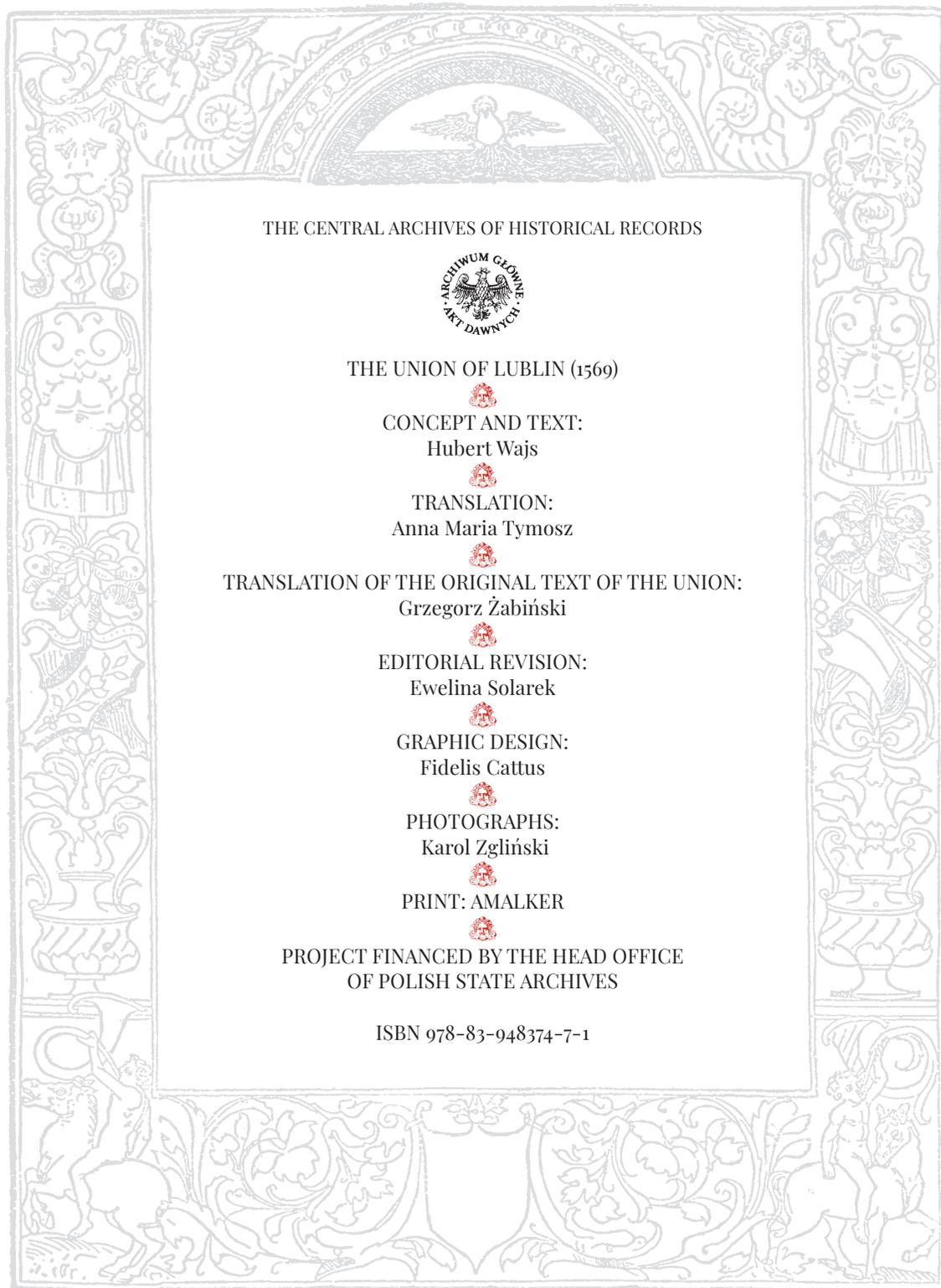




# UNION OF LUBLIN

1<sup>st</sup> July 1569

Warsaw 2018



THE CENTRAL ARCHIVES OF HISTORICAL RECORDS



THE UNION OF LUBLIN (1569)

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# AKT UNII LUBELSKIEJ

1 lipca 1569, Lublin (na sejmie walnym)



The Act of Union of Lublin from 1569 is an exceptional testimony to creation, at the beginning of the modern era, of a commonwealth of two different states by way of negotiation and argumentation. The act merging the Polish Crown and Great Duchy of Lithuania into a Commonwealth of Two Nations was characterized by durability, political strength and cultural attractiveness. Solutions adopted therein, as well as the decisive role of nobility representatives (parliament) in negotiating and adopting the Union, were extraordinarily innovative for their time. Stemming from multicultural and multi-ethnic tradition of Jagiellonian monarchy, as well as previous unions between Poland and Lithuania, the Union of Lublin has had a particular impact on strengthening civic, republican and democratic attitude in political thought and practice of the time.



# HISTORIC BACKGROUND

<b>31.10.1517</b>	RELIGION: Martin Luther announced his 95 theses in Wittenberg
<b>04.10.1525</b>	POLITICS: the Prussian Homage – Teutonic Prussia became Poland's fief
<b>1543</b>	NAUKA: SCIENCE: On the <i>Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres</i> by Copernicus was published
<b>04.12.1563</b>	CHURCH: Deliberations of the Council of Trent were concluded
<b>01.07.1569</b>	POLITICS: <i>The Union of Lublin between Poland and Lithuania was established</i>
<b>20.05.1570</b>	GEOGRAPHY: First modern atlas <i>Theatrum Orbis Terrarum</i> was published in Antwerp
<b>07.10.1571</b>	POLITICS: Battle of Lepanto – Christian forces of the Holy League defeated Turkey
<b>07.07.1572</b>	POLITICS: <i>Death of Sigismund Augustus marked the end of Jagiellonian dynasty rulej</i>
<b>23/24.08.1572</b>	EVENTS: St. Bartholomew's Day massacre, also known as Paris blood wedding – Catholics murdered the Huguenots
<b>28.01.1573</b>	POLITICS: General Confederacy of Warsaw – legal foundations of electoral monarchy were established, including guarantees of religious peace
<b>11.05.1573</b>	POLITICS: First free election – Henri de Valois, Duke of Orleans, was elected King of Poland in Kamion near Warsaw (today: Electoral Fields of Kamionek)
<b>1577</b>	SCIENCE: <i>Poland, or on location, customs and institutions of the Commonwealth of the Kingdom of Poland</i> by Marcin Kromer was published
<b>1578</b>	LITERATURE: <i>The Dismissal of the Greek Envoys</i> , a play by Jan Kochanowski, was published and staged
<b>1580</b>	LITERATURE: First edition of Michel de Montaigne's <i>Essays</i> was published in France
<b>24.02.1582</b>	TIME RECKONING: Pope Gregory XIII issued the <i>Inter gravissimas</i> bull, introducing the Gregorian calendar



# THE KING

Causing a union to be established in the form it assumed in Lublin in the year 1569 had been a long-lasting process. The royal reformers' party had been drawing the others' attention to the need to have the union renewed already since 1548. King Sigismund Augustus initially saw the autonomy of Lithuania as the basis for strengthening his own position in the Kingdom and a guarantee of succession of the throne. As it became obvious that he would be the last of his dynasty, it appeared necessary to replace the personal union with a political union, one that would ensure survival of the state once the king dies. The king had been aspiring to re-establish the relationships between the Kingdom and Lithuania since early 1560s. First, however, other issues took precedence in the Crown, including enforcement of royal demesne (Sejm of Piotrków 1562/1563, Sejm of Warsaw 1563/1564), inspection of royal demesne and establishment of so-called quarter army; tax reform and religious matters as further order (Sejm of Parczew, 1564). In Lithuania, on the other hand, it was necessary to implement legal adjustments, political adjustments (Second Statute of Lithuania of 1 July 1564; Sejm of Vilnius 1565/1566 – introduction of dietines system and district courts in Lithuania) as well as economic adjustments (Volk Reform). Lithuanian sejm has issued instructions pertaining to the Union already in 1563, in instructions for the Crown Sejm. In January 1564 the Union was debated by the Sejm, Lithuanian side was offered "a form about the union", and on February 12 the king – in order to facilitate a general election – has relinquished his hereditary rights to the throne. Main points were written down in "Recess on Matters about the Union": joint election and single coronation, joint Sejm, offices and defence. Following sejms, however, did not resolve those matters. Not an insignificant factor in this was the adamantness of Mikołaj Radziwiłł "the Black", Chancellor of Lithuania and Voivode of Vilnius, a fervent opponent of the union (deceased on 28 May 1565).

