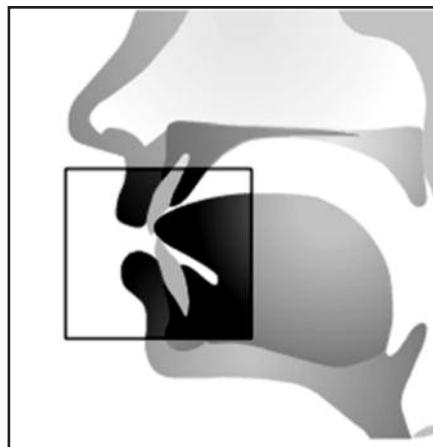


Speaking Lithuanian

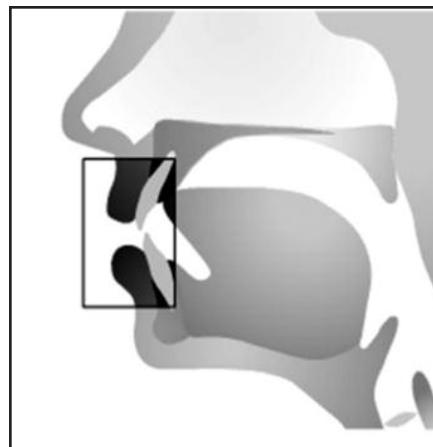
Pronunciation of consonants d, t, and n.

JONAS DAUGIRDAS

Many children of Lithuanian families who were raised in America pronounce certain consonants when speaking Lithuanian in a way that makes their spoken Lithuanian quickly identifiable as non-native. One little discussed problem that can cause American Lithuanian to sound markedly different from native Lithuanian is the americanized way that certain consonants are pronounced, especially the letters "d", "t", and "n".



How the consonant "d" is pronounced in Spanish, which is similar to how it is pronounced in Lithuanian, in a "dental" fashion.



How the consonant "d" is pronounced in American English, in a "lingua-alveolar" fashion.

Reproduced with permission from: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/spanish/frameset.html>

What are the differences between how Americans and Lithuanians pronounce these three consonants? In American English, the consonants are pronounced by the "lingua-alveolar" method. What does this mean? The University of Iowa phonology website shows a comparison of how consonants are pronounced in American English, German, and Spanish. Under the American English section, one can see how the tongue is placed to make an American English "t" or "d" or "n" sound here: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/english/frameset.html>. Click on the tabs labeled "manner" and "place", and then on the consonants desired. Basically, for each of these consonants, the tongue comes forward and touches the upper hard palate, behind the front teeth, but not the front teeth. In contrast, in Lithuanian these three consonants are pronounced in a "dental" fashion. The sound is made with the tongue pressed against the back of the front teeth. Then, in forming the vowel that follows, the lips also participate, bringing the sound to the very front of the mouth. This is similar to how these consonants are pronounced in Spanish. You can see an animation of how the Spanish pronounce "d", "t", and "n" as "dental" consonants, here <http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/spanish/frameset.html>

Follow "modo" and "occlusivas" for the "d" and "t" sounds, and "nasales" for the "n" sound. One observation: these animations for Spanish pronunciation show the tongue being pressed against the back of the upper front teeth only; when I pronounce these consonants in Lithuanian, my tongue is pressed against the backs of both the lower and upper front teeth, with the tip of my tongue against the backs of the lower front teeth.

Also, Americans aspirate the sounds "t" and to a lesser extent "d". This means that they use more air than necessary to pronounce the consonant. As described in *Russian for Dummies* by Kaufman and Gettys, linguists define aspiration is "a burst of air that comes out of your mouth as you say these sounds. To see what we're talking about, put your hand in front of your mouth and say the word 'top.' You should feel air against your hand as you pronounce the word." In Lithuanian, as in Russian, consonants (this also applies to "p" and "k") are pronounced without aspiration. What one needs to do when pronouncing "t" is to relax one's tongue and lips, and use only the amount of air needed to pronounce the consonant, not letting any air slip by the tongue. There should be no puff of air when you say your "t" sounds in Lithuanian. In other words, "say it, don't spray it."

I do believe that in our Lithuanian Saturday schools, where Lithuanian is being taught to American-born children, more attention needs to be paid to pronunciation. Americanized pronunciation of Lithuanian consonants can be easily fixed, but it must first be recognized as correctable.

References and links:

- 1) Schmalstieg WR. Standard Lithuanian and Its Dialects. *Lituanus* 28: 1982. http://www.lituanus.org/1982_1/82_1_02.htm
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 - a) Phonetics: The Sounds of American English. <http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/english/index.html>
 - b) Fonética: Los sonidos de español. <http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/spanish/frameset.html>
- 3) *Russian for Dummies*, 2d Edition. Andrew Kaufman and Serafima Gettys. Wiley Publishing, Hoboken, NJ, 2012. *Sounding Like a Real Russian with Proper Pronunciation*. <http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/sounding-like-a-real-russian-with-proper-pronunciation.html>

Can You Identify These Fifteen in a Million?

Help us solve the mystery of this who's who

A Petition for Lithuanian Independence

Whereas, Lithuania was for ages an independent State, whose inhabitants, a distinct ethnic group, have never renounced their right to independence;

Whereas, the establishment of an independent Lithuanian State would add materially to the future peace of the world;

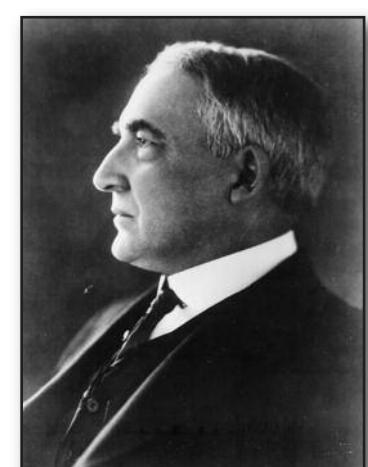
We, the undersigned, ask for the people of Lithuania those rights of self-determination that are the declared war aims of the United States, and which have been granted to the oppressed peoples of other countries.

