

Nomination form

International Memory of the World Register

1.0 Checklist

Nominees may find the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to the International Memory of the World Secretariat. The information provided in italics on the form is there for guidance only and should be deleted once the sections have been completed.

▲	Summary completed (section 1)
▲	Nomination and contact details completed (section 2)
▲	Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 2)
▲	If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified, and all Declarations of Authority obtained
▲	Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3)
▲	History/provenance completed (section 3.4)
▲	Bibliography completed (section 3.5)
▲	Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6)
▲	Details of owner completed (section 4.1)
▲	Details of custodian – if different from owner – completed (section 4.2)
▲	Details of legal status completed (section 4.3)
▲	Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4)
▲	Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5)
▲	Evidence presented to support fulfilment of the criteria? (section 5)
▲	Additional information provided (section 6)
▲	Details of consultation with stakeholders completed (section 7)
▲	Assessment of risk completed (section 8)
▲	Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan attach details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 9)
▲	Any other information provided – if applicable (section 10)
▲	Suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage. (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred).
▲	Copyright permissions forms signed and attached. Agreement to propose item(s) for inclusion on the World Digital Library if inscribed

Nomination form

International Memory of the World Register

The Act of the Union of Lublin document
title of item being proposed

ID Code [*Internal use only*]

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated and the reasons for proposing it.

The act of the Union of Lublin of 1569 is a unique testimony to establishing, in early modern age, by means of negotiations and free agreement, of the Commonwealth of two equal states: the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The Union's importance consisted not only in the lasting character, political power and civilizational attractiveness of thus created Commonwealth. It was no less due to the very uniqueness, as for its time, of the adopted solution and of the active, decisive political role played by the parliament in the Union's negotiation and adoption process. Stemming from traditions of multicultural, multi-ethnic Jagiellonian monarchy and previous Polish-Lithuanian unions, as well as intellectual backgrounds of the republican Rome's tradition and the Renaissance, the Union of Lublin significantly strengthened the civic, republican and democratic attitudes in political practice and thought of its time.

The act of the Union agreed between the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania at the Sejm (state parliament) meeting in Lublin, on 1 July 1569, constituted one of the legal foundations of the Commonwealth, called also Res Publica (Republic); another one was the Henrician Articles, which included the Warsaw Confederation of 1573.

*This is the "shop window" of your nomination and is best written **last!** It should contain all the essential points you want to make, so that anyone reading it can understand your case even if they do not read the rest of your nomination.*

2.0 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

The Central Archives of Historical Records

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

National archival resource, stored in the Central Archives of Historical Records in accordance with law in force.

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Hubert Wajs PhD, the Head of the Central Archives of Historical Records

2.4 Contact details

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	
<i>The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (CAHR)</i>	<i>00-263 Warszawa</i>	
<i>Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych (AGAD)</i>	<i>ul. Długa 7</i>	
<i>Hubert Wajs PhD</i> , the Head of the Central Archives of Historical Records	<i>Polska, Poland</i>	
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>48 22 831 15 25</i>	<i>48 22 831 16 08</i>	<i>sekretariat@agad.gov.pl</i>

2.5 Declaration of authority

I certify that I have the authority to nominate the documentary heritage described in this document to the International Memory of the World Register.

Signature

HUBERT WAJS PhD

Full name (Please PRINT)

The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw

Institution(s), if appropriate

Date 30 May 2016

ANDRZEJ BIERNAT PhD

Full name (Please PRINT)

Secretary of Polish Committee of UNESCO

Memory of the World Program

on behalf of all co-nominators

Institution(s), if appropriate

Date 30 May 2016

3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

In this part of the form you must describe the document or collection in sufficient detail to make clear precisely what you are nominating. Any collection must be finite (with beginning and end dates) and closed.

The Union of Lublin(1569)

The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, Poland

3.4 History/provenance

Describe what you know of the history of the collection or document. Your knowledge may not be complete, but give the best description you can.

