

An Inventory of Lithuanian Proper Names

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§ 1. Bibliography

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Nos. 3 (pages 383–431) and 14 present alphabetical lists of Lithuanian and international anthroponyms and toponyms in their modern spelling.

Nos. 12 and 17 contain alphabetical lists of geographical names found in Lithuania.

§ 2. Lithuanian orthography prescribes that proper nouns be capitalized,¹ in contrast to common nouns which must be written with small initial letters. The rule valid for common nouns applies also to adjectival and verbal derivations from proper nouns. Thus,

¹ See § 33 of No. 28 in § 1 above.

the proper noun *Európa* "Europe" yields the adjectival derivatives *europìnis* and *európiškas* "European" as well as the verbal derivative *europėti* "to become European." A list, quite representative, though not exhaustive, of proper nouns (toponyms and anthroponyms), Lithuanian and international, is given in an appendix at the end of Alfred Senn and Anton Salys, *Wörterbuch der litauischen Schriftsprache*.²

There is a difference from English, French, and German practice in the Lithuanian classification of proper and common nouns respectively. It concerns the anthroponyms. Only personal names, i.e., Christian names like *Antānas* "Anthony," *Onà* "Anne," *Marjėtė* "(little) Mary, (dear) Mary," and surnames (including nicknames) are considered and treated as proper nouns, but not ethnical names, e.g., *nėgras* "a male Negro," *nėgrė* "a female Negro," or national names such as *amerikiētis/-tė* "a male or female American," *kana-diētis/-tė* "a Canadian," or designations of inhabitants of a place, e.g., *londoniētis/-tė* "a Londoner." Since the original plan of the above-mentioned *Wörterbuch* (which was started in 1924) was later modified, it is necessary, when using the appendix, to consult at the same time the corresponding passage of the dictionary proper.

§ 3. Chapter 44 of my Lithuanian Grammar³ deals with the formation of proper nouns. There is first of all (§ 660) a discussion of general designations of place by means of specific nominal prefixes, esp. *ant-*, *apý-*, *pa-*, *prie-*, *prieš-*, *taŗp-*, *tarpù-*, *uŗ-*, e.g., *añtakis* "the region above the eye socket" from *akis* "eye," *ùžstalė* "space behind the table" from *stālas* "table"; referring to terrain: *pagirė*, *pagirýs*, *pamiškė*, *pamiškýs* "woodside, edge of a forest," made from the nouns *girià* and *miškas* "forest"; furthermore formed with geographical names: from *Nėmunas* "the Nemunas River": *panemunė* and *panemunýs* "the region along the Nemunas River," *ùžnemunė* "the land across the Nemunas."

As I have shown in my paper presented to the Fifth International Congress of Toponymy and Anthroponymy in Salamanca,⁴ this formation pattern is not limited to Lithuanian, but is also common in Slavic, esp. in Russian, e.g., from Russian *óko* "eye": *podóč'je* "the region under the eye" or "under the eyes"; from *stol* "table":

² See No. 14 in § 1 above.

³ See pages 333-336 of No. 28.

⁴ See No. 24.

zastól'je "space behind the table"; from *les* "forest": *polés'je* "woodside." Russian toponyms of this formation are *povólž'je* "the Volga region" and *zavólž'je* "the land beyond the Volga" (from *Vólga* "the Volga River"), *podnepróv'je* "the Dnieper region" (from *Dnepr* "the Dnieper River"), *zadón'je* "the land across the Don," *zabajkál'je* "the land beyond Lake Baikal," *zakavkáz'je* "Transcaucasia," *zaurál'je* "the region beyond the Ural" (river or mountains).

The formation of compound nouns by means of a prefix plus the neuter ending *-'je* is firmly established not only in Russian, but also in White Russian and Polish, and even in Old Church Slavic, e.g., *zagori'je* "the region beyond the mountain," the regular prototype of modern Russian *zagór'je*.

This same combinatory formation of prefixed neuter nouns occurs also in Lettish and Old Prussian. For Old Prussian see Georg Gerullis, *Die altpreußischen Ortsnamen*, pages 239, 247 ff., and 264. It must, therefore, be assumed that it existed in Proto-Baltic as well as in Proto-Slavic. Since both in Lithuanian and in Lettish the neuter gender of nouns got lost, substitution became necessary. On the basis of regional preference, the original neuter form was replaced either by a feminine or a masculine form. This accounts for the coexistence of a feminine *panemunė* and a masculine *panemunys*.

