



**Online workshop and the
international practice conference
“Baltic and other nations’
signs in ethnosculture“
2020-11-16**

Prepared by Sandra Janušonienė, a
teacher of Lithuanian language



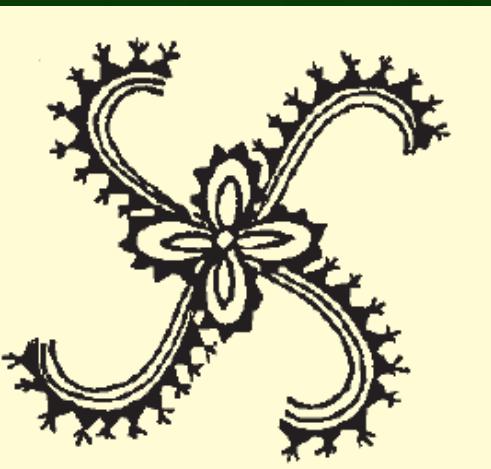
Signs and symbols



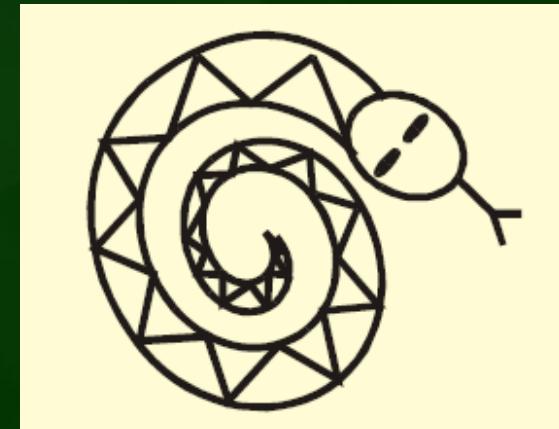
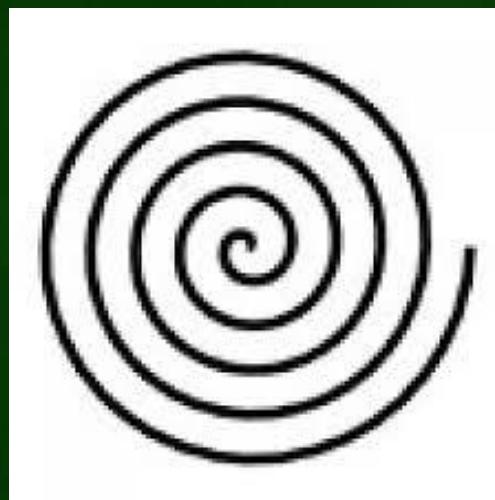
- **Sign – mark, tag.**

Graphic signs are the oldest and most laconic form of energy and information expression.

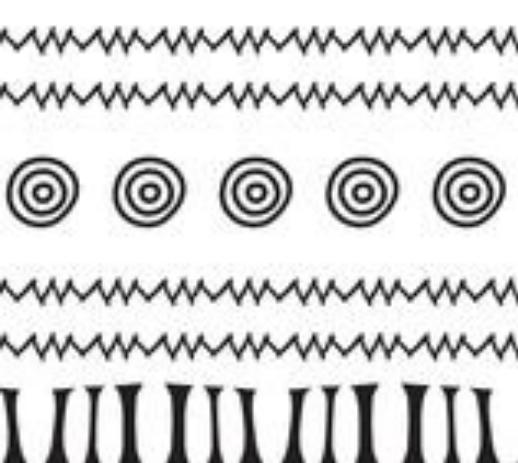
- Signs are not just decorative elements, as it is believed. Signs have a deep meaning and spiritual value.
- No one invented the Baltic signs. They came from nature and contain very old information.



