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LITHUANIAN karta

In Baltistica VIII, 1972, 55–6, I identified the archaic Indo-European syntax in *liekas* '11th', whereby the numeral 'one' is deleted (or fails to surface) when it accompanies a nominal in a complex phrase.

We see another specimen of this syntax in current modern use in the locution karta 'once', i.e. (viena) karta. Contrast the construction dùkart 'twice'.

A relic of the same construction is found in the Russian (and other Slavic) use of raz '1' in counting. This is of course different from the Altaic use of *'head, front, etc.' for '1'.

A closer parallel to the Lithuanian may be the colloquial German mal.