



The House of Vasa and The House of Austria

Correspondence from the Years 1587 to 1668

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Part II

The Times of Władysław IV, 1632–1648



UNIWERSYTET ŚLĄSKI
WYDAWNICTWO

**The House of Vasa
and
The House of Austria**

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The Times of Władysław IV, 1632–1648

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WŁADYSŁAW IV AND THE HOUSE OF AUSTRIA:
FAMILY MEETINGS AND EPISTOLARY INTERACTIONS

This publication, being part of *The House of Vasa and the House of Habsburg: The Correspondence from the Years 1587–1668* research project, includes letters exchanged between members of both dynasties during the reign of King Władysław (Ladislaus) IV of Poland (1632–48). The first part, spanning two volumes, presents 808 letters covering the years 1587–1632.¹ Research in archives related to the cataloguing and gathering of correspondence between the Vasas and Habsburgs was conducted within the principal collections storing documents on foreign policy and diplomatic activities, and in collections that contain the letters sent and received by individual members of the two dynasties. Encompassing whole Europe, the search was extended to archival and library collections in Austria, Belgium, Czechia, France, Spain, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Ukraine, and Italy. The selection criteria for the collections included in the research are presented together with the scholarly conventions for editing and publishing the letters, in the Introduction to Volume One, Part One.²

INTRODUCTION TO THE CORRESPONDENCE OF WŁADYSŁAW IV:
FAMILY MEETINGS WITH THE HABSBURGS

Face-to-face meetings should be counted among the most important factors helping to create and strengthen bonds between family members. They have always carried an emotional charge, reinforced or altered perceptions of relatives, built bonds of friendship, and could also

¹ See: *The House of Vasa and The House of Austria. Correspondence from the Years 1587 to 1668. Part I: The Times of Sigismund III, 1587–1632*, vol. 1, ed. by R. Skowron et al., Katowice 2016; *The House of Vasa and The House of Austria. Correspondence from the Years 1587 to 1668. Part I: The Times of Sigismund III, 1587–1632*, vol. 2, ed. by R. Skowron et al., Katowice, 2024.

² R. Skowron, “The House of Vasa and The House of Austria. Project description”, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 1, pp. 27–35.

lead to the paths of rejection and indifference. They influenced the cultivation and transmission of values, standards of conduct, and behavioural models. They also revealed each person's place within the family hierarchy and network. Face-to-face meetings made a significant impact on the initiation or continuation of letter exchanges among family members. Władysław IV was the Polish king who met the largest number of relatives scattered nearly all around Europe in person.³ These encounters became an essential impulse for his integration into the family epistolary network of the House of Austria.

While still Prince Władysław Sigismund, the future king had his first face-to-face meetings with members of the Habsburg family facilitated by his grandmother, Maria of Bavaria. Highly educated, fluent in Latin, and passionate about music, she was a devout Catholic and a caring, even if despotic, mother who always supported her children and grandchildren.⁴ It was the birth of Władysław Sigismund, the first grandson of Archduchess Maria, that provided the reason for her journey to Poland in 1595, on her way back from Hungary, where she had attended her daughter Maria Christina's wedding to Sigismund Báthory. A meeting the four-month-old prince could naturally not recall. He might have some faint impressions lingering after the next meeting with his grandmother four years later, at his mother's funeral. In 1605, his aunt Constance of Austria became Władysław Sigismund's stepmother. Archduchess Maria arrived once again to attend the wedding celebrations, in the company of her son Maximilian Ernest and daughter Maria Christina. Of his Habsburg relatives, the prince developed the closest familiarity with his uncle Charles, Bishop of Wrocław, forced by religious conflicts in Silesia to seek aid from Sigismund III. The first meeting of Władysław Sigismund and the Archduke took place in 1615, at the royal family's pilgrimage to Częstochowa. Bishop Charles was most likely accompanied by his brothers Maximilian Ernest and

³ R. Skowron, "Budowanie prestiżu królewskiego rodu. Związki rodzinne Wazów z dynastiami europejskimi", *Studia Europaea Gnesnensia*, 20, 2019, pp. 55–81.

⁴ K. Keller, *Erzherzogin Maria von Innerösterreich (1551–1608). Zwischen Habsburg und Wittelsbach*, Wien 2012; O. Hegedüs, "The Complex Mother: Maria Anna of Inner Austria and the Entanglement of the Vasa, Habsburg and Wittelsbach Dynasties", *The Court Historian*, 25/3, 2020, pp. 201–219.

Leopold V.⁵ The following opportunity for a family gathering came with the baptism of Anna Catherine Constance, daughter of Sigismund III and Constance of Austria, held on 14 February 1616 in Warsaw, where Archduke Charles stood in as godfather for Archduke Maximilian, Grand Master of the Teutonic Order.⁶

The outbreak of the uprising in Bohemian and the escalating hostilities strengthened the bonds between the Bishop of Wrocław and the Vasas further. First, in May 1619, the prince travelled to Silesia to meet Archduke Charles, and after the Bohemian estates deposed Ferdinand from the Bohemian throne, Władysław Sigismund returned to Poland together with his uncle. The Bishop of Wrocław resided at the Warsaw court for over a year, requesting military support in his fight against the rebellious subjects from his brother-in-law. He only returned to Silesia after the rebels were defeated at the Battle of White Mountain.⁷ Despite the large number of meetings, not a single letter exchanged by the prince and Archduke Charles has been found.

A breakthrough in the life of Władysław Sigismund came with his grand tour of Europe in 1624–25, with milestones in the Habsburg courts. The prince had been eager to travel abroad since at least 1619. A likely means of exerting pressure on Sigismund III to grant his consent to the journey was the vow to undertake a pilgrimage of thanksgiving to Loreto, which the prince made at a military camp near Chocim. With father not permitting him to travel to the West, Władysław Sigismund turned for support for his travel plans to his relatives from the House of Austria, including Emperor Ferdinand II and Charles Habsburg, Bishop of Wrocław. According to one of the members of his entourage, “then they both wrote fervent letters to the king and to HM the Queen, pleading that their nephew be allowed to visit them first, and then proceed to meet other relatives and travel to foreign lands... Thus also the Spanish Infanta, ruling in Belgium,

⁵ W. Leitsch, *Das Leben am Hof König Sigismunds III. von Polen*, vols I–IV, Vienna 2009, vol. II, pp. 855–856, 883; M. Wrede, *Itinerarium króla Zygmunta III 1587–1632*, Warszawa 2019, p. 265.

⁶ W. Leitsch, *Das Leben am Hof...*, vol. III, pp. 1802–1803.

⁷ A. Mosbach, *Kilka kart z dziejów austriacko-szląsko-polskich mianowicie zą Zygmunta III*, Poznań 1869, pp. 218–232.

likely wrote to Their Majesties, wishing to meet the Crown Prince.”⁸ The prince’s journey had multiple interconnected purposes: exploratory, educational, religious, and familial. From today’s perspective, one cannot but agree with Karolina Targosz that it “defined the course of his patronage and left a lasting mark on Polish court culture throughout his reign”.⁹ Yet it must also be emphasised that it also, to a significant extent, defined the courses of his political initiatives in the West. In our view, the goals of both dynastic and political, and propagandist nature of the journey come to the fore. The prince is believed to have sought marriage with Infanta Maria Anna, daughter of King Philip III of Spain, as well as to have rallied Habsburgs to the fight for regaining the Swedish throne. During his Grand Tour, the prince met relatives living in Vienna, Innsbruck, Munich, Brussels, Florence, and Mantua.¹⁰

The first stop on Władysław’s route was Nysa in Silesia, where he met Bishop Charles so that the two together could travel to the imperial court. In Vienna, he was a guest of Emperor Ferdinand II and his second wife, Eleonora Gonzaga. He also met the emperor’s children from his first marriage to Maria of Bavaria: Ferdinand, Leopold Wilhelm, and their daughters Maria Anna and the thirteen-year-old Cecilia Renata, his future wife. In Vienna and Strasbourg, he met Archduke Leopold V. In Brussels, he was received with great pomp by the Infanta Isabella.¹¹ In Florence, he stayed at the court of his aunt Archduchess Maria Magdalena, widow of Cosimo II, and her son Grand Duke Ferdinand II of Tuscany. There he also met Ferdinand’s younger brothers: Gian Carlo and Leopold. In Mantua, he met the grandchildren of Archduchess Eleonora and Duke Vincenzo I Gonzaga:

⁸ *Podróż królewicza Władysława Wazy do krajów Europy Zachodniej w latach 1624–1625 w świetle ówczesnych relacji*, ed. by A. Przyboś, Kraków 1977, p. 40, the book contains edited diaries of the prince’s fellow travellers: Grand Chancellor of Lithuania Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł, royal secretary Stefan Pac, and Jan Hagenaw, a courtier of Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł.

⁹ K. Targosz-Kretowa, *Teatr dworski Władysława IV (1635–1648)*, Kraków 1965, p. 36.

¹⁰ R. Skowron *Olivares, los Vasa y el Báltico: Polonia en la política internacional de España en los años 1621–1632*, Varsovia 2008, pp. 118–119 (Polish-language edition: *Olivares, Wazowie i Bałtyk. Polska w polityce zagranicznej Hiszpanii w latach 1621–1632*, Kraków 2002).

¹¹ R. Szmydki, *Kontakty artystyczne królewicza Władysława Zygmunta Wazy z Antwerpią: misja Mathieu Ronaulta do Polski w 1626 r.*, Warszawa 2002, *passim*.

Duke Ferdinando II and Cardinal Vincenzo Gonzaga. Travelling around Europe, the prince visited not only his closest relatives among the Habsburgs but also his more distant relatives. In Munich, he was hosted by Wilhelm V – brother of his grandmother Maria of Bavaria and by Wilhelm’s son Maximilian I, Duke of Bavaria and Elector Palatine. In turn, in Bonn, he met the brothers Elector Ferdinand, Archbishop and Elector of Cologne, and Albert, Duke of Bavaria-Lauchtenberg.

All his relatives, close and distant, received Władysław warmly and with great hospitality, organising his stay at their courts in such a way as to provide feasts, entertainment, and spectacles worthy of the young prince. In their company, Władysław became familiar with their palaces, gardens, and menageries; visited treasuries and cabinets of curiosities (*Kunstkammern*) overflowing with works of art; attended theatrical and musical performances; and took part in masses and hunts. Relatives often guided him through their collections in person. For instance, in Vienna, “he was ushered into the secret treasury of the House of Austria, where he admired the riches accumulated by so many emperors and archdukes [adorned with] pearls, awe-inspiring rarities and incomparable wonders of nature and art; and the emperor himself showed and explained everything to him.”¹² In Brussels, “after midday meal, he used to go with the Infanta to a revered site of the Blessed Virgin outside the city; they call it Beata Virgo Lachensis. This was the way the Infanta devised to show herself to the entire city, which the common people greatly desired.”¹³ In turn, in Florence, “after midday meal at the imperial villa of the Most Serene Archduchess, close to the city, a comedy about Ruggero, Alcina, and Melissa was beautifully performed in a lavish setting. Assisted by His Eminence Cardinal Medici, the Most Serene Archduchess herself took great care in ushering guests into the theatre and guiding them to the seats reserved for them (...) after mass in the cathedral, the prince with the Grand Duke and many from his entourage visited its dome.”¹⁴ The ties that formed between Władysław Sigismund and Archduke Leopold V, then still Bishop of

¹² *Podróż królewicza Władysława Wazy*, p. 79.

¹³ *Ibidem*, p. 170.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 346.

Passau and Strasbourg, who came to Vienna specifically to see the prince, were particularly close. They were expected to travel together to Passau, but Władysław's illness thwarted those plans. Nonetheless, they met again in Saverne and Strasbourg.

The face-to-face meetings between Władysław and his family members also evoked emotional reactions. In a letter to Queen Constance, her brother Emperor Ferdinand II wrote that the prince was “a truly a refined and noble prince – his countenance and gestures clearly show who his mother was”,¹⁵ while his sister Maria Magdalena noted that “he is an extremely refined, handsome, and understanding man, and he could not deny his descent from our dynasty. One might even venture to say that the prince is the very likeness of the emperor and, in all aspects, is just as the emperor used to be at his age.”¹⁶

The number of letters Władysław Sigismund exchanged with the Habsburgs grew significantly after 1624. Thus, his journey to the West also marked a turning point in his epistolary activity. The bonds of politeness if not friendship he formed at the time developed and reinforced thanks to letter exchanges, particularly with Archduke Leopold V, Infanta Isabella, and Archduchess Maria Magdalena.

In the summer of 1631, the prince went abroad again. This time to Cheb in Bohemia for health treatment. The very purpose of his journey is shrouded in mystery, yet he is known to have met with Albrecht von Wallenstein in Prague and was in close touch with the Capuchin Father Valeriano Magni. The prince might have met with Emperor Ferdinand II as well, as suggested by an entry in Cardinal Ernst von Harrach's diary on 18 July: *È venuto avviso al principe [Wladislaw Sigismund] di Polonia della morte della Regina [Konstanze Renate von Polen] sua madre, et che debba tornare quantoprima a casa et fare la strada di Vienna per abboccarsi col Imperatore [Ferdinand II].*¹⁷

¹⁵ Ferdinand II to Queen Constance, Vienna 17 April 1625, in: J. Żukowski, “Listy Władysława Wazy i inne nieznanne źródła do jego europejskiej peregrynacji z archiwów szwedzkich i niemieckich”, *Kronika Zamkowa*, 2 (68), 2015, p. 117.

¹⁶ Maria Magdalena to Queen Constance, Pisa 14 March 1625, *ibidem*, p. 115–116.

¹⁷ *Die Diarien und Tagzettel des Kardinals Ernst Adalbert von Harrach (1598–1667)*. Bd 2: *Diarium 1629–1646*, ed. by K. Keller, A. Catalano, Wien, Köln, Weimar 2010, p. 56.

His marriage to Archduchess Cecilia Renata,¹⁸ daughter of Emperor Ferdinand II, in 1637 not only strengthened dynastic ties between the Houses of Vasas and Habsburgs but also opened the door to a new chapter in political relations, after they had gone cold in the wake of the Polish-Swedish truce of 1635. On her journey to Poland and throughout the wedding celebrations, Cecilia Renata was accompanied by Archduchess Claudia de' Medici, widow of Archduke Leopold V, whom the king met while still a prince during his sojourn in Florence. Her visit validated the particularly close relationship between the Warsaw court and Innsbruck. Claudia de' Medici, who served as regent of Tyrol after her husband's death, did not arrive at the Warsaw court by chance, for while the wedding festivities continued, a plan to have her son Ferdinand Charles marry Princess Anna Catherine Constance, nine years his senior, was conceived.¹⁹

In 1638, Władysław IV travelled abroad again, this time as King of Poland. Accompanied by his wife Cecilia Renata and his sister Anna Catherine Constance, he went for spa treatment in Baden,²⁰ near Vienna. Although the Vasa went abroad for health reasons, the journey also provided an opportunity to become better acquainted with the imperial

¹⁸ *Wjazd, koronacja, wesele Najjaśniejszej Królowej Jej Mości Cecylii Renaty w Warszawie roku 1637*, ed. by A. Falniowska-Gradowska, Warszawa 1991.

¹⁹ A.S. Radziwill, *Pamiętnik o dziejach w Polsce*, vol. 2: 1637–1646, ed. by A. Przyboś, R. Żelewski, Warszawa 1980, p. 50; M. Skiba, “La principessa è molto bene compita: Anna Katarzyna Konstancja Vasa (1619–51) and failed dynastic networking”, in: *Frictions and Failures. Cultural Encounters in Crisis*, ed. Almut Bues, Wiesbaden 2017, pp. 143–162.

²⁰ The stay of the royal couple in Baden was most extensively described in the diaries of by Grand Chancellor of Lithuania Albrycht Stanislaw Radziwill, Voivode of Belz Jakub Sobieski, and the royal physician Maciej Vorbek-Lettow who accompanied the royal couple, See: A.S. Radziwill, *Pamiętnik...* pp. 97–108; J. Sobieski, *Peregrynacja po Europie (1607–1613). Droga do Baden (1638)*, ed. by J. Długosz, Wrocław 1991, pp. 221–270; M. Vorbek-Letow, *Skarbnica pamięci. Pamiętnik lekarza króla Władysława IV*, ed. by E. Galos, F. Mincer, Wrocław 1968, pp. 95–105. Moreover the collection of BNF Paris (Beluze 168, fos 178–195v) contains an anonymous diary from the journey in German: *Bericht Von Seiner Königlicher Mayestat zue Pohlen und Schweden Reise ins Warme Landt nach Baden in Osterreich vnd Was bey derselben vorgangen*, See: R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars. Polsko-hispańskie relacje polityczne w latach 1632–1648*, Kraków 2013, pp. 13. 207. Also Cardinal Harrach made repeated mentions of the stay of the Polish royal couple in Baden in *Die Diarien...*, pp. 355–362. See also, in this volume: A. Barwicka-Makula, “The Vasas and the Habsburgs. Family gatherings during a convalescence stay in Baden (1638)”.

family and court, and to discuss political cooperation, particularly regarding European peace negotiations and the French captivity of John Casimir.²¹ The unresolved matter of Cecilia Renata's dowry, assigned to estates in Wittingau (Třeboň) in Moravia, also remained an issue. Family gatherings during the sojourn of the Polish royal couple in Baden were organised by Empress Maria Anna, Dowager Empress Eleonora Gonzaga, and Cecilia Renata's brother – Archduke Leopold Wilhelm.

One of the most delicate and controversial issues during the stay in Austria were procedural matters. The king and his closest advisors were particular about ensuring that the prestige and honour of the Polish ruler were not compromised in ceremonial meetings. Władysław IV was reluctant to meet with Maria Anna. When the royal entourage reached Wolkersdorf on its way to Baden, an invitation for lunch with the empress arrived. This is how Jakub Sobieski described this first meeting between the Polish royal family and Ferdinand III's wife: "Then, the empress, adorned only with pearls, descended halfway down the stairs. As much as he was still on the road, His Majesty the King had dressed himself lavishly, and the queen and the princess had done likewise. His Majesty spoke to the empress in Italian, and she received him graciously, responding shortly in Spanish. Then she embraced the queen daintily, and hugged the princess so that their pearl earrings became so entangled that they had to be separated. She then asked the king to proceed further inside. Which he did. She then courteously invited the queen to follow His Majesty the King, yet the queen gave her an adamant refusal. Therefore, the empress took the queen and princess by the hand, and the three of them followed HM the King."²² Władysław IV had not met with Ferdinand III until in Nikolsburg, on his way back home. The emperor's conduct alienated the Polish king further: "They were walking towards each other, the king with the queen and princess towards the emperor, and the emperor with Archduke Leopold – towards our royalty. And thus, they greeted each other quite warmly in a field, by a furrow... Then, having invited our royalty to his

²¹ R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars...*, pp. 204–210. M. Conde Pazos, *La quiebra de un modelo dinástico. Relaciones entre la Casa de Austria y los Vasa de Polonia (1635–1668)*, Madrid 2022, pp. 191–213.

²² J. Sobieski, *Peregrynacja...*, p. 234.

carriage, the emperor unceremoniously and unashamedly rushed ahead of them across those furrows to his carriage, allegedly anxious that HM the King might be the first to enter the carriage and take the seat first. And so, having taken the first seat in the carriage, he offered HM the King the second place.”²³ To which Albrecht Stanislaw Radziwill, Grand Chancellor of Lithuania, added: “The senators again attended lunch at the court. The emperor dined privately with the king, queen, and princess. Before this meal, the emperor had spent a full hour with the king; yet, the proposals the king presented brought no significant effect.”²⁴ The stay in Baden met neither family nor political expectations of the king. It might even have deepened the mutual distrust between Wladyslaw IV and Ferdinand III. Nonetheless, the meeting in Baden fostered particular bonds of mutual affection and friendship between the emperor’s brother Leopold Wilhelm and Princess Anna Catherine Constance, and also with Wladyslaw IV. After 1638, this will be reflected in the exchanges of letters between them.

QUANTITATIVE DATA ON CORRESPONDENCE:
THE VASAS AND THE HABSBURGS (1632–48)

Before presenting the basic quantitative data on the exchange of letters between the two dynasties, it should be emphasised that the figures are of indicative nature. On the one hand, they reflect the number of letters preserved in the archives, and on the other, they allow to identify certain indicators, e.g. correspondents’ epistolary activity, the frequency of exchanges, and dominant themes.

Published in this volume are letters exchanged between members of the Vasa and Habsburg families from 30 April 1632 – the day of King Sigismund III’s death to 20 May 1648 – the day of Wladyslaw IV’s death. As many as 287 letters, preserved in various forms – as holographs, originals, copies, and drafts – have been recorded for this period (see: Tables 1). This edition includes letters exchanged between all male-line members of the House of Vasa with the Habsburgs, thus it leaves out the correspondence between children born from the unions of

²³ *Ibidem*, pp. 261–262.

²⁴ A.S. Radziwill, *Pamiętnik...*, p. 107.

archduchesses and Spanish infantas with members of other dynasties, and of Habsburg spouses from outside the dynasty.

Table 1. Letters exchanged by members of the House of Vasa and members of the House of Austria in 1632–1648

Sender	Recipient	Number of letters	Total number of letters
1	2	3	4
Alexander Charles, Prince	Ferdinand II, Emperor	2	5
	Isabella, Infanta of Spain	1	
	Leopold V, Archduke	1	
	Philip IV, King of Spain	1	
Anna Catharina Constantia, Princess	Leopold V, Archduke	1	7
	Leopold Wilhelm, Archduke	5	
	Philip IV, King of Spain	1	
Anna of Austria, Queen of France	John Casimir, Prince	1	3
	Wladyslaw IV, King of Poland	2	
Charles Ferdinand, Bishop of Wroclaw and Plock	Ferdinand II, Emperor	2	12
	Ferdinand III, Emperor	5	
	Isabella, Infanta of Spain	1	
	Leopold V, Archduke	1	
	Leopold Wilhelm, Archduke	1	
	Maria Anna, Empress	1	
	Philip IV, King of Spain	1	
Ferdinand II, Emperor	Alexander Charles, Prince	1	23
	Charles Ferdinand, Bishop of Wroclaw and Plock	2	
	John Albert, Bishop of Cracow	1	
	John Casimir, Prince	1	
	Wladyslaw IV, King of Poland	18	
Ferdinand III, Emperor	Charles Ferdinand, Bishop of Wroclaw and Plock	4	36
	John Casimir, Prince	4	
	Wladyslaw IV, King of Poland	28	

1	2	3	4
Ferdinand, Cardinal-Infant of Spain	Wladyslaw IV, King of Poland	4	4
Isabella, Infanta of Spain	Wladyslaw IV, King of Poland	2	2
John Albert, bishop of Cracow and Warmia	Ferdinand II, Emperor	3	5
	Leopold V, Archduke	1	
	Isabella, Infanta of Spain	1	
John Casimir, Prince	Ferdinand II, Emperor	2	15
	Ferdinand III, Emperor	5	
	Isabella, Infanta of Spain	1	
	Leopold V, Archduke	1	
	Leopold Wilhelm, Archduke	5	
	Maria Anna, Empress	1	
Leopold Wilhelm, Archduke	John Casimir, Prince	1	1
Maria Anna of Austria, Duchess of Bavaria	Wladyslaw IV, King of Poland	1	1
Philip IV, King of Spain	John Casimir, Prince	1	11
	Wladyslaw IV, King of Poland	10	
Wladyslaw IV, King of Poland (Wladyslaw Sigismund, Prince)	Anna of Austria, Queen of France	4	162
	Ferdinand II, Emperor	41	
	Ferdinand III, Emperor, King of Hungary and Bohemia	60	
	Ferdinand, Cardinal-Infant	17	
	Isabella, infanta of Spain	4	
	Leopold Wilhelm, Archduke	19	
	Maria Anna of Austria, Duchess of Bavaria	1	
	Maria Anna, Empress	3	
	Maria Magdalena of Austria, Grand Duchess of Tuscany	4	
	Philip IV, King of Spain	12	
	Leopold V, Archduke	1	
Total number of letters			287

We also exclude the letters of Cecilia Renata, wife of Władysław IV, as, in accordance with project guidelines,²⁵ correspondence from Vasa archduchess wives will be published in a separate volume. The average number of letters exchange between the two families each year during Władysław IV's sixteen-year reign was eighteen, identical to the average for Sigismund III's forty-five-year rule.

The Vasas were the significantly more active side in this exchange, sending 206 of the 287 letters (71%). King Władysław IV sent 162 letters to the Habsburgs; his four brothers sent fewer: John Casimir – fifteen, Charles Ferdinand – twelve, and John Albert and Alexander Charles – five each, while his sister Anna Catherine Constance sent seven. The Habsburgs, in turn, sent eighty-one letters: Emperor Ferdinand III sent thirty-six, Emperor Ferdinand II – twenty-three, King Philip IV – eleven, Cardinal-Infante Ferdinand – four, Anne of Austria, Queen of France – three, Infanta Isabella Clara – two, and Archduchess Maria Anna and Archduke Leopold Wilhelm – one each. Władysław IV himself exchanged 227 letters with the Habsburgs, averaging fourteen letters a year. The largest exchange, comprising eighty-eight letters, was that between Władysław IV and Emperor Ferdinand III, with the Polish king sending 68% of the number. The Polish king also exchanged fifty-nine letters with Ferdinand II from May 1632 until the emperor's death in February 1637. King Philip IV of Spain and Władysław IV exchanged twenty-two letters. Correspondence was maintained with the Brussels court after Infanta Isabella's death, and Władysław exchanged twenty-one letters with Cardinal-Infante Ferdinand. As far as the archdukes are concerned, he sent most letters to Leopold Wilhelm, though no letters from the Bishop of Halberstadt to Władysław IV were found in the research. The archduke evidently maintained active contacts with the Vasas, who sent him thirty letters (Princess Anna Catherine Constance and John Casimir sent five each, and Charles Ferdinand sent one), while only one letter from him to the Vasas has been recorded. Further research in collections containing his correspondence is certainly necessary. The Vasas exchanged fourteen letters with Habsburg archduchess wives residing at various European courts. (Infanta Isabella is excluded

²⁵ R. Skowron, "The House of Vasa and The House of Austria. Project description", p. 31.

from that number.) The highest number here is seven and it refers to the letters sent to Anne of Austria, Queen of France. There is also a distinct imbalance in exchanges between the members of the House of Austria and the siblings of the Polish king: his four brothers and sister sent a total of forty-four letters to the Habsburgs, receiving only sixteen from the Habsburgs.

LANGUAGE OF THE LETTERS

In this volume, Latin remains the dominant language in the correspondence, as was the case during the reign of Władysław's father. Of the 287 letters, forty-four were written in Italian, fourteen in German, three in Spanish, and three in French. Attention is drawn to a significant increase in the use of Italian in correspondence between the two dynasties. However, it only pertains to the Vasas, as the Habsburgs only wrote one letter in that language. It was a letter Archduke Leopold Wilhelm wrote in late February 1644.²⁶ The primary reason behind the high share of Italian letters, many of which are holographs, is the proficiency of King Władysław IV (thirty-one letters) and Prince John Casimir (twelve letters) in this language.²⁷

Six letters written in German by the children of Sigismund III immediately after his death can be considered a token of courtesy towards the Habsburgs. Anna Catherine Constance exchanged letters in German with Archduke Leopold Wilhelm, which seems a likely result of the friendship they had established in Baden. Besides these, German was the language of only two letters from King Władysław IV and one from Prince Charles Ferdinand. French is present in the correspondence of Anne of Austria, wife of Louis XIV. The original of a letter in French that the Queen of France sent to John Casimir in 1644 has been preserved. It is worth noting that the prince had met Anne of Austria in person during his captivity in France.²⁸ The remaining two

²⁶ Archduke Leopold Wilhelm to Prince John Casimir, Vienna, 13 February 1644, No. 250 in the present volume.

²⁷ Prince John Casimir also exchanged letters in Italian with Claudia de' Medici. Several letters from 1640–41 can be found in Vienna at HHStA, Familienakten, Karton 28, fos 32–39.

²⁸ E. Wassenberg, *Serenissimi Iohannis Casimiri Poloniarum Sueciaeque Principis Carcer Gallicus*, Gedanii 1644, pp. 236–246.

French-language letters are copies or drafts addressed to King Władysław IV, a fact that leaves room for uncertainty about the language they were actually sent to the Warsaw court in. The three letters in Spanish include two drafts prepared for translation into Latin by the Secretariat of the Council of State (*Consejo de Estado*) and a translation of an original letter from Władysław IV.

CORRESPONDENCE EXCHANGED BETWEEN WŁADYSŁAW IV
AND THE HABSBURGS (1615–48)

The following section only discusses a handful of fundamental questions related to the letters exchange between Władysław IV and members of the House of Austria in 1615–48. The scope of study covers a period of thirty-three years, beginning with the earliest known letter exchanged between Prince Władysław Sigismund and a Habsburg. Altogether 290 letters from this period have been recorded, with 210 having been sent by the Vasa and 80 by members of the House of Austria. Before ascending to the throne, Władysław IV exchanged sixty-three letters with the Habsburgs, and 227 during his reign.

The earliest letters in the prince's epistolary interactions with the Habsburgs are related to his investiture to the Order of the Golden Fleece. By letter of 22 May 1615, Philip III informed the prince of his investiture to the Order and departure of Jean Hervart, King of Arms of the Order, for Poland to bestow it on the Pole.²⁹ In his reply, the young Vasa thanked the King of Spain for the honour and informed him that the ceremony had taken place in Warsaw on 30 November. In 1615–48, Władysław IV's correspondents included fourteen members of the House of Austria. He most frequently exchanged letters with the emperors: he sent sixty letters to Ferdinand III (also while he was King of Hungary and Bohemia), and fifty-one to Ferdinand II. Moreover, the Pole addressed ninety-nine letters to other Habsburgs, in that number twenty-nine to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm, nineteen to Infanta Isabella, seventeen to Cardinal-Infante Ferdinand, sixteen

²⁹ King Philip IV to Prince Władysław, Madrid 22 May 1615, in: *The House of Vasa ...*, part I, vol. 1, No. 270, pp. 614–615. See also: R. Skowron, "Order Złotego Runa i jego polscy kawalerowie", in: *Rzeczpospolita między okcydentalizmem a orientalizacją. Przestrzeń kontaktów*, ed. by F. Wolański, R. Kolodziej, Toruń 2009, pp. 230–231.

to King Philip IV, and ten to Archduke Leopold V. He also sent from one to four letters to the remaining seven members of the family (See: Table 2).

Table 2. Numbers of letters sent by Wladyslaw IV to members of the House of Austria in 1615–1648

Sender	Recipient	Headquarters of recipient	Number of letters	Total number of letters
Wladyslaw IV, King of Poland (Wladyslaw Sigismund, Prince)	Anna of Tirol, Empress	Vienna	2	210
	Anna of Austria, Queen of France	Paris	4	
	Ferdinand II, Emperor	Vienna	51	
	Ferdinand III, Emperor, King of Hungary and Bohemia	Vienna	60	
	Ferdinand, Cardinal-Infant of Spain	Brussels	17	
	Isabella, Infanta of Spain	Brussels	19	
	Leopold V, Archduke	Innsbruck	11	
	Leopold Wilhelm, Archduke	Vienna	19	
	Maria Anna of Austria, duchess of Bavaria	Munich	1	
	Maria Anna, Empress	Vienna	3	
	Maria Magdalena of Austria, Grand Duchess of Tuscany	Florence	4	
	Matthias, Emperor	Vienna	2	
	Philip III, King of Spain	Madrid	1	
	Philip IV, King of Spain	Madrid	16	

During this period, Wladyslaw received eighty letters from the Habsburgs, their most prolific authors being Emperor Ferdinand III with twenty-eight letters, Ferdinand II with twenty-two, and King Philip IV with ten. Each of the eight other relatives sent him from one

to four letters. From 1615 to 1648, Władysław IV exchanged the largest number of letters with the emperors: eighty-eight with Ferdinand III, seventy-three with Ferdinand II, twenty-six with King Philip IV, twenty-three with Infanta Isabella, and twenty-one with Cardinal-Infante Ferdinand (see: Table 3).

