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Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania
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100 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF FRIENDSHIP
LITHUANIA-JAPAN



Ryšiai Kizuna

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exhibition
guide

2022 November 14th-
2023 January 31st.

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Kizuna Bonds

*Exhibition of books and other documents
dedicated to the centenary of diplomatic
relations between Lithuania and Japan*

*14 November 2022 -
31 January 2023*



In the last few days of October 2022, at the Lithuanian-Japanese Prime Ministers' Summit in Japan, it was agreed to upgrade the bilateral relations of Lithuania and Japan to the level of a strategic partnership. This is the highest peak of bilateral cooperation achieved by the countries since 20 December 1922, when the Japanese government signed the Act of Recognition of the Republic of Lithuania, which symbolically became the beginning of diplomatic relations, or “kizuna”.

This exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of friendly relations between Lithuania and Japan tells the story of the kizuna (bonds). By travelling through different historical periods, starting from the second half of the 19th century, when Lithuania was still a part of the Russian Empire and Japan was a country that had just opened its ports to foreign countries and begun to modernise, the goal is to illustrate how the relations between the two countries have developed and progressed, and which events, documents or personalities have become the symbols and markers of that process.

The kizuna (bonds) is not just about historical dates, archival documents or agreements, but also about people: friends and associates, colleagues and partners, diplomats, heads of state and businessmen, translators, actors, musicians and artists all of whom share their ideas, dreams and work, creating new connections and links, continuing old ones and giving birth to new traditions and histories.

On that September morning in 1862, could the Japanese travellers who had just had breakfast in one of the city's hotels on their way from St Petersburg to Königsberg have had any idea about Steponas Kairys, the author of the first books about Japan? And could he have thought of Kumiko Hirano, the journalist who wrote a book about him in Japanese more than 100 years later? And would Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis have believed that Tokyo would host the first foreign exhibition of his works after the restoration of Lithuania's independence, that through Jonas Mekas's films he would bring to Lithuania the linguist Professor Ikuo Murata and the composer Ichiro Kato, and that Professor Vytautas Landsbergis and Jurgis Mačiūnas would be linked to Japan on his behalf as well?

A special place in this exhibition is dedicated to books: translations of fiction and poetry, picture books, scientific monographs, travel essays, dictionaries and textbooks. They not only speak of the diplomatic, cultural or economic kizuna from which they originated, but they have also become a tool for the creation of new kizuna that involve each one of us.

The organisers and promoters of the exhibition sincerely thank all those who have contributed to the realisation of this exhibition and hope that the story of the Lithuanian-Japanese kizuna (bonds) will become a point of origin for the creation of further ones and the making of more meaningful ones.

Historical, cultural and diplomatic relations

Before an official relationship was established

The 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Japan is being commemorated in 2022, but this does not fully reflect the longer history of relations between the countries. The first Japanese visits to Lithuania were recorded in 1862, when the Bunkyū Mission visited the country, and the young Japanese translator Yukichi Fukuzawa mentioned in his diary that he visited Kaunas. At the end of February 1892, Yasumasa Fukushima, a Japanese officer who travelled through Lithuania, described his impressions in his diaries, and the visit was described from the point of view of the locals in the periodical “Supplement to Kaunas Governorate News” (*“Pribavlenye k Kovenskim gubernskim vedomostiam”*).

Familiarity with Japan in Lithuanian texts also dates back more than 100 years. According to research, the first articles about Japan in the Lithuanian-language press can be found in the newspaper “Žemaičių ir Lietuvos apžvalga” (Review of Samogitians and Lithuanians) in 1891. This Catholic newspaper in Tilžė published a follow-up article on Catholic missionary activities, “The Muczelinkai of Japan”, signed by the author under the pseudonym of J. Karvedis. The article, published over fifteen volumes, deals with the problems of Catholic missionaries in Japan in the 17th century. In addition to this historical text, there were sporadic reports on earthquakes in Japan and the First Sino-Japanese war.

Subsequently, sporadic news in the press was followed by a stream of news from the First Russo-Japanese war. The first Lithuanian-language daily newspaper “Vilniaus žinios”, mostly contained translated messages from the telegram department. They were sometimes enriched with letters from the front and stories from returning soldiers.

First Republic

In 1922, Japan recognised Lithuania’s independence. This was the first and perhaps most important step in the history of the bilateral relationship. However, due to the long distance between Japan and

- 1, 2.** Working visit of the President of the Republic of Lithuania Algirdas Brazauskas to Japan. 11–15/05/1997.
Archives of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Lithuania
- 15.** Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Tokyo.
Photo from the archive of Dainius Kamaitis
- 3.** The working visit of the President of the Republic of Lithuania Valdas Adamkauskas to Japan. 09–13/04/2001.
Archives of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Lithuania
- 4–31.** State visit of Their Majesties Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to Lithuania. 26–27/05/2007.
Archives of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Lithuania
- 42, 45, 46, 51, 55–60.** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Lithuania. 13–14/01/2018.
Archives of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Lithuania
- 43, 44, 47–50, 52–54.** Working visit of the President of the Republic of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda on 21–24 October 2019 in Japan. Attending Naruhito's enthronement ceremony.
Archives of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Lithuania

Lithuania, strong diplomatic and political relations were not developed. In the inter-war period, the two countries signed two treaties: the Visa Abolition Treaty (February 1929) and the Trade and Navigation Treaty (May 1930). Although Masaji Yasaka, the Honorary Consul of Lithuania, worked in Tokyo, diplomatic relations were not able to develop to the level of an embassy or consulate.

Despite this, more and more Lithuanians began to reach Japan. Both the traveller Matas Šalčius and the missionary Albinas Margevičius went to the Land of the Rising Sun during this period, the latter in 1933, staying there permanently. Catholic press publications usually used cultural clichés to exoticize Japan, but Margevičius, a Salesian monk, de-exoticized Japan, highlighting the country's modernity and presenting it in the context of Western civilization: "Today, that city [Tokyo] is competing with London and New York, and [Margevičius] thinks it will soon overtake them." It should be mentioned that Margevičius was one of the first Lithuanians to describe Japan on the basis of personal experience.

Japan was introduced to Lithuanians not only by the Catholic press; at least 25 lay publications – "Aidas", "Darbininkas", "Diena", "Karys", "Lietuvis", "Lietuvos žinios", "Moteris", "Sekmadienis", "Žemaičių prietelius", and others – wrote about the country once or more.

And yet, Lithuania and Japan grew especially close in the last years of Lithuania's independence, when Chiune Sugihara, the first Japanese diplomat specifically dedicated to our country, started working in Lithuania. His arrival and the inauguration of the consulate in Kaunas were the most prominent highlights of Lithuanian-Japanese cooperation in the first half of the 20th century. Sugihara's role as vice-consul was not only to maintain bilateral relations, but also to deal with the situation of the Second World War, as well as with intelligence activities, although these have not been made public.

Sugihara's routine work and life (incidentally, the family's third son was born in Kaunas in 1940, and the birth certificate issued by the Pranas Mažylis Clinic has survived) changed in July 1940, when Polish war refugees, mostly Jews, started to apply for Japanese visas for transit. Sugihara's exploits have earned him worldwide recognition, and the telling of the story itself gives the Lithuanian state, which primarily hosted the refugees, a role as a global player in the context of the summer of 1940 and the sovietisation of Lithuania.

Thanks to Sugihara's visas, more than 4,000 refugees from Poland – after a stopover of several months in Lithuania – reached Japan, thus creating a small but significant Jewish refugee population in the Far East, where they continued to nurture their culture, memory and identity.

The Soviet era

After losing its independence, Lithuania's name did not disappear from maps, but only became visible as part of the wider Soviet Union as the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic. However, the

After the restoration of independence

Soviet system made direct Japanese contacts with Lithuania and Lithuanians very complicated. For this reason, the relationship was mainly represented by individual visits, such as those recorded by Justas Paleckis in *The Book of Journeys* (1969) and the book of essays "Po pasaulį pasidairius" (1979).

However, Japan was certainly not an unheard-of country for Soviet-era Lithuanians. This was helped by the active involvement of the left in Japan, with both the socialist and communist parties, and the creation of trade unions. Japanese youth, especially students, were very willing to support peace ideas, which in many cases implied an anti-American stance. The visibility of Japan in the Soviet press should not have been surprising: it was often mentioned, especially as a rapidly developing country – the Japanese were presented as inventors, engineers and technologists. Alongside this, culture, art and traditions were in abundance. In parallel to short messages, there were longer articles written by authors who had visited Japan. Naturally, because of ideological constraints, the texts used to talk about the duality of capitalism and socialism. Publications were published in "Tarybinė moteris", "Moksleivis", "Mokslas ir gyvenimas" and others.

Relations with Japan were quickly restored after Lithuania regained its independence. Although the Embassy of Japan in Vilnius opened in 1997, cultural activities began earlier, such as the establishment of the Japanese Information Centre in Vilnius in 1995.

Lithuania's restored independence and the re-establishment of ties with Japan have resulted in bilateral visits by representatives of all ranks. Emperor Akihito and his wife Michiko, Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, Foreign Minister Tarō Asō, and other senior officials visited Lithuania. Lithuania was represented in Japan by Vytautas Landsbergis, Chairman of the Supreme Council-Reconstituent Seimas, Presidents Valdas Adamkus and Gitanas Nausėda, Prime Ministers Algirdas Brazauskas, Gediminas Kirkilas, Andrius Kubilius, Saulius Skvernelis, and no less than 35 ministers. This is a clear indication of the strong cooperation and shared values that are being pursued and will be further developed from the end of October 2022, when Lithuania and Japan will become strategic partners, onwards.