The document of the Union of Lublin that survived until today was designed for the Crown estates. Therefore, it was placed in the document archive of the Kingdom of Poland, known as the Cracow Crown Archive from the place of its keeping – in the Wawel Royal Castle in Kraków (it belonged to the Archive's *Lituaniae* section). General state documents were kept there: general privileges (e.g. the General Warsaw Confederation of 1573 [Collection of Parchment Records, catalogue no. 4467], entered into the International Memory of the World Register in 2003), pacts, unions, assertions of rights; including an office copy of Łaski's Statute of 1506 [Collection of Parchment Records, catalogue no. 5632], i.e. the printed list of all the statutes and charters in force in the Kingdom of Poland, as well as documents concerning particular provinces, countries and lands associated with the state. In 1765, the Cracow Crown Archive was moved to Warsaw. After the 3rd partition of Poland (1795), it was moved to St Petersburg together with other archival materials of the highest authorities of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. At first, it was kept in the Governing Senate's archive, and then in the manuscript section of the Imperial Public Library. It returned to Poland after World War I, under a peace treaty signed by the re-born Polish state with Russia in Riga in 1921. It was placed in the Central Archives of Historical Records (CAHR) and included in the Parchment Document Collection.

By analogy, the Crown estates issued the document for Lithuanian estates, now considered lost, that was placed in the document archive of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and during the Russo-Polish War of 1654-1667, it was acquired by one of the most important Lithuanian noble families, the Radziwiłłs

(at the beginning of this period, Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł was the Grand Lithuanian Chancellor, and contributed to the documents from the Grand Dukes' of Lithuania archive from falling into Tsarist hands later, in the 18th century, during the partitions of Poland). The document then shared the fate of other Radziwiłł archival materials – after being transported to Warsaw in 1920, it went missing during World War II.

Since the Union of Lublin act bears numerous seals, its mobility is extremely limited. Due to this, King Sigismund II Augustus issued its duplicates (*vidimuses*) in the form of parchment documents bearing a royal seal. One such *vidimus* from the Zamoyskis' Archive and four from the Radziwiłłs' Archive still exist in the CAHR [Collection of Parchment Records, catalogue no. 6914 - AZ, 8430-8433 – AR]; in the past, there must have been more of them.

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address		
The Central Archives of Historical Records, Hubert Wajs PhD, Director	00-263 Warszawa ul. Długa 7		
Telephone	Facsimile	Email	
48 22 831 15 25	48 22 831 16 08	sekretariat@agad.gov.pl	

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address		
Michał Kulecki PhD	00-263 Warszawa ul. Długa 7		
Telephone	Facsimile	Email	
48 22 831 54 91 wew. 43	48 22 831 16 08	mkulecki@agad.gov.pl	

4.3 Legal status

Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

The whole of the archival holdings in Poland is owned by the State Treasury. Administrative responsibility - protection of the state archival resource (Act from 14 July 1983 on the State Archival Resource and Archives) – is in the general responsibility of the Head Office of State Archive and the current keeper – the Central Archives of Historical Records, as a representative of the Treasury.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

In the Reading Room of the Central Archives of Historical Records, which is opened to the general public from 9.00 a.m. till 7.00 p.m. from Monday till Friday.

Access to the original charter is restricted to the special exhibitions in the Central Archives of Historical Records due to the vulnerability of the parchment and 78 seals.

The charter and the seals (each seal separately – resolution 300 dip, tiff) have been scanned and are available on computer screen in the CAHR Reading Room for the detailed study. Archives plan is to make JPEG copies of the image files available via Internet. The work is underway. There is also a plan to publish a book about the charter with the description of each seal.

Encouraging accessibility is a basic objective of MoW. Accordingly, digitization for access purposes is encouraged and you should comment on whether this has been done or is

planned. You should also note if there are legal or cultural factors that restrict access.

Short descriptions including the text of the record, its digital image and images of some seals are available on the internet (http://www.agad.gov.pl/Unia%20Lubelska/uni_lub.html) at the CAHR website dedicated to Polish-Lithuanian relations.

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

Not under copyright.

