



Przywilej jedlneńsko-krakowski - Tekst angielski

Władysław II Jagiełło¹ by the grace of God, the King of Poland, and also the Prince of the lands of Cracow, Sandomierz, Sieradz, Łęczyca, Kuyavia, and Lithuania; Lord and heir of Pomerania and Ruthenia, etc.

We do signify by means of this present tenor to all whoever would find this message to be of use that We have meticulously considered the constancy of unstained fidelity and invincible virtue, with which attributes the inhabitants of our Polish Kingdom have merited to please Us in the course of battles and struggles, which under the auspices of the Lord, the guardian of our fortunate successes, We have often and indeed frequently undertaken with a successful outcome, in the defence of ourselves and of this Kingdom sustaining the attacks of foes, and, faithfully indulging our wishes, amidst various perils exposing themselves to a loss of life and detriment to their properties, have with a filial submissiveness everywhere and always been obedient. Taking this into account, and considering also the other merits, which are quite worthy of the gifts of our munificence, and also willing to repay with worthy gifts of royal generosity for their benevolence and the affection of fidelity, which they with such a great sincerity directed towards our sons, the illustrious princes Władysław III Warneńczyk² and Kazimierz IV Jagiellończyk³, for upon our summons, they have consented to conformably and humbly accept either of them, whomever they would recognise as the most apt for exercising royal rule, upon the elapse of our life, as their King, Prince, Lord, and heir of this Kingdom of Poland and of the lands of Lithuania and Ruthenia; which the illustrious Prince, Lord Witold [Sigismund Kerstuthis]⁴, the Grand Duke of Lithuania, our most dear brother, possesses exactly as in the present time, and ought to possess it throughout the duration of his life; and after his passing, these lands are supposed to be transferred unto Us and unto the aforesaid sons of ours, and unto the Crown, by virtue of a true and hereditary succession, as is confirmed by the patent writ executed to this end. And once he come of the appropriate age, they have promised to distinguish him with the crown of the Kingdom and the royal sceptres, as the true and legitimate successor; thus to compensate for the numerous vicissitudes of the pleasing Regal Statutes.

¹ Władysław II Jagiełło (c. 1351–1434), born Jogaila, was the Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland. In 1386, having agreed to baptism, he married Jadwiga of the Anjou dynasty, the monarch of Poland. The marriage initiated a union between Poland and Lithuania that was to last until the end of the 18th century. On July 15, 1410, the Polish-Lithuanian army under Jagiełło's command was victorious over the Teutonic Order in the famous Battle of Grunwald. The outcome of that conflict reinforced the position of Poland in Central Europe, whilst the importance of the Teutonic Order and its state then began to wane.

² Władysław III Warneńczyk (1424–1444), King of Poland and Hungary, was the eldest son of Władysław Jagiełło and his wife Zofia Holszańska (Sophia of Halshany). He fell in battle against the Turks near Varna (Varna).

³ Kazimierz IV Jagiellończyk/Casimir IV Jagiellon (1427–92) was the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. The third son of Władysław II Jagiełło and Sophia of Halshany (Sonka Olshanskaya), he ascended the throne following the death of his brother Władysław (1444). In 1454, Casimir declared war on the Teutonic Order. The fighting was concluded with the signing of a peace treaty in 1466 in Toruń (Thorn), whereby Poland regained Gdańsk Pomerania and Warmia, with the Teutonic state becoming subject to Poland as a fiefdom.

⁴ Witold/Vytautas (c. 1351–1434), baptized Alexander, first-cousin of Władysław II Jagiełło (Jogaila), was Grand Duke of Lithuania. He opposed Jagiełło militarily in their struggle for power in Lithuania, entering to this end into an agreement with the Teutonic Knights. The collapse of his plans for eastward expansion eventually forced him to recognize Jagiełło and Poland as his allies. As a result, Vytautas became the lifelong ruler of Lithuania, where he reigned as Grand Duke in alliance with Poland against the Teutonic Order.



