

Berestje land during the Magdeburg Law

XIII century. The era of the Crusades. The Crusaders founded a fortress in Riga at the mouth of the Dvina. In Livonia, with the active participation of Pope Innocent III, the Livonian Brothers of the Sword were created. Mindovg founded the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1219.

The 13th century is the heyday of classical feudal culture in Germany. From the feather of Eike von Repkow comes "The Saxon Mirror" - a record of the common law of East Saxony, which has been developing over several centuries. It, together with the statute of the city of Magdeburg, was the origin of Magdeburg Law, one of the most famous systems of city law. Magdeburg law start spreading throughout the cities of East Germany, Central and Eastern Europe. Following Poland, it also appeared on the lands of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.



1916. German Empire, postcard, Pinsk Jesuit College

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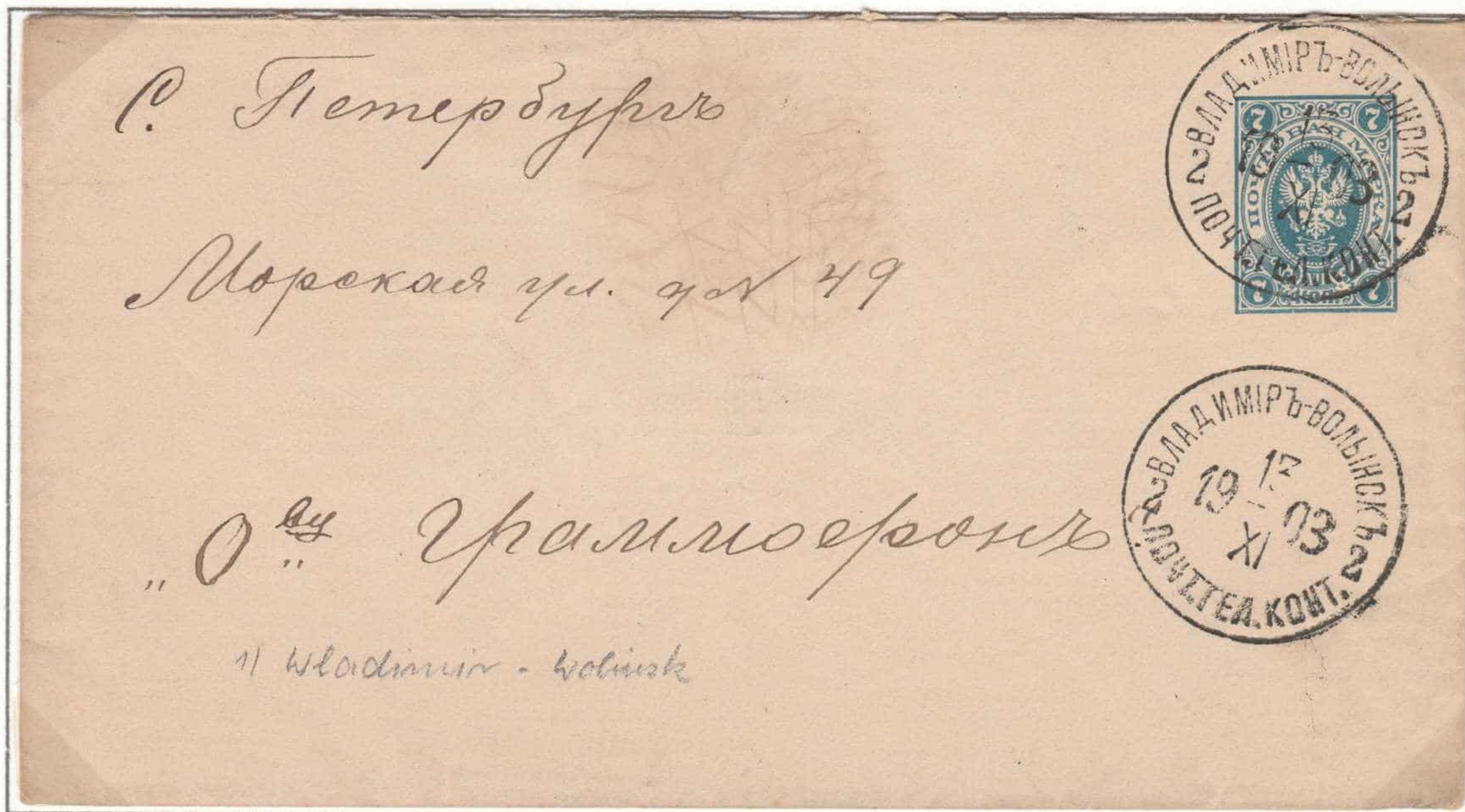
1. Beresteyschchina

