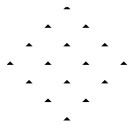


Złota Hramota - Tekst angielski (wersja B)

Having stood up together with Poland and Lithuania against Muscovite rule in order to gain eternal liberty and happiness for all our Homeland, we declare before God, the whole world and the nation that we want no other happiness for our dear Homeland and do not seek it in anything else but in freedom, liberty, equality and the happiness of all people, regardless of their religion or estate. And desiring the most happiness for the rural people, we decide for all time: 1. The rural people in noble-owned and government villages and hamlets, *odnodvortsy*, tenants and so-called free people from this day on are truly free, unconstrained and equal in their rights to other citizens of the Homeland. 2. They may and have the right to move from place to place as they please and no one shall hinder them. 3. They may and have the right to study in all the schools and to be in national service on a par with other citizens of the Homeland. 4. All land held by any landholder thus far, whether a peasant from a noble-owned or government village, an *odnodvoret*, or a rent-paying noble, together with its gardens, residential and farm buildings and the rights and privileges attached to it, shall from now on be the exclusive and hereditary property of its holder, without any obligations, tributes, *socage* or rent, the only condition being that he pay the due taxes and perform the requisite national [military] service. The heirs shall be compensated from the national treasury for their land.



5. The National Government shall set a monetary salary for rural Orthodox priests, in addition to land and construction funds, so that they do not need donations and payments from the people for their clerical services. 6. Forest workers, landless peasants, cottagers, those employed at the manor, ex-soldiers and all citizens sustaining themselves only on what they earn, who shall take arms with us against Muscovite rule and come out either unscathed or wounded, shall receive at least 3 morgens of land from the crown lands.

7. By giving the rural people the above rights of freedom, civic equality for all towards all, and landed property, we guarantee and promise forever the freedom of rights, the religion one adheres to, and the use of one's own language in schools, courts and other land offices. By proclaiming all of the above to the rural people of Podolia, Volhynia, and Ukraine, we vow to preserve and defend the rights granted in this Writ before God Almighty, the whole world, and the nation. May there be happiness and peace for us and for all of our own from now on until the end of time! In recommending the lot of the nation to God's care, we give this Writ to the peasant administration on every estate.

Translated © by Jerzy Giebułtowski