

JOLANTA GELUMBECKAITĖ

Old Lithuanian

Introduction – Part 2: Writing system



Roadmap

- Writing system(s) of Old Lithuanian
- Letters and diacritics
- Sample of a written text (manuscript, print)

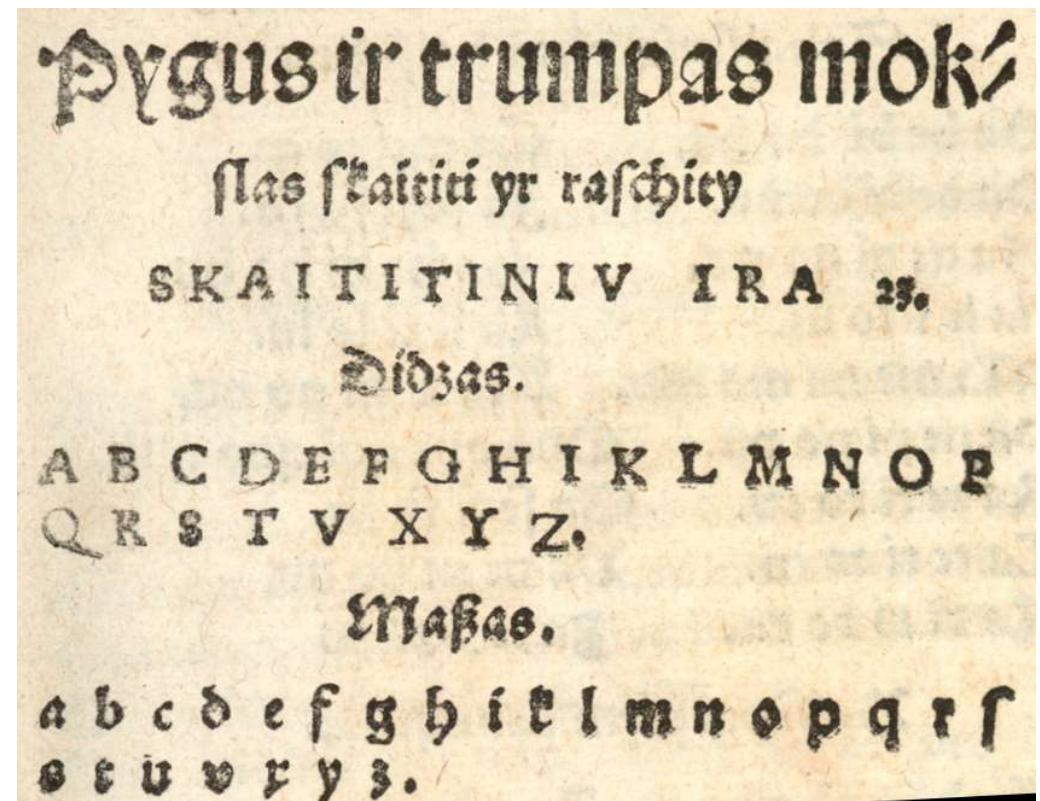
Alphabet of Modern Lithuanian

- 32 letters + 3 digraphs (ch, dz, dž)
- 4 nasal vowels: ą, ė, į, ū
- 5 more letters with diacritics: č, š, ž, ē, ū

Letter	IPA	Letter	IPA
A a	[a], [a:]	J j	[j]
Ą ą	[a:]	K k	[k], [k̥]
B b	[b], [b̥]	L l	[l̥], [l̥̥]
C c	[t͡s], [t͡s̥]	M m	[m], [m̥]
Ch ch	[x], [ç]	N n	[n], [n̥], [n̥̥], [n̥̥̥] before /k/, /g/
Č č	[t͡ʃ], [t͡ʃ̥]	O o	[o:], [ɔ̥]
D d	[d], [d̥]	P p	[p], [p̥]
Dz dz	[d͡z], [d͡z̥]	R r	[r], [r̥]
Dž dž	[d͡ʒ], [d͡ʒ̥]	S s	[s], [s̥]
E e	[ɛ], [æ:]	Š š	[ʃ], [ʃ̥]
Ę ę	[æ:]	T t	[t̥], [t̥̥]
Ė ē	[e:]	U u	[ʊ̥]
F f	[f], [f̥]	Ų ų	[u:]
G g	[g], [g̥]	Ū ū	[u:]
H h	[y], [y̥]	V v	[v], [v̥]
I i	[i]	Z z	[z], [z̥]
Į į	[i:]	Ž ž	[ʒ], [ʒ̥]
Y y	[i:]		

