



MYKOLAS KLEOPAS OGINSKIS' RESTORATION PLAN OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA

While living in exile, M. K. Oginskis, along with the other former leading members of the Kosciuszko Uprising continued his political work and was looking for political and military procedures to achieve the main purpose – to restore the statehood of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The biggest support was expected from France, the Ottoman Empire, Lombardy, the Duchy of Tuscany and other Italian regions. While in Constantinople, to which he was sent by the countrymen to find out the possibilities of the Ottoman Empire support, M. K. Oginskis wrote a letter to the General Napoleon Bonaparte. In this letter, Mykolas Kleopas asked to help to liberate Poland and Lithuania from the Russian oppression. However, Napoleon was categorical, "The nation overpowered by neighbors can get up only with a gun in its hand."⁹⁴

There was a lack of unity between the exile and the rest of patriots, remained in the territory of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. It was not possible to rely exclusively on them. However, the hope of restoring the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth could not be crushed so easily. In 1802, Emperor Alexander I forgave M. K. Oginskis' his "faults" against the Russian government and allowed to re-

turn to Lithuania. Mykolas Kleopas settled in the manor of Zalesye (current Belarusian territory, in the midway between Vilnius and Minsk, near Smargon), which belonged to his childless and already elderly uncle Pranciškaus Ksaveras Oginskis (1742–1814)⁹⁵, the military and political figure of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

After M. K. Oginskis returned from the exile, international political situation was very dynamic. There were disagreements between France and Russia, therefore the tension was rising. During this period, supporters of the restoration of the statehood of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth invested their hopes in the Russian Emperor Alexander I. In 1810, the nobility of the Governorate of Vilnius sent M. K. Oginskis to St. Petersburg. There Alexander I nominated him as a senator and his secret personal adviser. In this position, M. K. Oginskis achieved the goal that restoration of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania question was actualized and was analyzed in the Emperor's manor. On 26th of April 1811, M. K. Oginskis made a proposal to the Emperor to reorganize eight Western Governorates and restore the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Emperor commissioned M. K. Oginskis to prepare the project, which

⁹⁴ M. K. Oginskis, *Atsiminimai*, volume 1, p. 42.

⁹⁵ Pranciškaus Ksaveras Stanislovas Oginskis – duke, war and political figure of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Lithuanian field guard, colonel of the Ashmyany, Grand steward of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, elder of Rietavas and Prjevalsky, Bar confederate, the last kitchener of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. He was a son of Tadas Pranciškaus Oginskis (1712–1783) and Izabelė Radvilaitė (1711–1761), a brother of Andrius Oginskis (father of Mykolas Kleopas Oginskis). Awarded of merits and gained an order of Saint Stanislaus in 1770, and an order of the White Eagle in 1790. He was a ruler of Pervalka, Hanuta and Zalesie. He had also inherited several manors and palaces in Lithuania.

⁹⁶ Franciszek Ksawery Drucki-Lubecki – Polish and Russian war, political and finance figure, his origins were from the noblemens of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. His father – Franciszek Drucki-Lubecki, mother – Genowefa Olizar. Born on 28th of December 1778 in Pohost (near Pińsk). A graduate from the Saint Petersburg school of cadets. In 1794–1800 he was an army officer of the Russian empire, participated in the battles against France. An active defender of the Kingdom of Poland affairs in Saint Petersburg. In 1812 he became a marshal of province of the Grodno city, in 1813–1815 he was a temporary supreme council member of the Duchy of Warsaw, in 1815 a member of the provisional government of the Kingdom of Poland, in 1821–1830 – a minister of treasury. In 1828 he founded the National Bank of Poland. He had not accepted the Uprising in 1830–1831. In 1832 he became a member of the State Council of Imperial Russia. He was oriented in an attitude of pro-Russians. The last years of his life he spent in Saint Petersburg, where he died on 23rd of May 1846.

would become the guidelines of further actions in Lithuania. This project M. K. Oginskis prepared together with the Duke of Grodno Ksawery Lubecki⁹⁶ and the Count Kazimiras Pliateris⁹⁷. On 27th of May 1811, M. K. Oginskis handed a memorandum of the restoration of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to Alexander I. On 22nd of October 1811, he additionally prepared and handed to the Emperor a project of order, which had to ensure the autonomy of Lithuania in the Russian Empire.

