

Varsói Magyar Oklevéltár [Hungarian Cartulary of Warsaw]. Edited by Ádám Novák.

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This work represents the latest contribution to the *Fontes Memoriae Hungariae* series. The source publications in this series can be considered supplementary resources for contactological, imagological, and diplomatic history research, beginning in 2014. As a result of the *Hungarica* research, the volumes include transcriptions of several Hungarian-related charters found in various foreign archives. The book's concept stems from a visit to the Central Archive of Historical Sources (*Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych w Warszawie – AGAD*) in Warsaw in the mid-2010s. This was when the Hungary in Medieval Europe Research Group, led by a prominent medievalist, Attila Bárány, raised its flag within the framework of the Lendület Programme. The project's stated objective was to publish the complete texts of medieval documents concerning the relations between Poland and Hungary, which are preserved in these archives.

The work has been going on for several years, with the documents being published in various booklets, each adapted to a specific historical period. Nevertheless, the authors had the ultimate intention of publishing these documents in the form of a final volume for a scholarly audience. The current edition is, in fact, an edited version in book form of the four booklets published between 2017 and 2022. The work corrects the shortcomings of the previous volumes, adding new sources to the collection.

The charters in this volume encompass various topics, including political, social, economic, and military aspects. The collection includes royal charters, records of allegiance, trade privileges, and alliance agreements. A notable aspect of this publication is its compilation of Hungarian-related sources that were not previously accessible in a single repository. It incorporates several charters that have not been included in previous collections, such as the Photographic Collection of Medieval

Charters (*Diplomatikai Fényképgyűjtemény – DF*) preserved in the National Archives of Hungary and made available online.¹

The volume contains ninety charters with ninety-eight full-text transcriptions and Hungarian summaries. The texts are predominantly in Latin, although there is also a German-language charter of Sigismund of Luxembourg as imperial vicar from 1410. Other exceptions include four documents originally written in Old Church Slavonic in Cyrillic script, two of which were published in Latin following the edition of Eudoxiu de Hurmuzaki (nos 25 and 33). The full text of the document of Bogdan, Voivode of Moldavia, written in Cyrillic on 22 January 1510 (no. 92) is not published. Instead, a very detailed summary of the contents in Hungarian is included. Neither was another charter of the same Bogdan, dated 7 February 1510 (no. 93), which was edited in Cyrillic but summarized only, as it only contained slightly different details from no. 92. Fifteen of these ninety charters were not included in the DF photographic collection of the Hungarian National Archives and thus remained largely unknown to scholarship.

The editor Ádám Novák considered it important to publish the charters presented here in a verbatim form, thereby preserving the uniqueness and style of each document. However, as a result, readers may often encounter varying spellings and transcriptions of certain names and expressions. Particular attention should be paid to the letters *ae-e*, *c-t*, *i-j*, and *ii-y*, as these, of course, were not uniformly used by the scribes.

Similar reasons account for the fact that in the dating of the charters, one can observe the use of various forms reflecting the solutions adopted by medieval scribes: Roman and Arabic numerals, as well as abbreviated and full forms, often appear intermixed and are used together to denote both the year and the specific day (*millesimo*, *Mmo*, *MCCCCLXXXo*, *Januarii*, *ianuary*; or *millesimo quadringentesimo duodecimo*, *XVIII die mensis Maji*). In the summaries, care should be taken with certain expressions, as in some instances the Latin term appears (e.g., *salvus conductus*), while in others the translated Hungarian form (*menlevél*). Researchers should bear these issues in mind when searching for certain terms and names in the electronic version of the book. While the verbatim publication is certainly commendable and has many positive aspects, it might have been beneficial to provide a brief explanation of the publishing principles to assist the researcher, as the documents span a century and a half and involve various chancelleries and different types (and possibly languages) of charters.

However, the value of the volume far outweighs these minor shortcomings. At the beginning of the book, summaries of the charters can be found without the full

1 <https://archives.hungaricana.hu/hu/charters/> (Accessed: 11 August 2025)

texts of the documents, making the volume easy to navigate. Orientation within the documents is greatly facilitated by the index of geographic names that follow the documentary texts, as well as the personal name and seal index, where we can find both the names appearing in the charter texts and their normalized forms. The geographic name index makes it much easier to identify individual settlements. Perhaps the only incorrect identification is that of the town of *Creutzeburg* in charter number 2 (the correct name is Kluczbork, Poland). The editor has endeavoured to present personal names in the language and script of the state to which the individuals belonged. For instance, the given name 'Petrus' was rendered 'Piotr' in Polish and 'Péter' in Hungarian. Compared to the earlier booklets, there have been clarifications, mainly in the headnotes and the annotations, which have been standardized and corrected. Minor changes have also been made to the documentary texts, and some ambiguous readings have been resolved, partly thanks to the index of names. An important addition is the list of names on the seal ribbons confirming the Peace of Ófalu (Spišská Stará Ves, Slovakia) in 1474.

The topics covered in the volume are divided up as follows: thirty-six documents deal with political relations (alliances, conventions, and peace treaties), twenty-seven documents concern military and defence matters (military aid, conflict settlement, and defence), twenty-one documents address territorial and legal transfers (the transfer of land and cities, administration and change of legal status), and ten focus on economic and trade issues (duty-free privileges, trade agreements). The charters included in this volume are organized around four principal themes: 1) the reign of the Angevin dynasty and the establishment of the rule of King Louis I in Poland (1370 to 1382) and the succession of his daughter, Hedwig / Jadwiga of Poland; 2) the mediation of Sigismund of Luxembourg in the conflict between the Teutonic Knights and the Kingdom of Poland; 3) King Matthias Corvinus's Silesian war against Duke Casimir Jagiellon, who claimed the Hungarian throne at the invitation of conspirators led by János of Zredna (Vitéz); 4) diplomatic relations and agreements between the Hungarian and Polish branches of the Jagiellonian dynasty.

In conclusion, the volume represents a significant contribution to the field, offering readers a comprehensive and detailed collection of Hungarian documents preserved in Warsaw. Its value lies in its meticulous design and usability, providing scholars with a valuable resource for further research. It is noteworthy that the volume is accompanied by an electronic database in the form of the *Memoria Hungariae* database (<https://lendulet.memhung.unideb.hu>). In addition to the photographs of the diplomas, this database also continuously publishes the seal images. Consequently, as of 2023, the photographic material of all Hungarian-related diplomas included in the present volume will be accessible for download via the AGAD

online catalog,² given that a substantial proportion of them have been commissioned for digitization by the volume's editor. The database and the digitization of the charters and seals will facilitate further access to the available information for researchers, enhancing the ease of source utilization. The publication is also available in e-book format,³ thus offering readers the opportunity to access the volume in a convenient digital format that is particularly suited to the demands of modern research.

2 https://agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/perg_skan_II_23.xml (Accessed: 11 August 2025)

3 <https://hdl.handle.net/2437/381510> (Accessed: 11 August 2025)