Table 3. Numbers of letters sent by members of the House of Austria to Władysław IV in 1615–1648

Sender	Headquarters of sender	Recipient	Number of letters	Total number of letters
Anna of Tirol, Empress	Vienna	Władysław IV, King of Poland (Władysław Sigismund, Prince)	2	80
Anna of Austria, Queen of France	Paris		2	
Ferdinand II, Emperor	Vienna		22	
Ferdinand III, Emperor	Vienna		28	
Ferdinand, Cardinal-Infant of Spain	Brussels		4	
Isabella, Infanta of Spain	Brussels		4	
Maria Anna of Austria, Duchess of Bavaria	Munich		1	
Maria Magdalena, Archduchess	Florence		3	
Mathias, Emperor	Vienna		3	
Philip III, King of Spain	Madrid		1	
Philip IV, King of Spain	Madrid	10		

Exchange of letters with the emperors accounts for 55% of the total number of letters he exchanged with the House of Austria. This indicates that the king maintained consistent epistolary interaction within an entire Habsburg network, which extended not only to the imperial court in Vienna but also to the courts of Innsbruck, Madrid, Brussels, Florence, Paris, and Munich.³⁰

³⁰ Italian researcher Francesca Da Caprio in a paper entitled “Listy z Polski do księcia Gonzagi w zasobach Państwowego Archiwum w Mantui”, in: *Z historii związków polsko-włoskich*, ed. by B.D. Wienska, Viterbo 2009, pp. 157–199 in the list of letters at Fondo Dipartimento degli Affari Esteri, VII. 2, Affari in Polonia. Lettere Reali ai Principi di Mantova: Reali di Polonia fasc. 14 1606–1654, on p. 209 mistakenly

The main data concerning the language of letters sent by the Vasas to the Habsburgs having been outlined above, let us now examine the language choices of Władysław IV himself. Of the 210 letters he sent, fifty-three were written in languages other than Latin, with forty-eight in Italian and only five in German. This means that one in five letters sent by Władysław IV was written in the language of Dante. His Italian-language correspondents included Archduke Leopold Wilhelm (fourteen letters), Emperor Ferdinand III (ten letters), Ferdinand II (six letters), Infanta Isabella (five letters), King Philip IV (five letters), Archduchess Maria Magdalena (four letters), Archduke Leopold (three letters), and Anne of Austria, Queen of France (one letter). Most of them were written in Władysław IV's own hand. This reflects the king's dedication to writing letters in person, as attested to by the postscript to a letter to Archduke Leopold V: *Rogo velit me excusatum habere quod non propria manu scribam nam posta hac hora discedit et tamen sciat me semper ei omnia fausta optare et meam bonam voluntatem ei offero omni in occasione.*³¹ The Italian letters of Władysław IV published in this edition represent only a share of his extensive exchanges with Italian princes, clergy, diplomats, merchants, artists, and especially musicians. A comprehensive study of this correspondence is crucial not only for understanding the relationship between the Vasa court and the courts of Italian princes but also for exploring the cultural exchange between Poland and Italy.

EPISTOLOGRAPHIC CONVENTIONS: SALUTATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Not unlike in the reign of Sigismund III, the correspondence between Władysław IV and the Habsburgs was highly conventionalised, in terms of both language and structure, the latter adhering to the five-part

indicated that the recipient of letters sent by King Władysław IV and Prince John Casimir to the Mantuan court in 1644–47 (p. 192) was Archduchess Isabella Clara of Austria, daughter of Leopold V of Tyrol and Claudia de' Medici. However, Isabella Clara only married Charles II Gonzaga in August 1649 and arrived in Mantua on 7 November of that year. Therefore, the letters from the Vasas were directed to Princess Eleonora, sister of Charles II and future wife of Emperor Ferdinand III. The opening and closing formulas of these letters unequivocally indicate that they could not have been addressed to the Archduchess.

³¹ Prince Władysław to Archduke Leopold V, Nysa, 20 July 1616, in: *The House of Vasa ...*, part I, vol. 1, No. 315, p. 681.

structure developed by the medieval *ars dictaminis*, and including: *salutatio*, *benevolentiae captatio*, *narratio*, *petitio*, and *conclusio*. From the first years of this century, researchers from various fields have analysed opening and closing formulas of letters in detail, deeming them to reflect not only the nature of interpersonal relationships between correspondents but also the hierarchy of power.³² The pragmatic functions and semantic potential of these ritualised formulas are relatively limited, yet they allow insight into the relationships between correspondents and the observation of changes in letter components over time. Below, the correspondence of Władysław Vasa becomes the object of such analysis to demonstrate how the evolution of the content of these structures reflects his legal status within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the international political landscape, and the political, familial, and emotional relationships with the Habsburgs.

All forty-four letters Prince Władysław Sigismund sent to the Habsburgs before his election to the Polish throne are considered private. A categorisation that results directly from the legal status of Sigismund III's children in the Commonwealth.³³ As sons of an elected ruler, the princes did not possess the title and status of heirs to the Polish and Lithuanian throne. They were treated as private individuals, whose rights were more restricted than those of a rank-and-file nobleman. They were e.g. not allowed to hold state offices, sit in the senate, or possess hereditary property. The only career left open to them was the

³² See e.g.: G. Del Lungo Camiciotti, "Letters and Letter Writing in Early Modern Culture: An Introduction", *Journal of Early Modern Studies*, 3, 2014, pp. 17–35; G. Iannaccaro, A. Petrina, "To and From the Queen: Modalities of Epistolography in the Correspondence of Elizabeth I", *Journal of Early Modern Studies*, 3, 2014, pp. 69–89; R. Allinson, *A Monarchy of Letters: Royal Correspondence and English Diplomacy in the Reign of Elizabeth*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012; *Idem*. "These latter days of the world: the Correspondence of Elizabeth I and James VI, 1590–1603", *Early Modern Literary Studies, Special Issue*, 16, October 2007) 21–27 <URL: <http://purl.oclc.org/emls/si-16/allilatt.htm>>; J. Daybell, *The Material Letter in Early Modern England: Manuscript Letters and the Culture and Practices of Letter-Writing, 1512–1635*, Palgrave Macmillan 2012; G. Sternverg, "Epistolary Ceremonial: Corresponding Status at the Time of Louis XIV", *Past and Present*, 204, August 2009, pp. 33–88. J. Holzapfel, *Kanzleikorrespondenz des späten Mittelalters in Bayern. Schriftlichkeit, Sprache und politische Rhetorik*, München 2008.

³³ U. Augustyniak, *Wazowie i "królowie rodacy". Studium władzy królewskiej w Rzeczypospolitej XVII wieku*, Warszawa 1999, pp. 150–151; S. Ochman-Staniszevska, *Dynastia Wazów w Polsce*, Warszawa 2006, pp. 252–253

clerical one. Despite these, the nobility respected them as members of the royal family, considering them descendants of the Jagiellonian dynasty and potential future rulers of the country. Such a position of the princes within the structures of the state influenced both the formal nature of their letters, and the content of their opening and closing formulas. The private nature of Prince Władysław Sigismund's correspondence is indirectly confirmed by the fact that only two of the 63 letters he exchanged with the Habsburgs are found in Polish collections. They are both related to his investiture to the Order of the Golden Fleece from King Philip III of Spain. Thus, they pertain to a religious-diplomatic event and, like documents related to the investiture of Sigismund III to the Order,³⁴ they might have been entered into one of the royal chancery registers. The remaining letters belong to family correspondence.

Let us first examine the opening formulas of Władysław Sigismund's letters. As we did analysing the Vasa-Habsburg correspondence from 1587–1626, we shall define *salutatio* broadly as a single structure (also known as the address) that comprises *inscriptio* (recipient's name and titles), *intitulatio* (sender's name and titles), and *benevolentio* (greetings proper).³⁵

The opening formulas used by Władysław Sigismund are typical of family correspondence. Let us first take a look at those in his Latin letters addressed to Emperors Matthias and Ferdinand II. The *salutatio* takes a narrower form, reduced to a greeting only: *Sacra Caesarea Maiestas, domine avuncule observantissime*, which, in one letter, is only slightly expanded to *Sacra ac Serenissima Caesarea Maiestas domine avuncule observande*.³⁶ The use of titles is very concise yet typical of family letters

³⁴ R. Skowron, "Order Złotego Runa...", pp. 228–230.

³⁵ T. Poznański, R. Skowron, "Dynastische epistolare Interaktion. Der Briefwechsel von Sigismund III. Wasa und seiner Familie mit dem Haus Österreich", in: *Monarchie und Diplomatie. Handlungsoptionen und Netzwerke am Hof Sigismunds III. Wasa*, ed. by K. Lichy, O. Hegedüs, Paderborn 2023, pp. 77–85; See also "German Hanse" in: *Letter Writing*, ed. by T. Nevalainen, Sanna-Kaisa Tanskanen, Amsterdam-Philadelphia 2007, pp. 13–26. I. Cornelius, "The Rhetoric of Advancement: Ars dictaminis, Cursus, and Clerical Careerism in Late Medieval England", *New Medieval Literatures*, 12, 2010, pp. 296–298.

³⁶ Prince Władysław Sigismund to Emperor Ferdinand II, Golub, 20 November 1625, in: *The House of Vasa ...*, part I, vol. 1, No. 663, p. 438.

(*Sacra Caesarea Maiestas*) and does not even mention the emperor's name, while it indicates kinship through the maternal line (*avunculus*) and expressing respect (*observantissime*). This type of formula omits the *intitulatio* and lacks the greeting proper (*benevolentio*). After the salutation, the letter proceeds directly to the narrative. Similar *salutatio* – *Sacra Caesarea Maiestas domina cognata nostra observantissima* – is found in letters to Empress Anna: a formula that fully complies with epistolary etiquette for family correspondence.

Ties connecting Władysław Sigismund to his mother's younger brother, Archduke Leopold V, Bishop of Passau and Strasbourg, were particularly close. The opening and closing formulas in these letters allow us to observe the progressing process of developing friendship and closeness between the prince and his maternal uncle, just nine years his senior. The oldest surviving letter from the prince to Leopold V dates from July 1619, when the Vasa was staying with his uncle Archduke Charles, Bishop of Wrocław, in Nysa in Silesia. The letter opens with the following formula:

Serenissime princeps domine cognate carissime, non minor desiderio Dilectionem Vestram videndi eandemque alloquendi, et ego teneor quam de Dilectione Vestra eiusdem humanissimae literae, satis abunde testantur.³⁷

In this case, the *salutatio* consists of two clearly distinguishable parts: a concise *intitulatio* (*Serenissime princeps domine cognate carissime*) that omits the recipient's name and office, indicating kinship, and a *captatio benevolentiae*, in which Władysław Sigismund expresses his desire for a personal meeting with the archduke and continuing their exchange of letters. This latter part indicates that they had started exchanging them earlier, with one of the topics being Vasa's plans to travel abroad. This is an important hint, as it shows that the prince was planning a journey to Western Europe as early as two years before the Battle of Chocim in 1621.³⁸

³⁷ Prince Władysław to Archduke Leopold V, Nysa, 20 July 1616, in: *The House of Vasa ...*, part I, vol. 2, No. 315, p. 681.

³⁸ See: A. Przyboś, "Wstęp", in: *Podróż królewicza Władysława...*, p. 14.

It is also noteworthy that, referring to Leopold V in his early letters, Władysław Sigismund used the title *principe* rather than “archduke”. The change would only come in 1625, after the two met in person in Vienna and Strasbourg. In a letter from Brussels sent in October of that year, the prince used the formula *Serenissime archidux domine cognate carissime*. The developing correspondence and personal conversations had resulted in a bond of friendship between the Vasa and the Habsburg. The prince would soon begin to write letters in German, whose *salutatio* would undergo significant changes, reflecting the deepening emotional ties between them.

The letter from December 1628 opens with the following formula:

Unsere gefliessene freündliche dienste, unnd was wir der nahen verwandtnüs halben, mehr liebs unndt guts vermögen, iederzeit zuvohr. Durchleüchtiger Fürst, Freündtlicher geliebter Herr Vetter, und Bruder, Euer Liebden mögen wir anzudeüten, nicht unterlaßen.³⁹

In January 1631, Władysław Sigismund wrote: *Durchleuchtiger Fürst Euer Liebden sein meine freündlich willige dienst, und was ich sonsten liebs unndt guets vermag zuvor, Freündtlich Geliebter Herr Vetter unndt Brueder*.⁴⁰ The friendship derived not as much from kinship as from mutual respect and the services rendered. The use of the word *Bruder* (brother) is not insignificant, the more so as its equivalent – *fratello* – appears in letters written to the Habsburg in Italian – *Serenissimo Signore et fratello mio osservantissimo* while *frater* is used in those penned in Latin: *Serenissime archidux domine avuncule et frater noster carissime*. In this context, *Bruder*, *fratello*, and *frater* do not denote a familial relationship, as that had already been indicated by the Latin terms *avunculus* and *cognatus*. Instead, it is a courtesy form of address used by two princes of equal rank, bound by mutual loyalty and various ties of familial, political, religious, and cultural nature. While analysing the changing taking place in the letters exchanged between Władysław Sigismund and the archduke, it is

³⁹ Prince Władysław Sigismund to Archduke Leopold, Merkine, 14 December 1628, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 2, No. 748, pp. 559–560.

⁴⁰ Prince Władysław Sigismund to Archduke Leopold V, Tykocin, 2 January 1631, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 2, No. 773, p. 593.

impossible to gloss over the significant changes in Leopold V's status, as in 1619, he became Regent (*Statthalter*) of Tyrol and Further Austria, and four years later he – the sovereign of these territories. In 1625, he resigned from his ecclesiastical positions and married Claudia de' Medici in the following year.

Władysław Sigismund's letters to the Spanish branch of the House of Austria (Philip IV and Infanta Isabella Clara Eugenia) include formalised *salutatio* formulas composed of the previously mentioned parts: *inscriptio*, *intitulatio*, and *benevolentio*, continuing the model used by his father, Sigismund III. The opening formula the letter to Philip IV from 10 August 1626 reads:

Serenissimo principi domino Philippo Dei gratia Castellae, Legionis, Aragonum, Utriusque Siciliae, Hierusalem, Portugaliae, Navarrae et Indiarum regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Lotharingiae, Brabantiae, comiti Flandriae, Tirolis domino fratri et consanguineo nostro carissimo Vladislaus Sigismundus Dei gratia princeps Poloniae et Sueciae, electus magnus dux Moschoviae, Smolenscensis, Severiensis, Czernichoviensis Ducatum administrator, salutem et mutui amoris atque omnis felicitatis perpetuum incrementum. Serenissime princeps domine frater et consanguinee noster carissime.⁴¹

In this *salutatio*, Władysław Sigismund mentioned King Philip IV first and applied the proper titles and greeting formulas envisaged by epistolary etiquette. Following the titling practices at the Polish court, in the *intitulatio*, he referred to himself as Prince of Poland and Sweden.

The seals of all sons of Sigismund III bore legends indicating their princely titles, e.g. *WLADISLAVS SIGISMVNDVS PRINCEPS POLONIAE ET SVECIAE* and *CAROLUS FERDINANDVS PRINCEPS POLONIA[e] ET SVECIAE EPISCOPUS VRATISLA[viensis]* surrounding the quartered coats of arms of Poland, Lithuania, Sweden, and their house.⁴² The use of *intitulatio* and the seal's inscription equated

⁴¹ Prince Władysław Sigismund to King Philip IV, Warsaw, 10 August 1626, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 2, No. 681, pp. 464–465.

⁴² M. Hlebionek, “Pieczęcie polskich królewiczów”, *Сфрагістичный щорічник* [Sfragistichnyi Shchorichnyk], 4, 2014, pp. 165–175.

the son of an elective king, granted no hereditary succession rights, with a prince holding hereditary rights to the crown. The Polish Vasas employed this propagandistic tactic to assert their full rights to the Swedish crown and elevate their dynasty's status among European courts. Thus, they consciously refrained from using titles that might have diminished the prestige and rank of a prince from an elective monarchy compared to a hereditary monarchy, such as on the seal of Prince Sigismund III before his election to the Polish throne, whose inscription began with *SIGISMVND[us]. D[omi]ni. G[ra]tia. P[ro]ximus. P[ri]nceps. H[ereditarius]. R[egn]i. SVE[cia]e. FV[er]us. Rex.*⁴³ Moreover, in the letter to Philip IV, the coat of arms on the prince's seal was surrounded by the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece, symbolising the dynasty's ties with the House of Austria and enhancing the family's position further. In his *intitulatio*, Władysław Sigismund listed titles intended to enhance his prestige among European royal families. After the boyars offered him the throne of Muscovy in 1610, he used the title “elected Grand Duke of Muscovy” and when, in the wake of Poland's victory over Muscovy in 1620, the Sejm entrusted him with the administration of the reclaimed duchies of Smolensk, Severia, and Chernihiv, he also had the fact reflected in his *intitulatio*.

The set of titles Władysław Sigismund quoted in his letters to Philip IV were not fully understood by the Spanish court and raised questions. A proof of this is found in a letter to the royal secretary Jerónimo de la Torre, referring to the letter discussed here and to one written by the prince in Italian:

Quando el Rey nuestro señor escribe al rey de Polonia en lengua latina le dará los mismos títulos que el se pone en sus cartas, es a saber:

Al Serenísimó Príncipe y señor Sigismundo Rey de Polonia, de los Suecos, de los Godos etc. Gran Duque de Lituania, de Russia, de Prussia, de Masovia, de Samogicia, y de Livonia, hermano y consanguíneo nuestro caríssimo.

⁴³ J. Krawczuk, *Pieczęcie Zygmunta III Wazy*, Kraków 1993, p. 40; Hlebionek, “Pieczęcie polskich...”, p. 166.

Las cartas que el Príncipe de Polonia ha escrito a Su Magestad en latin estarán en el oficio pero me acuerdo que ha habido alguna en Italiano⁴⁴. En las latinas me parece que abreviava algo los títulos de su Padre y que si si Magestad le ha respondido, habrá hecho lo mismo, tratándole de Serenísimo Príncipe y Señor Vladislao Sigismundo, Príncipe de Polonia etc. Y dentro de Alteza o Serenidad; pero esto constará por las minutas que también estarán en el [oficio]. Más los títulos que el mismo Príncipe se pone en una carta de X de Agosto 1626 en recomendación de Alexandro Rangon, son los siguientes: Vladislao Sigismundo, por la gracia de Dios, Príncipe de Polonia y de Suecia, electo Gran Duque de Moscovia, Administrador de los Ducados de Smolense, Severiense y Czernicoviense.⁴⁵

This note indicates that the Madrid court analysed the salutations the Polish prince used to ensure the principle of reciprocity and thus observe epistolary etiquette when responding. The court also noted the similarity between the *intitulatio* used by Władysław Sigismund and Sigismund III, as well as the difference between the *salutatio* in Latin and the one the prince used earlier in the letter in Italian.

The same formula was used in another five letters sent in 1623–28 to Infanta Isabella, Governor of the Habsburg Netherlands.⁴⁶ As in his letter to Philip IV, the prince first mentioned Isabella and listed her titles, in this way indicating his recognition of her higher status. It is far from easy to determine precisely when Władysław Sigismund employed this type of *salutatio*, as there are only six such letters, all addressed to the Spanish line of the family. At the same time, the prince also sent letters both in Latin and Italian to the king and the infanta with shorter salutations, omitting full titulature, for instance addressing Philip IV as *Sacra Maestà*, and Infanta Isabella as *Serenissima princeps domina cognata nostra carissima et observantissima* or *Serenissima Signora mia osservantissima*.

⁴⁴ This most probably concerns a letter from prince Władysław Sigismund of 13 July 1626. See: Prince Władysław Sigismund to King Philip IV, Warsaw, 13 July 1626, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 2, No. 680, p. 463.

⁴⁵ AG Simancas, E. 2509, f. 165.

⁴⁶ See: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vols 1–2, letters numbers: 387, 630, 676, 676, 688, 728.

Comparing the correspondence of King Sigismund III with that of his son reveals a notable pattern. All letters Władysław Sigismund sent to Brussels with extended salutations address the same topics as letters from the king to the infanta, written on the same day or several days earlier.⁴⁷ It seems, however, that the prince's letters served not only to reinforce the requests made by Sigismund III but also, through the use of *intitulatio*, to underpin Władysław Sigismund's status and prestige within Habsburg courts. The purpose of using full titulature is well illustrated by the prince's exchanges of letters with Philip IV. It began at the time of planning the construction of a Vasa-Habsburg fleet on the Baltic Sea and the arrival of the Spanish king's diplomats, Count de Solre and Baron de Auchy, at the Warsaw court.⁴⁸ This was the context for Władysław Sigismund's personal letter of 13 July 1626 to Philip IV, in which he expressed in Italian his eagerness to take any action furthering the interests of the Catholic king. It opened with a brief formula typical of family relations, *Serenissimo Signore*, which was replaced with *Sacra Maestà* in later letters. Not even a month later, the prince sent another letter on an issue of absolutely secondary importance for Polish-Spanish relations, namely, the appointment of Alessandro Rangoni as bishop, which included the extended *salutatio* with full titulature mentioned above. This provided the Madrid court not only with the prince's official titles but also conveyed several key signals. The subject of the letter was chosen not without a good reason, as it touched on ecclesiastical matters that the Spanish kings considered valid and material, and indicated Sigismund III's close relations with the popes and nuncios. It also contained a message hinting at harmonious cooperation between Sigismund III and Władysław Sigismund and at the prince's part in making decisions. It furthermore subtly pointed to the prince as the heir to the Polish throne. The note addressed to Jerónimo de la Torre indirectly confirms that this is precisely how the Madrid court interpreted Władysław Sigismund's letter.

⁴⁷ See: the pairs of letters in *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vols 1–2, numbers 385 and 387, 629 and 630, 675 and 676, 687 and 688, 727 and 728.

⁴⁸ R. Skowron *Olivares, los Vasa y el Báltico...*, pp. 189–203; M. Conde Pazos, *La quiebra de un modelo...*, pp. 125–127.

Sigismund III's death did not alter the legal status of his sons, and they had to continue using the formulas they employed in their correspondence in their father's lifetime. Władysław Sigismund's epistolary situation only changed when he was elected King of Poland 8 November 1632 and, until his coronation, held the title of king-elect. This was also reflected in his correspondence with foreign courts, with the change being most notable in the opening and closing formulas. In a letter dated 16 November, informing Emperor Ferdinand II of his election, Władysław used the following opening formula:

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando secundo divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo et parenti nostro observantissimo. Vladislaus IV Dei gratia electus rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Severiae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorum haereditarius rex, electus magnus dux Moschoviae salutem et filialis observantiae studium. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule et parens observantissime.⁴⁹

As required by etiquette, the Vasa mentioned the emperor first and listed his principal titles. By using *rex electus*, the *intitulatio* accurately reflected Władysław IV's legal status in the Commonwealth, while *Suecorum*, *Gottorum*, *Vandalorum haereditarius rex* emphasised his hereditary rights to the Swedish crown. Additionally, as king-elect, he retained the title *electus magnus dux Moschoviae*, yet without mentioning the role of governor of the territories regained from Muscovy under the Truce of Deulino, as the recovered duchies, except for that of Smolensk, were listed as part of his domains instead. Worth noting is the use of the word *parens* in the *benevolentio*. The term only made its way into the salutations of Vasa–Habsburg correspondence after Sigismund III's death. It is a term the king's children used to address their maternal

⁴⁹ King-elect Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II, Warsaw, 16 November 1632, No. 19 in this volume.

uncles – Emperor Ferdinand II and Archduke Leopold – but also such distant relatives as Infanta Isabella. To give some examples: *Sacra Caesarea Maiestas domine avuncule uti parens observantissime* – Władysław Sigismund in a letter to the emperor, *Durchleuchtigster Erzhertzoge Freundlich Hochgeliebter Herr Vetter und Vater* – John Casimir to Leopold V, and *Serenissima princeps domina cognata uti parens carissima* – Charles Ferdinand to Infanta Isabella. Such Latin terms as *parens*, *pater* and *mater*, and the German *Vater* and *Mutter* must be treated as courteous expressions indicating that the addressee is worthy of a parental role due to kinship. They were commonly applied in letters to the parents-in-law, for instance by Sigismund III to Maria of Bavaria, but also to distant relatives after the death of a parent, as demonstrated in Vasa correspondence from 1632–33. Władysław IV last used *parens* in a letter to Emperor Ferdinand II in April 1633.⁵⁰

There are two more surviving documents in which Władysław IV uses the title of king-elect. They are the letters to Infanta Isabella and Cardinal-Infante Ferdinand. The following *salutatio* from the letter to the infanta dated 14 November 1632 is worth quoting as it reflects the change in Vasa's status following his election:

Vladislaus quartus Dei gratia electus Poloniae rex, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoitiæ, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, electus magnus dux Moscoviae serenissimae principi dominae Isabellae Clarae Eugeniae infanti Hispaniarum, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Brabantiae, Luxemburgi, Geldriae, comiti Tirolis cognatae nostrae serenissimae salutem et omnem felicitatem. Serenissima princeps cognata nostra carissima.⁵¹

In this opening formula, Władysław IV placed himself first, which marked a shift from the style he used during Sigismund III's reign, when he listed Infanta Isabella first. This change suggests that the royal chancery considered the position of king-elect higher than that

⁵⁰ King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II, Kraków, 3 April 1633, No. 31 in this volume.

⁵¹ King-elect Władysław IV to Infanta Isabella, Warsaw, 14 November 1632, No. 16 in this volume.

of Isabella, Governor of the Habsburg Netherlands. The titles of Władysław IV do not include the duchies reclaimed from Muscovy. Moreover, the *benevolentio* does not use the word *parens*, even though it appears in greetings in the letters Charles Ferdinand and John Albert sent to the infanta.

Following his coronation on 1 February 1633, Władysław would develop an *intitulatio* format to be used for the *salutatio* in 1633–34. The obvious change was replacing *rex electus Poloniae* with *rex Poloniae* and ceasing to mention the duchies of Smolensk, Chernihiv, and Severia, as in a letter to Cardinal-Infante Ferdinand: *Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gotthorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, electus magnus dux Moschoviae*⁵² a custom followed in letters sent to Ferdinand II in these years.

With the Treaty of Polanowo (Polyanovka) of 14 June 1634 putting an end to the Polish–Muscovite War and Władysław IV renouncing the claims to the Muscovite throne, the words *electus magnus dux Moschoviae* were removed from the *salutatio* to bring back listing the duchies reclaimed under the Truce of Deulino as territories he ruled:

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Ungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Slavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo Vladislaus quartus Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Severiae, Smolensciae, Czarnihoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et mutui amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.⁵³

⁵² King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Warsaw, 25 November 1634, No. 16 in this volume.

⁵³ See e.g.: King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II, Warsaw, 20 March 1635, No. 85 in this volume.

The letter opening formula established in 1634 stayed in Władysław IV's letters until the end of his reign. What remained variable was the order of naming the sender and recipient in the *salutatio*. Adhering to the requirements of etiquette and preponderance, the Polish king listed the emperor and King Philip IV of Spain first. Yet, writing to Ferdinand III while the addressee was King of Bohemia and Hungary, and to the archdukes and Spanish infantes, the Polish king placed his own name and titles first. It is also worth noting that, despite his close relationship with Philip IV, in his *inscriptio*, Władysław IV never used the full title *rex Catholicus*, so frequently applied by his father.⁵⁴ It did nonetheless make its way to the Italian-language letters opening with such short salutations as *Sacra Maestà Catolica*. This example comes from the letter of November 1634, in which the Vasa requested Philip IV's approval for the marriage of Prince John Casimir to Anna Carafa, duchess of Stigliano.

The small number of preserved originals and copies of letters from the House of Austria to Władysław IV confines the examination of opening formulas to observing reactions to changes in the titles of Władysław Vasa. The earliest surviving *salutatio* is that in a copy of a letter Empress Anna sent in June 1616: *Anna Romanorum Imperatrix, Hungariae et Bohemiae Regina, Archiducissae Austriae. Serenissime princeps cognate carissime*.⁵⁵ Obviously, the empress listed herself first and provided her titles in the *inscriptio*, and then, aside from the title of prince, she included no other titles of the Pole. The complete list of titles used by the Polish chancery for Władysław Sigismund appears in Infanta Isabella's letter from 1621, informing him of the death of her husband, Archduke Albert.

Isabella Clara Eugenia Dei gratia infanta Hispaniarum, archiducissa Austriae, ducissa Burgundiae etc. serenissimo principi domino Vladislao Sigismundo Dei gratia Poloniae et Sueciae principi, electo magno duci Moschoviae, Smolencensis, Severiensis,

⁵⁴ T. Poznański, R. Skowron, "Dynastische epistolare Interaktion...", pp. 82–83.

⁵⁵ Empress Anna to Prince Władysław Sigismund, Prague, 16 June 1616, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 2, No. 566, p. 296.

Cernihoviensis ducatum administratori salutem et mutuum benevolentiam. Serenissime princeps, consanguinee observande.⁵⁶

The *salutatio* is formalized, with Infanta Isabella listing herself first and including all titles associated with Władysław Sigismund he used at the time. The note for Jerónimo de la Torre suggests that in 1626 Philip IV likely used a similar list of titles.

The only known *salutatio* from the Habsburgs from the time between Władysław IV's election and his coronation also comes from Infanta Isabella:

Serenissimo principi domino Vladislao quarto Dei gratia electo Poloniae regi, magno duci Lithaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque, nec non Suecorum, Gothorum, Vandalorumque haereditario regi, electo magno duci Moschoviae. Isabella Clara Eugenia Dei gratia infanta Hispaniarum, archiducissa Austriae, ducissa Burgundiae etc. salutem benevolentiam et mutui amoris incrementum serenissime princeps cognate carissime.⁵⁷

This formula is quoted here not only because Isabella addressed Władysław IV as one elected to be King of Poland but also due to the shift of places in the infanta's *inscriptio*. For Isabella listed Władysław IV in it as first, even though he had not yet been crowned. Her letter was a reply to the above-discussed letter from Władysław IV of 14 November 1632, in which the Vasa placed himself first as the sender for the first time. The infanta employed fully the principle of reciprocity so characteristic of exchanges between the House of Vasa and the House of Austria. Moreover, listing the titles she also affirmed Władysław IV's full rights to the Swedish crown.

Emperor Ferdinand II held high hopes for the newly elected Polish king, who had not only been a political supporter of the Habsburgs since at least 1626 but had also become personally engaged in their military plans. The emperor primarily counted on the Commonwealth

⁵⁶ Infanta Isabella to Prince Władysław, Brussels, 22 July 1621, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 1, No. 349, p. 733.

⁵⁷ Infanta Isabella to King-elect *Władysław IV*, Brussels, 30 January 1633, No. 24 in this volume.

resuming war with Sweden in 1635 and intensification of drafting. These hopes were kindled further by the prompt renewal of the dynastic treaty between the Vasas and the Habsburgs.⁵⁸ *Salutatio* was one of the emperor's tools of influence over the Polish king. He included the first complete opening formula in the letter from April 1633:

Ferdinandus secundus divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus, ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Styriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Wirtembergae, comes Tyrolis. Serenissimo principi, domino Vladislao quarto, regi Poloniae et Sveciae, magno duci Lithuaniae ac Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiaequae, electo magno duci Moschoviae, nepoti, vicino, amico et filio nostro carissimo, salutem et mutuam benevolentiam. Serenissime princeps, nepos, vicine, amice et fili carissime.

All elements strictly abided by etiquette and the principle of reciprocity. The *inscriptio* listed Władysław IV's principal titles: King of Poland and Sweden, Grand Duke of Lithuania, and elected Grand Duke of Muscovy. It is worth bearing out that by referring to the Polish king as “nephew, neighbour, friend, and most beloved son” in the *benevolentio*, Ferdinand II emphasised his close and varied bonds with the House of Austria, which were meant to mandate him to combine efforts, and bind him to a specific political goal: resumption of war with Sweden. Despite these demonstrative expressions of kinship and friendship, in his actions concerning the wars with Sweden and France, the emperor only to minimal extent acknowledged Władysław IV's diplomatic and political proposals, such as his offer to mediate peace.⁵⁹

The delayed reaction of the emperor and/or his chancery to the change in Władysław IV's *intitulatio*, reflecting his renunciation of the

⁵⁸ Foedus inter Ferdinandum II Imperatorem et Vladislaum IV Regem Poloniae, quo priora pacta et foedora inter Reges et Regnum Poloniae inita renovantur et confirmantur..., 12 February 1633, in: M. Dogiel, *Codex diplomaticus Regni Poloniae et Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae*, vol. 1, Vilnae 1758, pp. 300–307, *Idem* at HHSStA, Polen I, 56 B, ff. 65–74 (copy).

