

Carl von Schmith and his “Necrolithuanica”

JAN PEDER LAMM

In any country the works of the earliest antiquaries attract special interest from the student of cultural history, for they are the first local scholarly in the investigations field in question.

The source value of such works is often so great that they have to be continuously reconsidered. They become standard works of primary importance.

Many of them were created in the 19th century which was a period of intensive reclamation of agricultural land throughout Europe. Even in the most marginal areas new fields were put under the plough and a large number of prehistoric monuments had to be removed. This led to a great accumulation of archaeological finds in museums and private collections, resulting in a great need for systematizing the material. In the process of developing this systematization archaeology proceeded from dilettantism to a science.

This process of systematization is reflected today in an abundance of national atlases created at that time by antiquaries and early archaeologists in different countries. Some of them are still regularly quoted. Thus the abbreviations M with a number or the letters SvF with a number are well-known to Scandinavian archaeologists as references to Oscar Montelius's *Svenska fornsaker* (“Swedish antiquities”) published in 1872-74. In Norway R with a number is also still used to refer to Oluf Rygh's *Norske Oldsager* (“Norwegian antiquities”) of 1885. Its Finnish equivalent is J.R. Aspelin's *Antiquités du Nord Finno-Ougrien* published between 1877 and 1884.

In the countries of the Eastern Baltic similar atlases were also produced or prepared. Thus already in 1842, Friedrich Kruse, professor of history at the university in Dorpat, published a work called *Necrolivonica, oder Alterthümer Liv-, Esth- und Curlands bis zur Einführung der Christlichen Religion in den Kaiserlich Russischen Ostsee-Gouvernements* (Fig. 1).

Necrolivonica became the prototype of a Lithuanian successor, dated 1863, compiled by a certain Carl von Schmith with the title *Necrolithuanica*. (Fig. 2) Its subtitle says that it contains *Abbildungen aufgefundener Alterthümer in Gräbern der heidnischen Vorzeit, Mythologische Abbildungen und Aufnahmen von Ruinen der Schlösser, wie auch der Tumuli der heidn. Vorzeit*. However, his manuscript, which seems to be one of the oldest known studies of Lithuanian archaeology was never published; it was not even completed. Since the beginning of this

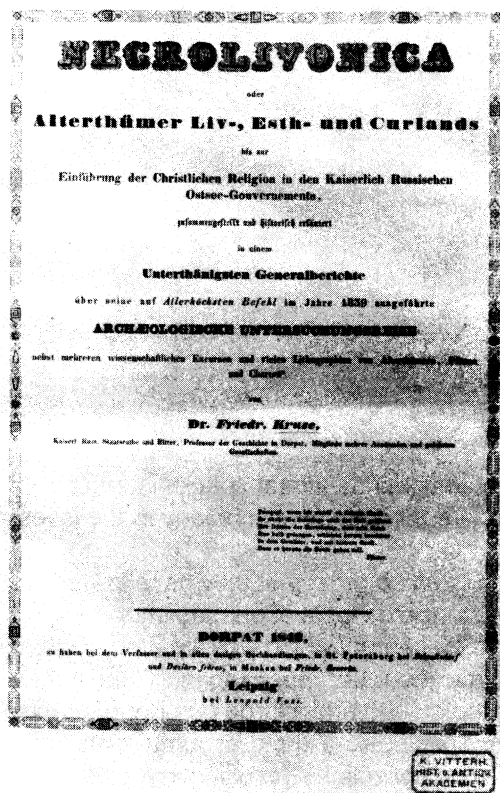


Fig. 1. Frontispiece of *Necrolithonica*. Published by F. Kruse 1842. Photo, like following RIK.

century, it has been hidden in the archive of the Royal Academy of History and Letters (*Kungl. Vitterhetsakademien*) in Stockholm. It was bought in Kaunas in 1880 by Oscar Montelius who donated it to the Academy. Together with the manuscript he also purchased part of Schmith's collection of antiquities, now housed in the State Historical museum in Stockholm (accesion No. 6565).

The manuscript consists of a bound volume of 149 folio-sized pages, of which there are 14 pages of text, 78 of plates and 58 blank pages. It begins with a whole-page figure of a Lithuanian warrior in full war-array (Fig.3), a reconstruction built on finds reproduced in the Atlas. Then follows a table of contents written in German. Here also the provenance of the objects depicted in the tables is mentioned. Unfortunately, the manuscript lacks any kind of programmatical preface as well as any discussion of the objects. It is an un-finished framework where space has been

left for much of the intended contents such as illustrations of castles and barrows. The mostly rather good drawings are in Indian ink and often water-coloured (Fig. 4-9). However, many of them are unfinished, and only outlined in pencil or partially water-coloured. Three hundred and twenty one objects are depicted on 53 plates, generally in full size. They all have a short description and are arranged, not chronologically, but according to material (mainly bronze and stone). Most of the objects come from 13 sites in Lithuania, but some are from 8 sites in Byelorussia. One hundred and eleven of them have the comment that they belong to the museum in Vilnius and more than 60 were bought by Montelius and are now in Stockholm. There is a special chapter, headed "Mythologia" with 11 plates and a section on sphragistics and written sources with 3 plates. One single plate is on ethnology and shows a wooden fence belonging to the orchard of a person named Kohl.

