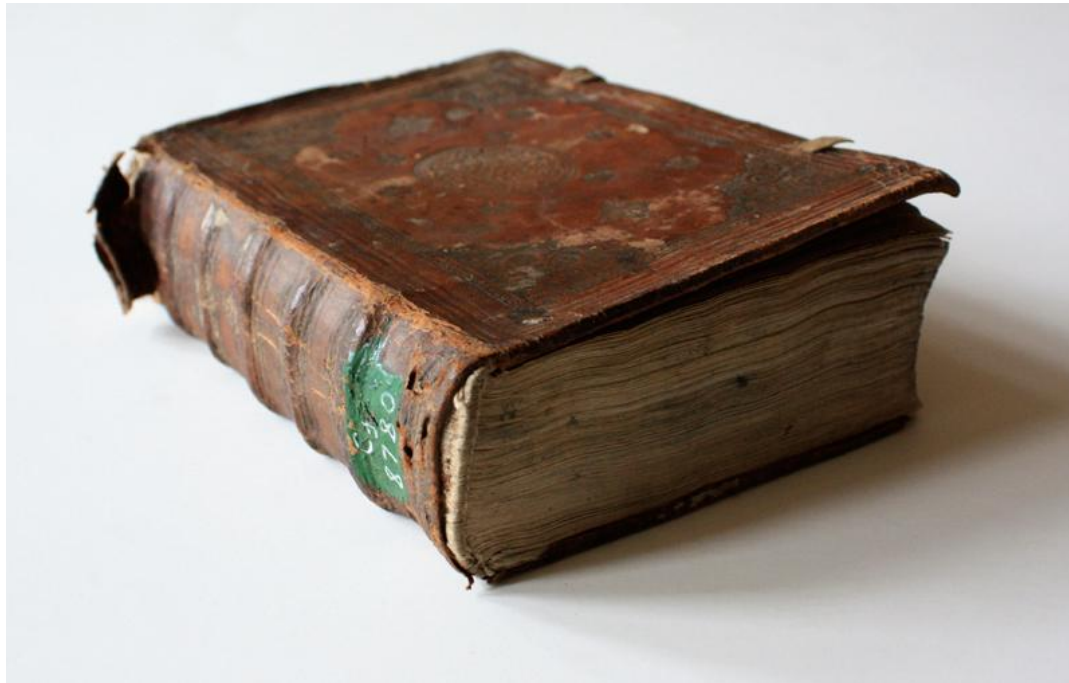


The old book - protected cultural heritage: from restoration to digitization

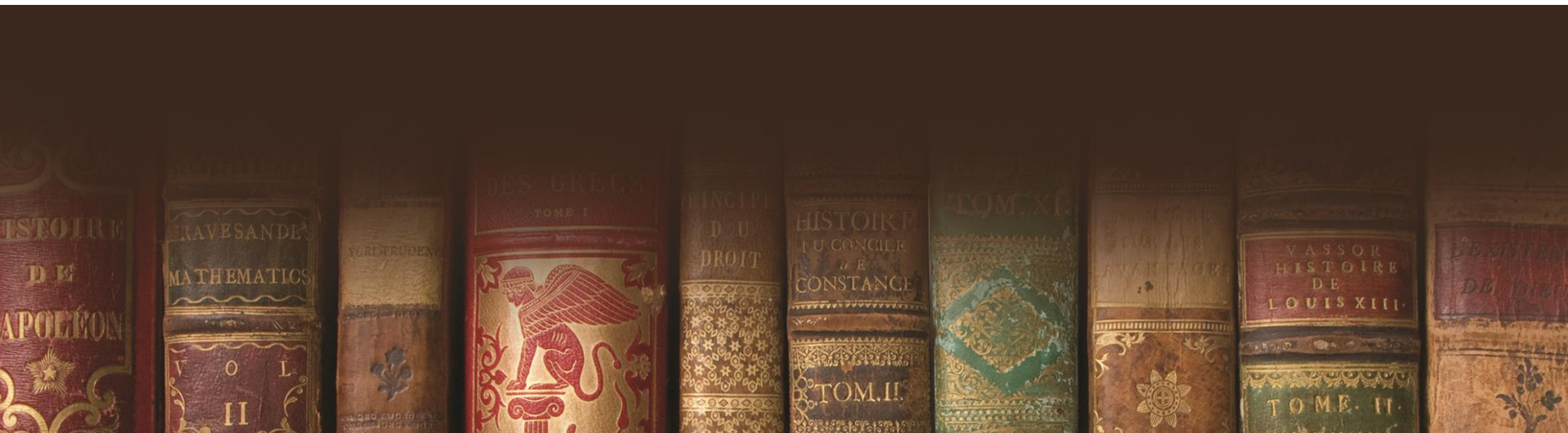
Kaunas County Public library, Old and Rare books department

