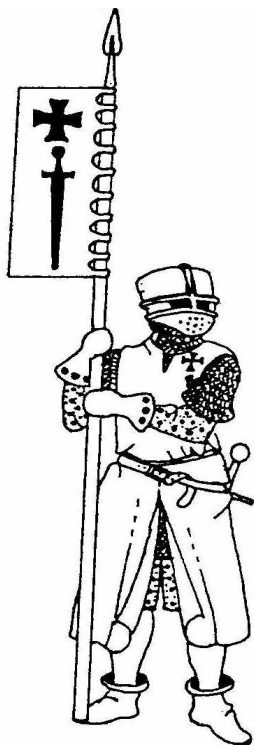


# The Samogitians, The Sword Brothers and the Battle of Saule 1236



Author: Bob Black  
Line Drawings: Richard Judson  
Maps: Derek Stone  
Heraldic Blazons: Rod Erskine-Riddell

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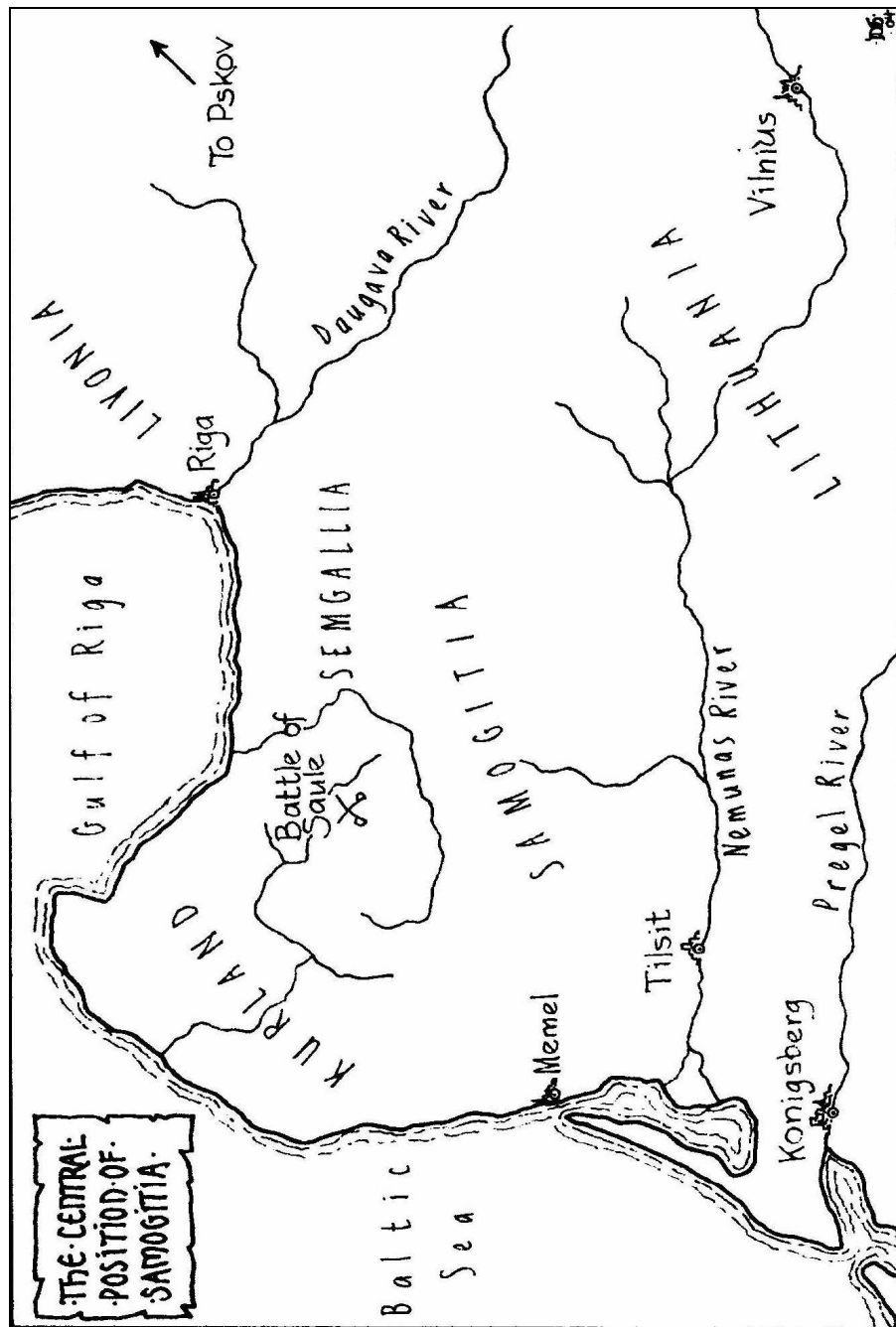
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The Seal of the Knights of Christ in Livonia, showing the cross and sword device of the Order. Based on a seal dated 1221-1232. The inscription reads:

+ S. MAGISTRI. ET FRM MILICIE CRI. DE. LIVONIA



## Introduction

This text grew out of articles and discussions with Richard Judson in 1982 that were first published in the **Journal of the Mongol Empire Study Group**, of which I was co-founder and editor. Over the years information has been added and modified and this text is much more substantial and more up to date than the initial articles.

Like my previous book Janos Hunyadi, also published by Freezywater, this is a joint effort. Richard Judson supplied the excellent black and white illustrations of the combatants, Derek Stone drew the maps, and Rod Erskine-Riddell provided the heraldic blazons. Thanks also to David Lanchester and Martin Stephenson of **The Lance & Longbow Society** for their support and assistance with the development of this book.

Over the twenty years it has taken this book to appear many other people have helped with information, illustrations, and opinions. I would like to thank them all but especially:

The First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania, London.  
 Ierene Nekrasiene, Head of the History Department, Siauliai Ausros Museum.  
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This book gives the background to the Northern Crusades but it is specifically about Saule and ends with the battle. In this region historical information is scarce before 1251 when the first Christian ruler of Lithuania, Mindaugas, was baptized along with his family. Similarly, there is more information regarding the Military Orders after the Battle of Saule as well as a great deal more on the Teutonic Knights.

There is still a great deal of conjecture about the location of the Battle of Saule and the cannon described in the text. I have chosen to locate the battle in line with the latest thinking. As to the cannon, there are those who credit Ryngold of Samogitia, who appears in various encyclopaedias and texts, with both the cannon and the defeat of the Sword Brothers. Lithuanian historians discount him as a mythological figure and so he does not appear here. If the cannon is also discounted then the Pagan peoples must have shown great determination and courage to defeat a better armoured and equipped army from a more technologically advanced society than theirs.

FIG.1



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The Society also produces a newsletter, **The Scourer**. This contains all the latest news, reviews on periodicals, figures, etc., where to see us on the convention circuit, places to visit, the re-enacting scene, websites we know and love and updates on traders giving our members discount and any special offers. **The Scourer** is sent out with **The Hobilar**. Just one more reason to join the Society. For further information and a subscription form, contact the secretary:

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Please visit the Society Website at [www.lanceandlongbow.com](http://www.lanceandlongbow.com) This is full with information on the society and its publications as well as sample articles from **The Hobilar**. A subscription form is available on the site. Membership and purchases can be safely made by Credit Card (Mastercard & Visa only) via the **Paypal** © link.