The first mention of Brestye dates back to 1019 in the Tale of Bygone Years. At that time, Brestje was part of the Turov Principality. It is assumed that the name of the city comes from the words "beresta" (birch bark) or from "berest" (a type of elm), which grew wildly on the site of the ancient settlement.



2005, Belarus, envelope, Brest on an engraving from the 17th century

Berstje was also part of the Kyiv, Vladimir-Volyn, Galicia-Volyn principalities. For protection from external enemies, by order of the Volyn prince Vladimir Vasilkovich, a Volyn-type rectangular tower shape was erected in Berstje from 1276 to 1288, made of brick and stone.



1998, Ukraine, Crown of Daniel of Galicia 6 13th century

1903, Russian Empire, letter from Vladimir-Volynsk to St. Petersburg

1. Beresteyschchina

It that period, the main cities of the Berestian land were: Brestje, Dorogichin, Melnik, Belsk, Kobrin and Kamenets.



1986, Poland, postcard with a special cancellation with a transfer calendar date "UPT DROHICZYN n/BUGIEM"

Dorogichin was first mentioned in the Kyiv Chronicle in 1142. It was located on the western border of the Galicia-Volyn Principality and the Great Amber Road passed through it.



1987, Poland, postcard with a special cancellation with a transfer calendar date "UPT MIELNIK n/BUGIEM"

The first mention of Melnik dates back to 1240. In 1440 it received the Chelm Law (a variant of the Magdeburg Law, used mainly in Eastern Pomerania, Prussia, Mazovia, Warmia and Podlasie).

1. Beresteyschchina

Kamenets was founded in 1276 by order of the Volyn prince Vladimir Vasilkovich. It was built by the princely builder Alexa (Oleksa).



2012, Belarus, envelope with a standard stamp from 2014 "Kamyanets Tower" with a "red dot"



Kobrin was first mentioned in the Ipatiev Chronicle in 1287. In 1315 it was annexed to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

1916, German Empire, postcard, Kobrin

2. Magdeburg law

2.1 Magdeburg law in GDL

Magdeburg Law was formed in the 13th century in Magdeburg as a feudal city law, which gave the city independence from feudal lords. The sources of Magdeburg Law are the "Saxon Mirror" and the statute of the city of Magdeburg.



1984, GDR, Magdeburg

With Magdeburg Law, cities received their legal, economic, socio-political and property independence. Everything was regulated by their own system of legal norms.

On the territory of Poland, the Magdeburg Law was actively introduced by Kazimir III the Great.



1964, Poland,
Kazimir III the Great

After Poland, Magdeburg Law began to spread to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Initially, Magdeburg Law in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was granted to a settlement by the privilege of the Grand Duke, and after the Union of Lublin in 1569 - by the King of Poland and the Grand Duke of Lithuania. Magdeburg Law was granted to private cities by the privilege of the owner or, at his request, by the Grand Duke.



2022,
Lithuania, Vladislaw II
Jagiello

The first privilege for Magdeburg rights in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was issued by Vladislaw II Jagiello in 1387 in Vilnius.



1994, Lithuania, Vilnius
Town Hall



1877, Russian Empire, open letter from Vilnius to Königsberg. The year number is upside down on the calendar postmark.

Magdeburg rights did not apply to the Jewish population. The exception was Traki, where Jews received Magdeburg rights as an independent group of citizens in 1444.



1995, Lithuania, Troki Castle

2. Magdeburg Law

2.2 Attributes of Magdeburg Law

With the granting of Magdeburg rights to the city, it received a coat of arms and was allowed to build a town hall.