Edita Rudminaitė, 2013



Main topic

- Old book concept
- Rarity, uniqueness and value criteria
- Book's signs
- Preservation and storage conditions
- Conservation and restoration
- Digitization



Old book concept

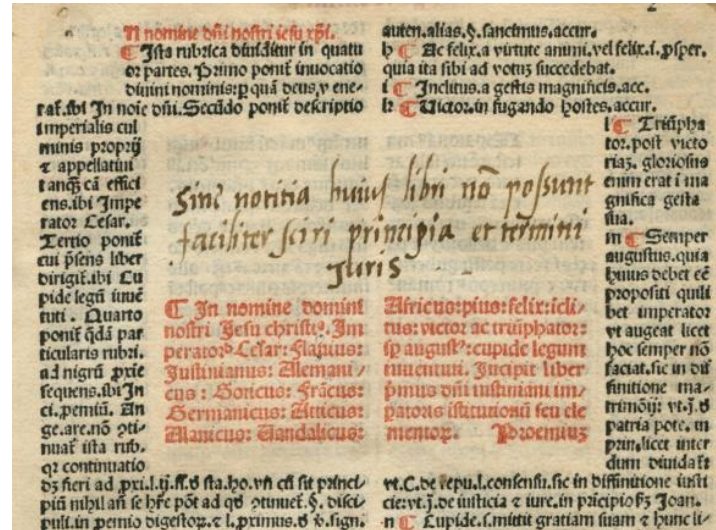
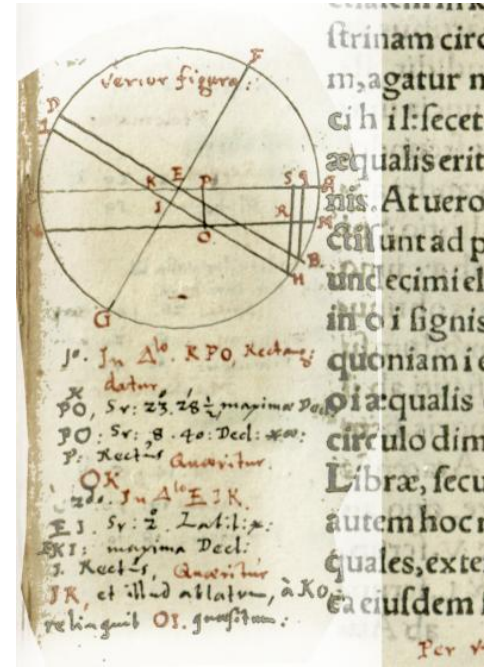
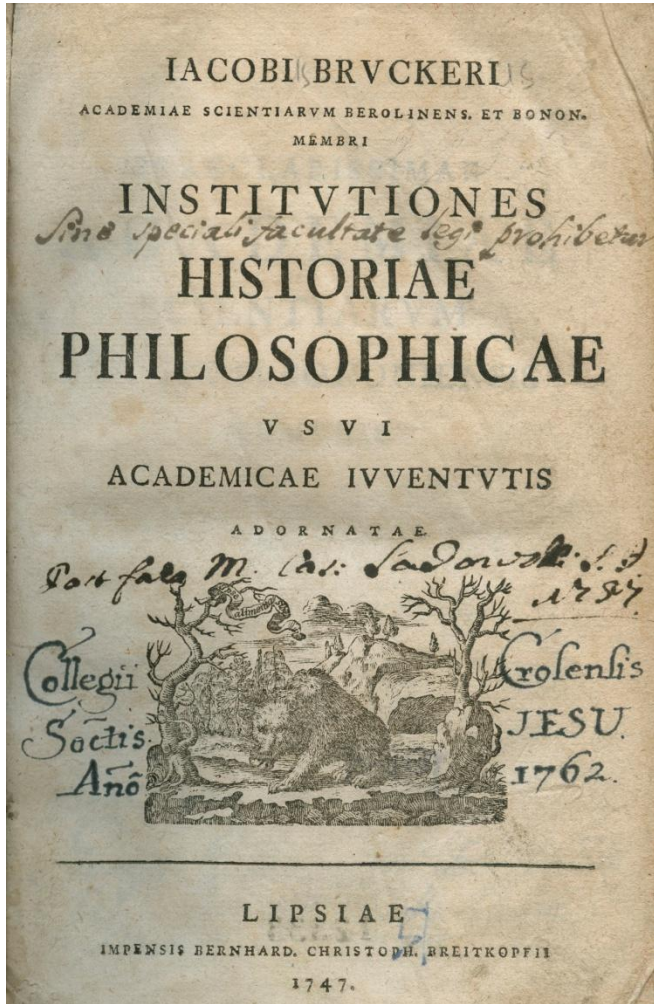
- In Lithuania an old book is considered to be all the prints, published up to press ban in Latin characters abolition in 1864
- Unique book's traditions determined different conception of old book in different countries
- The National Book Heritage includes all the 16th Lithuanian prints, 17th - 20th early prints, remained several copies
- Among the world's greatest rarities mostly fall incunabula, palaeotypes, first prints in national languages, prominent publisher's and printer's books