The Proto-Baltic and Proto-Slavic neuter ending involved here is to be traced back to a Proto-Indo-European neuter *-ijo-m* which came also down into Germanic, namely, in the neuter collective formation in *-i* with the prefix *ga-*, *gi-*, *ge-*, e.g., Gothic *gaskōhi* "footwear, (pair of) shoes," Old High German *gafugili* "poultry," Old High German *gibeini* (modern German *Gebein*) "the bones," modern German *das Gebirge* "the mountains," etc.

We have here a significant agreement among Baltic, Slavic, and Germanic, a Balto-Slavo-Germanic conformity directly inherited from Proto-Indo-European.

§ 4. The Lithuanian Orthographic Dictionary by Gasparavičius et al.⁵, pages 138–147, gives a summary of the formation of place names, with the following groupings as to external form:

- a) Used in the singular form: *Alytus, Kaūnas, Tverėčius, Vilnius*.
- b) Used in the plural form: *Mažeikiai, Šakiai, Telšiai*.

⁵ See No. 3.

- c) Suffixal formations.
- d) Two-stem compounds and two-word compounds.
- e) Attributive combinations: *Aukštóji Panemùnė* "Upper Panemunė," *Kazlŷ Rūdà*.

The same authors give the following classification based on origin and meaning.

a) Toponyms derived from anthroponyms. They appear either in the singular form (*Sudárgas*, *Barvainis*) or (most frequently) in the plural form. Very frequently place names are derived from anthroponyms by means of suffixes like *-iškiai*, *-iškės*, *-iškis*, *-išké*, *-inė*, *-inės*, *-ynė*, *-ynės*, *-ynas*, *-aliai*, *-ėliai*, e.g., *Lankėliškiai*, *Dievoniškiai*, *Ruņšiškės*, *Semelškės*, *Rōkiškis*, *Antanškis*, *Čėkiškė*, etc. Anthroponymic compounds are of the two-stem determinative character with an anthroponym as the first component and a common noun as the second. The second component is mostly based on one of the following words: *balà* "swamp," *būdà* "hut," *ėzeras* "lake," *gàlas* "end piece,"⁶ *girià* "forest," *káimas* "village," *kálnas* "hill, mountain," *kaĩpas* "corner," *kiėmas* "homestead, farm," *laũkas* "field," *pieva* "meadow," *raĩstas* "swamp," (dial.) *sodà* and *sōdžius* "village," *upė* "river, brook," *vietà* "place."

b) Environmental toponyms, referring to topography, natural or artificial objects; e.g., *Juodakalnis* "Black Hill," *Milžinkapiai* "Graves of Giants."

- c) Hydronyms.
- d) Toponyms derived from hydronyms.
- e) Toponyms derived from plant names.
- f) Toponyms taken from the animal kingdom.

§ 5. Lithuanian names of inhabited places (farms, homesteads, hamlets, peasant villages, rural towns) are to a large extent nothing but the plural forms of surnames, that is, the names of the original settlers, e.g., *Balsiaĩ*, *Budriaĩ*, *Daukšiaĩ*, *Kazlaĩ*, *Plikiaiĩ*, *Riečiaiĩ*, *Šiauliaĩ*, *Vanagaiĩ*; *Gudaiĩ*, *Gudėliaiĩ*; *Juodaičiaiĩ*, *Karvaičiaiĩ*, *Šimkaičiaiĩ*, *Vaičiaičiaiĩ*, *Žygaičiaiĩ*; *Nerimdaičiaiĩ*, *Vėžaičiaiĩ*; *Balkūnaiĩ*, *Gaižiūnaiĩ*, *Mickūnaiĩ*, *Nemajūnaiĩ*, *Stačiūnaiĩ*, *Šeiniūnaiĩ*; *Marcinkūnys*, *Maseliūnys*, *Svenčiūnys*; *Subártonys*; *Juodeikiaiĩ*, *Kirdeikiaiĩ*, *Mažeikiaiĩ*, *Šareikiaiĩ*, *Vereikiaiĩ*.

⁶ See § 686 A 2 b and § 686 A 3 b of No. 28.

Probably about half of the Lithuanian place names are derived from the names of the original settlers. The percentage of names of inhabited places containing surnames is especially high in Suvalkijà, that is, the region west of Kaunas, on the left bank of the Nemunas River. Of the 39 place names occurring in the township of Vilka-*viškis*, 37 appear in the plural form (e.g., *Alksnỳnai*, *Gudėliai*, *Pakalviškiai*), and in the township of Sintautai the corresponding figures are 55 and 51.