PhD. Arvydas Kumpis, Vytautas Magnus University

18, 19. Symbolic opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Tokyo on 13 June 1999. Next to the building where the embassy was located, the national flag is raised for the first time. In the photo: temporary trustee of affairs Dainius Kamaitis (centre) and members of the Lithuanian community. Dainius Petras Kamaitis became the first Lithuanian diplomat accredited in Japan, having held the position of temporary trustee of affairs in 1998-2001, and the position of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in 2006-2011. Awarded the Order of the Rising Sun with a gold and silver star for his services in strengthening ties between Japan and Lithuania and fostering friendly exchanges.
Photos from the archive of Dainius Kamaitis

20-27. On 16-18 March 1999, the first official visit by an official - Minister of Foreign Affairs Algirdas Saudargas - from the Republic of Lithuania to Japan took place. It was no coincidence that it coincided with the tour of the state ensemble "Lietuva". Before the concert in Tokyo, which was attended by Japanese Crown Prince Hironomiya and Princess Masako (now Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako) and the diplomatic corps residing in Tokyo, the minister announced the opening of the embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Tokyo. Documents reflecting the coordination details of the visit and the establishment of the embassy.
Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Space screen 20 Visits

The restored independence of Lithuania and the re-establishment of relations with Japan led to bilateral visits by representatives of various ranks. Lithuania was visited by Japanese Emperor Akihito and his wife Michiko, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chairman of the Upper House of the Parliament Masaaki Yamazaki, Minister of Foreign Affairs Taro Aso, and other high-ranking officials. Accordingly, Lithuania was represented in Japan by the Chairman of the Supreme Council and the Restorative Seimas Vytautas Landsbergis, Presidents Valdas Adamkus and Gitanas Nausėda, Prime Ministers Algirdas Brazauskas, Gediminas Kirkilas, Andrius Kubilius, Saulius Skvernelis and no less than 35 ministers. This clearly shows the aspirations of intensive cooperation and fostering of common values.
(Dr. Arvydas Kumpis)

- 16.** In 2001, Yukiko, the widow of Chiune Sugihara, visited Kaunas and planted four sakura trees in front of the consulate building, thus commemorating the memory of her husband and those he rescued.
Archive of Public Institution Sugihara Foundation “Diplomatai už gyvybę”
- 18.** On the way to Japan. 1940 (the survivors of Chiune Sugihara and Jan Zwartendijk, who reached the port of Vladivostok on the Trans-Siberian railway, sailed to the port of Tsuruga in Japan on Japanese ferries).
Archive of Public Institution Sugihara Foundation “Diplomatai už gyvybę”.

Space screen 19
**Diplomatic relations after
restoration of independence**

- 1, 2.** De jure recognition of the Republic of Lithuania on 6 September 1991.
Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania
- 3, 4, 5, 6.** The President of the Republic of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus, accepts the credentials of the Japanese ambassador, Miyoko Akashi. Ms. Akashi - the first Japanese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, who resided in Lithuania in 2008-2012. White Hall of the Presidential Palace in Vilnius on 30 June 2008.
Archives of the Presidency
- 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13,
14, 15.** In 2002-2006, the position of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania in Japan was held by Algirdas Kudzys.
Photos from the archive of Algirdas Kudzys
- 12.** Ambassador Algirdas Kudzys presents letters of distinction to Emperor Akihito of Japan.
Archive of Algirdas Kudzys
- 16, 17.** The President of the Republic of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus, participates in the ceremony of conferring a diplomatic rank and awarding letters of distinction to Algirdas Kudzys.
Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

The most remarkable highlight of the cooperation between Lithuania and Japan in the first half of the 20th century was the establishment of the Japanese consulate in Kaunas in 1939, when Chiune Sugihara was appointed vice-consul. In Kaunas, Sugihara was not only concerned with fostering bilateral relations, but also the situation of the Second World War, as well as with intelligence activities, which, however, were not publicized. The Sugihara family mainly lived in a house in the Kaunas' Žaliakalnis district, rented from the former Minister of Education Juozas Tonkūnas, with the consulate on the ground floor and the family themselves on the first.

Sugihara's had a routine life and work (with the family's third son, Haruki, being born in Kaunas at Pranas Mažylis' clinic). This all changed in July 1940, when Polish war refugees, mostly Jews, began to apply for Japanese transit visas. This episode of Sugihara's work has earned him global recognition, and the retelling of the story itself gives the Lithuanian state, which first hosted the refugees, a global player role in the context of the summer of 1940 and the sovietisation of Lithuania.

Sugihara issued transit visas, while his colleague Jan Zwartendijk, the Honorary Consul of the Netherlands in Lithuania, issued visas for the final destination the Dutch colonies in the Caribbean Sea. They saved several thousand lives through this part-time collaboration.

Thanks to the transit visas granted by Sugihara, around 6,000 refugees from Poland – after a few months' stopover in Lithuania – reached Japan, creating a small but significant Jewish refugee community in the Far East, further nurturing their culture, memory and identity there.

After the Soviet and Nazi occupations destroyed Lithuania's statehood and the region itself was closed off by the Iron Curtain, the events and the geography of the first half of the 20th century were forgotten, but the *Japanese Consul, Kaunas, Japanese transit visas* were still in the memory of the region in the 1990s. The restoration of Lithuanian statehood contributed to the “rediscovery” of Lithuania, its progressive return to the international arena and memory, as well as a reminder that the extremely brief work of the Japanese Vice-Consul in Kaunas in 1939–1940 laid perhaps the most significant foundation for the cooperation between the two countries, which is not measured in treaties and notes, but in the respect for life and assistance to those in need of it.

The Sugihara Foundation “Diplomatai už gyvybę”, established in

Japanese studies in Lithuania

1999 as a civil initiative, also contributes to tourism and lasting cultural and intellectual cooperation. In January 2018, the only venue in Kaunas designated for the visit of the then Japanese Prime Minister was the Sugihara House.

PhD. Linas Venclauskas, Vytautas Magnus University

Japanese studies in Lithuania

The history of Japanese knowledge in Lithuania dates back to the second half of the 19th century, when Joseph Goshkevich became interested in the Japanese language after participating in the first Russian mission to Japan and was later appointed the first consul of the Russian Empire. Although ethnically not Lithuanian, Goškevičius was closely related to Lithuania, living in the then Vilnius Governorate, and published one of his major works, "Apie japonų kalbos šaknis", in 1899 in Vilnius, at the Zavadskis printing house.

Japan also appears in early photography because at the end of the 19th century, Benediktas Henrikas Tiškevičius, the owner of Raudondvaris and other manors, was there; he was a keen enthusiast of new inventions, including photography. Another close contact with Japan was that of Bronisławas Piłsudskis (brother of Józefo Piłsudski Polish president), who is especially known for his research on the culture of the Ainu, Japan's ethnic minority. Finally, sporadic mentions and small descriptions of Japan can be found in expatriate publications, for example, in the geography books of Petras Vilieišis, "Trumpa geografija, arba Žemės aprašymas" (Chicago, 1898), or in the "Geografija arba Žemės aprašymas" by Juozas Adomaitis (Chicago, 1899).

The early 20th century marked a growing and profound knowledge of Japan. The most famous name is Steponas Kairys, whose interest in the Russo-Japanese War led to the publication of three small but comprehensive booklets in 1906: "Japonija seniau ir dabar", "Japonų konstitucija" and "Kaip japonai gyveno seniau". Another figure who is fascinated by Japan is the journalist, traveller and public figure Matas Šalčius, who went there three times (in 1915, 1918 and 1933, for a total of about a year) and published his impressions and insights in the press and in books. In the interwar period, the name of

4. Consulate in Kaunas - facade.
5. Refugees rescued by Chiune Sugihara on a Japanese liner in 1941 [before the attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, Japanese liners also carried passengers to the United States].
6. The Sugihara family in front of the consulate building in Kaunas. Chiune Sugihara cradles her third son, Haruki, who meets new friends on Vaižgantas Street.
7. Chiune Sugihara with his family in the living room of his home in Kaunas [Yukiko Sugihara, Hiroki, Chiaki, Chiune Sugihara, Setsuko Kikuchi - Yukiko's sister], a reproduction of M. K. Čiurlionis' "Šaulys" hangs on the wall.
8. Chiune Sugihara's office in Kaunas.
9. Honorary Consul of the Netherlands Jan Zwartedijk. *Archive of Public Institution Sugihara Foundation "Diplomatai už gyvybę"*
10. Jews from Cracow who received Chiune Sugihara visas in front of the Buddha statue in Kamakura. *From the personal archive of prof. Aleksander B. Skotnicki*
11. "Plečiami Japonijos santykiai su Lietuva. Japonijos konsulas Lietuvai kalba ir apie Kinijos karą bei santykius su Sovietų Sąjunga". Lietuvos žinios, 16 March 1940. *Archive of Public Institution Sugihara Foundation "Diplomatai už gyvybę"*.
12. Photography of Yukiko and Chiune Sugihara in traditional kimonos. *Archive of Public Institution Sugihara Foundation "Diplomatai už gyvybę"*.
13. The former Japanese consulate in Kaunas [with cherry trees planted by Yukiko Sugihara]. *Archive of Public Institution Sugihara Foundation "Diplomatai už gyvybę"*
14. Replica of the seal of the Japanese Consulate in Kaunas. *Archive of Public Institution Sugihara Foundation "Diplomatai už gyvybę"*
15. Chiune Sugihara's office in the museum maintained by the Sugihara Foundation "Diplomatai už gyvybę". *Archive of Public Institution Sugihara Foundation "Diplomatai už gyvybę"*

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Diplomatic relations between the wars

- 1-8, 10-12, 14-16, 18-20.** Refugee visas signed by Chiune Sugihara and/or Jsno Zwartendijk and other documents for obtaining visas. *Central State Archive of Lithuania* Aronzon Jeruchym David (f. 383, ap. 2, b. 865, l. 16 – 16 ap); Frydchaj Hersz Menachem (f. 383, ap. 2, b. 865, l. 8 – 8 ap), Grzebulka Jankiel Mendel (f. 383, ap. 2, b. 865, l. 7 – 7 ap)
- 9.** Chiune Sugihara's certificate that he will be issued an entry visa. *Central State Archives of Lithuania*, f. 383, ap. 2, b. 431, l. 186
- 5, 13.** Masaji Yasaka – a Japanese-Russian war veteran, businessman, former Honorary Consul of Lithuania in Japan in 1935-1940. The lack of sources does not allow for a more precise definition of his connections with Lithuania, so the reasons for granting such a position are not completely clear.
Central State Archive of Lithuania, f. 383, ap. 7, b. 972
- 7.** Chiune Sugihara's telegram to the Japanese Foreign Minister, asking about the possibility of issuing visas. 1 August 1940.
Photo of Arvydas Kumpis. Japanese Diplomatic Archives
- 21, 22.** Distinctive writings of Chiune Sugihara in Lithuanian and French. Copies of the Japanese Diplomatic Archives.
Archive of the Public Institution Sugihara Foundation "Diplomatai už gyvybę"

Space screen 18

Diplomatic relations between the wars

- 1.** Commemoration of 16 February 1938 at the Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Stasys Lozoraitis. Photo.
National M. K. Čiurlionis Art Museum
- 2.** Presentation of letters of distinction by Japanese Ambassador Shino Sakuma at the Presidency of the Republic of Lithuania. 14 June 1937. Photography.
National M. K. Čiurlionis Art Museum
- 3.** War refugees wait for life visas at the fence of the consulate in Kaunas. 8 July 1940.

Japan was mentioned many times in newspapers and magazines, and Lithuanian missionaries of that time – Jesuits and Salesians – gave detailed accounts, among whom one can single out Albinas Margevičius, who lived in Japan from his departure in 1933 until his death in 1988.