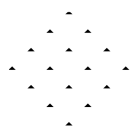
All their rights and privileges, which earlier at our coronation and later, in different circumstances and times, were bestowed upon them, or which were bestowed upon them since ancient times by the other kings and dukes, our predecessors, the rightful heirs of the Kingdom of Poland: by virtue of this present privilege We do ratify, approve, renew, and confirm by the rule of the articles herein written below, owing to which regulation, even if the tenor of the aforesaid privileges has comprised certain incomprehensible items, they shall henceforth acquire a clearer meaning, and all the ambiguities or dubious aspects, resulting wherefrom there usually arises a confounded comprehension of matters, and errors are begotten, shall be rendered absent.

Firstly, it is our will that the Divine dwellings in their entirety, namely, churches, with all of their powers, immunities, and liberties, as well as the boundaries and distinctions of which they have taken advantage in the time of the two or our predecessors, the kings and dukes of Poland, be preserved, in every single kind thereof; whereas, We allow the ecclesiastical and secular dignities of the Kingdom of Poland to persist and permanently endure, upon the strength of the same rights, customs, and liberties that they possessed at the times of the Most Serene Rulers, Lords Kazimierz III Wielki¹, Ludwik Węgierski², and other kings as well as dukes, heirs to the Kingdom of Poland.

Should it occur that any of these dignities be vacant, We shall not entrust or in any other manner offer the same to anyone born in a foreign land, but only to a deserving nobleman preserved in good repute in those lands wherein a dignity of this kind or another public office be vacant; so in the land of Cracow, to an individual native to the land of Cracow; in the land of Sandomierz, to an individual native to the land of Sandomierz; and in Greater Poland, to an individual native to Greater Poland; and, at length, We do grant or confer in like manner for each individual land of the Kingdom of Poland.

¹ Kazimierz III Wielki/Casimir III the Great (1310–70) was the last Polish king of the Piast dynasty. Considered one of the greatest rulers in the country's history, he consolidated the state and considerably expanded its borders. Other achievements to his credit include monetary reform and support for the development of towns, with more than a hundred such hubs incorporated as cities. In his efforts to strengthen the country's defensive potential, Kazimierz had several dozen castles built. In 1356, he established a court in Kraków that applied German law. The Statutes of Wiślica and Piotrków were issued during his reign (in 1357) to impose civil, penal, and procedural law regulations. In 1364 Kazimierz founded an academy in Kraków, later to become the Jagiellonian University. As he left no male child, he was followed as king by Ludwik of Hungary (known in his homeland as Nagy Lajos = Louis the Great), pursuant to the arrangement entered into with the latter in Buda in 1355.

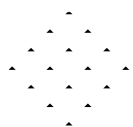
² Ludwik Węgierski/Louis I of Hungary (1326–82), of the Anjou dynasty, was King of Hungary and Poland. He ascended the throne of Poland in 1370, in pursuance to the Treaty of Buda (1355), following the childless death of Kazimierz III Wielki of the Piast dynasty.



With respect to which dignities, ecclesiastical and secular, We shall not, even in the future, send to any person letters of expectation. Also, We should not limit or oppress the aforementioned dignities, whether ecclesiastical or secular, or, without the due consideration of the law, appropriate the possessions, wealth, or rents that are pertinent thereto, whatsoever.

Furthermore, since it quite frequently occurs that the lease-holding of castles and fortresses to individuals from alien families or a foreign nation endangers the Kingdom in itself, and its parts, We thereby and therefore determine that We shall not give, assign, or in any manner whatsoever confer any castle, fortress, or city into the hands of any duke, nor to anybody descendent of a ducal family or any foreign stranger, whether for a certain time or forever; nor shall we, either, appoint any of these people as a starost [Lat., capitaneus] or lease-holder of any such land or region of the aforesaid Kingdom of ours, or cause him to replace anybody else.

Furthermore, We pledge and swear that if, on our command, the nobles of our Kingdom have to transfer themselves beyond the frontiers of our Kingdom in order to repel the attacks of our foes, We shall offer the appropriate remuneration for their captivity and for other significant losses. The nobles verily should, and are absolutely bound to defend the borderlands and the borders of the Kingdom against the attacks and raids of our rivals and enemies, even to the detriment of their property and at their own expense. In case that, indeed, an enemy of our Kingdom should in any manner encroach upon our Kingdom: and fall upon those indigenous knights to undertake a battle against them within the borders of our Kingdom, they will receive a reward only for their captivity, but in case they be truly obliged to do the same beyond our frontiers, We promise to expend the befitting compensation for the losses, if such should occur, and for their captivity.