*Where copyright status is known, it should be stated. However, the copyright status of a document or collection has **no bearing** on its significance and is not taken into account in determining whether it meets the criteria for inscription.*

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

The Lithuanian side's document, equipped at the sejm in Lublin with 78 authentic seals by Lithuanian senators and deputies and having its counterpart (the Polish side's document for the Lithuanian side, with 140 seals, currently lost: went missing during World War II) was confirmed by the king just four days later (Lublin, 4 July 1569, Confirmation by Sigismund II Augustus, the king of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania of the Union of Lublin act - CAHR, Collection of Parchment Records, catalogue no. 8431), and once again during the sejm of August 11 – "The confirmation of the union between the Polish and Lithuanian nations, concluded at the general sejm of Lublin of 1569" (*Volumina Legum*, vol. II p. 775). The act itself was confirmed several times. The text of the Polish side's document was published already the following year by Jan Herburt in: *Crown Statutes and Charters, translated from Latin into Polish, collected and written down according to a new order. By Honourable Mr Jan Herbort of Fulsztyn, Sanok Castellan, Przemyśl County Governor, etc.* In Cracow, in the printing house of Mikołai Szarffenberg, a townsman and a bookseller, Anno Domini 1570, (pp. 862-693). Later, it was reprinted many times, e.g. in *Dubinski Piotr, Vilnius mayor. The collection of rights and privileges granted to the Capital City of Vilnius at the request of numerous Crown cities, as well as the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, ordered and published by Piotr Dubinski, the Mayor of Vilnius.* In 1788. In Vilnius, in His Majesty's printing house near the Academy (pp. 121-130).

The authenticity of such bilateral acts was guaranteed by their sealing by a number of participants, in this case by senators and deputies taking part in the sejm of Lublin session; the Polish side's (Crown's) document for Lithuania (missing) had 140 hanging seals, while the Lithuanian side's document for the Crown has 78 seals. These seals were not only the guarantee of authenticity, but also proof of individual acceptance and responsibility of the sealer for what resulted from the document.

The text and the authenticity raise no doubt and have not been called into question.

The authenticity of the document discussed here is indisputable.

5.2 World significance

Is the heritage unique and irreplaceable? Would its disappearance constitute and harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created great impact over time and/or within a particular cultural area of the world? Has it had great influence (positive or negative) on the course of history?

The Union of Lublin act kept in the CAHR is the only surviving copy of the Union document – the Lithuanian side's copy; the Polish side also issued a document with 140 seals which was held in the Radziwiłł family collection until World War II, but it was lost (burnt?) in 1944.

The peaceful enactment by the parliament and King Sigismund II Augustus – who was aware of the end of his dynasty – of the political (real) union that replaced the personal union between two political organisms, was at that time unique in Europe, where the conflict in the Netherlands (that lasted for 80 years with some breaks) was just starting, while France was ravaged by a civil war on religious grounds which soon led to the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre; a similar situation could be observed in the Moscow state, which expanded its territories in a particularly brutal way (Polotsk). The uniqueness of the relation between the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the pre-modern and early-modern eras consisted in both the political content of the adopted solution and the ability to resort to a peaceful agreement that was negotiated by both sides, with a key role played not only by the monarch, but also by the representatives of the nobility (later on by parliament). The Union of Lublin was concluded during a session of the parliament, and the union documents were sealed by representatives of both parts of the state: the Crown and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. However, the document does not bear the king's seal as it was unnecessary. The act of voluntary union was made by the "nations" represented by their senators and deputies elected by local parliaments – instead of being an act imposed by the ruler. It is a unique historical example in the early modern times of two countries' integration conducted by the will of their citizens, by resolution of a representative body, and not under coercion or by way of conquest. This culture of negotiation was also visible in the previous Polish-Lithuanian unions, starting from the first one concluded in Krewo in 1385, where references were made to equality and brotherhood of the parties. Some analogy to the Polish-Lithuanian Union of Krewo can be found in the Kalmar Union concluded between Denmark, Sweden and Norway in 1397. However, this was a dynastic agreement (a personal union) that failed to withstand the decentralizing pressures and ceased to exist in 1523 after naming Gustav I King of Sweden by the congregation of estates of Sweden; neither did it transform into a tighter union.

The newly-shaped state that resulted from the Union of Lublin started to be commonly referred to as the Commonwealth of the Both Nations. In fact, it was inhabited by many more "nations" – i.e. political communities that also had their social, religious and cultural idiosyncrasies. The political culture of that time made it possible for the country to transform through negotiation a personal union into a political one and soon to carry out the Warsaw Confederation of 1573, the first act of religious tolerance. *Rzeczpospolita* (Republic, *respublica*) was a political community that created a single indivisible political entity that was to be headed by a non-hereditary ruler elected together by the nobility of the Crown and of the Grand Duchy, with the legislature constituted by a single, common parliament (*sejm*). It was a union of two equal partners – *aeque principaliter* – and its origins, the brotherhood, can be traced back to the Union of Krewo and the Union of Horodło (1413), whereby Polish knights adopted Lithuanian knights (Boyar families) to their coats of arms. In the latest *The Oxford History of Poland-Lithuania*, Prof. R. Frost stresses the significance of the introduction of the term of "<<rzeczpospolita>>, 'republic' or 'commonwealth', that was the key to unlock the door to the agreement".