First Lithuanian alphabet

- Alphabet in the first Lithuanian printed book, the Catechism by Martynas Mažvydas, **MŽK 1547**:
 - 23 capital and 25 lower case (+ ſ, u) letters



Marking of nasals

- Mažvydas adopted the diacritic nasals <ą> and <ę> from Polish (< Stanisław Zaborowski, *Orthographia*, 1514):
 - *dągaus* ‘heaven:GEN.SG’ (= *dangaus*)
 - *tę* ‘there’ (= *ten*)
- No Lithuanian printed letters for the other two nasals <j>, <ゅ> in the 16th c. (since there were no equivalents in Polish, thus none corresponding typefaces)

Marking of nasals

- All four nasal vowels are present in the handwritten Lithuanian texts of the 16th c.: the Bible translation (1579–1590) by Johann Bretke (Jonas Bretkūnas, 1536–1602) and the *Wolfenbüttel Postil* (1573/1574):
 - <ą> *budą* ‘manner:ACC.SG’, *draąsei* ‘brave:ADV’.
 - <ę> *garbe* ‘honour:ACC.SG’, *ſchwęſti* ‘hallow:PTCP.PST.PASS.NOM.PL.M’
 - <į> *materį* ‘woman:ACC.SG.F.’, *drįſti* ‘dare:INF’
 - <ų> *butų* ‘be:3COND’, *Kükalei* ‘weed:NOM.PL’

August Schleicher (1821–1868)

*Handbuch der litauischen Sprache 1.
Litauische Grammatik, Prag: 1856:*

q e i u



§. 11. Das litauische alphabet enthält demnach folgende 23 buchstaben:*)

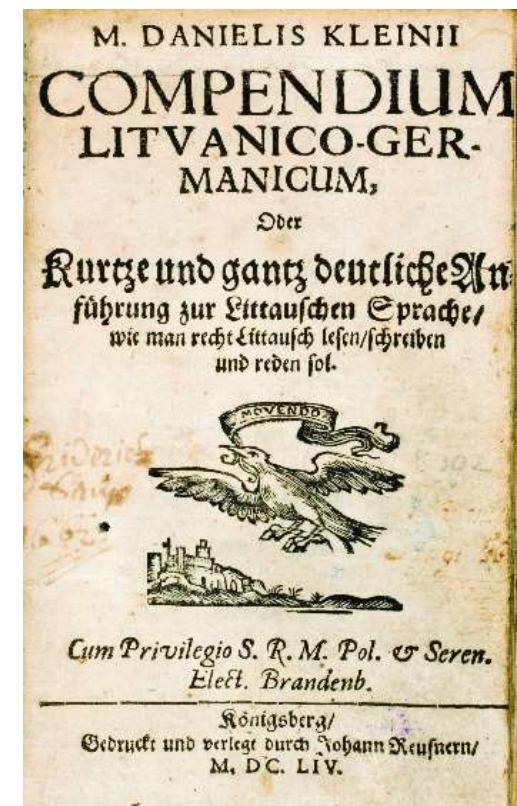
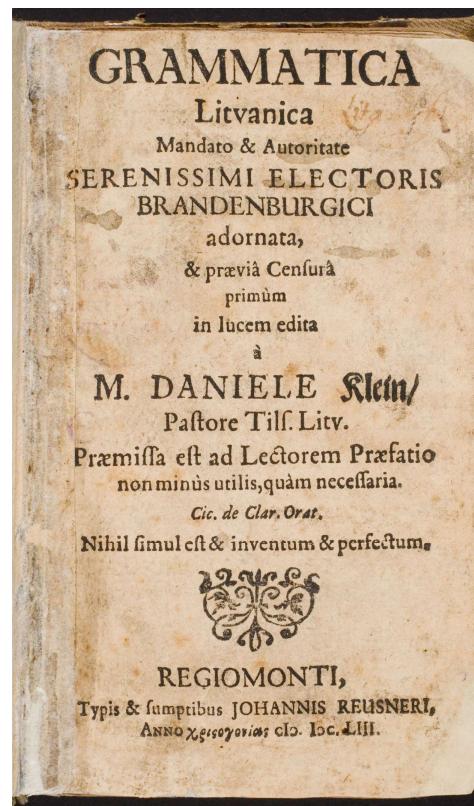
a	ą	ā	ā́	à	A	Ā	À **)
				(niderlitauisch auch ā̄ Ą)			
b	b				B		
c					C		
d					D		
e	ę	é	ę̄	è	E	É	È
	(ę̄ ę̄ é̄ ę̄ ę̄)						
ē	ē̄	ē̄	ē̄	ē̄	Ē	Ē̄	Ē̄
g	ǵ				G		
i	ି	y	ý	ି	I	Y	Ý
j					J		
k	କ				K		
l	ଲ				L		
m	ମ				M		
n	ନ				N		
o	ó				O	ó	
p	p'				P		
r	r'				R		
s	ସ				S		
t					T		
u	ୟ	ú	ୟ	ା	U	Ú	Ú
ū	ୟ̄				Ū	Ū̄	Ū̄
v	v'				V		
z	ଝ ***)				Z		
ž	ଝ̄				Ž		