We respectfully request the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES and the SECRETARY OF STATE to extend to the Lithuanian Government formal recognition, based not only on these grounds of justice, but that through this, they may the better be able to withstand the attempts of the present regime of Russia or any other alien government to impose a foreign rule upon them.

NAME	ADDRESS
Antanas Obrehtski	3251 S. Halsted St.
H. M. Packur, M.D.	1411 So. 50 th Ave., Cicero Ill.
Mrs. Katherine Packur,	1411 So. 50 th Ave., Cicero Ill.
Rev. Alex. Skrypta	4557 So. Wood St.
Ignatas K. Salgalas	2334 S. Oakley Ave.
Leonardas Simaitis	222 So. 9 th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
Per. Dr. Alorius	717 W. 18 th St., Chicago, Ill.
Dr. A. Bariska	2745 W. 44 th St., Chicago, Ill.
Rev. F. Klemotis	85th St., Nichols.
Antanas Juknaičius	94 Park Ave., Memphis, Tenn.
Jurgis J. Hermanavicius	3631 Wallace St.
Dr. C. J. Grinmantas	6806 Cornell Ave.
Stanislovas Jokubaitis	3112 S. Halsted St., Chicago, Ill.
Dr. A. Grigasius	3310 So. Halsted St., Chicago, Ill.
Johannes Elias	10540 Longwood Drive

This petition ended up in President Harding's White House

The road to Lithuania's independence was a long and arduous one. Since the initial declaration of independence on February 16, 1918 it has been a struggle which has seen its victories and disappointments. One of the initial hurdles that had to be overcome was obtaining *de jure* recognition of its statehood from the United States government. Lithuanian American organizations across America collected one-million signatures which were presented to President Harding in the White House, requesting that he and the Secretary of State recognize the newly formed Lithuanian government. Recognition came almost four years after Lithuania declared its independence. *Draugas News* obtained a copy of one page from this historic petition. The page contains signatures of 15 prominent Lithuanian Americans of that time. How many of them can you identify? In future issues of *Draugas News* will attempt to discern who these historic personages were.



Lithuania Post issued two new postage stamps to commemorate the XXI Winter Olympic Games beginning on February 7 in Sochi. They feature a bobsledders and ice-hockey players. The nominal value of the first stamp is LTL2.15, and of the second stamp is LTL2.90. The stamps dedicated to the Sochi Olympic Games has been created by the artist Irma Balakauskaité.

Going Once, Going Twice...

Art historian Stasys Goštautas shares his impressions of the first cyber art auction held in Manhattan at the historic Lithuanian Alliance of America building

It is a small and at the same time an accomodating hall – a Lithuanian art gallery, a concert hall and a home for movie buffs. It is a Lithuanian cultural oasis in the middle of Manhattan, New York. I am referring, of course, to the historic Lithuanian Alliance of America Building at the intersection of 30th Street and 8th Avenue, specifically identified as 307 W. 30th Street, situated one block from Madison Square Garden and New York's venerable Penn Central Station. This is not only the home of the Lithuanian Alliance of America and the Lithuanian National Foundation, but it is also the home of the Consul General of Lithuania. The Lithuanian patriarch Jonas Basanavičius visited here in 1913 and Lithuania's Foreign minister was here but a few months ago. There is a sense of a surreal time warp here. One only needs to remember that its lower level houses one of the oldest Lithuanian archives in the country.

In order to finance repairs and upgrades for this historic building, an art auction was recently sponsored on its behalf. I believe it is the first time in the US that a Lithuanian art auction took place online in cyberspace. It should be noted that all the proceeds from the auction were to be earmarked and allocated exclusively for repairs and upgrades to the premises. The project was coordinated by Laima Dalangauskaitė Mihailovich and local Lithuanian artists.

Especially worthy of mention are the students of famed artist Kęstutis Zapkus: Ieva Martinaitytė-Mediodia, Julius Ludavičius and Aidas Bareikis. Thanks to the efforts of Kęstutis Zapkus some of the students received Fulbright Scholarships and studied at Hunter College. Of the 12 undergraduate Zapkus stu-

dents from Vilnius, it is worth noting that Žilvinas Kempinas last year received the highest cultural award given in Lithuania – the Lithuanian National Culture and Arts Award. But I digress.

The auction encompassed some 52 works of Lithuanian artists including paintings, prints, and sculptures. Although a significant number of works in this collection were by established emigre artists – A. Tamošaitienė, P. Lapė, V. Ignas, A. Mončys, E. Urbaitytė, Č. Janušas, J. Sodaitis, V. Krištolaitytė, Ž. Miksys, and K. Zapkus – but by far the largest number of works were by young enthusiastic artists who began joining the ranks of emigre artists in New York over the course of the last decade.