A new sejm started its proceedings in Lublin on 10 January 1569, with the two diets – Polish and Lithuanian – still debating separately. Even in the first days of deliberations, the alliance between two great Lithuanian houses – Radziwiłł and Chodkiewicz – has made an impact. The Poles have presented the draft union document, penned by Bishop of Cracow Filip Padniewski, the Lithuanians have presented their own, far less elaborate, draft. However, on the night of 28 February to 1 March, the Lithuanians have departed from Lublin, without taking leave of the king. The only Lithuanian envoys to remain were: the sick voivode of Kiev Konstanty Wasyl Ostrogski, Land Treasurer Wawrzyniec Wojna, Michał Haraburda and a few envoys from Podlasie. Polish Sejm continued deliberations, the king has incorporated a number



of lands into the Crown: Podlasie on 5 March, Volhynia (Bratslav and Volhynia voivodeships) on 26 May, and Kiev province on 6 June. Before that, on March 28, the king has approved the draft union document, developed by the Sejm. In April, representatives of Lithuania – Jan Chodkiewicz, Starost of Samogitia and Lithuanian Land Marshal, Mikołaj Kiszka, Cup-Bearer of Lithuania, Dominik Pac, Castellan of Vitebsk, Krzysztof Radziwiłł “Piorun (Thunder)”, Lithuanian Carver, Ostafi Wołłowicz, Deputy Chancellor and Marshal of the Court. The king has agreed to call dietines in Lithuania for 10 May, in order to establish proxies for the envoys arriving in Lublin in June.

The union negotiations were resumed on 7 June. Intensive deliberations lasted until the end of the month. On Monday, 27 June 1569, after another round of many hours of negotiations with representatives of Grand Duchy of Lithuania alone, the king was eventually able to convince them to leave the final disputed articles to the discretion and decision of the monarch. Starost of Samogitia Jan Chodkiewicz on behalf of the Great Duchy of Lithuania has expressed consent for the union with the Crown. This allowed the joint meeting of representatives of both sides to be appointed for the next day – 28 June – to adopt final consent to the union, and on Wednesday – 29 June – final content of the act was agreed upon. Preparing the document itself also required not only time, but technical knowledge (how to hang the seals) as well as organization (a large group of people placing their seals simultaneously: 140 senators and envoys for the Crown and 77 senators and envoys for Lithuania). On 1 July 1569 the parties have exchanged acts and swore the related oaths. On 4 July, the king issued documents confirming the Union (AGAD, the Collection of Parchment Records, catalogue no. 6914, 8430, 8431) and once again announced the approval of the Union on 11 August, the last day of the sejm’s proceedings.



Sigismund Augustus, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, 1554  
National Library in Warsaw



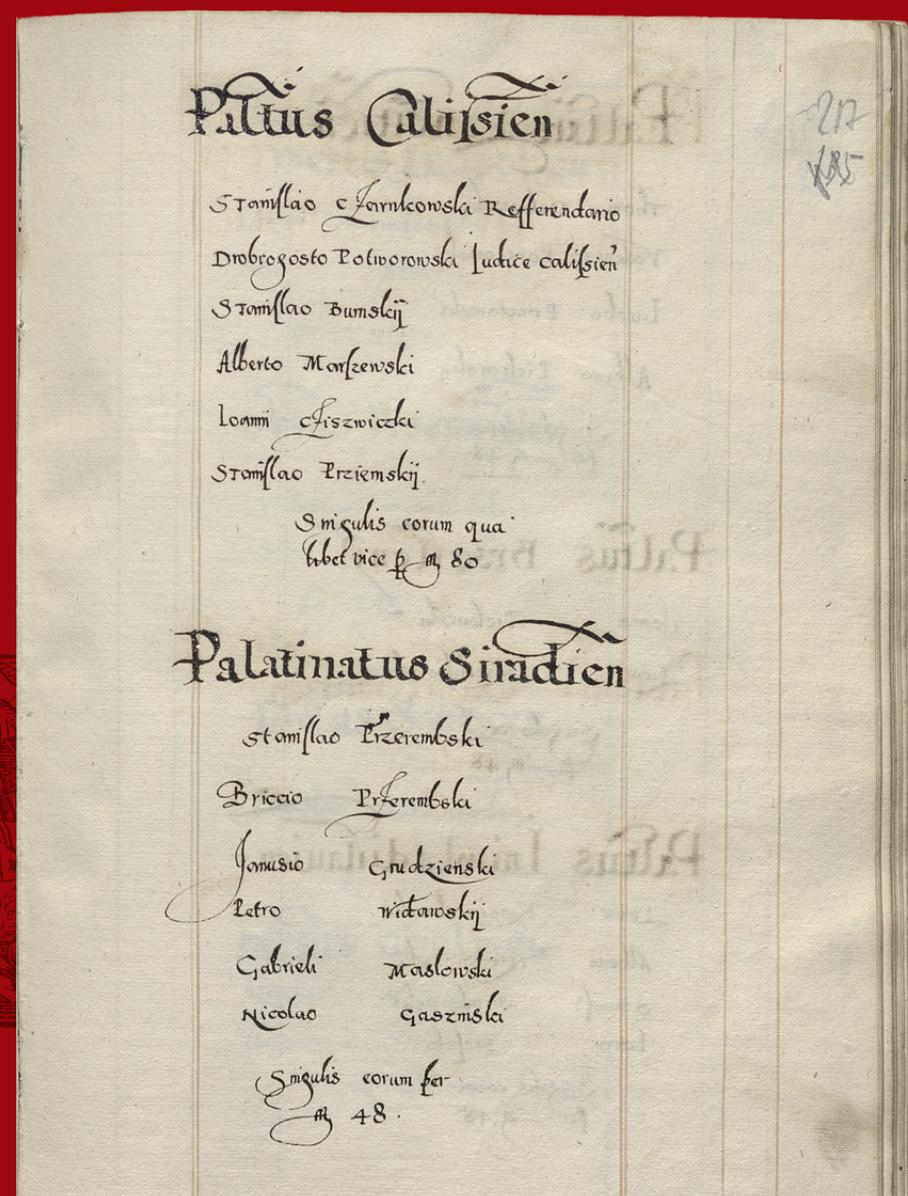
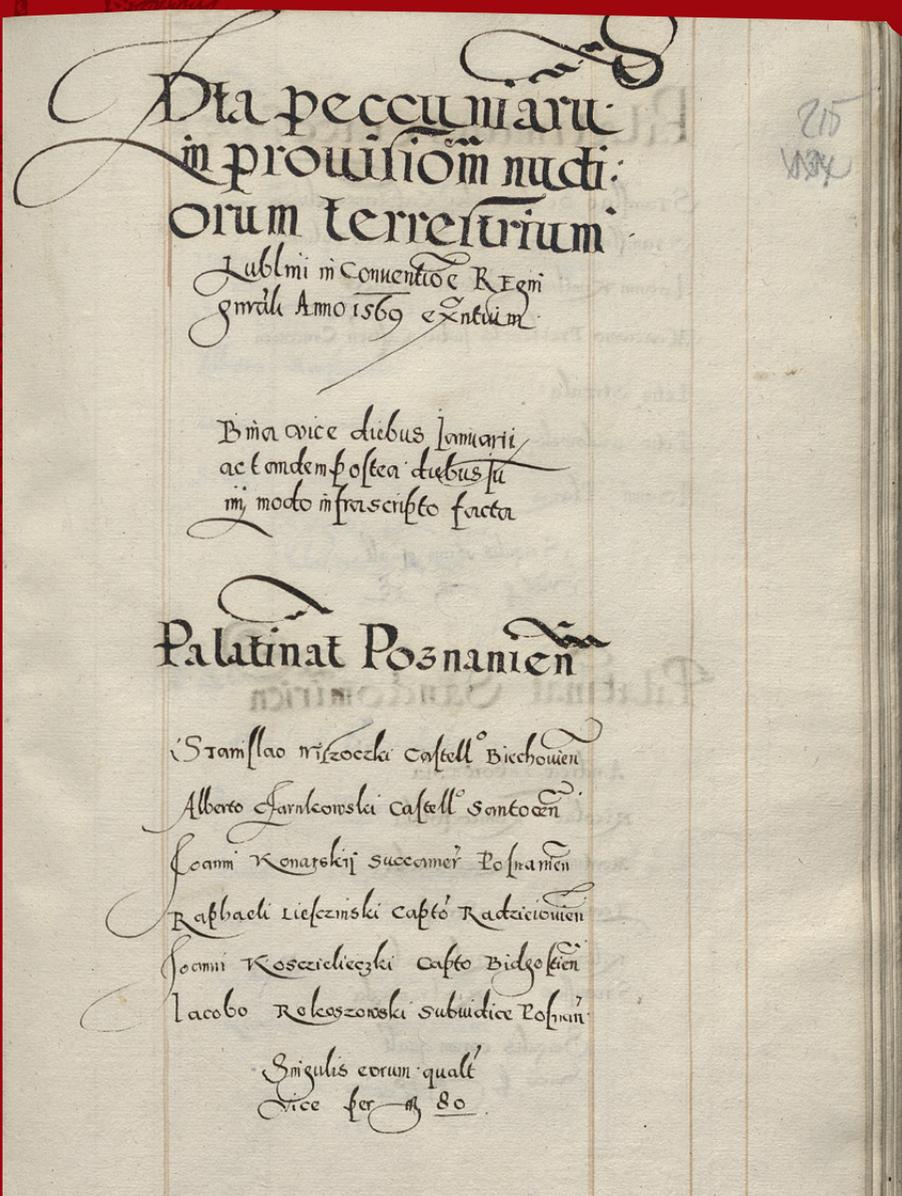
## SEJMS

