



## 1 Introduction: The daily postmarks of Lithuania since 1990

Do you like playing detective? Well, collecting and sorting Lithuania's stamps from 1990 onwards requires detective-like verve. The variety of different types, local deviations from standard types and often unattractive, poorly legible cancellations challenge the detective in you.

The confusing variety of stamps would be understandable for the first years of the regained independence, but not for the later years. Parallels to the flood of types of the first republic, which was difficult to sort out, suggest themselves.

The following presentation is intended to encourage you to occupy yourself with this field of collecting. In recent years, Bernhard Fels, Daumantas Kiulkys and other philatelists in particular have collected, sifted and processed material with the help of electronic data processing. The work is now well advanced and our goal partly realised: An **ordered digital database of Lithuania's modern stamp illustrations has appeared on the Internet**. It contains overview tables (Excel) of the postmarks of all Lithuanian postal locations in alphabetical order and, where available, usage data and images of postmarks as well as covers. First of all, the rubber postmarks from 1994 onwards are included, with more than 6000 images. This database can be viewed by anyone via a link on the website of the ArGe BALTİKUM and, if desired, downloaded to one's own hard disk. In the future, the database can be expanded indefinitely with images of newly discovered postmarks. If you find new stamps, please send images as scans of 300 or better 600 dpi to the authors at [bfels@gmx.de](mailto:bfels@gmx.de) or [m.bech@t-online.de](mailto:m.bech@t-online.de). We will take care of the insertion. This would create a basis and hopefully also motivation for philatelists to deal with the topic "Lithuanian daily postmarks since 1990".

This publication you have at hand is twofold: An extended **handbook** to the subject, you may say a continuation of the publication "Poststempel in Litauen / Postal markings in Lithuania 1918 - 1940/41" by V. Fugalevičius. Examples of images are sufficient, thanks to the internet. It is no longer necessary to depict all postmarks, which can be seen in the database. Secondly you have a **companion book** to the internet database giving extended explanation to the images of postmarks and covers.

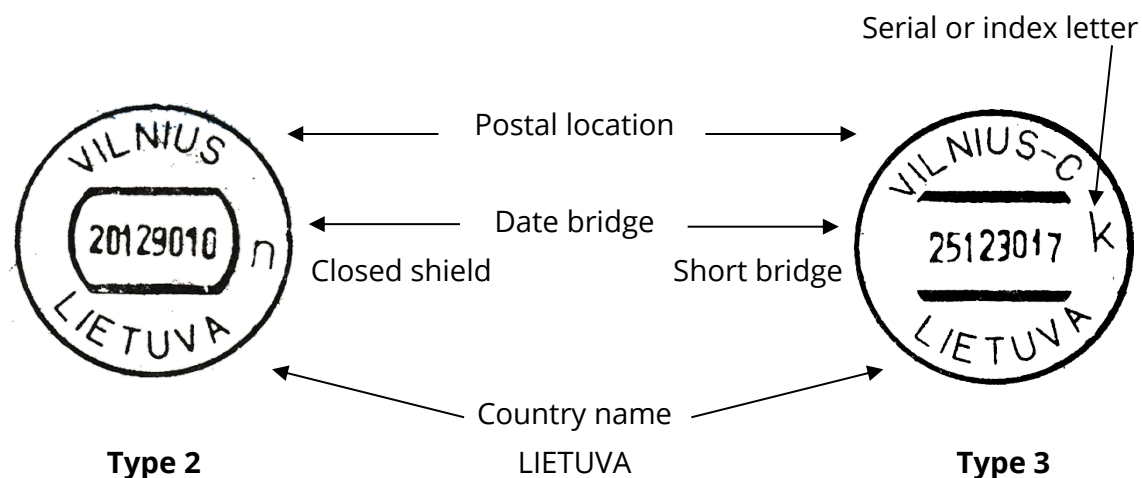
## Naming of cancellation's characteristics



### Reworked (altered) former Soviet metal stamps (type 2 and 3):

In 1990, during the transition period to Lithuanian independence, the state postal administration had a large number of old Soviet steel stamps with a diameter of 30 mm radically reworked by completely removing all inscriptions and inserting new Lithuanian designations. The date order was altered in following times from old Soviet style day-month-year to the Lithuanian way year-month-day, sometimes time indication added.