Rarity, uniqueness and value criteria

- Original binding
- Print method
- Author's or reader's autographs
- Other marginality
- Book ownership signs

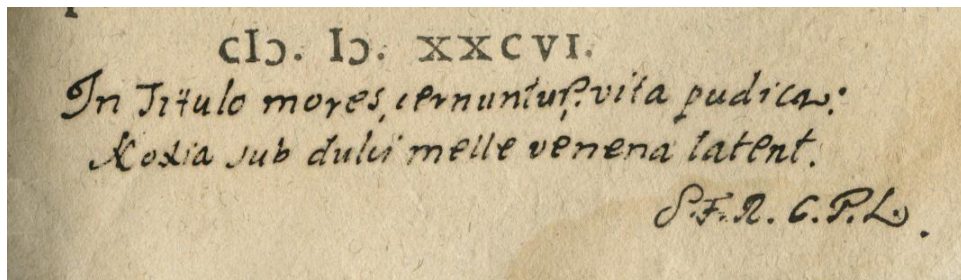
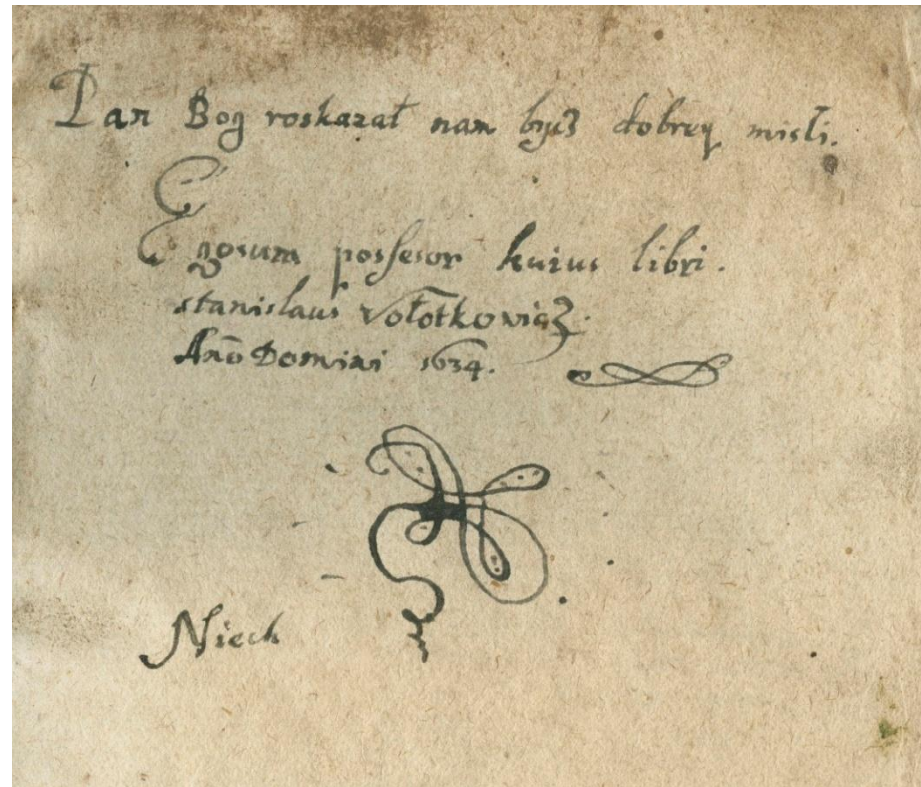
Book's signs: Marginality