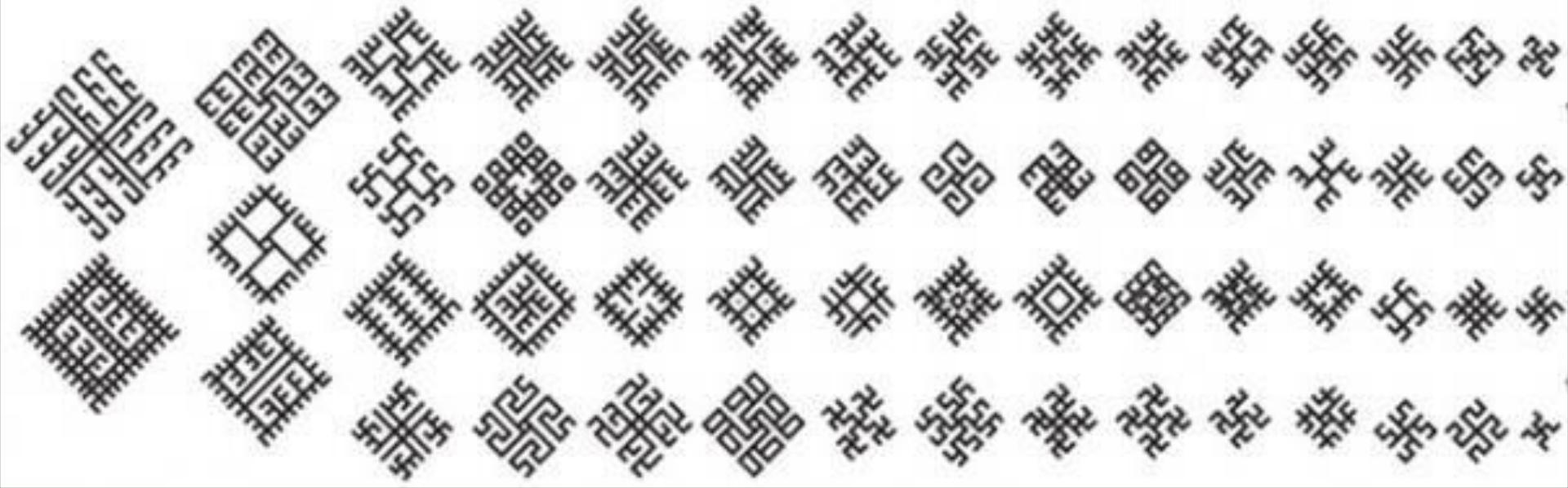
- **Symbol – A sign that has a meaning that is understandable to the public.**
- Symbols are a part of nature, a part of human himself. After all, life is also a symbol - a spiral that has neither a beginning nor an end. So signs become symbols in a certain context.



- The Baltics gave the meaning to a lot of signs and symbols.
- Our ancestors diligently sought to maintain their original religion, paganism, and believed in the existence of the forces of nature.
- The pattern of signs and symbols embodies mystical, sacral values. It is the key to understanding culture.

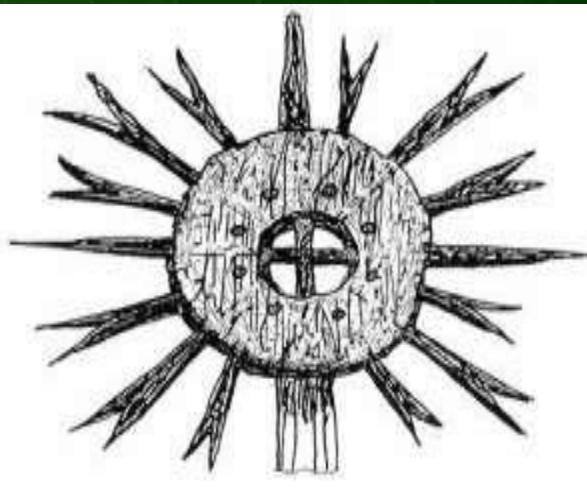


- Signs are given to people as a kind of task. If we understand it, we solve it, a corresponding culture is formed.
- Today, our challenge is to understand and use these old values of our culture so as not to lose our identity, to tell the world who we are. Let's read the "letters" left by our ancestors together.



Baltic signs and symbols





In folklore, the Sun is called the Mother, depicted as a virgo or a woman. She is the giver of life, the wife of the Moon.

The sun also means fire, perfection and eternity, fidelity (wedding ring).

The Sun

The sun's rays shine on the crosses.

The most important holidays are related to the Sun.





Swastika

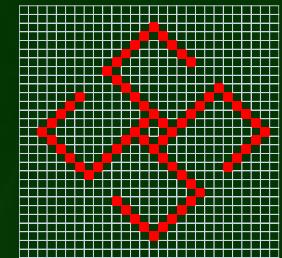
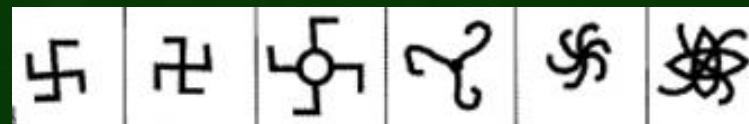


The mark is found in almost all ancient cultures.

