (fish) section of menus in many Lithuanian restaurants.



Pike perch *Sander lucioperca* – a prized research sample from the oligotrophic waters of the Curonian Lagoon. (Photo: Žilvinas Pūtys).

My other research related activities have included:

- co-supervision of several successful PhD and MSc candidates based at the NRC, assisting them with some fieldwork, but mostly helping them with Anglicising the English versions of their thesis dissertations; as well as conducting or advising on data analysis, and assist with the drafting of manuscripts for publication in international scientific journals.
- facilitation of a visit in late April 2009 by Kyne Krusic-Golub and Simon Robertson, two fish ageing specialists with whom I had worked in Australia to assist the Marine Ecology Laboratory in establishing its fish ageing laboratory;
- assistance with formalising a joint collaborative agreement for NRC with RMIT University in Melbourne;
- assisting with funding bids to the *Lietuvos mokslo tarybos* (LMT – Lithuanian Science Council)
- enlisted the assistance of two Australian fisheries mathematical modellers, Dr Vladimir Troynikov, now residing in Ukraine, and Dr Athol Whitten, CEO of Mezo Research. Both helped to deliver analytical aspects of projects which examined the effects of cormorants on key fish populations in Curonian Lagoon;
- in addition to the pikeperch paper, co-authorship of another six papers published in international scientific journals;
- membership of the editorial board of *Zoology and Ecology*, an international journal published by Taylor and Francis on behalf of the NRC; and
- delivery of a series of marine ecology lectures to students and faculty of the Institute of Biosciences at Vilnius University.

This has enabled me to see parts of Lithuania that most visitors do not, circumnavigating the Lithuanian territory in the Curonian Lagoon and cruising along the near coastal region of the Baltic coast between Juodkrantė and Monciškės by boat; being rained on by regurgitated gut contents and defecated upon while exploring cormorant colony roosts sites in the *miškas* (forest) on the Curonian Spit; paddling *baidarės* (kayaks) on the Minija upė (river) from Gargždai to the Nemunas Delta at Ventė *ragas* (horn *sic.* cape); camping at Karklė and Monciškės in varying levels of (dis)comfort; visiting the now decommissioned Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant including dining in its *Sovietski* cafeteria while making corny Homer Simpson jokes; sampling European perch

beneath the ice on lakes northeast of Vilnius during March; and setting baits to catch invasive crayfish in rivers and lakes near Vilnius.

As well as studying the impacts of Great cormorants feeding on fish, other investigations have tracked eel migration and survival including the impact of hydropower turbines (there are 98 turbines located on water bodies throughout the country and eels chancing to pass through them generally do not fare well). I have presented the results of some aspects of these studies at international conferences in North America and Europe.



Drs Žilvinas Pūtys (astern of boat) and Justas Dainys (foreground) from the Laboratory of Marine Ecology, Lithuanian Nature Research Centre, beach launching into the Baltic Sea at Karklė under ideal conditions for fieldwork.

In 2014, with assistance from NRC and Vilnius University, I organised the World Conference on Natural Resource Modelling at the historic campus in the *Senamiestis* (Old town). It was no small undertaking when residing on the other side of the globe for most of the months, leading up to the event which saw delegates attend from 25 different countries. Nevertheless, there remain many more avenues for research and lots of towns and natural assets which I have yet to visit. The main challenge is science funding which is becoming increasingly scarce and more competitive globally.

One of the greatest rewards was the academic achievement of Drs Žilvinas Pūtys and Justas Dainys, two PhD students I had co-supervised successfully. Both have defended their respective PhD theses, and [Žilvinas Pūtys visited me in Australia](#) during a trip he made to undertake studies at Macquarie University as part of his successful post-doctoral candidacy. [Justas has just had his fourth paper from his thesis published with me as a co-author, an excellent achievement for any PhD candidate.](#) These two gentlemen, employed at NRC, as well as MSc graduate and PhD candidate Ms Eglė Jakubavičiūtė [whom I also co-supervised and who is currently preparing to defend](#), are a key part of the future generation of Lithuanian fisheries biologists and the country's contribution to scientific knowledge.