§ 6. A second numerous group of place names consists of original common nouns formed in accordance with our § 3 above and then applied as proper nouns. They indicate the location near a river, a forest, a swamp, etc., e.g., *Panemùnė* "On-the-Nėmunas," *Panėvėžys* "On-the-Nėvėžis," *Pašilys* "Near-the-Grove" (cf. *šilas* "grove"), *Užpelkis* or *Užubalis* "Behind-the-Swamp" (cf. *pėlkė* and *balà* "swamp"). They are determinative compounds with a nominal prefix in the front part and, most frequently, with a hydronym at the end. Thus, villages located at a lake (*ėžeras*) or a river (*upė*) may have names like *Añtežeriai*, *Paežeriai*, *Užežeriai*; *Paupiai*, *Užupiai*. The overwhelming majority of these place names use the prefix *pa-*, e.g., *Pagramañtis* (from the river name *Gramanėià*), *Pasvalys* (from the river name *Svalià*), *Pajūris* "seaside" (from *jūra* "sea").⁷

§ 7. In a number of town names we have to deal with the plural form of the name of the lake on which the inhabited place is situated, e.g., the town *Žuvintai* on Lake *Žūvintas*, the village *Aviliai* on Lake *Avilys*, the village *Rimiečiai* on Lake *Rimietis*.

§ 8. Some place names are derived from hydronyms by means of suffixes, whereby the suffix always indicates a situational relationship, e.g., *Kùpiškis* "[the Place] on the *Kupà* River," *Vilka-*viškis** "[the Place] on the *Vilkaujà* River." However, such derivations appear almost exclusively in the plural form, in which case they designated originally the people who had settled by such a body of water, that is, the inhabitants of the place.⁸ The following suffixes are used in this sense:

a) *-iškiai*: *Aistìškiai* "[Place] on the *Aistà* River," *Pentìškiai* "[Place] on the *Pentà* River," *Pilviškiai* "[Place] on the *Pilvė* River."

⁷ Cf. Nos. 24 and 27.

⁸ Cf. § 600 and § 605 b of No. 28.

b) *-ėnai*: *Babrungėnai* “[Place] on the *Babrūngas* River,” *Darbėnai* “[Place] on the *Darbà* River,” *Notėnai* “[Place] on the *Nôtė* River,” *Želsvėnai* “[Place] on the *Želsvà* River.”

c) *-ininkai*: *Drabužiniškai* “[Place] on the *Drabužis* River,” *Įlgininkai* “[Place] on Lake *Įlgis*,” *Peršėkininkai* “[Place] on the *Peršėkė* River,” *Spengliniškai* “[Place] on the *Spenglà* River and on Lake *Spenglà*,” *Strėviniškai* “[Place] on the *Strėvà* River.”

§ 9. The simplest structure of a hydronym is that of a determinative compound with the masculine *ėžeras* “lake” or the feminine *ùpė* “river, brook” as end component. An adjective, a common noun, or a proper name may serve as first component. Thus, *báltas* *ėžeras* “a white lake” yielded the lake name *Báltežeris* “White Lake,” while *juodà* *ùpė* “a black brook” produced two brook names, namely, the feminine *Júodupė* and the masculine *Júodupis*. *vėžys* “crayfish” appears in the lake name *Vėžežeris* “Crayfish Lake” and in the brook name *Vėžùpis* “Crayfish Brook.” Personal names contained in the initial component of brook names indicate that such a brook runs (or ran previously) through the land of a proprietor so named, e.g., *Noreikupė* “the Noreika Brook.” Bodies of water may also be simply named with adjectives, either in the definite or indefinite form, e.g., *Baltà* f. “White River,” *Šventóji* f. “Holy River.” However, more frequently than the bare adjective, the substantivized adjective in *-is* (masculine) and *-ė* (feminine) is used for such hydronyms, e.g., *Báltis* “the White one,” *Júodis* and *Júodė* “the Black one.”

§ 10. Not infrequently, the singular form of a masculine surname occurs as a hydronym, i.e., as the name of a running or standing body of water. According to page 145 of No. 3 (in our § 1), the surname of a landowner or farmer through whose land a body of water ran or to whom it belonged could be transferred as proper name to that body of water. This happened through the intermediary of everyday genitive constructions. In *Baužo* *ùpė* “Baužas’s brook, the brook of Baužas” we have a regular possessive genitive *Baužo* (nominative *Baužas*). This same genitive form was then understood to be a genitive of identity⁹ as in the expression *Nėmuno* *ùpė* “the Nemunas River,” which is identical in meaning with the nominative form *Nėmunas* “the Nemunas.” The

⁹ See § 889 of No. 28.

result of this identification was that *Baūžo ūpė* came to be understood as "the Baužas Brook," and from this stage of development, through back formation, the nominative form *Baūžas* acquired the meaning "Baužas Brook."

