

Summary

Volume 4 of *Raštai* (Writings) by Kristijonas Donelaitis includes documentary editions of Donelaitis's official writings in German: his petitions, reports, aide-memoires, legal cases, etc., and translations of them into Lithuanian. It is essential to mention that in terms of the extent and quality of the texts included, this volume surpasses significantly former editions of Donelaitis's official writings, that is, sources published by Franz Tetzner at the end of the nineteenth century in several German journals, primarily in *Altpreußische Monatsschrift*, as well as Lithuanian (re)e-ditions of those documents issued in 1965 and 1977.¹ Volume 4 of Donelaitis's *Raštai* presents numerous sources not known to date, including several unique documents, such as three signatures in his handwriting, discovered in the Archive of the Prussian Cultural Heritage (Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz) in Berlin by staff of the Institute of the Lithuanian Literature and Folklore in Vilnius during several research visits between 2012 and 2020. This volume also encompasses the new critically revised edition of Donelaitis's documents known from Tetzner's prints, where no handwritten copies have been discovered to date, and where printed versions maintain the status of primary sources. In this volume, Tetzner's numerous errors of transcription, dating or attribution of documents are corrected. Both newly discovered and already-known sources are provided with a new translation into Lithuanian.

This documentary edition aims to present a documentarily precise (literal diplomatic) transcript of Donelaitis's official German writings, prepared digitally and conveyed by means of contemporary equivalents of early graphemes. The aim of the Lithuanian translation is to present Donelaitis's German writings to a Lithuanian audience for the purposes of literary research and promotion, and is meant for general cultural use. The documentary edition and the translation into Lithuanian proclaim Donelaitis's official writings as cultural heritage of an outstanding national and international value.

¹ Archyvinė medžiaga: Iš K. Donelaičio užrašų, jo vestų tarnybinių knygų, oficialių raštų ir kitų dokumentų, [parengė Kostas Doveika ir Albinas Jovaišas], in *Literatūra ir kalba*, vyr. redaktorius Kostas Korsakas, Vilnius, 1965, t. 7: *Kristijonas Donelaitis: Pranešimai, straipsniai, archyvinė medžiaga*, p. 355–520; Archyvinė medžiaga, [parengė Kostas Doveika], in: Kristijonas Donelaitis, *Raštai*, redakcinė komisija Kostas Korsakas (pirm.), Kostas Doveika, Leonas Gineitis, Jonas Kabelka, Kazys Ulvydas, Vilnius: Vaga, Lietuvos TSR mokslų akademija, Lietuvių kalbos ir literatūros institutas, 1977, p. 412–594.

Due to the nature and size of the edition, facsimiles of sources are not presented in Volume 4 of Donelaitis's *Raštai*. The aim of not overloading the content and the structure with additional information has meant that linguistic and literary commentaries are not included. Commentaries on the realia are limited to the bare minimum (e.g. explanations of early Prussian measures of weight or area), and are given in the footnotes to the Lithuanian translation. Many sources on the research and interpretation of Donelaitis's official writings exist for this purpose, as well as works on the institutional framework of his activities. Additionally, information about recent discoveries of Donelaitis's official writings (e.g. signatures or handwritten copies of documents unknown to date) is provided in the foreword to this edition. Registers are not included. An index of all the words found in Donelaitis's writings in Lithuanian, German and Latin, as well as indices of personal and place names covering all the volumes, will be presented in the last volume of the series of Donelaitis's *Raštai*.

The book consists of an introductory part and publications. The introductory part includes a foreword, lists of abbreviations (textual apparatus, sources and references, archives, libraries, and other institutions), and a list of sources and references. The publications part contains a documentary edition of Donelaitis's official writings in German and their translation into Lithuanian.

The foreword presents external and internal descriptions of handwritten and printed sources, the editing principles, and data on the history of sources (such as information on storage location, provenance and usage).

In the external description of handwritten sources, the following features of each piece of Donelaitis's official writings are analysed, registered and described: archival signatures, storage location; covers, flyleaves, details of the title, provenance (inscriptions, stickers, stamps); volume and structure; dating; foliation, pagination, catchwords; features of paper (size, quality of paper, factory and non-factory paper defects, condition of paper); watermarks; features of binding (covers, flyleaves, sewing, binding defects, condition of binding, and others); features of ink and other writing tools; features of the script (attribution, handwriting, segmentation and graphic arrangement of the script on the page, corrections to the text, errors and a typology of them); and

inscriptions from other handwritten texts. The body of handwritten sources in this volume was unknown to researchers to date, and appears in the descriptive frame defined above for the first time in this volume.