Contemporary Lithuanian art is global and has little to do with any one nation or individual. It is impossible to discuss all the work in detail, except to note that each of them is full of coincidences and control, which in turn only contemporary artists can fathom. Much is hidden from the observer, much remains mysterious, inscrutable, but questioning the painter's choice of color would be futile. All the works of art were donated by art collectors (Renata Alinskienė and Rožė Šomkaitė were especially generous in this regard), or the artists themselves. In addition to the three aforementioned Zapkus students, artworks also contributed by A. Kulikauskas, L. Sprangauskaitė, Jonas Vaida, R. Pranckūnaitė, G. Kalinauskas, and photographer R. Požerskis. A number of works were provided by the late Vladas Žilys. Of particular note was a 1969 untitled oil painting by Kazys Šimonis.

Photographs of the works, together with the artists' biographies, were uploaded to a dedicated website, where would-be buyers could bid and compete for their selected artwork.

The auction, we are

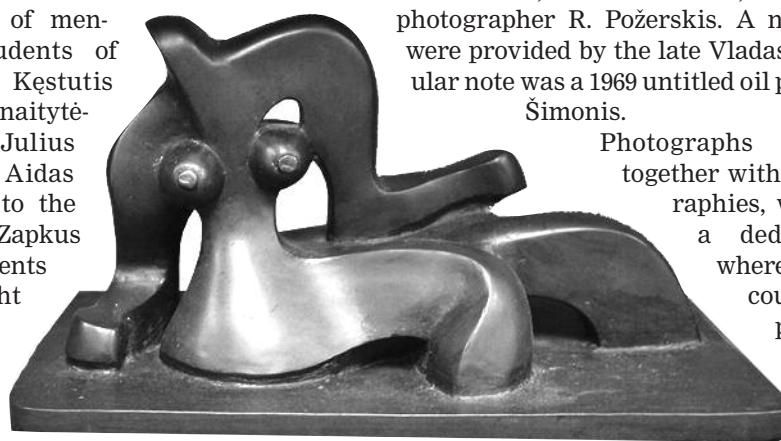


Tom Mediodia and Kęstutis Zapkus at the Lithuanian Alliance of America art gallery in Mid-town Manhattan.

told by the organizers, was highly successful. At least one more auction is planned for this year. Once updated information becomes available, it will be shared with our readers.

The number of works by diaspora artists are becoming rare, and this auction was a unique opportunity to acquire some of the works by well established artists who regrettably are no longer with us. The auction could be described as an art collectors' holiday. Lemont, Los Angeles, and Boston, take heed as New York is setting the pace for promoting the arts and supporting our cultural centers.

While the auction is over, as of this printing you may still view the art works online at www.artatsla.com.



Bronze. Gediminas Kalinauskas.

Speaking Lithuanian: “Fat L” vs. “Skinny L”

Jonas Daugirdas

In the January 2014 issue of *Draugas News*, I discussed the differences in pronouncing the consonants “d,” “t,” and “n” in Lithuanian vs. English. To review, in English, those consonants are “alveolar,” said with the tongue tip pressed against the upper hard palate; plus, in English these consonants are “aspirated,” which means that more air is used in saying them than is needed. In Lithuanian the “d,” “t,” and “n” sounds are “dental,” said with the tongue tip against the back of the front teeth, and no extra air is used.

Another common problem of non native Lithuanian speakers trying to learn the language has to do with how they pronounce their “Ls.” In English, L is pronounced almost always as a “fat L”. Where the tip of the tongue is, is a bit controversial. Websites say that the tip of the tongue is against the (upper) “gum ridge.” Not for me. When I say it, the tip of my tongue is against the back of the lower front teeth. But the main way to produce a “fat L” is to use the sides of the tongue as well as the tip; the sides of the tongue move forward a bit to fill the space in the back of the teeth to make the

“L” sound “fat.” In Spanish, French, or German, “L” has a variety of sounds, but in most cases is pronounced as a “skinny L.” The tongue often is up against the upper gum ridge, but the main difference is, that only the tip of the tongue is used in making the sound, the sides of the tongue don’t participate. This makes for a “skinny,” thinner and more delicate, “L” sound. It is a soft “L.”

I remember going to South America for a World Lithuanian Youth Congress, and meeting Lithuanians who grew up in Argentina, and then, years later, to a similar youth congress in Europe, where I met Lithuanians who grew up in France or Germany. The Lithuanian spoken by some of the South Americans and Europeans sounded quite different, as they would speak Lithuanian almost exclusively using the “skinny L.” On the other hand, Americans would say all Lithuanian words using a “fat L.”

What about Lithuanian? In Lithuanian, the usage of “fat L” vs. “skinny L” is about 50:50. What determines whether a “fat L” or a “skinny L” should be used? The vowel that follows. If the vowel that follows is an “a,” “o,” or “u,” then one uses a “fat L”. For example: *kuolas*, *kuolo*, *kuolu*. These words all are pronounced using “fat Ls.”

Now, if the vowel that follows is “e,” “i,” or “y,” a “skinny L” should be used; for example: *balionas*, *balerina*, *bailys*. What makes this tricky is, that even if there is more than one consonant after the “L”, the choice between fat and skinny L still will depend (in most cases) on the vowel that follows. For examples: *valdovas* (fat); *valdė* (skinny); *valdyti* (skinny); *valdžia* (skinny).