### Naming of cancellation characteristics / metal stamps:



The metal stamps made of brass or steel suffered from corrosion, they were mainly bad readable on ordinary letters, not so joyful for collecting (see illustrations of defective postmarks on page 16).

Philatelic cover sent from Palanga 10.4. 91 to a Ger-man journal; the postmark is not type 2 with closed shield, but type 3 with short bridges and rest of the old soviet device.

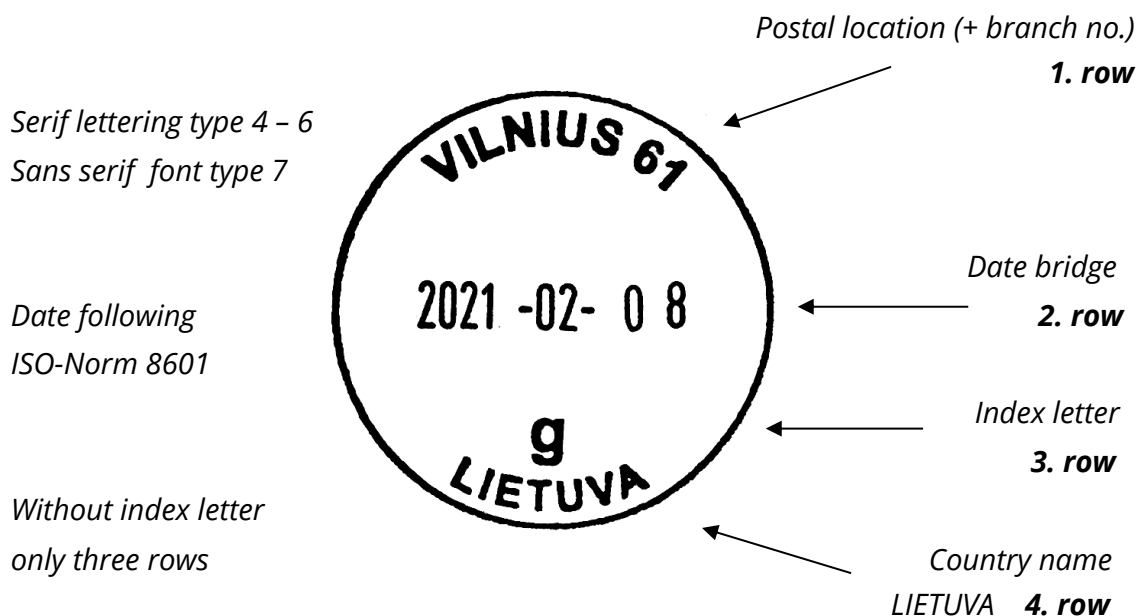




### Rubber stamp since 1994, made by the Austrian companies TRODAT (type 4, 5) and COLOP (type 6, 7):

From 1994 onwards, the reworked metal stamps were replaced by rubber stamps from the TRODAT or later COLOP company. They have a uniform format with serif lettering (types 4-6) and since 2020 sans serif font (type 7).

#### ***Naming of cancellation characteristics / gum stamps:***



Because of chemical corrosion the rubber stamp lost its shape in many cases (see illustrations on page 17).