When an agreement couldn't be reached, on 1 March the Lithuanians have secretly left Lublin. Then the Crown Sejm has incorporated Podlasie, Volhynia and Kiev territory into the Crown. At the beginning of April, selected representatives of Lithuania have returned to Lublin to discuss concessions. The king allowed for Lithuanian dietines to be called for 10 May. Ultimately, the Sejm was not disbanded, Lithuanian lords have returned at the beginning of June and joint deliberations were resumed. After the Union was established, on 4 July, the king has proclaimed “the agenda of deliberations for Crown and Lithuanian council, as a single Commonwealth already”. A month later, on 3 August, Livonia was incorporated as a condominium of the Crown and Lithuania. Deliberations of the Sejm were concluded on 11 August 1569.

### Seals of dignitaries of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania

1. Seal of Walerian Protasewicz, Bishop of Vilnius (1556–1579), ø 45 mm; in the escutcheon Drzewica coat of arms, on the sides the figures of St. Peter and St. Paul
2. Seal of Jan Chodkiewicz, Starost of Samogitia, Grand Marshal of Lithuania (approx. 1537–1579), ø 38 mm; five field escutcheon, with coats of arms: Kościeszka, Pogoń, Gryf, Łabędź, Korczak
3. Seal of Mikołaj Krzysztof Radziwiłł, Court Marshal of Lithuania (1549–1616), ø 25/29 mm; in the escutcheon, covering the entire field of the seal, Radziwiłł Eagle with a small escutcheon with Trąby coat of arms on its chest





*Distributa peccuniarum in provisionum nuntiorum terrestrium Lublini in conventione Regni generali Anno 1569 existentium*

**POZNAŃ VOIVODESHIP**

Per diems disbursements register, envoys of the Crown participating in Sejm of Lublin. The Central Archives of Historical Records, Crown Treasury Archive, I No 222, pp. 215, 217

Wysocki Stanisław from Budziszlaw, Castellan of Biechów  
Czarnkowski Wojciech Sędziwój, Castellan of Santok  
Konarski Jan from Kobylin, Chamberlain of Poznań  
Leszczyński Rafał, Starost of Radziejów  
Kościelecki Jan, Starost of Bydgoszcz  
Rokossowski Jakub, Chamberlain of Poznań

**KALISZ VOIVODESHIP**

Czarnkowski Stanisław Sędziwój, Secular Referendary of the Crown, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Potworowski Dobrogost, Land Judge of Kalisz, Bniński Stanisław, Land Judge of Poznań  
Marszewski Wojciech  
Ciświcki Jan, Kalisz Tribune (wojski)  
Przyjemski Stanisław

**SIERADZ VOIVODESHIP**

Przerembski Stanisław  
Przerembski Brykcy, pisarz ziemski sieradzki  
Grudziński Janusz  
Widawski Piotr  
Masłowski Gabriel  
Gaszyński Mikołaj



