

National Background: Lithuania 2015

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Lithuanian libraries have old traditions of storage and preservation of handwritten documents. The Vilnius University Library, the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania are the three major research libraries of the country, where such documents are preserved. Recently several manuscript departments were founded at public libraries. One of the largest and most significant manuscript departments has been established at Gabrielė Petkevičaitė-Bitė Panevėžys County Public Library.

Content: Introduction, Vilnius University Library, Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, Vilnius, Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Vilnius; Gabrielė Petkevičaitė-Bitė Panevėžys County Public Library

Vilniaus Universiteto Bibliotheka

<http://www.mb.vu.lt/>

Oldest library of Lithuania, founded in 1570. The independent Manuscript Department was established in 1967. Handwritten documents are included in the general online catalogue of the Library, containing a separate manuscript catalogue.

Major holdings:

- nearly 6.0 million physical units of documents
- approximately 315,000 physical units of handwritten documents
- 326 different collections, from the 13th century to the present day.

Lietuvos mokslų akademijos Vrublevskių biblioteka, Vilnius

<http://www.mab.lt/en/home>

The Manuscript Department functions as an independent subdivision of the Library since 1941.

Major holdings:

- 4 million physical units, including 274 112 units of handwritten documents,
- 414 collections,
- documents dating from the 11th c. till now

Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Vilnius

<http://www.lnb.lt/>

The National library was established in 1919 . The Manuscript Department functioned as an individual department during the years 1971-2000, since then as a part of the joint Rare Book and Manuscript Department.

Major holdings:

- 7 million physical units
- the collection of handwritten documents comprises more than 81,700 units of documents, ranging from the 14th c. till today, divided into 222 separate collections

Gabrielė Petkevičaitė-Bitė Panevėžys County Public Library

<http://www.pavb.lt/en/>

Major holdings:

- 0.5 million physical units. Handwritten documents collected and kept in two particular departments
- the Manuscript Department: over 14 thousand units of documents divided into 137 collections, ranging from the second half of the 19th c. till the present day
- Juozas Miltinis' Cultural Heritage Studies Centre: containing more than 800 units: documents, related to activities of Panevėžys Drama Theatre during the period of 1932-1998 and to Juozas Miltinis, its stage director.