

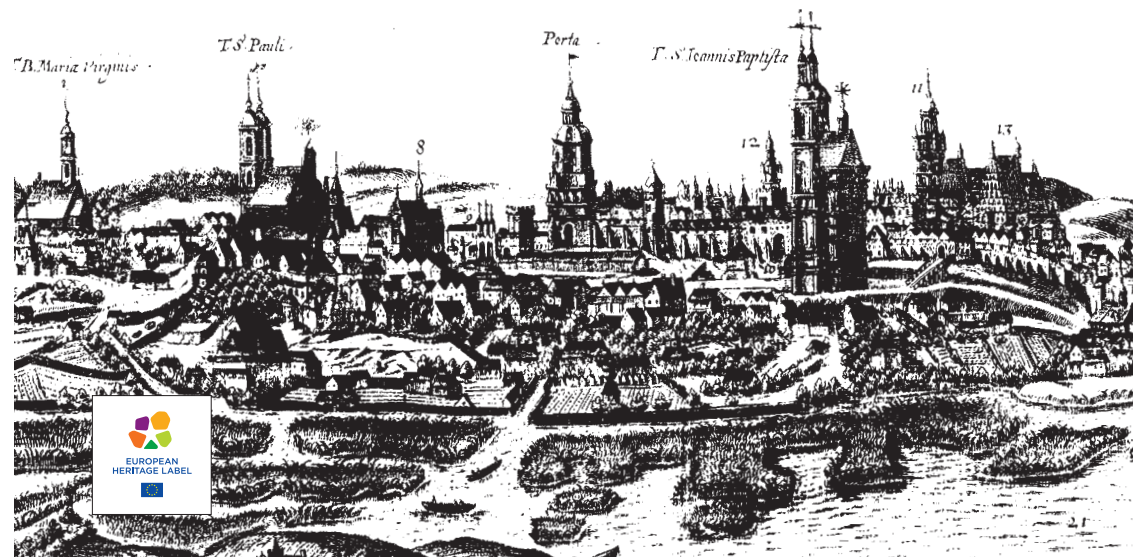
The Union of Lublin (1569)

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OF INTEGRATION OF TWO COUNTRIES,
EXCEPTIONAL IN THE HISTORY
OF EUROPE, AND A PIVOTAL MOMENT
IN DEVELOPMENT
OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES



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THE UNION OF LUBLIN (1569)

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PROJECT FINANCED BY MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND NATIONAL HERITAGE

Historical background

31.10.1517



● RELIGION: Martin Luther announced his 95 theses in Wittenberg

04.10.1525



● POLITICS: The Prussian Homage – Teutonic Prussia became Poland's fief

1543



● SCIENCE: The work of Copernicus – *On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres* – was published

04.12.1563



● CHURCH: Deliberations of the Council of Trent were concluded

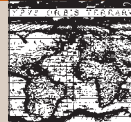
01.07.1569



● POLITICS: The Union of Lublin between Poland and Lithuania was established



20.05.1570



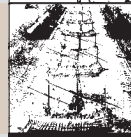
● GEOGRAPHY: First modern atlas, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, was published in Antwerp

23/24.08.1572



● EVENTS: St. Bartholomew's Day massacre, also known as Paris blood wedding – Catholics murdered the Huguenots

07.10.1571



● POLITICS: Battle of Lepanto – Christian forces of the Holy League defeated Turkey

1580



● LITERATURE: First edition of Michel de Montaigne's *Essays* was published in France

