

450 LAT UNII BELSKIEJ



450 YEARS
OF THE UNION
OF LUBLIN

1569 ★ 2019



JAN MATEJKO
The Union of Lublin, 1869
oil on canvas (fragment)

deposited in the Lublin
Museum in Lublin by
the National Museum
in Warsaw

The painting was commissioned in 1869 for the 300th anniversary of the Union of Lublin. It is not a faithful representation of the 16th-century events but rather a painterly vision and a conscious historiosophical narrative on the common Polish-Lithuanian-Ruthenian past. Jan Matejko immortalised the moment of swearing in. The scene takes place inside Lublin Castle, and the hall is fashioned after the Wawel Castle interiors.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

2019 marks the celebration of 450 years of the Union of Lublin. To emphasise the central character of this anniversary, the Polish parliament resolved that 2019 would be named the Year of the Union of Lublin.

It was in Lublin where as early as in the 16th century Polish and Lithuanian unionists showed their appreciation to the values and ideas that would later lay the foundations of the European Union. Through the Act of the Union of Lublin, the city is thought to have become a source of what contemporary Europe is: a mosaic of many nations and cultures. Thanks to our 2019 celebrations, Lublin will be afforded the opportunity to remind the world of its central role in shaping the European commonwealth of nations.

Another extraordinary jubilee this year is 15 years since Poland's entry in the European Union. Our motto for this exceptional year, "From the Union of Lublin to the European Union," comes from Saint Pope John Paul II. Guided by these words, we wish to take this opportunity to demonstrate that the legacy and experience of the Union of Lublin can help build the future of the European Union.

You are all welcome to join our celebrations!

Dr Krzysztof Żuk
Mayor of Lublin

Lublin in 1618: a view of the city of Lublin
by Hogenberg and Braun



The Union of Lublin formed in 1569 was a multidimensional event which affected the political and social situation in our part of Europe for many years ahead. The established Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was a bold attempt to build a lasting order in relations between various nations, cultures, and religions. Sitting at the junction of commercial and political routes connecting the most important cities of the united state, Lublin enjoyed a status of one of major transformations hubs of the time.

On the one hand, the Union of Lublin was a lesson of political realism and the demanding skill of building trust and understanding over dividing lines; on the other hand, over the years, it assumed a symbolic meaning as an example of building the unity of “free with free, equal with equal.” With this end in view, the allegoric figures of Polonia and Lithuania shaking hands, as depicted on the Monument of the Union of Lublin, created a space of freedom and respect for the law. Perhaps, this very aspect of the Union of Lublin helped treasure its memory through the dissolution of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the time of Partitions and the turbulent 20th century.

The awareness of the significance of the 1569 events became an important element of the identity of Lublin and its residents. Hence, the first monument erected shortly after the act of union. According to tradition, it marked the camping site of the Lithuanian nobility arriving in the parliamentary assembly. This fact is reflected in today’s name of the central city square. The new monument of 1826, built thanks to the commitment of Stanisław Staszic, quickly turned into one of the symbols of Lublin: a meeting point and site of patriotic gatherings and demonstrations, also evoking the grandness of the late Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the political wisdom of its people.

450 years later, however, it is worth reflecting on more than just the legends. We must revisit the idea of the union and take a fresh look at these events from a historical perspective, also taking into account the position of all nations that today dwell in the lands of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. We should feel compelled to investigate the various consequences of the year 1569 over and over again and rethink and recall its heritage.

The programme, “From the Union of Lublin to the European Union,” designed for this special jubilee covers dozens of cultural events, concerts, exhibitions, performances, and conferences scattered throughout the year. The main celebrations are scheduled for the period from 1 May to 1 July 2019 and cover two important anniversaries: 15 years of Poland’s entry in the European Union (1 May) and 450 years of forming the Union of Lublin (1 July). The organisation is a shared effort of Lublin’s sister cities, local schools and universities as well as many scientific and cultural institutions at home and abroad.

450 Years of the Union of Lublin: the Programme

From the Union of Lublin to the European Union

SELECTED EVENTS

SEZON LUBLIN / 26 April - 5 May

over 100 events with the spotlight on the historic Union of Lublin, including: thematic walks, bicycle tours, artistic and culinary workshop, sightseeing.