Dr Adolfas Tautavičius (Vilnius) has informed me that already in 1933 the archaeologist Karolis Mekas, who in 1931-1932 studied in Stockholm, made the existence of *Necrolithonica* known in the news paper (*Lietuvos aidas* 44/1933). Probably it was professor Birger Nerman who had informed him about *Necrolithonica* as Nerman himself mentions the manuscript in *Acta Archaeologica* of the same year (Nerman 1933, p. 238). Mekas also informed the director of the

City museum in Kaunas, Professor E. Wolteris (1856-1941), about his find and the latter had photographs made of it, some of which he published in a weekly paper the same year. J. Puzinas was the first to discuss *Necrolithuanica* in the archaeological press. This he did in his doctoral thesis "Vorgeschichtsforschung und Nationalbewusstsein in Litauen" (Kaunas 1935).

Thereafter nobody seems to have paid any attention to *Necrolithuanica* until I found it suitable to remind colleagues of its existence in a discussion at the Second Interbaltic Symposium on Bornholm in October 1992. This provoked great interest and afterwards I received several spontaneous letters about Schmith from colleagues and other interested persons in Lithuania, Russia and Germany. Persons such as Algimantas Katilius, Alvydas Nikžentaitis, Adolfas Tautavičius, Oleg Boguslawski and Franziskus Pärn who kindly gave written response to the request for help that I made at the symposium, deserve special

thanks and acknowledgement for helping me to build up the resumé of Schmith's life, which follows. Maybe somebody who now reads this article will be able to correct and further improve upon it. This would be most useful in view of the desired future publication of the whole manuscript of *Necrolithuanica*.

Without the generosity and interest of Mr A. Katilius very few biographical data would be still known about Schmith. In August 1993 Katilius sent me a long letter about him, with the help of which I can now give most of the following summary, but still von Schmith remains rather elusive.

Katilius tells us from a certificate of service, dated 1866, that Schmith was then 71 years old and thus probably has been born in 1795. From Dr Franziskus Pärn in Gütersloh, comes the complementary information, that Schmith died on 21 February 1876 in Kaunas. The some of this information is a letter (12/5 1877) from the Lutheran pastor in Kaunas. Katilius continues by saying that Schmith was the son of a nobleman in Livonia. Throughout his adult life he was a government employee. His carrier could be compared with a walk through the labyrinth that was the imperial Russian administration, with constant and apparently illogical transfers to new posts within the Empire.

In 1813, at the age of 18, Schmith started his army career as a private in a regiment of grenadiers. After having taken part in the war against Napoleon, he

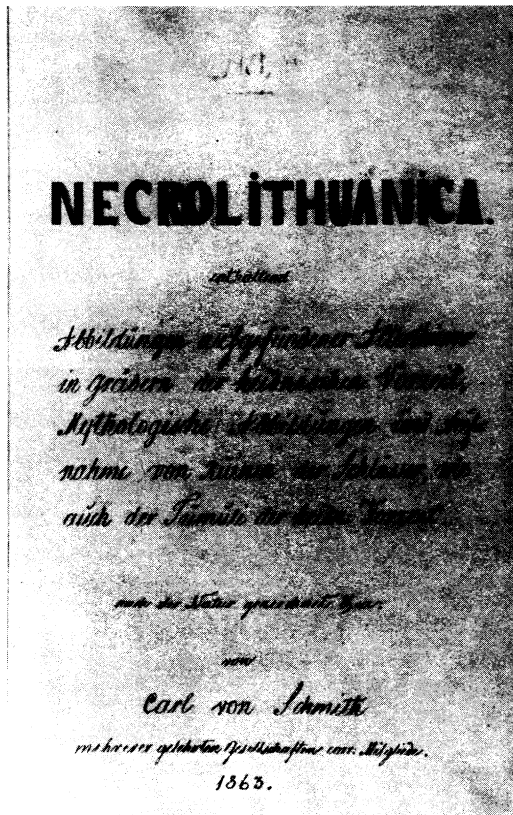


Fig. 2. Frontispiece of *Necrolithuanica*. Manuscript of C. von Schmith 1863. Now in ATA, Stockholm.



Fig. 3. Ancient Lithuanian warrior. First page in *Necrolithuanica*.



Fig. 4.a Typical plate in first stage, still only pencil-drawn (No. 53). Flint implements from the Stone Age found at Druskininkai.

left the army in 1825 as a second lieutenant of the Estonian infantry regiment. In 1829 he had already entered the civil service and was working as a clerk in the post office in Orenburg in the Urals. In 1831 he left for Reval (Tallinn), where he worked for some years. Then he returned to Lithuania, where in 1835, we find him as an executor and treasurer in the Vilnius province. Three years later he was inspector of the Spa in Druskininkai. From 1840 we find him as a customs officer, first stationed in Jurbarkas, then in Vilnius and Kretinga, where he became commander of the station with the title of Kollegienassessor. On November 9 of the revolutionary year 1848 he was suddenly dismissed from his office, later to be condemned and imprisoned. He was accused of abusing his office by receiving forbidden political literature from abroad. In 1850 he was sentenced for subversive activity to lose his rank and title as well as the decoration of merit, which he had received for 25 years of governmental service, and the order of St Vladimir. He had to return to the army, where he stayed for a couple of years. Two manuscripts from 1852 and 1854 indicate that he then was living in Riga, later to enter the educational system of the Vilnius Province. In 1859 we find him as a school inspector at the Gymnasium (grammar school) of Kėdainiai where in 1863 (at the age of 68) he also started to teach, first German, then also the natural sciences. The same year he donated his personal col-



Fig. 4.b Photo of the same objects. Now in Statens Historiska Museum (SHM), Stockholm.

lection of natural history objects to the school. The following year he became teacher in German in the grammar school of Švenčionys and received a partial amnesty for his political crimes. In 1865 he got a medal celebrating the defeat of the insurrection of 1863/64. The following year at the age of 71, for health reasons, he applied for retirement with a pension. He was granted retirement but no pension, so he had to continue teaching without having an appointment.