24.02.1582



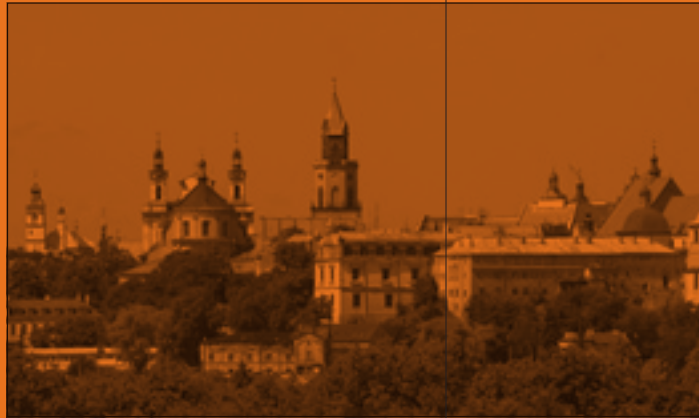
● TIME RECKONING: Pope Gregory XIII issued the *Inter gravissimas* bull, introducing the Gregorian calendar

Town

(12th–16th c.)

● Lublin, as a centre of state and Church administration has been mentioned in written sources since the end of 12th century, although archaeological evidence of settlements go back further. In mid-13th century, the Dominican Friars have established a priory here, which was a testimony as to importance of the town. A Romanesque donjon was built on the castle hill around the same time, serving as a start for further brick and mortar construction of the castle. In 1317 Lublin received borough rights based on Magdeburg law, thus becoming an important urban centre of Poland. Since 1380s, Lublin has been an important hub for commerce and cultural exchange between Western Europe and Lithuania and Russia. Already at that time, Jewish settlements were recorded in the town. Lublin played an important role in the life of Jagiellonian dynasty, due to its size and a magnificent castle, where the king and his court could be accommodated. Also, Lublin fairs were renowned in Europe, and visitors included Germans, Lithuanians, Armenians, Turks, Ruthenians and Jews.

- *The View of the Town of Lublin in the Kingdom of Poland, famous in the entire world [because of] fairs held three times a year.* Copper engraving by Hogenberg and Braun, published in 1618 in *Civitates orbis terrarum* Historic cities Research Project



● Lublin – Old Town panoramic view
www.lublin.eu



● Czwartek Hill with Renaissance church of St. Nicholas – the oldest settlement area in Lublin
T. Chrzanowski, *Lublin – krajobraz i architektura*, 1964



Church of the Dominican Order

● The Dominican church and monastery, dedicated to St. Stanislaus, was built in second half of 13th century, and since 1342, thanks to endowment by king Casimir the Great at first, it was expanded as brick and mortar structure. The church is very closely tied to the Union of Lublin of 1569. After the ceremony of the Union's establishment, which took place in Lublin Castle, a thanksgiving mass was held here, in presence of King Sigismund II Augustus. Dominican Friars preserve artefacts symbolically related to the Union and the idea of European integration:

- a crucifix, on which, as tradition has it, the Union was sworn,
- a relief in the large courtyard of the monastery, depicting an allegory of the Union.



● Dominican Church (Basilica of St Stanislaus) – view from Old Town square. Wikimedia



● Interior of the Dominican Church in Lublin
www.lublin.dominikanie.pl

The Holy Trinity Chapel

(14th–15th c.)



- The donjon and the Holy Trinity Chapel seen from the castle's courtyard
Wikimedia

● The Holy Trinity Chapel in Lublin Castle is, next to the castle tower, the only fully preserved remnant of the castle from the period when the Union was sealed, and one of the most precious mediaeval landmarks in Poland. It is unique thanks to exceptional combination of Gothic architecture with Byzantine-Ruthenian polychrome interior, thus representing the two great cultural centres of mediaeval Christianity – the East and the West. In the beginning of 15th century, by initiative and endowment of Polish king of Lithuanian origin, Władysław Jagiełło, Ruthenian painters have covered the entire interior of the church in Byzantine style frescos. In 1569, services held in the royal chapel have accompanied the deliberations of the Sejm.



- Interior of the Holy Trinity Chapel of Lublin Castle
Positive Image Foundation

The Union in 14th c.