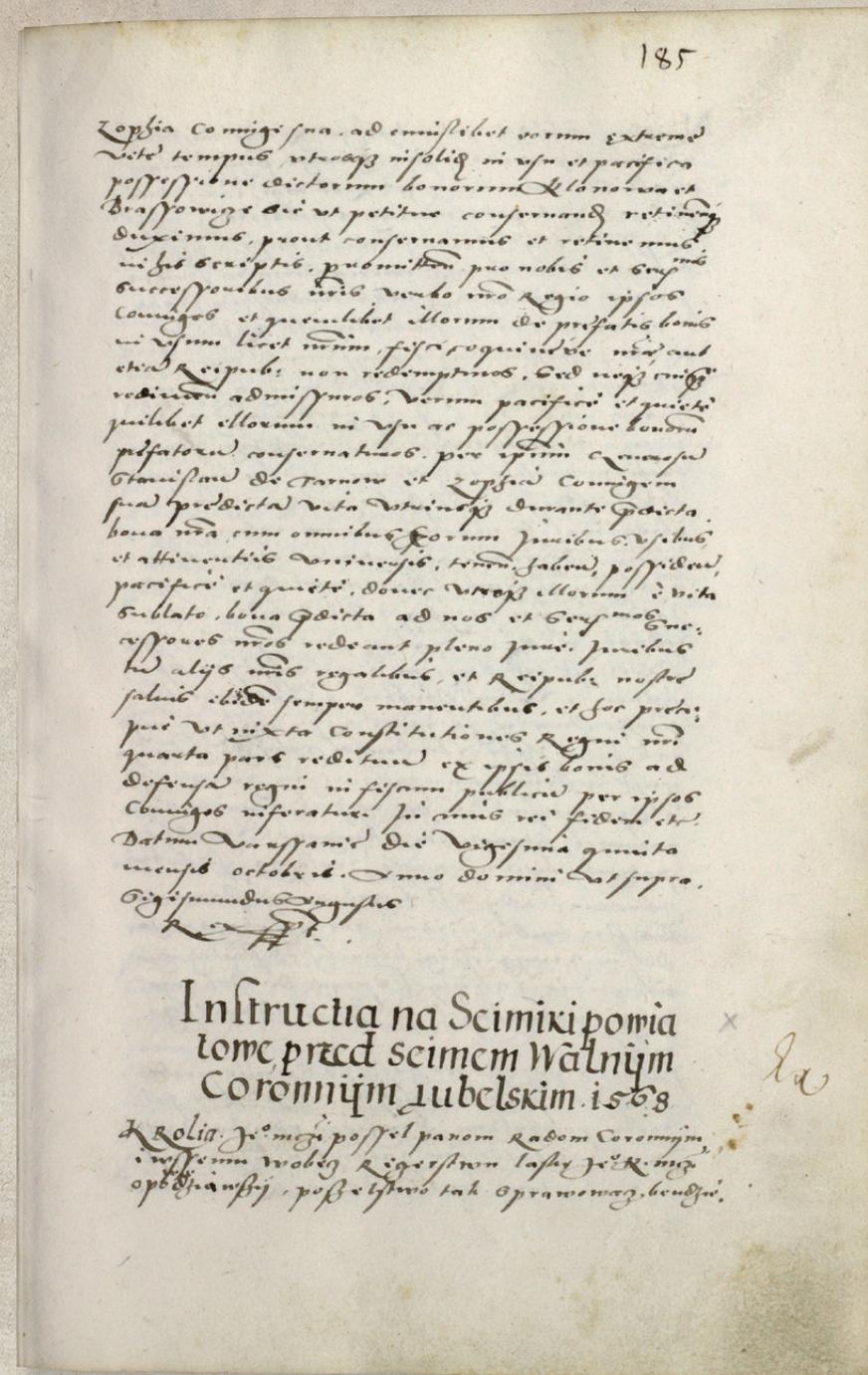
# SEJMS



In accordance with the king's announcement, meeting of the Sejm was called for the end of December 1568, to take place in Lublin; all that despite the plague and sickness of the king. According to instructions for Crown district dietines, deliberations were to commence on 22 December 1568. Dietine instructions have specified the objective of deliberations very clearly: "[...] that as per the constitution of the previous sejm in Piotrków [spring of 1567] this future joint sejm is to begin with the union, or unification of the Poles with Lithuania [...]"



Actual work of the Sejm did not begin until 10 January 1569. Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies was Stanisław Sędziwój Czarnkowski, Crown Referendary, envoy from Poznań voivodeship. In Lublin, two diets were deliberating in parallel: that of the Crown and that of Lithuania; in order to resolve the most important, and at the same time, most contentious issues, the diets gathered together.



Instructions for the district dietines before the Crown Sejm of Lublin, 1568  
The Central Archives of Historical Records, Crown Metrica, Book of Entries 101, c. 185-190

# THE UNION IN 1569



Since then, the Commonwealth had a single ruler elected by both nations and only once crowned in Cracow; a single – general – sejm meeting in Warsaw, with 48 Lithuanian envoys sitting together with 114 Kingdom envoys; and the senate (113 Polish and 27 Lithuanian senators – the difference being due to the number of castellans: 73 and 10 in the Kingdom and Lithuania, respectively, and voivodes: 22 versus 10, respectively); a common defence system, foreign policy and single currency (using different stamps, the Eagle emblem was used in the Crown of Poland, the Pogoń was used in Lithuania). Lithuania's autonomy was assured by preserving titles, dignities and central offices whilst ensuring equality of the Grand Duchy to the Kingdom. Care was also taken about that no Kingdom's resolutions as to revision of royal bestowals be applicable to Lithuania.

It was resolved to unify the laws, a task to be delivered by a committee whose members would be Lithuanian. The 3rd Lithuanian Statute prepared by this team (1588) served the purpose of preserving autonomy rather than reinforcing unification.

Professor Władysław Konopczyński, an acclaimed expert in history of the modern era, in 1920s wrote of the Lublin Sejm: “Never in the history have any separate nations established more durable a marriage under a lesser pressure employed to this end. This was brought about according to the wish of the hundreds of thousands, to the discredit but to a handful of the privileged and their haughtiness. [...] Not a slight administrative change occurred [...] but rather, an act of great historical weightiness.”

Thirty years after execution and sealing the Union record, its text was subject to minute analysis at the English Parliament. During Queen Elisabeth's I late years, when the concept for an English-Scottish union was being developed, grounds were sought for in the Commonwealth Union record for elaborating the assumptions of such a union (eventually established in 1603)..

Commonwealth of Two Nations at the end of 16th century  
Drawing by J. Kotela



# THE DOCUMENT

The extant copy of the act of Union of Lublin was made for the Crown estates. That is why it was found in the archive of records of Kingdom of Poland, known as Cracow Crown Archive, from the place where it was stored – Wawel Castle in Cracow (the document was part of the Lituaniae section of the Archive). The Archive was the place of preservation of state documents: general privileges (including the General Confederacy of Warsaw of 1573, catalogue no. 4467, entered into “Memory of the World” register in 2003), pacts, unions, confirmations of rights; including the official copy of Łaski Statutes of 1506 (catalogue no. 5632), which was a printed list of all statutes and privileges then in force in the Kingdom of Poland, as well as documents pertaining to individual voivodeships, countries, and lands merged with the Commonwealth. In 1765 the Cracow Crown Archive was moved to Warsaw. After the Third Partition (1795), together with other archival materials remaining after the highest offices of the Commonwealth, the Union document was transported to Petersburg. There, it was preserved first in the archive of the Governing Senate, and subsequently in the manuscripts section of Imperial Public Library. The document was returned to Poland after World War I, based on peace agreement between the restituted Polish state and Russia, signed in Riga in 1921. That is when the Union was placed in the Central Archives of Historical Records and included in the Collection of Parchment Records.

The counterpart document, today considered lost, prepared by Crown estates for Lithuanian estates, after establishing the Union was placed in the archive of the Great Duchy of Lithuania. During the Muscovy war in 1654–1667 it fell into the hands of one of the most powerful Lithuanian magnate families, the Radziwiłłs. At the beginning of that period, Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł was the Chancellor of Lithuania and prevented transfer of documents from the archives of Grand Dukes of Lithuania to imperial archives. Later, the document shared the fate of the entire Radziwiłł archive, was moved to Warsaw in 1920 and subsequently lost during World War II.



1. Seal of Piotr Skrobott, envoy from Wolkowysk district, oval, ø 15/17 mm; in the escutcheon, Pobóg coat of arms; above the escutcheon, letters: P S

2. Seal of Michał Sokółowski, judge and envoy from Slonim district, octagonal, ø 13/13 mm; in the escutcheon, Gozdawa coat of arms; above the escutcheon, letters: M S

3. Seal of Michał Wrona, envoy from Troki Voivodeship, oval, ø 15/17 mm; in the escutcheon, a kind of the Ruthenian majuscule letter W with the crossed over right stem of the letter, left stem ending with an arrow and three stars on both sides and above this sign; above the escutcheon, letters: M W; to the sides of the escutcheon date 15 | 69



# ACT OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN

1 JULY 1569, LUBLIN  
(AT THE GENERAL SEJM)

Council nobles and county envoys of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania resume the union with the Kingdom of Poland. The state thus established – the Commonwealth of Two Nations – had ever since a single jointly elected ruler, a shared sejm, defense system, foreign policy and single currency.