This document consisted of 11 paragraphs. It announced the establishment of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania consisting of the Governorates of Vilnius, Grodno, Belarus, Kiev, Minsk, Mogilev, Podolia, Vitebsk and Volynia, the regions of Bialystok and Ternopil. According to Mykolas Kleopas' project, the capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania had to be Vilnius and the Duchy had to be ruled by the Emperor's vicegerent residing in Vilnius. Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania would have been managed in the office intended to establish in St. Petersburg. After the implementation of M. K. Oginskis' project, offices of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania would have been appointed to land holders of the Duchy.

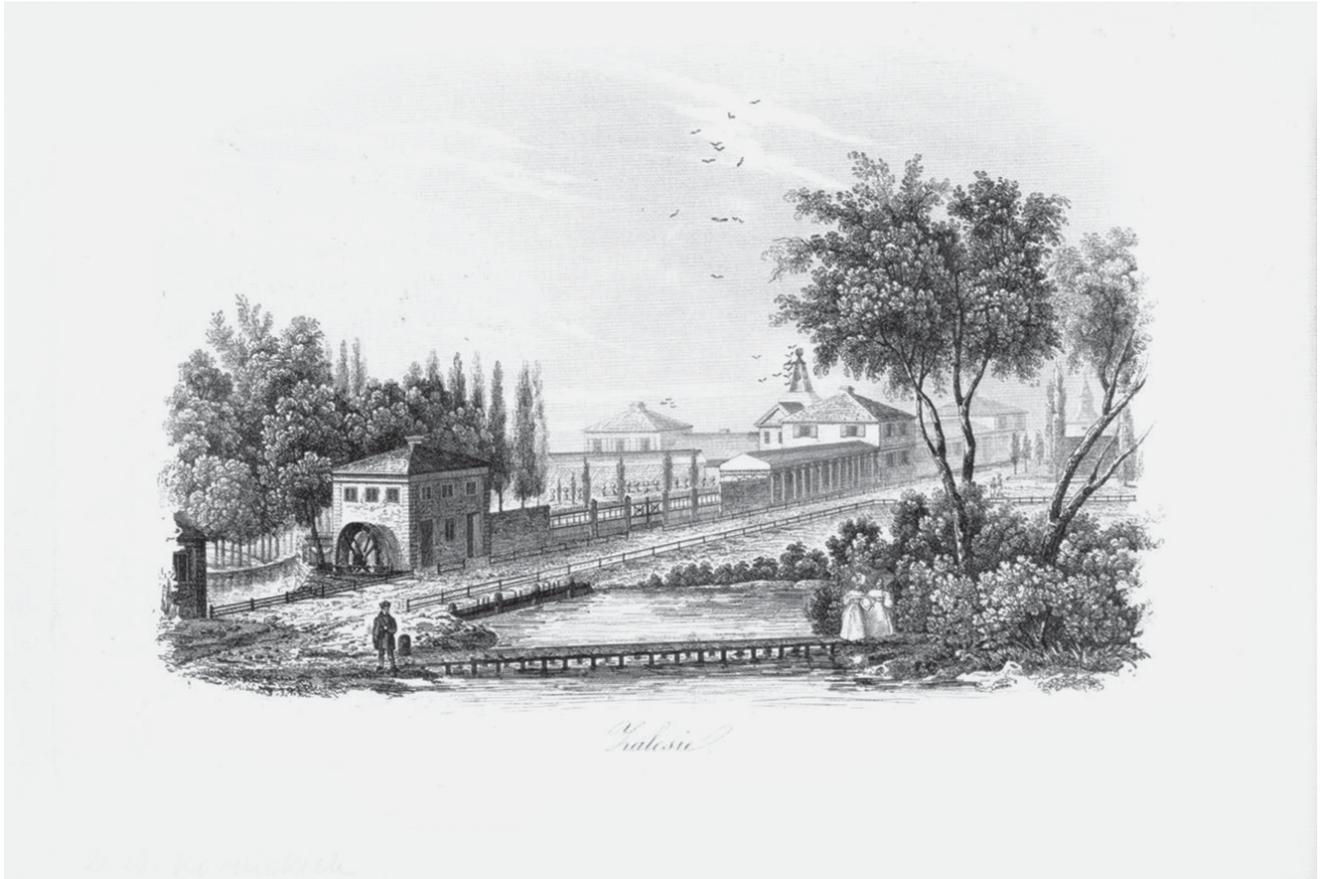
At the beginning of 1812, M. K. Oginskis handed the Emperor Alexander I with the project of a constitution of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which