(14.08.1385)

● In 1385, after approximately two years of negotiations, the first Polish-Lithuanian union was signed in Krewo castle (now in Belarus). As a result, the hitherto Grand Duke of Lithuania Jagiełło, in exchange for the crown of Poland through marriage to Queen Jadwiga of the House of Anjou, has accepted a baptism for himself and his subjects, attaching Lithuania to the Kingdom of Poland. Coronation of Jagiełło (who through baptism took the name of Władysław) took place in 1386 in Lublin Castle. Thanks to this Union, as well as the subsequent ones, Polish-Lithuanian state has become one of European powers. This allowed – as soon as early 15th century – more effective resistance against the Teutonic Knights Order and opened the possibility of expansion eastwards. Lublin, located halfway between important centres of Poland and Lithuania – Cracow and Vilnius – was one of the most important towns in this part of Europe. Polish and Lithuanian elites of power frequently held meetings here. Joining the two states under a single rule (personal union) has also had an impact on their economic and cultural development. Although Krewo Union was an expression of intent and burgeoning unification ideas, the road to decisions taken by Sejm of Lublin over 180 years later was neither easy nor simple.



● Krewo – ruins of the castle in which the first Polish-Lithuanian union was signed www.fotopolska.eu

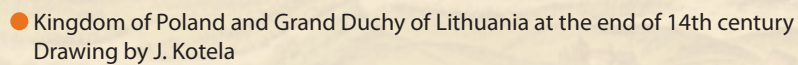


● Portrait of king Władysław Jagiełło from 14th century, detail. Diocese Museum in Sandomierz



● Portrait of queen Jadwiga from 18th century, Marcello Baciarelli, Royal Castle in Warsaw

(14.08.1385)



The King

(1569)

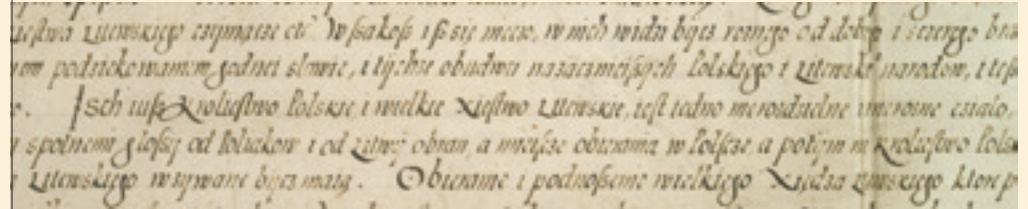
- Professor Władysław Konopczyński, the illustrious expert in history of the modern era, in 1920s wrote of the Lublin Sejm: "Never in the history have any separate nations established more durable a marriage under a lesser pressure employed to this end. This was brought about according to the wish of 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".

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 reestablish the relationships between the Kingdom and Lithuania since early 1560s. A new sejm started its proceedings in Lublin on 10 January 1569, with the two diets – Polish and Lithuanian – still debating separately. The union was proclaimed on 27 June, and on 1 July 1569, the parties exchanged the deeds and oaths were sworn. On 4 July, the king issued documents confirming the Union and repeatedly announced the approval of the Union on 11 August, the last day of the sejm's proceedings.

- Courtyard of Lublin Castle, contemporary photograph. www.fotopolska.eu



- "That the Polish Kingdom and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania is now already one inseparable and non-different body, and indeed, a non-different but one and common Republic [Commonwealth] that hath gathered itself and united from two states and nations into a single people."



- Portrait of Sigismund Augustus, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, 16th century. Lucas Cranach the Younger, National Museum in Cracow

Union of 1569

(01.07.1569)

● 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 different 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 Pahonia 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 with 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.



