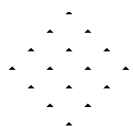


Dyplom założenia Uniwersytetu w Krakowie - Tekst angielski

In the name of the Lord. Amen. We, Kazimierz¹, by the grace of God king of Poland, etc., fervently desiring for useful things and human prosperity to grow, and having no doubt that it will benefit the clergy and the subjects of our Kingdom, have decided to assign and arrange a place in the city of Cracow for the flourishing of a studium generale, and by this writ wish to ensure its future existence for all days to come. Let it be a pearl of diverse sciences, let it turn out excellent men of mature council, brilliant with the gem of virtue and fluent in different skills; let a refreshing spring emerge, and may all those who desire to drink of knowledge draw from its fullness. Let all those who dwell not only in our Kingdom but also in the adjacent countries, and others from different parts of the world, whoever wishes to use this all-famous pearl of wisdom, come freely and safely to the city of Cracow. To all in general and to each man separately we vow and promise in good faith to keep intact and to enforce the articles signed below and to be a good lord in particular to rectors of the university, doctors, masters, scholars, scribes, booksellers, beadles, and their households, who would come to the said city for the university and settle there; and so we wish to defend and to look after all and each as well as [maintain] the rights, privileges, freedoms, statutes and all other customs followed at the Bologna and Padua studia generalia. To begin, all those coming to the university or returning from it shall pay no customs, tolls or fees at any of the passages, bridges, strongholds or guarded checkpoints in the Kingdom, but may pass freely and safely with all their possessions, horses, books, robes, linen, money and household items. Also, should the parents or friends of a scholar wish to provide him with food or drink, all such things are to be allowed into the city of Cracow without paying duty, and the butchers or anyone else shall not hinder it in any way.

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.

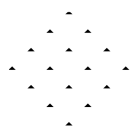


The bakers who bake the scholars' bread and the millers who grind their grain, let them not dare take more from them than what they usually receive from the inhabitants of Cracow. Moreover, should (God forbid) any of our subjects openly or secretly rob any of the scholars or their servants of their horses, money or possessions within the boundaries of our Kingdom, we shall be obliged to compensate the loss as soon as a complaint has been brought before us and to pursue the wrongdoer and deal with him according to law. We have so far set up schools to read canon and civil law, the medical sciences and the liberal arts, and we are assigning befitting houses for doctors, masters, scholars, scribes, booksellers and beadles. We hereby order these houses to be appraised by two citizens and two scholars, and the tax [rent] never to be increased. If, however, these houses become damaged over time, their owners shall be obliged to renovate them annually at their own cost. We also want the scholars to have their own rector who would adjudicate between them in civil matters and have ordinary jurisdiction over those coming to Cracow to study. Everyone shall thus take an oath before the rector and obey him.

Let no one dare summon a doctor, master, scholar, beadle or bookseller before a religious or secular court on any civil matter, on pain of a fine of 10 grzywny of Prague grosze¹, which fine the said person shall be liable to pay for doing so; such fines shall go into the scholars' treasury.

No one may appeal the rulings of the rector. And if they do, no church or secular judge shall accept the appeal, but the decisions of the rector shall be strictly enforced. Moreover, the rector should prosecute his scholars in minor criminal matters, for example for beatings or if a scholar residing in Cracow to study injures someone till they bleed by pulling their hair or striking them with the hand or fist.

¹ The Prague grosz (Pol. grosz praski, Lat. grossus pragensis) was a silver coin introduced in Poland in the fourteenth century, weighing about 4 g. The grzywna was a unit of measure worth 48 grosze (around 196 g of silver).