ORGANISER: City of Lublin / sezon.lublin.eu

THE FEAST OF TWO UNIONS / 1-5 May

- **UNION IN PLAC LITEWSKI**

– 15th anniversary of Poland's entry in the European Union – a family picnic, games, performances, concerts and **OPEN DAYS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS**

- **CONCERT OF THE LUBLIN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA IN PLAC LITEWSKI / 1 May**

Polish and Lithuanian compositions and "Ode to Joy" (the Anthem of Europe)

- inauguration of **THE MULTIMEDIA FOUNTAIN SHOWS** in Plac Litewski / 3 May

première show inspired by the history and heritage of the Union of Lublin
ORGANISER: City of Lublin

TWO UNIONS CONGRESS / 13-15 May

Discussions, conferences, meetings.

- **THE FEAST OF TWO UNIONS: FROM THE UNION OF LUBLIN TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

– a session of the European Heritage Label held by the Office of the Municipal Conservator of Monuments / 13-14 May

- **COMMUNITY AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

– a conference organized by the Faculty of Political Sciences, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University / 15 May

- **LUBLIN IN THE TIME OF THE UNION**

– a session held by the Regional Conservator of Monuments / 15 May

FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP / 23 May - 11 June

A great sports celebration in Lublin as one of the host cities to the football championship.

FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS OF LUBLIN'S SISTER CITIES / 30 May - 1 June

A convention of choirs from Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine.

ORGANISER: City of Lublin, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Henryk Wieniawski Lublin Philharmonic House

NIGHT OF CULTURE IN LUBLIN / 1/2 June

and **Night of Culture in Vilnius / 15/16 June**

A showcase of Lithuanian artists in Lublin from Vilnius, Kaunas (European Capital of Culture 2022), Panevėžys (Lublin's sister city) and more, followed by a return visit of Lublin artists at the Culture Night in Vilnius.

ORGANISER: Workshops of Culture in Lublin

LUBLIN CITY-AND-UNION GAME WITH THE POLISH SCOUTING ASSOCIATION / 8 June

A meeting of scouts from Poland and Lithuania.

ORGANISER: PSA Lublin Troop

THE UNION IN DISTRICTS - June-July

The project covers several artistic events across a number of districts of Lublin.

ORGANISER: Culture Centre in Lublin

FESTIVAL OF LUBLIN LEGENDS / 14-15 June

The Old Town Market becomes a scene for reenactments, music and theatre activities that bring back the ambience of old Lublin.

ORGANISER: City of Lublin

INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL / 21-23 June

The city is bound to be possessed by dance, music, theatre and old juggling tricks, including with the banners of the Jagiellonian period.

ORGANISER: Belriguardo Foundation: a window to history and arts

EAST OF CULTURE: DIFFERENT SOUNDS

ART'N'MUSIC FESTIVAL / 27-30 June

The festival attracts the most inspiring artists representing various genres, traditions, and cultural influences.

ORGANISER: Workshops of Culture in Lublin

CELEBRATING THE UNION / 28 June - 4 July

Concerts of early and contemporary music; joint performance of "Te Deum Laudamus"; spectacular shows and mediaeval reenactments; tours of sites related to the Union of Lublin.

UNION OF LUBLIN DAY / 1 July

Official celebration: Holy Mass at the Dominican Basilica and the Ceremonial Sitting of the Lublin City Council. An afternoon family picnic followed by a multimedia show in the evening.

ORGANISER: City of Lublin

UT UNUM SINT CONGRESS / 4-7 July

An international convention of children's choirs.

ORGANISER: Polish Pueri Cantores Federation

FESTIVAL OF TWO NATIONS / 5-7 July

A meeting of folklore groups from Poland and Lithuania and the former Polish eastern borderlands.

ORGANISER: Wanda Kaniorowa Lublin Song and Dance Ensemble

CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN TRAILS OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN SEJM / 14-17 July

A convention held by the West-East Union of Trails.

ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

MONUMENTS CONSERVATION AWARDS 2019 / 17 April

Announcement of the winners in the 20th the Regional Open Conservation Competition.

26TH ALL-POLAND FESTIVAL OF CITY BUGLE CALLS / 15 August

ORGANISER: National Association of Aficionados of City Bugle Calls in Lublin

JAGIELLONIAN FAIR / 16-18 August

The idea of the fair is rested on the Lublin fairs of the early 15th century.

