



## **Restorer's Workshop**

### **POLICE PARADE SWORD**

*Restorer Martynas Kosas*

This time, a historical, unique and rare parade sword arrived at the museum restorer's workshop. It was made in 1928 according to the order of the Lithuanian army at the E&F Horster factory located in Solingen (Germany). Lithuanian officers did not like the ordered swords; therefore, a decision was made to hand over all of them to the Lithuanian police. The received swords were nickel-plated and handed over to the police for use with parade uniforms. The swords of this model were used from approximately 1928-1929 to 1940 to the Soviet occupation.

The blade of this parade sword is curved, nickel-plated and with a longitudinal groove on both sides. The butt becomes narrower after a third from the tip. The blade is not formed. On the inside of the blade, under the cross plate, there is an inscription - the name of the manufacturer of the company "E&F Horster Solingen." Larger parts of the sword are numbered by engraving numbers. The handle of the sword is closed. The guard consists of a cross that transitions into a guard ring, with shields on both sides of the blade. The handle is covered with black bakelite and decorated with grooves and a braid of thin brass wire. On the back of the handle, the coat of arms, Vytis, is embedded in an oval frame. The frame with Vytis is soldered to the handle. The handle is finished with

an oval decorative nut. All metal parts of the Ephesus are brass plated with nickel. Steel scabbard is nickel-plated, with two suspension rings and a tip. In the scabbard, thin wooden strips, replicating the shape of the scabbard, are inserted to stabilise the sword. The main dimensions of the sword are the following: total length - 963 mm, blade length - 795 mm, blade width - 24 mm and blade thickness - 5 mm.

The history of the appearance of the sword in the museum collections is unknown. It is believed that first it fell to the hands of the Soviet repressive structures, along with other relics of the interwar police, and later it was transferred to the newly established Ninth Fort Museum.

When the sword reached the restorer's workshop, it was in bad condition. The cutting and chopping marks (there were more than 50 of them) on the scabbard and blade of the sword only demonstrate the way it was treated during the Soviet period before getting to the museum, without realising its historical value. For someone, the sword was a certain toy. The consequences of physical injuries, folds, deformation, cutting and chopping marks are bounced nickel plating. The dirt accumulated over decades, bad storage conditions, grease of unknown origin applied to the formed corrosion foci had consequences: the corrosion spread, the nickel coating was disappearing and peeling off. The sword had lost its original beauty and brilliance.

In the restorer's workshop, the exhibit was disassembled; its each part was soaked and cleaned with special restoration material. The accumulated dirt, grease and corrosion foci were removed. The nickel coating was lightly polished in order to smooth the surface. Every detail of the sword was covered with restorative conservation materials. Finally, the exhibit was collected. The result of the work is an important and unique parade sword, which had been used by the Lithuanian police

during the interwar period, and which has been preserved and provided with an expository image.



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