As far as my personal ancestral research goes I only have some clues when it comes to Lietuva, although my surname and its variants plus those with whom I share some DNA clearly shows it is the land of a significant proportion of my ancestral origins. In contrast, I have managed through searching UK records to locate nearly all of the birth registrations of my grandfather's siblings, his eldest brother's school enrolment, and several London addresses in the East End. The 1891 England Census places them in the Brunswick apartments in infamous Goulston Street, site of the five Whitechapel Murders of prostitutes during 1888–1891 that have been attributed to “Jack the Ripper”.

I have also found the ship's passenger record for their 1892 voyage between Southampton, England and Melbourne, Australia during which my grandfather Hyman was born whilst sailing through the Bay of Bengal. The captain recorded the precise coordinates at the time, placing the ship due west of the Andaman Coast of Indonesia. Despite my searches of national and state archives in Vilnius, and online searches of ship passenger records between Europe and England leaving me empty-handed, I remain optimistic that one day by chance I will discover a more definitive connection in Lithuania.

I am now on my fourteenth visit in a decade and in aggregate I have spent more than three years living in Lietuva and still have only a very rudimentary grasp of its language.



The above photo was taken in Kėdainiai, earlier this year (2017). From left to right: Victor Adams, a Lithuanian visitor from Australia; Dr Harry Gorfine, the author of this article; and Jonas Stankevičius, a Lithuanian philosopher, writer and teacher of English. (Photo: Victor Adams). _____

I nevertheless get by partly because English is now more widely spoken than during 2007 and I do understand a few common words, *gerai*. I recently applied for my third Schengen long-stay national visa and I have no doubt that I'll learn a bit more about the land of my forebears during the coming years.

Harry Gorfine, BSc (Monash), GDipEd (Monash), PhD (University of Technology Sydney) is a Senior Marine Research Scientist with the Victorian Fisheries Authority; an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the School of Biosciences at The University of Melbourne; and an Associate in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at RMIT University. He is also a Director on the Board of the Resource Modeling Association. He has been engaged in fisheries research as a scientist and project leader for the past 30 years publishing 25 authored or co-authored papers in scientific journals, producing 38 project reports, and several confidential consultant reports. He has presented his work at numerous international scientific conferences in Asia, Europe, North America, and South Africa. Descended from Litvaks, he is a regular visitor to the homeland of his ancestors.

Establishing a New Community in Canberra

The first years of Canberra's Lithuanian community (1949-1950)

Jonas MOCKŪNAS

Canberra

Background

Around 10,000 Lithuanians arrived in Australia as displaced persons (refugees) after the end of World War Two. They arrived as part of an agreement between the Australian Government and the International Refugee Organisation (IRO) under which 170,000 displaced Europeans were shipped to Australia. The first 440 Lithuanians arrived in 1947, followed by 1800 in 1948 and 5972 in 1949¹. Some of these young men and women were sent to the capital city of Australia - Canberra - which in 1949 had a population of less than 20,000. Within a few years they had established a new and vibrant community.



Lithuanian folk dancers at Parliament House, Citizenship Convention, January 1950.
(NAA: A12111, 1/1950/11/37)

¹ Egon F. Kunz, *Displaced Persons, Calwell's New Australians*, A N U Press, Canberra, 1988, p43.

1949: Initial steps

The first Lithuanian migrants – a group of young women aged from 19 to 36 - arrived in Canberra in late 1947 on work placements from the Bonegilla migrant camp in northern Victoria².

At a time of acute post-war labour shortages, the Australian Government required these displaced persons to commit to a 2-year work contract which involved being sent to almost anywhere in Australia to do whatever work was required.

The growing national capital desperately needed workers and the Lithuanian women were sent to work in the service sector (mostly as domestics, cleaners, waitresses and office workers) while the men who followed in 1948 were allocated to unskilled jobs primarily in the construction industries, such as quarrying or labouring.

The first effort to organise the growing Lithuanian community in Canberra occurred in early 1949. On 23 January five new migrants took the initiative and met at Beauchamp House (then one of Canberra's accommodation hostels, now Ian Potter House on the Australian National University's campus) to allocate responsibilities for an interim committee³ with a short-term agenda of:

- organising an Independence Day celebration in February;
- liaising with the YMCA and YWCA (the two lead organisations at the time involved in assimilating new migrants); and
- establishing contact with all Lithuanians living in the region.