During the early period of Soviet occupation, Japanese studies in Lithuania remained stagnant. From 1960 onwards, the genre of travel memoirs of a light nature, imbued with communist insights and evaluations, slowly gained momentum. Among Lithuanian authors, Mykolas Liubeckis and Justas Paleckis are the most notable. It is only in the last two Soviet decades that a new generation of researchers has started to form: Arvydas Ališauskas translated from Japanese and shared his insights about Japan, Vytautas Kubilius concentrated on literary links with Japan, Romualdas Neimantas dug deeper into the culture of Japan – his book "Gyvenimas ant ugnikalnio", published in 1984, became perhaps the most comprehensive presentation of Japan for the readers of the time.

Regaining independence has brought new energy and inspiration. Japanese enthusiasts in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda were soon able to take advantage of academic freedom, and institutions for Japanese studies were established through their efforts: in 1993, the Centre of Oriental Studies of Vilnius University was established (since 2018 – the Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies), in 1996 – the Centre of Oriental Studies of Klaipėda University, and in 2001 – the Centre of Japanese Studies of Vytautas Magnus University (since 2009 – the Asian Studies Centre). This has given rise to in-depth research and, with the establishment of study programs, to the development of a new generation of Japanese studies.

Over the past three decades, Japanese studies in Lithuania has been developed in a variety of directions, ranging from the classical studies of cultural, historical, artistic and philosophical studies to contemporary political and economic studies. Romualdas Neimantas continued his work, Antanas Andrijauskas published significant publications, fundamental works on history, linguistics and literature published by Dalia Švambarytė reached the readers, and Aurelijus Zykas contributed to the study of contemporary Japan. The last two researchers, as well as Violeta Devėnaitė, Linas Didvalis, Kayako Takagi and Simona Kumpė, have also done much work on Japanese language learning resources, from Lithuanian-Japanese dictionaries to general and specialised textbooks. Japanese researchers Rio Kojima, Kiyoko Koma and others, who were resident in Lithuania, also participated in the development of the studies.

Finally, researchers Simonas Strelcovas and Linas Venclauskas deserve a special mention – although they are not specialists in

Lithuanian studies in Japan

Japanese studies, they have made a significant contribution to the awareness and understanding of Japan by revealing the activities of the Japanese diplomat in Kaunas, Chiune Sugihara, as well as the stories of the rescued Jews.

Japanese researchers were interested in Lithuania as early as in the interwar period because Japan was involved in the settlement of the issue of the Klaipėda region, so it was important for the government to understand Lithuania's geopolitical situation and relations with neighbouring states. For example, a number of publications of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs describe Klaipėda and Vilnius, as well as Lithuania's relations with Germany, Poland and Russia, in the greatest detail. General knowledge is also given attention, of course, and chapters on Lithuania appear in books on geography, economics, and domestic politics that cover different countries.

The second wave of interest in Lithuania started during the Soviet occupation and continues to this day. It is largely based on linguistic research carried out by Nagoya University professors Michi Yan and his student Tamio Yanagisawa, Tokyo University of Economics professor Ikuo Murata, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies professor Eiko Sakurai and others. Researchers are also interested in the twists and turns of Lithuanian history (e.g. the contributions of Sachiko Hatanaka and Sonoko Shima), in the Lithuanians who have had contacts with Japan (e.g. Kumiko Hirano's book on Steponas Kairis), and, in recent years, have been delighted by publications presenting Lithuania in an extremely comprehensive way, such as the complete collection of articles, "60 straipsnių rinkinys Lietuvai pažinti". In summary, over the past two decades, the pace of publications on Lithuania has remained steady, with 3–4 books and about 10 academic articles published each year.

Assistant Professor Linas Didvalis, Vytautas Magnus University

- 16 and 17.** Exhibition of works by Miglė Lebednykaitė "Just the Way I'm Feeling". 23–29 March 2017, Gallery "Spaces" in Tokyo.
Archive of Miglė Lebednykaitė
- 18.** Sadao Mino's traditional Japanese paper WASHI exhibition "Popierius įvairiai". 3–28 October 2013, Gallery of the Lithuanian National UNESCO Commission. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

Screen 16 Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis

- 1, 2, 4, 7, 8.** The first tours of the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra in Japan. 22–28/09/1995. Tour booklet: Articles by Vytautas Landsbergis, Mitsuyoshi Numan, Motohide Katayama. In the programme – M. K. Čiurlionis' symphonic poem "Jūra".
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 3, 5, 6, 9.** Polystylistic project "Jūra miške" dedicated to the year of M. K. Čiurlionis. Jazz saxophonist Liudas Mockūnas and pianist Petras Geniušas. Concert in Tokyo at Takanawa Community Centre. 11/2013. Photos, flyer, CD cover.
Liudas Mockūnas archive
- 10, 11.** Presentation of Vytautas Landsbergis's book "Laikas ir turinys" in Tokyo, Hill Side Terrace a concert hall. Flyer. 2009.
- 12, 13.** Ichiro Kato. Intersections of music and art - celebrating the 100th anniversary of Čiurlionis. Musica Nova, 1975.
Yumiko Nunokawa Archive
- 14, 15.** Vytautas Landsbergis lecture and concert in Tokyo at Watarium museum. 1995.
Vytautas Landsbergis archive

Screen 15 Visual arts

- 1 and 2.** Makoto Hatori. Veidu į tradiciją. Kultūros barai, 1997, No. 8/9, p. 64–68.
Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania
- 3 and 4.** The “Šventė” felt exhibition of the art group “Baltos Kandys” exhibited at the Centre of Creative Communication “Amu”. 02–07/10/2010.
Miglė Lebednykaitė archive
- 5.** Marius Jovaiša. “Neregėta Lietuva”. Exhibition flyer in Tokyo. 07–19/07/2009.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 6.** On 8-19 November 2010, the cities of Higashikagura, Higashikawa and Asahikawa on the island of Hokkaido hosted a Lithuanian culture festival dedicated to commemorating the 20th anniversary of Lithuania’s independence. On 11-14 November 2010, Miglė Lebednykaitė and Julija Vosyliūtė, artists of the “Baltos kandys” group, organised theoretical-practical felting seminars.
Miglė Lebednykaitė archive
- 7 and 8.** “Pro Rytų vartus: orientas Lietuvos liturginėje tekstilėje XVI–XX amžiais”, exhibition at the Church Heritage Museum. 23 March–8 October 2022. Photos by Evgenia Levin.
Miglė Lebednykaitė archive
- 9.** Miglė Lebednykaitė’s works at the exhibition of works by students of the Kyoto Academy of Fine Arts “Dohjidai Gallery of Art”, Kyoto. 25–30 October 2005.
Miglė Lebednykaitė archive
- 10 and 11.** Culture days “Japonija–Lietuva”. To commemorate the 15th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Lithuania. Exhibitions, lecture series, film festival “Classics of Japanese Cinema”. 2–26 October 2006, Vilnius, Kaunas. Handout.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 12.** Miglė Lebednykaitė’s works at the exhibition of works by students of the Kyoto Academy of Fine Arts, Kyoto. 15–19/02/2006.
Miglė Lebednykaitė archive
- 13–15.** Miglė Lebednykaitė’s textile works presented in the magazine “Senshoku Alpha”, 03/2006, No. 300.
Miglė Lebednykaitė archive

The story of the reception of Mikolajus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, Jonas Mekas, Vytautas Landsbergis and Jurgis Mačiūnas in Japan: commemorating the 100 year anniversary of Lithuanian-Japanese friendship

According to current knowledge, the first translation of Japanese fiction into Lithuanian was Saliamonas Banaitis’s Japanese Fairy Tales in 1907, published by Saliamonas Banaitis and compiled by the printer. This small book is primarily important from a historical point of view: from its publication, we can talk about the beginning of the history of translations of Japanese fiction, examine their language, reflect on the representation of Japanese culture in Lithuania, and finally observe the fashions in book design and even compare them with Japanese ones. An anthology of newer poetry “Vainikai”, published in 1921, prepared by the avant-garde poet Kazys Binkis and containing works by the most famous Lithuanian poets of the time (including poems by Kazys Binkis himself and the author of “Dievų miškas”, Balys Sruoga) is one of the first examples of how traditional Japanese poetry can inspire the exploration of new forms of poetic expression and thought. These two publications are, therefore, like a starting point for the dissemination and reception of Japanese fiction in Lithuania.

The mid-20th century in world and Lithuanian history is marked by the brutality of war. The first translation to appear after a silence of almost two decades was in 1954, Takakura Teru’s short story “Kiaulės dainelė”, translated from the Russian by Stasys Rudzevičius. From the perspective of translation and cultural history, it is a worthwhile publication that speaks to the significance of the dominant ideology and translation policy in literature. However, the true golden age of translations of Japanese fiction into the Lithuanian language began in 1968, when the collection of Japanese fairy tales “Gyvatės akys” was published in Lithuanian. In 1971, Arvydas Ališauskas translated, for the first time directly from the Japanese language, the literary fairy tale “Laukinės rožės” by the Japanese Andersen called Ogawa Pimej (nowadays usually called Mimei). A. Ališauskas’ translations of Japanese children’s literature stand out from the general context of translations of Japanese literature of the time and primarily allow us to reflect on the values that the texts were meant to convey to children. Adult literary trends were inevitably influenced by the films of Akira Kurosawa, the awarding

of the Nobel Prize for Literature to Yasunari Kawabata and Kōbō Abe's visit to Czechoslovakia, as well as by his active support for the Communist Party and its ideas up to the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956. It is also interesting that in the 1970s, thanks to the efforts of Professor Ikuo Murata, a Lithuanian folk tale "Eglė žalčių karalienė" and "Mildutė" was introduced to Japan, and fragments of Kristijonas Donelaitis' "Metai" and of Antanas Baranauskas' "Anykščių šilelis" appeared in Japanese.

The first period of Lithuania's renewed independence is distinguished by the abundance of poetry translations. In Lithuania 1991 Sigitas Geda's "Senovės rytų poezija" collection, gave an opportunity to get acquainted with the classics of Japanese poetry. Important translations of haiku and waka into Lithuanian by Vytautas Dumčius contributed to the popularity of the haiku genre in Lithuania. And in Japan in 1996, the legend of avant-garde cinema, Jonas Mekas, began his journey into the hearts of the Japanese people – not through cinema, but through the poetry of Professor Ikuo Murata, translated into Japanese by the masterful Professor.

The beginning of the 21st century was marked by a search of new authors and themes (which, among other things, reflects a gradual liberation of thinking and an effort to feel at ease with themes that had been considered uncomfortable and even avoidable for many years): Kenzaburō Ōe "Asmeninė patirtis" (2001), Yukio Mishima's "Kaukės išpažintis" (2004), Jun'ichirō Tanizaki's "Raktas" (2005). The real ground-breaker in the field of translations of Japanese literature was Haruki Murakami's English translation of "The Hunting of the Sheep". This was the beginning of the "Murakami time", and in 2007 Ieva Susnytė's translation of Murakami's novel "[] pietus nuosienos, [] vakarus nuosaulės" from the Japanese language established the norm of translation from the original language. Last year might be called the year of new discoveries: the complex and wide world of Japanese women writers is becoming open to Lithuanian readers (Banana Yoshimoto, Sayaka Murata, Yōko Ogawa, Hiro Arikawa, Hiromi Kawakami). "Siberian Haiku" (2018) by Jurga Vilė and Lina Itagaki shows how Japanese literary traditions are adapted to the Lithuanian way of storytelling, while translations of works by Kazuo Ishiguro, Ruth Ozeki, and Han'ya Yahagihara raise difficult questions of ethnic and literary identity. Similar to what the name of Czesław Miłosz might evoke in Japan.