ORGANISER: Workshops of Culture in Lublin

EUROPEAN FESTIVAL OF TASTE: FOCUS ON LITHUANIA / 2-8 September

A showcase of the Lithuanian, Polish and European cuisine. Concerts, meetings with poets, performances, and exhibitions.

ORGANISER: Borderland Academy of Taste

20TH GENERAL CONGRESS OF POLISH HISTORIANS / 18-20 September

Discussions and meetings of Polish and foreign scientists; reflections on major turning points in history. 20 September will see a **reconstruction of the feast** that followed the signature of the Act of the Union of Lublin.

ORGANISER: Polish Historical Society, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, State Archives in Lublin.

EASTERN EUROPE INITIATIVES CONGRESS / 23-24 September

Eastern European politicians gather to discuss: 450 years of the Union of Lublin, 10 years of Poland's participation in the Eastern Partnership and 15 years of Poland's presence in the European Union.

ORGANISER: City of Lublin

LUBLIN CRAFTS WEEK / 29 September - 6 October

A conference, concerts, meetings, exhibitions and presentations of Lublin's crafts.

ORGANISER: Chamber of Crafts and Entrepreneurship

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

UNION OF LUBLIN AT SCHOOL / from 25 February

Classes devoted to the significance of the Union of Lublin following a scenario designed by the teachers of Union of Lublin No. 3 High School in Lublin. The scenario is available at unia.lublin.eu.

UNION OF LUBLIN AT KINDERGARTENS / all-year programme

A special programme intended for preschoolers closing with a great EU gala prepared by Lublin-based kindergartens.

UNDERGROUND ROUTE FORUM / 8-10 March

A regular meeting of cities operating underground tourist routes and facilities in Poland.

PUPPETRY UNION OF LUBLIN

An exhibition of puppets inspired by Jan Matejko's *Union of Lublin* held at the Józef Czechowicz Literary Museum in Lublin; a follow-up presentation in elementary schools and kindergartens in the city.

OUTDOOR PUPPET SHOW OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN

A unique alfresco production intended for the youngest Lubliners.

ORGANISER: Hans Christian Andersen Theatre

EDUCATIONAL WEBSITE DEVOTED TO THE UNION OF LUBLIN and *THE UNION OF LUBLIN PRIMER*

A website covering topics related to the Union of Lublin and envisaged as an educational source. The website content will be supplemented with the book, *The Union of Lublin Primer*.

ORGANISER: Grodzka Gate - NN Theatre Centre

A SERIES OF OPEN LECTURES, THE UNION OF LUBLIN AND ITS TRADITIONS / February-December

A series of open lectures at the Hieronim Łopaciński Regional Public Library.

LUBLIN IN IMAGES: 450 YEARS OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN

A workshop and photography competition for students.

ORGANISER: Union of Lublin No. 3 High School in Lublin

JOIN THE FESTIVITIES!

The programme of the 450th anniversary of the Union of Lublin is open and is being co-created with the city residents.

450 YEARS OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN: A COMPETITION OF RESIDENTS' INITIATIVES

Residents are invited to submit projects and initiatives.

ORGANISER: KreAdukcja Foundation for Educational Action.

MUNICIPAL YOUTH ACTIVATOR: 450 YEARS OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN

The programme is expected to attract youth aged 14-18 who will get engaged in teamwork to design and implement projects related to this year's anniversary.

ORGANISER: Sempre a Frente Foundation.

DISTRICTS OF CULTURE: A GRANT AND MICRO-GRANT PROGRAMME

The programme is expected to enrich the cultural and social life in the city's districts. Projects are accepted on 1 April 2019. dzielnicekultury.lublin.eu.

The complete jubilee programme is available at:

unia.lublin.eu

EUROPEAN HERITAGE LABEL



This recognition is awarded to material and non-material sites and items of symbolic significance for Europe's history and cultural heritage. It is seen as a lasting reminder of the shared political reality and memory of the continent.

Pursuant to the decision by the international team of experts of the European Commission, on 10 March 2015, the City of Lublin was awarded the European Heritage Label as the site of the Union of Lublin: a remarkable symbol of peaceful and democratic integration of two ethnically and religiously diverse nations. The idea of the union is represented by the monuments preserved in the Lublin

landscape that witnessed the preparation and conclusion of the act of unification: the Holy Trinity Chapel at Lublin Castle, the Monument to the Union of Lublin, and Saint Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Basilica and Dominican Monastery.



