

Martynas Liudvikas Rėza. *Raštai* (Collected Works).  
Volume 6: *Archival Studies. Letters. Reviews*

*Summary*

The creative legacy of Martynas Liudvikas Rėza (Martin Ludwig Rhesa, 1776–1840), a theology professor at Königsberg University and an outstanding philologist of Prussian Lithuania (Lithuania Minor) has already filled five volumes of his *Raštai* (Works). Volume 1 contains the works he had translated from German: one of them deals with the history of translation of the Bible into Lithuanian and an overview of the Lithuanian writings of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries (Karaliaučius, 1816), and philological commentaries on the editing of the new edition of Lithuanian Bible (two parts, Karaliaučius, 1816, 1824). Volumes 2 and 3 of Rėza's *Raštai* comprise theological, philological, and philosophical treatises written from 1807 to 1838 in Latin, which were unknown to the Lithuanian reader; among them, there is a cycle on the beginning of Christianity in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which is based on the oldest chronicles and archival documents of the Teutonic Order. Volume 4 addresses the work of Kristijonas Donelaitis, the Lithuanian priest of Tolminkiemis and the pioneer of Lithuanian literary fiction. Donelaitis wrote his works in the eighteenth century, and Rėza published them in the nineteenth century, along with their translation into German and with the first study on Donelaitis's personality and his creative legacy. This volume also includes book reviews and letters related to the editing, assessment, and publication of *Metai* (The Seasons, 1818) and the fables (1824). Volume 5, 'The Songs of Prussian Lithuanians', introduces Rėza's folkloristic work: the first Lithuanian songbook (Karaliaučius, 1825) and his song studies; it also sheds light on the movement of folk song collection in Prussian Lithuania that Rėza had inspired. Initially, Volume 5 was to include the reviews of the songbook and the correspondence on the collection and publication of songs. However, new sources emerged in the process of the preparation of Volume 5 and new significant studies were carried out. The amount of the additional material sufficed to form Volume 6 of Rėza's *Raštai*, 'Archival Studies. Letters. Reviews' (Martin Ludwig Rhesa's Personal Archive: Sources of Lithuanian, Biblical, and Historical Studies), which continues and supplements Volume 5.

The most recent studies into Rėza's work by Lithuanian and foreign scholars enrich each volume of this series. The present volume contains the study ‚Asmeninis Martyno Liudviko Rėzos archyvas: lituanistikos, bibliistikos ir istorijos šaltiniai‘ by Dr Ona Aleknavičienė, a research fellow at the Institute of the Lithuanian Language. It offers a description of the first-ever reconstruction of Rėza's archive. The research identified the sources that comprised Rėza's manuscript collection, which after his death in 1840 found its way to the Secret Royal Archive in Königsberg (the Prussian State Archive from 1867). The entirety of Rėza's manuscripts validates its academic, literary, and cultural interests. The study had one more objective, that of finding out how many of his manuscripts have reached our times and where they are now. The majority of the manuscripts from Rėza's archive have been identified, and their present location has been determined. A relatively large number of his yet unknown autographs were discovered during the reconstruction. The largest and most significant is the work *Kirchengeschichte* (The History of the Church) dedicated to the universal history of the Church. It is a manuscript of 537 leaves (1 074 pages in quarto) in German pointing to Rėza's competence as a cultural historian. Another large autograph is the study on the gospels of Mark and John, *Über die Evangelien des Markus und Johannes* (336 leaves or 672 pages in quarto), which demonstrates the methods and possibilities of biblical research. A notebook of 72 leaves in octavo was found, which reflects, in an informal manner, the varied activities of its owner and his interests in comparative linguistics and non-Christian religions, and shows that he followed the latest science-related information in the German periodical press.

It transpired during the reconstruction that many manuscripts from Rėza's archive – the two mentioned above, the manuscripts of Rėza's lectures, papers, and translations, and the copies of large works on the history of Prussia and the Church of Prussia – found their way not to the collection of Liudvikas Rėza that was formed at the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in 1950 (F 137), but to the collection ‚Borussica‘ (F 15). New sources were discovered during the reconstruction, and it is evident that they will require exhaustive interdisciplinary studies and, correspondingly, new volumes of *Raštai*. (For the summary of the study ‚Martin Ludwig Rhesa's Personal Archive: Sources of Lithuanian, Biblical, and Historical Studies‘ by its author Ona Aleknavičienė, see p. 119–120).