2005, Belarus, Coat of arms of Mogilev



2012, Belarus, Mogilev Town Hall

The head of the city government was the mayor. During the absence of the mayor, his deputy was the lantwoit. Under the leadership of the mayor, a judicial body operated - the lava, whose duties included the consideration of criminal cases. The internal policy of the city, the consideration of private and administrative court cases was handled by the council elected by the citizens, which was headed by the burgomaster.

The burgomasters and radtsy formed the city council, and the lavniks formed the city lava. The direct management of city affairs was in the hands of the burgomasters, radtsy and lavniks. They constituted the magistrate, which sat in the town hall.



2006, Belarus, envelope, Mogilev Town Hall and imprint of the coat of arms seal

3. Cities and towns with Magdeburg law on the territory of the Brest region



1991, Lithuania, Gedemin



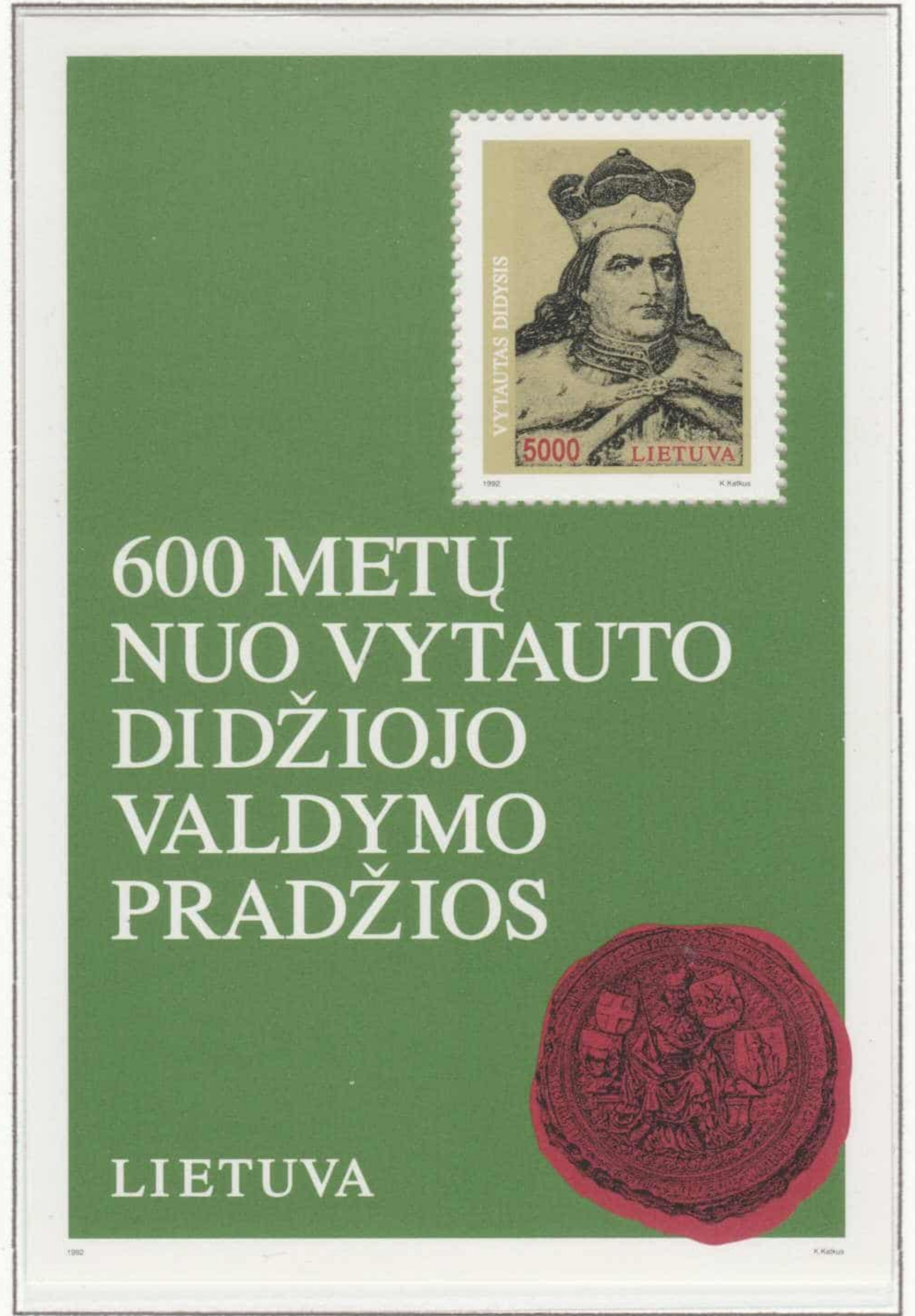
2023, Lithuania, Keistut

In 1321, the Grand Duke of Lithuania Gedimin annexed Brestje to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In the mid-14th century, Brestje belonged to Duke Keistut. In 1382-84, Brest came into possession of Skirgaila, and then Duke Vitovt.

During the struggle between Jagiello and Vitovt in 1388-92, Jagiello captured Brestje and granted it Magdeburg rights on August 15, 1390. Thus, Brestje became the first city with Magdeburg rights on the territory of modern Belarus and the Brest region.



2001, Belarus, Coat of arms of the city of Brest, Shift of perforation



1992, Lithuania, Vitovt

In 1464, the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania Alexander Brestje granted a coat of arms - a silver bow with an arrow pointing upwards on a blue field.

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 ответственной
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 индекс

2015, Belarus, envelope, 625th anniversary of Brest receiving Magdeburg rights

3. Cities and towns with Magdeburg law on the territory of the Brest region

The second and third cities with Magdeburg rights were Vysokoye (during the reign of Jan I Albrecht in 1494) and Kamenets (in 1524).



2008, Belarus, envelope with original stamp and special cancellation "Day of Belarusian Writing in Kamyanets"

In 1553, Motol, during the reign of Queen Bona Sforza, received Magdeburg rights. Later, a royal residence was built in Motol.