Jurgita Ignotienė, Vilnius University

- 3.** Exhibition "7 žodžiai". Artists from Germany, Lithuania and Japan. 8 June–22 July 2007, M. Žilinskas Art Gallery in Kaunas. Exhibition flyer.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 4.** Exhibition "Katsushika Hokusai ir jo ratas. Surimono šedevrai – paslėptas grožis". From the private collection of Kessaouri 3 September–31 October 2021, Kaunas district Raudondvaris museum. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 5.** Catalogue of the "Big in Japan" exhibition. 20 June–16 August 2009.
Archive of the Centre for Contemporary Art
- 6 and 9.** Exhibition "100 senųjų japonų graviūrų". 19 May–15 September 2000, Vilnius Picture Gallery. Catalogue.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 7.** YUSHO calligraphy exhibition. 12 April–2 May 2016, Lithuanian National UNESCO Commission Gallery in Vilnius. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 8.** Ikebana afternoon with master Kokei Matsuyama. 26 October 2000, Vilnius Town Hall. Flyer.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 10 and 11.** Presentation of works by Stasys Eidrigevičius in the brochure of the World Children's Literature Illustrators Series.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 12, 14, 15.** Exhibition of Lithuanian and Japanese artists "Lietus sutinka saulę" from the programme "Vilnius - European Capital of Culture 2009". Exhibition catalogue.
Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania
- 13.** Exhibition "Diena ir naktis" by Makoto Aida. 13 April–22 May 2011, Contemporary Art Centre in Vilnius. Invitation.
Archive of the Centre for Contemporary Art
- 16.** Rūta Mikšionienė. "Įžymų japonų dailininką sukrėtė Kryžių kalno vaizdai". Lietuvos rytas. Mūzų malūnas, 18 April 1997, No. 30 (249)
- 17.** Japonija Europos akimis / Japonija šiandien, No. 11. 13 July–16 August 2009, Contemporary Art Centre in Vilnius. Flyer.
Archive of the Centre for Contemporary Art

- 10 and 11.** “Pokarinės Japonijos metamorfozės: 1945–1964”. 28 November 2014 – 4 January 2015, M. Žilinskas Art Gallery. Poster and catalogue.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 12 and 13.** “Tohoku Japonijos fotografų akimis”. 28 January–2 March 2014, Radvilai Palace Museum in Vilnius. Poster and catalogue.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 14.** “Kelias į ateitį: naujasis Japonijos menas” (“Passage to the future: Art from a new generation in Japan”). 18 October 2012 – 2 December 2012, M. Žilinskas Art Gallery in Kaunas. Catalogue.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 15.** “Rankdarbiai: tradicijos ir meistriškumas”. 2 September–4 October 2011, Vilnius Picture Gallery. Catalogue.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 16.** Traditional Japanese ceramics. 2004. Poster of the exhibition at the M. K. Čiurlionis Museum.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 17 and 18.** “Paraphrases of contemporary Japanese artists on the subject of graphics by Toshusai Sharaku (18th century)”. 4–21 August 2006, P. Domšaitis Gallery in Klaipėda. Poster and catalogue.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 19.** The Beauty of Japan Photographed.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive

Screen 14 Visual arts

- 1.** Agnė Jonkutė’s exhibition “Stranger Gallery” in Tokyo. 29 August – 17 September 2008. Flyer.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 2.** Poster Antanas Sutkus’s exhibition “Striped House Gallery” in 2002–2003.
Archive of the “Ritoja.lt” project

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Sigitas Geda's "Senovės rytų poezijos" collection, gave an opportunity to get acquainted with the classics of Japanese poetry. Important translations of haiku and waka into Lithuanian by Vytautas Dumčius contributed to the popularity of the haiku genre in Lithuania. And in Japan 1996, the legend of avant-garde cinema Jonas Mekas began his journey into the hearts of the Japanese people – not through cinema, but through the poetry of Professor Ikuo Murata, translated into Japanese by the masterful Professor.

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Jurgita Ignocienė, Vilnius University

Children's literature

It is believed that the folk tale "Eglė the Queen of Serpents" (Eglė žalčių karalienė) was the first piece of Lithuanian literature translated into Japanese (1972). Legend has it that while translating this tale the translator prof. Ikuo Murata had a son and named him Egle. Soon after came other Japanese translations – Lithuanian folk tale "Mildutė", fragments of Antanas Baranauskas' "The Forest of Anykščiai" (Anykščių šilelis) and Kristijonas Donelaitis' "The Seasons" (Metai). In 1981 a collection of Lithuanian folk tales was released as

- 13 and 15.** Flyers from performances by composer and jazz performer Liudas Mockūnas in Yokohama, at Bitches Brew jazz club in December 2018 and the cover of the CD recorded there.
Liudas Mockūnas archive
- 16.** Concert tour by Ingrid Fuzjko Hemming and the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Robertas Šervenikas in Japan. 2012 flyer.
Robertas Šervenikas archive
- 17.** Traditional Japanese music concert "Taip plaka Japonijos širdis". 9 November 2006, Vilnius. Concert handout.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 18.** Robertas Šervenikas conducts the World Ballet Festival in Tokyo. 2018. Information publication.
Robertas Šervenikas archive.

Screen 13

Japan Foundation Exhibitions

- 1 ir 2.** Pokyčiai ir individualumas: šiuolaikinių Japonijos menininkų grafika". 4 February–6 March 2002, Kaunas Picture Gallery. Poster and catalogue.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 3.** "Neprilygstamas japonų meistriškumas". 25 October–23 December 2021, Klaipėda P. Domšaitis Gallery. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 4 and 5.** "Besigrumiantys miestai: Japonijos urbanistiniai projektai nuo 1960-ųjų". 12 April–31 May 2019, Lithuanian Union of Architects in Vilnius. Poster and catalogue.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 6 and 7.** "Žvelgiant į šiuolaikinį pasaulį: japonų fotografija nuo 1970-ųjų iki da- bar". 13 September–7 October 2017, Panevėžys City Art Gallery. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 8 and 9.** "Japonijos lėlės". 27 November 2015–16 January 2016, Klaipėda P. Domšaitis Gallery. Poster and catalogue.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

- 21.** Recital of works by M. K. Čiurlionis “Kelionė nuo fis-moll iki D-minor”. Performed by prof. Vytautas Landsbergis. 22 January 2015, residence of the Japanese ambassador. Handout.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

Screen 12 Music

- 1.** Dainius Pulauskas group at the International Tokyo Jazz Festival in 2014.
Archive of Public Enterprise “Vilniaus džiaz festivalis”.
- 2 and 3.** A special concert of Japanese music by Raimundus Katilius and Petras Geniušas in Vilnius Town Hall.
25 November 1999 Photographs.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 4–6.** EU-Japan Fest newsletter featuring choirs “Varpelis” and “Ugnelė” concert tour in Japan. 2015–2016.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 7.** Tour of the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra in Japan. Conductor: Juozas Domarkas. 22–29 September 1995, Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Musashino, Matsudo. Brochure.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 8 and 9.** State Song and Dance Ensemble “Lietuva”. Brochures from the tour in Japan in 1999.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 10.** Sergej Nakariakov and the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra in Japan. 20 July 1999. Brochure.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 11.** Cascade Trio concerts in Tokyo, Persimon Hall and Kobe, Konan University. 13 April 2008 – 17 April 2008. Flyer.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 12.** Irena Milkevičiūtė’s prize at the international Madam Butterfly competition. Article “Kas geriausia Baterflai”, *Literatūra ir menas*, 18 January 1986.
Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

a separate volume in the series “Tales of the World”, translated from German into Japanese. It is also noteworthy that in 1987 Tokyo publisher “Holp Shuppan” issued the publication of the Lithuanian folk tale “The Queen Swan” (Gulbė karaliaus pati) with illustrations by artist Sigutė Valiuvienė.

In recent years Lithuania has become better known to children and adult readers in Japan through the works of a creative duo – art historian and children’s author Motoko Nakagawa and painter, illustrator Stasys Eidrigevičius. And the younger generation translator Aya Kimura gave a Japanese voice not only to the poetry of Salomėja Nėris, but also to the “Siberian Haiku” by Jurga Vilė and Lina Itagaki and to “Maži eilėraščiai mažiems” (Little poems for the little ones) by Marius Marcinkevičius.

The journey of Japanese literature into Lithuania also began through translations of Japanese folk tales: in 1907 printer, publisher and signatory of the Act of Independence of Lithuania, Saliamonas Banaitis by way of a Russian translation “fixed up” seven Japanese folk tales. Later, in the Soviet era and in the first decade of Independence, several more collections of Japanese folk tales were published: “Gyvates akys” (translated from Russian by Danutė Venclovaitė, 1968), “Nykštukas Hosis” (translated from Japanese by Arvydas Ališauskas, 1976), “Japonų pasakos” (Japanese folk tales) (translated from Japanese by Vytautas Dumčius, 1999).

Translator and japanologist Arvydas Ališauskas translated the folk tales “Laukinės rožės” (Wild roses) by the Japanese ‘Andersen’ Pimej Ogawa, and stories written by Rieko Nakagawa and Miyoko Matsutani as well.