And, should anyone of our barons, nobles, magnates, be captured, or anyone of those indigenous knights, or anyone of those captured or the captured of no matter what status, condition, or eminence, We hereby promise to him or to those, upon the ones captivated in such a way, that each be given and be paid one coin of sixty, as current in our Kingdom, and receive for Us the stipulated captive beside the citizens, and commoners, whom he or those ones have stipulated, who have brought them, or may have brought, as captives, at the pleasure of their will. § Likewise, in the event that there be an expedite need for our aforesaid indigenous knights to move beyond the frontiers of our Kingdom, or transfer themselves, We shall commit, or hereby have committed, to give, pay, and distribute five grzywnas¹ per each spear; We promise that the same be required for the notable city, in each district thereof, or before the borders of our Kingdom. And truly in the case, or with the passage of time occurring, if in the course of two years as from the time the aforementioned distribution of payment is made, We have not moved forward with the expedition, then those indigenous knights will be absolved from punishment and exempt from the obligation to repay the money and from doing service on account of having received the aforementioned money.

If, however, within the course of these two years We move forward with the expedition and cross with this expedition the frontiers of our Kingdom, the aforementioned indigenous knights will similarly be absolved from the obligation to repay the money and from doing service on account of having received the same. Likewise, We do promise in the name of the aforementioned famous sons of ours that, as one of them with the mercy of God shall be elected king and shall take over the sceptres in the Kingdom of Poland, he shall not be permitted to mint money in the Kingdom of Poland from any precious metal of whatever sort without the consent and special decision from the prelates and the barons; exactly as it was our will that such coins not be minted, unless with their consent and counsel, and We accordingly did not mint them.

¹ The grzywna was a unit of measure used in Poland in both the mediaeval and modern period. In the 14th century it was the equivalent of 196.26g.

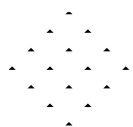


We, moreover, absolve for time perpetual all kmiecie [i.e., peasant serfs], together and singularly, of our indigenous landowners, from all payments, contributions, and exactions, conveyances, coerced labour, horse-means, podwody [i.e., provision of saddle horses for the needs of the ruler or his people], named couriers, encumbrances, transfer payment of rent in grain, vulgarly called 'sep', with the exception of two grosz of the current Polish money, which in the Kingdom of Poland is commonly in circulation, which anyone of the kmiecie of the aforesaid indigenous landowners, shall be obliged in the future to pay each year for each feoff-field [Pol., łany/Lat., laneos] possessed, even if it is possessed by more persons. Village-heads and servants of theirs, whom it is our will to liberate completely, and render exempt from such payment of two grosz, and also millers, inn-keepers, and horticulturists, not having and not cultivating fields, that is, voloks [Pol., włóki] or feoff-fields, integral or medium [i.e., 'half-fields'] ones, shall be to this extent excepted and redeemed, and as of each year in the future at the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel¹ up until the day of St. Nicholas² shall they be contracted to so pay. If, however, the aforesaid millers, or inn-keepers, or horticulturists, were to cultivate an integral feoff of the field: then, they would be contracted to make a payment of two grosz to Us, and if it were verily a medium feoff-field, to make a payment of one grosz in a similar manner with the aforementioned money. For to pay this amount of two grosz in the afore-described money, they had submitted themselves voluntarily at another time before the Most Serene Ruler, Lord Louis, King of Hungary and Poland.

Should, nonetheless, some village have neglected the payment to Us this money at the predetermined time: thereby, our collector, whom We shall appoint in order to collect the amount-due, will have complete authorisation to confiscate from this village one ox for the reason of failure to have paid the amount, and this with no prospect of restitution, using the faculties of every sort to this end. If, verily, within fourteen days from the confiscation of the ox, this village or any other fails to pay the said money: thereby, our collector should, in a similar fashion, with no anticipation of restitution, receive and remove two oxen.