This somewhat federal state that covered the entirety or parts of the territories of several contemporary countries – Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine and Latvia – remained the major player in Central and Eastern Europe for the next 100 years, until the mid-17th century. Looking at the further evolution of bilateral relations and the interdependency between the Crown and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, or the legacy of the Union of Lublin, it can be seen that until the 18th century, the Commonwealth was a union of states, and after 1791, it became (albeit for a short while) a federal state with a common constitution and common top state authorities (but also certain legal and political differences). This somewhat federal nature of the Commonwealth of the Two Nations initiated by the Union of Lublin of 1569, survived until the final days of its existence and was crowned and reinforced in the Constitution of 3rd May 1791 – one of the world's first

modern constitutions.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)

The document meets the criteria of Time, Place, People, Subject and theme, and Form and style.

The document meets in particular the criteria of People, Subject and theme, and Form and style.

1 Time

Is the document evocative of its time (which may have been a time of crisis, or significant social or cultural change)? Does it represent a new discovery? Or is it the “first of its kind”?

Historical background

- 31.10.1517** RELIGION: Martin Luther announced his 95 theses in Wittenberg
- 10.04.1525** POLITICS: The Prussian Homage – Teutonic Prussia became Polish’s fief.
- 1532** POLITICAL THOUGHT: *The Prince* is published five years after death of the author Niccolò Machiavelli
- 1543** SCIENCE: The work of Copernicus – *De revolutionibus... (On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres)* – published
- 1532** POLITICAL THOUGHT: First edition of Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski *De Republica emendanda libri quinque (Five books on the Improvement of Commonwealth)*, was published in Krakow.
- 4.10.1563** CHURCH: Deliberations of the Council of Trent concluded
- 1568** POLITICS: The start of the Eighty Years' War in the Netherlands.
- 1.07.1569** POLITICS: **The Union of Lublin between The Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was established**
- 20.05.1570** GEOGRAPHY: First modern atlas, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, was published in Antwerp
- 7.10.1571** POLITICS: Battle of Lepanto – the Holy League defeated Turkey
- 23/24.08.1572** EVENTS: St. Bartholomew’s Day massacre, also known as the Paris blood wedding – Catholics murdered the Huguenots
- 31.01.1573** POLITICS: Articles of the Warsaw Confederation were signed, sanctioning religious freedom in Poland
- 16.05.1573** POLITICS: Henrician Articles and *Pacta Conventa* were agreed in Poland
- 1576** POLITICAL THOUGHT: First edition of Jean Bodin’s *Les Six Livres de la République*, was published in Paris
- 1580** LITERATURE: First edition of Michel de Montaigne’s *Essays* was published in France
- 24.02.1582** TIME RECKONING: Pope Gregory XIII issued the *Inter gravissimas* bull, introducing the Gregorian calendar

Considering the turbulence and the richness, also in the sense of ideas, of the times in which the Union of Lublin was passed, it appears as a unique and specific example of democratic political changes drawing on Roman examples– the notion of *res publica* – so important in the age of Renaissance. For it was the interested ones, through their democratically elected representatives – deputies to the sejm – in the presence of the king, who consciously and independently (as confirmed by the lack of the king’s seal, deemed as unnecessary) carried out a peaceful and negotiated parliament resolution on the establishment of a political union of two states: the Polish Crown and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. This successful search for a peaceful solution to social and political problems through negotiation was not an exception in the Republic of Poland, as just three years

later a similar solution was used – also by the subjects themselves – when representatives of various religions guaranteed mutual religious peace, freedom to express one’s own religion, freedom of assembly and freedom of print in the Warsaw Confederation of 1573.

2 Place

Does the document contain crucial information about a locality important in world history and culture? For example, was the location itself an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the document? Does it describe physical environments, cities or institutions that have since vanished?