Book's signs



Stamps



Author's or reader's autographs, or various inscriptions

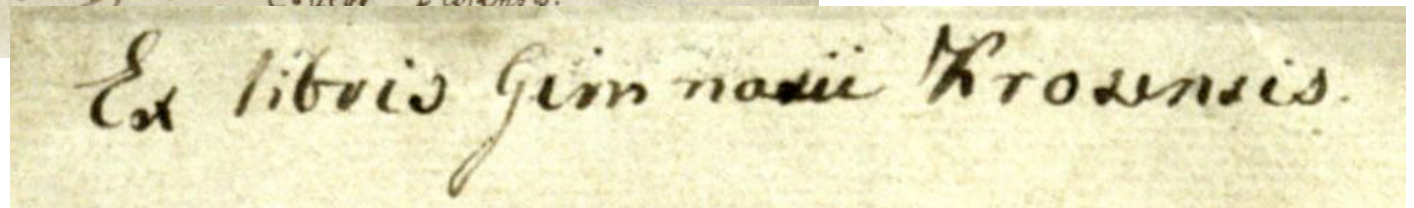
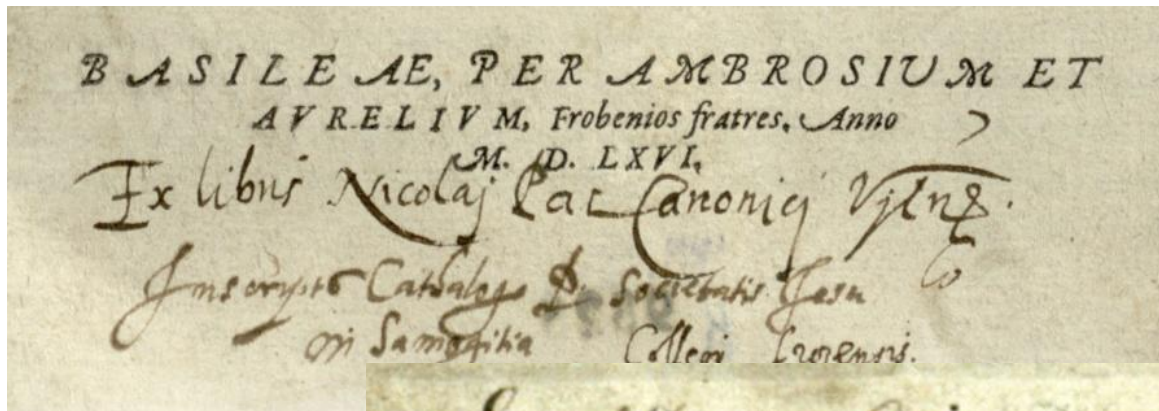
Book's signs: ownership signs



Provenance records and signs: super ex-libris



Provenance records and signs: ex-libris



Preservation and storage conditions

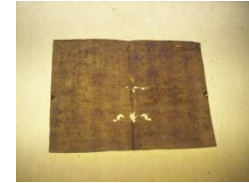
Libraries carrying the proper storage of the fund are guided by the:

- ✓ Republic of Lithuania law library
- ✓ Law on protection of movable cultural property
- ✓ Republic of Lithuania law on documents and archives
- ✓ Library foundation security and storage standards

Preservation and storage conditions

- There must be proper atmospheric conditions in the storages: the temperature and humidity must be consistent and not changing: the temperature $+18^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$), humidity (50 - 60%).
- Storage facilities must be continuously ventilated, entering air must be as clean as possible.
- Light regulation: storage must be completely dark - light impinging document destruction is an ongoing process, changes are irreversible.
- Special documents collections should be stored in folders, boxes, which are made from alkaline paper material, that does not contain lignin.
- Regular storages and books cleaning: in order to avoid harmful books and space contamination by dust, which absorbs moisture, thus enables the development of biological pests.

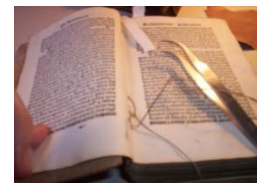
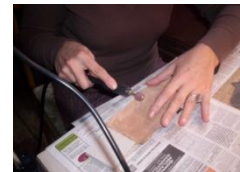
Conservation and restoration



Conservation usually involves document stabilization processes – it is research-based practices to stop destroying or damaging effect on the document and strengthen the authentication features, protect it from natural deterioration.



Restoration is more complex process, because of lost parts reconstruction: paper or leather renewal procedures, which requires restorer skills, special restoration materials, tools and equipment. Before restoration, first takes place preparatory work: document's binding structure and elements evaluation, printing method and cover decoration techniques identification, restoration tool selection, disinfection, stamps, record fixation and documentation.



Digitization

The main phases of digitizing are:

- The selection of objects
- Evaluation and conservation
- Copyright laws coordination
- Original and digitized objects bibliographic records arrangement
- Scanning or photographing
- Archiving in storages
- Making the relation between images and bibliographic records using special software and making available access to public

Digitization

Kaunas county public library joined to the national digitization project “**Virtual Electronic Heritage System Development**”, that combines various memory institutions for general purpose – to make our cultural heritage more open to Lithuania and worldwide users.

Virtual Electronic Heritage System: **epaveldas.lt**

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Virtual Electronic Heritage System (VEPS) website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Lietuvių, Jump to content, Search, Thesaurus, Workplace reservation, FAQ, Request, Help, and Sign In. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal banner featuring a series of small, colorful images representing various cultural heritage items, including historical maps, photographs, and artifacts. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains the 'epaveldas' logo, which includes the text 'Bibliotekos • Muziejai • Archyvai'. The right column features a search bar with the text 'Lithuanian cultural heritage search' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar are links for 'Collections', 'Partners', and 'Advanced search'. The main heading of the content area is 'General information about the Virtual Electronic Heritage System'. Below this heading, there is a paragraph describing the VEPS project and its goals. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with links: About Project, Partners, Collections, Copyright Policy, Strategic Documents, Contacts, and Previous version.

Lietuvių Jump to content Search Thesaurus Workplace reservation FAQ Request Help Sign In

epaveldas
Bibliotekos • Muziejai • Archyvai

Lithuanian cultural heritage search

Search

Collections Partners Advanced search

General information about the Virtual Electronic Heritage System

The Virtual Electronic Heritage System (VEPS) holds an enormous wealth of digital objects, created under the Strategy for Digitization of the Lithuanian Cultural Heritage, Digital Content Preservation and Access. The VEPS portal provides efficient and convenient access to thousands of cultural heritage objects for all who are interested in art, books, newspapers, manuscripts, maps and sound recordings. All this together creates an unique, rich and vivid panorama of the Lithuanian cultural heritage.

VEPS has the Integrated Thesaurus of Personal Names, Geographical Names and Historical Chronology as its conceptual backbone serving as a rich knowledge base and effective tool for semantic search within the Virtual Electronic Heritage System.

About Project Partners Collections Copyright Policy Strategic Documents Contacts Previous version