⁵⁹ R. Skowron, “The Electoral Palatinate. Key to Europe. Art of Diplomacy of Władysław IV”, *Eastern European History Review*, 4, 2021, pp. 79–99.

title “elected Grand Duke of Muscovy”, which continued to appear in their letters until at least mid-1635, is as surprising as it is difficult to explain.⁶⁰ Moreover, the title is still found in the draft of Ferdinand III’s letter dated April 1637.⁶¹

The *salutatio* in Emperor Ferdinand III’s letters to the Polish king underwent only minor subsequent modifications. They were primarily due to a change in the change of kinship with Władysław IV and, consequently, *nepos* and *filius* were replaced with *consobrinus* and *frater*.⁶²

Ferdinandus tertius divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Slavoniae rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Wittembergae comes Tirolis et Goritiae serenissimo principi domino Vladislao quarto regi Poloniae, magno duci Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditario regi, consobrino, vicino affini et fratri nostro carissimo salutem et fraterni affectus, omnisque felicitatis perpetuum incrementum. Serenissime princeps consobrino vicine affinis et frater carissime.⁶³

The marriage of the Polish king to Archduchess Cecilia Renata had little practical impact on the letters they exchanged. In the only two letters Władysław IV wrote to Emperor Ferdinand III in German, he referred to him as brother-in-law: *Allerdurchläuchtigster Römischer Cayser, auch zu Hungarn und Böhmen König etc. freundliche geliebtester Herr Vetter, Bruder undt Schwager*.⁶⁴

⁶⁰ Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV, Baden, 8 June 1635, No. 95 in this volume.

⁶¹ Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV, Vienna, 20 April 1637, No. 137 in this volume.

⁶² On the use of *frater* in letters exchanged under Sigismundus III, see: T. Poznański, R. Skowron, “Dynastische epistolare Interaktion...”, pp. 83–84.

⁶³ Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV, Vienna, 10 August 1637, No. 145 in this volume.

⁶⁴ King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III, Warsaw, 11 April 1643 and King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III Warsaw, 17 February 1645, Nos 235 and 265 in this volume.

Following the convention of the previous studies of correspondence from the reign of Sigismund III, the discussion in this volume keeps to the canonical closing formula (*clausula*) following the rules of *ars epistolandi* designed by Justus Lipsius, who identified five elements that make up the *clausula*: *valedictio*, *loci adjectio*, *temporis*, *subscriptio*, and *superscriptio*.⁶⁵ This paper focuses solely on the last two elements of the *clausulae*: the subscription and signature. It is worth noting that these components can be studied in original letters and, in isolated cases, in drafts and copies, as both the Polish and Habsburg chanceries rarely included subscriptions while making these documents.

Władysław IV used highly conventionalised subscriptions. They essentially consisted of two elements: an address to the recipient and a term expressing the sender's relationship with the recipient from the sender's perspective. The address should present the recipient's title in accordance with their status and follow epistolary etiquette. When addressing emperors, Władysław IV employed several titles in his subscriptions: *Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae*, *(Eiusdem) Maiestatis Vestrae*, and – in Italian – *Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea*. The first of these titles appears in only two letters from 1632, i.e. from before Władysław's coronation. The term *(Eiusdem) Maiestatis Vestrae*, used generally for kings, also appears in letters to Philip IV (in Italian-language letters as *Di Vostra Maestà*). The use of this title for Infanta Isabella in a letter from October 1626, equating her with crowned monarchs, was an anomaly and a probable clerical error.⁶⁶ The title is notably absent from the letters to Ferdinand III when he was King of Hungary and Bohemia. Addressing archdukes, the King of Bohemia and Hungary, and archduchesses, Władysław IV used the formula *Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae* or the Italian title *Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima*. In turn, in two letters issued from Brussels in 1624, Władysław Sigismund addressed Archduke Leopold V as *Dilectionis Vestrae*, as at the time the addressee was still a bishop.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ *Iusti Lipsii Epistolica institutio, excepta et dictenis eius ore anno [M].D.LXXXVII. Adiunctum est Demetrii Phalerei eiusdem argumenti scriptum.* Antverpiae 1605; T. Poznański, R. Skowron, "Dynastische epistolare Interaktion...", pp. 84-87.

⁶⁶ Prince Władysław Sigismund to Infanta Isabella, Military camp near Waćmierz, 25 October 1626, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 2, No. 688, p. 474.

⁶⁷ See e.g.: Prince Władysław Sigismund to Archduke Leopold V, Brussels, 20 September 1624, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 2, No. 625, p. 381.

The terms and adjectives characterising the relationship between sender and recipient applied in the subscriptions were similarly restricted to a handful of standardised formulas, primarily reflecting degrees of kinship. Writing to Emperor Ferdinand II, the king used *observantissimus sororinus, benevolus filius, bonus nepos et filius, affettuosissimo nipote et filio*, while for the other members of the House of Austria, emperors Ferdinand III and Philip IV included, he used *bonus cognatus, frater et consanguineus, benevolus frater, affinis frater, cognatus et affinis observantissimus*, etc. This section of the closing formula was written in the hand of Władysław IV himself in almost all cases. The complete subscription, e.g. in a letter to Infanta Isabella, read: *Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae/bonus cognatus et affinis/Vladislaus Sigismundus*. Until his election to the Polish throne, the prince signed his letters “Władysław Zygmunt”, yet later he only used his first name, to which he added the royal title: *Vladislaus Rex*.

Władysław IV maintained the letter exchange network with Habsburg courts established by Sigismund III. As his brothers and sister entered adulthood, the circle of Vasa family members exchanging letters expanded significantly. Such quantitative indicators as the average number of letters exchanged annually between the two dynasties, and between the king and the emperor, demonstrate a high level of continuity and stability in interactions between the Vasas and the Habsburgs. The collected letters reveal Władysław Vasa’s extensive epistolary engagement with European political centres before he became king. This on the one hand resulted from his encounters and close contacts with members of the House of Austria on his grand tour of Europe. On the other, they indicate Sigismund III’s conscious efforts to promote Władysław Sigismund as his successor on the Polish throne in European courts. Significant elements of the opening and closing formulas of these letters, besides references and emphasis on the ties of blood and kinship, were those that set the prince, a son of an elective king, at par with those who enjoyed the status of a blood prince. Following Władysław IV’s ascension to the throne, the *salutatio* of letters underwent fewer changes than in the first decade of his father’s reign, when it reflected the tension between Sigismund III and the Habsburgs. In his reign, it nearly always adhered to epistolary etiquette and principles of preponderance. It should be emphasised

that, in the opening formulas of their letters, members of the House of Austria consistently abided by the principles of protocol. Until 1632, the used titles acknowledging referenced the prince's election to the Muscovite throne and his title as Prince of Sweden. Following Władysław IV's coronation, they always upheld and legitimised his claim to the Swedish throne, and continued to use the title *electus magnus dux Moschoviae* until 1637. Despite numerous political tensions and absence of harmonious cooperation between the king and the emperors, the letters they exchanged, bound by conventionalised forms and rules of courtesy, only to a small degree reflect the emotions and tensions underlying their relationships.

GAMES OF THRONES AND FAMILY MATTERS.
LADISLAUS SEGIDMUNDUS VASA,
PRÍNCIPE DE POLONIA AND THE SPANISH *COMEDIA*

In 17th century Europe, theatre played an exceedingly important publicity function, a fact perfectly well exploited by Ladislaus IV of Poland (Władysław IV Waza), who brought Italian artists to his court in Warsaw, to have staged under the royal patronage the *drammi per musica*: spectacles bringing together poetry, music, dance, and visual arts that he had admired during his grand tour, on which he visited his maternal aunt – Archduchess Maria Maddalena of Austria, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, in Florence, and the Gonzagas in Mantua.¹ In Madrid, his cousin Philip IV of Spain was another great aficionado of the theatre, which had developed highly dynamically on the Iberian Peninsula since the latter half of the 16th century. Philip IV's reign was marked by an exceptional symbiosis between professional troupes of actors staging *comedias* in the capital city's public theatres (*corrales*) with the royal court. On acceding to the throne, Philip IV even intended to build a *corral* for his needs, which the Madrid authorities were upset to learn. Troupes of actors performed regularly for the royal family in the palace chambers, independent of the theatrical shows put up by the court, which were prepared, like in the Vasa court in Warsaw, with participation of Italian architects.²

¹ K. Targosz, "Teatr dworski czasów Wazów", in: *Świat polskich Wazów. Eseje*, Warszawa 2019, pp. 901–902; *Triumfalna harmonia. Teatr Władysława IV*, ed. by J. Żukowski, Warszawa 2023.

² N.D. Shergold, J.E. Varey, *Representaciones palaciegas: 1603–1699. Estudio y documentos*, London 1982.

Abbott Adam Mąkowski arrived in Madrid late in January 1623 to seek support on behalf of Sigismund III Vasa (Zygmunt III Waza), King of Poland, from Philip IV, a nephew of his prematurely deceased wife, Anne of Habsburg, and her younger sister Constance, whom the king married after the death of his first wife, for his endeavour to regain the Kingdom of Sweden.³ Another intention of the Polish envoy was to learn whether it would be feasible for the King of Poland's firstborn, Ladislaus (Władysław), to enter a marital union with Infanta Maria Anna, sister of the King of Spain. He presented the purpose of his mission on 13 March 1623, delivering a comprehensive memorandum presenting the geopolitical situation of the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania, and the advantages that Spain could gain if it decided to support Sigismund III against Sweden. In his first letter addressed to King Sigismund III from Madrid, sent even before he gained an audience with the King of Spain who “had two weeks been gone hunting”, Mąkowski questioned the possibility of obtaining “aid for Sweden.”⁴ The matters became complicated further, when, unannounced, the official suitor for the hand of the Spanish infanta, Charles Stuart, Prince of Wales, arrived in Madrid on 17 March 1623. Already on 20 March, Mąkowski dispatched to Poland a letter, in which he informed Sigismund that “they were *discurring* (...) to close that *matrimonium*, initiated so long ago.”⁵ Discussions concerning the union of the Polish prince with the infanta dropped from the diplomatic agenda, despite the promising tone of the message Mąkowski sent to Warsaw less than three weeks earlier: “there are none who would not wish Prince Ladislaus that

³ B. Baczyńska, “Pedir la mano de la infanta española: la visita del príncipe de Gales a Madrid (1623) en la correspondencia de Adam Mąkowski”, *Studia Iberystyczne*, 7, 2008, pp. 43–57; R. Skowron, “Misja Adama Mąkowskiego na dworze madryckim w latach 1622–1623. Geneza współpracy polsko-hiszpańskiej w okresie wojny trzydziestoletniej”, *Studia Iberystyczne*, 1, 1998, pp. 35–48; Idem, *Olivares, Wazowie i Bałtyk. Polska w polityce zagranicznej Hiszpanii w latach 1621–1632*, Kraków 2002, pp. 67–74.

⁴ BC, ms. 320, f. 483.

⁵ BC, ms. 320, f. 493.

marriage”.⁶ This is how, on 27 March 1623, that is the day following the grand entry of the Prince of Wales to Madrid, he accounted on it to Sigismund III Vasa, in his characteristic macaronic manner: “yesterday, the king introduced the English prince to Madrid, into his palace *publicis*, from the Monastery of St Jerome *sui baldaquimus apparatu*”.⁷

A preserved print from the time shows the welcoming procession approaching the Alcazar of Madrid, with a theatre rostrum visible on the left: there is a man kneeling before two women in the foreground.⁸ Standing in the left-hand corner of the rostrum is an actor striking a contemplative pose and facing the audience. Their postures allowing to interpret the dramatic scene as typical of the Spanish *comedia*: a nobleman in love (*galán*) is proposing to a lady (*dama*) accompanied by her maidservant *confidante*, while the unfolding developments are being commented aside (*aparte*) by the servant assisting the nobleman (*gracioso*). There are two musicians sitting at the back of the stage, holding their instruments at the ready: one has a vihuela, and the other – a viola de arco. There were at least five theatre troupes performing on the route of the procession, each presenting a different play to entertain the crowd who gathered in wait for the arrival of King Philip and Charles Stuart. As soon as the grand procession drew near, the play was interrupted, and actors turned to dancing.

Performances by dancers and comedians accompanied Charles Stuart from the first days of his stay in Madrid. No acting companies performed in public theatres during Lent, yet many *compañías de título* arrived in Madrid at the time hoping for profitable engagements starting in April: primarily commissions for *autos sacramentales* for Corpus Christi. Therefore, as soon as Charles Stuart unexpectedly turned up midway through March, once a proper dispensation has been obtained, the best

⁶ BC, ms. 320, f. 489.

⁷ BC, ms. 320, f. 499.

⁸ *Llegada al Alcázar de Madrid del Príncipe de Gales el 23 de marzo de 1623*, Museo Municipal de Madrid, IN 2683; see *Vistas antigua de Madrid. La colección de estampas del Museo Municipal de Madrid (1550–1820)*, Roma 1999, pp. 46–47; B. Baczyńska, *Pedro Calderón de la Barca: dramaturgo en el gran teatro de la historia*, transl. by J.C. Nowicka, B. Baczyńska, T. Marín Villora, Alicante 2016 [pdf], pp. 80–81; <https://www.cervantesvirtual.com/nd/ark:/59851/bmck37r2>.

*autores de comedias*⁹ could be employed to entertain the visitor and his entourage. For it was no secret that, not unlike Philip IV of Spain, the young Charles Stuart had a keen interest in theatre.

Adam Małkowski diligently accounted on the Spanish-English matrimonial arrangements and negotiations. On 6 April 1623, he reported: “even 500 English have arrived here, of whom four are earls”.¹⁰ Although the messages sent by the Polish envoy lacked information about theatre performances, other accounts informed that the Prince of Wales had an opportunity to see one or two theatre plays each week.¹¹ For Charles Stuart it was the only opportunity to find himself close to the infanta. James Howell, an eyewitness of the events in Madrid, wrote to his friend that “there are Comedians once a week come to the Palace, where, under a great Canopy, the Queen and the Infanta sit in the middle, our Prince and don Carlos on the Queen’s right hand, the King and the little Cardinal on the Infanta’s left hand. I have seen the Prince have his Eyes immoveably fix’d upon the Infanta half an hour together in a thoughtful speculative posture, which sure would needs be tedious, unless affection did sweeten it: it was no handsome comparison of Olivares, that he watch’d her as a cat doth a Mouse”.¹²

The sojourn of the Prince of Wales and his entourage in Madrid intensified the theatrical life of *Villa y Corte*. That was precisely when the custom of staging the plays from the current repertoire of the theatre troupes residing in Madrid on Thursdays and Sundays and other holidays became established at the royal court. Although of private nature (*particulares*), the performances followed a sophisticated etiquette closely. As Sir Richard Wynn (“then one of the Gentlemen of the Privie Chamber to his Highness Charles of Wales”¹³), who reached Madrid

⁹ *Autor de comedias* – person responsible for the dramatic troupe; Juan de Morales, Cristóbal de Avendaño, Juan Bautista Valenciano, Manuel de Vallejo, and Pedro de Valdés stayed in Madrid in March 1623, see: Z. Vila Carneiro, “Circunstancias de representación de *Amor, honor y poder*”, in: P. Calderón de la Barca, *Amor, honor y poder*, ed. by Z. Vila Carneiro, Madrid/Frankfurt a. Main 2017, pp. 53–54.

¹⁰ BC, ms. 320, f. 507.

¹¹ A. Almansa y Mendoza, *Obra periodística*, ed. by H. Ettinghausen, M. Borrego, Madrid 2001, p. 270.

¹² J. Howell, *Epistolae Ho-Eliaanae*, London 1655, pp. 130–131.

¹³ R. Wynn, “Account of the Journey of Prince Charles’s Servants into Spain in the Year 1623”, in: *Historia vitae et regni Ricardi II. Angliae Regis, a monacho quodam de Evesham*

with a group of “the Prince’s servants” midway through May 1623 accounted: “Within two Dayes after wee saw a Play acted before the King and Queen, in an Indifferent fair Roome, where there was hung up a Clothe of State, and under it five Chairs. There was a Square railed in with a Bench, which was all round about covered with Turkey carpets, which to the Stage Side cover’d the Ground two Yardenes from the Formes. The Company, that came to see the Comedy, were few, besides the Englishmen, although there were no difficulty in getting in. But the reason was, as I conceived, because there are none admitted to sit, no not the Grandees, who may stand by covered between the Formes and the Walls. The Players themselves consist of Men and Women. The Men are indifferent Actors, but the Women are good, and become themselves far better then any that ever I saw act those Parts, and far handsomer then any Women I saw. To say the Truth, they are the onely cause their Playes are so much frequented”.¹⁴

The play of the Spanish actresses must have been fascinating for the gentlemen accompanying the Prince of Wales, as the women’s roles were performed by young men in the English theatre. The mere presence of the English in Madrid opened a unique opportunity before the people of the theatre. These favourable circumstances were exploited by the young Pedro Calderón de la Barca, at the time the *escudero* of the teenage don Bernardino Fernández de Velasco y Tovar, *Condestable de Castilla*. It was precisely at that time that he made his debut, as noted by Don W. Cruickshank in the biography of the author of *La vida es sueño*: “The first unambiguous documentary evidence relating to a Calderón play involves *Amor, honor y poder*, which was performed by the company of Juan Acacio Bernal on Thursday 29 June 1623, in Madrid’s old royal palace. *Amor, honor y poder* delas with Eduardo, *rey de Inglaterra* (Edward III), and his passion for Estela, daughter of *el conde de Salveric* (the Earl of Salisbury). (...) Since Charles Stuart, Prince of Wales, was in Madrid from 17 March 1623 until 9 September, the setting alone

consignata. Accesserunt, præter alia, Joannis Rossi historiola de Comitibus Warnvicensibus; Joannis Berebloci commentarii de rebus gestis Oxonia, ibidem commorante Elizabetha Regina; et D. Ricardi Wynni ... narratio historica de Caroli, Wallia Principis, famulorum in Hispaniam itinere A.D. MDCXXIII ... nunc primus edidit Tho. Hearnius, Oxford 1729, p. 298.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 330.

presents *prima facie* evidence of a connection with his visit. The plot provides even more: it portrays a foreign prince, Teobaldo, who has come to the court of the young King Eduardo to woo Eduardo's sister. The parallel with Charles is obvious. The courtship is unsuccessful, and the princess marries one of her own young nobles."¹⁵

Both the female roles in *Amor, honor y poder* – that of Estela, who stirred up passionate love in King Eduardo, and that of Infanta Flérida hopelessly enamoured with Estela's brother, Enrico – called for more than mastery. In the final scene of the drama, Estela is ready to take her own life when she confronts the king to ask him to pardon her brother, who saved her from his advances thus sentencing himself to death for insulting the royal majesty. Meanwhile, hiding among the darkness of the night, Infanta Flérida disguised as a man, steals into the tower where Enrico is awaiting his execution not only to free him but also to offer herself to him and thus avoid marrying a foreign heir apparent to the throne, Teobaldo.

Calderón realised that the play must also be understandable for those in the audience who were unable to follow the Spanish dialogues. For a beginner playwright, it was a perfect and welcome opportunity to hone his skills in direct contact with a discerning audience. The *dramatis personae* move around a space that mirrors the royal apartments in the Alcazar and the adjacent *Jardín de los Emperadores*.¹⁶ The words uttered on the stage allow to identify the works that had graced the royal collection since the reign of Philip II: Flemish tapestries, Titian's paintings depicting mythological scenes, and sculptures. The audience are introduced into this intellectual space by *gracioso* Tosco, Enrico's servant, who arrives with his master in the royal palace and explains, in a witty dialogue, brimming with puns and evident subtexts, how he reached the palace garden, passing by the "aposentos / que estaban todos vestidos, / tan galanes, tan pulidos, / que el verlos daba contento" (II, 1409–12).¹⁷ In the role of Tosco, Calderón portrayed Archibald Armstrong, that

¹⁵ D.W. Cruickshank, *Don Pedro Calderón*, Cambridge 2009, p. 73.

¹⁶ B. Baczyńska, "Las estancias y jardines del Alcázar Madrileño en *Amor, honor y poder* de Pedro Calderón de la Barca", in: *El texto dramático y las artes visuales. El teatro español del Siglo de Oro y sus herederos en los siglos XX y XXI*, ed. by U. Aszyk, J. M. Escudero Baztán, M. Pilat Zuzankiewicz, New York 2017, pp. 101–119.

¹⁷ P. Calderón de la Barca, *Amor, honor...*, p. 202.

is Archy the Jester of James I Stuart, who arrived in Madrid soon after the Prince of Wales, and was one of the most prominent figures in the diplomatic endeavours for the hand of Infanta Maria, as corroborated by the letters sent by the Polish ambassador. On 29 June, that is, on the day when *Amor, honor y poder* was shown in the Alcazar of Madrid, Adam Małkowski notified Warsaw that the matrimony between the heir to the English throne and the Spanish princess has already been *kapitulowane*, and documents have been sent to the English king for signature and approval of the Parliament, however, it remained known that “by no means shall they let the Prince take the princess with him”.¹⁸ And then the Polish envoy quotes “the Royal jester” replying to the Prince of Wales “that he shall be (...) a fool before his father, subjects, and the whole world, should he leave without the princess”.¹⁹ This anecdote renders well the tensions that accompanied “the Spanish match”, while the coinciding dates demonstrate that the young author of *Amor, honor y poder* was privy to the plans of the Spanish court and – given how adroitly he composed the dramaturgy of an impossible union of a foreign heir to the throne and Infanta Flérida – quite likely acting in a political behest from *conde-duque* Olivares himself.

The name of the suitor for the princess’s hand – Teobaldo – echoed the name of James Stuart’s favourite hunting lodge: Theobalds House in Hertfordshire. The particular coincidence could not have escaped the attention of at least some ears in the audience of the performance of *Amor, honor y poder* at the court,²⁰ as the name Teobaldo is mentioned 15 times throughout the play, with two, six, and seven occurrences respectively in the three acts. In the first act, both mentions come in a dialogue between the Infanta and Enrico, when Flérida expresses if not resentment, then at least indifference towards her suitor, Teobaldo.

For a young playwright, who Pedro Calderón de la Barca still was in 1623, the sojourn of the English in Madrid was a period of accelerated apprenticeship. Even before his thirtieth birthday, he would have written his most famous play: *La vida es sueño*, the masterpiece

¹⁸ BC, ms. 320, ff. 519–521.

¹⁹ *Ibidem*.

²⁰ D.W. Cruickshank, “Calderón’s *Amor, honor y poder* and the Prince of Wales, 1623”, *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*, 2000, LXXVII, p. 83.

of Spanish baroque literature, whose main hero is the Polish Prince Segismundo, even if the plot of the drama has little in common with the Polish reality, much like *Amor, honor y poder* is hardly aligned with the history of England. The two plays belong to *comedia palatina seria*²¹ and anticipate the recommendations penned down late in the 17th century by Francisco Antonio Bances Candamo, a late representative of the Calderonian school: “Son las Comedias de los Reyes unas historias vivas que, sin hablar con ellos, les han de instruir con tal respeto que sea su misma razón quien de lo que ve tome las advertencias, y no el Ingenio quien se las diga. Para este decir sin decir, ¿quien dudará que sea menester gran arte?”²²

LADISLAUS SIGISMUNDUS VASA ON *GRAND TOUR*.

PEDRO CALDERÓN DE LA BARCA'S *EL SITIO DE BREDÁ* (1625)

The fiasco of the Spanish-English marriage arrangement reopened the chance of suing for the hand of the Spanish infant. The Polish Prince Ladislaus Sigismund Vasa set off on his grand tour of Europe on 17 May 1624. One of the main reasons behind the journey was to visit Brussels and the court of infanta Isabella Clara Eugenia. The Polish prince must have likely probed the openness of the Viennese court to his matrimonial plans already while staying with his uncle Archduke Charles of Austria, Prince-Bishop of Wrocław, in Nysa, and then in Vienna, where the two travelled together.²³ Soon afterwards Archduke Charles set off for Spain to ask for the hand of the infanta for his nephew, son of Emperor Ferdinand II, in person. Quite plainly, the Austrian court was eager to thwart the efforts of the Warsaw branch of the House of Vasa. In November 1624, Archduke Charles Habsburg arrived in Madrid, and was quartered in the Alcazar in the same apartments that the Prince of Wales had occupied a year earlier. Employed in his

²¹ M. Zugasti, “A vueltas con el género de *La vida es sueño*: comedia palatina seria”, *Cuadernos de Teatro Clásico*, 31, 2015, pp. 257–296.

²² F.A. Bances Candamo, *Theatro de los Theatros de los passados y presentes siglos*, ed. by D.W. Moir, London 1970, p. 57.

²³ *Podróż królewicza Władysława Wazy do krajów Europy Zachodniej w latach 1624–1625 w świetle ówczesnych relacji*, ed. by A. Przyboś, Kraków 1977, pp. 55–78; J. Żukowski, “Listy Władysława Wazy i inne nieznanne źródła do jego europejskiej peregrynacji z archiwów szwedzkich i niemieckich”, *Kronika zamkowa*, 2(68), 2015, pp. 59–121.

service, much like in Charles Stuart's earlier, was Luis Vélez de Guevara, a playwright employed at the court as *ujier* (an usher). In its meeting on 7 November 1624, the *Consejo de Estado* considered the issue of marrying off Infanta Maria Anna. As Ryszard Skowron explained, "they discussed the letter of Infanta Isabella of 7 October, in which the Infanta requested that Philip IV agreed to Infanta Maria Anna marrying Ladislaus, at the time still staying in Brussels".²⁴ That led to Marquis of Aytona's observation, "El casamiento del principe de Polonia es muy bueno, pero este de Alemania es aventajado".²⁵

Infanta Clara Eugenia wrote the aforementioned letter after the visit of the indisposed Prince Ladislaus. In the diary of the journey, commissioned by Sigismund III, courtier Jan Hagenaw meticulously recorded the visit of the infanta on 5 October 1624, and the arrival of Andrzej, a courier from Poland, with letters two days earlier.²⁶ These dates cannot be a coincidence. Ladislaus Vasa stayed for a month in Flanders, where he won the favours of Clara Eugenia, the aunt of the King of Spain. Welcomed and entertained with full court ceremonial, from 26 to 30 September 1624, he visited the troops laying siege to Breda, where he was received with all honours by Ambrogio Spinola. The event was not only described by the chroniclers recording the conflict, but also served Calderón as one of the key episodes in *El sitio de Bredá*, a play devoted to the siege.

The news of the surrender of Breda on 5 June 1625 had not reached Madrid until ten days later, on 15 June. Within three months, on 31 August, a Florentine diplomat reported "Si è messo in commedia la presa di Breda et da due settimane in qua si recita ogni giorno con grande applauso et concorso di tutta la Corte. Il compositore fra l'altre cose rappresentava nella scena il tentativo fatto dalli olandesi di entrare nel quartiere delli italiani, ponendo la fazione della difesa in persona della nazione spagnuola, il che saputo dal Re [Felipe IV de Austria] volse che si rappresentasse la pura verità et si desse a ciascuno il suo honore. Et così d'ordine regio il capitano Roma, sergente maggiore del

²⁴ R. Skowron, *Olivares, Wazowie i Bałtyk...*, p. 106.

²⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 107.

²⁶ *Podróż królewicza Władysława Wazy...*, p. 192.

Marchese d' Campolattaro [Giovanni Battista di Capua], sta difendeno il suo posto etiamdio in scena".²⁷

The scene in which "los de Italia"²⁸ resist the Dutch troops under Enrique de Nassau belongs to the third act of *El sitio de Bredá*. The play is styled into a chronicle. Ladislaus Sigismund Vasa appears in the second act, which is nearly entirely devoted to his visit. In the stage commentaries, he is presented as *Príncipe de Polonia*, a title used by the other *dramatis personae*. Neither his name nor his house is mentioned in the play. The second act of *El sitio de Bredá* opens with a council in the tent of Espinola, who informs the commanders that the infanta sent a letter announcing:

que el príncipe de Polonia
viene a Flandes con intento
de ver el sitio famoso
que ha Bredá tenemos puesto.²⁹

The general turns to his deputy, Gonzalo de Córdoba, for advice on how to entertain the distinguished guest who:

(...) es afecto
a España y que en Roma ha estado
de su parte y, después desto,
que es príncipe soberano
y señor de dos imperios.³⁰

The Polish prince and heir apparent to two thrones (of Poland and Sweden) was presented here as a supporter of Spain, also in Rome, which he had recently visited. In real life, Ladislaus travelled in the other direction. He reached Flanders from Cologne, and it was only from Brussels that, via Basel, he went to the Holy See, which he reached on 20 December 1624, and was received by Pope Urban VIII in the evening

²⁷ *The Medici Archive Project* see: T. Ferrer Valls et al., *CATCOM. Base de datos de comedias mencionadas en la documentación teatral (1540–1700)*, València 2012–2022, <https://catcom.uv.es/consulta/browserecord.php?id=514&mode=indice&letter=s>.

²⁸ P. Calderón de la Barca, *El sitio de Bredá*, in: *Primera parte de comedias*, ed. by L. Iglesias Feijoo, Madrid 2006, p. 1033.

²⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 991.

³⁰ *Ibidem*.

on the same day. Ladislaus was brought to the face of Urban VIII by two cardinals: pope's nephew Francisco Barberini and Cosimo de Torres, who was the Papal Nuncio to Poland in 1621–22, and was regarded a protector of Poland. Following John H. Elliott, let us also note that the key to resolving the aggravating conflict of interest between Spain and France. “estaba en Roma, en donde la muerte de Gregorio XV en julio de 1623 y la subida al pontificado de Masffeo Barberini con el nombre de Urbano VIII marcaron el comienzo de un viraje de la política hacia una postura menos favorable a España”.³¹

Calderón offers a faithful account of the circumstances of Ladislaus Vasa's visit among general Spinola's troops laying siege to Breda. The events accounted for in the play find affirmation in the diaries that the prince's companions kept during the grand tour.³² Some even believed that Calderón participated in the Flemish campaign as a soldier, and might have been an eyewitness of the events he described. Now, however, it is believed that he fell back on current reports and could even have access to “materials furnished by Olivares”.³³ Indirect proofs may be the reference to the visit to Rome and the Polish prince's open support of Spain. The play *El sitio de Bredá* is a perfect example of a dramatic presentation of the *storia* type broken into sequences, where elements of historic significance received an artistic treatment, much like in painting, hence the close genetic tie of Calderón's drama with Velazquez's painting *La rendición de Breda*.³⁴

The sequence of welcoming of the Polish prince was, moreover, written in octave, which adds grandeur to the entire scene: “Sale el príncipe de Polonia y Espínola y todos los que pudieren acompañándolos. Atabales y trompetas y al cabo chirimías cuando salgan el de

³¹ J.H. Elliot, *El conde-duque de Olivares*, transl. by T. de Lozoya, Barcelona 1990, p. 231. During his visit to Poland, Cosimo de Torres was Prince Ladislaus's first confidante in the matter of his nuptial plans, see J. Pietrzak, “Nuncjusz Cosmas de Torres w Polsce (1621–1622)”, *Sobótka*, 2, 1975, pp. 243–253.

³² *Podróż królewicza Władysława Wazy...*, pp. 1811–1890; see: F. Śmieja, “El príncipe de Polonia ante Breda según un diario coetáneo”, *Revista de Literatura*, 35, No. 69–70, 1969, pp. 951–1003.

³³ S.B. Whitaker, “The First Performance of Calderón's *El sitio de Bredá*”, *Renaissance Quarterly*, 31, No. 4, 1978, p. 530.

³⁴ J. Brown and J.H. Elliott, *Un palacio para el rey. El Buen Retiro y la corte de Felipe IV*, transl. by V. Lleó, M.L. Balseiro, Madrid 2003, pp. 1851–1893.