### **Systematization of Lithuanian daily postmarks from 1990 onwards**

For the **typification** of the day stamps, which we have carried out here for the first time, we have applied certain distinguishing criteria: Material of the stamping devices (metal or rubber), design, diameter, font and size, length of the country name LIETUVA, date lines, postal locations and distinguishing letters of the stamps (also known as index or serial letters, in German Unterscheidungs-buchstaben=UB). On the basis of the large digital database of B. Fels, we were able to group the Lithuanian date stamps into seven types, each of which is distinguished from the others by clearly identifiable characteristics. What simplifies the classification: All Lithuanian day stamps are single-circle stamps. This



article describes the characteristic features of each type of stamp that clearly define it and distinguish it from the other types. A complicating factor was that the rubber cancellations lost their shape slightly until about 2008, see this extreme example on page 10. With the introduction of the new rubber stamp type 6 in the same year, the "wild time" of the stamp shapes seems to be over, but caused by privatization and new services of Lietuvos Paštas a couple of new types appeared.



**Sub-types:** As with the stamps of the First Republic, variations occur within a type. Postmarks with characteristic, easily recognizable variations within a type are grouped together as subtypes a, b, c, d. The most frequent postmarks of a type have the letter a,

so to speak. The example here shows two rubber postmarks of type 5 with a diameter of 29 mm and hyphens in the date line, type 5a with normal figures (left) and type 5b (right) with an exchanged larger date line.



**See all  
types 1 - 7  
at a glance**



**Type 1**

*Provisionals  
erased inscriptions*



**2**

*Reworked Soviet metal stamps  
with date shield / short bridge*



**3**



**type 4**

*TRODAT-  
rubber stamps  
without hyphen  
serif font*



**5**

*TRODAT  
rubber stamps  
with hyphen  
serif font*



**6**

*COLOP-  
rubber stamps  
shorter LIETUVA  
serif font*



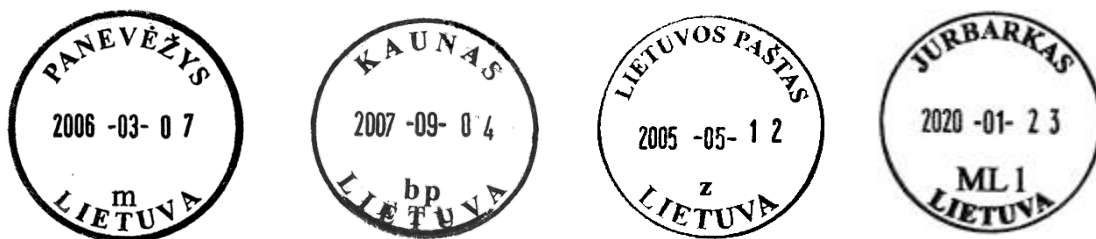
**7**

*COLOP  
rubber stamps  
small capital letters  
sans serif font*

**Type 5a: Date line with hyphens, LIETUVA 16.5-22 mm long, diameter 29 mm**

Type 5a is the most common one. Its characteristics correspond to those of type 4, only now with hyphens. The earliest known stamp is dated September 1998 from TELŠIAI. The majority are found with stamp impressions from 2000 till 2013, seldom later (exceptions see p. 67).

**Variants of type 5a** with slightly different letter shapes and sizes occur. A total of 13 variants are known, four of which are shown in Figure above. The full range of variations see on pages 60/61.

**Type 5b: From 2003 onwards, date bridge with hyphens, now higher and wider**

This type of stamp is also not dimensionally stable. Oval-shaped stampings are frequent (right). Maybe they were produced locally.

**Type 5c: Diameter of 32-33 mm instead of 29-30 mm (oversized 39 mm)**

Uniformly larger diameter of 32-33 mm; dimensions of the date line, size and shape of the letters vary. The figure shows three examples, varying in letter and digit sizes. Some oversized examples with a diameter of 39 mm:





### Self-inking stamp of the company COLOP (Wels/Austria) for new types 6 & 7

Printer R 30 dater (diameter 30 mm), "Printer Line Dater Round" product series  
Working method using the VILNIUS 61 g stamping device, also used for type 5a\*  
(photos Ž. Ledas)