KIG 1653, KIC 1654

- Daniel Klein (1609—1666)

Hanc Caunenium Dialectum
seqvimur in Ducatu Prusiae,
ut pote omnium optimam &
commodissimam

(KIG 1653, fol. A8v)



KIG 1653, KIC 1654

- The Lithuanian alphabet in the Grammar of Daniel Klein: 22 letters and their allographs (altogether 37):
 - Introduction of <ė> /e:/ in stressed position
ėdžios ‘manger’, *ſėkla* ‘seed’, *tėwas* ‘father’
 - Etymological spelling of the nasal vowels:
ſyfti ‘to send’, *gražu*:ACC.SG ‘pretty’

á	á	à/ ä	g
b			(h)
c	ć	cʒ	i
d			e
é	e	ɛ	l
(f)			m

a.	<i>De Literarum rectâ scriptione & pronunciatione.</i>
n	t
o	u
p	w
r	(r)
s	z
š	ž

KIG 1653, KIC 1654

To be abandoned:

- <f>, <h>, <x>, and <q>
- <tcʒ> and <tʃch> for /tʃ/
- <ʃch> for /ʃ/

To be used:

- <ć> for the soft /tʃ̪/
- <cʒ> for the hard /tʃ/
- <ś> or <fʒ> for /ʃ/
- <ž> for /ʒ/

DK 1595, DP 1599

- Mikalojus Daukša (1527/1538–1613), Catholic theologian and author of the first printed books in Lithuania proper, *Kathechismas* (DK 1595) and *Postilla Catholicka* (DP 1599), was supported by the bishop of Žemaitija Merkeliš Giedraitis:
 - Enrichment of the alphabet through diacritics
 - Letters with accent marks

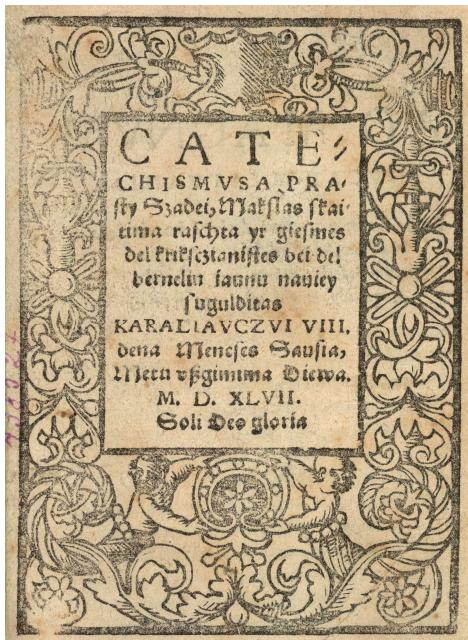
DK 1595		DP 1599	
A a á á à à	M m	A a à á â á à á à á â Á å æ	M m m̄ m̄ m̄ m̄
B b	N n n̄ n̄	B b b̄ b̄ b̄	N n n̄ n̄ n̄ n̄
C c	O o ô ö	C c	O o ò ó ô ö ö ö ö œ
ć	P p	ć č	P p p̄ p̄ p̄
D d	q	D d đ	Q q
E e é è ê è	R r R	E e è é ê è è è é è	R r r̄ r̄
Ę ē	S s ś ſ β	ę	S s ś ś ſ ſ β
F f	T t	F f	T t t̄ t̄
G g	U u ù ü ú ü	G g ḡ ḡ ḡ	U u ù ú ü ú ü ú ü ü ú
H h	V v	H h	V v v̄
I i í ī	W w	I i ì í î ï ì ì	W w w̄ w̄
Y y ü	X	Y y ü	X x
J j	Z z	J j j̄	Z z z̄
K k	Ž ž Ž ž	K k k̄	Ž ž Ž ž Ž ž
L l Ł		L l Ł	

Alphabet in the first Lithuanian printed books in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Catechism (**DK 1595**) and the Postil (**DP 1599**) by Mikalojus Daukša.