However Schmith was not only an administrator who had to take up teaching to earn his living. He was also devoted to scholarship. From Katilius's notes we see that in 1846 Schmith was made a corresponding fellow of the society of Gelehrte Estnische Gesellschaft in Reval. In 1857-1858 he wrote a two volume manuscript on the theme *Die Münzen der Vorzeit Livlands*. Another proof of his interests in this sphere is the afore mentioned donation of his personal collection to the *Naturkundekabinett* of the school in Kėdainiai in 1863.

After the insurrection of 1863, the Vilnius Public Library was opened and acquired the museum of antiquities of the Provisional Commission of Antiquities of Vilnius. This had been founded in 1855 and dissolved after the insurrection. In this museum Schmith found work, probably voluntary, as an antiquarian. Here he worked until autumn 1869, rearranging the archaeological and numismatic collections. In the same year he also finished a catalogue of the collection of coins and medals and a general catalogue named *Katalog des Münzkabinetts des Altertums museums von Vilna*. For this work he received a stipend of 150 roubles. After this he left his work and probably also Vilnius after selling his numismatic books to the public library. He was now 74 years old. The same year he took part in the first Russian Archaeological Conference in Moscow. In the Congress report Schmith was mentioned in an article by J. Galowackij about recent archaeological works. It is stated that Schmith had worked in archaeology for 40 years and that his investigations had created the base for archaeological science in Lithuania. Very positive comments are made on an album Schmith had shown at the conference and hope is expressed that the Vilnius educational department and archaeological society would give him support and the opportunity to finish his work and publish his material. A short description of

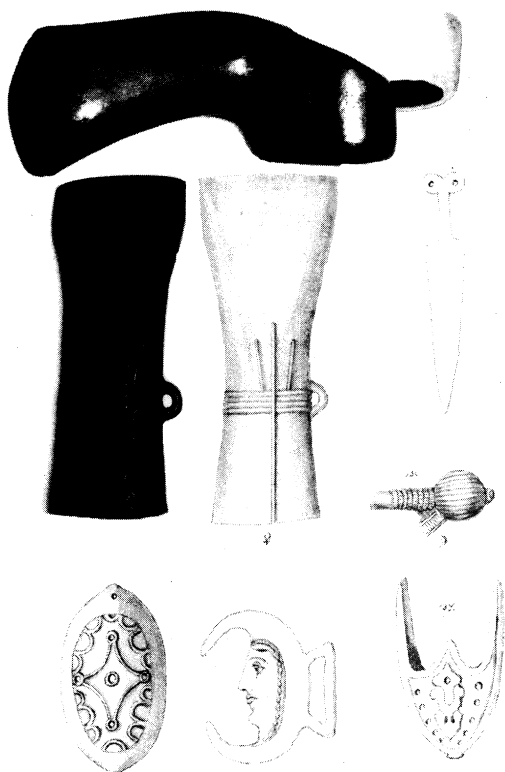


Fig. 5. Plate No. 22. Bronze objects from different find places. No 128 and 131 found in Konstantinovo, (now Vaškai) Pasvalys district. Now in SHM.

the album is given and we learn that Schmith had excavated about 100 barrows in the Kaunas and Grodno districts. It is told that nothing had been known in the past. „We are in the period of selecting material, the ideas will come in the future. Von Schmith's goal is to explain the origin of the ancient inhabitants of Lithuania with different objects found in the graves and the barrows.“

In the archives of the IMK (Institute of Material Culture) in Moscow there is a file about the IXth archaeological congress in Vilnius (1890) with the comment that a special collection which had belonged to Schmith was shown there and after the congress donated to the museum in Vilnius.

Schmith also sent in a paper that was never published, describing ancient stones with Slavonic inscriptions of the 12th century, found in the Western Dvina river near Polotsk. These stones are shown on his Plate 122, (here Fig. 10).