The first Lithuanian Independence Day celebration held in Canberra was on Sunday 20th February at the Services Hut, Manuka, where an afternoon tea was provided by the St. Christopher's Catholic Women's Association. The celebration was preceded by a special mass for Lithuanian migrants at St

² Ann Tündern-Smith, presentation to the Canberra and District Historical Society on 14 February 2017. Sixty women from the Baltic States who had arrived on the 'first transport' ship, the *USAT General Stuart Heintzelman* in November 1947 were sent to Canberra during December 1947; of these, thirteen were Lithuanian citizens.

³ Juozas Žilinskas – president; Vytautas Genys – cultural affairs; Algirdas Genys and Aldona Bulkaitytė – YMCA and YWCA liaison; Lionginas Vrubliauskas – vice-president and secretary. Each of these new arrivals settled permanently in Canberra, except for Aldona Bulkaitytė who emigrated to the USA.



Canberra's early Lithuanian basketballers, 1949. L-R standing are F. Gružas, unknown, unknown, P. Gružauskas, V. Genys, ? Baumanis, Front – A. Genys.

Christopher's cathedral, led by Archbishop McGuire⁴. The Mass was attended by over 60 members of the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian communities. The interim committee next met on 6 April 1949 at the Capital Hill Hostel (now the site of the new Parliament House) to plan for a general community meeting later that month and participation at the YWCA's International Festival in May at the Albert Hall.

Integration into existing networks

The general meeting held on 24 April 1949 at the Capital Hill Hostel unanimously agreed that the Canberra community should become part of the existing Australian Lithuanian Society (ALS)⁵. A new committee was elected to replace the interim group⁶ and in June 1949 it received formal notification from the president of the ALS, Antanas Baužė, welcoming the Canberra branch into the Society. Mr and Mrs Baužė visited the Canberra community in early 1950.

⁴ Catholic Migrants Attend Special Mass at St. Christopher's (1949, February 28). *The Canberra Times* (ACT : 1926 - 1995), p. 2. Retrieved May 14, 2017, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2792134>. Also Canberros Lietuvių Veikla, *Australijos Lietuvių Metraštis*, Sydney, 1961, p.196.

⁵ The Australian Lithuanian Society (*Australijos Lietuvių Draugija*) had been established in Sydney in 1933. The mass migration of Lithuanians from DP camps in Europe from 1947 re-energised the Society which quickly grew from only one base (Sydney) to include around a dozen affiliated branches.

⁶ The committee subsequently allocated responsibilities as: Antanas Gasiūnas – president, and Vytautas Genys, Algirdas Genys and Eugenijus Narbutas - members. An audit committee was also established (Jonas Daubaras, Jurgis Žilinskas and Vladas Biveinis).

The new committee's records show that by mid-1949 the community had 27 members and £5 on hand. A further general meeting – the inaugural meeting of the Canberra branch of the ALS – was attended by 24 members in July. £10.5.0 was collected, mostly as membership fees, and the establishment of a community library was discussed. Although with some changes in composition, this committee worked energetically over the next several months:

- The Lithuanian community participated in the YMCA's International Festival in May 1949⁷;
- Folk dancers again represented the community at a YWCA evening in August;



Canberra Lithuanian dance group, at the 1950 Good Neighbour Council concert at the Albert Hall. L to R: N. Augutienė, ? Kunčiūnas, A. Bulkaitytė, A. Gasiūnas, R. Genienė, J. Noreika, G. Genienė.

- 36 members attended a joint National Day function/general meeting in September;
- A subcommittee⁸ organised a community Kūčios (the traditional Lithuanian Christmas Eve feast) in December; and

⁷ With folk dancers coordinated by Romualda Genys and accordion music by R. Gečiauskas.

⁸ Mr and Mrs Martišius, together with Mr Labanauskas.

- Canberra was represented at the ALS convention in Sydney on 30 December 1949⁹ which celebrated the establishment of a number of new branches throughout Australia¹⁰ and a milestone of 900 subscribers to the ALS weekly newspaper *Mūsų Pastogė*.

1950: Consolidation and Growth

A new committee was elected at the first AGM, held at the YMCA hall on 27 January 1950¹¹. The range and scale of activities continued to grow throughout the year in line with the size of the community:

- There were 54 members registered by the time of the first AGM and annual income from membership dues had grown to more than £23 by the end of the year;
- A network of regional representatives was established at each of the principal hostels and locations¹² ;
- The community continued to be represented at Canberra's multicultural events;
- A new Canberra Lithuanian basketball team was established drawing on members of the 1949 'Balts' team¹³;
- Independence Day was celebrated in February at the Masonic Hall, Barton, preceded by mass at St Christopher's Cathedral.

