Official Cyrillic Alphabet for Lithuanian (1864–1904) and its Relation to the Clandestine Standardization of Lithuanian in Latin Script

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Bare Facts

• An insurrection against Russia took place in Poland and Lithuania in 1863.

• Russian authorities decided to distract Lithuanians from the Polish influence by prohibiting the usage of “Polish” script.

• Instead of the traditional “Polish” letters they had offered their own Cyrillic alphabet.

• Russian authorities began publishing Lithuanian Cyrillic books at their own cost.
Cyrillic versus Latin

- **GREEN**—Lithuania
- **PURPLE**—Cyrillic alphabet
- **YELLOW**—Latin and other alphabets
Standardization ideas

• In 1864 as the Latin (“Polish”) letters were prohibited for Lithuanian, there was no single Lithuanian standard as yet. Those Russian functionaries, who strove for the adoption of the Cyrillic letters for Lithuanian, sometimes employed this linguistic condition as their argument.

• “In 1864 N. Novikov believed that introduction of the Russian alphabet implied certain standardization for Lithuanian” (Dolbilov 2004, 128–129).
Statistics, 1864–1904

• 4000 Latin or Gothic script based Lith. publications (2,687 in East Prussia; 712 in the US.). Periodicals not included.

• 60 Lith. publications in Cyrillic script.

4000 : 60
Juška 1867

Lithuanian Folk Songs
Juška’s Alphabet 1867

Литовская народная пьесни.

Aa, Aа, Бб, Вв, Гг, Дд, Дл, Ээ, Ее, Ёё, Єë, Фф, Ее, Жж, Зз, Ии, Йй, Кк, Лл, Мм, Нн, Оо, Пп, Рр, Сс, Тт, Уу, Фф, Хх, Цц, Чч, Щщ, Ьь, Ыы, Ьь, Ээ, Юю, Яя (Іі, Ьъ, Ыу, Ьь)
Juška’s Differencies 1867

- 13 Juška’s letters were absent in the Russian alphabet.
- 13 Russian letters were not taken by Juška.
- 26 letter differences all in all.
Juška: Latin Influence on Cyrillic

Latin → Cyrillic

<û> → <ý>

<ʒ> →

kasztuja → Кыку
jūdas → įдас
jaunoji → įяunoji
Tujai → туйеj
Juška: Latin Influence on Cyrillic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin</th>
<th>→</th>
<th>Cyrillic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;ē&gt;</td>
<td>→</td>
<td>&lt;ē&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;ą&gt;</td>
<td>→</td>
<td>&lt;ę&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;e&gt;</td>
<td>→</td>
<td>&lt;é&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;i&gt;</td>
<td>→</td>
<td>&lt;ɨ&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• At least these letters were influenced by the Latin alphabet:

<ŷ>, <j>, <ê>, <ă>, <ĕ>, <î>
Lithuanian Standard

• In the middle of the 1880’s Lithuanians became aware that they possessed Standard Lithuanian in Latin letters—the illegal standard started becoming noticeable.

• Cf. Serafinas Kušeliauskas; in 1885 he admonished that “one has to tune to the common [i.e. standard] language while writing for Highland and Lowland Lithuanians.” (qtd. after Venckienė).
• This book was published in the environment of the awareness of extant illegal Lithuanian standard in Latin letters

Divine Liturgy
• Latin alphabet order.

Volteris 1887

LITOVSKAYA AZBUKA.

а, ā = ā, a.
б, б’ (b’ = ṃ) = b.
ц = c.
д, ㄷ = d, d̆.
э, ē, ē = e.
i̊, i̊ = Ė, Ė.
г, г’ = g, gi.
i, ì, ɣ, j = i, j, u.
к, क (ki) = k, ki.
l, ɬ = l, l.
m, м = m, m̆.
н, ɲ = n, ni.
ня = носовое произношение
гласныхъ a, o, e, i, y.
o (всегда = o) = o.
п, ɲ = p, p̆.
p, ɺ = r, r̆.
c, ɕ = ci = s, si.
ш = š, sz.
t, ɭ = t, t̆.
ч (тш) = č (cz).
y, ù = u, ŭ.
ý (yo) = ų.
з = z.
ж = ž, ź.
дж = dž.
в = w.
Volteris 1887

- In effect, the impact of Standard Lithuanian is evident in these graphemes at least:
- š, š, ė, į, į, ķ, ķ

Naują grišban padėjęs (Recent Stand. Lith.)

(No Russian <и>)
Volteris: a Comparison
Still these two books were the exceptions. But they were published in Saint Petersburg by the Russian Imperial Academy of Sciences! They set the tone! Others felt encouraged to use the Russian alphabet for Lithuanian with much less restrain.
Juška ’67 & Volteris ’87

• These two exceptionally Latin looking Cyrillic proposals for a Lithuanian way of writing had continuation in other publications—this is the most important result, which helps tracing the influence of illegal Standard Lithuanian.

• Since 1891 most of the new Lithuanian Cyrillic books contained more or fewer traces of Standard Lithuanian.
Continuation of Impact
Schiekopp 1879 → Litovsk. Gr. 1891

Schiekopp, Litauische Elementar-Grammatik

Литовская Грамматика
Schiekopp 1879→Litovsk. Gr. 1891

- <e>
- <j>
- <ŷ>

= ūo (Stand Lith.)
Schiekopp 1879→Litovsk. Gr. 1891

- `<e> → <è>`
- `<ę> → <e>`
Schiekopp 1879 → Litovsk. Gr. 1891

ACCENTUATION

maŭčios → маўчйос
raŭkom → раўком
waïkpalaïkis → ваўк- палаўкіс
wìrsiu → вірсю
Our Father and Prayers
The Holy History
Impact

• We have evident proof that the clandestine Standard Lithuanian made strong impact on its Cyrillic competitor.

• Direction of the impact was only Latin $\rightarrow$ Cyrillic.

• The idea of the Russian functionaries’ about Cyrillic standardization of Lithuanian never came to fruition.
Impact

• My presentation is about the influence of illegal Standard Lithuanian on the official way of writing in Cyrillic Lithuanian. Yet I did not consider several other models used to write in Cyrillic.

• But after the impact of clandestine Standard Lithuanian became obvious, no new books appeared without the traces of it.
Impact of Stand. Lith. on Cyrillic
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