

Ex Ante

The Council of Lithuania in its session of February 16, 1918 decided unanimously to address the governments of Russia, Germany, and other states with the following declaration:

The Council of Lithuania, as the sole representative of the Lithuanian nation, based on the recognized right to national self-determination, and on the Vilnius Conference's resolution of September 18-23, 1917, proclaims the restoration of the independent state of Lithuania, founded on democratic principles, with Vilnius as its capital, and declares the termination of all state ties which formerly bound this State to other nations.

The Council of Lithuania also declares that the foundation of the Lithuanian State and its relations with other countries will be finally determined by the Constituent Assembly, to be convoked as soon as possible, elected democratically by all its inhabitants.

See Office of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, *16 February – Day of Restoration of Lithuania's Independence*, www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter/w5_show?p_r=5691&p_k=2.

THE YALE HOLIDAY CARD

Every winter we receive an attractive, interesting, and law-related greeting card (*see next page*) signed by Mike Widener, Rare Book Librarian at Yale Law School's Goldman Library. This year, as the card itself explains,

This charmingly naïve portrait in ink and gouache is one of seven that adorn a manuscript copy of a printed book, the 1732 edition of Claude Poquet de Livonnière's *Regles du Droit Francois*. According to a letter dated 1746 that accompanies the manuscript, the Duc d'Entrecasteaux commissioned someone named André Simon to copy and illustrate the work for the duke's young son. The decorations seem designed to make the study of French law a pleasurable endeavor. *Regles du Droit Francois* is a collection of French legal maxims and was the most successful of Livonnière's works, appearing in seven editions between 1730 and 1786. It seems well suited as a beginner's text for a young student.