The Act of the Union of Lublin – original; in Polish language; parchment document, size 72 x 45 cm + 10 cm. Invocation written in square capitals. 77 seals on 47 strings. Seals in three groups:

I group (middle, red wax) – 17 seals, each on its own double string (dignitaries);

II group (left side, red wax) – also 17 seals, two per string, next to each other: 8 x 2 + 1

III group (right side, green wax) – 43 seals, two per string next to each other x 17, last three strings with three seals each

The Central Archives of Historical Records, Collection of Parchment Records, catalogue no. 5627



## TEXT OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN



In the name of the Lord, amen. In perpetual memory of the matter described below. We the prelates and the lords counsellors, both ecclesiastical and secular, the dukes and all the estates of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and all the land deputies who are present with the lords counsellors, the deputies and the estates of the entire Crown of Poland at this joint general assembly in Lublin, that is: Walerjan Bishop of Wilno through his plenipotentiary, Gierzy Pieczkowicz Bishop of Samogitia, Hrehory Aleksandrowicz Codtkowicz Lord Castellan of Wilno, Supreme Hetman of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Starość of Grodno, Stefan Zbaraski Koributowicz Tenant of Mohylew and Voivode of Troki, OstaŃfiej Wołowicz Castellan of Troki, Vice-Chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Starość of Brześć and Kobryń, Jan Chodkiewicz Count of Szklów and Mysz, Starość of Samogitia, Supreme Marshall of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Administrator and Hetman of the Land of Livonia, Starość of Kowno and Tenant of Płotsk and Telsze, Wasilej Tyszkowicz Voivode of Smoleńsk, Starość of Mińsk and Pińsk through his plenipotentiary, Paweł Iwanowicz Sapieha Voivode of Nowogródek, Girzy Wasylewicz Tyszkowicz Voivode of Brześć and Starość of Wołkowysk, Gabriel Iwanowicz Hornostaj Voivode of Mińsk and Starość of Kamieniec, Malcher Szemiott Castellan of Samogitia and Ciwun of Birże through his plenipotentiary, Hrehory Tryzna Castellan of Smoleńsk, Hrehory Wołowicz Castellan of Nowogródek and Starość of Slonim, Jan Mikołajewicz Hajko Castellan of Brześć, Equerry of Grodno and Tenant of Tra-by, Mikołaj Talwosz Castellan of Mińsk and Starość of Dyneburg, Mikołaj Naruszewicz Land Treasurer of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Clerk of His Royal Majesty, Tenant of Markowo, Miadzioł, Uszpol and Pieniany, Mikołaj Chryštofor Radziwiłł Prince of Olita and Nieśwież, Court Marshall of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Jan Kiszka Carver of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Mikołaj Olechnowicz Drohoštajski Pantler of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Tenant of Wielona, Bejsagoła and Ciwun of the Estate of Samogitia and Gądzin, Lawryn Wojna Treasurer of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Clerk of His Royal Majesty, Tenant of Kraśnik and Kwasów. And the Marshalls of His Royal Majesty in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: Duke Łukasz Bolesławowicz Swirzski Tenant of Krewo, Mikołaj Sapieha, Jan Wołczek Equerry of Wilno and Land Vice-Equerry, Kaleniecki Tyszkowicz Tenant of Wasyliszki, Jan Bolesławowicz Świrski Deputy of the District of Wilno, Malcher Snowski Land Judge of Nowogródek, Tenant of Kurzeniec and Dep-

1. Seal of Kasper Giedrojc, envoy from Kowno, oval, ø 12/14 mm; in the escutcheon, Poraj coat of arms; in the crest, two eagle's wings facing each other, on the both sides and above the crest, letters: KM G

2. Seal of Wasyl Rahoza, Court Standard Bearer of Lithuania, envoy from Minsk Voivodeship, ø 11/14 mm; in the escutcheon, Rahoza coat of arms; above the escutcheon, letters: V R

3. Seal of Andrzej Stankiewicz, envoy from Minsk Voivodeship, octagonal, ø 11/13 mm; in the escutcheon, Wadwicz coat of arms, above the escutcheon, helmet; on the sides of the helmet, letters: A S



## TEXT OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN

uty of the District of Nowogródek, Paweł Ostrówicki Deputy of the District of Oszmiana, and Marshalls Aleksander Wahanowski and Jan Pałuski Tenant of Niemanowicze. Clerks of His Royal Majesty: Michajło Haraburda Tenant of Świsłocz, Bazilius Drzewiński, Maciej Sawicki Starosta of Mielnik and Wojski of Drohiczyn, Stanisław Naruszewicz Ciuun of Wilno. And we the deputies of the lands and districts of this famous state of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, sent to this general assembly by the lands and districts with full powers from the Voivodeship of Wilno, together with aforementioned Marshall Duke Jan Swirski, Duke Malcher Matuszewicz Gedrojć, Chamberlain Andrzej Dzierzko from the Voivodeship of Troki, Kasper Rajecki Standard-Bearer of the Land of Troki and Michajło Wrona; from the Land of Samogitia Mikołaj Stankiewicz Bielewicz Chamberlain of the Land of Samogitia and Ciuun of Ćragoła, Iwan Ilgowski Ciuun of Wieszwiany and Ciuun of the Land of Samogitia; Jan Gradowski, Fiedor Kopec and Jan Skirmont from the Land of Smoleńsk; from the Voivodeship of Nowogródek, together with afore-mentioned Marshall Malcher Snowski – Andrzej Iwanowicz Secretary of His Royal Majesty and Chamberlain of Nowogródek; from the Voivodeship of Witebsk – Andrzej Kisiel Castellan of Witebsk and Tymofiej Hurko Vice-Judge of Witebsk; from the Voivodeship of Brześć – Dominik Pac Chamberlain of Brześć, Adam Pocij Land Clerk of Brześć; from the Voivodeship of Mściśław – Isaj Szczołkan and Hreory Marakowski; from the Voivodeship of Mińsk – Wasilej Rahoza Court Standard-Bearer of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Andrzej Stankiewicz. And from the districts which belong to these voivodeships: from the District of Oszmiana in the Voivodeship of Wilno, together with aforementioned Marshall Paweł Ostrówicki – Stanisław Stanisławowicz Land Judge of Oszmiana; from the District of Wiłkomierz – Mikołaj Koncza and Krzysztof Razmysowicz; from the District of Lida – Szadzibor Dowgird and Szczęsny Augustynowicz Huba; from the District of Grodno in the Voivodeship of Troki – Duke Iwan Masalski Land Judge of Grodno and Jan Klukowski; from the District of Kowno – Andrzej Ilgowski Ciuun of Twery and Kasper Giedroić; from the District of Słonim in the Voivodeship of Nowogródek – Michajło Sokołowski Judge of Słonim and Maciej Jacynicz; from the District of Wołkowysk – Jeronim Puksza Standard-Bearer of Wołkowysk and Piotr Skrobott; from the District of Orsza in the Voivodeship of Witebsk – Bogusz Alekiewowicz Skołko Standard-Bearer of Orsza and Fiodor Woropaj; from the District of Pińsk in

the Voivodeship of Brześć – Stanisław Szyrma Wojski of Pińsk and Iwan Domanowicz Vice-Judge of Pińsk; from the District of Mozyrz – Fiedor Lenkowicz and Jan Kłopot; from the District of Rzeczyca in the Voivodeship of Mińsk – Andrzej Chalecki Land Clerk of Rzeczyca and Izmajło Zienkowicz. And the entire nobility, the citizens of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, both present and absent here in Lublin, whose will and intention towards the matters mentioned below is well-known to us from the district parliaments which preceded this general assembly of Lublin, and whose names are as if inserted here and whose seals are as if suspended here. And thereafter, also deputies from Wilno the capital town of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: Franc Stanisławowicz Durnik and Fiedor Jackowicz Wielkowicz Burgomasters and Hieronim Opachwski Clerk of the Town of Wilno.