Think you got it? After each of the following words, write whether a “fat L” or a “skinny L” should be voiced (write F for “fat” and S for “skinny”):

bulius **bilietas** **bulka** **kaltas**
kaltė **kaltinti** **kalė** **valo** **valio**
valytuvas **valentinas** **valgo** **valgyti**
valgiau **balvonas** **bulvė** **žilas**
žalias **žolė** **žulikas** **žalsvas**

Answers:

zalias S, **žolė** S, **žulikas** S, **žalsvas** F
valgo F, **valgyti** S, **valgai** S, **valvonas** F, **bulvė** S, **žiliai** F
kalinti S, **kalė** S, **valo** S, **valio** S, **valytuvas** S, **valentinas** S,
bulius S, **bilietas** S, **bulka** F, **kaltas** F, **kalė** S

Chicago celebrates Lithuania



On March 2 Chicago Navy Pier's Crystal Gardens hosted its third annual Lithuanian independence celebration "Celebrate Lithuania.". These festivities are part of a city-wide event honoring the diversity of ethnic neighborhoods in Chicago.

The festival was opened by the Lithuanian Consul General in Chicago Marijus Gudynas, who stressed that Lithuania is well versed in the price one must pay to be free. He stated that today, when the whole world is witnessing the brutal occupation of Ukrainian territories, it becomes more important to protect and celebrate liberty, democracy and independence.

Among the honored guests at this year's event were U.S. Senator Richard Durbin and Lithuania's Minister of Education and Science, Dainius Pavalkis.

Sen. Durbin mentioned his Lithuanian family roots and stated that today Lithuania stands firmly on a foundation of democracy and is internationally recognized. He added that anyone who would threaten Lithuania would receive a response from the United States,

This year's entertainment featured the folk dance group "Suktinis", the young, award winning soloist Agne Giedraityte and the children's folk ensemble "Rusne". The festivities were concluded with a recital by the Lithuanian Opera of Chicago Chorus.

There were also various exhibits of Lithuanian arts and crafts from weaving to easter egg painting. Numerous vendors and representatives of Lithuanian organizations had an opportunity to introduce themselves to a wider public. And there was also plenty of kugelis served by the staff of Grand Dukes restaurant. □



Speaking Lithuanian: The letter "e" (wet, mad, baby)

JONAS DAUGIRDAS

Now that we know how to pronounce some consonants like "n", "d", and "t" (see the January issue) and "fat L" vs. "skinny L" (February issue), it's time to move on to vowels. In this article we begin with the letter "e". I'm going to give you a simplified version of how "e" is pronounced in Lithuanian, but the rules I'm proposing are far from perfect; they will not cover all instances, and there are exceptions to some of the rules cited below.

In Lithuanian, the letter "e" is pronounced in one of 3 ways: (1) like "e" in the word "wet", (2) like "a" in the word "mad", and (3) like "a" in the word "baby". In this article, I'll refer to these as the "wet e", the "mad e", and the "baby e".

RULE 1: An "e" at the end of the word is almost always pronounced as "wet", whether or not the last syllable is accented. This includes the "e" found at the end of nouns in the locative case. What's the locative case? It's the form of a noun that designates place. As an example: "kieme" (in the yard), or "name" (in the house) or "laiktarpysje" (in a given time period). In these examples, by the way, I'm showing the accented syllable of the word in **bold-underline**. Also, in the common, single-syllable words such as "ne" (meaning "no") the "e" is pronounced as "wet".

RULE 2: NEVER add an unwritten "y" sound to an "e" unless the letter "i" or "y" actually follows. Some newbie speakers of Lithuanian will try to add a "y" onto the "wet e" sound. This makes the syllable sound like "hey". Instead of saying "ne", they say "neigh" or "nay". This is a no-no.

RULE 3: If the "e" falls on the accented syllable of a word, unless the accented syllable is the last syllable, then this "e" (usually but not always) is pronounced as "mad". For example, in the words: "ledas" (ice), "dega" (burns), "kevalas" (shell), the "e" is pronounced like the "a" in "mad".

However, there are a substantial number of exceptions to Rule 3. Examples of exceptions are: *kenčia* (suffers), *vesti* (to wed), *krenta* (falls), *kerta* (cuts). In these words the "e" in the accented syllable is pronounced as "wet". It's hard to make a solid rule for these exceptions. For example, in the word *ridenti* (to roll) the "e" is pronounced as "mad", while in *kenčia* the "e" was "wet". Other exceptions where the "e" is short ("wet") despite being in an accented syllable are international words, such as *čekis* (check) and *represija* (repression).

RULE 4: If the "e" falls on an unaccented syllable of the word, then it almost always is pronounced as "wet". Pronunciation of "e" in different forms of the same word can change markedly, depending on where the accent falls. For example, in variations of the word "*kelti*" (to lift): we have *keltas* (meaning ferry) where the "e" is pronounced as "mad", and *pakelia* (he lifts up), where the "e" is pronounced as "wet".

RULE 5. The letter "é" is always pronounced the same way. The third way that "e" is pronounced in Lithuanian is a very beautiful, wide "e". This pronunciation is indicated by writing this letter with an overlying dot: "é". There is no perfect English equivalent for "é", but the sound is similar to the first syllable of the word "baby". It's not a perfect fit, because in English we say "bey - bee", and the first syllable is a combination of two vowels (the "wide e" sound followed by the "y" sound). For those who know French, the Lithuanian "é" sound is very similar to the French pronunciation of "é". A very close fit is how the French pronounce their term for "baby": "bébé". Examples of words with "é" in them are: *karvė* (cow), *sejo* (he sowed). The pronunciation of "é" is the same, whether the letter falls on an accented or unaccented syllable.