Jurgita Ignotienė, Vilnius University

Lithuania

- 1922**
The Japanese government recognizes the Republic of Lithuania
- 1939-1940**
Consul of Japan Chiune Sugihara resides in Kaunas
- 1969**
The first translation of fiction directly from Japanese is published in the Lithuanian periodical press: Ryūnosuke Akutagawa's short story "Vandenių šalyje", translated by Arvydas Ališauskas
- 1972**
The first translation of Lithuanian literature into Japanese is published in Japan: the Lithuanian folk tale "Eglė žalčių karalienė", translated by Ikuo Murata
- 1990**
A Lithuanian-Japanese association is established in Vilnius
- 1991**
The Japanese government recognizes the restored independence of Lithuania
- 1992**
The first exhibition of works by M. K. Čiurlionis abroad after the Restoration of Independence is held in Tokyo at the Sezon Museum of Modern Art
- 1995**
The Japan Information Centre opens in Vilnius and the first Japanese Culture Week takes place
- 1997**
The Embassy of Japan is established and officially opened in Lithuania
- 1998**
The Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania is registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- 1999**
The first official visit of an official of the Republic of Lithuania to Japan takes place
- 2001**
A non-governmental Japan-Lithuanian Friendship Association is established in Tokyo
- 2005**
Lithuanian culture is presented at AICHI EXPO 2005
- 2007**
Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan are visiting Lithuania on a state visit
- 2022**
The strategic partnership between Japan and Lithuania is established by mutual agreement

Japan

- 10.** Charity concert "Kizuna" dedicated to commemorating the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Lithuania and expressing gratitude to the people of Lithuania for supporting Japan, which is recovering from the damages caused by the earthquake and tsunami. Motoki Hirai (piano), Machiko Takahashi (flute), Vilnius State Quartet. 10 October 2011. St. Catherine's Church in Vilnius. Flyer. *Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania*
- 11.** A concert of traditional Japanese music. Hiroshi Yonezawa (sha-kuhachi) ir Eriko Kumazawa (koto). 1 June 2013, Vilnius Town Hall. Handout. *Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania*
- 12.** A concert of the traditional Japanese koto instrument. Performed by Nanae Yoshimura. Vilnius. Handout. *Japanese Embassy Boys and Youth Choir "Ažuoliukas" archive*
- 13.** Motoki Hirai. Piano recital. 14 October 2011, Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre in Vilnius. Handout. *Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania*
- 14 and 18.** Flyer for the concert tour of boys and youth choir "Ažuoliukas" in Japan in 2004. *Archive of boys and youth choir "Ažuoliukas"*.
- 15.** Harpsichord concert by Ms Yoshiko Ieki. Part of the programme "Iro Iro Nippon! Japonija toli, Japonija arti", a harpsichord concert by Ms Yoshiko Ieki. 10-11 September 2009, Museum of Applied Art in Vilnius, M. Žilinskas Gallery in Kaunas. Leaflet. *Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania*
- 16.** Choral music concert. "Yume-Fusen" Choir (Japan), Bernardine Church Choir "Langas". 27 May 2005, Bernardine Church in Vilnius. Invitation. *Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania*
- 17.** Exhibition of works by the winners of the children's drawing contest "Lietuva ir Japonija", presentation of publications newly received by the National Library from the Japan Fund. The event was part of the 2005 - EU and Japan exchange year programme in Lithuania. 1 March 2006 Invitation. *Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania*
- 19 and 20.** Poster exhibition by Norio Fujishiro. The 2nd Japanese Culture Festival and the 6th International Bonsai and Suiseki Exhibition (organised by K. Ptakauskas). 09-12/06/2011. Brochure. *Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania*

Screen 11 Music

- 1.** Lithuania-Japan. Choral music concerts. Women's choir "Sendai" (Japan), mixed choir "Sonoros" (Lithuania), boys and youth choir "Dagilėlis", children's choir "Ugnelė", academic choir "Neris". 6, 8, 10 November 2019; Vilnius, Šiauliai, Kaunas. Event programme.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 2.** Concerts by the Japanese traditional music group Sakurakomachi. 1–3 June 2019, Klaipėda, Kaunas, Vilnius. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 3.** Concert of the traditional Japanese music group "Wa League" in Marijampolė - the cultural capital of Lithuania. 26 September 2018, Marijampolė Drama Theatre. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 4 and 5.** Concert of the Japanese Self-Defence Marine Force Squadron Orchestra and the Japanese Peace Drum Group "Shozui" in Vilnius, Cathedral Square. 9 August 2016. Handout and ship squadron information booklet.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 6.** Joint concert "Chopino suvienyti" together with the Polish Institute in Vilnius and St. Christopher's Chamber Orchestra by Marie Kiyone (piano, Japan) and Polish jazz pianist Arturo Dutkiewicz. 14 May 2015, St. Catherine's Church in Vilnius. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 7.** Opera "Sempo Sugihara. Vilties sakuros". Composer Yuki Ando, soloists from Japan. 12 May 2015, National Drama Theatre. Flyer.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 8.** A concert of traditional Japanese music. Tomoya Nakai (25 string koto). 10-11 November 2015, Vilnius, Marijampolė. Flyer.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 9.** A concert of traditional Japanese music and ethnojazz. Sho Asano (tsugaru shamisen) and ensemble. 19–20 September 2011 Girstutis Culture and Sports Centre in Kaunas, M. K. Čiurlionis Art School Dance Theatre in Vilnius. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

Acknowledgement instruments

- 1.** Instruments of the Acknowledgment *de jure* of the Republic of Lithuania. 20 January 1922. Photographs.
Arvydas Kumpys Archive.
The original document is kept in the diplomatic archive of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 2.** Resolution of the Government of Japan on the Acknowledgement of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. 8 July 1921. Copy of the facsimile.
Archives of the Embassy of Japan to Lithuania.
- 3.** Instrument of the acknowledgement *de jure* of the Republic of Lithuania. 6 September 1991. Original.
Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Commemoration of Chiune Sugihara

- 4.** Record by the Prime Minister of Japan Shindzo Abe of 14 January 2018 in the VIP Guest Book of the Sugihara House and Museum.
Sugihara House.
- 5.** Book by the Ambassador of Japan to Lithuania Toyoei Shigeeda (2015–2018) Ritoania to Sugihara Chiune ('Lithuania and Chiune Sugihara') devoted to the commemoration of Sugihara.
Centre for Asian Studies at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas.
- 6.** Chiune Sugihara. Visas for life by Linas Venclauskas. Versus aureus, Vilnius, 2009
Geri, blogi, vargdieniai: Č. Sugihara ir Antrojo pasaulinio karo pabėgėliai Lietuvoje ('Good and Bad Miserables: Chiune Sugihara and World War II Refugees in Lithuania') by Simonas Strelcovas. Versus aureus, Vilnius, 2018.
Lietuvos nacionalinė Martyno Mažvydo biblioteka.

Simonas Strelcovas (b. 1972) and Dr Linas Venclauskas (b. 1980), though not being specialists in Japanese philology, have made a considerable contribution to revealing in detail of events related to the Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara and Jewish refugees saved by him. This story, suffused with humanism, became a link strengthening ties between Lithuania and Japan during the dark period of World War II.

- 7.** Booklets of a performance by the Japanese theatre company Dora 'Sempo Sugihara'.
Archive of Gabija Čepulionytė.
In 1994, the Japanese theatre company Dora, during its tour in Vilnius and Kaunas with the performance 'Sempo Sugihara', acquainted the Lithuanian public with Sugihara's life story, which became a symbolic link connecting the two countries. The tour by Dora helped lay the groundwork for long-lasting interchange between Lithuanian and Japanese theatre artists, the main initiator of which was the producer Kazumi Sakabe (1939–2006).
- 8.** Booklet and compact disc of the oratory Sakurų prisiminimai ('Recollections of Sakuras'), a joint work by Lithuanian and Japanese artists. The oratory is devoted to the commemoration of Chiune Sugihara and was performed at the Kaunas National Drama Theatre.
Archives of Gabija Čepulionytė and the Embassy of Japan to Lithuania.
- 9.** Memorial envelopes of 4 September 2015 'The 75th Anniversary of 'Visas for Life'. Chiune Sugihara'.
Archive of Gabija Čepulionytė.
- 10.** Booklets of the Sugihara Week (2017).
Archives of the Embassy of Japan to Lithuania.
The Sugihara Week is a traditional series of events devoted to the memory of the Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara.
- 11.** Booklets of the event 'The 75th Anniversary of "Visas for Life. Chiune Sugihara"'.
Archives of the Embassy of Japan to Lithuania.
- 12.** Informational booklet of the Sugihara House in the Lithuanian and Japanese languages.
Archive of Gabija Čepulionytė.

- 1.** Hanasaki's Tokyo dance performance "Džiutamai" in Lithuania. An expression of the unity of Japanese nature and history in traditional music and dance. 2–5 October 2014, Vilnius University, Kaunas State Drama Theatre, Marijampolė Cultural Centre. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 2.** Prayers and ritual dances MIKAGURA. A lecture by the priest of the Japanese Tsurugaoka Hachimangū Temple about the ritual traditions of Shintoism. 22–24 June 2017, Vilnius University Theatre Hall, Sudargo Mound in Šakiai District, Japanese Garden in Kretinga District. Poster of the event at Vilnius University.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 3.** Interview with Yukari Saito, a world-class ballet star from the Tokyo Ballet Company, 1991. She performed the role of Giselle in the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre. Marie Claire Japan, 1999, No. 11, pp. 220–221.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 4.** Irena Litvinaitė. Šokis Fudzijamos papėdėje. [I. Litvinaitė talked about tours in Japan]//Tiesa, 13 December 1984.
*Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania**
- 5.** Lithuanian ballerinas in the morning, day and evening (ballet artists seen in the photographs: Voldemaras Chlebinskas, Andrius Žužžalkinas, Inga Tamašauskaitė, Jolanta Stungytė). Takashi Homma's photos. Hanatsubaki, 1996, No. 11, pp. 18–19.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 6 and 7.** Japanese choreographer Ryu Suzuki together with the Kaunas Dance Theatre. The premiere of the play "Esybė" created by "Aura". Japan Days in Kaunas WA. 25 April–1 May 2022.
Kaunas Dance Theatre "Aura" archive
- 8.** During the evening dedicated to textile art "Aesthetics of Imperfections. Ritual and Mastery in Cultural Dialogue", held at the Kaunas Artists' House, performers of the Kaunas Dance Theatre "Aura", along with Japanese dancers Ayano Honda and Ken Mai, performed a show called "Netobulumo estetika". Japan days in Kaunas WA. 25 April–1 May 2022.
Kaunas Dance Theatre "Aura" archive

Screen 10 Theatre

- 21 ir 22.** Akira Matsui Noh theatre workshop for schoolchildren. Photographs.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 23 ir 26.** Noh Kita school / classical Japanese theatre “Hagoromo” (“Angelo plunksnų apsiaustas”), “Aoi no ue” (“Piliarožių princesė”) and “Kaminari” (“Griaustinis”). 5–8 December 1999, Lithuanian National Drama Theatre, Kaunas State Academic Drama Theatre. Handout.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 24.** JAJA, a one part drama. 22–26 October 1997, 10–13 September 1998, Tokyo. Booklet.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 25.** JAJA, a one part drama. 22–26 October 1997, 10–13 September 1998, Tokyo. Brochure. Sketches of the performance and a conversation with director Seiichi Yashiro.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 27.** “Trys seserys” by A. Chekhov (dir. Jonas Jurašas, 1984, Tadashi Suzuki Company at the international festival of Togo).
Archive of the Lithuanian Theatre, Music and Cinema Museum
- 28.** Noh Kanze school tours in Lithuania. Performances “Piliarožių princesė” (“Noh”) and “Uodas imtynininkas” (“Kyogen”). 31 July 2005. Photographs by Dmitriy Matveyev.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 29.** Birutė Marcinkevičiūtė. “Kokoro: japoniški akimirksniai” (essays and poems). Vilnius: Vaga, 1999. Book.
Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania
- 30.** Tadashi Suzuki. Culture is the Body. SCOT 2008. Book.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive

History books

- 13.** *Ritoania no rekishi* (‘History of Lithuania’). Akashi Shoten, Tokyo, 2018.
Biržiška Reading Room at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas.
The history of Lithuania is rarely a subject of the studies by Japanese historians; it is often an integral part of a wider European context. But the interest is increasingly growing, and there are individual efforts to introduce the development of Lithuania in more detail and adopt the accumulated knowledge. All this is illustrated by this book, which is not an authorial work by Japanese researchers but a selection of translations of texts by Alfonsas Eidintas, Alfredas Bumblauskas and Antanas Kulakauskas as well as other Lithuanian historians.
- 14.** *Ritoania. Koguniha ikani ikinuitaka* (‘Lithuania: Survival of a Small Country’) by Sachiko Hatanaka. Nihon Hosokyo, Tokyo, 1996.
Biržiška Reading Room at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas.
Lithuania got into the focus of the Japanese anthropologist Dr Sachiko Hatanaka during the period of the re-establishment of its independence. She has visited Lithuania several times, been a teacher at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas and published the collected material in two books and in the academic press. She also was an active member of the Society of Lovers of Lithuania *Ritoania-no kai* established at Waseda University.
- 15.** The first three books about Japan in Lithuania were published by Steponas Kairys (1879–1964) under the pseudonym Dédé in 1906: *Japonija seniau ir dabar* (‘Japan Earlier and Nowadays’), *Japonijos Konstitucija* (‘Constitution of Japan’) and *Kaip japonai gyvena dabar* (‘How Japanese Live Nowadays’). There is also the book by the Japanese publicist *Kumiko Hirano Saka-no ue-no* (‘Japan on the Hill’) published in 2010. It reflects the author’s admiration of Steponas Kairys. Through his personality, the author shows the history of Lithuania and its pursuit for state independence. The book also presents insights about how Europeans perceived Japan more than a century ago.
Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

Public initiatives

- 16.** Application by the President of the Lithuania-Japan Association Rokas Bernotas to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania to register the Association as a public organisation. The protocol indicates the members of the Association's Board: Š. Pilka, A. Vaitkienė, J. Navasaitis, G. Bajoras, R. Bernotas, A. Smilgevičius, R. Bajoriūnas, D. Voveris, A. Kakaras, D. Vaičiūnas, V. Dumčius and D. Matulaitė.
Archive of Gabija Čepulionytė.
After the first President of the Lithuania–Japan Association Dr. Rokas Bernotas switched to diplomatic service, the Association's management was taken over by the physicist Rimantas Vaitkus. The Association's members represent the fields of politics, diplomacy, business, finance, science, culture and art. Therefore, the Association's activities are diverse and make a considerable contribution to the development of the relations between the two countries. Among the most important symbolic deeds of the Association, noteworthy is the establishment of the Chiune Sugihara Sakura Park in Vilnius and the setting up of a memorial stone with a bas-relief (author Dalia Matulaitė). The Association's President has been awarded with the Order of the Rising Sun for merits in the promotion of mutual understanding and economic and technological links between Japan and Lithuania.
- 17.** On 17 June 1995, the hotel 'Narutis' in Vilnius hosted the opening of the Japan Information Centre, the first official institution of Japan operating on the grounds of an agreement between the Japanese Embassy to Denmark and the Lithuania–Japan Association. The Centre hosted a library and video library as well as cultural events, exhibitions, concerts, theatre performances and film screenings. When the Japanese Embassy was established in Lithuania on 1 January 1997, the Centre became its structural unit.

Among the staff members (1995–1997) of the Japan Information Centre, was the first ever teacher from Japan who taught the Japanese language at the Centre for Oriental Studies at Vilnius University and the Centre for Japanese Studies at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas and who mastered the Lithuanian language Tomono Goda (pictured).
Archive of Gabija Čepulionytė.
- 18.** Booklets of cultural events organized by the Lithuania–Japan Association.
Archives of the Embassy of Japan to Lithuania.
- 7–8.** The performance “Buda palėpėje” created by actress and director Birutė Mar based on traditional Japanese theatre principles. Premiered on 18 August 2019. Flyer.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 9.** “Japonijos Harmonija”. Presentation of Traponia's traditional performing arts in Lithuania. Troupe leader - Takamasa Fujima. Performances took place on 12–18 May 2017 in Kaunas, Vytautas the Great University, Alytus City Theatre and Vilnius University Theatre Hall. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 10–11.** Performance by puppeteer Hiroshi Hori of a Japanese puppet dance in Lithuania. 19–20 November 2014, Vilnius and Kaunas. Handout.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 12–13.** Little Kyogen Theatre performance “Kaki-Yamabushi”. Featuring Motohiko Shigeyama. 26–27 April 2013, Dance Theatre in Vilnius and Marijampolė Cultural Centre. Event handout and poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 14 and 19.** Performance of the Japanese puppet theatre troupe “Hachioji Kuruma Ningyo Nishikawa Koryu Troupe”. The event is intended to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Japan. 23–24 October 2011, Ūkio bankas theatre arena in Vilnius. Invitation.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 15.** One-man play “Jaja” based on the play by Seiichi Yoshiro. Performed by Eglė Mikulionytė. 16–27 September 1998, Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda. Brochure.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 16–17.** Kabuki “Glicinijų mergelė”. Lecture and mini performance. Atliko Ichimura Manjiro II is an ensemble. 17–19 November 2001, National Drama Theatre in Vilnius. Handout.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 18.** Youkiza Japanese traditional puppet theatre. The performance “Sužvejota žmona”. 25–26 September 2004, Vilnius theatre “Lėlė”. Handout.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 20.** Kyogen performance “Kazumo” (“Uodas imtynininkas”), Noh performance “Aoi no Ue” (“Piliarožių princesė”). 31 July 2005, National Drama Theatre in Vilnius. Handout.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

- 21.** In 2017, he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun with silver rays.
Photo from the archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

Screen 8 Ikebana

- 1-3.** Laimutė Vanagienė ikebana.
Laimutė Vanagienė archive
- 3-6.** Laimutė Vanagienė is an ikebana master of the Sogetsu school.
Photo by Vygaudas Juozaitis
- 7-8.** Rasa Varvuolienė ikebana.
Rasa Varvuolinė archive
- 10-11.** Rasa Varvuolienė is an ikebana master at the Ohara school.
Rasa Varvuolinė archive
- 12-15.** Demonstration of ikebana by ikebana master Toshiyuki Ohki in the Lithuanian National Library of Martynas Mažvydas.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive

Screen 9 Theatre

- 1-5.** Aivaras Mockus. "Sakura vėtroje". Dir. Jonas Vaitkus. Flyers for the joint presentation of the performance by the Japanese theatre troupe "Dora" and Lithuanian theatre creators at the Tokyo "Haiyuza" theatre and the Lithuanian National Drama Theatre.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
- 6.** Birutė Marcinkevičiūtė. Japonijos dienoraščiai. Krantai, 1998, No. 3, p. 5.
Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

- 19.** During the preparation of the visit to Japan by Lithuania's President Valdas Adamkus in 2001, Tokyo saw the establishment of the Japan–Lithuania Friendship Association, the President of which became (and still is) the former member of the House of Representatives of the Japanese Parliament Seiichi Mizuno. Up to mid-2002, its General Secretary was Hisayuki Sakamizu. The nucleus of the Association consists of chief managers and owners of businesses, members of the Rotary Club and sponsors. The Association develops business, educational, academic and cultural relations between the two countries; undertakes charity activities; supports children with oncological diseases in Lithuania; and promotes exchange of people. By the initiative of the Association's member Sumiko Ando, since 2007, the Nishi Aizdu Art Residence has been inviting Lithuanian artists and organises exchange programmes in 2015, Seiichi Mizuno was awarded the Lithuanian Diplomacy Star.
Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania.

FLUXUS and Jonas Mekas in Japan

- 20.** John Lenon Polaroid. 'George Making Pancakes'.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center.
- 21.** John Lenon Polaroid. 'George Raises His Eyes While Making Pancakes'.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center.
- 22.** John Lenon Polaroid. 'Jonas and Buthc'.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center
- 23.** John Lenon Polaroid. 'Talking Jonas'.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center
- 24.** John Lenon Polaroid. 'George Teaches Jonas to Smile'.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center
- 25.** John Lenon Polaroid. 'To Jonas from Jonas on the Occasion of the Pancake Day'.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center

- 26.** Jonas Mekas' greeting to 'Japanese friends' on the occasion of the events organized by the Lietuva-kai Society at Chubu University, 1995. Facsimile.
Archive of Gabija Čepulionytė
- 27.** John Lenon Polaroid. 'George with His Third Arm'.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center
- 28.** John Lenon Polaroid. 'A Blank Polaroid Film'.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center
- 29.** John Lenon Polaroid. 'George Looking Over His Shoulder'.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center
- 30.** John Lenon Polaroid. 'Yoko'.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center
- 31.** Framed AY-O name card. By George Maciunas.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center
- 32.** Framed Yoko Ono name card. By George Maciunas.
Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center

Japanese Studies at Lithuanian Universities

- 33.** Prof. Antanas Andrijauskas (b. 1948) is a Full Member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, a Chief Researcher at the Lithuanian Culture Research Institute, Professor at the Vilnius Academy of Arts, the long-time Head of the Lithuanian Association of Orientalists, a renowned researcher of the history of Oriental art, philosophy, aesthete and a pioneer of East and West comparative studies in Lithuania. He has published dozens of monographs and hundreds of research articles and has been an organizer of international conferences. He sits on the editorial boards of serial publications (*Rytai-Vakarai: komparatyvistinės studijos* ('East-West: Comparative Studies'), *Bibliotheca Orientalia et Comparativa*, *Estetikos ir meno filosofijos tyrinėjimai* ('Aesthetics and Art Philosophy Research', etc). Prof. Andrijauskas has taught several generations of students and researchers in Oriental Studies. His book "Tradicinė japonų estetika ir menas" ('Traditional Japanese