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

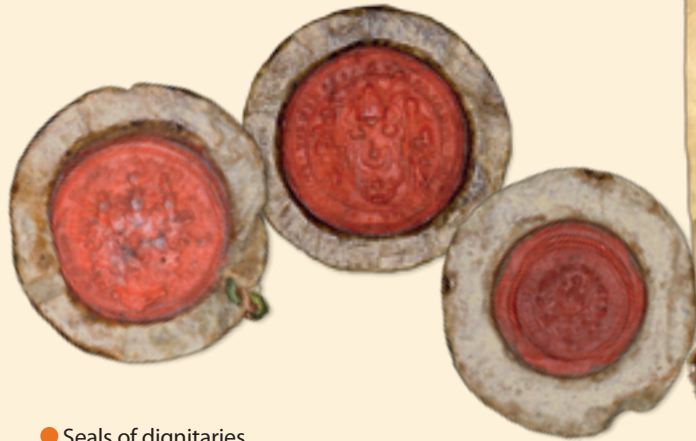


● Commonwealth of Two Nations at the end of 16th century
Drawing by J. Kotela

The document

(1569)

- 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 the Two Nations – had ever since a single jointly elected ruler, a shared sejm, defense system, foreign policy and single currency.



● Seals of dignitaries

1. Seal of Jan Chodkiewicz, Starosta of Samogitia, Grand Marshal of Lithuania (approx. 1537–1579), ø 38 mm; five field escutcheon, with coats of arms: Kościeszka, Pahonia, Griffin, Swan, Korczak
2. 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
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

- 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).

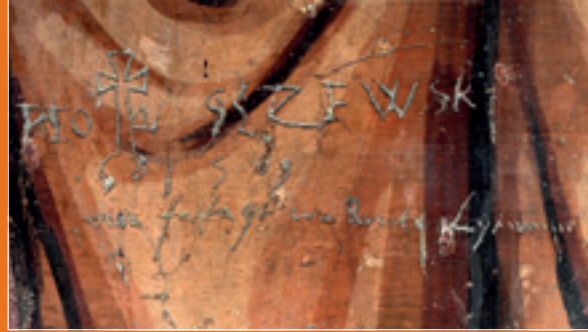


- Act of the Union of Lublin. Original copy, in Polish, 1 parchment sheet sized 72 x 45 + 10 cm, the invocation written in headband; 77 wax seals. Seals in three groups:
I group (middle, red wax) – 17 seals, each on its own double string (dignitaries);
II group (left, red wax) – also 17 seals, two per string next to each other: 8 x 2 + 1;
III group (right, 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 in Warsaw, Collection of Parchment Records, catalogue no. 5627
Photo by Karol Zgliński

● Besides the Dominican church and monastery and the Holy Trinity Chapel, another material sign of remembrance of the Union of Lublin in the city is an obelisk on Litewski Square. Moreover, an important symbol of that momentous event, the Union of Lublin Mound, was built in Lvov on 300th anniversary of the Union.

● Monument to the Union of Lublin, built in 1569 in Litewski Square (the name, literally Lithuanian Square, comes from the fact that Lithuanian nobility camped there during the enactment of the Union), by endowment of Sigismund Augustus, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. The current classicist obelisk was erected in 1824 in the same place as the previous one. Relief on the obelisk depicts an allegory of the Union, in form of two women, symbolizing respectively Poland and Lithuania, clasping each other's hands. On the other side of the plinth there is a gilded inscription explaining the image: "Joining of Lithuania and the Crown"

Photo by Piotr Maciuk



- Inscription documenting the fact of entering into the Union in 1569: *Pio[tr] [coat of arms Prus III] Jeżewski /1569/ unia facta est cum ducatus Lytwanie*, carved by hand in the Chapel (next to 203 other preserved inscriptions) Interior of the Holy Trinity Chapel (cover of the stairs leading to the matroneum)
Photo by Piotr Maciuk



- "Union of Lublin" – one of the pictures of Jan Matejko painted to commemorate anniversaries of events important for Polish history; created for 300th anniversary of the Union of Lublin; 298 x 512 cm, oil on canvas, 1869, Warsaw, National Museum, on deposit in District Museum in Lublin



- Union of Lublin Mound in Lvov – erected to commemorate 300th anniversary of the Union, by initiative and with financial support of Franciszek Smolka (+1899), a liberal politician, social activist and parliamentarian. Picture from the turn of 19th and 20th century. Wikimedia