RULE 6. The letter "é" at the beginning or middle of a word is always pronounced as "mad", whether the syllable is accented or not. At the end of a word, the letter "é" is pro-

nounced either as "wet", or between "wet" and "mad". What about "e nosiné (e)" or "tailed e"? In the past, words now written with the letter "é" were pronounced as "en", and the pronunciation had a certain nasal quality ("nosiné" means "nasal" in Lithuanian). You can think of the tail as signifying a hidden, missing "n" that is no longer being written as a separate letter. In more recent years the "n" sound and nasal quality are no longer commonly heard in words with "é". In present-day Lithuanian, when the letter "é" is found at the beginning or in the middle of a word, it's always pronounced as "mad". For example, in *spresti* (to solve) or *testi* (to extend), the "e" is said as "mad".

When a tailed e (e) falls at the end of a noun, this signifies that the noun is being used in the sentence as the object of a verb or preposition. Example: Aš tuošiu *eglutę* (I'm decorating the fir tree). Here the terminal "e" would normally be pronounced as "wet", because the "e" falls on the last syllable of the word (Rule #1). Some speakers will pronounce "é" at the end of such nouns like "wet". Others will make the "é" sound a bit longer, somewhere between "wet" and "mad". Another type of word where "é" is found commonly in the final syllable is the "dalyvis" or participle. Example: *Jis sédėjo nuliūdės* (he was sitting depressed). Here again, the terminal "é" is pronounced between "wet" and "mad", but closer to "mad".

So, that's about it. My wife was telling me: "Jonai, you were good at consonants, but stay away from the vowels. You're getting in over your head!". Maybe she was (as always) right.

Reference: Kazlauskienė A, Rimkutė E, Bieliniskienė A. *Tartis. Balsiai. Lietuvių kalbos kultūra. Kompiuterinė mokymo priemonė 9-12 klasėms.* 2008 UAB Šviesa.

<http://mkp.emokykla.lt/kalboskultura/lt/theorijs/tartis/balsiai/>.

IN AMAZONIA

Continued from page 9.

Volunteers from all over

Now in his mid-50's, the Padre Medico finally has his dream come true--a hospital at last, although a full third is still to be built. "We're always strapped for cash, but we'll get there," he says optimistically.

And what a veritable little United Nations this place is. Besides the Brazilians and Bolivians on permanent hospital staff, there are, or have been, registered nurses and lab technicians from the United States, Canada, France, Germany, and Italy - working for nothing more than room and board. They stay for several months or even longer, as their time permits.

Dr. Bendoraitis proudly introduces me to Antonia Suhadolnik, a dedicated volunteer and a registered nurse from Yugoslavia. Her distinction, she has been with him the longest - for more than two years.

He also mentions a Swiss ophthalmologist, who spends his vacations here every year, donating his time and skills to deal with trachoma, teresum (growths of malignant flesh on the eyelids), and other diseases of the eye.

Boat-clinic plies jungle rivers

Dr. Bendoraitis' fiefdom includes the Colonia Sagarana, an agricultural commune he established in 1965 for several Indian tribes on the verge of starvation, and a dispensary in the jungle village of Yata.

Then there's a double-decker boat, named "Lituania," which has been converted into a floating clinic. The boat, with Dr. Bendoraitis on board, visits remote Indian villages and caboclo (mostly mixed-race) settlements for up to four months out of the year. The floating clinic logs about 2800 miles up and down meandering jungle rivers like the Mamore, Guapore, and Paacas Novos. The doctor also has his eye on Ilha das Flores (Island of Flowers), on the Guapore, where he plans to establish a leper colony.

As a priest, Dr. Bendoraitis starts each day with a 5:30 a.m. Mass and ministers to the spiritual needs of his far-flung parishioners. But most of his time is devoted to medicine, in helping the sick and in preventing disease. "It's a great combination," he beams, "since I am privileged to take

care of both body and soul."

"Charity and Love"

"Come, I'll show you my brick factory," says Dr. Bendoraitis. "It helped build our hospital and now it helps pay for medical supplies, for which we spent about \$60,000 last year. Besides, it provides steady work for 20 men."

As we walk out into the still-sweltering late afternoon sun, I glance at the hospital's emblem on the white-washed wall by the main entrance. It's the Virgin Mary in traditional Lithuanian headdress with the Infant Jesus. "Caritas et Amor" it says in Latin underneath. Charity and Love. In this remote corner of Amazonia, in 1973, the two virtues were alive and well.

A Tragic postscript

The Padre Medico's hospital, named "Bom Pastor" (The Good Shepherd), was finally finished and fully outfitted in 1977. By then it had grown to 136 beds and a staff of 60. There were now six doctors, one dentist, and one full-time midwife on hand. Dr. Vytautas Kiasas, from Australia, also worked there for a time.

In 1983, Dr. Bendoraitis built a maternity clinic and children's hospital in Guayaramerin, a twin town on the Bolivian side of the Mamore River. Except that there they speak Spanish, while in Guajara-Mirim, on the Brazilian side, they speak Portuguese. Dr. Bendoraitis moved permanently to the Bolivian side in 1984. His first love, The Good Shepherd Hospital, was taken over by the Guajara-Mirim diocese.

Dr. Bendoraitis, who had a history of heart problems (a heart attack and a heart-valve operation), succumbed to congestive heart failure in November, 1998.

Sister Mary Xavier, his indispensable helpmate for 37 long and often hard years, suffered a terrible fate. Satan must have whispered into someone's ear that all good deeds must be punished. Sister Mary Xavier was murdered in cold blood in December 2000. She was found on a garden path with her head bashed in.

She and Bendoraitis - jungle doctor, jungle priest - rest together in the reddish soil of Guayaramerin, Bolivia. Side by side in death as they had served others side by side in life. □



Honored for stopping epidemics in South America. Bolivian Defense Minister A. Crespo (r.) presents Dr. F. A. Bendoraitis with the Naval Merit Medal and a Lt. Commander's commission in Bolivia's Riverine Navy's Medical Corps. (Bolivia is landlocked.) Dr. Bendoraitis also received an honorary Bolivian citizenship in 1967.