In the Iron Age, the swastika meant supreme power.

Baltics associated it with happiness, light and good and thought that movement and spinning in a circle helped to fight evil.

It is harmony.





The Moon



The moon is called a cub, a gentleman. Lithuanians worshiped the Moon the most after the Sun. It had its own signs to mark its phases.

The young moon is a bowl, a piece of bread, a horn. In the songs - the sun boat, the cradle, the swings.

The full moon was most valued as enlightening, soothing.

Wane is the guardian of the dead, often depicted in the chapel columns of the cemetery.



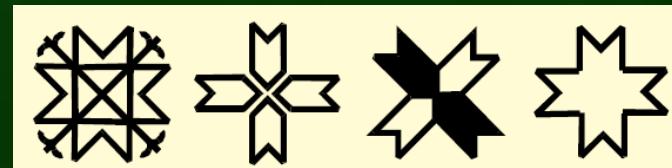
The Stars



Seven Daughters of the Sun - Stars (Major Planets)

Stars are the souls of living people. It was believed that when a person is born, his star lights up and the thread of life hangs on it, and when a person dies, the star falls, the thread breaks.

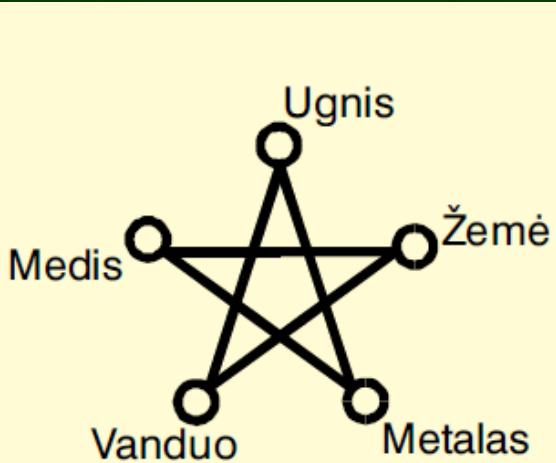
The hexagonal star is a symbol of the sun. It is often decorated with spindles.



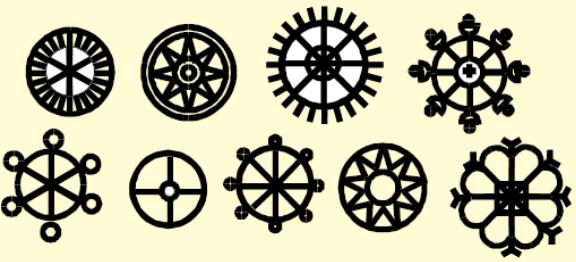
The pentagonal star is a sign of harmony, goodness, the five beginnings of creation.



It is a kind of equivalent of the commonality of the cross, the tree and the human connection.



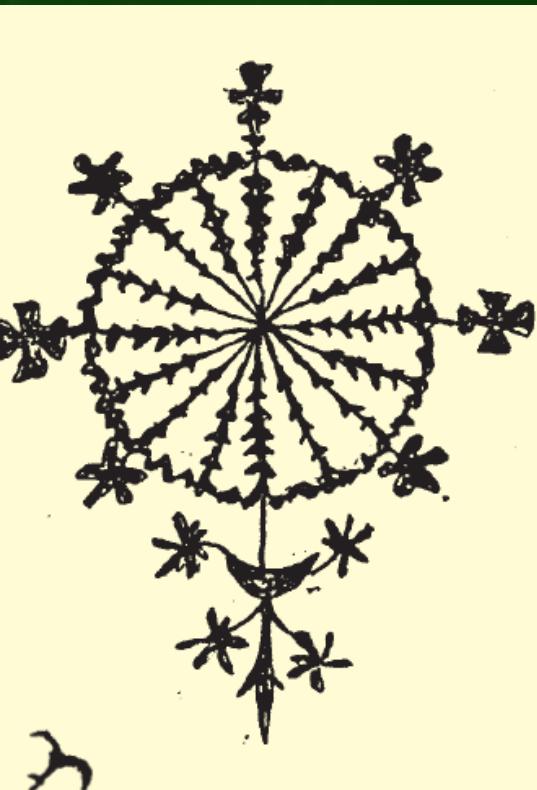
This sign, by the way, like the swastika, has been desecrated by black forces in history.