Polonia y Espínola”.³⁵ Responding to Espínola’s welcome, the *Príncipe de Polonia* emphasises the glory of Spain and enquires about don Gonzalo de Córdoba, who, hearing the praise of his grandfather from the lips of the distinguished guest, pays him homage:

(...) si tuviera
un vasallo mi imperio, que segundo
a vuestro invicto abuelo conociera
como en vos reconoce, con profundo
valor y ánimo heroico, no estuviera
reservada a mi imperio en todo el mundo
parte, desde la India a la Noruega,
donde se ofrece el sol, donde se niega!³⁶

Espínola outlines the circumstances of the siege and asks “Don Luis de Velasco” to accompany the prince, and retreats to his duties. El conde de Salazar, Don Luis de Velasco with 2000 cavalry provided the escort for the Polish prince, a fact scrupulously recorded in the Polish accounts. In the final part of the second act, the *Príncipe de Polonia* (poring over a map) is a privilege witness of the military efforts of the Spanish monarchy elucidated in the general’s exposition, which runs for 280 lines of *romance*, that is nearly a fourth of the second act. The scene concludes with the solemn speech of the Polish prince:

Sólo el Rey de España reina,
que todos cuantos imperios
tiene el mundo son pequeña
sombra muerta, a imitación
desta superior grandeza.
Admirado y dignamente
es bien que a Polonia vuelva,
donde tenga que envidiar
tales vasallos, que emplean
su valor tan altamente
por rey, cuya vida sea,

³⁵ P. Calderón de la Barca, *El sitio...*, p. 1004.

³⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 1005.

desmintiendo a lo mortal,
como su alabanza, eterna.³⁷

The current and propagandist validity of *El sitio de Bredá* dovetailed with the campaign in support of the *Unión de Armas* undertaken precisely at the time by Olivares.³⁸ This is how Elliott recounts his contribution to the session of *Consejo de Estado* on 13 November 1625: “punto prioritario era insistir en la Liga de la Alianza proyectada con el Emperador y los príncipes alemanes amigos, al tiempo que se enviaba a su viejo amigo sevillano Juan de Vera y Figueroa a Varsovia, a ver si también Segismundo III de Polonia se dejaba convencer y entraba a formar parte de ella”.³⁹ Count de la Roca to Poland never went on a mission to Poland. Nevertheless, as Ryszard Skowron noted, “made through the embassy of Małkowski and prince Ladislaus, Sigismund III’s endeavours to gain the support of the Spanish fleet, should the intention of taking control of the Baltic Sea be put to practice, resulted in a group of politicians in Madrid developing a conviction of the need to support Poland with warships”.⁴⁰

El sitio de Bredá was printed as the one-but-last drama in *Primera parte de comedias de don Pedro Calderón de la Barca*, a volume Calderón’s dramas published in 1636, concluding the playwright’s oeuvre to that point. The volume contains 12 *comedias* even though Calderón had written at least several dozen of them by 1635. Both the order of the works and the content were very carefully weighed up. The whole opens with Calderón’s most famous drama – *La vida es sueño* (*Life Is a Dream*). Its central character is a Polish prince who, unlike *Príncipe de Polonia* featured in *El sitio de Bredá*, has a name. It is Segismundo, and he is the son of the widower king Basilio and Queen Clorilene, who died in childbirth.

³⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 1021.

³⁸ The play was a great success. CATCOM database holds three testimonies, each connected to a different *autor de comedias*: Juan Acacio Bernal (17 March 1627), Manuel Simón (20 July 1627), Jerónimo el Valenciano (9 August 1628), see T. Ferrer Valls *et al.*

³⁹ J.H. Elliott, *El conde-duque...*, p. 252.

⁴⁰ R. Skowron, *Olivares, Wazowie i Baltyk...*, pp. 125–126.

POLONIA, SEGISMUNDO, AND THE SEA.
CALDERÓN'S *LA VIDA ES SUEÑO* (1628–29)

La vida es sueño (*Life Is a Dream*) belongs to the canon of world drama. Its plot takes you to Poland, and the word *Polonia* is repeated 18 times, being mentioned for the first time in line 17, in Rosaura's monologue, as soon as she has come to the stage:

Mal, Polonia, recibes
a un extranjero, pues con sangre escribes
su entrada en tus arenas;
y apenas llega, cuando llega a penas.⁴¹ (I, 17–20)

The Poland that Rosaura reaches over steep mountains from Muscovy (*Moscovia*), losing her steed along the way, seems to have hardly anything in common with actual geography and history, yet, how a Polish historian Józef Szujski insightfully observed in December 1881, writing the foreword to his translation of the drama, “we have, nonetheless, no reason to be angry with Calderón: if he did not know us, he had the best of the dispositions and had us in the greatest esteem: King Basilio is a great scholar, modelled on Alfonso X of Castile, Prince Segismundo (the only name that sounds almost Polish) is fundamentally a brave man, the grand warden Clotaldo represents the magnates faithful to the throne, and the state itself is great and famous. This certainly is a reflection of the opinion that Poland under the reign of Sigismund III and Ladislaus IV enjoyed in the court of Philip IV, even if it was later marred by defeats. I wonder whether the poet knew something more about the relationships with the G[rand] Duchy of Muscovy.”⁴²

Szujski grasped the essence of the Spanish playwright's “Polish” drama long before Miguel Zugasti suggested that *La vida es sueño* could be considered a paradigmatic example of *comedia palatina seria*: “la acción transcurre en Polonia, reino católico igual que España, sí, pero lo suficientemente desconocido como para evocar en el espectador cierta sensación de lejanía y exotismo que ha de ser determinante en su proceso

⁴¹ P. Calderón de la Barca, *La vida es sueño*, ed. by E. Rodríguez Cuadros, Madrid 1997, p. 83.

⁴² See P. Calderón de la Barca, *Życie snem*, transl. by J. Szujski, Lwów 1882, pp. 3–4.

de recepción. Por otra parte, la comedia carece de referencias concretas al tiempo representado: cabe deducir que tal indefinición cronológica obedece a la búsqueda de una calculada atemporalidad. Esto no significa que Calderón sumerja a sus personajes en el vacío más absoluto, ni mucho menos, pues siempre hay un contexto latente: en *La vida es sueño* podría decirse que subyace un espíritu postridentino (reflexiones sobre la predestinación y el libre albedrío, el valor de ‘obrar bien’ (vv. 2399–2427), donde los hechos han de primar sobre los dichos, etc.). Pero, más importante todavía, nuestro dramaturgo sabía perfectamente que en Polonia reinaba desde hacía décadas Segismundo III Vasa (1587–1632), casado con Ana de Habsburgo, que a la sazón era tía materna de Felipe IV. (...) El nombre de Basilio también era bien conocido: así se llamó el zar de Rusia durante el periodo 1606–10 (Vasili o Basilio IV), sucesor a la sazón del falso Dimitri I (Demetrio), a quien Lope consagró su comedia *El gran duque de Moscovia*. Demasiadas coincidencias onomásticas—en fin—para ser fruto de la casualidad”.⁴³

In late April 1629, a book entitled *Eustorgio y Clorilene. Historia moscovica* was published in Madrid. Its author was Enrique Suárez de Figueroa y Mendoza. As the names of its title heroes made their way to *La vida es sueño*, the drama can be presumed to have originated shortly thereafter.⁴⁴ However, Calderón might have been familiar with the title earlier, especially since the approvals that became the foundation for the permission to print the work date back to the first months of 1628, and the extensive prologue in the form of a letter is dated 6 January 1628. It was written by Enrique de Mendoza, royal preacher, whom Suárez de Figueroa sent his *Historia moscovica* for appraisal. Interestingly, in 1626, Enrique de Mendoza published a treatise that he dedicated to *conde-duque* Olivares. *El privado cristiano* also featured figures connected to Poland. This is what José Luis Losada Palenzuela wrote about it: “La forma de la composición deja ver un interés en ficcionalizar los principios de gobierno y la relación entre rey, príncipe y privado, ya desde la selección del recurso de una carta entre validos de distintos Estados. Estamos ante un marco narrativo de ambientación polaca: la carta la remite Antenodoro Polaco, quien sirve como consejero de un

⁴³ M. Zugasti, “A vueltas con el género de *La vida es sueño*...”, p. 262.

⁴⁴ See D.W. Cruickshank, *Don Pedro Calderón*, pp. 114–115.

rey de Polonia, Ladislao; el otro privado, de nombre Patricio, acaba de entrar en la privanza de un príncipe, pero no tendrá otra función que la de destinatario de los consejos de Antenodoro. (...) La necesidad de mantenerse humilde al llegar a la cumbre de la privanza sirviendo a un príncipe, propician, a pesar de la demostrada valía de Patricio, los consejos de Antenodoro Polaco: Polonia aconseja en materias de Estado a España”.⁴⁵ Yet that was not the end. Juan Enríquez de Zúñiga published his *Historia de las fortunas de Semprilis y Genorodano*, whose protagonists travel by sea to Poland ruled by King *Kasimiro*, in 1629.⁴⁶ And here again Enrique de Mendoza was the author of the approval, dated 19 March 1627.

The Polish setting of *La vida es sueño* clearly fits a more extensive context of how Poland and Poles were perceived. It was precisely in the second half of the 1620s that the diplomatic relations between Poland and Spain intensified. In January 1626, Jean de Croy, Count of Solre, set off for Warsaw to “negociar la adquisición de embarcaciones con las que formar una escuadra española en el Báltico”.⁴⁷ At the same time, the Grand Marshal of the Polish Crown, Mikolaj Wolski, presented the Spanish envoy in Vienna with a memorandum that became the object of session of the *Consejo de Estado* in Madrid already on 28 February 1626.⁴⁸

The capital of Calderón’s Poland lies by the sea.⁴⁹ Could this fact be related to Olivares’s ambitious plans of dominating the Baltic Sea with the support of Sigismund III of Poland and his son, Ladislaus Sigismund, who was to be entrusted with the command of the Polish-Spanish fleet? It is probable, yet the very concept plays an important

⁴⁵ J. Losada Palenzuela, “Príncipes y privados polacos: *El privado cristiano* (1626) de Enrique de Mendoza”, *Hipogrifo. Revista de literatura y cultura del Siglo de Oro*, 9, 2021, No. 1, p. 424, <http://dx.doi.org/10.13035/H.2021.09.01.25>.

⁴⁶ J. Losada Palenzuela, “El Reino de Loango: fuentes cartográficas y textuales en *Semprilis y Genorodano* (1629)”, *Revista de literatura*, 82, 2020, No. 164, pp. 469–489, <https://doi.org/10.3989/revliteratura.2020.02.018>; Idem, “Desplazamiento de la imagen septentrional: Polonia en La historia de las fortunas de Semprilis y Genorodano”, in: *Ficciones entre mundos. Nuevas lecturas de “Los Trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda” de Miguel de Cervantes*, ed. by Jörg Dünne, Hanno Ehrlicher, Kassel 2017, pp. 253–273.

⁴⁷ J.H. Elliott, *El conde-duque...*, pp. 277–278.

⁴⁸ R. Skowron, *Olivares, Wazowie i Baltyk...*, pp. 125–126.

⁴⁹ B. Baczyńska, “Polonia y el mar: en torno la verso 1430 de *La vida es sueño* de Pedro Calderón de la Barca”, *Scriptura*, 17, 2002, pp. 47–63.

role in the drama. For it protects Segismundo from committing a manslaughter unwittingly. The servant, whom he casts down from the balcony in the second act falls into the sea. Urged by Estrella “Llegad todos a ayudar” (II, 1429), witnesses of the prince’s incomprehensible behaviour rush to save the man from drowning. Calderón finally left unresolved the fate of the courtier who dared to teach Sigismondo about precedence: who and when should take off the hat. The prince himself notes: “Cayó del balcón al mar” (II, 1430). The accusation comes from the mouth of King Basilio, who brought his son to the palace only for a test, eager to learn whether what the stars told him about his successor is true:

Basilio	¿Qué ha sido esto?
Segismundo	Nada ha sido. A un hombre que me ha cansado de ese balcón he arrojado.
Clarín	Que es el Rey está advertido.
Basilio	¿Tan presto una vida cuesta tu venida el primer día?
Segismundo	Díjome que no podía hacerse, y gané la apuesta.
Basilio	Pésame mucho que cuando, Príncipe, a verte he venido, pensando hallarte advertido, de hados y estrellas triunfando, con tanto rigor te vea, y que la primera acción que has hecho en esta ocasión un grave homicidio sea. (II, 1440–55)

In Calderón’s drama, Poland is the land of fiction and utopia, which, however, is no obstacle to look for connections between the poet’s fabrications and reality.⁵⁰ It is more than fitting not only to appreciate the playwright’s intuition and insight, but also his (geo)political mind. In 1634, Calderón again reached for a Polish location, writing, with

⁵⁰ See B. Baczyńska, *Pedro Calderón de la Barca: dramaturgo...*, p. 400.

Antonio Coello, a play with very long title – *Yerros de naturaleza y aciertos de la fortuna*, in which Rosaura and Segismundo (the main protagonists of *La vida es sueño*) appear as secondary characters.

THE GAME OF THRONES IN POLAND: CALDERÓN AND COELLO'S
YERROS DE NATURALEZA Y ACIERTOS DE LA FORTUNA
AND ROJAS ZORRILLA'S *NO HAY SER PADRE SIENDO REY* BY (1634)

The manuscript of the play *Yerros de naturaleza y aciertos de la fortuna* has been preserved with a censor's note and a draft of the cast written in Calderón's hand on a separate sheet inserted between the first and second acts. The censorship was commissioned on 4 May 1634, and Jerónimo de Villanueva decreed that "esta comedia está escrita como de dos tan grandes ingenios; puede representarse".⁵¹ Nothing more is known about the history of the play. It was believed to have been written before *La vida es sueño*, which until recently was dated to 1635. However, it was otherwise. The drama was written for Cristóbal de Avendaño, whose troupe had already had *La vida es sueño* in their repertoire for several years.⁵²

The plot of *Yerros* starts when the Polish army commanded by Polidoro returns from the war on Muscovy, which claimed the life of his father, Manfredo, King of Poland. The people welcome the successor with loud cheering (that is heard from off the stage), while we witness Princess Matilde, Polidoro's twin sister, refusing to accept such a decree of fate. From the lengthy diatribe opening the first act that Matilde in her distress addresses to her father's counsellor Filipo, we learn that Manfredo, King of Poland, stripped his niece, Clorilene, of the throne, usurping it after the death of his elder brother, Conrado, King of Poland. Moreover:

promulgó ley en Polonia
para que, desde aquel tiempo,
nunca heredasen las hembras
su corona, recibiendo
la Ley Sálica, que en Francia

⁵¹ BNE, ms. 14778, f. 60r.

⁵² D.W. Cruickshank, *Don Pedro Calderón*, p. 115.

tan injustamente ha hecho
que las mujeres se excluyan
de la sucesión del reino.⁵³ (I, 115–22)

Matilde is visibly agitated while she utters these words, and ads that her father married Clorilene to Filipo: “porque fuese tu lealtad / de sus intenciones freno” (II, 129–130). Rosaura and Segismundo, two secondary characters in this *comedia palatina seria*, are children from that wedlock. Matilde will coerce Filipo into abducting her brother, and don on his robes herself to rule Poland. The plot was meticulously devised so that fate could rectify the mistake nature made by removing power-yearning Matilde. Defending the honour of his sister, Rosaura, Segismundo kills the person he deems to be Polidoro, yet his actual victim is Matilde, the murder allowing for the restoration of the hereditary order in Poland. It must be added that the two roles, of Polidoro and Matilde, were devised in such a way that they could be played by the same actress.⁵⁴

Francisco de Rojas Zorrilla’s drama, *No hay ser padre siendo rey*, was written at the same time. Brothers Rugero and Alejandro, two sons of the King of Poland, vie for power and the beloved woman. This *comedia palatina seria* was shown in Alcazar on 1 January 1635 by Antonio de Prado’s troupe. Rojas Zorrilla made use of *La piedad en la justicia*, an earlier play by Guilléna de Castro, shifting its plot from Hungary to Poland, which Enrico Di Pastena, the play’s editor, commented as “poco explicable el cambio de ambientación”.⁵⁵ At the same time, the Italian Hispanist noted the obvious connection between *No hay ser padre siendo rey* on the one hand, and *La vida es sueño* and Lope de Vega’s *El castigo sin venganza* on the other.⁵⁶ Secondary characters, Casandra and duque Federico, *privado* of the King of Poland, bear the same names as the star-crossed lovers, foster mother and foster son, both stabbed to death in the climax of Lope de Vega’s famous tragedy. In *No hay ser padre siendo*

⁵³ P. Calderón de la Barca, A. Coello, *Yerros de Naturaleza y aciertos de la Fortuna*, ed. by E. Coenen, Kassel 2019, p. 51.

⁵⁴ Later, Calderón resorted to the same ploy in *La hija del aire*, the dilogy on the legendary Semiramis.

⁵⁵ *Vide* F. Rojas Zorrilla, *No hay ser padre siendo rey*, ed. by E. Di Pastena, in: *Obras completas*, vol. I, ed. by F.B. Pedraza Jiménez, R. González Cañal, E.E. Marcello, Cuenca 2007, p. 149.

⁵⁶ *Ibidem*, pp. 1531–1555.

rey, Alejandro dies in a similar manner, as his elder brother Rugero, blinded with jealousy, kills whom he believes to be Count Federico, Cassandra's lover. In fact, he unwittingly kills his own brother. The King of Poland sentences Rugero, his son, to death. The fratricide is only saved from execution by the people, who overthrow the monarch who had sentenced the heir apparent to the Polish throne to death. Rojas Zorrilla makes fully conscious use of the intertextual links to Lope de Vega's *El castigo sin venganza* and Calderón's *La vida es es sueño*, assuming that the audiences still remember them very well. As Di Pastena rightly noted, "El propio entorno cortesano, común a Calderón y Rojas, debió de funcionar como estímulo añadido para la búsqueda de materiales literarios que también permitieran hacerse eco de preocupaciones sociopolíticas, nada ajenas al código teatral de la época, sobre todo si la entendemos en su estrecha relación con la sustancia ética de los comportamientos representados".⁵⁷

As Poland was an elective kingdom, it was perfectly suitable for the setting of plays that involved fratricidal fight for the throne, as this neither infringed the principle of decorum nor, even more so, offended the living.

KING(S) OF SWEDEN, WALLENSTEIN AND THE POLISH MATCH

In late January and early February 1633, the *Consejo de Estado* intervened in a similar matter, namely that of the violation of the dignity of public figures in a play performed in a public theatre. The circumstances are known from the letters of a Florentine diplomat, Bernardo Monnani, cited by Cruickshank in Calderón's biography.⁵⁸ The Council of the State introduced a prohibition on "una gran comedia nuova che se faceva ne' soliti luoghi publici de' comedianti della battaglia et morte del Re di Svezia" written by "Lope de Vega Carpio (...) il maggior poeta senza dubio che ha oggi im tutta Spagna", due to "the lack of decorum in its treatment of royal characters who were still alive, or because it included others who were dead or who had nothing to do with the event (...) or because the 'Infanta of Flandes' (Isabel Clara Eugenia?) discussed state

⁵⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 153.

⁵⁸ D.W. Cruickshank, *Don Pedro Calderón*, p. 146.

secrets with a buffoon”.⁵⁹ Philip IV intervened in person, which strongly attests to his exceptional involvement in the theatrical life of *Villa y Corte*: “the king asked his secretary Antonio de Mendoza to correct the play’s *mancamenti*, its defects. It was then licensed and performed, and also taken to El Pardo, on 1 February, by the company of Antonio de Prado, for the queen to see.”⁶⁰

A year later, Antonio de Prado returned to the role of the king of Sweden, this time in a play dedicated to the Duke of Friedland, written by Calderón and Coello. And again, the event was sufficiently significant to have Bernardo Monnani report on it in a letter dated 4 March 1634: “una commedia che rappresenta le prodezze del duca di Frisland, e prima di recitarsi, como è già seguito più volte da i comici pubblici, perchè trattava di principi viventi, acciò non si offendesse nessuno e non si narrasse cosa all’uso poetici, troppo lontana dalla verità, fu fatta rivedere dal Consiglio di Stato, e in fine approvata. Ha dato gran gusto per il buon modo con que rappresenta le fazzioni di guerra, e in particolare la rotta del Rè di Suezia, celebrando il suo valore.”⁶¹

The news of Wallenstein’s assassination on 25 February 1634, reached Madrid on a day later.⁶² Under such circumstances, Calderón and Coello’s play was out of place. It has been lost, like Lope’s play about the Battle of Lützen and the death of Gustavus Adolphus mentioned earlier. The letters of the Florentine diplomat inform that all the events, both those related to the heroic stance of the Swedish king and his troops, and of the Duke of Friedland, were presented “vero o verisimile”, and the characters on both sides of the conflict were depicted “non dicendo male di nessuno”. Moreover, Monnani found it important to emphasise that “è osservato che non nomina mai, nè in bene nè in male, il Rè di Francia nè Francese alcuno”.⁶³ A Czech Hispanist Vaclav Černý, who was one of the first to write about the lost Spanish drama about Wallenstein, found it “pure sagesse

⁵⁹ *Ibidem*.

⁶⁰ *Ibidem*.

⁶¹ *Ibidem*, p. 147.

⁶² J.H. Elliott, *El conde-duque...*, pp. 462–463.

⁶³ See G. Vega García-Luengos, “Calderón y la política internacional: las comedias sobre el héroe y traidor Wallenstein”, in: *Calderón de la Barca y la España del Barroco*, ed. by J. Alcalá-Zamora, E. Belenguier, Madrid 2001, p. 794.

politique”.⁶⁴ In the Biblioteca Nacional de España in Madrid, Germán Vega found a *suelta* entitled *El prodigio de Alemania* attributed to Calderón.⁶⁵ This unique print demonstrates that the circumstances of Wallenstein’s death forced a sequel: a play in which *duque de Frislán* conspires against the emperor, which leads to a conspiracy of his own officers against him and death at the hands of one of them, *capitán De Bros*.⁶⁶ Germán Vega believes that both plays could be commissioned by Olivares himself. Would then a claim that political circumstances could have played a role in the case of *comedias polacas*, that is plays set in Poland, be justified?

When news of the death of Sigismund III Vasa reached Madrid in June 1632, the situation of his children, closely related to King Philip IV, became a permanent element of the Spanish political agenda. All the more so as the unexpected death of the King of Sweden, Gustavus Adolphus, in the battle of Lützen on 16 November 1632 allowed for a new opening in the Polish-Swedish relations, as the Duke of Feria noted, writing directly to Philip IV from Milan on 26 December 1632: “será de grande importancia que Vuestra Majestad se sirvieses de ayudar y asistir este Príncipe en la mejor forma que se pudiese pues no puede haber jamás tan buena ocasión como esta en que solo ha quedado de Gustavo una hija [...]. Las conveniencias de Vuestra Majestad en estas guerras después de ayudar a aquel príncipe de su sangre y tan católico, son grandes porque no sólo moviendo la guerra se retirarán de Alemania las cabezas suecas que hay en ella y luego los presidios y soldados de aquel reino, sino que si Dios se le dieses al rey Ladislao sería de grandísimo daño a los holandeses, que tienen comercio muy considerable en el mar Báltico y con aquel reino donde todo el tiempo del rey muerto han sido muy poderosos. Y siempre será de gran conveniencia que el rey de Polonia tenga mayor poder y reputación”.⁶⁷

⁶⁴ V. Černý, “Une question à reprendre: Wallenstein, héros d’un drame de Calderón”, *Revue de Littérature Comparée*, 36, 1962, p. 185.

⁶⁵ G. Vega García-Luengos, “Calderón y la política internacional...”, pp. 797–827.

⁶⁶ A historical figure, Irishman, Walter Devereux, see: A. M. Rueda, “El prodigio de Alemania de Calderón de la Barca y Antonio Coello: teatro y propaganda política durante la guerra de los treinta años”, *Nueva Revista de Filología Hispánica*, 70, 2022, no. 1, p. 140.

⁶⁷ R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars. Polsko-hiszpańskie relacje polityczne w latach 1632–1648*, Kraków 2013, pp. 59–60.

This was also what Olivares had in mind: “El casamiento del polaco con la hija del sueco”.⁶⁸ In early 1633, the Swedish Riksdag proclaimed six-year-old Christina, daughter of Gustavus Adolphus, the successor to the Swedish throne. Ladislaus IV Vasa was crowned King of Poland on 6 February 1633, at the age of thirty-seven.⁶⁹ Three weeks later, on 26 February 1633, don Diego Juan Velasco de la Cueva, Count of Siruela, arrived in Kraków with a retinue of a hundred and twenty cavalymen to congratulate the Polish king on behalf of Philip IV.⁷⁰ Like his father before him, Ladislaus used the hereditary title of King of Sweden, and certain parallels can be found between the *Yerros* genealogical tree and the blood ties between the Polish and Swedish branches of the House of Vasa.

Both the *comedias palatinas serias* mentioned earlier, that is Calderón and Coello’s *Yerros de naturaleza y aciertos de la fortuna*, and Rojas Zorrilla’s *No hay ser padre siendo rey* fit into the political context of the events of 1634. Ladislaus IV Vasa, King of Poland and Sweden, was still unmarried, as were his half-siblings: four princes and one princess.⁷¹ The youngest of them, Alexander Charles, intended to reach Madrid in 1634,⁷² yet the Madrid court managed to prevent his visit. Could the name of the younger prince, Alejandro, in Rojas Zorrilla’s play be an allusion to the unwanted guest? His stay in Milan and reception by *cardenal-infante don Fernando* was documented by Diego de Aedo y Gallarte: “A los fines de marzo llegó a Milán el hermano del Rey de Polonia llamado Ladislao, primo hermano de Su Alteza a quien hospedó magníficamente en Palacio y comieron algunas veces juntos; estuvo doce días y Su Alteza le presentó seis caballos con ricos aderezos y otras cosas curiosas y de valor”.⁷³

In April 1634, the envoy Stanisław Małkowski arrived in Madrid. The truce between Poland and Sweden was due to expire a year later.

⁶⁸ Consulta del Consejo de Estado, 9 January 1633, *Ibidem*, p. 31.

⁶⁹ W. Kaczorowski, “Wolna elekcja *viritim* i koronacja Władysława IV”, in: *Świat polskich Wazów...*, pp. 219–237.

⁷⁰ R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars...*, pp. 18–20 (p. 19).

⁷¹ On 17 June 1634, Stanisław Małkowski presented *Memorial sobre las partes de los cuatro Príncipes y Princesa, hermanos de aquel Rey* in Madrid, *Ibidem*, pp. 50–51.

⁷² *Ibidem*, p. 41.

⁷³ *Ibidem*, p. 46.

Ladislaus IV Vasa was closing negotiations over the signing of a peace treaty with the Grand Duchy of Muscovy, whom the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth had been at war with since the Time of Troubles. The King of Poland tested potential allies who could be willing to support him in a war against Sweden, at the same time conducting talks with Charles I Stuart about marrying his niece Elisabeth Wittelsbach, daughter of Frederick V and Elisabeth Stuart.⁷⁴ The victory of the imperial troops at Nördlingen in September 1634 sped up the later development, as Ryszard Skowron writes: “The question of the marriage of the Polish king returned in November 1634, when reports about his intention to marry Elisabeth of the Palatinate again reached Madrid and Brussels from various corners of Europe. (...) Even though Philip IV considered Poland a strategic ally, and considered it necessary for Poland to restart the war with Sweden and block the Polish king’s option to marry a Protestant, until the spring of 1635, much like the Emperor, he had not undertaken any direct actions at the court in Warsaw. It was only with the war with France being unavoidable that, in April 1635, he sent to Poland a legacy announced for two years. It was entrusted to Count de Solre and Father Alonso Vázquez de Miranda, Abbot of Santa Anastasia. The instructions prepared for the two diplomats contained separate sections devoted to the marriage of King Władysław IV. Their duty was to oppose strongly the intentions of marrying Elisabeth and have the Pole marry the candidate supported by Philip IV”.⁷⁵

Eventually, the King of Poland, Ladislaus (Władysław) IV Vasa, married Princess Cecilia Renata of Habsburg, daughter of Ferdinand II and sister of Ferdinand III, who became the Holy Roman Emperor on 15 February 1637. A *dramma musicale* about the patron saint of the future queen – *La santa Cecilia* – was staged at a great cost on her arrival at the Royal Castle in Warsaw on 23 September 1637.

⁷⁴ *Ibidem*, pp. 1101–1149.

⁷⁵ R. Skowron, “The Electoral Palatinate: Key to Europe: Art of Diplomacy of Władysław IV”, *Eastern European History Review*, 4, 2021, p. 89.

¿ES PARA HOY ESTO, SEÑORAS? (IS IT FOR TODAY, LADIES?)

EL PRÍNCIPE PERSEGUIDO (1644)

The plot of *El príncipe perseguido* takes place in the Grand Duchy of Muscovy and in Poland.⁷⁶ Its three authors – Luis de Belmonte, Agustín Moreto, and Antonio Martínez de Meneses – repurposed an “old play” (*comedia vieja*) by Lope de Vega. What they rewrote was *El gran duque de Moscovia y Emperador perseguido*, written around 1606 and presenting current events as described by a Jesuit, Juan de Mosquera: “Relación de la señalada y como milagrosa conquista del paterno Imperio, conseguida del serenísimo príncipe Demetrio, gran duque de Moscovia, en el año 1605”.⁷⁷ *El príncipe perseguido* is an excellent example of *comedia palatina seria*. Its authors deliberately diverged from the chronicle-like nature of *comedia fuente*. One of the main characters in the play is *Ladislao, príncipe de Polonia*, who, in the first act, arrives at the Moscow court as the ambassador of his father, the King of Poland, to close a double matrimonial arrangement: his own marriage to Elena, daughter of Jacobo Mauricio (aka Boris Godunov) and that of his sister, Princess Margarita “con Demetrio, / niños los dos” (I, 69–72).

In *El príncipe perseguido*, Ladislao is a prominent character. In the first act, when – after the death of his grandfather Juan Basilio and the opening of the will in which he is named his successor – it becomes clear that the underage Demetrio will ascend to the throne, it is Ladislao who offers the boy instruction during the *besamanos* ceremony preceding the royal investiture. He also presents him with a horse. In the third act, Demetrio, by now an adult, recalls the bay horse (*caballo bayo*) he received as a gift from Ladislao when he wishes to be recognised the rightful ruler of Muscovy at the Polish court. In the second act, Ladislao arrives in Moscow as the King of Poland to marry Elena, daughter

⁷⁶ L. Belmonte, A. Moreto, A. Martínez de Meneses, *El príncipe perseguido*, ed. by Beata Baczyńska, Alicante 2021; <https://www.cervantesvirtual.com/nd/ark:/59851/bmc1051268>.

⁷⁷ B. Baczyńska, “Boris Godunov, Demetrio y «estos reyes de Polonia [que] son grandes cortesanzos». En torno a los intrínsecos valores performativos de *El gran duque de Moscovia y el Emperador perseguido* de Lope de Vega (1606) y *El príncipe perseguido* de tres ingenios (1644)”, *Comedia Performance. Journal of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater*, 20, 2023, No. 1, pp. 43–64. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5325/comperf.20.1.0043>

of regent Jacobo Mauricio. He is accompanied by his sister, Princess Margarita. Jacobo Mauricio seeks to exploit the arrival of the Polish king to force *príncipe Juan Basilio*, Demetrio's father deemed unfit to reign, into abdication in favour of his niece Elena, Ladislao's fiancée. The scene of welcoming the Polish King by Juan Basilio is a veritable comedy of errors. Juan Basilio, *Príncipe de Moscovia*, follows the instructions of the master of ceremonies literally: he greets Ladislao by removing his hat and putting it on his head. The King of Poland repeats his gesture, which leads to Juan Basilio's aside: "Estos reyes de Polonia / son grandes cortesanazos" (II, 1364–65).