If „place” can be understood broadly, as the territory of the multicultural and multi-ethnic Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (and it was then 865 000 square kilometres and nearly 7,5 million inhabitants), the act of the Union of Lublin is a unique testimony to a political culture it developed, characterised by an extensive use of negotiations and a strong position of parliament in state governance (cf. criterion 3: People). It can also be mentioned that Lublin as a political center and a place at the crossing of cultures played an important role in the life of the Jagiellonian dynasty and it could be seen as a kind of micro representation of the whole Commonwealth due to its size, inhabitants and fairs visited by Germans, Lithuanians, Armenians, Turks, Ruthenians (presently Belarussians, Russians, Ukrainians) and Jews.

3 People

Does the cultural context of the document’s creation reflect significant aspects of human behaviour, or of social, industrial, artistic or political development? Or does it capture the essence of great movements, transitions, advances or regression? Does it illustrate the lives of prominent individuals in the above fields?

Concluding a union in the shape that it assumed in Lublin in 1569 resulted from a long process that lasted for a number of generations, and that was deeply rooted in the already mentioned political traditions of the Jagiellonian dynasty (a strong role of the parliament and negotiation in governing and electability of kings in the Crown) connected with its multiculturalism, strengthened during the Renaissance. Such a formation and mentality paved the way for a successful transformation of a personal union into a political one given the looming end of the dynasty, and for implementing political reforms and redefining the relations between the Kingdom and the Grand Duchy.

The sejm, which convened in late 1568 in Lublin (the session was started on 10 January 1569, with the Polish and Lithuanian sejms holding separate debates) was the fourth in five years’ time to be devoted to the issues of the union, attended by representatives of the Crown and Lithuania. The reforms carried out during the sejm’s previous sessions had already covered the ruling classes in both countries of the union (changing in particular the status of the Lithuanian nobility), creating a legal and political community, although a number of old habits remained, particularly among the most wealthy families; there was also a common threat posed by Moscow and a danger for the south-eastern borderlands. Therefore, joint efforts were required to solve the military, financial and administrative problems to ensure security of the state. It was necessary to continue this policy, make deep changes and complete the reforms. Sigismund II Augustus had been working consistently on the union for 10 years: in 1559 he established the sejm of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and in 1564 – local parliaments modelled on the Polish ones; he also renounced all the prerogatives of the grand duke. In June 1569, after elections in Lithuania, new delegates came and an agreement was worked out – a union that created a single indivisible, albeit two-partite, political entity that was to be headed by an elected (non-hereditary) ruler, with the legislature constituted by a single common sejm. From that time, the Commonwealth had a single ruler elected jointly by both “nations” and crowned only once in Cracow; a common (general) sejm, convening in Warsaw (to facilitate travel

from both the Crown and the Grand Duchy), where Lithuanian deputies sat together with Crown deputies, and a single senate; common defence, foreign policy and currency (albeit with separate seals – with the Eagle for the Crown and the Vytis for the Grand Duchy). Lithuania’s separateness was maintained by preserving the titles, top positions and central offices, a separate army and legal system, while ensuring equality between the Grand Duchy and the Crown. Care was also taken so that no Crown decisions that revised royal grants would be applicable in Lithuania. It was decided to unify laws, and the task was to be carried out by a commission composed of representatives of the Grand Duchy. Also as a result of the Union, a big part of Ukrainian territories united, which laid the foundation for creating their common identity and statehood, and led to achieving by a significant part of today’s Ukraine a cultural, territorial and legal autonomy, and subjectivity within the federal establishment, which was the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

The Union was established on 27 June, and on 1 July of the same year, the parties exchanged the acts and took the oaths. In the latest *The Oxford History of Poland-Lithuania*, Prof. R. Frost wrote: “On 1 July the two sejms met separately to agree the union treaty; after these formalities were completed, they processed together to church to sing *Te Deum Laudamus*. Three days later, on 4 July, Sigismund August formally promulgated the union, and the new commonwealth was born.” All the participants were aware of having done a great thing which was to last 222 years and be further strengthened by the Constitution of 3 May 1791. A renowned specialist in modern history, Prof. Władysław Konopczyński, wrote in the 1920s about the sejm of Lublin: “Never in the history have two nations concluded a more durable agreement with less coercion. [...] It was not a minor administrative change [...], but an act of great historical significance.”

4 Subject and theme

Does the subject matter of the document represent particular historical or intellectual developments in the natural, social and human sciences? Or in politics, ideology, sport or the arts?

