Vilnius University Library is launching a project that will aim to describe and digitize the letters of the university professors from the Early Modern period. The idea of this work is closely linked to the COST Action IS1310 “Reassembling the Republic of Letters”, drawing inspiration from the ideas and tools applied in this project. The aim of our work is to create an online database that later could be integrated into the European digital space of knowledge.

The letters are being described using the CERL Thesaurus; completed descriptions are being added to the general electronic catalogue of Vilnius University Library. It is planned to digitize all of the letters selected for the project and upload the digital images online; this way a multifunctional database will be created. Approximately 2,000 letters to Martin Poczobutt are being revised in the first phase of this project, further collections of Vilnius professors can be supplemented successively.

**Martynas Počobutas**

(Marcin Odlianicki Poczobutt, 1728–1810) – mathematician, astronomer, poet, head of Vilnius University Astronomical Observatory (1765–1807), Rector of Vilnius University

Studied in Vilnius, Prague, Marseilles, Avignon, Naples and other cities. Doctor of philosophy and theology. Travelled to France and England in order to acquire modern, precise instruments for Vilnius Astronomical Observatory (most were purchased in London). Fellow of Royal Society (1770), member of French Academy of Sciences (1778). For 39 years Počobutas observed the celestial bodies and published the results of his observations in international scientific journals. Authored several books on astronomy and geometry.

The results of the project will be available via a dedicated website. The descriptions will be presented both in Lithuanian and English languages.