New areas of activity

Several new initiatives found support during 1950:

- Social functions were organised. The first dance was held on the evening of Saturday 27 May at Westridge Hall; entry for men was 3 shillings, while the charge for ladies was only 1 shilling. These social events gave the community coffers an additional £18 in 1950;
- Fundraising to help Lithuanians stranded in Germany was begun. Within the first year £19 had been raised for patients at the Heilbrun Tuberculosis sanatorium and £15 for the tuberculosis patients at Amberg;

⁹ Henrikas Šalkauskas (and possibly others).

¹⁰ By 1950 ALS branches had been established at Adelaide, Bathurst, Beechworth, Bonegilla, Brisbane, Canberra, Geelong, Greta, Hobart, Launceston, Melbourne, Sydney and Woomera (Luda Popenhagen, *Australian Lithuanians*, UNSW Press, 2012, p89).

¹¹ Vytas Rimas (president); Juozas Žilinskas (vice-president); Alg. Šimkūnas (secretary); L. Nagevičius (treasurer); and J. Miksevičius (member). Following V. Rimas' departure from Canberra, Juozas Žilinskas again took over the president's role from March 1950.

¹² Fairbairn Hostel – Liudas Budzinauskas; Eastlake Hostel – Feliksas Borumas; Riverside Hostel – Pranas Martišius; Capital Hill/Canberra Hotel – Mečys Labanauskas; Aislie – Mr Nagevičius; Queanbeyan – Vladas Biveinis.

¹³ Captain – Vytas Genys; Assistant – Pranas Gružauskas; Manager – Henrikas Šalkauskas.



Lithuanian handcrafts exhibition, New Australian Festival, May 1949.

(NAA: A1211, 1/1949/17/3)

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- A decision was taken to establish a Lithuanian Saturday school, which operated from 1952 to 1974;
 - Lithuanian artists began receiving broader exposure through migrant art and craft exhibitions and the Artists Society of Canberra;
 - The community's organisational structure changed yet again, as the Australian Lithuanian Society was merged into a broader umbrella organisation, the Australian Lithuanian Community, which in turn became a part of the new World Lithuanian Community.

By the end of 1950 the new Canberra Lithuanian community had been well positioned to continue serving its growing membership over the next century. While the community peaked in the 1960s with around 500 members and numerous organisations, it is still active today with over 100 members.

My thanks to the Canberra Lithuanian Community Association Inc. for providing access to records and images which have helped shape this brief historical outline.

Jonas Mockūnas, MPubPol(ANU) is a former Canberra public servant with an interest in Australian Lithuanian history. His article 'Latest Research on Early Lithuanian Migrants' appeared in Volume 30 (2016) of Lithuanian Papers.

Submitted September 2017

BALT MIGRANTS IN CANBERRA

Work In Government Departments

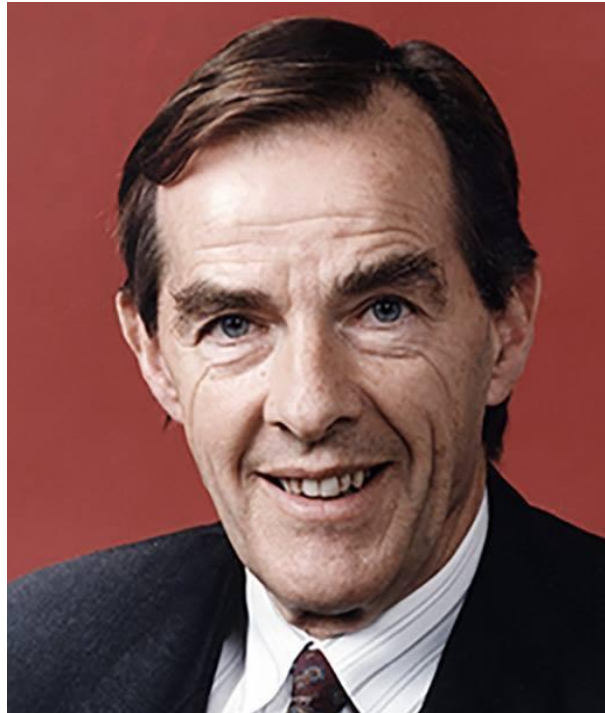
CANBERRA, Dec. 17.—Migrant girls from the Baltic countries who commenced work in Canberra yesterday are settling happily to their new work and are being well received by their Australian colleagues and warmly commended by their employers.

