

Martin Ludwig Rhesa.
Vol. 1, Preparation of the Lithuanian Bible

Summary

Martynas Liudvikas Rėza (1776–1840) was a professor at the University of Karaliaučius (Königsberg) and the most outstanding figure of Lithuanian writing in Lithuania Minor (Prussian Lithuania) whose outstanding merit lies in publishing Kristijonas Donelaitis' work *Metai* (1818; *The Seasons*) and the first collection of Lithuanian folk songs (1825). Other spheres of his creative and academic activity have not been sufficiently examined. His work on theology, philosophy, and the history of Christianity written in German and Latin have not been researched at all. Numerous sources that used to be kept at the library and archive of the city of Karaliaučius and the University of Karaliaučius are scattered across European libraries, archives, and private collections. The process of material accumulation has shown that there exist Rėza's works that have not been recorded in historiography. Manuscripts on Lithuanian studies that have not been examined yet are kept in Berlin (*Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz zu Berlin*), Olsztyn (*Archivum Państwowe w Olsztynie*), Weimar (*Goethe-Schiller Archiv in Weimar*) and elsewhere.

The first volume of *Raštai* (Collected Works) includes translations of Rėza's three texts on Lithuanian studies from German with their facsimiles. The texts were translated by Liucija Citavičiūtė. Their originals are kept at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore in Vilnius.

Geschichte der litthauischen Bibel, ein Beitrag zur Religionsgeschichte der Nordischen Völker von D. L. J. Rhesa, Professor der Theologie und Prediger, Königsberg: gedruckt in der Hartungschens Hofbuchdruckerei, 1816.

Philologisch-kritische Anmerkungen zur litthauischen Bibel als Erläuterungen zu der neuen Ausgabe veranstalteten Umarbeitung des litthauischen Textes von D. L. J. Rhesa, Professor der Theologie und Prediger [part 1], Königsberg: gedruckt in der Hartungschens Hofbuchdruckerei, 1816.

Philologisch-kritische Anmerkungen zur Litthauischen Bibel von D. L. J. Rhesa, der heil. Schrift Doctor und der Theologie öffentl. ordentl. Professor

auf der Universität Königsberg [part 2], Königsberg: gedruckt in der Hartungschen Hof-und Universitäts-Buchdruckerei, 1824.

Rèza accumulated extensive philological and historical material when he was editing the Lithuanian Bible of 1755. It was from this material that the study *Geschichte der litthauischen Bibel*, the first history and historiography of Lithuanian religious literature, evolved. At the same time, Rèza published editing commentaries – *Philologisch-kritische Anmerkungen zur litthauischen Bibel*, in two parts (1816 and 1824), compiled from his working notes. Since the latter work consists of commentaries to actual editorial corrections, the text looks fragmented and hard to perceive as an integral work at first sight. It is intended to be read along with the new edition of the Lithuanian Bible. Here the editor introduced the public to the philological and semantic corrections to the text of the Lithuanian Bible and explained the motives behind those changes.

Rèza's editing principles corresponded the spirit of his times. Nineteenth-century translations of the Bible no longer considered Luther's translation a standard; instead, they went back to the primary sources and used abundant exegetic and secular scholarly literature. Rèza was the first to critically compare Luther's translation with original languages (Hebrew and Greek), and to render the meaning more accurate on the basis of copious commentaries to the Holy Writ. The reason that brought Rèza to undertake such radical corrections was distortions of the meaning caused by the translators' failure to understand the realities of the Jews' life and daily routines, and the inability to translate some religious-philosophical images. The philological aspect was also important. The text had to be easily understood and persuasive to poorly educated people. Rèza's Bible (1816) should be considered the first academic edition of the Lithuanian Bible. He was the first in the history of Lithuanian writing to approach the Bible from philological, historical, and culturological perspectives. His work abounds in philosophical insights and rudiments of comparative linguistics, dialectology, and the discipline of the history of language. In a separate chapter, Rèza described the edition he had edited, explained the historical circumstances and mentioned his most helpful assistants. Rèza's edition of the Bible had many advantages from the point of view of language, style, and translation. In the history of Lithuanian writing, it has become a perfect example of the written language of that time. His editing conception was applied in later centuries.