Speaking to Lithuanians:

Pronouncing the vowels "-a", "-i" and "-y".

"Father bug" and "Bit by a bee".

JONAS DAUGIRDAS

In Review: For the vowel "-e", we talked about the three forms of pronunciation, like in the words "wet, mad, baby". By now, you should be up to date on the basic principles. If the "-e" falls on an accented syllable (unless the accented syllable is the last syllable of the word) it's usually given a more intense, longer sound (like the "a" sound in the word "mad"), otherwise the "e" sound is short, as in the word "wet". The intense, longer form of "-e" is also spoken when there is a "tail" on it (-e). The intense, longer sound is more pronounced when the "tailed-e" is at the beginning of a word or in the middle of a word. When the "tailed -e" is at the end of a word, the sound is somewhere between the intense, longer sound ("mad") and the shorter sound ("wet"). We talked also about the completely different sound of the vowel "-é", which is a bit like the "a" in "baby."

This time, we're moving on to the vowels "-a", and "-i" and "-y".

Vowel "-a": For the vowel "-a" the rules are very similar to those for "-e" (see Table). The intense, longer sound is pronounced like the "a" in the word "father". The short sound is pronounced like "u" in the word "bug". The longer sound is used when the "-a" falls on an accented syllable, except when the accented syllable is the last syllable of a word. Otherwise, the "bug" form is used. When the "-a" has a tail on it, ("-a"), then it's pronounced like the "a" in "father". When the "-a" is at the end of a word, the pronunciation is somewhere between "father" and "bug".

Vowels "-i", and "-y". The vowel "-i" is ALWAYS pronounced as a short sound, like the "i" in the word "bit". This happens even when the "-i" falls on an accented syllable. The long "i" sound, like "bee", is used only with "-y" or with the tailed -i, "-i".

Rules for pronouncing the vowels -a, -e, - i, and -y.

Vowel	Accented syllable, except last syllable	Last syllable of a word	Unaccented syllable	Tailed vowel (ę, ą, į)	
				First or middle syllable ę, ą, į	Last syllable ę, ą, į
e	mad*	wet	wet	mad	between mad and wet
a	father*	bug	bug	father	between father and bug
i	bit	bit	bit	bee	between bee and bit
y	bee	bee	bee		

*there are exceptions

Accented last syllable: *pirtis* (sauna) - (-tis) pronounced like "bit"

Unaccented syllable: *amžinas* (eternal) - (-ži-) pronounced like "bit"

Tailed -i (i): *sugrižti* (to return) - (-grīž-) pronounced like "bee"

Tailed -i, last syllable (i): *Aš myliu savo šunį* (I love my dog) - last syllable of the word "šunį" (-ni) pronounced between "bit" and "bee."

Vowel y: *Myliu* (I love) - (myl-) pronounced as "bee."

So, with "-i" the rule is pretty straightforward. It's basically ALWAYS pronounced like the short form in the word "bit". I remember as a student meeting Lithuanians from Argentina and France, who like to say their "-i" vowels like "bee". "Malonu buvo tave pama-tee-tee" (*Malonu buvo tave pamatyti* - It was nice seeing you). Sounded kind of funny but cute. □

And here are a few examples regarding "-i" and "-y".

Accented syllable, other than last syllable: *žilas* (grey-haired) - (žil-) pronounced as "bit".

Omaha

Continued from page 16

Now Omaha's Lithuanians are struggling as best they can. The future will show us everything. We must not resign in the face of inequities, nor must we lose heart.

Today the parishioners are grateful to Gediminas Murauskas, the head of the Omaha Sister City project, for organizing Mass in Lithuanian on Friday, June 13th. (St. Anthony's feast day). He was instrumental in making this happen. He invited Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas from Canada to celebrate the Mass. Mr. Murauskas also organized a social gathering following the Mass. The Mass was well-attended even though the time was not very convenient for those who work.

Now our future, the future of our community, is at stake. There is concern that we will be scattered throughout Omaha, among various different parishes. Bringing the community together will be difficult especially since some of our parishioners are older and

are not internet savvy.

Will we be strong? Will we stay together as a community? All of us are worried about this – the older generation, and the new wave of emigrants from Lithuania. Many of the older generation are convinced that with the cancellation of Mass, the Lithuanian community will be torn apart. The younger generation has a more optimistic outlook. There are many examples of communities that flourish even though they do not have a Lithuanian church or a hall for meetings. The Lithuanian communities in Atlanta and Kansas are good examples. Of course, they have a large number of new arrivals, while we have a small number of them.

Will we manage, or not? It will depend on us, on our leaders, on our own determination and industriousness. So we urge the new executive board of the Lithuanian Community, which will be elected this fall, not to give up, but to persevere. We urge them to seek creative solutions, to exhibit determination, unfailing energy, and to unify us in a common struggle for survival.



Members of St. Anthony's Parish celebrated its 75 year anniversary in 1982.

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid Approves Grants to Support Lithuanian Catholic Activities

The annual meeting of the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid Corporation took place in Maspeth, New York, on May 17th. The meeting was preceded by Mass at Transfiguration Lithuanian R.C. Church, offered for the benefactors of the organization. It was concelebrated by Bishop Paulius Baltakis, Archbishop Gintaras Grušas, Msgr. Edmundas Putrimas, with other participating clergy. Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid's mission is to support Catholic education and religious and charitable activities in Lithuania and among Lithuanian emigrants. It has provided this service for some 50 years.