- 1.** President of the Republic of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus and Chiune Sugihara's widow Yukiko planting cherry blossoms in the courtyard of the Presidency on 01/10/2001.
Archives of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Lithuania
- 2-3.** President of the Republic of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus and Chiune Sugihara's widow Yukiko at the memorial stone on 02/10/2001 with a bas-relief unveiled to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara's birth. The monument was created at the initiative of Waseda University in Tokyo, where Sugihara studied. The author of the bas-relief is Dalia Matulaitė.
Archives of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Lithuania
- 4-6, 13-14.** The Japanese garden in Vilnius University Botanical Garden. With the help and mediation of the Japanese Embassy, the garden was started in 2003 based on a concept plan by Hajime Watanabe and Hiroshi Tsunoda. In 2012, the garden was opened to visitors.
Archive of Vilnius University Botanical Garden
- 7-9.** The Japanese garden is located in Vilnius between T. Kosciūška and Sluškaĩ streets "Sei shin en" was created at the initiative of the artist Dalia Dokšaitė.
Archive of Public Enterprise "Japonų kultūros namai"
- 10-12.** The Japanese garden in Mažučiai, Kretinga district, is the largest Japanese garden in Europe, created by Hajime Watanabe and Šarūnas Kasmauskas.
Archive of the charity and support fund "Japanese Garden"
- 15-22.** Kęstutis Ptakauskas was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun with silver rays in 2017. This order was awarded to K. Ptakauskas for his contribution to spreading Japanese culture through bonsai art in Lithuania.
- 21.** K. Ptakauskas was also awarded a letter of thanks from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan for his activities in organising the World Bonsai and Uiseki Exhibition, his efforts in planting sakura trees, and for publishing the book "Ryto Rasos Sodas".
Photos and flyers from Public Enterprise "Bonsai studija"

Screen 4

Architecture festival EAST-EAST

The first architecture festival “East–East 1” or “Rytai–Rytai 1” took place in Kaunas, in Mykolas Žilinskas Art Gallery, in August 2002. The idea of organising a joint Lithuanian and Japanese architecture event came from the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Japan, Dainius Kamaitis. The biggest stars of Japanese architecture came to the first festival: Fumihiko Maki, Kengo Kuma, Tadao Ando, Taro Ashihara, George Kunihiro, Tetsuo Furuichi, Chiaki Arai, Koh Kitayama and Hidetoshi Ohno. The general exhibition of architectural works at M. Žilinskas Art Gallery was opened by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus. In 2022, the fifth “East–East 5” or “Rytai–Rytai 5” festival took place. Exhibitions, seminars, workshops for students were organised during the festival.

Dainius Kamaitis archive



Screens 5-6

Festivals NowJapan and Creative Lithuania

The NowJapan Festival, which began in 2008 and ended in 2022, was the largest festival of Japanese culture in the Baltic countries, gathering a large group of contemporary Japanese artists to Lithuania and promoting the spread of popular Japanese culture in Lithuania. The exhibition presents only a small part of the festival’s flyers, sample tickets, and handouts, selected from the large *Archive of the Public Enterprise “Kultūrinės ir Organizacinės Idėjos”*.

“Creative Lithuania” is a project that promotes cooperation between Lithuanian and Japanese artists and aims to introduce contemporary Lithuanian artists and modern Lithuanian culture to Japan.

Pamphlets and booklets from the *Archive of the Public Enterprise “Kultūrinės ir Organizacinės Idėjos”*.

Aesthetics and Art’) is one of the first works exploring the Japanese aesthetic and artistic traditions starting with the origins until the Edo period. The book was nominated for the Japan Foundation Award.

Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

- 34.** *Geografija, arba Žemės aprašymas* (‘Geography, or the Description of the Earth’)

Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.

A geography book published by Juozas Adomaitis (1859–1922) under the pseudonym ‘Szernas’, one of the first Lithuanian publications to present Japan in detail.

- 35.** Japanese–Lithuanian Online Dictionary *jishokun.lt*. Compiled by Aurelijus Zykas. Kaunas, 2016

Even though we cannot list through the pages of the complete Lithuanian–Japanese dictionary yet, thanks to the effort of Aurelijus Zykas, we can browse its online version, which is available to everyone, everywhere and all the time. The Dictionary contains more than 70,000 words, several thousand hieroglyphs and is supplemented with illustrations, tables and other information.

Aurelijus Zykas (b. 1978) is a Japanologist, who has contributed significantly to the development of relations between Lithuania and Japan and to the deepening of mutual understanding by working as a translator for high-level delegations, teaching East Asian specialists at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, organizing events dedicated to Japan in Kaunas and by publishing academic and popular literature about Japan. Since 2022, Zykas has been applying all the knowledge and experience in his new role as the Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Japan.

Language and literature studies

- 36.** ‘Japanese I ir Japanese II’ by Rio Kojima. Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, 1993. The methodological material for a Japanese language course.

Archive of Gabija Čepulionytė.

Since there was absence of Japanese language textbooks, Dr. Rio Kojima prepared hand-made notebooks of methodological material. Kojima was the first lecturer from Japan who spent a somewhat longer time in Lithuania. In 1993–1995, he taught at Vytautas Mag-

nus University in Kaunas, where, through his lectures, he inspired students to take interest in the Japanese history and culture. Kojima also conducted research that helped to better understand the history of relations between Lithuania and Japan and expanded the field of comparative studies.

37.

'Japanese I' by Violeta Devėnaitė. Academic Publishing, Vilnius, 2018.

Lietuvos nacionalinė Martyno Mažvydo biblioteka

The first Japanese language textbook in Lithuanian published in the electronic form on the Internet, i.e., japonukalba.vdu.lt (in 2012), which was created by young Japanese scholars of Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas. The educational material published a few years later in the form of a book and prepared by Vilnius University's Japanese language lecturer Violeta Devėnaitė can be considered the second such textbook.

38.

Ritoaniago ('The Lithuanian Language') by Eiko Sakurai.

Hakusuisha, Tokyo, 2012.

Biržiška Reading Room at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas.

The first comprehensive Japanese–Lithuanian language textbook published 15 years ago (in 2007; an updated edition in 2019). Its author is an active popularizer of the Lithuanian language, Dr. Eiko Sakurai, a lecturer at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. The fact that it has been republished twice demonstrates its success.

39.

Ritoania wo shiru tameno 60 sho ('Collection of 60 Articles for Getting to Know Lithuania') by Eiko Sakurai. Akashishoten, Tokyo, 2020.

Centre for Asian studies at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas.

This book was created by the efforts of Dr Eiko Sakurai, a Lithuanian language specialist teaching at the Tokyo University of Foreign Languages, after bringing together experts from different fields. The articles prepared by them comprehensively present the history, nature, culture and other domains of Lithuania to Japanese readers.

40.

Dr. Dalia Švambarytė (b. in 1968) is the pioneer of Japonology at Vilnius University, one of the founders of the Centre for Oriental Studies, which operated from 1993 to 2018 and was subsequently reorganized into the Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy, as well as an editor of Japonology study programmes. Her teaching and research interests include the Japanese culture and its research, history of Japan, classical Japanese literature, ethnology, Japanese language, and cultural identity in Asian literature. Švambarytė enriched Japanese studies in Lithuania with fundamental works comprehensively analyzing the Japanese history and classical literature as well as translations

16.

The 19th Japanese Film Festival (2 and 3 March screenings in Vilnius and 7 March screenings in Kaunas were cancelled due to the COVID pandemic).

27 February–7 March 2020, Vilnius, Kaunas. Flyer.

Japanese Embassy Archive

17.

"Japanese Vacation" in Vilnius, a weekend of Japanese events initiated by Vilnius City Municipality. 28–30/08/2020, Vilnius. Postcard.

Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

18.

The 15th Japan Film Festival. 22–27/01/2016, Vilnius. Poster.

Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

19 and 22.

"Lietuvos šviesuoliai 2013", awards organised by the M. K. Čiurlionis Foundation and the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania in which deserving luminaries in the fields of Japanese and Lithuanian culture and diplomacy were awarded. 29 October 2013, Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Vilnius. Invitation.

Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

23.

Japanese culture week in Panevėžys, the cultural capital of Lithuania. 18 February–2 March 2014, Panevėžys.

Flyer with the programme.

Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

Exhibition of contemporary Japanese calligraphy and ink painting. 11 July–27 August, 2017, Museum of Applied Art and Design. Poster.

Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

24.

Award ceremony of the winners of the photo contest "Sakuros Lietuvoje" at the National Martynas Mažvydas Library.

15 June 2021, Vilnius. Awards ceremony poster.

Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

3. Festival "Sharing" in Tokyo, Amu Gallery, exhibition of the group "Baltos kandys". 02–07/11/2010.
Miglė Lebednykaitė archive
4. Festival "Sharing" in Tokyo, Amu Gallery, exhibition of the group "Baltos kandys". 02–07/11/2010.
Miglė Lebednykaitė archive
5. Festival "Sharing" in Tokyo, concert of contract group "Trys keturiose". 09/11/2010.
Miglė Lebednykaitė archive
6. The 9th Japan Film Festival "Japonija toli, Japonija arti". 16–22/10/2009, Vilnius. Flyer.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
7. The 8th Japanese Film Festival. 17–23/10/2008, Vilnius. Handout.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
8. The 10th Japan Film Festival. 04–10/02/2011, Panevėžys, Klaipėda, Kaunas, Alytus. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
9. EU Film Days 2009 brochure.
Gabija Čepulionytė archive
10. Japanese Film Festival. 05–09/12/1998, Klaipėda Picture Gallery. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
11. A retrospective of Yasujiro Ozu's films. 01–07/12/2004, "Lietuva" cinema, Vilnius. Programme.
Japanese Embassy Archive
12. Lithuanian culture festival "Ritoania now", organised in Chiune Sugihara's hometown in Gifu prefecture.
Gifu Prefectural Archives
13. The 14th Japanese Film Festival, dedicated to the work of director Kihachi Okamoto, 6–11 February 2015, Vilnius. Poster.
Japanese Embassy Archive
14. The 8th Japanese festival, 24–25 June 2017, Japanese Garden, Darbėnai sen., Kretinga district. Flyer.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
15. The 16th Japanese Film Festival, 3–8 February 2017, Vilnius. Poster.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania

of the classical and modern Japanese literature. In 2020, she was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun for her merits in developing academic exchanges and promoting mutual understanding between Japan and Lithuania.

Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

41. *Ritoaniago kiso 1500 go* ('Dictionary of 1,500 Basic Lithuanian Words') by Ikuo Murata. Daigakushorin, Tokyo, 1995.
Biržiška Reading Room at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas.
Professor Ikuo Murata is one of the first Japanese Baltic scholars, who acquired his expertise while studying in the USA and Sweden and visiting the Baltic States. He worked at the Tokyo University of Economics, published articles on the development and characteristics of the Baltic languages. He introduced the Lithuanian language in Japan through translations of literary works (parts of *Metai* ('The Seasons') by Kristijonas Donelaitis, *Anykščių šilelis* ('The Forest of Anykščiai') by Antanas Baranauskas, Lithuanian folk tales; and works by Valdas Adamkus, Jonas Mekas and other Lithuanian authors)) as well as by compiling and publishing a dictionary of the Lithuanian language.
42. *Yaku ni tatsu ritoania go* ('Practical Lithuanian Language') by Hideto Matsuo and Indre Baronina. Hon no fūkeisha, Tokyo, 2004.
Biržiška Reading Room at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas.