The appendix to this volume includes a photocopy of the catalogue of Rėza's personal library: *Catalog der Bibliothek des verstorb. Consistorialraths und Prof. Dr. Rhesa, welche am 24ten Mai u.d. f. T.jedesmal Nachmittags von 3 Uhr ab in dem Versammlungszimmer der Königl. Deutschen Gesellschaft gegen gleich baare Bezahlung versteigert werden soll*, Königsberg: Gedruckt bei E.J. Dalkowski, 1841. The original is kept at the Berlin State Library – Prussian Cultural Heritage (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Signatur: RLS Dp 1159). The catalogue consists of 58 pages and lists 1637 volumes of books, 177 sets of periodical publications, descriptions of seven maps, and a large collection of writings on Lithuanian studies. Today this catalogue is of a considerable cultural value: it shows scientific and spiritual interests of the nineteenth-century library owner and provides a better understanding of the cultural needs of the educated people of Prussia in those times.

The volume features three articles, two of which are authored by the editor of the volume, Dr. Liucija Citavičiūtė: 'Rėzos kelias į XXI amžių' (Rėza's Path to the Twenty-first Century), which is Rėza's expanded and revised biography and an overview of his creative work, and 'Rėza – pirmasis lietuviškosios Biblijos mokslinis redaktorius' (Rėza: The First Academic Editor of the Lithuanian Bible). The third article, 'Kunigas ir teologas Martynas Liudvikas Rėza' (Pastor and Theologian Martynas Liudvikas Rėza) was written by the Evangelical Lutheran pastor Dr. Darius Petkūnas.

Martin Ludwig Rhesa.
Vol. 2, Treatises. The History of Christianity
in Lithuania and in Prussia

Summary

Only very few treatises by Rėza are recorded in Lithuanian and German bibliographies. This is not because the works of this genre are of low value: treatises were scholarly papers mandatory to theology professors, intended to the academic community, and delivered during religious celebrations. Due to their abundance and comparatively small volume, they were not included in bibliographies of creative work as a rule.

Rėza wrote and published treatises throughout his mature lifetime, when for over thirty years he taught theologian subjects, the history of the Church, and Oriental languages at the University of Karaliaučius. The first treatise was the dissertation published in 1807. Upon defending it, Rėza became a Privatdozent at Karaliaučius University. The treatise published in 1838 was the last work published in Rėza's lifetime.

The search for Rėza's treatises began without any information either about their description or their location. Some guidance was provided by limited data in *Aleksandrynas* (1963) and in the monograph *Liudvikas Rėza* by Albinas Jovaišas (1969). The search for the texts of treatises was carried out in Lithuania, Russian Federation (Kaliningrad), Poland (Warsaw, Olsztyn, and Torun), and Germany (Berlin, Göttingen, Halle, Freiburg, Munich, Leipzig, and Tübingen). If the copies were of poor physical condition or defective and unsuitable for translation, the work was searched for in other repositories; however, sometimes it turned out that it was the only extant copy. Two well-preserved copies that were not recorded in bibliographies were found in the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. At present about thirty Rėza's texts of this genre are known (9 to 27 pages long), but since their number might be larger, the search for them is continuing.

Today such texts would be considered scholarly studies, but in those times they were referred to either as programmes – *Programata*, or dissertations – *Dissertationes*. Occasional papers given by the professors of Karaliaučius were of academic and lasting value. The text would be developed and accompanied by the academic apparatus (footnotes and

commentaries, references to sources, etc.), its structure would be formed, and it was published. Some of the texts would produce publications of about one quire.

