

CULTURAL FACT SHEET



France



Lithuania

France — Lithuania Relations

The Knight Guillebert de Lannoy

The knight and diplomat Guillebert de Lannoy (1385–1462) visited Kaunas twice. In his memoirs, he described the city of Kaunas and its castle.

Kaunas Castle was built in the 14th century. It was an important bastion on Lithuania's western border until 1410, when the Teutonic Knights were defeated at the Battle of Grunwald.

Over the centuries, the castle was destroyed and rebuilt several times, which is why the complex eventually took the shape of an irregular rectangle.

The castle was gradually abandoned. It was successively used as a prison and a barracks, and later fell into ruins. What remains today of Kaunas Castle gives only a faint image of the power it had in the Middle Ages.