Envelope with a special cancellation with a transfer date "Motolsky Museum of National Art"

3. Cities and towns with Magdeburg law on the territory of the Brest region



In 1579, the town of Gorodnaya received Magdeburg rights, and two years later, on January 12, 1581, the city of Pinsk received Magdeburg rights and a city seal: "In the red field of the shield, a golden bow is drawn, the steel arrowhead is directed to the left," which later became the coat of arms.

1992, Belarus. Belarusian applied art, pottery. Jug and pot. Author Ya. Kisel, 1920, Gorodnaya village

1996, Belarus, Franciscan Church in Pinsk, 16th-18th centuries.



ПАШТОЎКА

адрас адпраўшчыка і індэкс прадпрыемства сувязі

Пружаны Сядзібны дом Швыкоўскіх, XIX ст.
Музей-сядзіба «Пружанскі палацык»

Каму _____

Куды _____

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ІНДЭКС

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2012, Belarus, postcard with original stamp and special postmark "Puzhany"

On May 3, 1588, King and Grand Duke Sigismund III, at the request of his aunt, Queen Anna, granted the residents of Puzhany Magdeburg rights with a city seal and coat of arms (the family symbol of his mother), in a silver field a writhing blue serpent (dragon) with a golden crown on its head, holding a baby in its mouth.

On December 10, 1589, King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth Sigismund III Vasa granted Magdeburg rights to Kobrin and Gorodets. The first mention of Gorodets is in the Ipatiev Chronicle (in the form Gorodets) and dates back to 1287, when the Volyn Prince Vladimir Vasilkovich bequeathed the city of Kobrin and the village of Gorodets to his wife Olga Romanovna.



2009, Belarus, Coat of Arms Kobrin



1996, Belarus, Kobrin formation



1980, USSR, A.V. Suvorov

For the capture of Warsaw in 1794, Suvorov was granted an estate of 7 thousand souls in the Kobrin district.



1996, Belarus, Nikolai Radziwill the Black

In 1552, the settlement of Logishin was mentioned in the "Cadastre Book of the Pinsk Principality". On February 25, 1643, by a charter of the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania Vladislav IV, the settlement of Logishin received Magdeburg rights, and the coat of arms was determined: an image of a wolf with elk legs on a blue background. In the 17th century, Logishin became the property of the Radziwills.