Six girls are typing in Government departments. Some have joined the Immigration Department and one girl has been appointed to the personal staff of the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Calwell). Three are nursing at the Canberra Community Hospital, two are domestics there, and eight are housemaids and waitresses in Government hostels.

Most of the girls are competent in English conversation for average use, and when they have mastered the language they will be available for other appointments. Each girl has been given a room to herself and special arrangements have been made by immigration officials to ensure that Canberra residents will make the girls welcome.

At first, Australian mass media showed some interest in the new Baltic arrivals. *Pictured: A typical article in The West Australian daily, dated December,, 18, 1947, page 20.* - Retrieved September 8, 2017, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46825085>.

Brian Gibson: An Obituary



Rest in peace, Hon Brian Gibson AM.

Brian - or 'Gibbo' as he was affectionately known to many - was the first Parliamentarian I worked for, as an electorate officer in his Hobart and Canberra Senate offices, back in 1999 in the days of the Howard Government.

He was a soft but firmly-spoken, measured, clear-thinking, intelligent man, with a strong personal commitment to freedom, and choice, small government, lower levels of tax and regulation, and a fundamental belief in the legitimacy of business and the importance of free enterprise as a key driver to create more employment and better living conditions. I used to really enjoy my conversations with Brian, as a staffer and then later, as a friend and mentor - someone I could always talk to. And he taught me so much. I learnt so much from Brian.

As Senator Gibson, he encouraged me to listen more closely and carefully to the media coverage of politics, and to read and think critically. We shared an interest in a number of areas such as communism in the Soviet Union, B.A.Santamaria, the Movement and the rise of the National Civic Council, and, closer to home, local Catholic education.

His pathway to becoming a Liberal politician in the Federal Parliament was less orthodox than many. Well-respected across the Tasmanian business community, Brian brought a range of "real-world" experience with him to the Parliament. "Political apparatchik", "career politician", "factional player" - none of these were monikers that applied to Brian and, as a result, he was held in respectful regard by colleagues and political opponents alike. He understood the intersections between business and government; his was a really valuable

perspective. He did a lot of valuable fundraising for the Liberal Party in Tasmania, too - and built a number of very important relationships with the business community, including his Derwent Club.

Crucially, Brian taught me the importance of the old adage, *"It's not what you know, but whom."* The value of building up your own personal book, your network and contacts - and keeping in touch with them - and how this would serve me in the future. He was so right.

Brian gave me my first opportunity in a political office, and I will always thank him for that. He believed in me, and appointed me to the position over a couple of other candidates who may have been more highly-fancied. He never forced me to join the Party, as part of my job - he left that to my personal freedom, my choice.

And I thank him for his words of support (possibly over-generous!) that secured my next role, after Brian had retired from Parliament, with his mate Paul Calvert, with whom I went on to work for six years.

I'm sending the Taskunas Family's sympathy and love to Pauline and the family. Our children always remember the warm welcome at the Gibson home that Christmas time to say thanks to staff and their families. Pauline - you have always asked after our family and your care has always been real. Thank you. Goodbye, Gibbo - thank you for everything. A life well-lived and a big contribution, well-made.

In paradisum deducant angeli.

Vince TAŠKŪNAS,

President,

Lithuanian Studies Society at the University of Tasmania.

The Largest Research Centre outside Lithuania

Indrė ANTANAITIS-JACOBS

LRSC, Chicago

The Lithuanian Research and Studies Center (LRSC) in Chicago, Illinois is the largest Lithuanian academic institution outside of Lithuania. It is devoted to preserving and fostering Lithuanian heritage world-wide. Archives are our beginning and our legacy. The Center collects, preserves, and makes available Lithuanian diaspora archival materials of historical, academic and cultural significance, and in this way facilitates the coordination of scholarly work, research, networking, and sharing information regarding everything Lithuanian.

The Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, Inc., is a federally tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization that was incorporated in 1982 as an umbrella institution that unifies various Lithuanian historical and cultural heritage institutions.



LRSC at the Jaunimo centras Christmas banquet 2015. Standing left to right: Vytas Beleška (Musicologist), Dr. Robertas Vitas (Chair), Dr. Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs (Archivist, Translator), Loreta Timukienė (Vice President, Community Affairs), Kristina Lapienytė (Executive Vice President), Mrs. Idzelis; sitting left to right: Dr. Augustinas Idzelis (President), Juozas Bendikas (Archivist), Enata Skrupskelytė (Head Librarian), Gediminas Indreika (Volunteer).

Several large divisions are housed within the LRSC and include the Lithuanian World Archives; Musicology, Photo, and Fine Art Archives; several libraries, including the libraries of historian Jonas Dainauskas and political scientist Dr. Tomas Remeikis; several museums including a Lithuanian Medical and Lithuanian Military Museum; an

Audio-Visual Media Division; Center for the Study of Genocide in Lithuania, and more.



Lithuanian World Archive material.

The oldest, largest, and probably most frequently used archives at the Lithuanian Center are the Lithuanian World Archives (LWA or PLA – in Lithuanian „Pasaulio lietuvių archyvas“), first established in 1946 by Vincentas Liulevičius in the DP camps in Germany. Lithuanian historical documents not found anywhere else in the world are found here. Initially, the documents emigrated with Liulevičius to Chicago, first sent to the Sisters of St. Casimir, later transferred from the Sisters of St. Casimir to the Lithuanian Youth Center (Jaunimo centras), which in 1957 was under the Jesuit Fathers' care and newly built. The LRSC has been organizing LWA since 1981.

The LWA contains the archives of various political, national, cultural, educational organizations as well as community and cultural activists. A large portion of LWA is its library, comprised of more than 100,000 books and over 2300 periodicals. Also included are a Manuscripts Dept.,



A glimpse at a fraction of the holdings at the Lithuanian World Archives.

Lithuanian Council), JAV LB (Lithuanian American Community), and the Board of Education Archives), of private Individuals (like notable teachers and administrators in the American Lithuanian community such as Domas Velička and Prof. Jonas Račkauskas, various activists like Zenonas Kolba and Mikas Šileikis, writers, artists, doctors, historians, etc.), a Cartography Archive, and Religious Literature Archive. Some 234,500 pages of documents fill the Displaced Persons Camp collection – the pride of the Lithuanian World Archive.

The original notes of renowned musician and painter M. K. Čiurlionis are the pride of the Žilevičius-Kreivėnas Musicology Archive. This archive is actually almost one century old. Professor Juozas Žilevičius founded the musicology archive in 1920 in St. Petersburg; it was moved to New Jersey in the US in 1929, and later to the Lithuanian Youth Center in Chicago. The Kreivėnas Musicology Archive that previously had functioned out of Cicero, Illinois, joined the Žilevičius Archive in 1986.

The Lithuanian Medicine Museum and Archive was established principally by Dr. Milda Budrienė. The personal belongings, academic manuscripts, and medical journal literature of Lithuanian diaspora medical practitioners are stored and exhibited at the museum. Lithuanian President Dr. Kazys Grinius's personal things also are exhibited here.

The Dr. Stasys Budrys Lithuanian Photo Archive contains many old photographs, negatives, and films about Lithuanian life abroad. The Photo Archive's founder and first curator was photographer artist Algimantas Kezys, who organized many art exhibits at the Lithuanian Youth Center's Čiurlionis Gallery.

The foundation for the Fine Arts Archive was laid by Kazimieras Baltramaitis, who donated his own wealthy collection. Artist Magdalena Stankūnienė also organized much of the material, which constantly is being renewed by artists' additional works, catalogues, albums, articles. Rare art pieces of M. Dobužinskis and V. Petravičius are among the Archive's proud possessions.

The main purpose of the Lithuanian Genocide Research Center is to collect, preserve, and disseminate historical information about the wrongs done to Lithuania and its inhabitants during the Soviet and Nazi occupations.