Presentation of the creative work of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis in Japan

43. Poster of the exhibition 'Čiurlionis: Fantasies and Secrets of the Lithuanian Fin-de-Siecle'. Poster at the Sezon Museum of Modern Art. *M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art*
The first exhibition devoted to Čiurlionis held abroad after the restoration of independence of Lithuania, which took place on 7 March – 5 April 1992 at the Tokyo's Sezon Museum of Modern Art and featured paintings, graphic works, drawings, letters and printed music. The opening of the exhibition was attended by Vytautas Landsbergis, then Chairman of the Supreme Council of Lithuania, who was visiting Japan for the first time, and Gražina Ručytė-Landsbergienė. It is estimated that the exhibition was attended by almost 19 thousand visitors. It contributed to better awareness of Čiurlionis as a painter by the Japanese general

public. According to Dr Yumiko Nunokawa, Čiurlionis was probably the first Lithuanian artist presented in Japan. In 1970, the musicologist Ichirō Katō published the article 'Discovery of a Genius Artist: Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis from Lithuania' (*Soviet Journal*, 23 January 1970).

- 44.** Catalogue of the exhibition 'Čiurlionis: Fantasies and Secrets of the Lithuanian Fin-de-Siecle' at the Sezon Museum of Modern Art (*M. K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art*) and visitor's card. *Archive of the Embassy of Japan to Lithuania.*
- 45.** *Piano Works by Čiurlionis.* Edited with commentaries by Darius Kučinskis. Media Corporation, 2011. *Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.*
- 46.** A series of CDs inspired by the exhibition devoted to Čiurlionis 'Čiurlionis: Fantasies and Secrets of the Lithuanian Fin-de-Siecle' at the Sezon Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo released in 1992–1993 by the efforts of the musicologist and producer Yukihisa Miyayama at the King Records company. The symphonic poems *Jūra* ('The Sea') and *Miške* ('In the Forest') were recorded for the first time following the original scores. *Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.*

Literary connections

This part of the exhibition is displayed at the Exhibition Hall

- 47.** *Vainikai: naujesniosios poezijos antologija* (Wreaths: Anthology of Modern Poetry). Edited by Kazys Binkis. Kaunas; Vilnius. Švyturys, 1921. *Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.*
- The anthology of modern poetry edited by the avant-garde poet Kazys Binkis in 1921 presents works by the most famous Lithuanian poets of that time. It is one of the first examples of how the traditional Japanese poetry can inspire the search for new forms of poetry and thought expression. There is *Utos* ('Utas') by Binkis' „Utos“ ('utas' are Japanese poetic miniatures consisting of thirty-one syllables miniature poems ('tankas')), which he himself called 'attempts at Japanese micro-poetry'. Although written in a Western style, they come close to the traditional Japanese poetry because of playful repetitions and sophisticated flowery language.

- 8.** Music from Lithuania: The Lithuanian National Day Performers, bukletas. Vilnius, 2005. *Romas Jankauskas archive*
- 9.** "EXPO 2005". Aichi Pavilion Exposition. Where is Lithuania? *Romas Jankauskas archive*
- 10.** "EXPO 2005". Aichi Pavilion Exposition. Visitors at the pavilion. *Romas Jankauskas archive*
- 11.** Arūnas Marcinkevičius. "Trimis milijonais susidomėjo dar vienas vienas milijonas". Savaitė su TV, 14 September 2005, no. 37, pp. 10-11. *Romas Jankauskas archive*
- 12.** Paulius Normantas. "Apie Igarkos kraštą – Šiaurinės japonų teritorijos / pietinės Kurilų salos. Parodos kvietimas." 02–15/04/1996. *Gabija Čepulionytė archive*
- 13.** Romas Jankauskas. "Lietuva pasaulinėje parodoje „EXPO 2005“ pasirodo labai sėkmingai". *Mokslas ir gyvenimas*, 2005, Nr. 9, p. 24–27. *Romas Jankauskas archive*
- 14.** Vetusta Prišmantienė. "Ar pasauliui bus įdomi Lietuva". *Tėviškės gamta*, 8 August 2004 (128). *Romas Jankauskas archive*
- 15.** Laima Lavaste. "Japonai audringai plojo nuo gedulo išvaduotai Lietuvai". *Mūzų malūnas*, "Lietuvos rytas" Tuesday supplement, 12 July 2005, No. 28 (701). *Romas Jankauskas archive*

Screen 3 Cultural festivals

- 1.** The 7th Japanese Film Festival. Paper handout. *Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania*
- 2.** The 7th Japanese Film Festival. Paper handout. *Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania*

7. Lithuania in the World, 2005, Vol. 13, No. 1.
Romas Jankauskas archive
8. Steven Paulikas. "A stand among friends. Visitors to EXPO 2005 will experience a modern and vibrant Lithuania". Lithuania in the World, 2005, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 8–9.
Romas Jankauskas archive
9. Lithuania in the World, 2005, Vol. 12, No. 6.
Romas Jankauskas archive
10. "National Day at EXPO 2005". Lithuania in the World, 2005, Vol. 12, No. 6.
Romas Jankauskas archive

Screen 2 Aichi Expo 2005

1. Laima Lavaste. "Japonai audringai plojo nuo gedulo išvaduotai Lietuvai". Mūzų malūnas, "Lietuvos rytas" Tuesday supplement, 2005 July 12, No. 28 (701).
Romas Jankauskas archive
2. Vytautas Žeimantas. "Lietuvos dalyvavimas pasaulinėje parodoje „Expo 2005“ buvo pristatytas Alytuje ir Druskininkuose". Lietuvos aidas, 30/06/2004, No. 149.
Romas Jankauskas archive
3. Made in Lithuania, 2005, Vol. 17, No. 3.
Romas Jankauskas archive
4. EXPO 2005. Made in Lithuania, 2005, Vol. 17, No. 3, p. 16.
Romas Jankauskas archive
5. Vytautas Žeimantas. "Pasaulinės parodos „Expo 2005“ Japonijoje atgarsiai: The name of Lithuania is ringing". Lietuvos aidas, 03/14/2006, No. 59 (305).
Romas Jankauskas archive
6. "EXPO 2005". Aichi Pavilion Exposition. DNA helix.
Romas Jankauskas archive
7. "EXPO 2005". Aichi Pavilion Exposition. DNA helix.
Romas Jankauskas archive

48. *Japonų pasakos* ('Japanese Fairy Tales'). Edited by S. Vaitiekūnas following the Russian translation. Saliamonas Banaitis print house, Kaunas, 1907.
Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania
To the best of our knowledge, it is the first translation of Japanese fiction into Lithuanian. The collection includes seven Japanese fairy tales. The editor and translator of the collection from Russian is Saliamonas Banaitis (1866–1933), a signatory of the Act of Independence of Lithuania.
49. *Vandenių šalyje* ('In the Land of Water-Sprites') by Riunosuke Akutagawa. Translated from Japanese by Arvydas Ališauskas. Nemunas, 1969, No. 11.
Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.
Arvydas Ališauskas (b. 1942) is the pioneer of translating works of the Japanese fiction directly from the Japanese language. This short story by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa published in the periodic press, as well as the collection of literary tales by Pimei Ogawa *Laukinės rožės* ('Wild Roses') published by Vaga Publishers are considered the first translations from the original language. In 2012, Ališauskas was awarded the Order of the Rising for his merits in promoting the Japanese culture and Japanese language studies.
50. Matas Šalčius. Fight for the Far East. Manuscript.
Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania
Matas Šalčius (1890–1940) was a very colourful person, who was involved in various numerous activities. In the context of this exhibition, the most important thing is Šalčius' passion for travelling, which he embarked in from a young age and, during his life, he traveled almost all over the world. He visited Japan three times and recorded his impressions and insights not only in manuscripts and articles but also in the six-volume book *Svečiuose pas 40 tautų* ('Visits to 40 Nations') published in 1935–1936, the sixth part of which is devoted to East Asia, including Japan.

Literature for children

This part of the exhibition is exhibited in the Children's and Youth Literature Reading Room (1st floor)

51. *Ritoania. Sekai no minwa 33* ('Lithuania. Tales of the World 33'). Translated from German by Emiko Kotō. Gyōsei, 1981.
Archive of Gabija Čepulionytė.
There are not many translations of the Lithuanian literature into

Japanese. This collection of Lithuanian fairy tales, which appeared in 1981, is one of the few examples of Lithuanian literature of that time, next to the Lithuanian folk tales *Eglė žalčių karalienė* ('Eglė the Queen of Grass Snakes') and *Mildutė* translated by Professor Ikuo Murata in the 1970s.

52. Motoko Nakagawa (b. 1942) and Stasys Eidrigėvičius (b. 1949) are well-known and extremely popular duo in Japan. Nakagawa is an art critic and author of children's books. Eidrigėvičius is one of the most outstanding contemporary Lithuanian artists, who creates illustrations for the stories created by Nakagawa.
Archive of Sigutė Chlebinskaitė

53. The Japanese publishing house in Tokyo HOLP Shuppan is a producer of a series of books 'Fairy Tales of the Nations of the World', which includes the Lithuanian fairy tale 'The Queen Swan'. Several Lithuanian artists came forward to the sampling exercise, and the Japanese chose Sigutė Valiuvienė. The book was published in Japan in 1989. In 2022, the book was republished in Lithuania with texts in both Japanese and Lithuanian. It is the newest item of this exhibition.
Archive of Saulius Valius

To find more information on different topics of Lithuanian and Japanese relations, go to www.ritoja.lt

Japanese Government cultural grants

- 1.** Cultural grants of the Japanese Government to Lithuania. Booklet of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre.
Archive of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania
- 2.** Eglė Marčėnienė. "Arigato" means "thank you" in Lithuanian. *Mokslas ir gyvenimas*, 2001, No. 10, pp. 40–41.
Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

Aichi Expo 2005

- 1.** Lithuanian Business Review. Special Issue for Exhibition Expo 2005 Aichi Japan, 2005, No. 1.
Romas Jankauskas archive
- 2.** "Address by H. E. Mr. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania, to the organisers of EXPO 2005". Lithuanian Business Review. Special Issue for Exhibition Expo 2005 Aichi Japan, 2005, No. 1, pp. 4–15.
Romas Jankauskas archive
- 3.** Lithuania in the World, 2003, Vol. 11, No. 6.
Romas Jankauskas archive
- 4.** "Nature's Wisdom at EXPO 2005". Lithuania in the World, 2003, Vol. 11, No. 6.
Romas Jankauskas archive
- 5.** Raimonda Karnackaitė. "The Japanese say 'Ačiū'". Two million people visited the Lithuanian pavilion at the World Exhibition". Lithuania in the World, 2005, Vol. 13, No. 5, pp. 8–9.
Romas Jankauskas archive
- 6.** Lithuania in the World, 2005, Vol. 13, No. 5.
Romas Jankauskas archive