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**The Publication of the Oldest Church Metric Source in Lithuania (1599–1621  
Baptismal Book of Joniškis)**

1. The work for publication of church metric books has been already started in Lithuania. Mention is to be made of the already published V. Garliauskas, J. Palionis publications of church sources (see Palionis J. *XVII a. antrosios pusės Punios parapijos asmenvardžiai ir vietovardžiai*. Vilnius, 2003; Garliauskas V. *XVII a. Molėtų bažnyčios krikšto ir santuokos metrių knyga*. Vilnius, 2004; Palionis J. *XVII a. pabaigos – XVIII a. pirmosios pusės Punios parapijos asmenvardžiai ir vietovardžiai*. Vilnius, 2008).

2. From 2012 at the Division of Onomastics of the Institute of the Lithuanian Language the scientific project “Preparation for Publishing of the Oldest Church Metric Source in Lithuania (1599–1621 Baptismal Book of Joniškis)” has been implemented. The project is financed by the State Lithuanian Language Commission. This report will present the most important objectives of the project, its tasks, expected results and will outline the further prospects of this project.

3. The most important objective of the project is to prepare for publishing the manuscript church metric source – 1599–1621 Baptismal Metric Book of Joniškis, a unique and seemingly oldest currently known in the present-day territory of Lithuania, containing quite a few of the fixed Lithuanian (authentic) historical place names. Aiming to implement this goal, it is foreseen to prepare the forward and introduction of the book, to rewrite the manuscript text in the Latin and Polish languages, to prepare the chapter of the publication for photographing, conclusions, index of place names, and a summary in the foreign language, to conduct a word-building and etymological analysis of place names.

4. This theme is pursued for research and applied needs and for the purpose of preserving the place names as a part of cultural heritage. The selected research is also in direct relationship with another aspect – to develop research into Lithuanian place names and to ensure the dissemination of their results.

5. Attention has already been focused to the fact that anthroponymic and toponymic material of the 1599–1621 Baptismal Book of Joniškis is especially unique (see A. Ragauskaitė. The 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> century personal names of the Joniškis inhabitants. – *Historical Texts and Local Culture*. Šiauliai–Riga, 2004). Here the forms of the real authentic, Lithuanian place-names are in abundance: 1599 de *Trumpayciu* villæ (p. 2) [Trùmpaičiu; Trùmpaičiai]; 1600 Pagi *Linkaiciu* (p.

7) [Lìnkaičiu; Lìnkaičiai]; 1600 Pagi *Skilwioniu* (p. 12) [Skilvióniu; Skilvióniai]; 1601 Pagi *Juodziu* (p. 18) [Júodžiu; Júodžiai]; 1603 Pagi *Buywidziu* (p. 40) [Buivỹdžiu; Buivỹdžiai], etc.

6. A new book will be intended not only for the Lithuanian academic but also broader public, interested in proper names. Material and insights, presented in this work, are of importance not only for historical Lithuanian toponymics, but also for North Lithuanian regional research.