4. The Berestje Meeting of 1409 and the Battle of Grunwald

In December 1409, Jagajlo and Vitovt met in Brestje and developed a plan for a summer campaign against the Teutonic Order. After the Brestje meeting, a large hunt was organized in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha to prepare provisions for the upcoming battle. The hunt was for large animals - aurochs, bison, deer, elk, and wild boar.



1980, Romania, deer



1961, San Marino, Medieval Hunt



1974, France, bison



1965, Poland, wild boar



2013, Poland, special cancellation "50 years of bison in Bieszczady"



2010, Belarus, 600th anniversary of the victory at Grunwald

On July 15, 1410, the decisive battle of the Great War of 1409-1411 took place. The troops of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, led by King Vladislav II Jagajlo and Grand Duke of Lithuania Vitovt, won a decisive victory over the army of the Teutonic Order. After this battle, the Teutonic Order was unable to recover from the defeat, and severe internal conflicts led to economic decline.



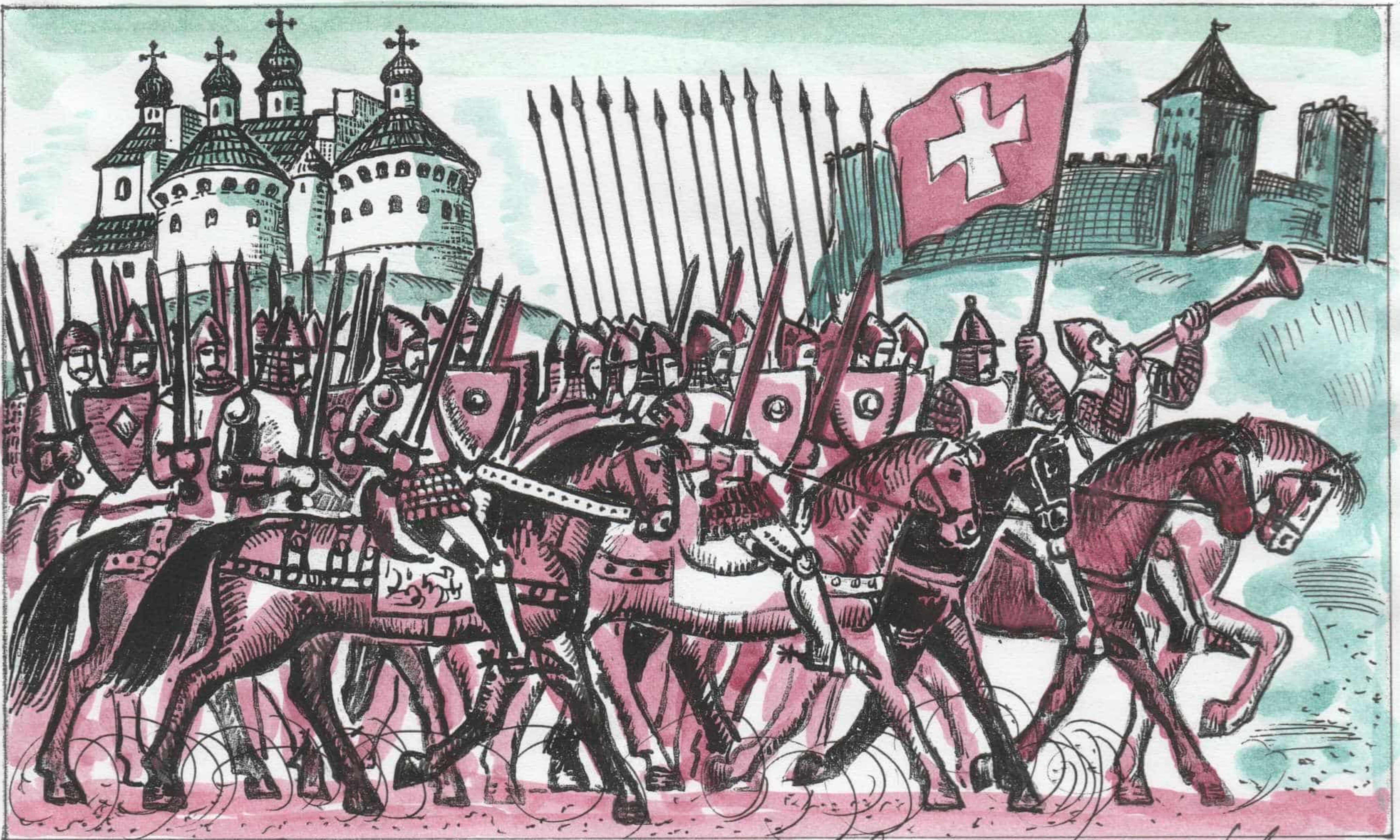
1992, Lithuania, Vytautas in the painting by Jan Matejko "Battle of Grunwald"