The cross is the relationship between spirit and matter.

Crosses are built at crossroads - places of choice and self-determination.

Cross



The circle, wheel, and cross often replace each other. Cross in motion, swastika, draws a circle.

This expresses the Baltic favorite sun. They are found in fabric patterns, carvings, wood carvings, and chest paintings.

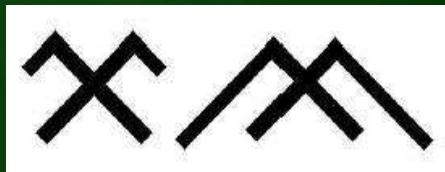


The cross is a very old and often used symbol. It marked the bread before it was sent to the oven.



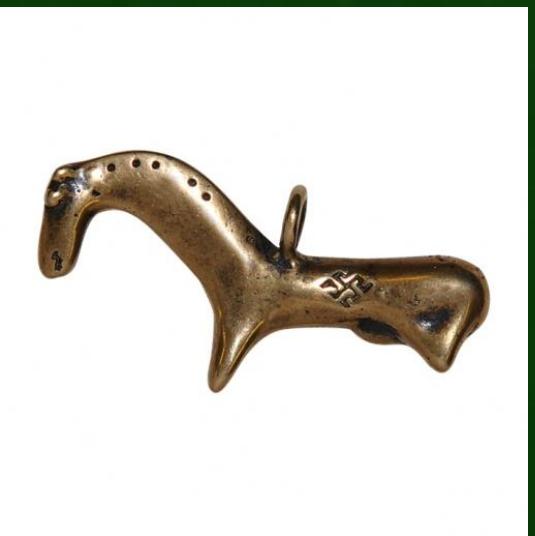


It is a symbol of masculinity. The horse was believed to have divine power, the power of fertility.



Horse

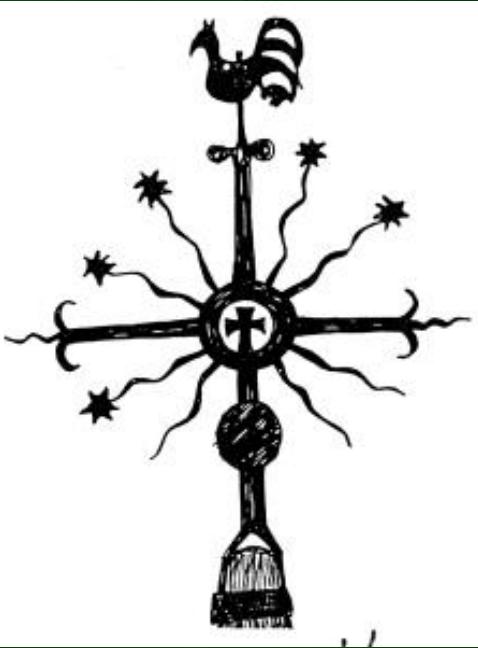
It dominated folk art. Spindles decorated with the image of a horse, weaving looms, newlyweds' beds.



Such horses are common on the edges of the roof and are sometimes called sons of god.

Lithuanian folk legend says that horses protect houses from evil spirits.



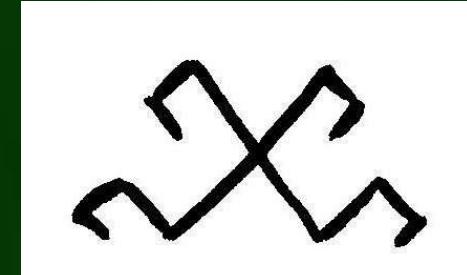


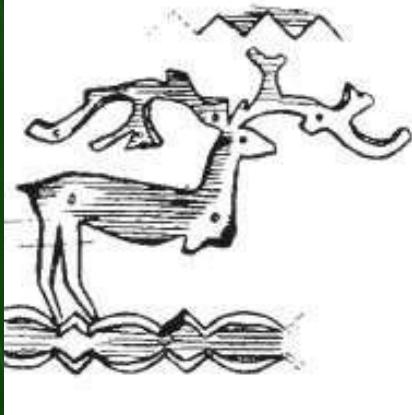
Rooster

The bird is a movement and symbolizes the connection between heaven and earth.