Father Jonas Puodžiūnas, the president of the finance committee, and Gintaras Čepas, the treasurer, reported that Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid is financially strong. The late Margaret A. Petrikas was especially remembered since she made a bequest of one million dollars to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. She designated that a significant part of this legacy be allocated to benefit Catholic students. A scholarship fund has been formed for this purpose.

Msgr. Edmundas Putrimas, president of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, announced that the organization is successfully carrying out its mission to support Catholic education and religious and charitable activities in Lithuania and among Lithuanian emigrants. He mentioned the internet site "Bernardinai.lt" as one of the

projects whose earlier and present success depends greatly on support from Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. Msgr. Putrimas emphasized that LCRA seeks to fulfill its responsibility to support such apostolic projects, but that such support is possible only because of the generosity of donors.

A meeting of the board of directors followed the annual members meeting. The directors reviewed some 180 grant requests. They approved 160 awards. The grants varied in size from \$500 to \$58,000. In total, \$500,000 was awarded. The largest grants were given to St. Casimir College in Rome, the seminary of the diocese of Telšiai in Lithuania, the Lithuanian newspaper "Draugas", and to the Lithuanian charity "Caritas." Included in the aid was support for 46 Catholic youth camps, organized by parishes, by the "Ateitininkai" organization, by Lithuanian scouts and by the "Neringa" youth camp. Most of the projects are situated in Lithuania, but there were also projects in Europe as well as in North and South America. This reflects the mission of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid to foster the faith and the Catholic culture of all Lithuanians, wherever they may be.

Readers interested in receiving the LRCA newsletter, can write to: info@lkrsalpa.org or to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, 64-25 Perry Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378-2441, tel. 718-326-5202. More information can be found at LCRAid.org.

Speaking to Lithuanians: Pronouncing the vowels "-o" and "-u" "Bore" and "book of booze"

JONAS DAUGIRDAS

In Review: With this last article on pronunciation of vowels, we have the complete list:

Rules for pronouncing the vowels -a, -e, - i, and -y.

Vowel	Accented syllable, except last syllable	Last syllable of a word	Unaccented syllable	Tailed vowel (ę, a, i)	
				First or middle syllable ę, a, i	Last syllable ę, a, i
e	mad*	wet	wet	mad	between mad and wet
a	father*	bug	bug	father	between father and bug
i	bit	bit	bit	bee	between bee and bit
y	bee	bee	bee	—	—
o	bore**	bore	bore	—	—
u	book	book	book	booze	booze or between book and booze***
ū	booze	booze	booze	—	—

*there are exceptions **DON'T pronounce "o" like "ow". Just the pure "o" sound by itself!

***when "-u" falls on an accented last syllable, it is pronounced like booze.

Vowel "-o".

This is easy to pronounce in Lithuanian, as it basically is pronounced only one way, like to the "-o" in the word bore. Be careful not to pronounce the "-o" like an "ow", for example, like in the word low. Vowels in Lithuanian are pure and are made up of only one sound. It's actually difficult to come up with a proper example word in English of how to pronounce "-o" correctly, because many English add the "w" sound to their "o" sounds. In Lithuanian, just the "-o" sound by itself, please. Do not add the "w" sound!

Vowel "-u".

The letter "-u" is pronounced like the "-oo" sound in the word book. The pronunciation is roughly the same whether the vowel is found in an accented or unaccented syllable, although some will pronounce it between book and booze when the "-u" makes up the accented syllable of a word. Lithuanians who grew up in South America or some European countries sometimes mispronounce the letter "-u" as booze when it should be pronounced as book.

The tailed "-u" can be found in the middle of a word or at the end of a word. The tailed "-u" is pronounced like booze when in the middle of a word. When at the end of a word, the tailed "-u" is pronounced like booze if the last syllable is accented. If the last syllable is not accented, then the tailed "-u" is pronounced somewhere between book and booze.

Vowel "-ū".

The "-ū" sound is the dedicated long form of the vowel, and is always pronounced like booze.

Let's look at a few examples. In these examples, the accented syllable of a word is denoted by **bold-underlined**.

Examples regarding "-o"

Accented syllable, other than last syllable: **voras** (spider) - (vo-) pronounced like the bore.

Unaccented syllable: **mano** (my) - (-no) pronounced like bore.

Examples regarding "-u" and "-ū"

Accented syllable, other than last syllable: **butas** (apartment) - (bu-) pronounced like the book.

Unaccented syllable: **abudu** (both) - (-bu- and -du) are each pronounced like book.

Tailed -u (ū), other than last syllable: **siustu** (to send) - (siū-) pronounced like booze.

Tailed -u (ū), last syllable, unaccented: **vaistu** (medicines (possessive case)) - (-tu) pronounced like booze.

Tailed -u (ū), last syllable, accented: **vaistažoliu** (medicinal herbs (possessive case)) - (-liu) pronounced between book and booze.

Examples regarding "-ū"

sūris (cheese) - (sū-) pronounced like booze.

And here's your final exam:

"Už jūrų marių, už upių vandenėlių" (beyond the ocean seas, beyond the river waters).

Please pick up your diplomas on the way out. You are now "habilitated doctors" of Lithuanian vowel pronunciation!

Let's not leave it at the wayside

Funds needed to save the Lithuanian Augsburg Cross



Dr Genevieve Maciunas with her three daughters by the Augsburg cross, 1948.

From the archive of Jurate Landwehr.