§ 11. Numerous Lithuanian hydronyms are formed with names of animals and plants,¹⁰ whereby the form of the hydronym may be a) adjectival, or b) a determinative compound with the animal name or the plant name in the first component,¹¹ or c) a simple animal name. Designations like *Vėžežeris* "Crayfish Lake" and *Vėžųpis* "Crayfish Brook" are unequivocal. They indicate that crayfish live in these bodies of water; and the names may be of very recent origin. When, beside them, we find the simple common noun *Vėžys* "Crayfish" as the name of a river in the district of Šiauliai, we have obviously a back formation, as demonstrated in § 10. The same explanation applies to those hydronyms which represent adjectival derivations from fish names, as *Lydėkinė* "Pike Brook" and *Lydėkis* "Pike Lake." Hydronyms with a tree name in the initial component of a two-stem compound designate lakes or brooks whose banks are lined with such trees, e.g., *Ažuolūpis* "Oak Brook," *Klėvežeris* "Maple Lake." *Bėržis* (cf. *bėržas* "birch tree") is a back formation of *bėržupis* "birch brook" or *bėržežeris* "birch lake." Similarly, *Vilkupis* "Wolf Brook" and *Šėrnupis* "Boar Brook" designate streams visited by wolves and boars. If, in addition, *Vilkas* (seemingly the simple common noun *vilkas* "wolf") occurs as a hydronym (in the district of Lazdijai), it is most certainly a back formation of either *Vilkupis* "Wolf Brook" (district of Šakiai) or *Vilkupys* (district of Vilkaviškis), all the more so since, with the same meaning, in the district of Lazdijai, the feminine form *Vilkė* occurs, which, because of the deviating intonation, cannot go back to *vilkė* "she wolf," but can only be a back formation of *vilkupė* "wolf brook."

There is absolutely no reason for seeking some mythological explanation for hydronyms which seemingly consist of bare animal names or tree names.

§ 12. Each Lithuanian surname¹² appears in three different forms, one masculine and two feminine.

¹⁰ See No. 26.

¹¹ See § 9 above.

¹² See Nos. 6 and 23, also § 662–666 of No. 28.

The masculine form (*Klėmas, Petrąskas, Maciūnas, Masiūnis, Alksnėnis, Petrąitis, Salys, Rimša, Vedluga, Rāčkus, Mickėvičius, Skardzius, Krėvė*, etc.) is used for any male member of a family, regardless of age and family status.

The surname of married women has always the ending *-ienė* or *-ienė*: *Klimėnė, Petrąskienė (Petrąskienė), Maciūnienė, Masiūnienė, Alksnėnienė, Petrąitienė, Salėnė, Rimšienė (Rimšienė), Vedluginė, Rāčkuvienė, Mickėvičienė, Skardziuvienė, Krėvienė*.

The suffixes *-aitė, -ytė, -(i)ūtė*, and *-ūtė* are used for the formation of the surnames of girls and unmarried women of any age: *Klimaitė, Petrąskaitė, Maciūnaitė, Masionytė, Alksnėnaitė, Petrąitytė, Salytė, Rimšaitė, Vedluginė, Rāčkūtė, Mickėvičiūtė, Skardziūtė, Krėvaitė*.

§ 13. With regard to their origin and formation, the modern Lithuanian surnames belong in one of the following groups:

a) inherited two-stem names; b) former Christian names; c) former patronymics; d) nicknames, including occupational names and names of geographical origin; e) foreign surnames.

A patronymic, as in Russian, is not used today. Under the Soviet Russian administration, the Russian patronymic is replaced by the genitive form of the name of the father, e.g., *Vedluga* (surname) *Benediktas* (first name) *Juōzo* ([son] of Joseph); *Svirelytė* (surname) *Marijā* (first name) *Stėpono* ([daughter] of Stephan).