As we already know from the pastor's letter, Schmith died in 1876. In his letter to the *Gelehrte Estnische Gesellschaft* in Dorpat, the pastor also says that in accordance with the will of the deceased, his widow was preparing to send his manuscripts on coins to the society. In the 1877 *Sitzungsberichte* of the society (p. 69-70) we read the following: „Für das Museum waren eingegangen von der Witwe des verstorbenen correspondierenden Mitglieds der Gel. Estn. Ges. C von Schmith, in Kowno ein Packen mit Manuskripten, enthaltend:

1. Notizen zur Numismatik gesammelt von C. von Schmith. Reval 1831.
2. Beschreibung seltener Münzen der Russ. Vor- und Neuzeit, sowie der Medaillen von Peter I bis Paul I, zusammengestellt von Carl von Schmith. Cröttingen 1845
3. Die Münzen der Vorzeit Livlands, von C. v. Schmith. I. Münzen der Ordenszeit mit 489 Münzabbildungen und 3. Taf. Wappen. II. die Münzen unter den Königen.
4. Die Münzen und Medaillen Kurlands von C. v Schmith (gleichfalls mit sauberen Abbildungen). Riga 1854.
5. Catalog bisher bekannter Kurländischer Münzen und Medaillen von St. R. v. Recke (Abgedr. in Dr. Röbnes Münz – Siegel u. Wappenkunde)

6. Schriftzüge alter und neuer Völker.

7. Notizen zur Münzgeschichte Livlands. (Aus den Münzen-Werke der Livl. Ritterschaft in 6. Bänden v. Mag. Brotze).

8. Beschreibung livl. Medaillen.

9. Beschreibung der Wappen etc der Herzogtümer Liv – Kur – und Estlands, so wie der Städte in denselben. Mit Abbildungen, gesammelt von C. v. Schmith. Riga 1852.

10. Abbildungen verschiedener Wappen, Leichensteine, Siegel, Inschriften u. dgl.

11. Statut des von Herzog Fr. Wilh. von Kurland 1710 gestifteten Ordens „de la Reconnaissance“.

12. Wappen der deutschen Ordensmeister (Kupferstiche) und Fragment eines alten Wappenbuches, enthaltend die Beschreibung und Abbildung der Wappen des Churfürsten und des Herzogs von Braunschweig.

13. Auszug aus dem Werke: Monety Dawney Polski A. Ignacego Zagorskiego 1845.

14. Zwölf kleinere Hefte Notizen, Verzeichnisse und Beschreibungen besonders die Livländische Münzkunde betreffend.“

In 1890 Oscar Montelius purchased Schmith's manuscript *Necrolithuanica* and part of his collection of antiquities.

From the above we unon a great deal about Schmith's life and scholarly work. He seems to have focused his interest on the numismatic field in particular, but he could not afford to print his manuscripts. He conducted his own archaeological excavations and as a collector with restricted means he concentrated on Lithuanian antiquities.

Probably deeper studies in the archives would provide us with more information about Schmith and his family. Although Mr Katilius has tried hard, the only genealogical information he has found about Schmith is that his father's name was Ivan or Johann. This is all we know. No doubt it is difficult to conduct research when the name in question is so common. Schmidt is one of the most frequent German family names; it is quite comparable with Smith in England.

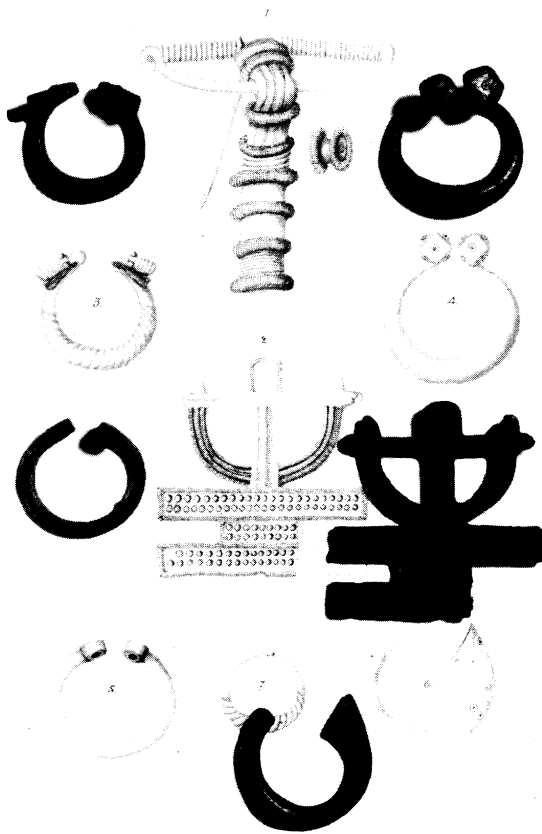


Fig. 6. Plate No 4. Iron Age Objects from Rūdaičiai. Those now in Stockholm placed beside the drawings.

