

Theodore Narbutas on Baltic Sacrifices

Summary

The article concentrates on the Baltic sacrifice classification proposed by Theodore Narbutas (1784–1864) in *The History of Lithuanian Nation*, volume 1. The article starts with a review of Narbutas biography, his work and research methods. It should be noted that the article is dedicated to the memory of Vytautas Berenis (1963–2013) who studied Narbutas' legacy working as a senior research fellow at the Lithuanian Culture Research Institute.

The first volume of *The History of Lithuanian Nation* is devoted to the Lithuanian mythology. It presents a list of sixteen Baltic sacrificial types. Updating the book for reprinting, Narbutas enlarged the list to eighteen types. However, his manuscript has never been published and continues to be stored in archives.

Historiographers have concluded that the main problem in Narbutas' research consists in his uncritical use of written sources. The article makes an attempt to verify information about sacrifices provided in written historical sources used by Narbutas. *The History of Lithuanian Nation* is a synthetic work and, describing the sacrificial practices, the author relied on available writings. Furthermore, he compared Baltic sacrifices with those of other nations, particularly of the ancient religion, reconstructed on the basis of ethnographic material collected by him. In his study of the 19th century religion, the author applied the comparative approach that was usually employed by various scholars at that time.

Keywords: Theodore Narbutas, *The History of Lithuanian Nation*, religion of the Balts, sacrificial rites.

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