Seal of Adam Pocij, Land Notary of Brest, envoy from Brest Voivodeship,  $\varnothing$  13/15 mm; in the escutcheon, Libra coat of arms, underneath three Korczak notches, in the crest three ostrich feathers; on the side of the crest, letters: A P



## TEXT OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN

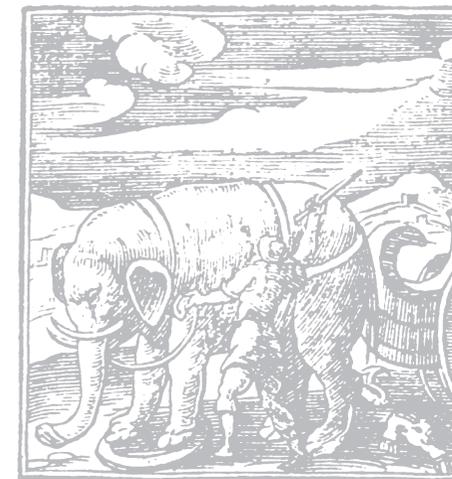
**1.** By this charter of ours we notify to all the contemporary and future people, to whose knowledge this charter of ours will come, that we unceasingly have in mind our duty towards our fatherland the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, whose entire honour, ornament, the common good and first of all the provision against both internal and external danger is to be cared for by us, and we also consider and have in mind the union and community with the citizens of the entire Crown of Poland, which is most beneficial for both nations and which was previously made with the joint written agreement of both nations, and which was confirmed by charters, seals, oaths and honour of both parties, and which has been maintained by diligence and steadiness of both parties, but then it was somehow harmed in bad and adverse times. Both we and our forefathers have always had it in mind and for a considerable period of time we have admonished our rulers the Kings of Poland, both the late Zygmunt and Zygmunt August who now fortunately rules over both nations, the Poles and the Lithuanians, and with our requests we have inclined our rulers as supreme and the only lords of both nations to carry out the execution and effect of both common registers and our other rights and privileges, which we and the Crown of Poland received with regard to this union and community with the lords and the lands of the Crown of Poland already from the great-grandfather of His Royal Majesty and from King Aleksander, and to support us by their Royal grace and due to their suzerainty and to condescend to bring back in order all this, which detached itself from this community, by means of gathering us, the lords counsellors and other estates of the Crown of Poland at one place, so that this matter which is glorious and beneficial for both nations may be carried into effect, in such a way as this matter of the union is clearly referred to in the acts, the constitutions, the declarations and the resolutions of contemporary parliaments. Furthermore, by grace of God, Who favours community and unity, and Who condescends to have kingdoms, states and commonwealths of the entire world in His particular care, and also by grace of our ruler, Zygmunt August the aforementioned King of Poland etc., who presently rules fortunately over us, we diligently led to this, that first in Warszawa at the session of the Parliament held in 1563, and then in Parczew in 1564, where we convened with the estates of the Crown, we made a significant introduction to the

restoration of this community and this partially harmed union, by means of mutually discussing and confirming the articles of this union. These articles could not be confirmed there by joint registers of ours and the estates of the Crown, due to scarcity of time and other more urgent needs of the Commonwealth of both nations. Therefore, in these more peaceful times, having gathered at this general assembly in Lublin on 23 December 1568, held by His Royal Majesty by permission of both Polish and Lithuanian lords counsellors, and maintained and steadily continued until present, we made the following mentioned below treatises and pacts between ourselves, which we carried into effect and conclusion with joint and unanimous agreement and register of both parties, with no detriment to the resolution of Warszawa and other privileges. For this let there be Eternal Glory to Lord God, One in Trinity, and immortal thanks to His Royal Highness by the Grace of God King Zygmunt August, and perpetual fame and ornament to the honourable Crown of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

**2.** First, although there were previous pacts of friendship and alliance which contributed to the benefit of the Commonwealth, both the Crown of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania etc., it seems that they contain some points which are contrary to good and sincere fraternal trust. Therefore, we have renewed and moderated these previous pacts in with regard to all this, for the sake of a stronger union, common and mutual fraternal love, in perpetual and mutual defence of both states, for unquestionable fraternal faith in perpetual times for the Glory of God, with eternal thanks and noble glory of His Royal Majesty, and for the immense and eternal fame, ornament, praise and strengthening of honesty, perpetual and mutual augmentation of respect and majesty of these both most respectable nations of Poland and Lithuania, as it is stated below.

**3.** The Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania are one indivisible and uniform body and also one uniform Commonwealth, which grew and consolidated into one nation from two states and nations.

**4.** One head, one ruler and one common king should perpetually rule over this joint nation. He will be elected by joint votes of the Poles and the Lithuanians, and he will be elected in Poland



## TEXT OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN

and then he will be anointed and crowned for the Kingdom of Poland in Kraków. According to the privilege of King Aleksander, the absence of either party will impede the election, as all the estates of the Crown of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania are to be duly and obligatorily invited [for the election].

**5.** The election and the installation of the Grand Duke of Lithuania, which previously took part in Lithuania, is to be abandoned. And no sign or resemblance of it should occur in the future, which might result in or stand for the installation or the inauguration of the Grand Duke of Lithuania. And as the title of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and its offices remain, during the election and the coronation the ruler is to be proclaimed King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, Ruthenia, Prussia, Masovia, Samogitia, Kiev, Volhynia, Podlachia and Livonia.

**6.** The natural and hereditary succession of His Royal Majesty, if it were useful for His Royal Highness or whomever in the Duchy of Lithuania, is not to perpetually impede this community and union of both nations and the election of one common lord, as this right of hereditary succession was perpetually transferred by His Royal Majesty to the Crown. We do not doubt it and we also declare that neither the person of His Royal Majesty nor his offspring, if given to His Royal Majesty by God, will be left destitute by us, but they will receive honest and proper provision from the Commonwealth, in case they are not elected for King. And no dismemberment of the Crown will be done through it, as it is sufficiently stated and guaranteed in the declaration of His Royal Majesty and the resolution of the general assembly of Warszawa.

**7.** Rights, privileges and liberties of the subjects of both nations and states which are united this way are to be sworn by the crowned king at the coronation of the new king, and they are to be confirmed in one charter and with the same words for perpetual times.

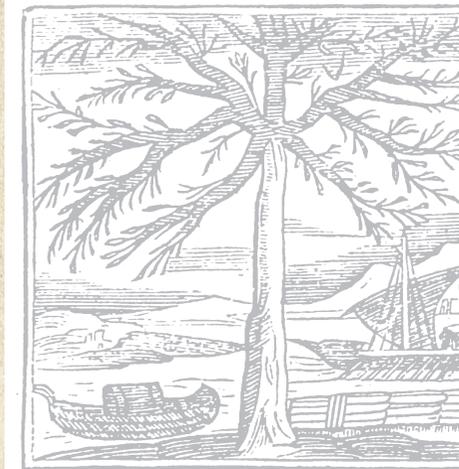
**8.** This common nation is to perpetually have common Crown parliaments and councils under the King of Poland, its ruler. And the lords are to sit among the lords, and the deputies among the deputies, and they are to discuss common needs both at the sessions of the parliament and apart from them, in Poland and in Lithuania.

**9.** For the sake of one party lending aid and advice to the other, His Royal Majesty is to keep entire and intact all the rights and privileges of all the lands and the nations, both of the Crown of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and to the lands that belong to them, granted to them in whatever charters by all the predecessors of His Royal Majesty and by His Royal Majesty himself in previous times and from the beginning of the union, granted by any means to everyone together and to each person individually, and all the liberties, dignities, prerogatives and offices of the common nation. And all the rights of all kinds, verdicts, ducal ranks and noble families of these mentioned nations, and all the court resolutions from ancient times until the present are to be kept firm and intact.

