

SUMMARY

Simonas Daukantas' contribution into the Lithuanian numismatics

/PAPILE I

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The Lithuanian Bank Museum

In the middle of the 19th cent. the Lithuanian numismatic science made its first steps. In 1845 Simonas Daukantas published his work "Būdas senovės lietuvių, kalnėnų ir žemaičių" ("The nature of ancient Lithuanians-Highlanders and Lowlanders") in St. Peterburg into which he included a little chapter "The Lithuanian money in the ancient times". Simonas Daukantas was the first to present the Lithuanian monetary system in a systematic form. Simonas Daukantas mostly analysed the pre-coin period discussing in it exchange and silver alloys in Lithuania. He defines the significance of money in trade in the beginning of the chapter comparing them with blood in a human body. The first money were in the form of gold and silver pieces. S. Daukantas was right saying that those money were not counted but weighed by pounds. In the long run all kinds of money forms and names were thought. The ancient Lithuanian went the same road as well as other peoples.

The greatest merit of Simonas Daukantas is the presentation of silver alloys. He was the first to use the term "a long one" for calling silver alloys. Simonas Daukantas wrote about alloys of semi-round stick form that were in money turnover. He was the first to pay attention to the specificity of the Lithuanian alloys – the cuts into, he tried to explain their sense.

The drawing of such an alloy found in Samogitia and included into the book by Simonas Daukantas and the commentary are valuable to the science of numismatics. He also briefly wrote about the first forged Lithuanian coins and gold money. The author estimated the consequences of the Lublin Union to the Lithuanian monetary system.

Simonas Daukantas' contribution into the Lithuanian numismatics was many times mentioned by our living time Lithuanian numismatists Zenonas Duksa, Eugenijus Ivanauskas and Mikelis Balčius, prof. Stasys Sajauskas and Domininkas Kaubrys, Eduardas Remecas.