The entire welcoming sequence opens with another surprising *aparte* by Juan Basilio. As the royal cortege, accompanied by regent Jacobo Mauricio and his daughter Elena, approaches the residence, Juan Basilio *sale al paño*, that is, leans out from the backstage, and asks the audience: "¿Es para hoy esto, señoras?" (II, 1326). The play is clearly addressed to an audience predominantly composed of women. Could then *El príncipe perseguido* have been created with Queen Isabel of Bourbon and her entourage in mind? Such a conjecture seems confirmed by the nature of the female roles, their independence, and rectitude. Polish Princess Margarita forces her brother Ladislao, King of Poland, to break the agreement with Jacobo Mauricio on learning that Demetrio is probably alive. In the third act, Elena, daughter of the usurper, discreetly supports Juan Basilio, father of Demetrio, imprisoned in the tower. Even Laura, Elena's lady-in-waiting, knows how to gracefully spurn the advances of the Polish prince. Female characters were designed to please and satisfy a very specific audience. Antonio Martínez de Meneses, author of the third act, even wanted Margarita and Elena to come to the stage for the final scene "con espadas ceñidas y bengalas", as Rosaura did in *La vida es sueño*.

Antonio Martínez de Meneses belonged to the queen's inner circle, serving at the court as *guardajoyas de la reina*, a position he received from Philip IV for his services to the crown after he arrived "de Alemania con el aviso del nacimiento del Príncipe de Bohemia, mi sobrino".⁷⁸ To the end of 1633, he served in the Spanish *tercios* and was familiar the complex

⁷⁸ E. Martínez Carro, *Antonio Martínez de Meneses: vida y obra*, Madrid 2006. p. 25.

reality of Northern Europe, which suggests that the anachronisms present in *El príncipe perseguido* should be considered intentional. Attention is drawn to the scenes highlighting courtly ceremony: the transfer of power to the successor to the throne (Act I), and precedence at official ceremonies in the presence of the king (Acts II and III). There are many more other elements related to the everyday palace routine in *El príncipe perseguido*, for example the education of a prince, a visit from the tailor, and flirting with the ladies-in-waiting. It is a *comedia palatina seria* naturally combining an easy-going atmosphere with the ideological message of the state: *speculum reginae et principum* for the privileged audience of a hypothetical premiere, in a manner similar to *La vida es sueño*, which the authors of *El príncipe perseguido* consciously invoke in their play.⁷⁹

In 1644, Balthasar Charles, Prince of Asturias, turned 15, and his father, King Philip IV of Spain, had stayed in Catalonia since June 1643. Setting off for war, he reappointed his wife, Elisabeth of France (aka Isabel of Bourbon), regent in Castile. Her responsibilities included the arrangement of the mourning ceremonies as soon as the news of the death of Cecilia Renata reached Madrid. Queen of Poland and wife of Ladislaus IV Vasa died on 24 March 1644, following the stillbirth of her daughter. The Regent participated in them in person at Descalzas Reales on 17 and 18 June 1644.⁸⁰ Immediately, in the following week, the *Consejo de Estado* convened to decide who to send with condolences to Warsaw and how to negotiate the next marriage of the King of Poland.⁸¹

The question “¿Es para hoy esto, señoras?” (l. 1326), “masculinised” in the later (printed) edition of *El príncipe perseguido*, makes it possible to reconstruct the stage production the three poets created for a show that never came to pass due to the death of Queen Isabel on 6 October 1644.⁸² The very arrangement of the text, should one bear in mind

⁷⁹ B. Baczyńska, “La reescritura en colaboración: *El príncipe perseguido* de Luis Belmonte, Agustín Moreto y Antonio Martínez de Meneses frente a la comedia fuente *El gran duque de Moscovia y Emperador perseguido* de Lope de Vega”, *RILCE. Revista de Filología Hispánica*, 35, 2019, No. 3, pp. 796–797; see also: C.V. Mattza Su, *Hacia “La vida es sueño” como “speculum reginae”: Isabel de Borbón en la corte de Felipe IV*, Madrid 2017.

⁸⁰ See: R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars...*, pp. 275–287.

⁸¹ *Ibidem*, p. 279; M. Conde Pazos, *La quiebra de un modelo dinástico. Relaciones entre la Casa de Austria y los Vasa de Polonia (1635–1668)*, Madrid 2022, p. 268.

⁸² The preserved autograph of *El príncipe perseguido* (BNE, ms. Res/81, ff. 31v, 49v) contains two dates that accompany the comments made by the censor. They are

the context of private theatrical performances for members of the Spanish royal family, carries an extraordinary dramatic potential. In this *comedia palatina seria*, the Polish prince Ladislao is portrayed as a mentor to the underage Demetrio when he latter proclaimed Grand Duke of Moscow, and then – while already the King of Poland – as a caring and magnanimous brother, supporting Princess Margarita in her readiness to fight for the rights of the heir to the Moscow throne betrothed to her in childhood. Could it be a particular example of political fiction devised *ad usum Delphini*?

CLOSING. FAMILY BUSINESS AND THEATRE

Balthasar Charles, Prince of Asturias intended to marry his cousin Mariana of Austria, daughter of Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand III and Maria Anna of Spain. However, he died suddenly on 9 October 1646, plunging Philip IV, the widower king, into deep mourning, and making him the one who, in 1649, married his fifteen-year-old niece, daughter of Maria Anna of Spain, the Spanish Infanta, whose previous suitors included Charles Stuart and Ladislaus Sigismund Vasa. Pedro Calderón de la Barca “escribe para el Corpus de 1648 un auto que titula *La Segunda Esposa*, cuya base alegórica son las próximas bodas del rey. Pactadas en firme desde el verano de 1647, celebradas por poderes en Viena en noviembre del 1648, no fueron ratificadas hasta la llegada de Mariana a España en otoño de 1649. Raro hubiera sido que Calderón no aprovechara una noticia semejante para un auto que hubiera podido ser el último antes de la boda en España si el viaje de Mariana no hubiera sufrido tantos retrasos (salió de Viena en noviembre de 1648 y llegó a Madrid doce meses después)”.⁸³

In Poland, King Ladislaus IV Vasa, widowed in the same year (1644) as Philip IV, married Marie Louise Gonzaga-Nevers, a French Princess, in 1646. As Jean Le Laboureur, a French courtier, reported, her welcome

16 April 1645 and 21 October 1650 respectively. The text was published in print in 1651 in a form that differs greatly from the original, handwritten version of the play, B. Baczyńska, “Prólogo”, in: L. Belmonte, A. Moreto, A. Martínez de Meneses, pp. 24–34.

⁸³ V. García Ruiz, “Sobre el texto de *La Segunda Esposa y Triunfar muriendo*, auto sacramental de Calderón: edición y refundición”, *Rilce*, 6/2, 1990, pp. 207–208.

to Gdańsk on 15 February 1646 involved “la grande Comédie dont les machines merveilleses, et les autres despenses du théâtre cousterent, ce dit-on, prés de cent mille escus à la Ville, parce que la salle fût exprès bastie toute de bois, avec plusieurs galleries, capables avec le parterre, de contenir plus de trois mille personnes. Ce fût l’histoire des amours de Cupidon et de Psyché, que les Musiciens du Roy representèrent en musique, composée pour les nopces en Vers Italiens par Virgilio Puccitelli.”⁸⁴ Indisposed, the king stayed away from Gdańsk and did not see the performance of *Le nozze d’Amore e di Psiche*, considered the pinnacle of his theatre. After the death of Władysław IV in 1648, his brother John II Casimir Vasa, the would-be Viceroy of Portugal and a hostage of Cardinal Richelieu from May 1638 to March 1640, ascended the Polish throne. He married Marie Louise Gonzaga-Nevers, his brother’s widow.

After the death of Baltasar Carlos, Infanta Maria Teresa was next in line of Spanish succession. When she left Spain in 1660 as the wife of the King of France, renouncing her claim to the crown, her father Philip IV made sure that on her way to Paris she is accompanied by *autor de comedias* Sebastián de Prado.⁸⁵ The sudden departure of Prado’s troupe from Madrid had a bearing on the condition of public theatres in *Villa y Corte*.⁸⁶ As soon as Prado and his troupe returned to Madrid in the spring of 1661, Pedro de la Rosa, “uno de los directores preferidos de Felipe IV y su mujer, Isabel de Borbón” was instructed to assemble a troupe to go to France.⁸⁷ For over a decade, he performed in Paris, entertaining the Queen of France, Maria Teresa of Austria, and her aunt, the Queen Mother Anne of Austria, “las reinas moza y vieja de Francia”.⁸⁸

⁸⁴ J. Le Laboureur, *Histoire et relation du voyage de la royne de Pologne*, Paris 1648, p. 157; see: M. Bizzarini, “Wprowadzenie do teatru muzycznego Władysława IV”, in: *Triumfalna harmonia...*, pp. 70–71.

⁸⁵ Sebastián de Prado, in: T. Ferrer Valls et al., *Diccionario biográfico de actores del teatro clásico español* (DICAT), <https://dicat.uv.es>.

⁸⁶ *Ibidem*.

⁸⁷ L. González Martínez, “Pedro de la Rosa”, in: Real Academia de la Historia, *Diccionario Biográfico electrónico*, Madrid 2018, accessible online at <http://dbe.rah.es/>.

⁸⁸ E. Cotarelo y Mori, *Actores famosos del siglo XVII: Sebastián de Prado y su mujer Bernarda Ramírez*, Madrid 1916, p. 137.

WŁADYSŁAW IV – WARRIOR KING?
BETWEEN REAL ACHIEVEMENTS
AND COURT PROPAGANDA

“Mostra particolare inclinatione all’armi dilettandosi di vestir per camera piccole armature, maneggior artiglierie, correre lancie, far suonare tamburri et manegiar insegne a certi nani, che ha al suo servitio”¹ – the author of the account from 1604, most likely nuncio Claudio Rangoni, wrote about the military interests of the nine-year-old prince Władysław Zygmunt Vasa.² A few years later, Abraham de Dohna – a Spanish envoy based in Warsaw – noted that the monarch’s teenage son was “Equitandi peritissimus et armorum cupidissimus”.³ In 1636, another papal representative, Onorat Visconti, noticed that the same Władysław, already the ruler of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, “È peritissimo delle cose militari, le quali ei può guidare fra le maggiori angustie col proprio cervello, sicome ne ha dato saggio più d’una volta”.⁴ The above-mentioned observations of foreign diplomats,

¹ BPAN Kórnik, ms 311, *Relatione del Regno di Polonia cominciata l’anno passato e per varia legitime occupationi non finita se non questo 20 di Luglio del 1604 in Cracovia fatta dall’Em.mo Sig.re Cardinal Valenti*, f. 94r., quote in: W. Leitsch, *Das Leben am Hof König Sigismunds III. von Polen*, Wien 2009, Bd. 3, p. 164; “He shows a particular fondness for weapons, delighting in donning a small suit of armor in his room, using artillery, throwing spears, playing the drums, and using the insignia of some of the dwarves he has in his service”.

² On the author of the account, see: S. Bodniak, “Polska w relacji włoskiej z roku 1604”, *Pamiętnik Biblioteki Kórnickiej*, 2, 1930, pp. 29–31.

³ *Relatio Burgravii Abraham de Dohna, oratoris Regis Hispaniae, de missione, quam a. 1612 ad Regem Poloniae absolvit*, ed. by V. Meysztowicz, “Antemurale”, vol. 12 (1968), p. 85; [skilled horseman and one enjoying the weapons].

⁴ *Relatione della nuntiatura di Polonia fattasi all’Emin.mo e Rev.mo Sig.r Card.e Barberino Pradrone da Monsignor Visconti Arcivescovo di Larissa nel mese di luglio 1636 in Roma*, AAV, Misc. Arm. II, vol. 115, f. 244v: [He is very knowledgeable in military matters, which means he can overcome the greatest difficulties with his own mind, as he has shown many times]. This account was previously translated and published in Poland, however one may have some reservations about its translation, see: *Zdanie sprawy z nuncjatury w Polsce przez Honorata Viscontiego, arcybiskupa Larisy, nuncjusza papieża Urbana VIII, podane na ręce*

which – importantly – were written down in different periods of Władysław's life, indicate that the first-born son of Sigismund III Vasa and Anna of Habsburg was interested in military matters and had certain competences and achievements. The image of Władysław as a warrior king has become accepted in historiography and emphasis is usually placed on his influence on the reforms of the Polish-Lithuanian army as well as his role within various military concepts suggested by Sigismund III or by Władysław himself; often mentioned are the project of taking command of the Spanish fleet, which was to operate in the Baltic Sea, plans to invade Denmark, the concept of entering the Thirty Years' War, as well as the idea of an expedition against the Ottoman Empire.⁵ This perception influenced the assessment of the second Vasa ruler of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth – for example, Marian Kukiel, who emphasised the extraordinary military skills of Sigismund III's first-born son, considering him the most outstanding leader on the Polish throne after Bolesław the Brave.⁶ Taking a closer look at Władysław's military activity during the reign of his father and after he ascended the throne, it is impossible to resist the impression that the image of the warrior king established in historical consciousness has been exaggerated. This publication is an attempt to answer the

kardynała Barberino, in: *Relacje nuncjuszów apostolskich i innych osób o Polsce od roku 1548 do 1690*, ed by E. Rykaczewski, vol. II, Berlin–Poznań 1864, p. 190.

⁵ A. Szelągowski, *Rozkład Rzeczy a Polska za panowania Władysława IV*, Oświęcim 2017, pp. 15–39; A. Szelągowski, *Śląsk i Polska wobec powstania czeskiego*, Lwów 1904, pp. 260–261, 267–281; W. Czermak, *Plany wojny tureckiej Władysława IV*, Oświęcim 2015; V. Letošnik, “Polsko, dům Rakouský a Albrecht Valdštejna za pruské války roku 1626–1629”, *Časopis Českého Muzea*, 108, 1934, pp. 164–167; R. Ródenas Vilar, *La política europea de España durante la Guerra de Treinta Años*, Madrid 1967, pp. 71–147; J. Alcalá-Zamora, Queipo de Llano, *España, Flandes y el mar del Norte 1618–1639*, Barcelona 1975; R. Skowron, *Olivares, Wazowie i Bałtyk. Polska w polityce zagranicznej Hiszpanii w latach 1621–32*, Kraków 2002; R. Skowron, “Polsko-hiszpańskie projekty inwazji na Szwecję w okresie panowania Zygmunta III i Władysława IV”, in: *Stosunki polsko-szwedzkie w epoce nowożytnej*, ed. by K. Polujan, Warszawa 2001, pp. 31–44; R. Skowron, “Preliminaria wojskowe z okresu polsko-hiszpańskich rokowań sojuszniczych w Neapolu (1639–1641)”, *Studia i Materiały do Historii Wojskowości*, 42, 2006, pp. 233–250; R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars. Polsko-hiszpańskie relacje polityczne w latach 1632–1648*, Kraków 2013; P. Duda, *Krzyż i karabela. Polityka zagraniczna Rzeczypospolitej Obojga Narodów w ocenie dyplomacji papieskiej w latach 1623–1635*, Katowice 2019.

⁶ W. Czaplński, *Władysław IV i jego czasy*, Wrocław 2009, p. 138.

question of whether Sigismund III's son really was an outstanding leader or is it a myth resulting from the propaganda of the royal court?

As can be seen from the examples cited above, Władysław became interested in military matters as a child, which does not differ from the educational standards of the elites of that time. Initially, they were innocent army games in which the prince's companion was Tomasz Zamoyski who was not much older than him. At the age of eight, the monarch's son began learning horse riding and he probably also trained in the art of fencing from an early age.⁷ Most likely in 1605, the prince was appointed two preceptors: Gebriel Prewancjusz and Zygmunt Kazanowski. The latter – an experienced soldier of Stephen Báthory and a participant in the Livonian expedition of 1601 – had the task of introducing the king's son to the arcana of the art of war.⁸ It can be assumed that in his later years Władysław also acquired theoretical knowledge about the military, although little is known about this.

The prince's military education was also undoubtedly influenced by the opportunity to associate with renowned commanders whom he met at court. He knew Jan Karol Chodkiewicz very well, and accompanied him during the expedition to Moscow and the battle of Khotyn. He maintained good relations with Krzysztof II Radziwiłł, as evidenced by their close correspondence⁹ and subsequent cooperation during the Smolensk campaign, and at the very least good relations with Stanisław Koniecpolski.¹⁰

It is worth noting that the prince became acquainted with several renowned foreign commanders. In June 1624, in Wyszaków, he met

⁷ W. Leitsch, *Das Leben am Hof König Sigismunds III. von Polen*, Wien 2009, BD. 3, p. 164.

⁸ W. Czapliński, *Władysław IV...*, p. 20.

⁹ *Listy Władysława IV do Krzysztofa Radziwiłła hetmana polnego W. X. Litewskiego pisane 1612–1632 roku z autografów Biblioteki Cesarskiej w Petersburgu*, ed. by A. Muchliński, Kraków 1867.

¹⁰ During the war in Prussia, Władysław IV criticised Koniecpolski's tactical thought, accusing him of passivity. In later years, there were differences of opinion between the king and the hetman, see: A. Biedrzycka, "Stanisław Koniecpolski o małżeństwie Władysława IV", *Odrodzenie i Reformacja w Polsce*, 47, 2003, pp. 167–172. Due to their functions, however, they maintained constant contact with each other, see: *Korespondencja Stanisława Koniecpolskiego hetmana wielkiego koronnego 1632–1646*, ed. by A. Biedrzycka, Kraków 2005.

Torquato Conti¹¹ – an experienced Italian mercenary in the service of the Habsburgs, a participant in the battles of White Mountain and Wimpfen. A few months later, during his stay in the Netherlands, he met the elderly Don Luis de Valasco, Count di Salazar – commander of the Spanish cavalry – who took part in the occupation of Calais in 1596 and who escorted him from Antwerp to the camp near Breda, Gonzalo Fernández de Córdoba – later commander of the Spanish troops during the War of the Mantuan Succession, Hendrik van den Bergh, and finally the commander of the Army of Flanders – Ambrogio Spinola, in whose company he spent five days at the camp of Spanish troops.¹² The time spent together resulted in many conversations on military topics. As Stefan Pac noted: “We always sat down with Spinola and other important people at the table where we had a lot of discourses, because they themselves gave us the opportunity by asking about Polish knights and methods of warfare”.¹³ It is worth adding that his stay at the camp of the Army of Flanders near the besieged Breda also allowed Władysław to become acquainted with the achievements of Western European warfare, its organisation, and the achievements of military engineering. The prince carefully visited the camp and fortifications, and was delighted with the logistics, discipline, and order prevailing in the Spanish army: “everywhere you could see powerful fortifications, both in the city and in the field, great order, modesty and quietness in the camp, not our Polish style”¹⁴ noted Stefan Pac. The prince’s delight was all the more understandable because he had a unique point of reference, as three years earlier he had been in the besieged Khotyn. In the summer of 1631 he met the renowned Albrecht von Wallenstein in Cheb, who at that time was suffering Imperial disfavour.¹⁵

Władysław indirectly tasted the fame of the victor for the first time in 1611, when, as a 16-year-old, he and his father took part in the

¹¹ *Podróż królewicza Władysława Wazy do krajów Europy zachodniej w latach 1624–1625 w świetle ówczesnych relacji*, ed. by A. Przyboś, Kraków 1977, pp. 71–72.

¹² *Ibidem*, pp. 181–190.

¹³ *Ibidem*, p. 188.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 187. For more on the organisation of the Army of Flanders, see: G. Parker, *Armia Flandrii i hiszpańska droga 1567–1659. Przyczyny hiszpańskich zwycięstw i porażek w Niderlandach*, Oświęcim 2016.

¹⁵ R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars...*, pp. 32–33.

triumphant return to Warsaw after the capitulation of Smolensk and then participated in the *Sejm*, during which the dethroned Tsar Wasyl Shuisky and his family paid tribute to the king and prince. A year later, the monarch's son took part in an expedition that was supposed to provide relief for the Polish crew defending itself in the Kremlin, although, as Władysław Czapliński noted, it did not look like a military expedition¹⁶ and more importantly, it definitely happened too late. Accompanied by his father, Władysław went to Smolensk and then to Vyazma where they learned of the Kremlin's capitulation, which made a further march towards Moscow pointless. It is known that during this expedition the prince proved himself by speaking to unpaid soldiers – he appealed to them to continue fighting and promised the quick payment of their wages. The army listened, but it seems that the argument of allowing the confiscation of goods from Smolensk merchants appealed more than the oration of the monarch's son.

Władysław received the first real opportunity to reveal his military talents in 1617, when, as a 22-year-old, he set off on a semi-independent military expedition, the goal of which was Monomakh's Cap. The idea of undertaking an armed expedition against Mikhail Romanov had probably arisen several years earlier and its implementation started in 1616. As a result, in May of that year, the General Assembly of *Sejm* adopted the constitution *On Moscow* which stated: “we allowed King Prince Władysław, our son, in his right, to protect the Commonwealth from this enemy with this recruitment”.¹⁷ At the same time, diplomatic efforts were initiated to guarantee Władysław external support, in particular from the Viennese court.¹⁸ The prince undoubtedly accepted

¹⁶ W. Czapliński, *Władysław IV...*, p. 28. More about campaign of 1612, see: W. Polak, *O Kreml i Smoleńszczyznę. Polityka Rzeczypospolitej wobec Moskwy w latach 1607–1612*, Toruń 2014, pp. 391–410.

¹⁷ *Konstytucje seymu walnego koronnego warszawskiego roku p. 1616*, paragraph No. 3 *O Moskwie*, in: *Volumina Legum*, vol. III, ed. by J. Ohryzko, Petersburg 1859, p. 132.

¹⁸ Sigismund III to Matthias Habsburg, Warsaw, 23 June 1616, in: *The House of Vasa and the House of Austria, Correspondence from the year 1587 to 1668*, part I, *The times of Sigismund III, 1587–1632*, vol. 1, ed. by R. Skowron, Katowice 2016, No. 284, pp. 634–635; Władysław to Matthias Habsburg, Warsaw 23 June 1616, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 1, No. 285, p. 636; Władysław do Empress Anna, Warsaw 23 June 1616, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 1, No. 286, p. 637; Matthias Habsburg to Royal Prince Władysław, Prague 7 September 1616, in: *The House of*

with great enthusiasm the decision to organise a 10,000-strong force but was dissatisfied with the fact that his father entrusted the command of the expedition not to him, but to the experienced Hetman Chodkiewicz.¹⁹ What's more, *Sejm* appointed special commissioners who were to control the course of the expedition. On April 6, a ceremony was held in the Pauline church in Warsaw before the march to the east, during which Primate Wawrzyniec Gembicki presented Władysław with a consecrated sword and a banner.²⁰

It could be said that the expedition began under good auspices. The prince with his army and numerous court travelled through Lublin, Krasnystaw, Vladimir and Lutsk, and was greeted with great solemnity.²¹ Later, however, the first difficulties appeared – the dispute between the castellan of Sochaczew, Konstanty Plichta – who had initially been appointed by the monarch to command the expedition – and Marcin Kazanowski, who was supported by Władysław, found its unfortunate end in the dismissal of members of the Kazanowski family by Sigismund III. Even when the order was withdrawn as a result of an intervention by Władysław, the ruler proved to his son that he still had a lot to learn in terms of managing people. In Smolensk, Władysław's troops joined the forces of Chodkiewicz who took command of the army. The prince was not happy about this and in the long run this led to several disputes between them.²² There were also sparks between the commanding staff and the young courtiers gathered around Władysław over whom the young Vasa could not, or perhaps did not want to, control. One example is an episode involving Hetman Chodkiewicz and Marcin Kazanowski, who was demonstratively disrespecting the Lithuanian commander.²³ Soon, Dorogobuzh and Vyazma were captured, but this was less the result of skilful actions and more due to the

Vasa..., part I, vol. 1, No. 290, p. 643; Empress Anna to Royal Prince Władysław, Prague 7 September 1616, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 1, No. 291, p. 644.

¹⁹ It is worth emphasising that the Lithuanian field hetman was personally reluctant to take command, see: K. Żojdź, *Wszyscy ludzie króla. Zygmunt III Waza i jego stronnicy w Wielkim Księstwie Litewskim w pierwszych dekadach XVII wieku*, Toruń 2019, p. 215.

²⁰ J. Żukowski, *Rządzą cwałaby. Władysław IV Waza w ikonografii performatywnej*, Warszawa 2018, p. 80.

²¹ *Ibidem*, pp. 81–91.

²² J. Ossoliński, *Pamiętnik*, ed. by W. Czapliński, Warszawa 1976, p. 75.

²³ *Ibidem*, p. 7. See also: J. Maciszewski, *Władysław IV*, Warszawa 1988, p. 17.

garrisons' unwillingness to fight. The defenders, realising the military advantage of the Polish-Lithuanian side, capitulated without putting up any resistance. However, this was where the successes of the expedition ended, and it stopped in Vyazma due to the approaching winter.

While waiting for the resumption of activities Władysław learned an important lesson and became familiar with the practical meaning of Cicero's words *pecunia nervus belli*. The *Sejm* that met at the beginning of 1618 decided to allocate symbolic amounts of money to the continuation of the expedition.²⁴ The king, apparently influenced by the conclusions of *Sejm*, showed political realism and began to press for an end to the war and the conclusion of a treaty on favourable terms. Financial problems were accompanied by a lack of much-needed military successes. The attempt to capture Borisov ended in failure, and the situation near Możejsk was no better. In the following months, the expedition – joined by the Cossack troops of Hetman Petro Konashevych-Sahaidachny and the semi-regular cavalry known as *lisowczycy* – reached Moscow. On the night of 10 October 1618, an attempt was made to storm the city which Stanisław Kobierzycki noted: “Władysław, in the presence of Chodkiewicz and the commissioners, was eager to act”.²⁵ Despite the royal prince's alleged involvement, the attack ended in failure.

In these circumstances it was decided to entrust the matter of ending the conflict to diplomats. They quickly reached an agreement and concluded the Truce of Deulino. The first semi-independent military expedition showed that the monarch's son was unable to accept defeat. As Henryk Wisner noted: “The royal prince was against anything that meant leaving the capital. He did not accept either the obvious impossibility of forcing Moscow to capitulate and therefore recognise his power, or of continuing to remain under the capital”.²⁶ Władysław approached the negotiations in very emotional way as he feared that he may lose the title of tsar. His emotions manifested in hurling insults at the commissioners and accusing them of not caring about his interests.²⁷

²⁴ J. Serebryka, *Sejm z 1618 roku*, Opole 1988, pp. 175–176, 195.

²⁵ S. Kobierzycki, *Historia Władysława, królewicza polskiego i szwedzkiego*, ed. by M. Krajewski, J. Byliński, W. Kaczorowski, Wrocław 2005, p. 254.

²⁶ H. Wisner, *Władysław IV Waza*, Wrocław 2009, p. 28.

²⁷ J. Sobieski, *Diariusz ekspedycyjnej moskiewskiej dwuletniej królewicza Władysława 1617–1618*, ed. by J. Byliński, W. Kaczorowski, Opole 2010, p. 87.

The unsuccessful expedition to Moscow, although it undoubtedly brought disappointment and bitterness to the young Vasa, allowed him to gain valuable experience and earned him the sympathy of the soldiers. As Kobierzycki noted: “He is known to the regiments and pleasant to the soldiers, whom he won over with his admiring courtesy and friendly attitude towards them”.²⁸

A much more serious test of the military competences of the monarch’s son took place a year and a half later, when the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth had to face the Turkish aggression near Khotyn. At the *Sejm* of 1620, it was decided that the royal prince would take part in the campaign against the Ottoman Empire. This decision was a consequence of the good relations that the descendant of Sigismund III established with the army and the Cossacks during the Moscow expedition.²⁹ So Władysław again found himself under Chodkiewicz’s wing. A military commission was also appointed at the above-mentioned *Sejm*, which, as its member Jakub Sobieski noted, was to assist the hetmans and Władysław at war councils.³⁰ This time the prince approached the expedition with enthusiasm. He brought a strong military contingent to the Khotyn camp, numbering approximately 10,000 soldiers composed mainly of mercenaries recruited in Prussia and German countries.³¹ As Mirosław Nagielski noted: “Without the foreign infantry and artillery [brought by Władysław], the position of the forces commanded by Jan Karol Chodkiewicz would be quite difficult; especially since these troops constituted almost 1/6 of the forces in the camp”.³² In addition, Władysław carried about 20 cannons,

²⁸ S. Kobierzycki, *Historia Władysława...*, p. 316.

²⁹ M. Nagielski, “Udział królewicza Władysława w kampanii chocimskiej 1621 r.”, in: *Od Cecory do Chocimia. Studia z dziejów wojny polsko-tureckiej 1620–1621*, ed. by Z. Hundert, P. Tyszka, Warszawa 2024, p. 87.

³⁰ *Pamiętniki o wyprawie chocimskiej r. 1621 Jana hrabi z Ostroroga, Prokopa Zbigniewskiego, Stanisława Lubomirskiego i Jakóba Sobieskiego*, ed. by Ż. Pauli, Kraków 1853, p. 109. For more about the war council, see: M. Nagielski, *Udział królewicza...*, pp. 88–89.

³¹ This number is given by the papal nuncio Francesco Diotallevi, who closely followed Władysław’s preparations for the march to Khotyn, see: F. Diotallevi to L. Ludovisi, Warsaw 3 September 1621, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana [BAV], Barberiniani Latini, vol. 6579, f. 190v. See also: P. Gawron, “Wojska zaciągu cudzoziemskiego w czasie wojny chocimskiej 1621 roku”, in: *Od Cecory do Chocimia...*, pp. 112–114; M. Nagielski, *Udział królewicza...*, p. 86.

³² M. Nagielski, *Udział królewicza...*, p. 86.

which was to provide significant support for the defenders of Khotyn who had a rather small artillery park.³³

The corps reached Khotyn at the last moment, joining the ranks of the defenders when Osman II's forces appeared nearby. Although the morale of those present increased with the arrival of reinforcements, Władysław's troops were exhausted after the long march. The royal prince was also indisposed and fell ill soon after arriving at the camp. As Stanisław Kobierzycki noted: "Illness was caused by his massive effort [of leading troops] that he undertook both day and night, also from the unbearable heat during the march from Kamianets to the camp. He travelled in full armour under a burning sun. Then he suffered very much due to the heavy and unwholesome Wallachian [Moldavian] air. He was affected by sudden bouts of fever that left him only at the end of the war – by when he had recovered".³⁴ Due to illness, young Vasa did not take part in the fighting until almost the end of the siege. However, this does not mean that he remained inactive. On the contrary, he participated in war meetings, tried to raise the spirits of the soldiers defending the camp and influence their morale, sent letters asking for relief, and engaged in mediation aimed at de-escalating internal tensions. Kobierzycki attributes to him and the conversation he had with Petro Konashevych-Sahaidachny a decisive role in keeping the Cossacks in the camp.³⁵ In this historian's opinion, Władysław's talent for conciliation was revealed again after Chodkiewicz's death, when he managed to resolve the dispute between the Poles and the Lithuanians who did not want to serve under the orders of Stanisław Lubomirski.³⁶

Although young Vasa spent most of the siege indisposed in a tent, his presence in the camp and the fact that allied army successfully defended Khotyn brought him glory and recognition that far exceeded his merits. Both he and the royal court took advantage of the fact that Chodkiewicz died at the camp and that Stanisław Lubomirski came from a family that was only now entering the Polish elite, in effect attributing the fame of

³³ F. Diotallevi to L. Ludovisi, Warsaw 17 September 1621, BAV, Barberiniani Latini, vol. 6579, f. 211r.

³⁴ S. Kobierzycki, *Historia Władysława...*, p. 340.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 349.

³⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 360.

being the conqueror of the Turks to Władysław. Propaganda activities were already initiated during the prince's return from Khotyn, which almost took the form of a triumphal march. The monarch's son set off from the camp towards Kamianets-Podilskiyi surrounded by select units of hussars, Cossack cavalry and reiters, as well as infantry marching in two lines.³⁷ Subsequent cities – Kamianets, Lviv, Ternopil and Kraków welcomed Władysław with honours, seeing him as the saviour of the homeland. Triumphal gates were built in his honour, cannons were fired, fireworks were set off, dramas were performed, panegyrics were written, and laudations were announced.³⁸ He was welcomed by representatives of the elites – Tomasz Zamoyski in Tarnopol,³⁹ local bishop Marcin Szyszkowski and the castellan, Jerzy Zbaraski, in Kraków.⁴⁰ The new papal nuncio, Cosimo de Torres, who was on his way to Warsaw, decided to stay longer at Wawel to pay tribute to the conqueror of the Turks.⁴¹

At the same time, propaganda activities were initiated at the royal court. The royal chancellery did not fail to inform the most important courts of Catholic Europe of the success of the monarch's son. Sigismund III sent a letter to Pope Gregory XV in which he emphasised the influence of divine providence on the outcome of the battle, as well as the merits of his son during the battle.⁴² In response, the Secretariat of State sent a congratulatory brief to the Commonwealth, praising Władysław's courage and commitment to defending Christianity.⁴³ Emperor Ferdinand II also sent appropriate congratulations to the king and the prince.⁴⁴ The belief in the key role that young Vasa played

³⁷ M. Nagielski, *Udział królewicza...*, p. 96.

³⁸ More about it in: J. Żukowski, *Rządzą chwały...*, pp. 95–100.

³⁹ M. Nagielski, *Udział królewicza...*, p. 96.

⁴⁰ W. Czaplński, *Władysław IV...*, p. 55.

⁴¹ C. de Torres to L. Ludovisi, Kraków 12 November 1621, BAV, Barberiniani Latini, vol. 6581, f. 86r; C. de Torres to L. Ludovisi, Kraków 25 November 1621, BAV, Barberiniani Latini, vol. 6581f. 113r; C. de Torres to L. Ludovisi, Warsaw 15 December 1621, BAV, Barberiniani Latini, vol. 6581, f. 114r.

⁴² S. Kobierzycki, *Historia Władysława...*, p. 370.

⁴³ Gregory XV to Sigismund III, Rome 7 August 1621, in: *Vetera Monumenta Regni Poloniae et Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae*, ed. by A. Theiner, vol. III, Romae 1863, No. 296, pp. 365–366.

⁴⁴ Ferdinand II to Sigismund III, Vienna 4 XII 1621, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 1, No. 358, p. 744; Ferdinand II to royal prince Władysław, Vienna 4 XII 1621, in: *The House of Vasa...*, part I, vol. 1, No. 359, p. 745.

at Khotyn was intensified by numerous leaflets that were published, translated into Italian, French, and Spanish, and distributed throughout Europe.⁴⁵ As Jacek Żukowski rightly noted: “The following years passed under the aegis of the Wallachian [Moldavian] victory celebrated by the best writers (...). Panegyrics, portraits, celebrations successively approved by the Pope – all these elements consolidated the cult of the victor of Khotyn”.⁴⁶

The wide scope of the above-mentioned propaganda activities could be seen over the following years, during Władysław’s journey to Prussia in 1623 and especially during his peregrination around the countries of Western Europe. During the siege of Breda he was accepted by the Spanish soldiers as a recognised commander: “Count Henry Bregensis deployed three thousand cavalry in battle formation. The riders raised their weapons, showing with this military custom the highest respect for the prince”⁴⁷ noted Kobierzycki. In Brussels, a ballet titled *Diane Triomphante*, which emphasised the role he played in the victory at Khotyn, was performed in his honour.⁴⁸ Even more symbolic in its meaning was the reception of Władysław in Rome by Pope Urban VIII, at which he compared his guest to Charles V of Habsburg,⁴⁹ who had organised an expedition occupying Tunis in 1535. What is more, His Holiness presented the prince with a previously blessed sword and hat, a special papal decoration called *stocco e berretto*, which was given to rulers for their merits in defending the Catholic faith or as a call to undertake a crusade.⁵⁰ Albrecht Stanisław Radziwiłł, who was a witness to the above-mentioned ceremony, noted that Urban VIII saw young Vasa as the leader of a future expedition against the Turks.⁵¹ The culmination

⁴⁵ K. Zawadzki, *Gazety ulotne polskie i Polski dotyczące XVI–XVIII w.*, vol. 1, (1514–1661), Wrocław 1977, pp. 88–94.

⁴⁶ J. Żukowski, *Rządza chwały...*, p. 100.

⁴⁷ S. Kobierzycki, *Historia Władysława...*, p. 390.

⁴⁸ J. Żukowski, *Rządza chwały...*, pp. 109–112.

⁴⁹ *Podróż królewicza...*, p. 302.

⁵⁰ More about such gifts, see: E. Garms-Cornides, *Rose und Schwert im päpstlichen Zeremoniell*. Wien 1967; E. Manikowska, “Dary w dyplomacji papieskiej epoki baroku”, in: *Polska i Europa w dobie nowożytnej. Prace naukowe dedykowane Profesorowi Juliuszowi A. Chrościckiemu*, ed. by T. Bernatowicz and others, Warszawa 2016, pp. 123–124.

⁵¹ *Podróż królewicza...*, pp. 327–328.

of the ceremony was a feast during which the vocal and instrumental piece *La vittoria del principe Vladislao in Valachia*, written by Giovanni Ciampoli to honour the royal prince, was performed. The epilogue of the work contains a prophecy that the young Vasa, under the auspices of Urban VIII, would gain fame as the final conqueror of the Ottoman Empire and sit on the throne of Constantine.⁵²

The way he was received at the courts of Western Europe undoubtedly satisfied the ego of the king's son and he returned to the country with the hope of even greater glory, especially since the prospect of conflict with Sweden was on the horizon.⁵³ In fact, the Polish-Swedish war in Prussia was an opportunity to gain new experiences. Unfortunately, however, the role assigned to Władysław by his father did not match his ambitions. While Sigismund III had earlier reluctantly approved the royal prince's expedition to Moscow and against the larger Turkish army, during the confrontation in Prussia the monarch did not decide to entrust his son, over 30 at the time, with a significant role. Contrary to the senators' persuasions, he did not give him command of any unit or assign him any important tasks. It is possible that this was due to concerns for his son and the natural heir. It should be remembered, though, that by approving the firstborn's participation in campaigns against Moscow and the Ottoman Empire, the ruler could count on his son being under the care of the experienced Chodkiewicz who was absent during the Prussian War. The monarch was probably not convinced by his son's previous war experience, or by the military ideas he pushed forward which may have shown a lack of proper understanding or even naivety. One such proposed project was presented in July 1626 and suggested that Władysław would set off against the army of Gustav II Adolf with 2,000–3,000

⁵² H. Osiecka-Samsonowicz, *Polskie uroczystości w barokowym Rzymie 1587–1696*, Warszawa 2012, pp. 233–235; J. Zukowski, *Zadzą chwały...*, p. 114.

⁵³ During his stay in Brussels, Władysław told the local nuncio that, in accordance with his father's wishes, his journey around Europe should end in the spring of 1625 in connection with the planned resumption of Polish-Swedish hostilities in Livonia, see: G. Guidi di Bagno to F. Barberini, Brussels 14 September 1624, *Analecta Vaticano-Belgica, Correspondance du nonce Giovanni-Francesco Guidi di Bagno (1621–1627)*, ed. B. de Meester. Brussels, Rome 1938, No. 1114, p. 532; see also: P. Duda, *Krzyż i karabela...*, p. 77.

cavalry.⁵⁴ In the end, the war with Sweden had a different gravity, as – due to dynastic disputes – it was a priority issue for Sigismund III. As a result, the king decided to entrust the command to the battle-experienced Stanisław Koniecpolski.

In effect, throughout the whole war Władysław remained in the shadow of his father and hetman. He accompanied Sigismund III at the battle of Gniew (Mewe) in 1626, where he had the opportunity to see with his own eyes the firepower of the reformed Swedish infantry. After the battle, both Vasas stayed with the army in a camp near Waćmierz⁵⁵ and at the beginning of November they went to Gdańsk to establish the Royal Ship Commission and inspect preparations for the defence of the coast. The prince then viewed the city fortifications and the Wisłoujście fortress.⁵⁶ In 1627, Władysław again accompanied his father on an expedition to Prussia. This time too, he was not entrusted with important tasks. He visited Gdańsk again and then stayed for some time as an observer in the camp near Lubiszew.⁵⁷ For the glory-hungry Władysław, this was extremely disappointing. Even on the eve of the battle of Gniew the prince wrote to the Lithuanian Field Hetman Krzysztof Radziwiłł, who was in conflict with his father: “I must complain that I’m of no use for His Royal Majesty here and during this expedition I’m treated as some novice or, as the foreigners would call it, a *reformado* officer”.⁵⁸ In the following years he often poured out his grievances to the papal nuncio, Antonio Santa Croce, who reported

⁵⁴ H. Wisner, *Władysław IV...*, p. 49; P. Duda, “Wojna o ujście Wisły w relacjach i ocenie dyplomacji papieskiej. Kampania roku 1626”, in: *Studia nad staropolską sztuką wojenną*, ed. by Z. Hundert, K. Żojdź, J.J. Sowa, vol. IV, Oświęcim 2015, p. 116. Por. J. Maciszewski, *Władysław IV...*, p. 29.

⁵⁵ P. Duda, *Wojna o ujście Wisły...*, p. 122.

⁵⁶ M. Wrede, *Itinerarium króla Zygmunta III 1587–1632*, Warszawa 2019, p. 312, footnote 21.

⁵⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 317, footnotes 6–8; A. Santa Croce to F. Barberini, Starogard Gdański 10 September 1627, in: Acta Nuntiaturae Polonae [ANP], vol. XXIII, *Antonius Santa Croce (1627–1630)*, vol. 1: (1 III 1627 – 29 VII 1628), ed. by H. Litwin, Romae 1996, No. 81, p. 86; A. Santa Croce to F. Barberini, Starogard Gdański 18 September 1627, *ibidem*, No. 88, p. 94. See also: H. Litwin, P. Duda, “Podróże nuncjusza Antonia Santa Crocego w czasie jego misji w Rzeczypospolitej (1627–1630). Przyczynek do badań nad mobilnością dyplomatów papieskich”, *Rocznik Filozoficzny Ignatianum*, 28/1, 2022, p. 63.

⁵⁸ Władysław Zygmunt to Krzysztof Radziwiłł, camp at Nowe 16 September 1626, in: *Liście Władysława IV do Krzysztofa Radziwiła...*, No. 36, p. 72.

to his superiors: “Il Principe Vladislao si mostra tuttavia disgustato, che il Re non lo mandi alla guerra”.⁵⁹ Władysław himself explained the fact that he was not entrusted with command by his father’s and stepmother’s fears of his growing importance which could harm his stepbrothers in the context of a future royal election: “per accomodar meglio le cose de gli altri figlioli, habbiano procurato ch’egli non habbia più in questi tempi le armi in mano”.⁶⁰ This led to numerous serious conflicts between the monarch and his son.⁶¹ The royal prince also criticised Koniecpolski, accusing him of passivity: “Here in Prussia, as before, little is done, and the number of troops is decreasing, and they have no desire to serve at all”.⁶²

While the successful defence of the Khotyn fortress and, above all, its propaganda aspect may have been to Władysław’s liking, the war in Prussia, and especially the role he played in the ongoing conflict must have been very frustrating. The opportunity to prove his real military talents appeared with the death of his father, as Tsar Mikhail I Romanov decided to take advantage of Sigismund III’s death. The Muscovites, counting that the interregnum would bring internal destabilisation in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, undertook an armed attempt to regain Smolensk, which they had lost over twenty years prior. In early October 1632, Moscow troops commanded by Mikhail Borisovich Shein crossed the Lithuanian border, and, on October 18, the first of them appeared near the walls of Smolensk. The initial months of Muscovite aggression brought a number of successes to the enemy troops which advanced, capturing successive border castles and taking

⁵⁹ A. Santa Croce to T. Barberini, Warsaw 3 March 1629, in: ANP, XXIII/2: (*1 VIII 1628 – 31 III 1629*), ed. by H. Litwin, P. Duda, Cracoviae 2021, No. 559, p. 242; “Prince Władysław seems disgusted by the fact that the king does not send him to war”.

⁶⁰ A. Santa Croce to F. Barberini, Warsaw 24 February 1629, in: ANP XXIII/2, No. 545, p. 229; “in order to take better care of the affairs of the other children, they decided that he would no longer have an army in his hands for the time being”. See also: A. Santa Croce to F. Barberini, Warsaw 28 October 1628, *ibidem*, No. 395, p. 88.

⁶¹ A. Santa Croce to F. Barberini, Warsaw 11 August 1628, in: ANP XXIII/2, No. 327, pp. 16–17.

⁶² Władysław Zygmunt to Krzysztof Radziwiłł, Warsaw 29 February 1627 (sic!), in: *Listy Władysława IV do Krzysztofa Radziwiła...*, No. 41, p. 82.

over the territories of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania east of the Dvina and Dnieper rivers as well as almost the entire regions of Severia and Chernihiv.⁶³ In mid-December the actual siege of Smolensk began. Contrary to the tsar's hopes, in the face of danger the Poles and Lithuanians unanimously elected the firstborn son of Sigismund III as the new king.⁶⁴ The first serious problem that Władysław faced in his new role was repelling Muscovite aggression. Immediately after the election, the ruler convened a meeting of his most trusted people at which the issue of providing aid to the besieged city was discussed. A decision was made to send Krzysztof Radziwiłł to the east to organise emergency help for the defenders of Smolensk. The king's indecision is not entirely understandable. On the one hand he ordered Radziwiłł to rush to the Dnieper, and on the other, he summoned him and Lew Sapieha to the coronation *Sejm*. Ultimately, both Lithuanian hetmans ignored the monarch's call.⁶⁵

Although effective, the actions of Radziwiłł and later also Jakub Karol Madaliński around Smolensk were supposed to be only an ad hoc solution,⁶⁶ allowing Władysław to gain the time necessary to organise relief, which, according to the *Sejm's* resolution titled *Muscovite War*, was to be personally led by him.⁶⁷ At the above-mentioned coronation *Sejm*,

⁶³ J. Teodorczyk, "Odsiecz Smoleńska 1633–1634", in: *Zarys dziejów wojskowości polskiej do roku 1864*, vol. 1, ed. by J. Sikorski, Warszawa 1965, pp. 457–466; W. Lipiński, "Początek działań rosyjskich w wojnie smoleńskiej", *Przegląd Historyczno-Wojskowy*, 5, 1932, pp. 29–61; D. Kupisz, *Smoleńsk 1632–1634*, Warszawa 2000, pp. 93–102; M. Nagielski, "Wstęp. Wojna smoleńska 1632–1634 Rzeczypospolitej z Moskwą", in: *Diariusz kampanii smoleńskiej Władysława IV 1633–1634*, Warszawa 2006, pp. 6–11.

⁶⁴ W. Kaczorowski, *Sejmy konwokacyjny i elekcyjny w okresie bezkrólowia 1632*, Opole 1986, pp. 300–301.

⁶⁵ H. Wisner, *Władysław IV...*, p. 67.

⁶⁶ For more about the activities carried out near Smolensk before the arrival of the relief force, see: D. Kupisz, "Zanim nadeszła odsiecz. Działania wojsk Krzysztofa Radziwiłła przeciw armii moskiewskiej pod Smoleńskiem od stycznia do sierpnia 1633 roku", *Biblioteka Epoki Nowożytnej*, 5, II/2016, (*Hortus bellicus. Studia z dziejów wojskowości nowożytnej. Prace ofiarowane Profesorowi Mirosławowi Nagielskiemu*, ed. by K. Bobiatyński, P. Gawron, K. Kossarzewski, P. Kroll, D. Milewski), pp. 225–242; M. Nagielski, "Hetman polny litewski Krzysztof II Radziwiłł w dobie kampanii smoleńskiej 1632–1634", in: *Radziwiłłowie w służbie Marsa*, ed. by M. Nagielski, K. Żojdź, Warszawa 2017, pp. 109–113.

⁶⁷ *Konstytucje seymu walnego, koronacy Króla JMCi roku bożego 1633*, paragraph. 5 *Wojna moskiewska*, in: *Volumina Legum...*, vol. III, pp. 372–373.

a decision was made to organise a large recruitment drive. In total, over 24,000 soldiers were gathered, most of whom were infantry organised and trained in the Western European style. This modification of the usual army structure was attributed to the monarch. As commented by Kazimierz Leon Sapieha: “The king is taking his idea of warfare from Gustav [II Adolf], he wants to have more troops trained in foreign style than the Polish [winged] hussars”.⁶⁸ On 9 May 1633, after a special Holy Mass, Władysław IV left Warsaw for Lithuania. The relief army was moving very slowly though. The king was in no hurry, and what’s more – he stopped in Vilnius for a month, awaiting the gathering troops. He reached Smolensk only at the end of August.⁶⁹ The first clashes did not bring the Polish side the expected success and it was only the attack undertaken on 21 September that led to the breaking of the siege. The outcome of the clash was influenced by the fact that Muscovite Colonel George Mattison, who was guarding the northern post, withdrew together with his soldiers. In this situation, Shein decided to concentrate his forces in a fortified camp located on the bend in the Dnieper to the east of the city.⁷⁰ Here the Muscovites were surrounded by the Polish army which cut off their food and other supplies and the besiegers became the besieged. Due to the deteriorating living conditions and the lack of hopes for the quick relief being prepared by the tsar,⁷¹ Shein ultimately agreed to start talks. They culminated on 25 February 1634, when the act of surrender of the enemy troops was signed.⁷² Undoubtedly, the Smolensk campaign was Władysław IV’s greatest success, both in organisational and military terms. As Jarema

⁶⁸ W. Czapliński, *Władysław IV...*, p. 131.

⁶⁹ W. Lipiński, “Organizacja odsieczy i działania wrześnie pod Smoleńskiem w r. 1633”, *Przegląd Historyczno-Wojskowy*, 6, 1933, pp. 173–225;

⁷⁰ W. Lipiński, “Działania wojenne polsko-rosyjskie pod Smoleńskiem od października 1632 do września 1633 r.”, *Przegląd Historyczno-Wojskowy*, 5, 1932, pp. 203–219.

⁷¹ W. Lipiński, “Kampania zimowa 1633/34 i kapitulacja Szeina”, *Przegląd Historyczno-Wojskowy*, 7, 1934, p. 237.

⁷² For more on negotiations and surrender, see: M. Mucha, “Dyplomacja Rzeczypospolitej wobec Rosji w początkach panowania Władysława IV Wazy (1632–1635)”, *Acta Universitatis Lodzianensis. Folia Historica*, 108, 2021, pp. 42–44. D. Kupisz, “Kapitulacja armii moskiewskiej Michała Borysowicza Szeina pod Smoleńskiem w 1634 roku”, in: *Kapitulacje w dziejach wojen. Z dziejów wojskowości polskiej i powszechnej*, ed. by A. Niewiński, Oświęcim 2017, pp. 196–205.

Maciszewski noted: “Polish history has not known such a brilliant campaign in terms of organisation, supplies, operations, and tactics for at least several centuries”.⁷³ However, this spectacular victory was not fully exploited, and subsequent, incompetently conducted military actions during the remaining campaign of 1634 weakened the overall strength of the victory over Shein’s troops.

Despite the enemy’s capitulation, the war was not over. Clashes with the tsar’s troops continued along the entire border. In these circumstances, two concepts for further actions emerged – marching east or capturing border strongholds. It seems that Władysław IV originally considered the first scenario, which is proven by a conversation he had with Nuncio Visconti during his stay in Vilnius. The papal envoy reported to his superiors that after lifting the siege of Smolensk the monarch intended to go deeper into Muscovite country, to “aggiustar tutto, o buona parte di quel Granducato in persona del Prencipe Casimiro, o almeno fare una pace vantaggiosa per la Republica restituendole alcune Provincie”.⁷⁴ The king went a step further in his plans and announced that if he was successful, in the next spring he intended to “andare per la via di terra verso Suetia, e far anche cola prova della fortuna delle sue armi”.⁷⁵ After the capitulation of Shein’s army, Władysław decided on a less risky plan and on 11 March 1634, at the head of his army, he set out north-east towards Bely. The fortress’s one-thousand strong garrison under the command of Fyodor Volkonovsky put up fierce resistance and the harsh winter and shortages of supplies and personnel weakened the morale of the Polish-Lithuanian troops.⁷⁶ In these circumstances, Władysław IV ceded command to Radziwill and set off for Semlewo before moving towards Warsaw. The king’s decision was undoubtedly influenced by the

⁷³ J. Maciszewski, *Władysław IV...*, p. 48.

⁷⁴ O. Visconti to F. Barberini, Wilno 6 August 1633, Archivio Apostolico Vaticano [AAV], Segreteria di Stato, Polonia, vol. 46, f. 155v; “conquer all or most of this principality in the name of Prince Casimir, or at least conclude a peace favourable to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, returning some provinces”. See also: P. Duda, *Krzyż i karabela...*, p. 204.

⁷⁵ O. Visconti to F. Barberini, Vilnius 6 August 1633, AAV, Segreteria di Stato, Polonia, vol. 46, f. 155v; [go overland to Sweden and seek success there with his army]. See also: A. Szelański, *Rozkład Rzeczy...*, p. 53.

⁷⁶ More about siege of Bely, see: M. Nagielski, “Wstęp. Wojna smoleńska...”, pp. 47–51.

development of the situation in the south of the country with the arrival of news about a possible conflict with the Ottoman Empire. It is also possible that the king did not want to be present while facing possible military defeat during the siege of Bely, realising that this would mean he would lose the glory he had gained so far.

The return to Warsaw was another triumphal procession for Władysław.⁷⁷ He returned not only as a vanquisher of Shein's army, but above all as a defender of his homeland in the face of the impending conflict with the Ottoman Empire.⁷⁸ This role was in line with his ambitions, as, Wiktor Czermak argued, Władysław had been thinking about a war with the Porte at least from the moment he took over the throne.⁷⁹ The chance that such a conflict would occur increased in 1633 as a result of the invasion of Abazy Pasha which was stopped under the walls of Kamianets-Podilskyi. The following year, the Turkish army moved against the Commonwealth.⁸⁰ That summer, an Extraordinary *Sejm* began in Warsaw during which new taxes for the country's defence were accepted and consent was given to raise a levy on the nobility in Poland and Lithuania.⁸¹ Financial and military support was announced by Urban VIII.⁸² The conclusion of the *Sejm* and the papal promises undoubtedly satisfied the monarch, who, counting on winning further laurels, declared that he would personally lead the expedition.⁸³ On 13 September 1634, he left Warsaw and led his troops towards

⁷⁷ J. Żukowski, *Żądza chwały...*, pp. 183–187.

⁷⁸ More in L. Podhorodecki, "Wojna polsko-turecka 1633–34", *Studia i Materiały do Historii Wojskowości*, 20, 1976, pp. 27–72; Ł. Pabich, *Wojna polsko-turecka w latach 1633–1634*, Oświęcim 2019.

⁷⁹ W. Czermak, *Plany wojny tureckiej...*, p. 25.

⁸⁰ It is estimated that Murad IV had an army of approximately 80,000 men and could also count on 20,000 Wallachians, Moldovans and Tartars of Dobruja and Buda, see: L. Podhorodecki, *Wojna polsko-turecka...*, p. 59.

⁸¹ *Konstytucje seymu walnego koronnego warszawskiego dwuniedzielnego roku pańskiego 1634*, in: *Volumina Legum...*, vol. III, pp. 394–399.

⁸² H. Litwin, *Chwała Północy. Rzeczpospolita w polityce Stolicy Apostolskiej*, Warszawa 2018, pp. 232–233; P. Duda, "Jego Świątobliwość uznaje, że lepiej będzie kontynuować wojnę, tym bardziej kiedy jest nadzieja na zwycięstwo. Aktywność dyplomacji papieskiej podczas konfliktu polsko-tureckiego z lat 1633–1634", *Wschodni Rocznik Humanistyczny*, 16, 2, 2019, pp. 75–97.

⁸³ O. Visconti to F. Barberini, Warsaw 31 July 1634, BAV, Barberiniani Latini, vol. 6586, f. 77v–78r.

the south of the country.⁸⁴ He might have had some hope for the beginning of the campaign because the Polish side had managed to collect about 32,000 soldiers near Kamianets. In addition, the support of the Zaporozhian Cossacks could be counted on.⁸⁵ Unfortunately for the monarch though, the Polish commissioners reached an agreement with the enemy thus preventing a war with the Sultan. The news of the bloodless end of the conflict reached him in Lviv on 29 September and was received with disapproval. Nuncio Visconti considered that the peace with Turkey had been concluded against the will of the monarch who tried to prevent the treaties, but his reaction was too late.⁸⁶ On 9 October, the monarch sent a letter to the Secretary of State of the Holy See, Francesco Barberini, in which he explained the end of the conflict with Turkey by the need to get involved in Swedish affairs, but also enigmatically announced that he had “occhio aperto ad altre opportunità di gran servizio della christianità”.⁸⁷

The conclusion of the agreement with the Ottoman Empire did not end Władysław's hopes of satisfying his military ambitions. The monarch could count on the resumption of the conflict with Sweden, because in 1635 the Truce of Altmark was to expire. The king began enthusiastic preparations to lay claim to the Prussian fortresses. In August 1634, he told Nuncio Visconti that he intended to anticipate the enemy and attack first.⁸⁸ The actions taken by the monarch in the following months confirmed that he was indeed thinking about war. In the fall, he initiated negotiations with the Viennese court with which he planned to enter into an armed union, the so-called *coniunctio armorum*, and then initiate coordinated military actions against the Swedes in the territory of Silesia, Brandenburg and Western Pomerania. However, this concept

⁸⁴ O. Visconti to F. Barberiniego, Wiązowna 19 September 1634, ASV, Segreteria di Stato, Polonia, vol. 47, f. 48r.

⁸⁵ It is estimated that approximately 32,000 soldiers were concentrated near Kamianets. In addition, the Commonwealth could count on approximately 16,000 Zaporozhian Cossacks, see: L. Podhorodecki, *Wojna polsko-turecka...*, pp. 63–69.

⁸⁶ O. Visconti to F. Barberini, Wiązowna 23 X 1634, ASV, Segreteria di Stato, Polonia, vol. 47, f. 53r.

⁸⁷ Władysław IV to F. Barberini, Lviv 9 X 1634, quote in: W. Czermak, *Plany wojny tureckiej...*, p. 28 [eyes open to other matters of great importance to Christianity].

⁸⁸ O. Visconti to F. Barberini, Warsaw 14 VIII 1634, ASV, Segreteria di Stato, Polonia, vol. 177, f. 23r–v.

was rejected by the emperor.⁸⁹ Moreover, he sought help from England and the papacy. War preparations also continued in the country.⁹⁰ At the end of 1634, the king went to Gdańsk to secure the city's help and find out whether it was possible to organise a fleet in a short time.⁹¹ In the spring, the concentration of troops began on the border with Prussia and in Livonia and at the beginning of June, Władysław set off again to the north of the country. This trip could be even called a kind of military inspection. The monarch visited Toruń (Thorn), Königsberg and Puck (Putzig), and finally, in mid-July, at a meeting with Polish commissioners, he declared his readiness for war.⁹² Modern historiography agrees that in 1635 the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was in exceptionally favourable conditions for success in a conflict with Sweden. Władysław had a strong and experienced army, the nucleus of a fleet, and, unlike the Swedish army, he would not have been forced to fight on several fronts. As Andrzej Rachuba showed, “Never before or since have there been more favourable conditions for success (...). The king was aware of these advantages and sought war. Contrary to the ruler's hopes, there was no war”.⁹³ Diplomatic negotiations initiated in 1635, initially in Pasłęk (Preußisch Holland) and continued in Sztumska Wieś (Stuhmsdorf), ended with the extension of the Polish-Swedish

⁸⁹ A. Szelański, *Rozkład Rzeczy...*, pp. 112–119; R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars...*, pp. 94–97.

⁹⁰ For more on preparations for resuming the war with Sweden, see: W. Tomkiewicz, “Plan kampanii Pruskiej w 1635 roku”, *Przegląd Historyczno-Wojskowy*, 9, 2, 1937, p. 313; J. Wimmer, “Wojsko i skarb Rzeczypospolitej u schyłku XVI i w pierwszej połowie XVII wieku”, *Studia i Materiały do Historii Wojskowości*, 14, 1968, p. 65; A. Rachuba, “Litewskie przygotowania do wojny ze Szwecją w roku 1635”, in: *Z dziejów stosunków Rzeczypospolitej Obojga Narodów ze Szwecją w XVII wieku*, ed. by M. Nagielski, Warszawa 2007, p. 33; M.A. Pieńkowski, “Polskie przygotowania do wojny ze Szwecją 1635 r.”, in: *Na szczyty upatrzonych pozycjach*, ed. by B. Międzybrodzki, M. Gajda, K. Fudelaj, M. Przeperski, Warszawa–Zabrze 2011, pp. 137–145; M.A. Pieńkowski, “Dyplomacja i wojna. Niedoszły konflikt zbrojny Rzeczypospolitej ze Szwecją w 1635 roku”, in: *Studia nad staropolską sztuką wojenną*, vol. II, ed. by Z. Hundert, Oświęcim 2013, pp. 87–129.

⁹¹ On Władysław IV's actions regarding the expansion of the war fleet, see: W. Czaplinski, *Polska a Bałtyk w latach 1632–1648. Dzieje floty i polityki morskiej*, Wrocław 1952, pp. 41–52; K. Lepszy, *Dzieje floty*, Gdańsk 1947, pp. 254–266.

⁹² O. Visconti to F. Barberini, Warsaw 14 VII 1635, BAV, Barberiniani Latini, vol. 6586, f. 179r.

⁹³ A. Rachuba, *Litewskie przygotowania do wojny...*, p. 33.

truce for another 26 years. It is true that the king, realising that the terms of the truce would destroy his chances of regaining the Swedish crown, tried to sabotage the negotiations, but ultimately, he had to accept the fact that both the Polish and Swedish sides opted for signing an agreement.

In 1634–35, the Commonwealth secured its borders by concluding peace or truce treaties with its neighbours. The time of golden peace had come for the Polish-Lithuanian state. For the glory-hungry Władysław, it closed all potential directions of military action that could have been a guarantee of satisfying his ambitions. In the following years, the monarch unsuccessfully tried to get involved in the war taking place in Western Europe. In turn, towards the end of his life and suffering from bad health, he pushed forward an unlikely project of war with the Ottoman Empire, which weakened the king's authority, brought many problems to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and end up as personal disappointment to Władysław himself.

The analysis of Władysław Vasa's military achievements during the reign of his father and after his own ascendancy to the throne allows us to conclude that, contrary to the opinions in historiography, it is difficult to perceive him as a warrior-king. Although he was without doubt skilful in organising the army and its logistics, one can have some reservations about the competences that historiography has attached to him as a commander. He was not the architect of any spectacular victory and his military career was more often marked by defeats or victories won by other commanders. Despite this, court propaganda has successively created the myth of Władysław as a conqueror of enemies. Such a move was a manifestation of a conscious policy pursued by Sigismund III who wanted to ensure his son's success in the future election, as well as – in a broader sense – strengthen the position of the family which was still perceived in Europe as parvenu. Undoubtedly, creating a hero, a warrior, and a defender of Christianity gave hope for the achievement of both goals.

PRINCE JOHN CASIMIR VASA AND THE SPANISH
MONARCHY: THE BREAKUP OF A DYNASTIC PROJECT

“He’s not the best, he might be good”. With these words, the Spanish ambassador to Vienna, the IV Count of Lumbres, described the election of John Casimir Vasa the King of the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania.¹ An opinion delivered to Phillip IV, based on the complex relationship that at that time linked the prince to the Spanish monarchy. During his youth, John Casimir sought repeatedly the protection of his mother’s family, the House of Austria, and, specifically, the patronage of the King of Spain, from whom he requested allowances and support for his marriage plans. The prince also offered his service to the Spanish armies in Europe and in the governing of some of its territories. He even sailed to Spain in 1638 with the purpose of obtaining the prestigious post of Viceroy of Portugal: an adventure that ended in a significant failure, as the French authorities arrested and imprisoned him near Marseille. On the other hand, after his liberation he reoriented his priorities by approaching the French court.²

In this chapter we will focus on the complex relationships between John Casimir and the Spanish monarchy before his rise to the throne in 1648. Those links were marked by the Thirty-Year War and the attempts of the House of Austria to establish a hegemonic order, eminently dynastic, in which the Vasa of Poland played an important role. But those relationships were also conditioned by the prince’s character, which was considered instable by the Spanish diplomats, and by the increasing influence of the French on the court of Warsaw.