**10.** Oaths of the councils, dignitaries, starosts of the Lithuanian nation and people of more prominent houses, who are to make them, remain valid, as we jointly decided upon this both in privileges and in the common register at the general assembly in Warszawa in such a manner that all such oaths are to be later made to the crowned king and the Crown of Poland. As regards oaths to keep general agreements, they are to be kept and remain firm according to the privilege of King Aleksander.

**11.** We the prelates, the dukes, the counsellors, the barons and all the estates of the common nation are to lend one another mutual aid and support one another with all means and opportunities in all adversities, as it will be deemed useful and necessary by the common estimation. We are to consider both fortunate and adverse affairs to be common for us and support one another faithfully. No alliances or pacts or agreements with foreign nations are to be made or decided upon in the future, as decided upon in the common agreement of Warszawa, and no envoys are to be sent to foreign countries in significant affairs, unless with the knowledge and common deliberation of both nations. And alliances or pacts made previously with whatever nation, if found detrimental to whatever party, are not to be kept.

**12.** The currency both in Poland and in Lithuania is to be uniform and equal in weight and bullion, the number of coins [minted from one weight unit] and the inscriptions on coins. His Royal Majesty and his descendants will be obliged to carry this to effect.



## TEXT OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN

**13.** His Royal Majesty shall condescend to nullify all the tolls and duties both in Poland and in Lithuania, on land and water routes, called by whatever names, both nobility's, ecclesiastical and municipal ones. From now on, no tolls should be perpetually taken from the clergy, from lay persons of noble rank and from their subjects, concerning whatever wares of own manufacture. No merchant tolls are to be excluded from this and there are to be no collusion with merchants to the detriment and concealment of old usual Royal customs both in Poland and in Lithuania.

**14.** All the statutes and acts of whatever kind, passed for whatever reason against the Polish nation in Lithuania with regard to acquisition and holding of property in Lithuania by the Poles, concerning estates acquired in whatever way, by a dowry or as a reward for service, by purchase, gift, exchange or whatever way of acquisition according to the common habit and law, are to have no validity, as contrary to law, justice, common fraternal love, community and mutual union. Instead, both the Poles in Lithuania and the Lithuanians in Poland are to be perpetually allowed to acquire property and hold it according to the law of the land where the property is located.

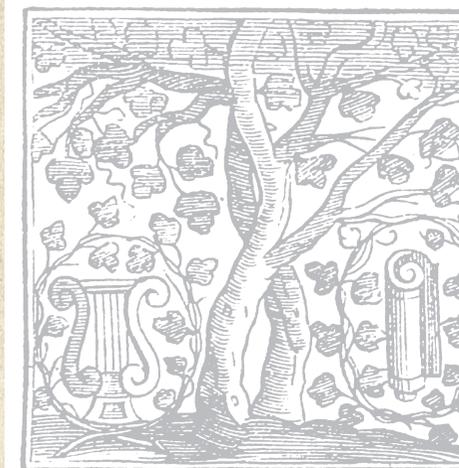
**15.** As regards other articles of the privilege of King Aleksander, which are not yet declared at the assembly of Warszawa by the declaration of His Royal Majesty or by the common consent, but were postponed from the assembly of Warszawa to the present general assembly of Lublin, all such articles as stated in the privileges, in the common register and eventually in the privilege of King Aleksander, and which were referred to here in Lublin by His Royal Majesty with regard to the matter of the union, are to remain perpetually valid. And for the sake of a better declaration it is stated that the Grand Duchy of Lithuania is to wholly and integrally remain with its title, all its dignities and offices and the honour of its estates, as described in the privilege of King Alexander. This is because it does not make a division and separation of the union and the community.

**16.** His Royal Majesty is not to hold any separate parliaments for the estates of Poland and Lithuania from now on, but he is always to hold common parliaments for this common nation as one body in

Poland, in a place which will be found the most appropriate by His Royal Majesty and the counsellors of Poland and Lithuania.

**17.** Dignities and offices, which are vacant or may be vacant in the future in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, are not to be given by His Royal Majesty to anyone who would not first make an oath to His Royal Majesty and his descendants the crowned kings of Poland and to this indivisible body of the Crown of Poland.

**18.** We also sufficiently declare and provide for the estates and the persons of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, that the execution of estates, not only according to the statute of King Aleksander, but also according to whatever privileges, charters, constitutions and parliamentary resolutions which were passed, given or agreed upon in the past in the Crown of Poland with regard to the domain estates of His Royal Majesty in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which were given in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania to whomever of any condition by all the predecessors of His Royal Majesty and by His Royal Majesty himself from the very beginning of the union, is not to concern them and their descendants. On the contrary, all the rights and privileges given until present in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania by all the predecessors of His Royal Majesty and His Royal Majesty himself from the beginning of the union to the nations of Lithuania, Ruthenia, Samogitia and other nations and citizens of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and to the lands, the districts, the families and individual persons, are to remain completely and wholly intact. Also perpetual landholdings, fiefs, exchanges of Royal estates against private estates, other exchanges, life-estates, and all the liens made during the sessions of the parliaments and apart from that according to whatever privilege, are to be perpetually held, with no questioning of them by means of whatever habit or argument. Also the grants of dignities and offices which for long pertained to them, the liens and whatever grants of income are to be entirely left intact and considered valid and they will not be obliged to spend any part of their usual income, called by whatever name, for anything else than their own use, apart from that what is stipulated in privileges and charters. And if whoever holds estates inherited from his predecessors but without having documentary evidence for these land and possessions, he is to perpetually hold such property both with and without such

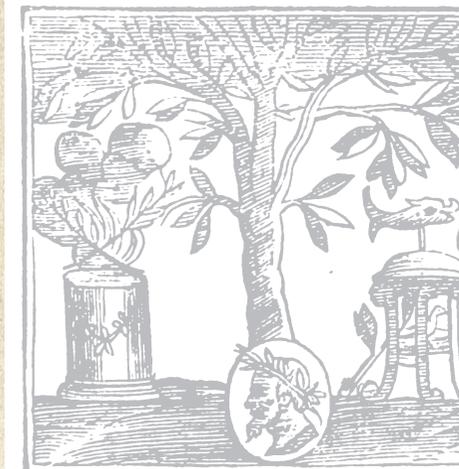


## TEXT OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN

evidence, according to the old and the new Lithuanian statute and the old habits. By means of this resolution the lords counsellors and all the estates, the deputies of all the lands terminate the power of deciding upon, renewing by any means, reminding of and commencing again the execution of estates received for service and all the past estates, in the name of themselves and their descendants. And as in these times the grants of domain estates in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania are to be abandoned, the estates which will later come back from the ducal and the nobility's property to the domain of His Royal Majesty, are to be given by His Royal Majesty according to his Royal will and grace to people of the Polish and the Lithuanian nation, so that the land military service is not diminished. Also with regard to recovery of the castles, the estates, the landholdings and all the property from the Muscovite enemy, His Royal Majesty will be obliged to restore them to those to whom these belonged previously, before having been seized by the enemy. And if whatever was given to whomever as a compensation for such property, it is to return to the domain of His Royal Majesty.