1960, Poland, painting by Jan Matejko "Battle of Grunwald"



4. The Berestje Meeting of 1409 and the Battle of Grunwald

2^й варшавин -



Створене із Богородиці к учасників Грюнвальда Логвін

Artwork by Y. Logvin for the first day cover "History of the Army"

Warriors from the territories of modern Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, as well as Crimean Tatars fought at Grunwald.

Логвін Ю.П.
Олеся Гончара 52 кв. 8б
Київ-54
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01054

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БЕЛАРУСЬ - Білорусія
224 000

2005, Ukraine,
first day cover
for the series of
stamps "History
of the Army"

5. At the origins of book printing in Belarus

5.2 Berestje printing house

The first printing house on the territory of modern Belarus was opened under the patronage of Nikolai Radziwill the Black in 1553 in Brest. Nikolai Radziwill was able to attract a number of printers to book publishing, including B. Voevudka, S. Marmelius, K. Bazilik.



2003, Belarus, envelope, 450 years of the first printing house in Belarus

The Brest Printing House published more than 40 books in Latin and Polish. The most important book published in the printing house is the "Brestje Bible" ("Radziwill Bible") published in 1563.



2013, Belarus, envelope, 450 years since the publication of the Brest Bible

5. At the origins of book printing in Belarus

5.1 Francisk Skorina

On August 6, 1517, the first book "Psalter" was published in Prague, printed "by order and work of the chosen man, in medical sciences, Doctor Francisk, Skorina's son from Polotsk" in the Old Belarusian language. With this book, Francisk Skorina gave a start to Belarusian book printing.



1997, Belarus, Francisk Skorina

For three years, Skorina published illustrated books of the Bible under the general title "The Russian Bible, compiled by Doctor Francisk Skorina from the glorious city of Polotsk, for the honor of God and the good teaching of the common people."