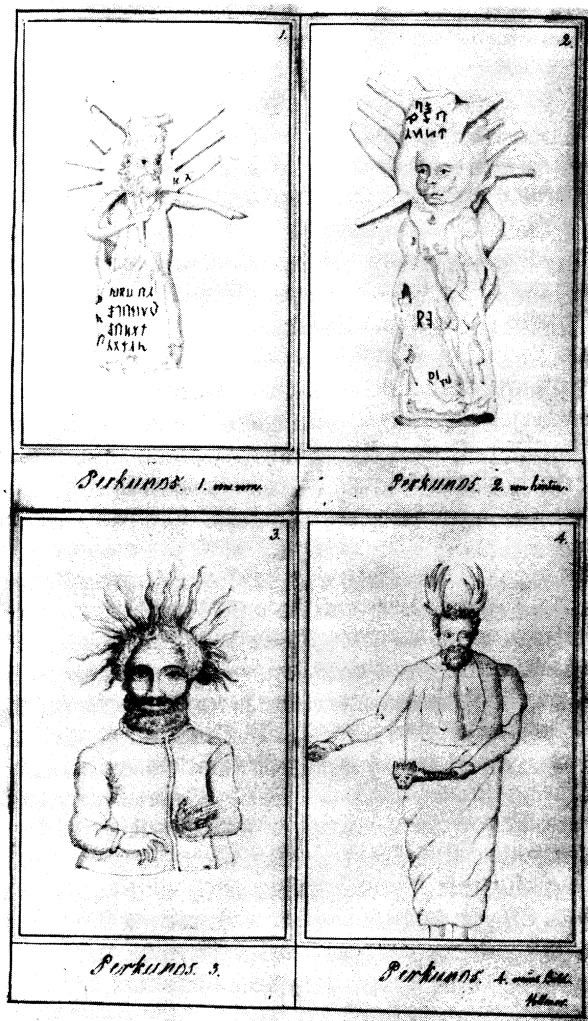
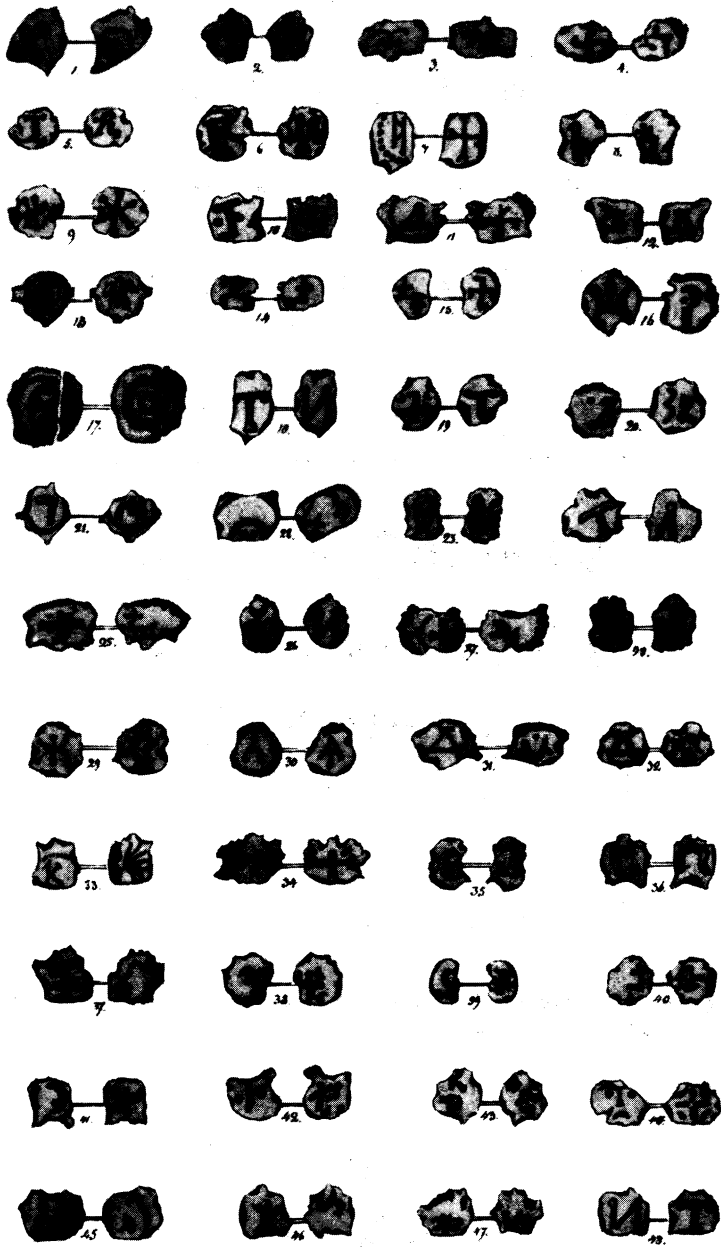


Fig. 7. Plate No. 101 From the chapter "Mythologia". The god Perkūnas.

it, have not made use of the prefix *von* (Pesti 1991). Another complication is that in the „western provinces“ innumerable persons claimed that their families were noble although they could not prove it by documents. It even became common usage to consider all landed proprietors, civil servants and officers as noble (Colliander 1938, p. 97).

No doubt time now is more than ripe to see to it that Carl von Schmith's *Necrolithuanica* finally gets published in its entirety to receive its well deserved place among the great national archaeological atlases of the 19th century.

Many a German Schmidt must have been ennobled, keeping the old name with the addition of the prefix *von*. A complication is that we do not know from where the von Schmith family came. The ennoblement may as well have taken place in Russia, Poland or Sweden. Some of the results of the genealogical studies I myself have made of von Schmith families point eastwards – to the Baltic countries. Thus, in Elgenstierna's calendar of the Swedish nobility (1932 p. 46) a noble family No 1326 von Schmitt (Fig. 11) is mentioned and is said to be probably extinct. Its last known member was the lieutenant-colonel Johan Fredrik, born 1676 in Livland, where he was still living in 1735. Maybe he was not the last of his line. There is also a family von Schmitt in Estonia. This family was ennobled in 1837 and introduced into the St Petersburg register of nobility. Most of its members, although entitled to



Samulete aus Stein, durchlöcherst zum aufgeben. Viln. Museum.

Fig. 8. Plate No. 107. Lead seals in Vilnius Museum.