At the end of World War II Germany was awash with displaced persons. Refugee Lithuanians, homeless, destitute and grief-stricken after having lost loved ones to executions, bombings, or forced deportations to Siberia, were given temporary shelter in camps established by UNRRA, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. One of the larger settlements of Lithuanian displaced persons was near Augsburg, Germany, in the adjacent towns of Hochfeld and Haunstetten. There, about 2000 displaced Lithuanians lived from 1945-1950, until they were offered permanent residence in the United States, Canada or Australia.

As a testament to their presence in Augsburg, the Lithuanians left two memorials: a plaque at St. Peter Canisius Church and an imposing Lithuanian wayside cross – the same kind that were then being destroyed by the Soviets throughout Lithuania. The cross was designed by famed Lithuanian architect Jonas Mulokas; the oak wood was provided by the Fugger family, heirs of an old textile and silver-mining dynasty hailing from the 14th century. The Fuggers were known not only for their business acumen, but for their wide ranging eleemosynary works as well.

Erected in 1945, just a year after the end of the war, the cross evokes its creators' heartfelt sorrow for suffering.

ing Lithuania and hope that it will withstand its tribulations and soon be free again. It is surrounded by four carved figures: St. Casimir, Samogitian Bishops Merkeliš Giedraitis and Motiejus Valancius and the Sorrowful Mother.

The cross still stands where it was erected 69 years ago in the crossroads of Hochfeld and Haunstetten, close to the "Protestantischer Friedhof" tram station and St. Peter Canisius Church. It has, however, been ravaged by neglect. Time and humidity have taken its toll on this monument, and it bears the scars of graffiti as well.

The Lithuanian American Community, together with Lithuanian Embassy in Germany, are collecting donations to have the Augsburg cross restored to its former glory. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please send your donation to the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., In the memo field, write: Augsburg Cross. Your donation will be forwarded to the Lithuanian Embassy in Germany and used to defray the high costs of restoration. Checks should be sent to the following address:

Rimantas Bitėnas
4 Midland Gardens, Apt 4J
Bronxville, NY 10708



Speaking to Lithuanians:

"**Jonas, do you love me?**" or the "**Hey, you!**" ending for Lithuanian names.

JONAS DAUGIRDAS

You've been dating for three months now; you like her and she likes you. With deep, soulful eyes, she looks up at you and asks, "*Jonas, do you love me?*" How do you reply? "No," of course. Why? All your life, no one had ever addressed you as *Jonas*; rather, your parents, relatives, and siblings always call you *Jonai*.

Speaking Lithuanian is complicated because nouns have a number of different endings, depending on how the noun is used in a sentence. The endings of the *vocative case* ("Hey, you!") are useful to know if you hang out with Lithuanians, even if you don't speak the language, because this affects how you address your friends by name. Let's talk about boys and girls separately for clarity's sake. Boy names typically end in *-as* (*Jonas, Kęstas, Vytas, Raimis, Gytis, Marius*, and *Saulius*) coming to the movies?" However, when you're addressing the person directly, you should use the "Hey, you!" form of the name. How do you change from the base form to the "Hey, you!" form? Names ending in *-as* are changed to *-ai*, names ending in *-is* are changed to *-i*, and *-us* name endings are changed to *-au*. For example: "Hey, *Jonai, Kęstai, Vytai, Raimi, Gytis, Mariau, Sauliau* - let's get going."

names in English conversation, it's appropriate to use this base form of the name for just about everything. For example: "Are *Jonas, Kęstas, Vytas, Raimis, Gytis, Marius*, and *Saulius* coming to the movies?" However, when you're addressing the person directly, you should use the "Hey, you!" form of the name. How do you change from the base form to the "Hey, you!" form? Names ending in *-as* are changed to *-ai*, names ending in *-is* are changed to *-i*, and *-us* name endings are changed to *-au*. For example: "Hey, *Jonai, Kęstai, Vytai, Raimi, Gytis, Mariau, Sauliau* - let's get going."

Girl names typically end in *-a* (*Milda, Rūta*) or in *-ė* (*Austė, Giedrė*) in the base form, and here the problem is simpler. For girl names that end in *-a*, the "Hey, you!" ending is unchanged. So, we can say, "That *Milda* thinks she's something else. Hey, *Milda*, I really don't like you!" For names ending in *-ė*, the "Hey, you!" ending is an *-e* without the dot. For example: "Giedrė is a very helpful person. Hey, *Giedrė*, I really appreciate what you did to help out!"

For children who don't speak Lithuanian, the "Hey you!" case still has an impact when addressing one's father or grandfather. The word for father is *tėvelis*, and for grandfather is *senelis*. If your child goes up to his or her Lithuanian father or grandfather and proudly announces, "Tėvelis, tėvelis, or senelis, senelis, look what I made!", it might make *tėvelis* or *senelis* feel even more proud if the kid were to say, "Tėveli, tėveli, or seneli, seneli, look what I made!" Note that the "Hey, you!" ending for *tėvelis* or *senelis* is *-i*, the same as for people names ending with *-is*.

Lithuanian is a tough language, and the "Hey, you!" form can be different for nouns other than names. In some instances, nouns ending in *-as* get changed to *-e* (*konsulas, konsule*), and nouns ending in *-is* may get changed to *-ie* (*šunis, šunie*), but that's a topic for another day.

So, for those women who have found their ideal future husband who happens to be Lithuanian, if you want him to commit to a deeper level of emotional entanglement, when you pop the question, your chances of getting a positive response just might be better if you ask, "Jonai, do you love me?" (and to Ona, my lovely wife, if you happen to be reading this, this was a purely made up example. It never happened!)