1997, Belarus, The Bible of Francisk Skorina published in Prague in 1517-1519

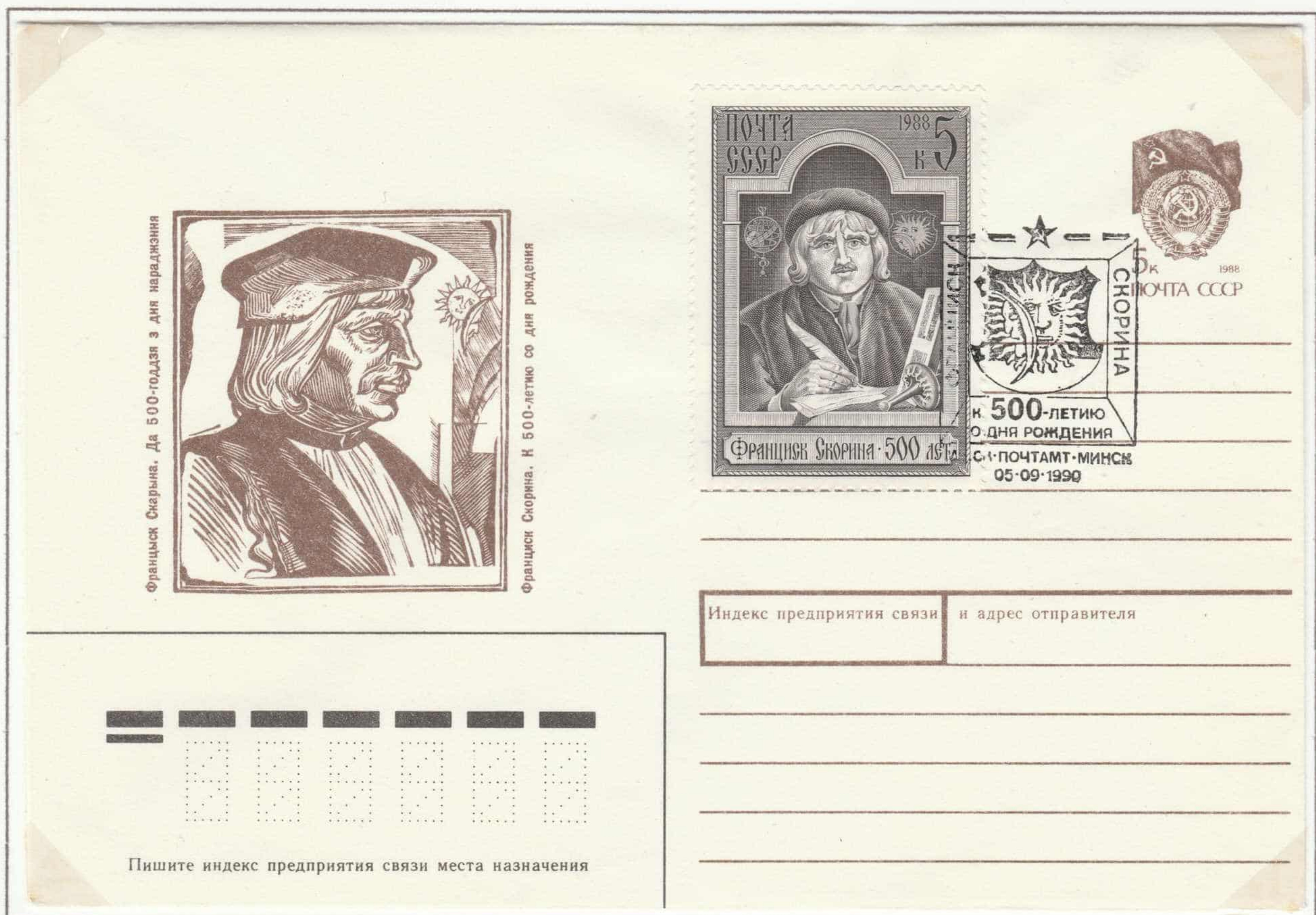


1964, Austria, hand printing press

Skorina's publishing and printing activities in Prague ceased in 1519. After leaving Prague, he moved to Vilnius, where in the early 1520s, in the house of Jakub Babicz, he founded the first printing house in Eastern Europe and printed the "Little Travel Book" and "Apostle".

