

1. Austrian Emperor Joseph II (1761-90), who, as co-regent with his mother Maria Theresa, participated in the 1st partition of the Republic of Poland and Lithuania. — Austrian Emperor Francis II, Maria Theresa's son.

2. Father Hugo Kollataj (1750-1812), a noted Polish statesman and Lithuanian referendar from 1787 to 1791. — Svytas lochy politikas ir Lietuvos referendaras kun. Hugo Kollatajus.

3. A Polish stamp commemorating the Constitution of 1791. — Lenkijos patis konstitucijos paminklas.

## LITHUANIAN HISTORY IN STAMPS

Part XLV

ANTANAS BERNOTAS, Waterbury, Conn.

After the first partition, everybody in the Republic was stunned and did not know what to do. King Poniatowski looked for help abroad, but nobody wanted to step out against the 3 mighty allies. On the wishes of the allies, King Poniatowski called the sejm together in 1773. Russian sympathizers and bribetakers made up the bulk of the participants — people who had accepted the partition of the Republic. The sejm asked the allied states to watch over the remaining part of the Republic. But this "patronage" was later taken over by Russia alone.

The sejm of 1773-75, at the behest of Russia, made many reforms in the administration of the Republic. It installed the institution of the Permanent Council, made up of 18 senators and 18 representatives (one third Lithuanians, two thirds Poles), with the king as chairman. The council gave directions in the administration of the Republic. King Poniatowski, hated at first, gradually became more influential among the nobility.

Likewise, an Educational Commission was created, which took over all educational affairs in the Republic. In Lithuania one high school was created at Vilnius and 23 other schools elsewhere. There also existed many parochial and monastic grammar schools, and a teachers' seminary was opened in Vilnius. The confiscated properties of the Jesuit Order were turned over to this new commission. A military college was opened at Warsaw, and two other schools for cadets in Lithuania.

In this period growing attention was also given to bolstering the country's economical welfare. Canals were excavated, connecting the Baltic and the Black Seas. Ogonski's Canal, connecting the rivers Nemunas and Neris, was also dredged. A Lithuanian industrialist, Anthony Tischenhaus, built several small factories in Gardinas and other places, manufacturing badly needed goods for the country.

Meanwhile, Russia involved herself in a war with Turkey for the Crimea and her political pressure decreased. She withdrew her Army of the Republic. It was a very suitable moment to shake off Russian "patronage."

Therefore, the new sejm, called

together in 1788-91, made new reforms again: It abolished the Permanent Council (dominated by the Russians) and created a new one, the Guardianship of the Laws (5 ministers representing Poland and Lithuania); It abolished the Librum Veto in the sejms, gave more rights to the townspeople (they could send their representatives to the sejm also), but the status of the peasants remained unchanged. They still remained in serfdom, unless a particular landowner elected to free his own. One of the most important reformers was Father Hugo Kollataj, the Vice Chancellor of Poland and Referendar of Lithuania.

The above mentioned sejm drew up and adopted a new constitution, which was proclaimed on May 3rd, 1791. But the sejm could not complete all of the planned reforms, because the Russians, having concluded the war with the Turks, had a free hand again. Aided by a part of the Polish noblemen, who were opposing the new reforms and who were grouped into the Targovica confederation, they attacked the Republic anew with a force of 64,000 men in 1792.

King Poniatowski resisted the Russians, but his small army was soon beaten and dispersed. The Russian army occupied Lithuania again, the remnants of the Lithuanian troops withdrew to Poland and the confederates came to power in Lithuania. The king asked Prussia and Austria for help, but these two neighbors, busy with their own affairs, refused. Then the king gave up and conceded to the "patronage" of Catherine II again.

Meanwhile, Russia renewed the secret negotiations with Prussia and Austria for the next partition of the Republic. These negotiations were ended on January 23, 1793, with the second partition of the Republic of Poland and Lithuania. Russia received all of the Polish Ukraine, and carved from Lithuania the whole valvodeship of Minsk and parts of the valvodeships of Vilnius, Naugardukas and Brasta. Prussia took large areas from Poland, including the cities of Danzig (Gdansk), Torun, Poznan and Gniezno. The Russians had already occupied their share. The Prussians could now occupy theirs without any resistance. (To be continued)

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