

MUZIEJAUS PAVADINIMAS

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INTRODUCTION

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Contemporary Lithuanian diplomacy developed from the political aims nurtured by its people in early 20th century. Implementing the idea of Independence during the World War I, the founders of the state entered the domain of diplomacy as well: they corresponded with the governments of other countries, participated in negotiations and meetings with representatives from foreign countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania started its work on the 7th of November 1918, and soon thereafter Lithuanian legations and consulates were established in the majority of European capitals and overseas. In the interwar period, Lithuanian diplomats were active in various diplomatic spheres: signing treaties with foreign countries, concluding trade agreements, as well as supporting compatriots abroad. The Diplomatic Service of Lithuania in exile during the Soviet occupation ensured and symbolised uninterrupted sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania, contributing to the restoration of Independence.

In the present days, the Diplomatic Service of Lithuania unites strong-minded, inquiring, vigorous, and educated people, contributing to the international stability and security as well as the welfare of its State and people.

Welcome to the exhibition presenting the herit-



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Welcome to the exhibition presenting the heritage of the Diplomatic Service of Lithuania, as well as its present activities, in the very building, where the interwar governments sessioned.

*“At that time
anyone could have seen us
as naive, waiting for some sort of
idealism or noble benevolence from
contemporary great states regarding
our correct requirements. In early 20th
century all of them were
imperialists...”*

*Petras Klimas at the
Paris Peace Conference*



THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, 1915-1919

LITHUANIAN INFORMATION BUREAUS, 1914-1919



Sitting, from the left: 1st – Juozas Purickis, 3rd – Antanas Steponaitis. Standing, from the left: Juozas Eretas, Vincas Bartuška, Vladas Daumantas. Switzerland, c. 1917-1918.
Photographer unknown.

Lithuanian Information Bureau, Washington, D.C.



Sitting, from the left: 1st – Kazys Česnulis, 3rd – Balys Mas-tauskas, 5th-Julius Kaupas. 1918-1919.
Photographer unknown.
Source: Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture (Chicago, USA).





THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, 1915-1919

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, 1917-1918

Members of the Council of Lithuania, who signed the Act of Independence of Lithuania on February 16, 1918.



Five signatories eventually became part of the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service: Jonas Vileišis (sitting, 1st from the left), Jurgis Šaulys (sitting, 2nd from the left), Kazimieras Bizauskas (standing, 1st from the left), Donatas Malinauskas (standing, 3rd from the left), Petras Klimas (standing, 8th from the left). Vilnius, 1917. Aleksandra Jurašaitytė, photographer.
Source: Lithuanian Central State Archives.

The Resolution regarding Restoration of Independence of Lithuania, signed by the Council of Lithuania. A duplicate for Eckart von Bonin, a representative of Germany's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Vilnius, February 16, 1918.