¹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2354, Count of Lumbres to Philip IV, Vienna, 26 November 1648.

² Work on the subject is scarce. The main contributions can be found in: R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars. Polsko-hiszpańskie relacje polityczne w latach 1632–1648*, Kraków 2013; M. Conde Pazos, *La quiebra de un modelo dinástico. Relaciones entre la Casa de Austria y los Vasa de Polonia (1635–1668)*, Madrid 2022.

Before examining the relationship between the Spanish monarchy and the young Vasa, it is necessary to make a detailed account of the historical moment and the politics deployed by the House of Austria in Europe. In a recent work, Liesbeth Geevers has analysed the way the Spanish branch, the most important of the Austria Family, took several princes of other lineages under its wing, endowing them with posts, promotion prospects, and even identity traits.³ A perfect archetype of this model was Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy (1588–1624), who accumulated a number of assignments (Priorate of Castille, “general de la mar”, and viceroy of Sicily) to the point of being identified as a member of the family: Filiberto of Austria. The same work describes how, during the reign of Phillip IV, that process of assimilation, which up to that point had been limited to the King’s nephews and basically employed for certain Italian lines and the Vienna branch, became muddled (Geevers describes it as “a certain loss of control”) as it was intended to expand to more distant relatives and princes who, despite the lack of direct blood ties, showed loyalty towards the House of Austria in their ideals and international projects.⁴ All that occurred while a general conflict was brewing in Europe that was increasingly aligning itself into blocs.

In this process, the designation of Charles of Austria (1590–1624) as Viceroy of Portugal in the early 1620s is highlighted as an important landmark.⁵ This appointment established a new dynamic, since the archduke, who at the time was bishop of Wrocław, did not have any previous links with the Spanish monarchy, unlike other relatives who held aspirations to high posts in the monarchy, namely the archdukes Ernest and Albert. Contrary to them, Charles had not spent part of his youth being educated in Spain, nor was he involved into any major activities of the Spanish-speaking Europe. Nowadays we know that it was Baltasar de Zúñiga, who dominated the politics in Madrid at the beginning of the decade, who was behind this proposal, as well as that

³ E. Geevers, *The Spanish Habsburgs and Dynastic Rule, 1500–1700*, Abingdon, 2023.

⁴ *Ibidem*, pp. 217–229.

⁵ *Ibidem*, pp. 197–200.

after his death, the appointment was heavily criticised by the counsellors of Phillip IV who delayed the archduke's access to government.⁶ Finally, the death of Charles in 1624 in Madrid spared a crisis.

However, we can derive some conclusions from that episode. The first is that there were actors within the monarchy who were keen to expand this model of integration and patronage over princes with more distant and loose blood ties, in a pan-European sense, and even more so if that served the specific interests of a territory or of international policy. In the case of the Archduke Charles and his designation as Viceroy of Portugal, it is without any doubt that the growing unease in the Portuguese kingdom could have weighed on his appointment, but the international strategy promoted by Zuñiga in favour of the unity of the House of Austria and the growing Spanish influence in central Europe were also key factors. The second consideration is the vision that was projected towards the exterior. Charles's death in Madrid masked the tensions at the court that had surrounded his appointment.⁷ Finally, the image of the Spanish king was enhanced as that of a generous monarch, capable of promoting and giving governing responsibilities to other European princes, even those who were most remotely associated. This vision, as we will see, did not take long to be instrumentalised by the Spanish diplomacy who were eager to use the princes' ambitions to gain their support in the international conflict. Furthermore, this process of integration and patronage ultimately pointed towards the establishing of a hegemonic model of a dynastic nature in which the House of Austria presented itself as a family capable of integrating the other dynasties through blood and fidelity ties, giving way to an harmonious European order that guaranteed promotion opportunities to all those who adhered to it.⁸

This vision of the Spanish king as a patron of princes was without any doubt present in the Polish-Lithuanian court and Archduke Charles

⁶ On this episode: A. Esteban Estríngana, "Los estados de Flandes en el futuro político de los infantes: la designación del cardenal infante don Fernando para la lugartenencia real de Bruselas", in: *La corte de Felipe IV (1621–1665): reconfiguración de la Monarquía católica*, ed. by J. Martínez Millán, J.E. Hortal Muñoz, Madrid 2015, vol. 4, pp. 1615–1678.

⁷ AHN, Estado, Libro 728, La Junta de Nueve, 17 September 1624.

⁸ M. Conde Pazos, *La quiebra...*, pp. 137–140.

must have played an important role in it. After all, as bishop of Wrocław he was the main communication link between Warsaw and Vienna for decades. Furthermore, after the rebellious outburst in Bohemia, the bishop sought the support of the Vasa to retain Silesia, fighting the rebels with the aid of Polish troops, and looked for refuge in the Vasa lands when the revolt became serious. Charles rewarded that support by appointing the fourth son of Sigismund III, Charles Ferdinand, as his coadjutor in Wrocław. This step opened a path for Charles Ferdinand, eventually leading him to succeed Archduke Charles as bishop in 1625.⁹ This close link between Charles and the court of Warsaw probably contributed to their being informed of the promises of allowances and assignments made to him from Spain and of his appointment as Viceroy of Portugal. All these facts without doubt attracted the attention of the Polish royal family.

The Vasa had reasons to become interested in the patronage of Phillip IV. The loss of the Swedish crown turned the sons of Sigismund III into the princes of an elective crown, which made them vulnerable, since they lacked their own states to guarantee their status. This made them less attractive in marriage bargaining or any other negotiation since their position as a ruling dynasty did not have any guarantee of continuity. Apart from the oldest prince, Władysław, the remaining princes did not manage to secure their own economic position in the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania because their restrictive political system prevented them from holding major trade occupations. Even when they made attempts to prosper in their private affairs in the Commonwealth they faced a jealous Sejm (diet) wary of any wealth accumulation by the members of the royal family in the kingdom.¹⁰ Against this background, Sigismund's sons tried to prosper

⁹ T. Poznański, “*Amicitia, sed...* – Friendship, Raison d'état, and Political Compromise. Relations between Sigismund III Vasa and the Habsburgs Emperors in 1613–1632”, in: *The House of Vasa and the House of Austria, Correspondence from the year 1587 to 1668*, part I, *The times of Sigismund III, 1587–1632*, vol. 1, ed. by R. Skowron, Katowice 2016, pp. 145–187; R. Fukala, “Silesia in the Power Plans of European States and Dynasties”, in: *Papers on the History of International Relation*, ed. by A. Skřivan, Praha 2006, pp. 95–104; W. Czaplinski, “Śląsk a Polska w pierwszych latach wojny trzydziestoletniej (1618–1620)”, *Sobótka*, 2, 1947, pp. 141–181.

¹⁰ K. Chłapowski, “Spór o kupno dóbr żywieckich przez królową Konstancję w latach 1624–1631”, *Kwartalnik Historyczny*, 104, 2, 1997, pp. 3–14; T. Szulc, “Materialne

outside of the Commonwealth seeking the protection of their mother's family, the House of Austria, and specifically the patronage over the Spanish branch that boasted greater economic potential.

In this way, from the beginning of the 1620s, the Vasa family sought the alliance with the House of Austria to secure their two major objectives.¹¹ The first was the recovery of the Swedish crown by embarking on a series of projects with the courts of Madrid and Vienna to build a fleet in the Baltic.¹² The second – the sons of Sigismund III sought the support and protection of Phillip IV. The first prince to embrace this strategy was Władysław who travelled to Italy and the Netherlands in 1624. There he introduced himself to the elites of the monarchy and joined their socialising spaces, a fundamental step in the process of integration of princes.¹³ Furthermore, the prince tried to strengthen the dynastic ties by asking for the hand of the king's sister, Princess Maria. However, Władysław's main motivation was to get the commitment of the Spanish monarchy to the recovery of the Swedish kingdom rather than his own protection. The court of Madrid acquiesced to this interest by promising the prince allowances and offering him the command of the Baltic fleet. After the First Battle of Breitenfeld, the court even considered putting him in command of a Polish mercenary army to intervene in the north of the empire.¹⁴ In the end, all these projects failed. The election of Władysław to the throne of the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania in 1632 completely altered the nature of the relationship and had the patronage shifted to his other half-brothers.

The Spanish diplomacy tried to capitalise on the Vasa family's interest of being protected for their own political objectives by making repeated promises of future allowances and assignments to the princes.¹⁵ Their

podstawy utrzymania rodziny monarszej w Rzeczypospolitej szlacheckiej”, *Studia z Dziejów Państwa i Prawa Polskiego*, 09/2, 2006, pp. 305–342.

¹¹ P. Szpaczyński, *Mocarstwowe dążenia Zygmunta III w latach 1587–1618*, Kraków 2013, pp. 348–354.

¹² R. Skowron, *Olivares, el Báltico y los Vasa de Polonia. Polonia en la política internacional de España en los años 1621–1632*, Varsovia 2008.

¹³ *Podróż królewicza Władysława Wazy do krajów Europy Zachodniej w latach 1624–1625 w świetle ówczesnych relacji*, ed. by A. Przyboś, Kraków 1977.

¹⁴ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2332, fo. 85: Consejo de Estado, 20 December 1631.

¹⁵ There is plentiful documentation on the subject. For example: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2333, Instrucción dada al barón de Auchy, Madrid, 8 November 1632.

main purpose was to secure the support of the Commonwealth in the European conflict either through the creation of a joint fleet to fight the Dutch or by recruiting troops for the front in France.¹⁶ That policy was part of a wider strategy of tight family collaboration in the central European scenario between the Madrid and Vienna branches, in which the alliance with the Vasa played a key role since, as well as obtaining resources and soldiers, it guaranteed the safety of the easternmost frontier of the territories inherited by the Emperor. That geopolitical vision was shared by the diplomats who intervened in the Spanish-Polish relationships: II Count of Solre, ambassador to Warsaw on two occasions, and Baron of Auchy, Gentleman of the King's Chamber, in charge of the contacts with the Vasa family. Both men repeatedly advocated that allowances and assignments be awarded to the sons of Sigismund III.¹⁷ Also, the Count Duke of Olivares pronounced himself favourable to the awarding of grants to the princes but in exchange for specific counterparties. Furthermore, as part of his geopolitical vision, the prime minister proposed to expand this model of protection and integration to the Polish elites through the creation of common interests (mainly commercial) or specific arrangements, for example having the Polish lineages to send their sons to Spain to be educated as pages.¹⁸

However, as in the case of the Archduke-Bishop Charles and his designation as Viceroy of Portugal, there were also critical voices. Several times the State Council questioned the usefulness of awarding allowances and assignments to princes as distant as the Polish, who were completely strange to the monarchy, not to mention committing in any way to the king protecting and promoting them in the medium and long term as was specifically contemplated in the Family Treaty. Many of these voices came from the high aristocracy of the Iberian Peninsula who were present in the council. They questioned the value of an alliance they judged onerous and whose benefits seemed to accrue exclusively to the other branch of the dynasty. Amongst the most

¹⁶ R. Skowron, "Las levas de polacos para los ejércitos españoles en la época de la guerra de los Treinta Años", in: *From Ireland to Poland, Northern Europe, Spain and the Early Modern World*, ed. by E. García Hernán, R. Skowron, Valencia 2015, pp. 19–37.

¹⁷ See e.g.: AG Simancas, Estado K., leg. 1442, fo. 105, Junta de Estado, 16 September 1628.

¹⁸ AG Simancas, Estado K., leg. 1442, fo. 105, Junta de Estado, 16 September 1628.

critical was the Count of Oñate, who always considered the sons of Sigismund III to be expensive to satisfy and without any guarantees of long-term loyalty.¹⁹

After the election of Władysław as king, the Spanish diplomacy's attention was oriented towards his half-brothers, the sons of Sigismund III and Constance of Austria, and particularly to the oldest, Prince John Casimir (known simply as Casimir in the Spanish sources prior to his rise to the throne). This was due to several reasons. To begin with, in 1632 Władysław IV was not even married, making John Casimir the potential heir of the Vasa dynasty in event of the king's death. Also, he was one of the most vulnerable members of the family. Unlike his brothers, John Albert and Charles Ferdinand, John Casimir had not taken up an ecclesiastic career. That decision was probably motivated by the family's wish to preserve him as alternative heir and even, given the family aspirations, to rise one day to the Swedish or Polish crown in a throne distribution between family members. But that decision prevented John Casimir from obtaining the benefits of the ecclesiastic practice, contrary to his brothers. He did not get a relevant position in the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania, and he was on bad terms with several nobles.²⁰ In other words, the prince lacked any guarantees of economic stability and status. It was natural then that John Casimir tried to seek ways to prosper abroad as well as to marry favourably. Given the context and his blood ties (his mother was the aunt of Phillip IV and sister of the Emperor), he sought the support of his mother's family.

THE PRINCE'S AMBITIONS

John Casimir's relationship with the Spanish monarchy started from his birth. In 1609, Sigismund III invited Phillip III to be the prince's godfather. The king responded to this request by organising an embassy from Milan and sending a jewel, a ribbon, and a diamond collar. However, the noble designated for the embassy never started the trip while the jewel travelled from one court to another without ever arriving at its

¹⁹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2344, Consejo de Estado, 24 September 1643.

²⁰ Z. Wójcik, *Jan Kazimierz Waza*, Wrocław 1997, pp. 14–38.

destination.²¹ During the following years, John Casimir went practically unnoticed by the Spanish diplomacy and was always overshadowed by his older brother. The truth is that, as a prince, Władysław managed to build a pristine image of a perfect Christian paladin, subtly projected in Europe by the Polish diplomacy. John Casimir was one of the main victims of this strategy since he was completely overshadowed by his older brother. In fact, the few descriptions of his infancy barely mention his pious character and his fragile health.²²

John Casimir only started to be known by the Spanish diplomats in the mid-1620s thanks to the efforts of his mother, Constance of Austria, to promote him. In 1626, her attempt to place Casimir on the Polish throne to the detriment of Władysław was known in Madrid.²³ That project upset the Spanish court which considered his older brother as the best candidate due to his favourable attitude towards Madrid's Baltic plans.²⁴ Despite everything, when Auchy consulted which attitude to adopt in case of conflict within the Polish royal family, the Spanish court instructed him to refrain from involvement, as they did not want a confrontation with Constance, sister of Emperor Ferdinand II.²⁵ During those years, decisive for the Danish stage of the Thirty Years War, the Polish diplomacy hinted at the possibility of promoting John Casimir to the throne in Copenhagen, an idea probably inspired again by Constance, that would have meant the complete reconfiguration of the Baltic political space in favour of the Austria-Vasa families.²⁶ However, the prince's momentum faded away after the death of Constance I in

²¹ M.A. Ochoa Brun, *Historia de la Diplomacia Española*, vol. 7: la edad Barroca, pp. 215–216.

²² In 1613, Abraham of Dohna, after his embassy to Sigismund III, described Casimir as a pretty boy with promising abilities. A poor description, especially if we compare it with the one he dedicated to his older brother, Prince Władysław, who drew all the attention. AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2851, Relación del viage del Baron Abraham de Dona que fue con embaxada extraordinaria de su magestad a Polonia.

²³ Archivo del Duque de Medinacelli, Sevilla [ADM] 60, Rama 4, f. 11, Marquis of Aytona to the Count-Duke of Olivares, Vienna, 14 January 1626.

²⁴ AG Simancas, Estado K., leg. 1458, fo. 7, Philip IV to Prince Władysław, Madrid, 1627.

²⁵ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2328, Junta de Estado, 28 September 1627.

²⁶ R. Skowron, *Olivares, los Vasa y el Báltico...*, p. 196.

1632. The passing of Sigismund III, months later, left young Casimir completely dependent on his older brother.

The ascension of Władysław IV to the Polish throne compelled the Spanish diplomacy to reorient its strategy in the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania. It was no longer possible for the oldest son of Sigismund III to command a mercenary army in Germany since, as a monarch, he was subject to the alliances and pacts established previously by the kingdom. Attention shifted to his younger brother, John Casimir, who was considered as a substitute to lead the long-awaited Polish mercenary army of the Empire.²⁷ However, the prince was neither known nor considered as capable as Władysław. During the following months his activity in the Moscow front was followed closely by the aim of not only learning about his military skills but also about his relationship with the king, which was already perceived as complex.

The truth is that upon his rise to the throne, Władysław IV assumed his responsibilities as head of the Vasa family. These included the protection of his half-brothers. Casimir continued to attract a good part of the attention as a potential heir of the Vasa family. For instance, during the following years, a marriage with Christine of Sweden was envisaged as a peaceful solution to the conflict between the two branches of the Vasa Family.²⁸ However, that was not a realistic solution given the reluctance of the Swedish. Władysław IV also mobilised his diplomacy to obtain benefits for his brothers. His two representatives in Madrid – Wilhelm Forbes in 1633 and Adam Mąkowski in 1634 – asked for grants for the princes. The latter wrote a long memorandum addressed to Phillip IV in which he enumerated the various aspirations of each of them, including the suggestion that the government of some territory be awarded to John Casimir. To that end he described him as a skilful prince in military and government affairs.²⁹ Around the same time, Jerzy Ossoliński made a similar request in Rome to the Spanish ambassador, the II Marquis of Castel Rodrigo. But in both instances

²⁷ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2333, Instrucción para el barón de Auchy, Madrid, 8 November 1632.

²⁸ AHN, Estado, leg. 3459, Instrucción para la jornada que ha de hacer a Alemania el conde de Oñate, 18 January 1633.

²⁹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2336, fo. 220, Memorial entregado por el internuncio de Polonia, 19 June 1634.

the State Council objected to the requests expressing doubts on the prince's capabilities.³⁰

The ambitions of John Casimir included a living allowance as well as the awarding of a relevant responsibility in the monarchy, such as the government of a territory or a military command in Flanders. Later on his name was mentioned as a candidate for appointment as a sea admiral, a post that had been held in the past by Phillibert of Savoy.³¹ It is far from a coincidence that the post – as well as the “Cursus Honorum” of the Italian – was already associated with the processes of dynastic protection and integration previously described. The prince also enjoyed the support of his brother, Alexander Vasa, who travelled to Italy in 1634 and demanded on several occasions that Casimir be awarded responsibilities.³²

Alexander's trip to Italy unveiled another interest of the sons of Sigismund III: to arrange a marriage of convenience with an aristocratic lady in Italy. That would have allowed the Vasa to establish a solid base in the peninsula, even if it were of a secondary branch, thanks to the income of the family in Naples and the possessions contributed by the wife.³³ In the case of Casimir, the prince focused his interest on the hand of Anna Caraffa, one of the major heiresses in Naples. However, that kind of union required the approval of the king and the Spanish court. The latter was reluctant to sacrifice the hand of such a wealthy princess for the benefit of as distant a prince as Casimir.³⁴ Finally, Anna Caraffa ended up marrying the Duke of Medina de las Torres, which forced John Casimir to search for other options.

In that respect, John Casimir's royal blood played in his favour but against his aspirations. Being a monarch's relative and sharing his blood

³⁰ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 3835, Consejo de Estado, 23 June 1634.

³¹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 3835, Puntos de lo que contienen varias cartas, Rome, 10 January 1634 and Consejo de Estado, 23 June 1634

³² R. Skowron, “Królowicza Aleksandra Karola Wazy peregrynacja po Italii (1633-1634)”, in: *Sic erat in factis. Studia i szkice dedykowane Profesorowi Bogdanowi Rokoni*, ed. by E. Kościk, R. Żerelik, P. Badyńska, F. Wolański, Toruń 2012, vol. 1, p. 443–451.

³³ Alexander's attempt was not unique on the part of one of the brothers. Before dying, Cardinal John Albert also proposed Casimir's marriage to a sister of the Duke of Tuscany: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2336, Secretary Pedro de Arce, 2 March 1635.

³⁴ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 3833, Consejo de Estado, 18 February 1634.

was attractive to many aristocratic lineages eager to become related to the royal family. But it was also dangerous, since it could cause the disruption of the local nobiliary equilibria and even incite the uprising of one of these families to claim the sovereignty of territories, precisely by arguing their links with the monarch. That's why the court in Madrid did not always like the aspirations of John Casimir. As the same Count Duke of Olivares said later, "it is not going to be easy to have him married here because he does not find a person of his greatness and it is inconvenient to introduce that blood, so close to His Majesty, in any House of Castile, Aragon or Portugal".³⁵

During these years, the prince tried to obtain support from the imperial court. In June 1633, his intention to visit Ferdinand II to ask his advice as to how to proceed in the future to consolidate his position was known.³⁶ That demand for advice was but a subtle request of allowances and assignments. In 1635, young Vasa joined the imperial army commanded by general Gallas and participated in several campaigns by the Rhine.³⁷ According to several sources, he sought to join Philip IV's military service.³⁸ That option was discarded after the mutiny of several Polish regiments in the German western front.³⁹ During those years John Casimir enjoyed an imperial allowance and showed himself as a supporter of the Austrian court in Warsaw. In 1637 he visited Vienna again for the transfer of Cecilia Renata to Poland. This task revealed once again to the Spanish diplomats the bad relationship between the prince and part of the Polish elite. They became entangled in a protocol conflict that ended with both parties entering the imperial court separately. On that occasion, John Casimir defended the interests of the House of Austria again, mediating in the dispute that arose between the Polish and Austrian representatives over several points of the marriage contract of Wladyslaw IV and Cecilia Renata.⁴⁰ According

³⁵ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2339, fo. 25: Consejo de Estado, 10 April 1638.

³⁶ Archivo de la Casa del Duque de Alba, Madrid [ADA], Montijo, Caja 3, n^o2, Marquis of Castañeda to the Count-Duke of Olivares, Vienna, 20 June 1633.

³⁷ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2336, Consejo de Estado, 24 July 1635.

³⁸ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2337, Consejo de Estado, 18 September 1636.

³⁹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2337, Consejo de Estado, 12 September 1636.

⁴⁰ ADA, Montijo, Caja 4, n^o1, Marquis of Castañeda to Cardinal Infante, Vienna, 4 August 1637.

to the Spanish ambassador in Vienna, a few weeks later the young Vasa offered again his services to Phillip IV, assuring his contribution of an army of 6,000 Polish soldiers that he would lead.⁴¹

JOHN CASIMIR AND THE FAMILY TREATY

The months in which the prince offered to serve in the army of Flanders were marked by the marriage of Władysław IV and Cecilia Renata of Austria and the negotiation of the “Family Treaty”, an agreement that explains a large part of John Casimir’s subsequent decisions. The Spanish diplomacy was represented in those events by two ministers; II Count of Solre and Friar Alonso Vazquez, who moved to the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania in 1636.

Preparations of the embassy of the II Count of Solre and Alonso Vazquez had started years back, after the dismissal of the Baron of Auchy and near the end of the Altmark truce.⁴² By then, Władysław IV had carried out a complex marriage negotiation with the princess of the Palatinate, a union that threatened to align the Polish Vasa with the enemies of the House of Austria. To prevent this from happening, it was decided in Madrid to orchestrate a coup of surprise through the envoy of that extraordinary embassy which should satisfy many of the aspirations of Władysław IV. It was considered from the outset that one key element to maintain the king’s friendship was the protection and promotion of his brothers. That aspect was pointed out by both the Baron of Auchy and the II Count of Solre.⁴³ The latter departed from Spain with the order to hand out two allowances of 12,000 ecu per year paid over two years to the king’s two older brothers, John Casimir and Charles Ferdinand. Those allowances later led to a debate, since the Count of Oñate, then ambassador in Vienna, opposed their handing

⁴¹ The intended forces consisted of 2,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, and 1,000 men armed with muskets. A further 1000 men were unspecified: ADA, Montijo, Caja 4, n°1, Marquis of Castañeda to Cardinal Infante, Vienna, 5 November 1637.

⁴² On this embassy: R. Skowron, “Hiszpania wobec polsko-szwedzkiego rozejmu 1635 roku. Misja opata Vazqueza i hrabiego de Solre”, in: *Z dziejów stosunków Rzeczypospolitej Obojga Narodów ze Szwecji w XVII wieku*, ed. by M. Nagielski, Warszawa 2007, (Fasciculi Historici Novi, vol. 8), pp. 45–57.

⁴³ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2336, Baron of Auchy to Count-Duke of Olivares, 17 April 1635.

over since he considered that they did not guarantee the princes' loyalty. The II Count of Solre also handed the designation of John Casimir as member of the Golden Fleece so the Vasa's pretensions seemed, in principle, well covered.

But already during their trip to Vilnius both Spanish representatives realised that in the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania much more was expected from their embassy. During their meetings with ministers in Regensburg and Cracow they heard news that pointed to the appointment of Charles Ferdinand as bishop of Toledo and the possible marriage of Ana Catalina Vasa with the Cardinal-Infante. And, in the case of John Casimir, his appointment as viceroy of Portugal. All this news seemed to have been revealed by the Polish ambassador, Stanisław Mąkowski, towards the end of his sojourn in Madrid.⁴⁴

Once in Vilnius, the princes' aspirations, and particularly those of John Casimir, were at the centre of a good part of the conversations between the II Count of Solre and Władysław IV. They were secret conversations, with Fray Valeriano Magno as mediator, in which the Flemish noble announced the handing out of allowances to the king's brothers. Nevertheless, the II Count of Solre introduced, by his own initiative, a condition for the payment which was not part of his instructions: that the princes remain loyal to the House of Austria.⁴⁵ That condition was probably aimed at overcoming the objections voiced by the Count of Oñate and the critical sector of the Spanish court, and it was accepted by the king.

Władysław IV also tried to include in the conversations a commitment on the part of the Habsburg Monarchy to shelter and protect the members of the Vasa family. That took the form of awarding of allowances and assignments to his brothers, as well as the arrangement

⁴⁴ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2337, Consejo de Estado, 8 November 1636. On this ambassador: R. Skowron, *Dyplomaci polscy w Hiszpanii w XVI i XVII wieku*, Kraków 1997, pp. 172–195, and J. Kieniewicz, M. Urjasz-Raczko, “Fathoming Spanish Arcana: The Polish Ambassador Stanisław Mąkowski's Impossible Mission to the Court of Philip IV (1638–47)”, in: *Ambassadors in Golden-Age Madrid. The Court of Philip IV Through Foreign Eyes*, ed. by J. Fernández Santos, J. L. Colomer, Madrid 2020, pp. 173–200.

⁴⁵ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, Relación del conde de Solre de su embajada en Polonia en los años de 1635 y 1636.

of marriages of convenience. That protection would have lasted until Władysław IV or John Casimir obtained their own hereditary states. Since that was a completely new demand to be negotiated, the II Count of Solre only agreed to communicate it to the Emperor and the Spanish king.⁴⁶

This shelter of the Vasa family was later included in the Family Treaty. It was signed at the occasion of the marriage negotiations of Władysław IV and Cecilia Renata and it specified the commitments undertaken by the House of Austria towards the Vasa princes, which included “allowances, marriages, and ecclesiastic and military dignities”.⁴⁷ Despite the fact that only Ferdinand II (and after his death, Ferdinand III) was deemed responsible for fulfilling them, it was understood that Phillip IV was equally committed. In exchange, the princes gave up their successor rights to the Swedish crown although they kept them until the extinction of the lineages of Władysław IV and John Casimir.⁴⁸

The Spanish diplomacy was represented in those conversations by Fray Alonso Vazquez, who excluded the states of the Spanish king from any succession accord. That did not prevent the abbot from showing his criticism of the agreement, because he contended that it bound the Emperor and the Spanish king excessively, without any significant counterparty from the Polish Vasa. In his opinion, the most delicate chapter of the agreement was the protection of the princes, since that implied that Ferdinand II and Phillip IV were obliged to provide allowances and assignments for them, as well as to search for marriages suitable for their status. On top of it, the protection would extend indefinitely, since it seemed unlikely that the Vasa would gain hereditary states in the short term. In exchange, the House of Austria merely obtained the friendship of the Polish monarchs but no offensive

⁴⁶ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, Condiciones entre Su Majestad Católica y el rey de Polonia.

⁴⁷ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, Copia de scriptura y traslación de Unión hereditaria hecha y estipulada entre la Majestad del Emperador y la Augustísima Casa de Austria por una parte y el serenísimo Vladislao 4º Rey de Polonia y toda la línea Sigismundana de la otra, Warsaw, 16 March 1637.

⁴⁸ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, Copia de la scriptura de renunciación del derecho del Rey de Polonia y sus hermanos al Reyno de Suecia en favor de la Serenísima y Augustísima Casa de Austria, Warsaw, 16 March 1637.

alliance with the kingdom. Despite everything, the abbot understood the reasons that moved the imperial representatives to accept the agreement, a key point in the arranging the marriage of Władysław IV.⁴⁹

But while Vazquez was sceptical about the signing of the agreement by the imperial side, he rejected it completely for the Spanish side. After all, the abbot argued, that seemed to recreate the dynamics established within the House of Austria whereby the Spanish branch bore most of the costs while the Austrian branch reaped most of the benefits. In this case, the only advantage obtained from the agreement was the stability of the easternmost frontier of the hereditary states of the Emperor. But Phillip IV did not obtain any allies, neither against France nor the United Provinces. In turn, the Spanish king remained committed to protection and patronage over the princes. That point was the subject of Alonso's complaints during the negotiation. He introduced a clause stating that the allowances handed to the King's relatives should be reasonable and contingent upon the availability of resources. Despite all this, the abbot recommended to Phillip IV not to sign the agreement.⁵⁰

Vazquez's opinion was later shared by the subsequent State Councils that gathered in Madrid on the request of the Polish diplomacy to sign the agreement. For the Count of Oñate, spokesman on the most critical positions, most of the clauses of the agreement should be denounced as unrealistic. And, like the abbot, the main obstacles for him were the clauses of protection to the princes, a burden that Phillip IV would be compelled to assume for a very long time without getting anything in exchange. Due to this, although the Spanish court never refused to sign it, it procrastinated in giving a response.⁵¹

The signing of the Family Treaty had an immediate impact in the Polish court, which now had in hand a written agreement that legitimised the aspirations of the princes. Naturally, the first to become

⁴⁹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, Consideración del abad fray Alonso Vázquez sobre las scripturas de unión hereditaria y renunciación del Reyno de Suecia que han hecho el rey de Polonia y sus hermanos con la majestad cesárea del emperador. Y si el Rey nuestro señor ha de aceptar y stipular la scriptura de unión hereditaria como pide el de Polonia.

⁵⁰ *Ibidem.*

⁵¹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2371, Consulta del Consejo de Estado, Madrid, 15 January 1660.

interested was John Casimir, who contacted Alonso Vazquez to make his aspirations known. They included the immediate disbursement of his allowance and a possible union with the sister of the Duke of Terranova. On this occasion the prince invoked the commitments undertaken by Austrians in the recent treaty. As far as the Golden Fleece is concerned, John Casimir requested to keep his father's collar, which by the way had never left Poland, and to be permitted to become a member of another order, that of the Immaculate Conception promoted at the time by Władysław IV.⁵² Yet the most controversial aspect of his declaration was his intention to travel to Spain to offer his services to Phillip IV.

This idea already had precedents, since, according to Vazquez, the prince had made his first attempt to go to Spain in 1636, when he quit his service in the imperial armies. On that occasion he arrived in Holland, where the difficulties of travelling due to the war and an epidemic forced him to turn around and go back to Poland. According to the abbot, on that occasion the prince was not supported by Władysław IV who said he could not control his brother's behaviour.⁵³ On the other hand, after the signing of the Family Treaty, Władysław IV was believed to have encouraged the prince to travel to Spain to obtain a post from the Spanish king.⁵⁴ Vazquez objected to that enterprise, judging it of little interest, expensive, and a sure source of countless protocol disputes. So he asked John Casimir to demand permission from Phillip IV before embarking on the trip.⁵⁵

Overall, Vazquez's assessment of John Casimir was very negative. That was not new. For instance, the Baron of Auchy repeatedly described the prince as a pious person but without any talent, especially when it came to gathering the support of the Polish and therefore useless to augment the Spanish influence in Warsaw. That assessment was

⁵² AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, King Władysław IV to Alonso Vázquez, 11 April 1637. The Spanish court accepted that John Casimir kept his father's golden fleece. AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2052, fo. 27, Consejo de Estado, 17 March 1637.