Rėza's treatises collected in this volume are significant to the disciplines of history and religious studies. Research introduces the history of early Christianity in Lithuania and reveals the sources of Protestantism in Central Eastern Europe, that is, in Baltic lands. To Rėza, the Lithuanians on both sides of the Nemunas River – in the Kingdom of Prussia and in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania – were one nation, and he accentuated it in his research. The historical and lasting value of these texts is enhanced by the fact that Rėza used authentic historical sources from the Wallenrodt library, which was the oldest in Prussia, from the library of the city of Karaliaučius and the Royal Archive, and amply cited them. He referred to such sources as the chronicles of the Teutonic Order of the thirteenth–fifteenth centuries; the Treaty of Eternal Peace concluded between Albrecht, Duke of Prussia, and Sigismund, King of Poland; letters to the Teutonic knights by Emperor Ludwig of Bavaria; a collection of Luther's letters; letters of Duke Albrecht to the bishops of Prussia and to the city council; letters of the first Lutheran priests; excerpts from the decrees of the duke of Prussia, inventories, genealogies, and the like.

The present volume consists of Rėza's fourteen texts in the chronological order of publishing. The first three treatises make up the cycle *Apie krikščionių tikėjimo lietuvių tautoje pradžių* (On the Beginning of the Christian Faith in the Lithuanian Nation). They cast light on the beginning of Christianity in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from the times of Mindaugas to Jogaila's becoming king of Poland. The cycle *Apie pirmuosius šventų apeigų reformuotojus Prūsijoje* (On the First Reformers of the Holy Rite in Prussia) consists of seven treatises. It describes the life and activities of the first Lutherans protected by Duke Albrecht – Johann Brismann, Paulius Speratus, Johann Poliander, Johann Amand, Jakob Cnath, Georg von Polenz (two treatises are devoted to him) – in Karaliaučius. *Anabaptistų ir sakramentalistų istorijos Prūsijoje pradžia, atsekta iš nežinomų dokumentų* (The Beginning of the History of Anabaptists and Sacramentalists in Prussia, Traced Back from Unknown Documents), a cycle of three treatises, is an overview of the history of religious conflicts. The last treatise is *Trumpas Augsburgo išpažinimo*

istorijos Prūsijoje išdėstymas (A Short Exposition of the History of Augsburg Confession in Prussia).

The texts are written in Latin with inserts in German, Hebrew, Syrian, and Greek. They were translated by experts in Classical philology: Dr. Dalia Dilytė, Dr. Habil. Jolanta Gelumbeckaitė, Rita Katinaitė, Nijolė Klingaitė-Dasevičienė, Dr. Sigitas Narbutas, and Dr. Mindaugas Strockis. German inserts were translated by Dr. Liucija Citavičiūtė.

The volume also includes two articles: 'Žvilgsnis į nežinomą Rėzos kūrybinio palikimo dalį' (A Look at the Unknown Part of Rėza's Creative Legacy' by the editor Dr. Liucija Citavičiūtė, and 'Augsburgo išpažinimo įdiegimas Prūsijoje: Liudviko Rėzos tyrimai 19 a. Prūsijos konfesiniame kontekste' (Implementation of the Augsburg Confession in Prussia: Liudvikas Rėza's Research in the Confessional Context of Nineteenth-century Prussia) by Dr. Darius Petkūnas.

A list of literature sources (reconstructed bibliographical descriptions) is given in a separate chapter. The volume includes photocopies of Rėza's treatises in their original size.

Martin Ludwig Rhesa.
Vol. 3, Treatises: Philology, Philosophy, Theology

Summary

This volume of Rėza's *Raštai* is a continuation of the previous volume. This is the first publication of Lithuanian translations of fourteen yet unknown treatises. They are pieces of philological, theological, and philosophical research carried out between 1807 and 1834. Four treatises are directly related to Rėza's academic career at the University of Karaliaučius: the right to lecture as a Privatdozent and the degree of doctor of theology, the status of professor extraordinary and the degree of doctor of theology, and, finally, the position of full professorship in theology. Some treatises are devoted to research into the history of the Evangelical Lutheran Church or are academic publications of sources and archival documents.