The subject of political unions between states was important in the middle ages and early modernity, leading to formulation of federal solutions or integration of unitary states. The Union of Lublin as a transition from a personal union to a political one was widely known in its times as a successful solution of considerable attractiveness, e.g., thirty years after the execution and sealing of the Union’s records, its text was subject to minute analysis at the English Parliament. During the late years of Queen Elizabeth I, when the concept for an English-Scottish union (eventually established in 1603) was being developed, grounds for it were sought in the Union of Lublin treaty.

5 Form and style

Does the document have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value? Or is it a typical exemplar of a type of presentation, custom or medium? Is it an example of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format?

Although other comparative criteria are fulfilled to a much higher degree, a few remarks concerning “Form and style” can also be useful:

The whole appearance of the Act of the Union of Lublin stresses the rank of the issuer. Therefore, this treaty document has an appropriately solemn form and appearance. All 78 pendant wax seals are attached to the silk cords made of silk yarn dyed with red and green tint, testifying to the strong position of political representatives in the governance of the Jagiellonian monarchy and in establishing the Union. It is further demonstrated by the aforementioned lack of the King’s seal as unnecessary.

The most important role for seals was as a means of authentication. The arrangement of the seals,

[however,] and the way they are attached represented [the] hierarchy, but it also made the whole charter look like a piece of art. The composition of seals and silk cords intentionally draws attention to the seals located in the middle section – a group of larger, red seals of the most prominent participants of the agreement. Also the seals themselves can convey a great deal of information about the people and institutions that owned and used them – especially the impressions of the coats of arms. The charter is thus a perfect and rare example of a completely disappeared format and carrier – hand written document on parchment certified with numerous pendant wax seals attached personally by each of the dignitaries and envoys on silk cords. The documents of this kind are extremely fragile and difficult to preserve and to digitize appropriately. Their conservation nowadays is a challenge of critical importance.

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

Application of this criterion must reflect living significance – does documentary heritage have an emotional hold on people who are alive today? Is it venerated as holy or for its mystical qualities, or revered for its association with significant people and events?

(Once those who have revered the documentary heritage for its social/ spiritual/ community significance no longer do so, or are no longer living, it loses this specific significance and may eventually acquire historical significance.)

The document is so important and symbolic for several societies that its original is expected to be displayed during various state and anniversary ceremonies. The living memory of the Union of Lublin has been inspiring people since the time of its conclusion until nowadays. From the very beginning, the Union influenced imagination, as confirmed by the inscription that documented the fact of concluding the Union in 1569: *Pio[tr] [Prus III coat of arms] Jeżewski /1569/ unia facta est cum ducatus Lytwanie*, engraved by hand in the interior of the Holy Trinity Chapel in the Lublin Castle, where services for the king and the court were held during the sejm debates. The Union of Lublin Monument erected in 1569 in Lithuanian Square (which received its name due to the fact that the Lithuanian nobility camped there when the Union was concluded) was founded by Sigismund II Augustus. Today's obelisk made in the neoclassical style was erected in 1824 on the site of the original one. The 300th anniversary was particularly commemorated in the 19th century: "The Union of Lublin" was one of the pictures Jan Matejko painted to mark anniversaries of historical events that were important for Poland. The Union of Lublin Mound was made in Lviv, also to commemorate the 300th anniversary of concluding the Union.

The significance of the Union of Lublin is also recognised today, as confirmed by the names of streets and institutions and celebrations of the Union. When Poland entered the European Union, Pope John Paul II referred to this awareness in one of his addresses, in which he encouraged listeners: "From the Union of Lublin to the European Union. It is a serious abbreviation, but in this abbreviation there is a lot of different content. Poland needs Europe." (http://ekai.pl/europa/kosciol_o/x4886/od-unii-lubelskiej-do-unii-europejskiej).

On 15 April 2015, the European Commission granted the European Heritage Label (EHL) among others to the Union of Lublin and Lublin, recognising it as "a historic case of integration of two countries, unique in the history of Europe, and a breakthrough moment in the development of democratic principles". Due to this, the authentic document of the Lithuanian side kept in the Central Archives of Historical Records was presented with that label.

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

The document proposed for entry is currently the only surviving original of the Union of Lublin act.

6.2 Integrity

It is the authentic, well-preserved document with 78 seals.