

## **Przywilej koszycki - Tłumaczenie angielskie**

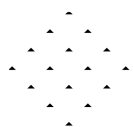
In the name of the Lord. Amen.

Since matters pertaining to princes should be passed on to future generations flawless, and any acknowledgements, freedoms, liberties, privileges, documents to be used should be granted forever, we, Louis, by the grace of God, the Hungarian, Polish, Dalmatian etc. king, want everybody – now and in future – to know that:

With goodwill and due concern about good condition and strength of our Kingdom of Poland, did we put the noblemen of this Kingdom under the obligation to elect, after we will have left this world, to the Polish throne our male only and not female descendants as our heirs and successors, in exchange for the promise of documents, that is privileges. Then, with the consent and will of lords, noblemen and all the others, should there be no male descendants, those of our daughters, with regard to whom there is a consent that they would be our heirs and receive the crown of the Kingdom of Poland, shall be willingly accepted as lords and successors of the Kingdom.

In case we have, by divine providence's grace, a son or sons, one of them – and should be there no sons, one of our daughters, already born and alive or to be born in future, whom we or our beloved highnesses: mother and spouse shall appoint for them – shall be considered by lords, noblemen, burghers and any other residents of the Kingdom of Poland our heir and successor, and they shall be received, as it was under the subjects' commitment taken pursuant to our will, with regard to those our descendants, that is, shall be considered the actual master and our successor.

Should this son or this daughter, which better not happen, leave this world childless, then our other son or other daughter shall succeed in this Kingdom of Poland, and he or she shall receive the subjects' commitment and a promise that he or she would be considered lord, heir and legitimate successor and that their descendants would be granted reign in the Kingdom of Poland.



Since as a result of such events, the Kingdom crown could be divided, broken or violated in any way, we promise in good faith, without any stealth and betrayal, under our faithful oath, to preserve our Kingdom crown in whole and intact and not to detach any parts or lands and not to whittle it away. On the contrary – we are going to expand it and acquire new lands for the crown, as we undertook under oath during our enthronement.

Since the said noblemen, in their special love to us, accepted, as said, our female offspring the same as our male offspring to be their princes and lords, to reward them, with our special grace, for their merits, faithfulness and goodwill, which they proved to us and our children of both sexes in their oaths of fidelity and which they are ready to take in future, in a proper place and time, if God allows, and thus we absolve all cities, towns, estates, villages, residents of the countries across the whole Kingdom of Poland that belong to lords and all noblemen of the obligation to pay any tributes, taxes and fees, both general and specific, whatever their name is, and we want them to be absolved, freed and excused of any services, works, burdens and supplies involving both people and objects.

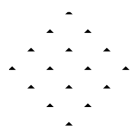
It will be enough for us and our successors to be paid, once a year, on St. Martin's day (11 November), two grosz in ordinary coins circulated in the Kingdom of Poland, out of which forty-eight is for the Polish grzywna on every field – settled and held – or its part, to demonstrate the highest reign and recognition of the crown of the Kingdom of Poland.

We make a reservation that should the Kingdom be invaded by an enemy from anywhere, the crown noblemen are to arrive with all their strength to reverse its menace.

Should, during the reign of ours or of our successors, an expedition outside the boundaries of the Kingdom of Poland be needed and should, during this expedition, Polish noblemen, in our presence or not, have to battle against or encounter any enemies, as a result of which they are taken captive and suffer bigger or smaller damages in objects or people, we shall pay total compensation to them.

Should any of the old castles need repair, in times of peace, a burgrave or tenant and keeper shall be obliged to repair it.

However, should a war or any kind of turmoil start, the repair and rebuilding of our towns located on borderlands are to be assisted by the local people residing in cities where the castles are located.



If, however, following the advice and approval from lords, we want to build a new castle for the sake of defence and for the benefit of the Kingdom, those lords are to support us in the building of that castle; should we, however, want to build it without knowledge and approval of those noblemen and lords, we will do it at our exclusive expense and for our money.

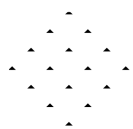
We promise that such positions and dignities, as: voivodeship, castellany, judge's or chamberlain's positions etc., which are usually granted for life, shall not be awarded to any foreigners or newcomers but they shall only be granted to landowners of those lands of the Kingdom, where those dignities or positions empty.

And we want to preserve their rights to all those positions and dignities, together and separately, as it used to be in times of their majesties, Polish kings, Władysław, our grandfather, and Casimir, our uncle.

Moreover, we promise that no master, knight or nobleman or any other person of any social standing, casual newcomer that is a foreigner, will be nominated a starost, but that only the one can be nominated who was born in the Polish crown and originates from the Polish nation, if only he does not descend from a ducal family.

We promise not to give in administration or tenancy, temporarily or perpetually, any castle or fortress in the Kingdom of Poland to any prince or person descending from a ducal family.

We also promise that castles and towns of our Kingdom, where offices and judicial capitals, such as: Cracow, Biecz, Sącz, Wiślica, Wojnicz on the Cracow land, Sandomierz, Zawichost, Lublin, Sieciechów, Łuków, Radom on the Sandomierz land; the Łęczyca castle on the Łęczyca land; Sieradz and Piotrków on the Sieradz land; Brześć, Kruszwica, Inowrocław on the Kujawy land; Poznań, Międzyrzec, Zbąszyn, Kalisz, Nakło, Konin and Pyzdry in Greater Poland are located, will not be given to any other persons than landowners or starosts of this Kingdom.



Any other castles, however, can be awarded by us and our successors to foreigners or any person we want.

We make a reservation that burgraves or administrators of those castles and their people, shall appear, when summoned, in front of starosts, judges and assistant judges of our Kingdom, just as other noblemen and other people from the Kingdom of Poland, and be liable towards those who complain against them.

We allow an exception when a case requires the vengeance of blood and we leave such a case to be considered for us and our successors only.

Should we or our successors travel across this Kingdom, we would not stay at any masters', knights', noblemen's, their people's or peasants' houses, against their will and we would not demand anything from them because of such stay. In case we are not able to avoid the stop, we will order any food and other needs to be satisfied at our expense and paid with our money.

Finally, we promise to preserve the liberties for all the masters, magnates, noblemen, cities, towns, villages and their estates, people and peasants and not to restrain them in anything and not to order anyone to exert any pressure on them.

And any other letters, decisions, agreements and documents issued, on the one hand, by us and our predecessors, and by the said masters and noblemen on the other, which would directly or indirectly limit the succession of our daughters in this Kingdom of Poland and permissions of those masters and noblemen shall be cancelled, destroyed, annulled by us and considered cancelled, destroyed, void and non-existent, with the intent that they are null and void and with the intent that this privilege shall last forever. As an evident proof and endless force of the above, we ordered to attest this letter with the authority of our seal.

Performed and given in Koszyce, on 17 September in the year of Our Lord 1374, in the thirty-third year of our reign.

(Przywilej Ludwika Węgierskiego dla szlachty [The privilege awarded to noblemen by King Louis I of Hungary] [in:] Historia państwa i prawa Polski, Wybór źródeł X-XX wiek, ed. L. Grochowski, A. Misiuk, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warmińsko-Mazurskiego, Olsztyn, 2003, pp. 26-29)