Some of them are considered symbols of fertility and fertility (swan, rooster), others - the habitat of dead souls (cuckoo, dove, nightingale, falcon).

Another rooster was associated with fire, fire, because the kite that brought the fire turned into a red rooster.





A nine-horned deer

The nine-horned deer is an ancient Lithuanian mythological creature that carries the bodies of heaven (usually the Moon, but also the Sun) on its horns.

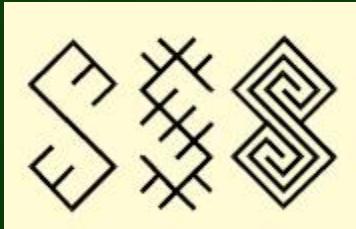
From the full moon to the full moon - 9 days, so that is why it is called a nine-horned deer.



The deer symbol was probably worshiped as a totem. Lithuanians considered deer to be servants of God, believed that deer could control diseases and protect people from floods.



Serpent

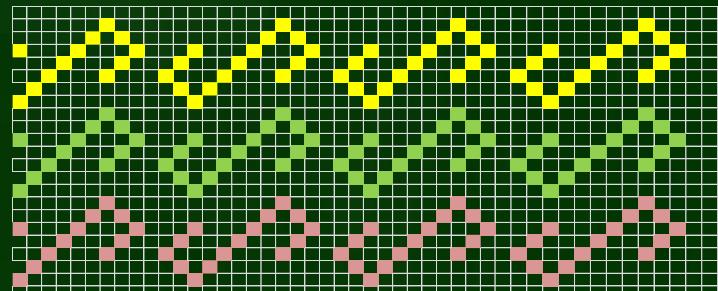


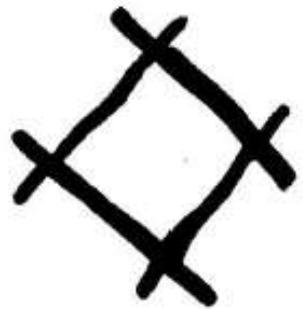
The serpent is the deity of home, hearth, dead ancestors, prosperity, fertility, health and fertility.

It is a supernatural, intelligent being.

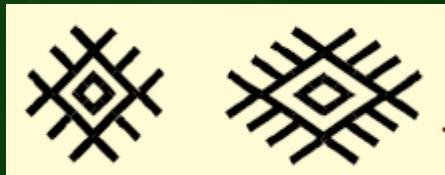
Houses where snakes live are blessed, they are not struck by lightning, they are overtaken by disease, the animals grow better, so people kept snakes at home, fed them.

S - symbolizes a serpent or snake.





The well expresses the symmetry of the world.



The well, like the source, is the "eye of the earth", the opening to the underworld.

Well



Wells can help to see future and destiny. Girls used the well for foreseeing their future.



This sign is called a cross star, a well, a rose.



The tree of the world grows in the center of the universe. Its three parts symbolize the following zones:

roots - dungeon, trunk - earth, branches, apex - sky.

It is also associated with time: past, present and future.



The prototype of the Lithuanian World Tree was ash, pine, oak and spruce.

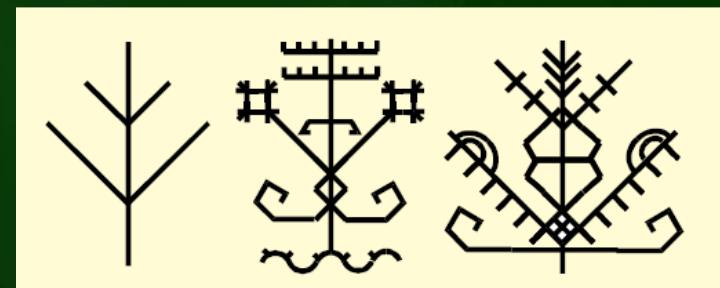
In the ribbons, the Christmas tree ornament is the sign of Laima (a fairy), that protects against the evil of the Fairies (such a pattern is called a broom).

Weaves



Mythological traces of the miraculous Trees of Life have survived in Lithuanian miraculous tales.

In the songs, the apple tree is compared to the virgo, the woman. An apple is not only the sign of fertility, but also the sign of love and youth.



- Only by understanding the history and ancient traditions of our nation we can build the future.



Thank you