¹ The feast of St. Michael the Archangel is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church on September 29.

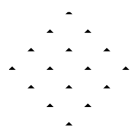
² St. Nicholas's Day is on December 6.



Also, the abovementioned collector of the said money may not demand or remove anything by virtue of the official note (which is called *napisne*): and, nonetheless, this he ought to acknowledge in his writ, that the *kmiecie* have paid the amount due. And, as concerns the old cities and the new ones that have been founded during our reign, We hereby ordain thus: that if any citizen or townsman lives in the city with his spouse, children, and family-servants, and either himself or though his horticulturist or farmer cultivates fields, he shall not be obliged to make payment of the aforesaid of *poradlne* [hoeing tax]; yet if he should live outside a provincial burg or city, he will be liable to the said payment of *poradlne*: as if he lived in a village, even though he may have prescribed that he come under the law and jurisdiction of the town or city, or incur expenses therewith.

We do, furthermore, solemnly vow: that in no land or the whole of the Kingdom of Poland do We intend to establish justitionaries¹ or elect deputies of same, in any manner whatsoever. We moreover do promise: to firmly and inviolably observe for time perpetual, and to uphold, every single of the articles and clauses not tainted by the error of falsity and included in the privileges granted to churches, the indigenous landowners and cities by our predecessors, the Serenest Rulers, Lords Casimir and Louis, and all the other kings and dukes, heirs, by rightful succession, to the Kingdom of Poland, particularly those clauses which have regard for our benefit and profit and the aforesaid Kingdom of Poland and its inhabitants. We further pledge: that our stoppages, supervisions, or descents into cities, villages, or domains, courts, manors and farmsteads of churches, nobility, and our indigenous landowners shall never be effected. If, indeed, casually, on account of necessity or opportunity, it falls upon us to make a stoppage in the estates, cities, castles or manors of churches, nobility, We thereby shall ensure that nothing be received by force or by violence and we will not allow anything to be received in any way other than by purchasing with our own money everything that we may need.

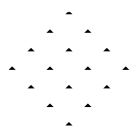
¹ This term (Latin, *iustitionarii*) denotes trusted officials pursuing offences that pose a threat to public order and/or who are commissioned to pursue specific cases.



We moreover promise and swear that no landowner possessing a landed property be imprisoned for misdemeanours or faults, and We shall not issue an arrest order against him; and We shall not at all punish him, unless the court in a judicious manner has proved his guilt and if the Judges of the land wherein the landowner resides have delivered him into our hands, or those of our starosts. However, a man who is apprehended upon stealing or committing any other public crime, (such as, namely, arson, murder with malice aforethought, rape of maids and maidens, ravaging and looting villages): and similarly those who are not willing to pay the necessary bail as appropriate to the greatness of the misdemeanour or fault, shall be exceptions to the foregoing. § Also, none of the goods or possessions of anyone shall be confiscated: unless he be presented to Us by duly authorised Judges, or our Barons, as a man condemned by the court. We do also promise that we shall not refuse to offer compensation to all the landowners seeking redress and requesting for a *granitnia* [sc. separation] of his goods and legacies.

We further pledge: that all of the lands of our Kingdom of Poland, also including the lands of Ruthenia, save however for the contribution of oats (which until the end of our life, Ruthenia alone shall attend), be rendered reduced to one duty and one law common to all the lands: and by means of this present tenor, We do render the same equal, made one, and united.

Further, bearing in mind that our said landowners and inhabitants of our Kingdom because of their favourable disposition towards our Majesty themselves derogated, at some time or other, the privileges granted thereto by Us and by our predecessors: We hereby reintegrate, restore those privileges received from Us, and from our predecessors, the kings and dukes, and the legitimate and real heirs of the aforesaid Kingdom of Poland, their original state: and We do confirm, ratify, and declare, by means of the patronage herein written, and by the force of the same declare that these privileges preserve their enduring strength upon a perpetual basis.