THE HOLY TRINITY CHAPEL AT LUBLIN CASTLE

The Holy Trinity Chapel at Lublin Castle is ranked among the most valuable reminders of Polish and European mediaeval art. It is the holder of the European Heritage Label.

The chapel was erected by King Casimir III the Great, and its vault and interior are adorned with magnificent Ruthenian-Byzantine frescoes sponsored by King Ladislaus II Jagiello. It is a Europe-unique testimony of mutual permeation of Eastern and Western cultures: a Roman Catholic temple is decorated with the effigies of the Fathers of the Orthodox Church. The structure is located on the premises of the former royal castle where, according to tradition, the final shape of the Union of Lublin was discussed.



SAINT STANISLAUS BISHOP AND MARTYR BASILICA AND DOMINICAN MONASTERY

The basilica is one of the most valuable sacred structures in Lublin. The church and monastery were founded in 1342 by King Casimir III the Great. In 1596 the church witnessed the signature of the Act of the Union of Lublin, followed by a thanksgiving service attended by King Sigismund II Augustus. Back then, the Dominican temple was already noted for its relics of the Holy Cross of remarkable size. There are numerous amazing and miraculous events connected with the presence of the relics in Lublin. The legend has it that an outdoor procession with the reliquary saved the city from a devastating fire in 1719. Unfortunately, the relics were stolen from the church in 1991. The Dominican monastery complex in Lublin has been awarded the European Heritage Label. Almost the entire complex is open to visitors, including the painting gallery and the treasury.

MONUMENT TO THE UNION OF LUBLIN

The monument sits in the heart of Plac Litewski and marks the traditional camping site of the deputies to the Lublin parliamentary assembly of 1569. In adjacent Krakowskie Przedmieście, during the assembly, Duke Albrecht II Frederick Hohenzollern of Prussia paid homage to king Sigismund II Augustus of Poland. The scene was immortalised by Jan Kochanowski in his poem, *The Banner of Prussian Homage*. The first monument is traditionally thought to have been erected during the reign of King Sigismund II Augustus. The present-day monument, which is a cast-iron obelisk on a pedestal, was erected in 1826 on the initiative of the Friends of Science Society and Stanisław Staszic to replace the original structure demolished in between 1819 and 1820. The front part of the pedestal is decorated with a gilded relief with an image of allegorical figures donning ancient robes and exchanging a handshake. These are Polonia and Lithuania who make the act of union of two great and multinational European states, Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, come into effect. The other side of the pedestal reveals a gilded inscription explaining the meaning of the front image, "Unification of Lithuania with the Crown." The Monument of the Union of Lublin is a meaningful symbol of the multicultural and multi-religious history of Lublin and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.





“This city has its historic significance: it is not only the significance of the Union of Lublin, but of everything that establishes the historical, cultural, ethical, and religious context of that union. This is the whole historical process of the encounter of the West and East. Their mutual attraction and rejection. Rejection and attraction again. This process is a greater part of our entire history. We can even say that all our history is at the heart of this process... Thus, the matter that the city of Lublin is attached to symbolically... has not only a Polish but also European dimension. It is a universal dimension, indeed.”

Saint John Paul II in his speech to the members of the academia delivered during the meeting at the Catholic University of Lublin on 9 June 1987.



“The relevance of the Union of Lublin is now reflected in the European Union which is looking for its roots in the civic and federal traditions of our continent. The Union of Lublin, which was for long ignored or underestimated, is one of the very important manifestations of this tradition, one of the key predecessors of the present-day Union.”

Professor Jerzy Kłoczowski, *Unia Lubelska. Lublin miasto unii*, 1999 - a book published on the 430 anniversary of the Act of the Union of Lublin.



ACT OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN

On 1 July 1569, the councillors and deputies of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania renew the union with the Polish Crown during the general assembly (General Sejm) convened in Lublin. From then on, the united state, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, has one jointly elected monarch, one parliament, one army, common foreign policy and a single currency.

Act of the Union of Lublin – the original copy in the Polish language; a parchment document: 72 x 45 cm + 10 cm. The invocation is written in square capitals. It has 77 signatory seals on it attached on 47 plaited cords.

The original is deposited at the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, Parchment Collection, ref. number 5627.



Detailed information
and the programme can be found at:

unia.lublin.eu

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