<p> J, U, Y, X, P, III, II, J, <i>a, b, kung, d, e, g, s, i.</i> </p> <p> 7, A, V, C, V, H, 4, V, <i>ii, k, l, m, n, o, p, r.</i> </p> <p> C, T, H, J, 8, 3, Z, V. <i>f, t, u, z, och, tacha, ju, ja.</i> </p>
<p><i>Zes. Biarmische, oder Permische Alphabet.</i></p>
<p> ΔΣΗΑ.ΟΒΡΑ.ΑΗΛ,Χ. ΞΗ.ΡΩΘΡΗ.ΡΤΑΞΛ- ΞΡΑΧ.ΥΕΞ- </p> <p> <i>Letzte: Kow nong süpik s pualitais ijslok ssed.</i> <i>Büchle: soll Gerden. Welche stehen oben auf die Buchstabe, die oben</i> <i>hies, oder Lette sie!</i> </p>
<p><i>Alt-Lithuanische Original-Schrift.</i></p>

Fig. 9. Plate No. 119. The Biarmian or Permian alphabet and an example of alleged "Old Lithuanian" Script.



1301. v. SCHMITT Joh.
Fredr.

Fig. 10. Coat of arms of the Swedish noble family von Schmitt. (Cedercrona 1746).

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Karlas von Šmitas ir jo „Necrolithuanica“

JANAS PEDERIS LAMAS

Santrauka

Kiekvienoje šalyje pirmųjų senienų rinkėjų darbai sukelia didžiulį susidomėjimą, nes tai ir pirmieji moksliniai tyrinėjimai. Daugelis iš jų rašyti pradėti XIX a., kai buvo smarkiai agituojama už žemės ūkio intensyvinimą visoje Europoje. Net nušaliausios vietovės buvo ariamos ir surandama daugybė priešistorinių paminklų. Muziejuose ir privačiose kolekcijose susikaupė daug archeologinių radinių, kuriuos reikėjo susisteminti. Dabar šis procesas atsispindi įvairiose šalyse išleis-tuose kataloguose. Iš jų minėtini O. Montelijaus „Svenska fornsaker“, išspaus-dintas 1872-1874 metais, Norvegijoje panašus darbas paruoštas O. Rygho pa-vadintas „Norske oldsager“ pasirodė 1885, Suomijoje – J. R. Aspelino veikalas „Antiquites du Nord finno-ougrien“ buvo išspausdintas tarp 1877-1884 metų. Rytų Baltijos šalyse analogiški atlasai taip pat buvo parašyti. Dorpate 1842 m. F. Kruzės išleistas darbas vadinasi „Necrolivonica oder Altertümer Liv-Esth- und Curlans bis zur Einführung der Christlichen Religion den Kaiserzeitlich Russis-chen Ostsee Gouvernements“.

Identiškas patarajam darbui buvo paruoštas Karlo von Šmito 1863 metais ir Lietuvoje. Jis pavadintas „Necrolithuanica“. Pavadinimo potėmėje rašoma, kad darbe bus ...Abbildungen und Aufnahmen von Ruinen der Schlösser, wie auch der Tumuli der heidn: Vorzeit... Tačiau, kaip atrodo, šis seniausias Lietuvos archeologi-jos veikalas niekada nebuvo publikuotas. Nuo šio šimtmečio pradžios K. von Šmi-to darbas saugomas Švedijos Karališkosios Akademijos archyve Stokholme.

Darbas buvo nupirktas Kaune 1880 m. O. Montelijaus ir padovanotas Akade-mijai. Kartu su rankraščiu taip pat buvo nupirkta ir K. von Šmito senienų kolekcijos dalis, dabar saugoma Valstybinio istorijos muziejaus Stokholme fonduose (Nr. 6565).

Tai didelio formato, storas 149 puslapių rankraštis vokiečių kalba. Jame 14 puslapių teksto, 78 lentelės ir 58 tušti puslapiai. Rankraštis prasideda lietuviuo-

kario rekonstrukciniu piešiniu, kuris padarytas remiantis atlaso medžiaga. Rankraštyje nupieštas 321 dirbinys iš 13 vietovių Lietuvoje ir 8 Baltarusijoje, sukomponuotas 53 lentelėse. 111 daiktų iš Senienų muziejaus Vilniuje. Yra specialus skyrius pavadintas „Mitologija“, kuriame 11 lentelių, sfragistikos ir rašytiniai šaltiniai patalpinti 3 lentelėse. Viena lentelė skiriama etnologijai.

Atlaso autorius Karlas von Šmitas gimė Livonijos bajorų šeimoje apie 1795 metus. Visą gyvenimą dirbęs valstybinėse Rusijos imperijos įstaigose, savo karjerą pradėjo 1813 m. karine tarnyba. Po dalyvavimo kare su Napoleonu, 1825 m. iš jos pasitraukė ir likimo blaškomas dirbo įvairiuose Rusijos imperijos miestuose – Orenburge, Revelyje (Taline), Vilniuje, Kėdainiuose, Švenčionyse, Druskinukuose, Kretingoje. Mirė Karlas von Šmitas 1876 metais Kaune.

Jo darbas *Necrolithuanica* įdomus ne tik istoriografiniu požiūriu, bet yra ir XIX a. Lietuvos archeologijos istorijos paminklas, kuris, reikia tikėtis, bus išspausdintas ir užims deramą vietą tarp kitų tautų panašaus pobūdžio darbų.

ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS on CARL von SCHMITH

BY ALGIMANTAS KATILIUS

It should be noted from the outset that this is not an independent research – it only presents some archival material as a supplement to Jan Peder Lamm's article on Carl von Schmith.

Schmith's work in the field of Lithuanian archaeology has long been known to specialists, but, the data relating to his biography, are scarce. Therefore recently discovered archival records are of interest as they shed some light on this issue. The file of Carl von Schmith, kept at the Lithuanian State Historical Archive (LVIA), was compiled in 1866, when he resigned as a teacher of German at the secondary school of Švenčionys (LVIA. F.567. Ap.3. B.1645). The 1866 file contains a record of his service (and a certificate, based on it) in the period 1813-1866. So far these are the main documents of Schmith's biography. The file presents information not only about his resignation from the post in Švenčionys but also about his new job at the Vilnius Museum of Antiquities.

The other file deals with Schmith's work in Kretinga. In his capacity as chief of the customs office he used to contact people travelling from Klaipėda, and illegally received books, newspapers, articles on the subject of numismatics, etc. for himself and possibly even helped other people. In the autumn of 1848 activity of Schmith's was disclosed and a criminal action was brought against him. The materials of the proceedings are preserved in the office archive of the Governor-General of Vilnius (LYIA. F. 378. P/S. 1848. B. 170) .

Its 265 pages comprise documents from September 27, 1848 until March 31, 1856; they deal with Schmith's arrest, the course of investigation, imprisonment in Kaunas and Vilnius, the court martial's sentence and his serving time for the offences. The file contains his wife's letters and much information about his collections and the library, consisting of ca. 2,000 items. On the whole, the materials of the file characterize Schmith as an ardent bibliophile and collector (he

collected various antiquities, minerals and even butterflies). Some facts, recorded in the file, indicate both the sphere of his interests and certain achievements. The sentence passed by the court martial has been published (Baltų archeologija. 1996. Nr. 2(9). – P. 14-16).

In addition to these two files of the LVIA, there are some more sources, supplying information about Carl von Schmith. After leaving Švenčionys he settled in Kėdainiai. A note from of the director of the management of the people's schools of Kaunas (dated August 16, 1866) to the education warden of the Vilnius province provides same evidence about Schmith's activity in Kėdainiai. In the library, previously owned by Count Maryan Czapski, were found two boxes of minerals, belonging to a school in the Kaunas district. These minerals had been presented to the school by the University of Vilnius on October 27, 1826 – a catalogue of the minerals, attached to the collection, had been signed by the Rector of the University. As the collection was in a state of disorder, Schmith was entrusted to examine the minerals and put the collection in order. As a result of his analysis Schmith stated that according to the University's catalogue 66 of the rarer minerals were missing, and 97 minerals, originally not belonging to the collection, had been added. On July 26, 1866, he made up a two-sheet catalogue of the additional minerals in the collection (LVIA. F. 567. Ap. 4. B. 1145. L. 1-21) . In the letter of June 30, 1869, the director of the management of people's schools of Kaunas informed the education warden of the Vilnius province that two boxes of mineral collections had been sent to the address of the Second non-classical gymnasium of Vilnius. They had been presented by Carl von Schmith to the gymnasium of Kėdainiai in 1863 (LVIA. F. 567. Ap. 4. B. 1145. L. 24).

Schmith intended to stay longer in Kėdainiai. He was allowed to settle in the premises of the former gymnasium of the town free of charge; his duty was to take care of the remaining State property there (LVIA. F. 567. Ap. 4. B. 1045. L. 5).

In the collection of the Public Library of Vilnius (F. 46), kept in the Manuscript Department of the Vilnius University Library (VUB RS), there are some documents about Schmith's work in the Vilnius Museum of Antiquities, where he was head of the Department of Archaeology. One of the major records is the Department account of the year 1868, written in his own hand (VUB RS. F. 46-28. L. 6). Some other documents deal with Schmith's resignation from the Museum of Antiquities and his intention to sell the library his books on numismatics (F. 46-33. L. 109, 163, 164). The author has prepared an article on Schmith's work in the Vilnius Museum of Antiquities.

A catalogue of the coins and medals of the Museum of Antiquities, compiled by Schmith, is kept in the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (MAB F. 22-31).

The above-mentioned archival records are significant for research on Carl von Schmith's biography.

Archyviniai dokumentai apie Karlą von Šmitą

ALGIMANTAS KATILIUS

Iš karto būtina pasakyti, kad tai ne atskiras straipsnis, o tik papildymas Jano Pederio Lamo straipsniui, kuriame aptarsime archyvinius dokumentus apie Karlą von Šmitą.

Acheologams jau senokai žinomi Karlo von Šmito darbai iš Lietuvos archeologijos, bet iki šiol nedaug buvo žinoma jo biografijos faktų. Dėl to surasti archyvuose dokumentai padeda užpildyti šią spragą.