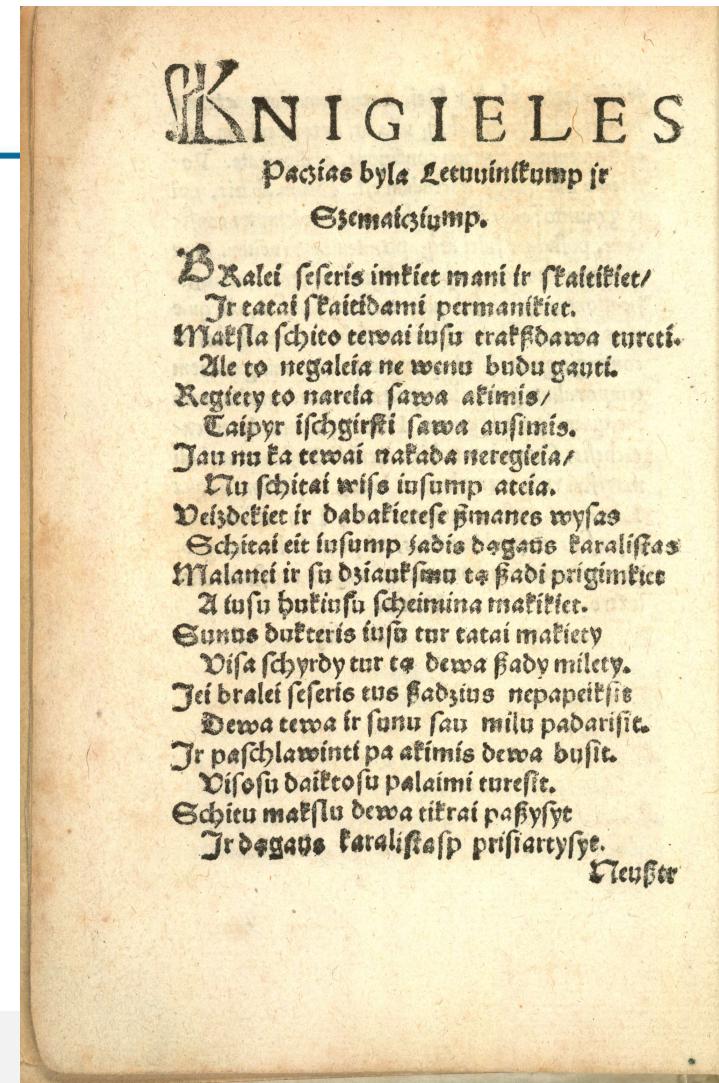
Last upgrade

- Jonas Juška (1815–1886), *Kałbos Lėtuviszko lėžuv'o ir lėtuviszkas statraszimas arba ortograpija* (St. Petersburg, 1861), borrowed two letters from the Czech alphabet:
 - <č> for the voiceless affricate /tʃ, tʃ̥/
 - <š> for the voiceless fricative /ʃ, ſ̥/
- Kazimieras Jaunius (1848–1908):
 - <ž> for the voiced fricative /ʒ, ʒ̥/
 - <ū> /u:/

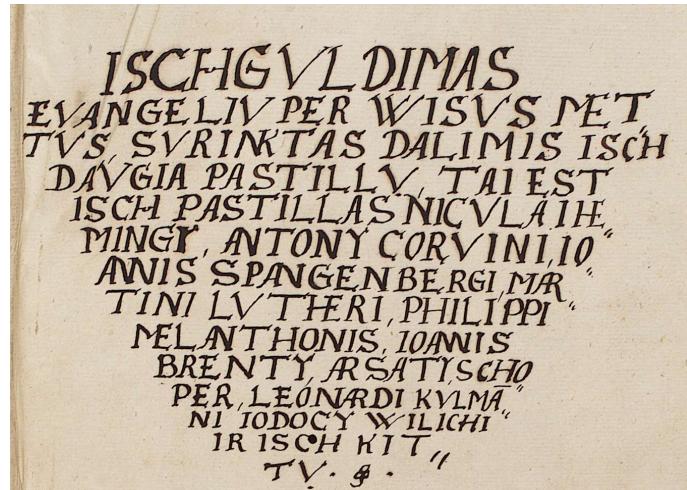
A printed Old Lithuanian text...



MŽK 1547, 8



... and a handwritten one



WP 1573/1574, fol. 1r

Old Lithuanian – Introduction, Part 2