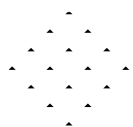
But if (and may this not come to pass) a scholar or any of the others named should be caught red-handed committing theft or any other major crime, these offences shall not be examined by the rector but, if the guilty one is a clergyman, let him be sent to the bishops' court immediately, and if he is a layman, he shall be subject to our jurisdiction. But if a lay scholar, beadle, bookseller or any of their servants are charged with murder, cutting off members, inflicting a fatal wound, or any other foul misdeed, they shall be tried not according to the native custom or statutes but according to Roman law¹, by us or by a judge we have appointed. The accused should be permitted to clear himself of the charge through the testimony of honest people. If a scholar or any of those named are charged with any crime, great or small, or with any misdeed, let no one dare catch and hold them captive other than with those in the service of the rector and with the rector's permission and express orders, to avoid innocent people being pulled and tugged in an unseemly way on account of a single criminal. And if the rector, exercising his jurisdiction lawfully and in accordance with the provisions of the statutes, expels someone from the university and strips him of the benefits attaching thereto, at the rector's request the expellee is immediately to be thrown out of both cities, Cracow and Kazimierz², by the wójt³ and burgers. And let no one dare keep such a one in their home or sell or serve him any food or drink. If, however, a scholar or any of those named fail to obey the ruling or orders of the rector, at the rector's request the wójt of both cities shall be obliged to send their servants to tame the insolence of the resister. We also set remuneration for the chairs and transfer [responsibility therefor] to our salt mines at Wieliczka so that our minekeeper shall be obliged to pay it out to the doctors and teaching masters every quarter in Cracow.

For the said scholars we shall designate a single campsor, that is a Jew in the city of Cracow with sufficient money to lend against pledges, and who would take no more for his services than one grosz per grzywna per month.

¹ Roman law, as codified by emperor Justinian VI, spread in Europe starting in the eleventh century as a universal civil law. Kazimierz the Great cites it due to the anticipated international composition of the Academy.

² Kazimierz – a city near Cracow, at the time on the right bank of the Vistula. Currently part of Cracow.

³ Wójt (Germ. Vogt, Lat. advocatus) – the highest official in a town or city under Magdeburg law; the position was hereditary; the first wójt was usually the founder of the town. In Cracow, the hereditary office was abolished in the early fourteenth century by King Władysław Łokietek as a repressive measure against the Cracovians and their wójt, Albert, for their disloyalty. The wójt's functions were taken over by the city council and persons appointed by it, while the revenue due to the wójt was paid into the royal treasury until the middle of the fifteenth century.



The doctors and masters holding paid chairs should be elected by the scholars from the faculty they are to teach at. No doctor or master shall be elected rector. When serving as a rector, a scholar will not be allowed to take an examination at any faculty. We also rule that whenever the doctors or masters allow a scholar to take an examination, the Cracow chancellor¹, whoever holds this office at the time, shall have full authority to confirm this examination. And to provide exercise to the scholars of the studium generale, the Bishop of Cracow should establish his official in the city itself, as he already has, so that students go straight from lectures to practice and become bold leaders. In order for all this and each thing expressed above to have everlasting permanence, we have ordered a privilege to be written [and] confirmed by the impression of our seal. Done in Cracow, on Pentecost [12 May], AD 1364, in the presence of Andrzej of Cracow and Jan of Sandomierz, voivodes²; Wilczek of Sandomierz, Dobiesław of Wiślica, Piotr of Wojnicz, castellans³; Florian, chancellor of Łęczycza, and many other noble and trustworthy men. Translated © by Jerzy Giebułtowski

¹ Chancellor (Pol. kanclerz) – court official charged with maintaining correspondence for the ruler; a certified office since the twelfth century; in the hierarchy, second to the voivode. Each province (duchy) had its own chancellor. The chancellor of Cracow was responsible for the affairs of Lesser Poland. As the state became more centralised, the scope of the chancellor's tasks expanded (the same goes for other Cracow officials) and since the reign of Louis the Hungarian (1370-1382) he became chancellor of the Polish Kingdom (crown chancellor). The offices of chancellor in the other Polish provinces disappeared in the fifteenth century.

² Voivode (Pol. wojewoda) – the highest land office in Poland, at the head of a voivodeship (a remnant of the old ducal province). In the thirteenth century, primacy was exceptionally given in the Cracow voivodeship to the castellan in order to weaken the position of the voivode.

³ Castellan (Pol. kasztelan) – a land office established in the twelfth century; formerly the comes (Pol. Comes grodowy). The castellan oversaw economic and judicial affairs in the territory under his purview. In the fifteenth century, the castellan lost his power to the new office of starost, but the title retained its prestige.