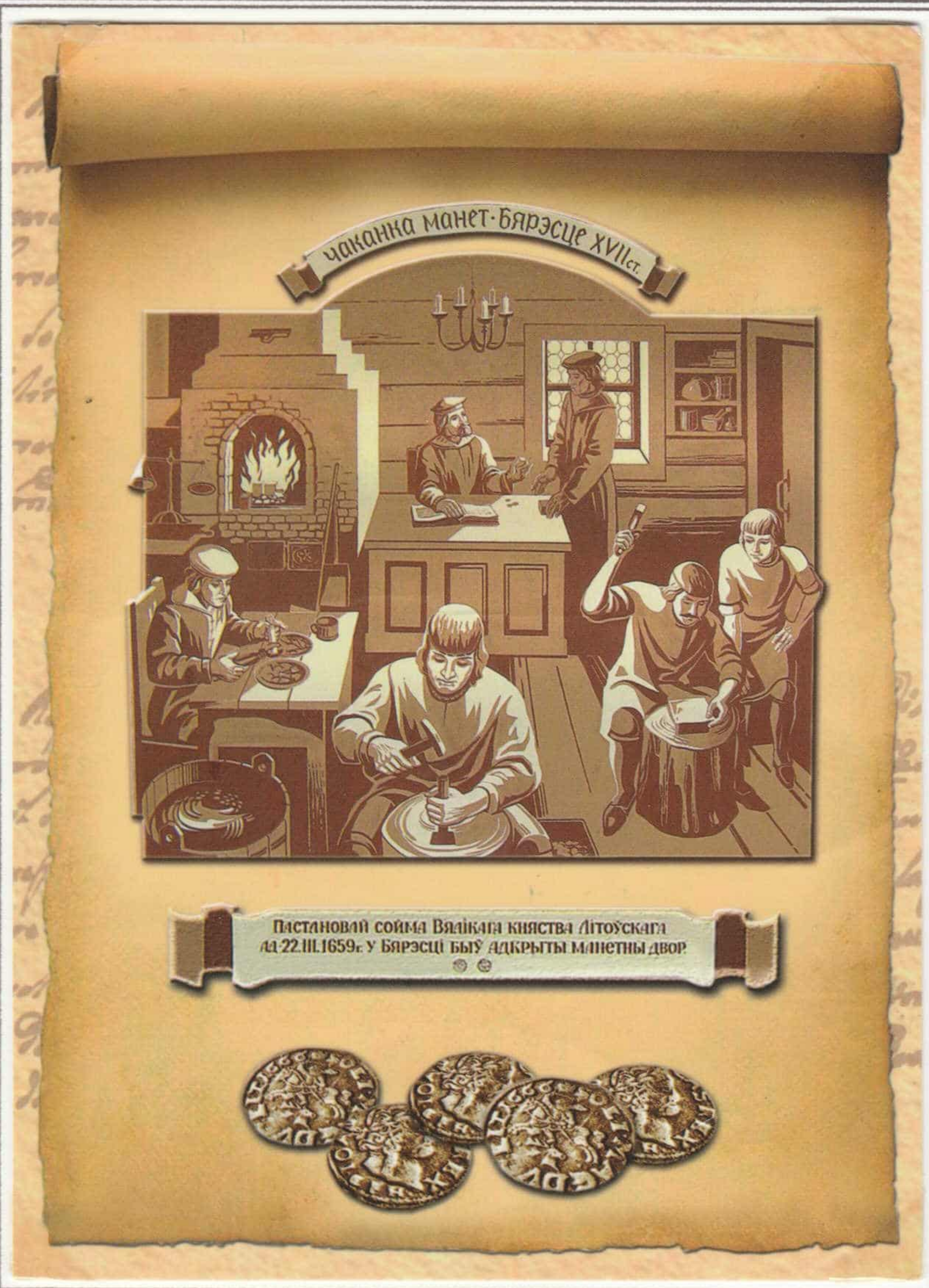


2022, Lithuania, "The Small Travel Book" published by Skorina in 1522



1990, USSR, envelope, stamp and special cancellation "500th anniversary of the birth of Francisk Skorina"

6. Berestje Mint



In the 17th century, the war between the Muscovite state and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of 1654-67 broke out, which put the country's financial system in a difficult situation.

In connection with large debts to the army, in 1659 the Sejm decided to issue new copper money to pay off the debt and open a mint in Brest.

2015, Belarus, postcard, Brestje Mint



1994, Austria. Medieval Mint

On December 4, 1665, a mint was opened in Brest, where T. Boratini minted copper solidi for Jan II Casimir ("boratinki"). It operated until December 16, 1666. A total of 240,680,150 copper solidi were issued, worth 2,674,268 zlotys.

2005, Belarus, envelope, copper solidi minted at the Brest Mint



7. Abolition of Magdeburg Law



1916, Russian Empire, Catherine II

Magdeburg Law was abolished by Catherine II after the annexation of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to the Russian Empire: in the Mogilev and Pskov provinces in November 1775, in the Minsk province in May 1795, in the Slonim and Vilnius provinces in December 1795. The norms of Russian law were introduced by the City Charter in 1785.



2004, Russian Federation, Catherine II

In order to strengthen the western border of the Russian Empire, a project for the creation of the Brest-Litovsk fortress by General K. I. Opperman appeared in 1829. The project envisaged the construction of a fortress on the site of Brestje. In 1830, this project was submitted for approval to Nicholas I. The construction of the fortress began in 1833. As a result of the construction of the fortress, the first city with Magdeburg rights on the territory of modern Belarus, which existed for more than 500 years, was demolished, and the urban development was moved 2 km to the east of the fortress in 1835.



2008, Belarus, envelope, Brest Fortress