Lietuvos valstybiniame istorijos archyve (LVIA) saugoma Karlo von Šmito asmens byla, sudaryta 1866 metais, kada jis atsisakė Švenčionių gimnazijos vokiečių kalbos mokytojo vietos (LVIA. F.567. Ap.3. B.1645). Šioje byloje yra 1866 m. sudarytas tarnybos formuliaras (formuliarinis sąrašas) ir vėliau pagal jį surašyta pažyma, kuriuose yra žinių apie K. von Šmito tarnybą nuo 1813 m. iki 1866 m. Tai kol kas patys svarbiausi dokumentai K. von Šmito biografijai. Šioje byloje taip pat yra žinių apie jo pasitraukimą iš Švenčionių gimnazijos vokiečių kalbos mokytojo vietos ir įdarbinimą Vilniaus senienų muziejuje.

Būdamas Kretingos muitinės viršininku, K. von Šmitas per keliaujančius asmenis iš Klaipėdos nelegaliai parsisiusdavo sau reikalingų knygų, laikraščių, numizmatikos ir kitų daiktų, o kartais, galbūt net padėdavo pašaliniais asmenimis. 1848 m. rudenį ši jo veikla buvo atskleista ir jam buvo iškelta baudžiamoji byla. Šios bylos medžiaga išliko ir laikoma Vilniaus generalgubernatoriaus kanceliarijos fonde (LVIA. F.378. P/S (Politinis skyrius). 1848. B.170). Tai stora 265 lapų byla, kurioje sukaupti dokumentai nuo 1848 m. rugpjūčio 27 d. iki 1856 m. kovo 31 d. Čia galima surasti žinių apie K. von Šmito suėmimą, bylos tyrimo eigą, kalinimą Kaune ir Vilniuje, karinio teismo priimtą sprendimą, bausmės atlikimą. Byloje yra K. von Šmito žmonos laiškų, daug informacijos apie jo sukauptą biblioteką, kurią sudarė apie 2000 knygų ir kolekcijas. Apskritai iš šios bylos medžiagos akivaizdu, kad K. von Šmitas buvo aistringas bibliofilas ir kolekcionierius (rinko įvairias senienas, mineralus ir netgi drugelius). Tad šioje byloje užfiksuoti faktai leidžia mums spręsti apie K. von Šmito domėjimosi objektus ir netgi kai ką galima spręsti apie atliktus darbus. Karinio teismo sprendimas paskelbtas spaudoje (Baltų archeologija. 1996. Nr. 2(9). – P. 14-16).

Be šių dviejų aptartų bylų LVIA galima surasti ir daugiau medžiagos apie Karlą von Šmitą. Pasitraukęs iš Švenčionių gimnazijos, jis apsigyveno Kėdainiuose. Ką veikė Kėdainiuose sužinome iš 1866 m. rugpjūčio 16 d. Kauno liaudies mokyklų direkcijos direktoriaus rašto Vilniaus mokymo apygardos globėjui. Buvusioje grafo M. Čapskio bibliotekoje buvo aptiktos dvi dėžės netvarkingai sudėtų Kauno apskrities mokyklai priklausiusių mineralų, kuriuos šiai mokyklai 1826 m. spalio 27 d. perdavė Vilniaus universitetas. Prie šios kolekcijos buvo rastas universitete sudarytas mineralų katalogas, pasirašytas universiteto rektoriaus. Karlui von Šmitui buvo patikėta peržiūrėti ir sutvarkyti šiuos mineralus. Patikrinęs kolekciją, šis nustatė, kad pagal universitete sudarytą katalogą trūksta 66 retesnių mineralų, o pridėti 97 universiteto rinkiniui nepriklausę mineralai. 1866 m. liepos 26 d. K. von Šmitas sudarė šių pridėtų mineralų naują dviejų lapų katalogą (LVIA. F.567. Ap.4. B.1145. L.1-21). 1869 m. birželio 30 d. Kauno liaudies mokyklų direkcijos direktorius savo rašte Vilniaus mokymo apygardos glo-

bėjui pranešė, kad į Vilniaus 2-ąją realinę gimnaziją išsiųstos dvi dėžės dar 1863 m. Karlo von Šmito Kėdainių gimnazijai padovanotos mineralų kolekcijos (LVIA. F.567. Ap.4. B.1145. L.24). Kėdainiuose K. von Šmitas bandė įsikurti ilgesniam laikui. Jam buvo leista nemokamai apsigyventi buvusios Kėdainių gimnazijos rūmuose, kad prižiūrėtų čia likusį valstybės turtą (LVIA. F.567. Ap.4. B.1045. L.5).

Apie K. von Šmito darbą Vilniaus senienų muziejuje duomenų galima surasti Vilniaus universiteto bibliotekos rankraštyne (VUB RS), kur laikomas Vilniaus viešosios bibliotekos fondas (F. 46). K. von Šmitas buvo Vilniaus senienų muziejaus archeologijos skyriaus vedėju. Vienas iš svarbiausių dokumentų - tai jo paties rašyta 1868 m. darbo ataskaita (VUB RS. F.46-28. L.6). Iš kitų dokumentų sužinome apie K. von Šmito darbo pabaigą Senienų muziejuje ir ketinimą parduoti numizmatikos veikalus bibliotekai (F.46-33. L.109, 163, 164).

Į Lietuvos Mokslų akademijos biblioteką (MAB) pateko K. von Šmito sudarytas Vilniaus senienų muziejaus monetų ir medalių katalogas (MAB. F.22-31). Paminėti archyviniai dokumentai yra svarbūs, tyrinėjant Karlo von Šmito biografiją.