Most of the treatises in this volume are anonymous. We encountered the problem of authorship during the preparation of the second volume of *Raštai*: only one of the treatises in that volume was signed by Rėza. The authorship of others was revealed by Rėza in his other works or it was confirmed by representative nineteenth-century publications: the catalogue *Allgemeines Repertorium* published in Leipzig and the encyclopaedia *Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie* (<http://www.deutsche-biographie.de>). Rėza's surname appears six times in the titles of the texts included in the present volume of *Raštai*. In the titles of two treatises, Rėza's name is inserted in ink (presumably in the nineteenth century or the early twentieth century). Six anonymous treatises published in Karaliaučius are attributed to Rėza's works in the catalogues of foreign libraries. One paper in the present volume, which up until now was attributed to Rėza, was actually penned by Samuel Gottlieb Wald, a professor at the University of Karaliaučius, but Rėza's autobiography in Latin is appended to it. Three texts, references to which were made in the previous volume on the basis of bibliographic descriptions in the catalogues of foreign libraries, had to be withdrawn because analysis showed that two of them were written by other authors and the authorship of the third was not established.

About thirty texts written in the course of thirty-one years (from 1807 to 1838) were found. No treatises were found from the period of

1808–1809, but there might not have been any as at that time Rėza had not yet abandoned his position as a preacher, although he already worked as a Privatdozent at the university. The absence of such texts from 1815 to 1818 is also simple to explain as at that time Rėza returned from war and was editing the Lithuanian Bible, writing works related to it, and finishing preparation of Donelaitis' *Metai* (*The Seasons*) for printing; he was actively involved in teaching in the faculty of theology and headed the Seminar of the Lithuanian language. It is more difficult to explain the absence of texts (in case there were any at all) from 1821, 1826, 1828, 1831, 1835, and 1837. The last treatise found was published two years before Rėza's death in the summer of 1840. It is known that Rėza's health was quite poor during the last years of his life, so it is possible that this treatise was the last text to be published in his lifetime.

Still, assuming that at least one treatise by Rėza was published each year, it is possible that there exist another six to eight unknown texts and the search for them should continue.

This volume includes the latest research into Rėza's work. In the article 'Rėzos filosofinė disertacija: tarp Kanto ir politikos' (Rėza's Philosophical Dissertation: Between Kant and Politics) Dr. Nerija Putinaitė reveals Rėza's attempts at an individual interpretation of Immanuel Kant (1724–1804) and analyses the political, academic, and Rėza's attitudinal context at the time when he was preparing his dissertation. She discusses the hermeneutical trends of that time, analyses Rėza's world-view and his personal self-awareness in the context of Kant's broader ideas, raises a hypothesis that Kant's anthropological ideas influenced Rėza's understanding of patriotism and were one of the stimuli for his work in Lithuanian studies.

Kęstutis Daugirdas analyses Rėza's dissertations on hermeneutical research in his article 'Rėzos istorinė-kritinė hermeneutika, jos kontekstas ir konservatyvus profilis' (Rėza's Historical-Critical Hermeneutics: Its Context and Conservative Profile). The author observes that Rėza opted for philology-based hermeneutic methodology and expanded it with his historical insights. Generally open to the principles of the evolving historical-critical exegesis, Rėza was inclined to apply them in a conservative and not radically critical form. In this way his hermeneutics reflected the Protestant trends common for his time. Among

other influences, they were also shaped by the local theological context of Karaliaučius that was strongly affected by Kant's challenge of ethical-theological hermeneutics.

The volume includes recently found reviews of Rėza's works *Geschichte der litthauischen Bibel* (1816) and *Philologisch-kritische Anmerkungen zur litthauischen Bibel* (1816) by Professor Lebrecht de Wettes from Berlin, which were published in the literary newspaper of Jena *Jenaer allgemeine Literaturzeitung* in 1818.