**19.** We the prelates, the lords counsellors, the dukes, the land deputies and all the other estates of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, consider all these articles praiseworthy, necessary and useful for the common nation of both the Crown of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania as the one common and individual Commonwealth. As they are written down in this charter with our joint consent with the estates of the famous Crown of Poland, we gladly, benevolently and with good fraternal favour and love towards the prelates, the lords counsellors, the land deputies and all the other estates and person of the Crown, confirm it perpetually with the present charter of ours and we corroborate it with the seals, oaths and honesty of ours and our descendants, and we guarantee and affirm it with such a condition, corroboration and notification, as it pertains to the most significant and most eminent of us with regard to our persons, our positions or our offices on account of both particular and common habits. We promise and swear before God with our good, honest, noble and Christian word, that all which is stated here will be perpetually known, kept and maintained by us and our descendants with no deception and without bringing into doubt or changing anything of this. And we by no means conjure away from this unity

which we entered with the nation of this famous Crown of Poland according to the statement of this charter of ours and the articles which are eternally and perpetually included and explained in the charter which the lords Poles have given us. And His Majesty the King has condescended to confirm these common registers of ours with his Royal authority, as our supreme lord. And if either party or an individual did not intend to keep these privileges and registers which are made with regard to the union of these nations, we and our descendants will be obliged to rise up against this party or individual as the enemy of ours and both nations and to remain with our lord the King of Poland. We and our descendants oblige under oath to always perform, fulfil, firmly keep and carry into effect all of this. And all these matters which are decided upon and confirmed here are perpetually not to be harmed and changed either by His Royal Majesty or by the lords counsellors, all the other estates and the land deputies of both nations, be it with a joint agreement or separately by either party, but they are to remain perpetual, integral and firm. And for a better testimony and the eternal memory of the matters described above, we the afore-mentioned prelates and the lords counsellors, both ecclesiastical and secular, the dukes, we the land deputies and other estates present at this general and joint assembly of Lublin have suspended our seals to this charter. Written and given at this joint assembly in Lublin on 1 July in the year of the Lord 1569.



## OATH



The first one to give the oath of the union was legatus natus et Regni primas, Archbishop of Gniezno Jakub Uchański. After him, remaining senators of the Crown, then Lithuanian lords counsellors and subsequently Crown and Lithuania envoys

### *The mutual oath on agreements above written of lords counsellors of Poland and Lithuania*



*I, N., swear to the Lord God Almighty that since now into perpetuity I and my descendants shall hold the entire matter of the Union, or our mutual joining with all estates and citizens of the Crown of Poland (Grand Duchy of Lithuania), as written in more detail in these pages above and our registers, in effective and adequate manner, and that I and my descendants shall fulfil all the points and articles as described in detail in these pages above, and that to the best of my ability I and my descendants shall prevent and shall in perpetuity observe and follow, that our mutual union lasts strong and steadfast through the ages. So help me God, One in Trinity, and the Holy Gospel.*

[Akta unji Polski z Litwą, 1385–1791, Wyd. S. Kutrzeba, W. Semkowicz, Kraków 1932, nr 150, s. 363]

Wording of the Union pledge of lords counsellors of the Crown and Lithuania.  
The Central Archives of Historical Records,  
Crown Metrica, Books of Deputations, 18, k. 55v

Seal of Fedor Woropaj, envoy from Orsza district, oval, ø 11/13 mm; in the escutcheon, overturned Nałęcz coat of arms; above the escutcheon, letters: FV

55

### Przysięga zobopolna na spiłki wyższej napisane panow Rad Coromijch i Litewskich.

*I. N. przysięgam panu Bogu wszechmogącemu, Hs od tąd  
i na potomne czasy, że wszystkie sprawy około mnie, albo  
zjednoczenia naszego spólnego ze wszystkimi stanami, i wszystkimi  
obywatelami Korony Polskiej i Wielkiego Litwy, iako jest w tych listach i  
spisach naszych szersze opisano, skutocznie i dostatecznie z  
potomstwem moim dzierzasz to iż wypełniacz we wszystkich  
punktach i artykułach, iako w tych to listach szersze sa  
opisane, będę i wedle swej najmniejszej możności miedzi,  
pnieć, i zawdy tego przestrzegacz z potomstwem swoim będę,  
aby ten nasz spólny związek mocnie a nie naruszone  
nawieki thwał. Tak mi pan Bóg pomóż we Trójcy  
jedynym, i Swięta Ewangelia.*





1. Seal of Andrzej Dzierzko, chamberlain and envoy from Troki Voivodeship, octagonal,  $\varnothing$  11/13 mm; in the escutcheon, Wieniawa coat of arms; above the escutcheon, letters: A D



2. Seal of an unknown nobleman, oval,  $\varnothing$  12/14 mm; in the escutcheon, Jastrzębiec coat of arms; wing in the crest; on the both sides of crest letters: M S



3. Seal of Kasper Rajecki, ensign and envoy from Troki Voivodeship, oval,  $\varnothing$  12/14 mm; in the escutcheon, Łabędź coat of arms; above the escutcheon letters: K R

## CONFIRMATION

... i Litwskiego czynnaię cę w seakofo i f s i j m a z e, w nich wi d z i b i e z r e z y g o c i d d o b r e i s t a r e g o b r a  
 ... n e m p o d z i e k o w a n i e m j e d n e i s l o w i e, i t y: h i e o b u d o w n i a z a c z m i e j s y c h l o l s k i e g o i l i t w s k i n a r a d o w, i t e f s  
 ... e. I s c h i u f e k r o l e s t w o l o l s k i e i w i e l k i e k r o l e s t w o l i t w s k i e, t e f i a d n o m e r o z d z i e l n e u n i o n e c z i a l o,  
 ... i s p o l n e m i g l o s i j c d l o l i a k o w i c d l i t w i; o b r a n, a m i e j s z e o b i e r a m a w l o l s k a e a p o t y m m k r o l e s t w o l o l s k  
 ... i l i t w s k i e g o w z y w a n e b i e z m a i e g. O b i e r a m e i p o d n o s z o n e w i e l k i e g o N a d z a r z e w s k i e g o, k t o r p



*"The Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania are one indivisible and uniform body and also one uniform Commonwealth, which grew and consolidated into one nation from two states and nations."*

King Sigismund Augustus approves the Union of the Crown with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, enacted during the Sejm of Lublin (4 July 1569, Lublin) – a quote from the record



### LESSER SEAL OF THE CROWN (1569.07.04)

Seal in red wax in a bowl of natural wax. Under a hoop crown, a four-field escutcheon: fields 1 and 4 – the Eagle, fields 2 and 3 – the Pogoń. Flanked by two laurel boughs.

SIGISMVNDVS : AVGVST : D : G : REX : POLONIE : MAG  
 DVX : LITHVA : ET :  $\varnothing$  4,7 cm

Kings' and Queens' seals from the collection of The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, Warsaw 2015, p. 48  
 The Central Archives of Historical Records, Collection of Parchment Records, catalogue no. 8431



## MAIN SOURCES

*Akta unji Polski z Litwą*, 1385–1791 Wyd. S. Kutrzeba, W. Semkowicz, Kraków 1932.

M.O. Коялович, *Дневник Люблинского сейма 1569 г.*, СПб. 1869 [M.O. Kojalowicz, *Dniownik lublinskiego sejma 1569 r.*, Sankt Petersburg 1869].

A.T. Działyński, *Źródłopisma do dziejów unii Korony Polskiej i W. Księstwa Litewskiego* (cz. II i III), Poznań 1856–1861.



**Act of the Union of Lublin was entered into UNESCO Memory of the World International Register**, [<https://en.unesco.org/programme/mow/register>] as joint entry from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus and Ukraine. Two years before that, in 2015, the Union of Lublin was recognized by the European Commission and awarded the European Heritage Label as a historic example of integration of two countries exceptional in the history of Europe, and a breakthrough moment in development of democratic principles.



On the cover and title site:

The coat of arms of King Sigismund Augustus from Austrian armorial (1571)  
Lesser seal of the Crown (1569.07.04)

Drawings used in the background: Andrea Alciato: *Emblemata*, Padua, Petro Paulo Tozzi, 1621, and other Mannerist drawings from the 16th century.

Translation of the original text of The Union: Polish Historical Society (PTH), <http://www.history.pth.net.pl>