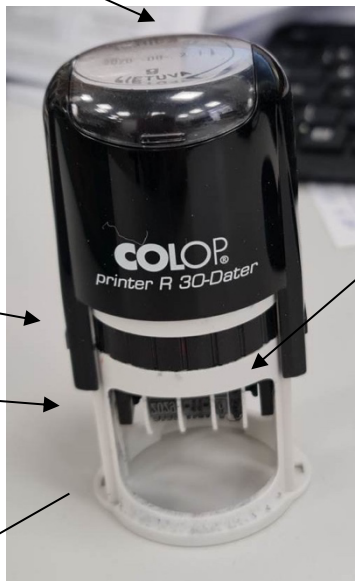


Viewing window with image of the stamp impression

1

The stamp is pressed down

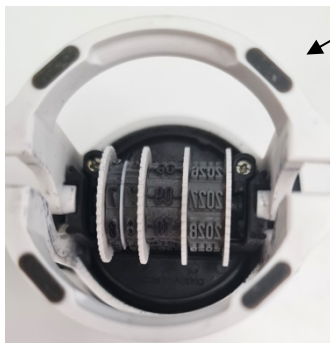
Dye pad (interchangeable)  
Date roller (idle state)



Stamp plate, not visible when at rest, pressed against the ink pad

seen from below

extended  
Punch plate  
seen from below



2

... and the punch lath turns 180° as it moves downwards, touches down on the base and leaves an imprint ...



3

... When the stamp slide is released, it is driven upwards, the stamp plate is rotated again and pressed against the ink pad, so that it is inked again for the next impression.





## 6 New Organisational Structures – New Postmarks

The privatisation of the Lithuanian Post since 2006 has been accompanied by its restructuring. This is documented in the stamp inscriptions. The process of reconstructing is still going on. You can find a more detailed description on our website [www.arge-baltikum.de](http://www.arge-baltikum.de) under the keyword "Lithuania, collecting area Independent Lithuania since 1990".

*The main restructuring measures:*

As in other countries, **post offices** have been and are being **closed**, especially in rural areas. In the cities, they are increasingly being moved to **shopping centres** to be close to customers. Some postmarks show the name of the mall in the top line as from "PANEVEŽIO BASANAČIAUS" in the city of PANEVEŽYS in block letters.



As an additional replacement for the closed branches, from May 2017 onwards the service of **mobile postal delivery** with motor vehicles has been renewed and modernised, through which postal items in rural areas can be delivered more quickly or ordered individually by customers. These deliverers use special stamps, recognisable by the **letters ML** ("Mobilusis Laiškininkas", mobile delivery), which precede the letter of distinction.



### **Type 6d: Mobile post offices with inscription KILNOJAMASIS**

In order to maintain basic services in the countryside, the network of **mobile post offices** was expanded from 2008 onwards with small trucks that travel along fixed routes. Since then, letters posted there can be recognised by the stamp with a long upper line in smaller letters (2mm) and the addition KILNOJAMASIS / "mobile". This service is not to be confused with the individual mail carriers!



### **Type 6e: two-line text sheet on top for post office extensions, extra-long place names and other postal departments**

Partly newly founded, partly through the conversion of smaller post offices. As end of 2009, these branches have a standardised 5-line stamp with the inscription "POSKYRIS" (= sub-department, branch). Extension no. 1 of VILNIUS 11 post office:





## 5. 2. Christmas postmarks

A special Lithuanian feature are the splendid colored Christmas postmarks, a popular collecting area!! First used on 4.12.1994 in ten different post offices: ALYTUS, KAUNAS, KLAIPĖDA, MARIJAMPOLĖ, PALANGA, PANEVĖŽYS, ŠIAULIAI, TAURAGĖ, TELŠIAI and VILNIUS, later also in DRUSKININKAI, UTENA and VILNIUS PPC distribution center. Pay attention: The green color is light-sensitive and susceptible to oxidation. It can turn to violet, blue (yellow part missing) or black by complete oxidation! The color can also be water-soluble!