consisted of 10 chapters divided into 266 articles. This document was intended to guarantee the independence of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. According to the Constitution project, the governance system of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania should have been constituted of the Emperor's vicegerent and the Seimas, consisting of the Chamber of Senate and Chamber of Deputies. The executive role would have been given to the Council of Ministers, the Secret Council of Lithuanian and the Secret Council of State. According to M. K. Oginskis, members of the Senate had to be the authorities of religious and secular sides, whereas members of the Chamber of Deputies had to be elected by nobility and town dwellers. The Constitution stated that over ten years (1812–1821) peasants will be liberated from serfdom. Every year every tenth of the manor serfs had to be set free and with the consent of both sides and the contract of land lease had to be signed. Lithuanian nobility endorsed M. K. Oginskis' projects, but landholders of Russia opposed the reforms.

Emperor Alexander I was delaying to announce the order of restoration of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The political situation was rapidly changing. In June 1812, Russia began the war with the French army led by Napoleon Bonaparte and M. K. Oginskis' projects became negligible.

⁹⁷ Kazimieras Konstantinas Pliateris (1746–1807) – statesman and political figure of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, member of the Targowica Confederation, writer, Lithuanian Vice-Chancellor. Due to his merits for the Duchy he gained a manor of Daugeliskis. Died in the same manor.





Leonard Boreiko Chodzko (1800–1871), Adolphe Rouarque (1810 – after 1870), "Mykolas Kleopas Oginskis' Zalesy manor", 1822, The Department of Graphic Arts of Vilnius University Library, ChoL IA-4

⁹⁸ Adam Jerzy Czartoryski – statesman, political, culture figure, poet, a son of Adam Kazimierz Czartoryski and Izabela Fleming Czartoryska. Born on 14th of January 1770 in Warsaw, died on 15th of July 1861 in Paris. In 1788 was a Marshal of the Podolia sejmik. In 1792 he participated in the battles against Russia, in 1795 his parents sent him to Russia, where he lived in a Tsar's Palace in Saint Petersburg and in a Tsarskoye Selo. He was a Valet de chambre of the Grand Duke Alexander, and then he became the Tsar Alexander I, – he was one of the closest Alexander's trustees. In 1802 he became a vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, in 1804–1806 was a minister of Foreign Affairs, from 1802 worked in a Chief school's council of the Russian education ministry, from 1803 till 1824 (until Vilnius Philomaths case) he was a curator of Vilnius university and curator of the Vilnius education county. During the Uprising in 1831, he was elected as a chairman of the Provisional government in Warsaw. When the Uprising was defeated, he retreated abroad, lived in Paris, London, he led a group of Polish emigrants for 30 years. He was a founder of several scientific, educational, literary, charitable organizations.

⁹⁹ Iwo Zaluski, *The Oginski Gene: The History of a Musical Dynasty*, London: Zaluski Researches, 2006.

¹⁰⁰ The fact, which stated that M.K. Oginskis was an honour member of Vilnius University, was written in a book of Igor Belza. The documents, which could testify this proposition has not been founded yet. However, it is likely that I. Belza had them before starting writing a book, because he was familiarized with the archive of Mykolas Kleopas Oginskis, which was kept in the National Moscow archive.

¹⁰¹ Jan Chrzyciel Władysław Sniadecki – astronomer of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, mathematician, philosopher, pedagogue, corresponding member of the academy of sciences in Saint Petersburg, professor of the Krakow university (1781–1803), professor of Vilnius university (1806–1825), rector (1807–1815). Born on 28th of August 1756 in Znin (Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship in Poland). In 1755 graduated from the University of Krakow, 1778–1781 improved his knowledge in Göttingen, Leiden, Paris, Utrecht. Died on 21st of November 1830 in Jasiunai.

¹⁰² Johann David Holland (1746–1827).

¹⁰³ Michael Angel Schultz – architect (Neoclassicism representative), pedagogue, politician. Born in 1769 Kurzeme (Latvia), died on 20th of June 1812 in Vilnius. He graduated from the Vilnius University in 1788, where he gained a doctoral degree of philosophy (was a student of prof. Laurynas Gucevičius). Later he was a teacher of schools in Kretinga, Vilnius, Navahrudak. Participated in the Uprising of 1794. In 1797–1798 he was an adjunct of Vilnius University Architecture department, from 1798 – head of this department. Homestead's ensemble project of Zalesy manor (1802–1822) was one of the most important works of M. A. Schultz. At that time the owner of that manor was Mykolas Kleopas Oginskis.