The second part of this volume introduces the sources discovered by Liucija Citavičiūtė, the editor of the series, in the Goethe and Schiller Archive and in the library of Duchess Anna Amalia, both in Weimar. A collection of Lithuanian songs in Lithuanian and German, which was considered lost, was among them. It is an unbound manuscript book, which Rėza sent to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe to Weimar in 1820 asking him whether the manuscript deserved being published and if so, to recommend a publisher in Germany. Rėza did not receive a response and did not even know whether the parcel reached the addressee, although Goethe was positive about the collection in his correspondence (the catalogue of Goethe's personal library contains an entry of this manuscripts, the only one in Lithuanian). Professor Juozas Eretas of Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas was the first and of the last of Lithuanian scholars to see this rarity in 1932. Later it was entirely forgotten. The manuscript is well preserved and at present is kept at the Goethe and Schiller Archive in Weimar, in a doublewall cardboard box. There are no Goethe's inscriptions in it. In 2017, the editor brought a copy of the manuscript to Lithuania. Her examination showed that it was not identical to the published songbook (1825) and therefore should not be considered a draft.

So far no search has been launched for the representative copies of the songbook that Rėza gave as a present to Goethe and Duke Karl von Altenstein, a Prussian minister to whom Rėza dedicated his songbook. These copies were richly bound in soft covers of purple leather and decorated with gilded impressions; the top, fore, and bottom edges of the book were also gilded. The search revealed that the book given as a present to Goethe, entered in his catalogue *Repertorium*, and kept in his home library in Weimar disappeared after 1958; the copy given to Karl von Altenstein, which was found in the library of Duchess Anna Amalia, found its way to Weimar from von Altenstein's private library in Königsberg after the war. Rėza dedicated this book to Duke Karl von Altenstein and sent it with a letter that the editor of this series found in the Secret State Archives Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation.

The third and the fourth parts of Volume 6 ('Letters' and 'Reviews') should be seen as supplements to the previous volume, 'The Songs of Prussian Lithuania'. Documents for these parts were collected from the Goethe and Schiller Archive in Weimar, the Secret State Archives Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation in Berlin, and the Wroblewski

Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in Vilnius. The editor of the series introduces and analyses this material in introductory sections.

The third part comprises thirteen letters written from 1818 to 1839, which are related to the collection of Lithuanian songs across the whole province of Prussian Lithuania and their publication. The letters were found in the archives in Berlin, Weimar, and Vilnius. Three letters (two by Abraham Jacob Penzel and one by Goethe) have not been translated into Lithuanian and published yet, and four letters (one by Endrikis Budrius and three by Wilhelm Behrbohm) have been published with cuts and without adequate Lithuanian studies-related appendices. Darius Barasa, a historian from Klaipėda, is the first to have deciphered the annexes to Behrbohm's letters (description of the fishing process in the lagoon, legends to the structural drawings of a Curonian longboat, specific names of the flora and fauna of the lagoon area, regional lexis and phraseological units of the same area, and the like). He prepared an academic copy of these annexes, translated them into Lithuanian, and wrote extensive academic commentaries. The new sources revealed yet unknown facts and circumstances.

The fourth part of this volume contains nine reviews of the songbook published between 1825 and 1829 in Germany and Poland, and three announcements. It features the first publication of the manuscripts of Goethe's reviews that are kept in Weimar archive. Their analysis suggests that Goethe wrote not one review for the Lithuanian songbook, but two. As is known, the first review was published in the journal *Ueber Kunst und Alterthum* in 1827, and the second one (which is unfinished and stops in the middle of a sentence) was written between 1828 and 1832. After Goethe's death, the editor joined both reviews into one and published in a posthumous collection of his works. That is why even today it is referred to as 'Goethe's expanded variant'. Other seven reviews of Rėza's songbook were taken from German and Polish periodical publications of that period. Five of them are published in Lithuanian for the first time. Almost all reviews are anonymous or signed by cryptonyms. This volume includes a repeat publication of the review by the wellknown German philologist Jakob Grimm, which was published in Göttingen in 1826. Since the reviewers amply quoted the Lithuanian songs (mostly from the German part of the collection), the readers could learn not only about the texts of the songs, but also about the Lithuanian national

character, the country's history, language, literature, customs, and even geography and archaeology. Almost all reviewers included relevant excerpts from Rēza's study on Lithuanian folk songs published in the collection, which comprised a musical appendix unusual for those times and a chapter on Lithuanian versification.

The editor of the series prepared the copies of the manuscripts of the letters and reviews and translated the sources from German into Lithuanian (except the annexes to Behrbohm's letters). Translations of previously published reviews and letters have been updated, and the commentaries expanded. Sierczynski's review was translated from Polish by Eglė Patiejūnienė.

This volume of Rēza's Raštai, like others before it, presents photocopies of the manuscripts. The photocopies of the reviews published in German and Polish academic periodical publications are not given due to their poor physical quality and technical issues, but their copies in German, with page numbers, are given at the end of the volume.