

About the “Lietuvos Valsčiai” series

Established in 1994 the Versmė Publishing House, a serial book publisher, is dealing with preparation and publishing of monograph series under the title of “Lietuvos Valsčiai” devoted for Lithuania’s Millennium celebrated in 2009, the 750th anniversary of the creation of the Lithuanian State (1253–2003) and starting from the 15th monograph of “Gelvonai” also for the Centenary of the Restoration of the Lithuanian State (1918–2018). The books published are also dedicated to other anniversaries of historical events important to the state, its towns and settlements.

The “Lietuvos Valsčiai” series is a multi-volume edition about Lithuania’s towns, townships, villages, homesteads, landscapes and their history from the olden times to the present days, about independence fights, traditional culture, trades, calendar and family traditions, custom laws, folk wisdom, churches, celebrities, features of dialects and local sub-dialects, folklore, ethnical minorities and their traditions etc.

Based on reminiscences of people, archive data, scientific studies, written sources and material, each serial book is being written by large teams consisting of up to 160 author teams: prominent Lithuanian historians, archaeologists, ethnologists, folklorists, linguists, sociologists, geologists, geographers, biologists, local lore investigators et al. Total number of authors is about 3 000 with more than 380 persons holding scientific degrees (see www.versme.lt/autoriai.htm).

Total number of volumes of these monograph books published together with the maiden soft-cover book issued under the title “Sintautai. Žvirgždaičiai” (432 p., 1996), “Salako kraštas” (420 p., 2012) and “Pabradė” (480 p., 2017) is 57 and total number of pages – 65 552, articles – 5 180, authors – 2 472.

“Kazlų Rūda” – the 43rd monograph in the “Lietuvos Valsčiai” series (1 572 p., 2022).

The following series have appeared before: “Žagarė” (dedicated to the 800th jubilee of Žagarė, 912 p. in 1998) that was the first book issued with the official logo of the Lithuanian Millennium Celebration; “Obeliai. Kriaunos” (2nd; 480th anniversary of Obeliai, 864 p., 1998, 2nd edition–500th jubilee of Obeliai and Kriaunos, 1 224 p., 2009), “Plateliai” (3rd; 550th jubilee of Plateliai, 800 p., 1999), “Žiobiškis” (4th; 200th jubilee of Žiobiškis parish, 1 024 p., 2000), “Širvintos” (5th; 525th anniversary of Širvintos, 776 p., 2000), “Lygumai. Stačiūnai” (6th; 90th anniversary of Stačiūnai parish, 896 p., 2001), “Veliuona” (7th; 500th jubilee of the Magdeburg Law granting to Veliuona, 1 176 p., 2001), “Raguva” (8th; 500th jubilee of Raguva, 1 128 p., 2001), “Seredžius” (9th; 710th anniversary of Seredžius, 1 238 p., 2003), “Kvėdarna” (10th; 675th anniversary of Kvėdarna, 1 160 p., 2004), “Papilė” (11th; 665th anniversary of Papilė, Part I, 1 082 p., 2004; Part II, 752 p., 2006), “Tauragnai” (12th; 750th jubilee of Tauragnai, 1 364 p., 2005), “Musninkai. Kernavė. Čiobiškis” (13th; 445 anniversary of Musninkai, 725 anniversary of Kernavė, 475 anniversary of Čiobiškis, 1 304 p., 2005), “Laukuva” (14th; 750th jubilee of Laukuva, 1 874 p., Part I, 924 p., 2005; Part II, 950 p., 2008), “Gelvonai” (15th; 625th anniversary of Gelvonai, 1 384 p., 2009), “Baisogala” (16th; 470th anniversary of Baisogala, 1 056 p., 2009), “Gruzdžiai” (17th; 375th anniversary of Gruzdžiai, 2 304 p., Part I, 1 000 p., 2009; Part II, 1 302 p., 2010), “Endriejvas” (18th; 230th anniversary of Endriejvas, 1 412 p., 2010), “Vepriai” (19th;

625th anniversary of Vepriai, 1 320 p., 2010), “Žeimelis” (20th; 510 anniversary of Žeimelis, 1 796 p., Part I, 888 p., Part I, 908 p., 2010), “Lithuanian Local Researches” (21th; 1 082 p., Part I: 2000–2002 scientific works), “Panemunėlis” (22nd; 240th anniversary of Panemunėlis, 1 684 p., Part I, 858 p., Part II, 826 p., 2012), “Gelgaudiškis” (23rd; 500th jubilee of Gelgaudiškis, 1 808 p., Part I, 900 p., Part II, 908 p., 2012), “Juodupė. Onuškis” (24th; 510th anniversary of Onuškis and 100th jubilee of Juodupė, 1 832 p., Part I, 912 p., Part II, 920 p., 2012), “Sintautai” (26th; 2 912 p., Part I, 1 448 p., Part II, 1 464 p., 2013), “Užpaliai” (27th; 375th anniversary of Užpaliai, 2 372 p., Part I, 1 160 p., Part II, 1 212 p., 2013), “Pašvitinys” (28th; 375th anniversary of Pašvitinys, 1 540 p., 2014), “Daujėnai” (29th; 460th anniversary of Daujėnai, 1 396 p., 2015), “Šeduva” (30th; 640th anniversary of Šeduva, 1 388 p., 2016), “Kamajai” (31th; 475th anniversary of Kamajai, 1 580 p., 2016), “Kupiškis” (32th; 535th anniversary of Kupiškis, 1 256 p., 2016), “Ramygala” (33th; 650th jubilee of Ramygala, 1 560 p., 2016), “Onuškis” (34th; 500th jubilee of Onuškis, 1 572 p., 2017), “Babtai” (35th; 625th anniversary of Babtai, 1 572 p., 2017), “Vaiguva” (36th; 625th anniversary of Vaiguva, 1 484 p., 2018), “Skapiškis” (37th; 500th jubilee of Skapiškis (Mituva), 1 088 p., 2019), “Saldutiškis” (38th; 225th anniversary of Saldutiškis, 1 412 p., 2019), “Balninkai” (39th; 680th anniversary of Balninkai, 1 1336 p., 2020), “Viešvilė” (40th; 500th jubilee of Viešvilė, Part I, 1 420 p., Part II, 1 412 p., 2020), “Pilviškiai” (41th; 485th anniversary of Pilviškiai, 1 192 p., 2020), “Žarėnai” (42th; 775th anniversary of Žarėnai, 1 420 p., 2021), “Kazlų Rūda” (43rd; 280th anniversary of Kazlų Rūda, 1 572 p., 2022).

The celebration of the Millennium of the first reference to Lithuania in written historical sources is reasonable to relate with more modest jubilees of its towns and townships and give an implication to these anniversaries of their first written reference by a written word – a book.

In pre-war Lithuania there were more than 400 rural districts (*valsčiai*), which were later replaced by neighbourhoods (*seniūnijos*) numbering now about 300. With a hope that our capacities will enable us to publish books about the majority of them, we kindly invite culture institutions, district governments, neighbourhoods, local activists, local lore investigators, state men, culture activists, sponsors and all writers to join, without hesitation, the team preparing and publishing the hundred volumes of the “Lietuvos Valsčiai” series about Lithuanian history and traditional culture. A great work to last several decades is waiting for you.