

First official documentation of Lithuania in 1009

At the 6th July 2009 Lithuania celebrated its Millennium birthday: In 1009 the largest of the three Baltic countries first had been officially documented. Occasion was a bloody event, mentioned thousand years ago in the Chronics of Quedlinburg, a german imperial castle, as follows:

"The holy Archbishop and Monk Bruno (...) had been decapitated together with 18 companions at the Prussian and Lithuanian border by pagans." So due to this medieval carnage Lithuania inherited its Millennium birthday date nowadays- nevertheless this had been a smaller carnage than the one between Germans and Romans a thousand years before.

Various state leaders of the Baltic region, Queen Margrethe II. of Denmark, King Carl XVI. Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden, as well as the Norwegian regent Regent Harald V. had been visiting the Lithuanian capital Vilnius to celebrate these festivities, invited by the Latvian president Valdas Adamkus. They had been accompanied by 40.000 other participants.

Some contemplative thoughts

"Looking back today, we might feel that the past had not been as easy as we would have wished it to be", Adamkus said during the opening flag ceremony. The 3.4 million Lithuanians might be graceful to the Lord, the history and their ancestors that they did not share the destiny of other Baltic tribes, who became extinct." There had been times, where it looked like Lithuania and the Lithuanians would be erased. But as soon as reaching a certain point the nation's spirit brought the people together and gave them courage and strength to stand up and fight for their freedom. And like this, it had been for centuries, the whole century."

Chant, who had been given the voice

Musical highlight of the Millennium celebration had been a famous vocal festival, taking place every fourth year. However the most important project of the Millennium festivities, which had been the complete restoration of the Vilnius castle, unfortunately was not fulfilled. Due to the financial crisis monetarian resources had been restricted and restoration work had been stopped temporarily. Already before, empty pockets had caused a budgetarian cutting of the European Culture Capital Programme 2009 in Vilnius.

Clemens Finkbeiner-Dege