Furthermore, should any landowners or whoever else of the other inhabitants of the aforesaid Kingdom of Poland during contention at courts wish to reach agreement in any case, We shall liberate them, and absolved, from any fines due to us or to judges and deputy judges, voivodes [palatines], and Castellans. We further promise that we shall not allow anyone to collect fines from the nobles, which We might have imposed thereupon by means of litigation, but we shall collect the same by ourselves or through our Starosts, or officials: and the fines collected will be used in accordance with our wishes.

Also, all the inhabitants of the lands of Kuyavia and Dobrzyń who once offered us duties in oats shall be obliged to pay the same to Us only for ten years, with the elapse of which time they will be completely liberated from these oats duties.

Likewise, landed notaries, appointed to the Office of Notariate, ought always to take their place in court in person and not make use of others, either sub-scribes, or deputies, whenever this be possible; otherwise they would be permitted to have substitutes, who ought, however, to be presented as substitutes to the barons, and judges of the lands wherein they hold office: they must also enjoy a good reputation and have the approval of the said barons and judges for the office thereby approved; if this be not the case, We will have to entrust these duties to others, more suitable, skillful and persistent. Apart from troublesome reasons, no trivial reason will be able to excuse the absence of the Notaries. For authorisation of this ordinance, the seal of our Majesty has been attached hereto. Done at Cracow, on the Friday within the Octave of the Epiphany of the Lord, in the year of Our Lord one-thousand four-hundred and thirty-three.



In the presence of the Fathers Reverend in Christ, the Distinguished, Eminent, and Noble Ones: Albert [Wojciech Jastrzębiec], Archbishop of the Saint Holy Church of Gniezno, and Primate; Zbigniew of Cracow, Bishop; John of Włocławek, John of Chełm, Bishops. Mikołaj of Michałów, Castellan and Starost; Piotr Szafraniec of Sandomierz, Jan of Licheń, at Brześć, Jarand of Grabie, at Włocławek, Palatines [resp. voivodes]; Piotr of Bujno, at Gniezno, Wawrzyniec Zaręba [vel Zaremba] of Sieradz, Albert [Wojciech] Malski of Łeczyca, Dobiesław of Oleśnica, at Wojnicz, Krystyn of Kozięłowy, at Sącz, Domarat of Kobylany, at Biecz, Krystyn of Brzeźno, Jan of Kretkowo, at Dobrzyń, Warskiusz of Samborzec, at Zawichost, Paweł Słodczy of Małogoszcz, Stanisław Gamrat of Połaniec, Paszko of Gosławice, at Konary, Stanisław of Gozdna, at Brześć, Castellans; Jan of Oleśnica, Marshal of our Kingdom of Poland, Piotr of Pieskowa-Skała, at Cracow, Piotr Korczbork of Poznan, Stanisław Bielawski of Łeczyca, Stanisław S[ę]czkowski of Włocławek, Andrzej of Lublin, at Dobrzyń, Treasurers, Chamberlains of our Kingdom of Poland; Paweł of Bogumiłowice, at Cracow, Jan of Sprowa, at Sandomierz, Abrah[a]m of Sbażyń [i.e. Zbażyń], at Poznan, Piotr of Widawa, at Sieradz, Mikołaj Słup of Dobrzyń, Judges; Stanisław of Charbniowice [i.e. Charbinowice], at Sandomierz; Żegota of Mojkowice, at Sieradz, Aleksy of Dobrzyń, Mikołaj of Kościelec, at Bydgoszcz, Standard-Bearers. Piotr Strykowski, Cup-Bearer of Łeczyca, Sigismund Bobowski of Cracow, Zawisza of Oleśnica [‘the Red’] at Sandomierz, Sub-judges [sc. deputy judges], and the other Soldiers established in the Parliament-General, or the Convention [resp. Assembly]. Done through the hands of the aforesaid Reverend Father, Lord John, Bishop of Włocławek, Chancellor of the Kingdom of Poland, and the Venerable Vladislaus of Oporów, Doctor of Decrees [i.e., Canon Law], Dean of Cracow, Protonotary of the Apostolic See, and Vice-Chancellor of the same Kingdom. Translated © by Tristan Korecki, Philip Earl Steele