In the external description of the printed sources of Donelaitis's writings (i.e. those published by Franz Tetzner with no handwritten sources available for the text-reconstruction), the data of the title, the copy of the printed source, and the text structure are discussed.

The internal description of the handwritten and printed sources includes the genre of Donelaitis's writings, the structure of the texts, the addressee, dating and attribution.

A documentary transcript and its translation are presented on the opposite page in this edition. As far as handwritten official writings are concerned, the form of the script created by the latest layer of corrections by the author (or scribe) is given in the main field of the documentary transcript of Donelaitis's documents. In Donelaitis's printed official writings, the documentary transcript follows the text established by Tetzner's editions.

In the text corpus of this volume, groups of handwritten and printed sources complement each other, since the most recently discovered handwritten documents have no printed text equivalents available. For the majority of printed sources, there are no handwritten copies discovered to date. In the few cases where both copies, handwritten and printed, of the same document exist (e.g. the record of the proceeding of the sc. Land separation board in Tolmingkehmen of 29 September 1775, or Donelaitis's complaint to the king of 12 September 1776), only documentary transcripts of handwritten sources are included in this volume. In contrast, Tetzner's printed versions are not taken into account.

A particular approach applies in the case of Donelaitis's numerous comments and remarks he inscribed in the margins of the documents he used in the land separation lawsuit against the *amtmann* Ruhig. On one hand, we know all these remarks (except one) only from Tetzner's printed editions. On the other hand, Tetzner's editions often do not provide the full text of the document to which Donelaitis's comments apply (the German researcher was interested in Donelaitis's character, and not in juridical matters). Several handwritten copies were recently discovered in the Archive of the Prussian Cultural Heritage (Geheimes

Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz) in Berlin that provide the full text of these documents, e.g. the report written by the *amtman*n Ruhig of 25 March 1776, or the official resolution of the Warfare and Domains Court (Kriegs und Domainen Kammer) in Gumbinnen of 27 August 1776. However, these handwritten sources are parallel copies of the documents in question, and not those Tetzner was reading and editing, so they do not have any inscriptions by Donelaitis. In these cases, the hybrid text reconstruction is applied, where the transcript of the base document follows the handwritten source, whereas Donelaitis's remarks are added according to Tetzner's printed edition.

A documentary transcript is given along with the apparatus of the source. Its principles differ, depending on whether it applies to a handwritten or a printed source.

References to the layers of script, corrections, and issues of legibility are explained in the apparatus of a handwritten source. In the present edition, the apparatus of the documentary transcript of a handwritten source is related to the body text by the numbering of pages and lines, and by the commented word or word combination, respectively. The numbering of lines in each handwritten source is indicated by numbers of lines, in black, set as superscripts. The numbers appear at the beginning of each numbered line, every five lines, starting from the fifth line. In the apparatus, Classical Latin abbreviations and marks are used.

In the documentary transcript of Donelaitis's official writings based on handwritten sources, the corrections by the author (or scribe) to the script (additions, deletions, primary forms, inscriptions and other markings in the margins; layers of the script; features of the script; author's errors; inscriptions in other handwriting; illegible parts; features of an autograph page; features of the paper; numbering, catchwords, etc) are indicated and explained.

The typesetting errors and Tetzner's hypothetical reading and editing errors are indicated in the documentary edition of Donelaitis's official writings based on (Tetzner's) printed sources. Since Tetzner did not preserve the original page and line numbering of the source, it is impossible to provide these text parameters in our edition. The secondary page and line numbering originating from Tetzner's prints is considered irrelevant and not kept to in this edition. On the contrary, the text segmentation of the source provided by Tetzner, as well as

specific text spacing features (where numerous fragments of text are set in double-spaced type) are preserved, despite the uncertainty regarding their reliability and meaning.

The new edition of Donelaitis's *Raštai* addresses the philological community, including textual and literary scholars, linguists, literary historians, editors and cultural historians. The edition of Donelaitis's official writings has been formatted to meet various philological needs.