In addition to its other large divisions of various archival materials, the LRSC has published 54 scholarly books (about one third of which are in English), and offers translation, research, and library services to the public. The Center has organized exhibits through which the public is familiarized with the existing historical and cultural wealth accumulated at the LRSC, like, more recently, the LRSC organized mobile exhibits regarding the histories of the Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, Song Festival, and North American Lithuanian athletics. The Center also hosts events, such as this past fall's lecture given by Major General Jonas Kronkaitis (former Commander-in-Chief of the Lithuanian Armed Forces) „A Perspective on Lithuania's Defense in a World in Peril," followed by a discussion.

Lithuania's new independence [in 1990] enlivened relations between Lithuanian institutions and the Center. The first such example was the shipping of duplicate books to the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania and other institutions in Lithuania. More than one and a half million books have travelled to Lithuania's libraries from the LRSC.



Long-time friend and supporter of LRSC, Paul Žumbakis (far left) with college summer internists Marija Čyvaitė (next to Žumbakis) and Paulius Vitas (far right), together with LRSC's Executive Vice President Kristina Lapienyte (centre) and archivist Dr. Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs. July 19, 2017.

Since Lithuania's independence[1990], more than 150 scholars from Lithuania have worked or interned at the Center, cataloguing collections or studying materials for their own research. The Center maintains ties with the Mažvydas National Library, the Central Medical Library of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Science Academy, Vilnius University, the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences, and Vytautas Magnus University. Currently, researcher Dr. Laimutė Adomavičienė from the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore in Vilnius is researching materials from several different archives on writer Algirdas Landsbergis. Žydronė Kolevinskienė, Head of the Department of Lithuanian and Comparative Literature at the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences, will be researching at LRSC in August. More archival internists from Lithuania will be working in the Center in the fall and the spring.

Two American Lithuanian college students from the Greater Chicago area are interning at the Center this summer (2017), organizing archival materials and preparing the LRSC's publishing house's next book to be published, *Insurrection: Lithuanian Activist Front (LAF) in Kaunas June 1940 – June 1941*, by Dr. Augustine Idzelis, for press.

A guest from Vancouver, Canada this summer, cultural geographer Dr. Laimonis Briedis, visited LRSC in Chicago in order to conduct archival research for his upcoming book on refugees and Displaced Persons in Germany. Dr. Briedis, author of *Vilnius: City of Strangers* (2009, Baltos Lankos), was interested in examining

photographic material and personal documents such as letters and memoirs of fleeing Lithuanians who became refugees in wartime Germany, as well as accounts of their life in DP camps in the postwar period. He was especially happy to have found material from the camp of Gross Hesepe, as it contained material that related to his personal family history.

A very large ongoing LRSC project is the digitization of as many archival materials as possible. Recently we are collaborating with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who are working for the National Digital Newspaper Program and wish to digitize our 1917 holdings of *Draugas*, the Lithuanian daily newspaper. We are hopeful that in time many more research materials from our Center will be available to the general public online, globally.

Lithuanians researching their genealogy and scholars from all parts of the USA and from around the world have conducted their research here. Lithuanians from around the world donate their books and various personal and organizational archival materials to the LRSC. The Center collects everything related to Lithuanian life outside of Lithuania – individual people's as well as organizations' minutes, documents, trophies or awards; manuscripts, advertisements, letters; photographs, slides, negatives; maps, books, journals, periodicals, music and audio recordings, videos, works of art, etc. These collections make the LRSC a repository for living history and culture.

Currently, the LRSC is in search of additional facilities. The LRSC is a victim of its own success: we have grown to the point where our collections need more room, as they continue to expand. On January 28, 2018, the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center will hold its grand gala event „Our Heritage – Our Future,“ specifically planned to raise funds for the Center's needed new facilities.

Preserving our Lithuanian heritage for future generations – That's the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center. Our heritage is our future.

Said President of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė: “Lithuanian heritage – this is our history, our treasure, it is who we are. It is our identity. And our view regarding heritage and how we protect it – that view pertains to us as a nation as well.”

For more information about the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center, please visit www.lithuanianresearch.org or write us at info@lithuanianresearch.org or 5620 S. Claremont Ave., Chicago, IL 60636, USA, or call us at 773-434-4545 in Chicago for more information.

Dr. Indrė Antanaitis-Jacobs is archivist and translator at LRSC. Her PhD is in archaeology (Vilnius University, 2001) and she has worked as an archaeologist both in the USA and in Lithuania. She has been translating various Lithuanian texts since 1990.



LRSC information, July 2017