More than half of the modern Lithuanian surnames had originally been patronymics. But not all the patronymic forms used as Lithuanian surnames are Lithuanian formations. Of White Russian or Polish origin are the widely used suffixes *-avičius, -ėvičius, -ąskas, -ąskis, -ėnskas, -ėnskis*, e.g., *Basanėvičius, Juškėvičius, Baranąskas, Alminąskis, Žilėnskas, Ivėnskis*.¹³ Genuine Lithuanian patronymic suffixes used to be: *-ėnas, -ynas, -(i)ūnas, -aitis, -(i)ėnis, -(i)ūlis*, e.g., *Dovydėnas, Jonynas, Maciūnas, Morkėnas, Antanaitis, Valiėnis, Grigėnis, Andriūlis, Petrūlis*.¹⁴

§ 14. Normally a Lithuanian has only one given name beside his surname. Middle names are uncommon. Thus, we observe in modern Lithuanian a two-name system made up of a given or Christian name and a surname. In contrast to this, we find that in ancient

¹³ See No. 14, pages 484—489.

¹⁴ See No. 14, pages 484—486.

times the Lithuanians had only an individual name for each person, without indicating family relationship by surnames. This is the same arrangement as in the old Slavic, Germanic, Celtic, Greek, and Sanskrit world, and in view of this widespread agreement (in which only Latin does not share), the one-name system is considered as being inherited from Proto-Indo-European.

A.D. 1400 is approximately the dividing date between the inherited one-name system and the modern two-name system of Lithuanian names. The change is illustrated by the names occurring in the documents issued by the Chancellery of Grand Duke Vytautas or Witold. These documents, covering roughly the half century from 1380 to 1430, are available in the *Codex epistolaris Vitoldi*.¹⁵ The Lithuanian Nobility Register of 1528¹⁶ reveals that at that time numerous Old Lithuanian individual names (which are today only used as surnames) were used as first names, e.g. *Dárgis*, *Daūgėla*, *Daugėlas*, *Dáujotas* (*Daūjotas*), *Daūkšas*, *Daūnora*, *Daūnoras* (*Daunóras*), *Gedmìnas* (*Gėdminas*).

§ 15. In the twenties, when I lived in Lithuania, got married and raised a family there, it was general practice to select Christian names from an approved list of saint-names. Very frequently a child got the name of the saint on whose day it was born, a custom observed also in other Catholic countries, the saint being considered the special guardian throughout the life of his namesake. The most frequent first names for boys (and grown-up men) were *Antānas*, *Jōnas*, *Juōzapas-Juōzas*, *Kazimieras-Kazys*, *Pētras*, *Póvilas*, *Pranciškus-Prānas*; for girls (and women): *Marijonà-Marijà*, *Onà*, *Bronislova-Brōnė*. In addition to this set of internationally used names of saints, there was a small number of historical Lithuanian names which have become extremely popular in recent decades, e.g., *Algirdas*, *Gedimìnas*, *Kestūtis*, *Vytautas*, i.e., names of Lithuanian grand dukes, or *Aldonà*, *Birūtė*, *Laimūtė* for girls. The great popularity of these names grew out of the Lithuanian national renaissance of the second half of the nineteenth century and does not represent a continuation of the practice of the sixteenth century when Old Lithuanian individual names were used as first names.

¹⁵ *Codex epistolaris Vitoldi magni ducis Lithuaniae 1376-1430 collectus opera Antonii Prochaska* (Vol. VI of *Monumenta medii aevi historica res gestas Poloniae illustrantia*), Cracow 1882.

¹⁶ See No. 23, pages 129f.

At the present time, there are unlimited possibilities of spontaneous new formations, either outright use of common nouns, e.g., masculine names: *Béržas* "birch tree," *Rugjys* "rye"; feminine names: *Aušrà* "dawn," *Ēglė* "fir tree," *Jūra* "sea," *Láimė* "good luck," *Rasà* "dew," *Rūtà* "rue (plant)"; or derivations from common nouns, e.g., from *áudra* "thunderstorm": the masculine names *Aūdris*, *Audrjys*, *Aūdrivus*, *Audrōnis*, *Audrūtis*; and the feminine *Aūdrė*, *Audrė*, *Audrōnė*, *Audrūtė*.

The emergence of such new names taken from pagan history and legend or made up at the whim of modern name-givers, i.e., names which cannot be identified with saints of the Catholic Church, in a limited way has given rise to the use of a middle name. The middle name would be a saint-name used only for the baptismal record, but disregarded in later life.

EDITOR'S NOTICE ON MSS.

Attention is directed to the instructions for preparation of manuscripts on the inside front cover, with the additional reminder that footnotes should always be typed separately and included at the end of the manuscript. This is so because they must be set in smaller type and their inclusion on pages of textual matter needlessly slows down the compositors who must then work on two different machines at the same time. In the cases of highly documented manuscripts, this can be particularly troublesome.