*Type W1a: Large Christmas day stamp with a diameter of 39 mm, two-color in green-red, inscription KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS, 2x4 stars (on lower left and right side).*

*Type W1b: Inscription KALĖDINIS PAŠTAS, only 2x3 stars contained the Christmas cancels from MARIJAMPOLĖ and PANEVĖŽYS.*

*Type W2a: From 2003 in some post offices also with modified inscription KALĖDŲ PAŠTAS (Christmas mail) and 2x4 large stars like type W1.*

*Type W2b: inscription KALĖDŲ PAŠTAS, now with smaller stars in changing number: 2x7, 2x8 or 2x9. Type W1 and W2 were used side by side, not all cities had all types.*

*Type W3: New Christmas postmarks with a smaller diameter of 29 mm, first used in 2010 in red or green with single or double circle, from 1.12.2012 onwards used at twelve post offices as daytime postmarks only in green as single circle postmarks.*



Type W1a



type W1b



type W2a





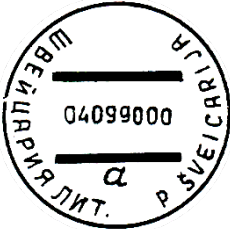
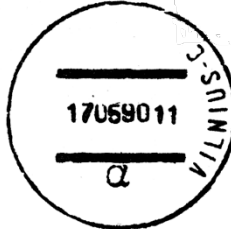





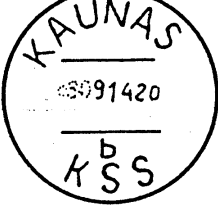


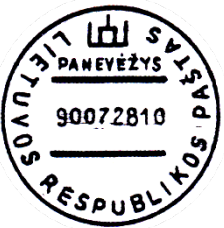


type W2b



type W3 in green and red





Table of Postmark types with page Indication			
Continuous used Soviet postmarks		Adapted Soviet postmarks	
			
Older Soviet type page 25	Newer Soviet type page 26	<b>Type 1a</b> Different adaptation	<b>Type 1b</b> page 27
Recasted Soviet metal postmarks			
			
<b>Type 2a</b> Date shield, page 35	<b>Type 2b</b> Chalkboard, page 37	<b>Type 3a</b> Short bridge, page 38	<b>Type 3b</b> Chalkboard, page 41
Cyrillic serial letters		Kaunas branches	Vilnius PPC
			
<b>Type 3c</b> Cyrillic index letter, page 43		<b>Type 3d</b> Postal branches p.44	Distribution center metal stamp, p. 47
Type 3 Locally made steel postmarks		TRODAT rubber-pmk without hyphen	
			
<b>Kaunas Centras</b> & branch offices p.45	<b>Panėvežys</b> Special pmk. page 48	<b>Type 4</b> Standard pmk. p. 52	<b>Type 4*</b> Dots in date, page 56

TRODAT rubber- postmarks with hyphen, Ø 29-30 mm			
<b>Type 5a</b> Standard pmk,p.59	<b>Type 5a</b> Var.: fat circle, p. 60	<b>Type 5a*</b> „Retro“ since 2015, p. 68	<b>Type 5d</b> low case letters p. 71
Mobile service	Local variations in figures, letters and diameters		
<b>Type 5a*</b> page 70/91	<b>Type 5b</b> Big date bridge, p.63	<b>Type 5c</b> Wider Ø 32-33 mm small figures, p. 64	<b>Type 5c</b> Ø 32-33 mm Big figures, p. 64
COLOP rubber-postmarks fresh design since 2008			Mobile post office
<b>Type 6a</b> Fat circle, page 81	<b>Type 6b</b> With points, page 82	<b>Type 6c</b> Thin circle, p.83	<b>Type 6d</b> Small top line, p. 93
Two upper lines	Without serifes	Distribution cntr.	Steel trial Type
<b>Typ 6e</b> Branch office, p. 95	<b>Type 7a</b> Locality pmk. p. 101	<b>Type 7b</b> Long top line, p. 105	<b>Trial Type 2001</b> page 111'7