⁵³ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, De los hermanos del rey de Polonia, particularmente de Casimiro y Ana Catalina, por Alonso Vázquez, prob. March 1637; Z. Wójcik, *Jan Kazimierz Waza...*, pp. 22–23.

⁵⁴ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, De los hermanos del rey de Polonia, particularmente de Casimiro y Ana Catalina, por Alonso Vázquez.

⁵⁵ *Ibidem*.

shared years later by the military man Pedro Rouco of Villagutierrez.⁵⁶ Neither did the II Count of Solre appreciate his skills, emphasising his economic vulnerability that forced him to constantly seek assignments and allowances outside of Poland.⁵⁷ The I Marquis of Castañeda, who also frequently visited him as ambassador in Vienna, described him as a fellow without qualities, and with impaired speech.⁵⁸ His service in the imperial armies did not contribute to improve his reputation.⁵⁹ However, Vazquez's judgment of John Casimir was without any doubt the most critical since, as well as describing him as a person incapable of managing any relevant business, he accused him of having no loyalty to the House of Austria.⁶⁰ According to Vazquez, the young Vasa looked out for strictly personal interests and he would not hesitate to offer his services to the king of France if he obtained a better deal. So, if in 1637 he seemed ready to travel to Madrid and therefore to opt for the House of Austria, that was only due to the mandate of his brother, the king, rather than out of a personal preference.⁶¹

Of course, the opinion of Fray Alonso Vazquez was not impartial. Since his arrival in Warsaw, the abbot had shown himself to be very critical of the awarding of grants to the Vasa princes. For instance, he opposed granting an allowance to Charles Ferdinand Vasa because it had not been solicited by Władysław IV, as the king had done for his other brother, Cardinal John Albert Vasa, who was by then deceased.⁶² Nor did he have kind words for the rest of the family, except for the

⁵⁶ “Nadie se aficiona al Señor Príncipe Casimiro por tenerle por poco a propósito para fiarse de él ninguno de los bandos contra el otro” in: BNE, Mss. 2372, Pedro Rouco de Villagutierrez, Warsaw, August 1640.

⁵⁷ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, Relación del conde de Solre de su embajada en Polonia en los años de 1635 y 1636.

⁵⁸ ADA, Montijo, Caja 19,, No. 94, Marquis of Castañeda to Philip IV, Vienna, 26 February 1638.

⁵⁹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2337, Consejo de Estado, 1 April 1636.

⁶⁰ “El príncipe Casimiro es más esparcido, aunque a mi parecer no se puede fiar negocio grande, todos dicen que es valerosos por su persona y aún precipitado. Ve muy poco y tiene a la oreja siniestra una fluxión grande. No lo tengo por afecto de corazón al servicio de Vuestra Majestad. Pero la conveniencia le vencería”, in: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, De los hermanos del rey de Polonia, particularmente Casimiro y Ana Catalina, prob. March 1637.

⁶¹ *Ibidem*.

⁶² AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, Relación al rey Nuestro Señor sobre los puntos que el rey de Polonia propone a su Majestad, por el abad Fray Alonso Vázquez.

youngest of the siblings, Anna Catherine Constante. This hostility met its counterparty in the Polish court where Władysław IV complained to the Count of Solre about the assigning of responsibility for the negotiations upon his departure to the abbot.⁶³ However, Vazquez's opinion would subsequently be reiterated by other Spaniards.

THE PORTUGUESE ENTERPRISE

Months later, John Casimir headed for Spain, with Vazquez already absent from Warsaw and without the permission of Phillip IV. And, like his other brothers, he travelled undercover accompanied by a reduced Polish cortege. It turned out to be a farce, since his trip was soon published in the information advises of that time, as well as his intention to obtain the post of viceroy of Portugal. Why did the prince choose that moment? We have already seen that the trip had been planned long in advance and that the signing of the Family Treaty had only encouraged it. The fact that it happened in early 1638 was perhaps due to the attempt of Władysław IV to frustrate a marriage project with a Polish noble on which John Casimir was working. The king disapproved of that union and wanted to prevent it by sending the prince to Spain. At least, that's what can be inferred from a letter sent by Cecilia Renata to the empress in which she requested that a wife for John Casimir be found as soon as possible amongst the Spanish aristocracy.⁶⁴

The Polish queen also requested a post for the prince from Phillip IV, without specifying which one. Why, then, was there talk of the post of Viceroy of Portugal? There is not a simple answer to that question. At the time it was well known that the vice-kingdom of Portugal had joined the monarchy under particular conditions and that it could only be governed by locals or by princes of royal blood. Adding to this, Portugal was at the time living in a period of instability that had undermined the position of the Duchess of Mantua as vice-queen.

⁶³ “Que no juzgaba conveniente fiar este secreto al Abad, porque en la audiencia particular que le había dado, me dixo que había hablado con grandísima desenvoltura y libertad y le pareció tan sfacciato que haiba dudado si era español”, in: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2418, Relación del conde de Solre de su embajada de Polonia en los años de 1635 y 1636.

⁶⁴ ADA, Montijo, Caja 19, no. 94, Marquis of Castañeda to Philip IV, Bratislava, 21 March 1638.

A good part of that unrest was due to the increase in food prices. In connection with that, an enhanced commercial link between Portugal and the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania, exporter of grain, could have improved its stability. That makes it easy to understand that when the first news of the princes' travel reached Madrid, the Count Duke of Olivares even saw it as an opportunity.⁶⁵ Of course, it could also be due to news revealed by Stanisław Mąkowski during the years who, in the past, had already been accused of exaggerating the commitments undertaken by the court in Madrid.

However, we consider that a factor traditionally not sufficiently considered was the precedent established by Archduke-Bishop Charles of Austria. After all, as we signalled at the beginning, his appointment as viceroy in the 1620s must have been known in Warsaw as well as the other promises he had been made, such as his allowance of 12,000 ducats.⁶⁶ It is possible that in Poland they were aware that if Charles finally failed and was not appointed Viceroy of Portugal, Phillip IV would have been compelled to compensate him. That is confirmed by the registries of the State Council of that time, which reveal how various ways to compensate him, to save his prestige and that of the king, were contemplated.⁶⁷ Those ways included the payment of allowances and the handing out of posts and equivalent titles. Could John Casimir try to emulate Charles by forcing the awarding of grants with his trip? It is a hypothesis, but the young Vasa already had an allowance similar to that of the bishop-archduke. There was also a long history of promises of protection and promotion made by the Spanish diplomacy that had been recently reinforced in writing by the Family Treaty. And, although John Casimir was not an archduke, he shared the same blood as the king.

⁶⁵ “Caros son estos huéspedes reales, pero si la persona fuese tal y tuviese buenos lados no era malo lo de Lisboa, por las ventajas con que se podrían adelantar las materias del comercio con Dansic y las otras ciudades del Mar Wáltico”, in: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2339, fos. 209–210, Consejo de Estado, 4 June 1638.

⁶⁶ E. Geevers, *The Spanish Habsburgs...*, p. 198.

⁶⁷ Don Agustín de Mejía, “Pero vee que Vuestra Majestad lo está [comprometido] en traerle a Madrid y la voz de que todo el pueblo acá es que viene a gobernar a Portugal y en Alemania corre lo mismo, y por toda Italia y puesto aquí el señor archiduque muestra satisfacción ha menester vuestra majestad darle para no ponelle en aquel gobierno”, in: AHN, Estado, Libro 728, La Junta de Nueve, 17 September 1624.

In that sense, the possibility of getting the vice-kingdom of Portugal seems unrealistic and the Spanish sources apparently discarded it. But if he had an audience with the king with the pretension of being awarded that post, Phillip IV would be in the position to compensate him (if he was not appointed) at least with the payment of his allowance and the possible awarding of military assignments and titles.⁶⁸ Phillip IV would probably also be compelled to arrange a Spanish or Italian wife, who could be an asset to the Vasas' wealth and stability.

The Spanish court tried to prevent that meeting from happening by diverting the prince from the court. The person in charge of receiving the prince in the peninsula was the Baron of Auchy. According to a series of advises, based on the reports provided by one of the Baron's secretaries, he had the order to meet the prince in Barcelona and travel around the Iberian Peninsula, visiting Saragossa, Valencia, Murcia, Grenade, and Seville. But he should avoid stopping in Madrid and, according to those sources, was not to enter in Lisbon. At the time, that was interpreted as a measure inspired by the Count-Duke of Olivares, who tried in this way to keep the prince far from the royal circle, considering him a potential threat to his own position of a *valido*.⁶⁹ However, it seems much more likely that it was only an attempt to prevent his meeting with the king, deemed potentially harmful to the king as it would surely force Phillip IV to pay the allowance and award new grants.

The vicissitudes of the trip are well known and have already been studied. According to the Marquis of Castañeda, John Casimir travelled accompanied by a cortege of 40 servers and 10 nobles.⁷⁰ Young Vasa went to Bratislava, Innsbruck, and Milan, where he met with the Marquis of Leganes.⁷¹ From there he went to Genoa where he took a vessel,

⁶⁸ Other sources indicate that John Casimir travelled to Madrid in the hope of obtaining a military position. To this end, he offered a troop of 5,000 Polish cavalry: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2339, fo. 168, Consejo de Estado, 30 March 1638.

⁶⁹ Sebastián González a Rafael Pereyra, Madrid, 27 de abril de 1638: "Los Validos nunca gustan estén personas tan grandes al lado de los reyes", in: *Epistolario Español: cartas de personajes varios*, ed. de Eugenio de Ochoa, Madrid 1870, vol. II, p. 430.

⁷⁰ ADA, Montijo, C. 19, No. 94, Marquis of Castañeda to Philip IV, Vienna, 26 February 1638.

⁷¹ The Marquis of Leganes then excused the payment of the pension. To do this, he guaranteed the prince that the money would be delivered when he arrived in Spain: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2339, fo. 25, Consejo de Estado, 10 May 1638.

making several stops in the French coast, until he was captured by the French authorities.

Sometime later, that itinerary would be questioned by the imperial court where the exact motives that moved John Casimir to embark on that trip were not understood. The ministers of Ferdinand III even suspected that it all could have been a farce orchestrated by John Casimir, with the acquiescence of the French diplomacy, and that his capture could mask his desire to escape from the influence of Władysław IV with the ultimate objective of marrying the daughter of the Prince of Nevers. That shows the lack of trust that John Casimir inspired in the Vienna court.⁷² However, the prince spent almost the next two years in the hands of the French.⁷³ The Spanish diplomacy tried to take advantage of the situation by trying to establish an alliance to assemble a Polish mercenary army to fight the French.⁷⁴

During that time, an agent of the prince, Antonio Manara, travelled to Madrid and manoeuvred to obtain the payment of part of the allowance for his sustenance while in prison.⁷⁵ Ways to free him were also contemplated, such as an escape or an exchange for Prince Rupert of Rhin or the artillery's Marshall Melleraye, who had been imprisoned by the imperial and the Spanish troops respectively.⁷⁶ However, none of these options succeeded. John Casimir was finally liberated after an agreement was reached between the Vasa family and Cardinal Richelieu in which the first committed to not acting against the interests of the Bourbon family in Europe.

After his liberation in France, John Casimir passed by the Spanish Netherlands. He took the opportunity to meet with Cardinal Infante Ferdinand but the encounter did not play out in the prince's interest.

⁷² ADA, Montijo, C. 19, No. 94, Marquis of Castañeda to Philip IV, Vienna, 4 July 1638.

⁷³ On the prince's prison: Eberhard Wassenberg, *Serenissimi Iobannis Casimiri Poloniarum Sveciae que Principis Cárcer Gallicus*, Gdansk, Georgium Försterum, 1644.

⁷⁴ R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars...*, pp. 195–270.

⁷⁵ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2339, fo. 207, Consejo de Estado, 16 April 1638.

⁷⁶ ADA, Montijo, C. 19, No. 94, Marquis of Castañeda to Philip IV, Vienna, 30 October 1638; AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2340, fo. 50, D. Antonio de Manara to the Court, Madrid, 21 February 1639; A. J. Richelieu, *Memoires du Cardinal de Richelieu*, Paris, 1823, Tomo XXX, pp. 456–460; J. Pellicer de Salas y Tovar, *Avisos Históricos*, Madrid 1965, p. 26.

Months later, the Spanish State Council again studied a proposal by John Casimir to serve the Spanish king as general of the cavalry in Flanders.⁷⁷ And, in that occasion both the State Council and the Cardinal Infante opposed the proposal arguing his lack of experience and skills.

THE FRENCH TURN

John Casimir's position changed drastically after his return to the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania. In April 1640, Prince Sigismund Casimir was born which deemed John Casimir no longer a potential heir of the Vasa dynasty. The downgrading of his status had an impact on his aspirations. The situation of the Spanish monarchy also changed and, after the rebellions of Catalonia and Portugal, it concentrated its efforts on the peninsular conflict. In this context it seems natural that the prince's demands were ignored. In fact, during those difficult years, the Spanish Court tried to obviate the payment of his allowance and, for that purpose, inquiries were made to find out under which conditions it had been awarded.⁷⁸ Once again, critical voices arose within the State Council, led by the Count of Oñate, that rejected the policy of allowances and commitments followed by the previous prime minister. In an attempt to economise, the Spanish court also tried to reduce the amount of the allowance from 12,000 to 8,000 escudos. That option did not succeed.⁷⁹ The main aim of John Casimir during those years was to find a way to collect the money. In the summer of 1643, Ambassador Małowski proposed to swap the allowance for a rent in Milan.⁸⁰ That proposal was rejected by the King.

In this context, it is natural that John Casimir shifted his attention towards the French court. Before his liberation, Cardinal Richelieu had already softened the conditions of his imprisonment and had treated him attentively by integrating him in the socialising spaces of the French court. In Nevers, the prince established a relationship with Maria Luisa,

⁷⁷ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2341, fo.65, Consejo de Estado, 9 July 1640; AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2343, Consejo de Estado, 14 January 1642.

⁷⁸ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2344, fo. 117, *El marqués de Castañeda hace relación a Vuestra Majestad de los papeles que ha ajustado...*, Madrid, 1 September 1643

⁷⁹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2345, Consejo de Estado, 21 February 1644.

⁸⁰ Specifically, a fief vacant after the death of the Marquis of Caravaggio: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2344, Consejo de Estado, 6 September 1643.

the future queen of Poland. Nevertheless, after his return to Poland and in view of his lack of progress concerning his fortune, he decided to go to Italy to join the Company of Jesus. That idea was completely rejected by Władysław IV and, to abort it, the king wrote to the Spanish Court to ask that his brother be offered assignments or a wife to turn him away from taking vows. Later, John Casimir changed his objective to becoming a cardinal. And, once again, Władysław IV asked for the help of Phillip IV to obtain his cardinalate. The Spanish diplomacy was ambiguous concerning these demands. On the one hand, they wanted to keep the friendship of Władysław IV. On the other hand, they saw no advantage in promoting a prince that was already judged inconstant to a cardinal. Thus, they answered that he would be helped but he was not included in any Spanish candidature to the cardinalate.⁸¹

The Roman adventure, already analysed on another occasion, destroyed the prince's prestige in the eyes of the Spanish diplomats.⁸² The way he obtained his bonnet and his later behaviour, tilting between the Spanish and the French factions in the curia, removed any kind of support and his severely tarnished image in Madrid. Consequently, when he returned to the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania, he was already considered as a representative of the French interests. by the Spanish. Back in the Polish court in 1646, the Baron of Auchy completely limited contact with him and received specific orders from the court not to accept any new proposals. Nothing was said concerning his allowance but, upon his turning to the French side he could expect nothing given the condition introduced by the II Count of Solre in 1636.

It was only in the summer of 1647 that John Casimir again became a protagonist when little Sigismund Casimir died, thus restoring him as the potential heir of the Vasa dynasty.⁸³ By that time, the same Władysław IV had also shifted towards the French court after his marriage with Maria Luisa of Nevers, with ministers like the Italian Fantoni openly hostile towards the Spanish monarchy. But, despite all that, the

⁸¹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2345, Junta de Estado, 5 October 1644.

⁸² M. Conde Pazos, "Entre franceses y españoles: el Cardenalato del príncipe Juan Casimiro Vasa y la diplomacia hispana en Italia (1643–1648)", *Libros de la corte*, Monográfico 1, 6, 2014, s.p.

⁸³ Z. Wójcik, *Jan Kazimierz Waza*..., pp. 29–40.

House of Austria continued to offer great opportunities to the Vasa princes. In September 1647, the Count of Magni, spokesman of the interests of the Polish royal family in Vienna, presented a new marriage offer to John Casimir, this time with the Duchess of Modena, but in this case it was unclear whether the deciphering of the documents had been correct.⁸⁴ He also requested an allowance of 20,000 to 30,000 florins for John Casimir. Weeks later, the prince personally wrote a letter to the king in which he announced his intention to return his bonnet – obtained in the eyes of all Europe thanks to Cardinal Mazarin – to the Pope.⁸⁵ John Casimir's strategy in front of the Spanish during those months was to present himself as a victim who regretted the manipulations of Cardinal Mazarin who had done nothing to consolidate his status since he had helped him to obtain his bonnet in Rome. But, at the same time, the Spanish diplomacy learned that the prince had negotiated new grants and marriages with the French court.⁸⁶ According to the Baron of Auchy, during those months John Casimir abandoned the French clothes that he had adopted in Rome and dressed only in the Polish fashion. But, for the baron this was only a way to show publicly his willingness to take the side of the best bidder.⁸⁷ All that made the court in Madrid issue an order to prevent any future offer to or proposal from John Casimir, who was deemed expensive and impossible to keep loyal.⁸⁸

The situation of John Casimir during those months was complex. On the one hand, he was the potential heir of the Vasa so he had the support of his brother, Wladyslaw IV, even to succeed him. But, in the opinion of the Baron of Auchy, the monarch's support was only because he was the eldest of his brothers and he really did not appreciate

⁸⁴ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2428, Duke of Terranova to Philip IV, Pilsen, 6 September 1647.

⁸⁵ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2431, Juan Casimiro, hermano del rey de Polonia a Felipe IV. Prob. Kobryn, 19 de noviembre de 1647.

⁸⁶ Specifically, he asked Mazarin to marry the Duchess of Guise. A proposal that Auchy would consider ridiculous for the cardinal: “devió de ocasionar risa a Mazarini”, in: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. Baron of Auchy to Duke of Terranova, Warsaw, 26 July 1647.

⁸⁷ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2431, Baron of Auchy to Duke of Terranova, s.l. 31 October 1647.

⁸⁸ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2428, Consejo de Estado, 1 October 1647.

him.⁸⁹ The Polish nobles did not seem to support him either. Based on this, the baron proposed that Spain worked to get the monarch to shift his support to his other brother, Charles Ferdinand, who had remained loyal to the House of Austria, or even that he favour his brother-in-law, Willem of Newburg who, in the opinion of Auchy, was the candidate with the best opportunity to succeed Władysław IV on the throne of the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania.

As is well known now, that judgment was completely wrong, and John Casimir was finally elected king.⁹⁰ What certainly proved helpful for the Prince to attain that goal was the strategy he followed in the months leading up to his election. He negotiated with the widow Queen Maria Luisa and several key leaders of the Polish nobility, and also with the court in Vienna, specifically with the Empress and the Archduchess of Tyrol, whose one of her two daughters he had promised to marry upon his election as king.⁹¹ As far as the Spanish diplomacy is concerned, although they supported both brothers in the election, in secret they gave preference to Charles Ferdinand as opposed to John Casimir. As a consequence of that, as we pointed out at the beginning, once John Casimir was elected, the new ambassador in Vienna – the IV Count of Lumiares – was hopeful, since, although he had not been the favourite candidate, he was one of the two who had been supported and being unmarried, opened the opportunity to close a marriage agreement with one of the daughters of Claudia of Tirol. As we know now, that never happened.

CONCLUSION: JOHN CASIMIR OF AUSTRIA?

The relationship between John Casimir and the Phillip's monarchy was marked by the contradictions in the Spanish strategy in Europe, the power changes in the continent, as well as the difference in social status between the lineages within the society of princes of the time (between princes of hereditary and elective crowns). But it was also marked by the

⁸⁹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2431, Baron of Auchy to Duke of Terranova, s.l. 31 October 1647.

⁹⁰ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2434, Duke Terranova to Philip IV, Trento, 26 November 1648.

⁹¹ AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2434, Duke Terranova to Philip IV, Linz, 28 July 1648.

importance of fidelity within the bonds of protection and patronage, as well as the fulfilment of promises. And, of course, by the capacity of a prince to create and project a perfect image of himself. Not all these elements were present in John Casimir, which affected him in his relationship with the Hispanic monarchy.

For the prince, securing the protection of Philip IV was a way to raise his profile among European royalty, helping him obtain positions and grants that would strengthen his status. For the Vasa dynasty, it could lead to establishing a secure economic base through an adequate marriage that guaranteed the future of part of the family. The time even seemed ripe, since the Catholic king projected an image of protection and patronage over princes, which was well known in Poland thanks in part to the case of bishop Charles of Austria but also to the news provided by ministers like Stanisław Małowski. This knowledge derived from the posts that John Casimir tried to obtain during the decade of 1630 (a sea admiralty), linked to the specific model represented by Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy. Nevertheless the question remains; could a John Casimir of Austria have arisen, as did a Filiberto of Austria? It's a question difficult to answer, but there is no doubt that it was a remote possibility for several reasons.

To begin with, there were the self-imposed limitations in the model of protection and patronage over princes deployed by the Spanish crown. Until the reign of Phillip IV, that had been limited to a series of spaces and lineages that were specific and close. And, if its expansion could have meant the establishing of a new model of hegemony, they would be based fundamentally on family links which would have had a high cost, beginning with the constant undertaking of commitments by the king that would result in the awarding of grants and benefits to these princes. That cost was, as we saw, strongly questioned amongst wide sectors of the Spanish court, especially if the benefits were not clear or if they accrued only to other allies. The best example of this problem is found in the Family Treaty, the acceptance of which by the House of Austria could be considered adequate as a whole from the point of view of geopolitics: at a time when the war was focused in central Europe, a friendship or even an alliance with the king of the Commonwealth of Poland–Lithuania was vital. However, its repercussions were fundament-

ally in favour of the Vienna branch, while Phillip IV had to bear the bulk of its cost, the protection of the princes, which provoked severe criticism and then rejection in Madrid.

The same could be said about the Vasa's wish to arrange a marriage. The integration of the sons of Sigismund III within the Spanish or Italian aristocratic lineages might cause a disruption in the internal equilibriums of the nobility as a result of the introduction of royal blood. That was not a new issue, but it could be potentially destabilising which is why attempts were made to deflect it in Madrid.

And finally, there is the question of the prince's character, since Casimir did not seem an adequate candidate to adhere to this model. Of course, living under the shadow of his much more brilliant brother did not play in his favour, especially in his youth. Nevertheless, when he finally made himself known to the Spanish ministers, his skills did not stand out. To the contrary, they played against him when he was considered a candidate for a military post. But, without doubt, the worst fault was his lack of capacity to project the image of unconditional loyalty towards the House of Austria, something that was key to that model of integration and protection. On the contrary, his frivolity in changing protectors, from the king of Spain to the French king, neutralised him completely as an actor worth of being considered by the Spanish diplomats. Of course, the diplomacy of Phillip IV has to bear its share of responsibility in promising allowances and assignments that never saw the light of day.

In the long-term, all that resulted in a complex relationship between the prince and the monarchy, in which French diplomacy ended up interfering not so much to gain John Casimir but rather to get him and his family away from the House of Austria. The rise of the French influence was based on the same premise as the Austrian presence: through promises of protection and patronage that, in the long term, ended up being equally empty. Thus, when John Casimir ascended the throne in 1648, geopolitical reality ultimately prevailed, leading him during the most critical years of the Swedish invasion to ally with the House of Austria, and later, with the France of Louis XIV.

THE VASAS AND THE HABSBURGS.
FAMILY GATHERINGS DURING
A CONVALESCENCE STAY IN BADEN (1638)

On 6 August 1638, King Władysław IV of Poland, together with his wife Queen Cecilia Renata and his sister, Princess Anna Catherine Constance, left Warsaw accompanied by an entourage of several hundred people and set out for the Habsburg health resort of Baden, located approximately 25 km south of Vienna. The members of the royal family had great expectations of the trip. For the king, apart from the hope of improving his health,¹ it was meant to be an opportunity to get to know the family and the imperial court, as well as a chance to start talks on political cooperation (including European peace negotiations and the French captivity of Prince John Casimir). For the queen, it was an extremely rare opportunity to visit her homeland and meet her brothers – Emperor Ferdinand III and Archduke Leopold Wilhelm – stepmother Dowager Empress Eleonora Gonzaga, sister-in-law Empress Maria Anna, four-year old niece Archduchess Maria Anna, and nephews: five-year-old Archduke Ferdinand and twelve-month-old Archduke Philip Augustus. For the princess, it was an opportunity to learn about the various forms of social life at the Viennese court. It also created prospects for intensifying the talks about her marriage.

Władysław IV hoped that during his longer stay in the Habsburg lands, by using his charisma and having the advantage of direct communication, he would be able to obtain greater support from his wife's family for his long-term political plans. He probably remembered the friendly reception he had received at the Habsburg courts during his *Grand Tour* of 1624–25. He was aware that since then, dynastic ties had become closer, and his political position and international importance

¹ Medical aspects of this journey were described in: W. Kaczorowski, "Kuracja uzdrowiskowa Władysława IV Wazy w Baden w 1638 roku", *Studia Historyczne*, 37, 4, 1994, pp. 477–486.

had increased. The House of Austria and the House of Vasa were united by a family pact (concluded on 14 December 1636, renewed on 16 March 1637) under which the parties committed themselves to close cooperation and mutual protection of their dynastic interests. In it, the emperor promised that he would provide political and military assistance to Władysław IV in regaining Sweden, and that he would maintain the authority of the Polish Vasa line through appropriate marriages, salaries, and by granting offices to clergy and lay people. In the event of victorious wars with Turkey, the captured area was to be handed over to a representative of the Vasa family as hereditary possession or fiefdom. In return, Władysław IV, as the Swedish monarch, transferred the right to the Swedish crown to the Habsburgs after the extinction of the House of Vasa, and, further, as the ruler of Sweden and Poland he committed not to enter into any agreements contrary to the interests of the House of Austria.²

Political cooperation between the two dynasties was to be guaranteed by the marriage of the Polish king with the emperor's sister. For the Vasas, kinship ties became one of the most effective instruments of increasing the family's prestige and position. Władysław IV, whose mother was Anna Habsburg, the sister of Emperor Ferdinand II, considered himself equal to the representatives of the Habsburg dynasty. This was clearly expressed by the panegyrist Martin Opitz, highly admired by the second Vasa on the Polish throne. In a piece written to celebrate the wedding of Władysław IV with Cecilia Renata, he predicted that due to their equal origins and identical character traits, they would live a happy married life: "You will love each other because you are equal".³

The Polish king met most of his Habsburg wife's close family members during his European trip of 1624–25. The only person he hadn't met so far was Empress Maria Anna, even though she was his cousin.⁴ In 1638, he had an advantage over his Habsburg relatives and

² R. Skowron, "Budowanie prestiżu królewskiego rodu. Związki rodzinne Wazów z dynastiami europejskimi", *Studia Europaea Gnesnensia*, 20, 2019, p. 75.

³ R. Ligacz, "Marcina Opitza panegiryk na cześć Władysława IV", *Kwartalnik Opolski*, 14, 1968, 3–4, pp. 89–98; J. Nowak-Dłużewski, *Okolicznościowa poezja polityczna w Polsce. Dwaj młodzi Wazowie*, Warszawa 1972, pp. 41–42.

⁴ She was the daughter of the King Philip III of Spain and Margaret of Austria.

in-laws in terms of both age⁵ and experience. It is probable that due to his eldership, he expected special consideration with regard to contacts with Ferdinand III – not so much as emperor, but as cousin, brother, and brother-in-law. The monarch's attitude towards the representatives of the House of Austria is well illustrated by the tone of his letters addressed to Vienna or Innsbruck – always matter of fact, firm, without a hint of servility or unnecessary flattery. Władysław IV emphasised close kinship and partnership in his correspondence.⁶ The king's beliefs were also clearly evident during the trip to Baden, where the Polish side placed great emphasis on ceremonial issues (the proper conduct of the welcome and farewell ceremonies, the need to follow the principle of precedence, or the selection of an appropriate formula for a personal meeting of the rulers).

Protocol matters turned out to be the most sensitive and controversial issue during the royal family's stay in the Habsburg lands. The situation was not made easier by the nature of the Polish monarch's visit, which was difficult for the hosts to determine – was it for medical treatment, a family meeting, or perhaps a convention of monarchs aimed at intensifying political cooperation? Procedural issues became the subject of numerous meetings between the monarch and Polish and Lithuanian senators, imperial dignitaries, and Archduke Leopold Wilhelm himself.⁷ Despite the arrangements accepted by both sides, from time-to-time ceremonial clashes occurred. The choice of an inconvenient moment for the meeting was also important. Władysław IV left the borders of the Commonwealth in poor health after exhausting parliamentary deliberations, surrounded by the voices of his dissatisfied subjects, and outraged by reports of his brother's French captivity. In turn, Ferdinand III still faced the need to consolidate his rule in countries that were at war and in a deep financial crisis, as well as rebuild his relationships with his immediate family, especially his brother and stepmother.

⁵ Emperor Ferdinand III was 13 years younger, and Archduke Leopold Wilhelm was 19 years younger than the Polish king.

⁶ See Władysław's letters to representatives of the Habsburg dynasty published in this volume.

⁷ See: *Reise und Aufenthalt des Königs und der Königin von Polen in Wien, Laxenburg und Baden, Zeremoniell*, HHStA, *Ältere Zeremonialakten*, Karton 2 (1611–39), 36, fos 1–7; BNF Paris, Beluze 168, fos 185–185v, 194–195.

The relationship between the emperor and Archduke Leopold Wilhelm was not the easiest even though the brothers shared a common passion for literature, music, and fine arts. They were complicated by the provisions of their father's will, which did not provide for granting territorial authority to the younger son, but only awarded him an annual salary of 45,000 guilders. After the death of Emperor Ferdinand II, Archduke Leopold Wilhelm did not hide his dissatisfaction with this fact. He wanted to abandon his clerical career, give up his church offices and take some part of the hereditary Habsburg lands into secular rule, following the example of his late uncle Leopold V. Ferdinand III tried to please his brother without sacrificing his rights as a sovereign and he increased his endowments.⁸ At the time of the visit of the Polish royal family in the Habsburg lands, not all of the archduke's ambitions had been satisfied, which may have influenced the atmosphere of the dynastic meeting.

The complex relations between the imperial couple and Eleonora Gonzaga could also have had an impact on the atmosphere of the Habsburg-Vasas congress. After her husband's death, Eleonora allowed the successor and his wife to take precedence, thus recognising the new hierarchy. However, over time she found that her household, although remaining large, became less influential and she no longer had the same protective capabilities as before. It was difficult for her to come to terms with her new role, especially as she did not particularly like Empress Maria Anna although she got along very well with her younger stepson, Archduke Leopold Wilhelm. She tried to maintain a friendly distance from the imperial couple, residing outside the Hofburg, most often in Laxenburg during the period in question. Her customary visits to the imperial court were mostly related to religious ceremonies.⁹ The arrival of

⁸ In 1639, Archduke Leopold Wilhelm received from Emperor Ferdinand III the highest command of the Habsburg troops in the Thirty Years' War. This allowed him to replace his clerical attire with that of a soldier. In 1641 he became the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order, and in 1647 the governor of the Habsburg Netherlands. See: M. Hengerer, *Kaiser Ferdinand III. (1608–1657). Eine Biographie*, Wien – Köln – Weimar 2012, pp. 125–128.

⁹ M. Hengerer, *Kaiser Ferdinand III. (1608–1657). Eine Biographie*, Wien – Köln – Weimar 2012, pp. 128–129; M. Schnettger, “Die Kaiserinnen aus dem Haus Gonzaga: Eleonora die Ältere und Eleonora die Jüngere”, in: *Nur die Frau des Kaisers*.

Władysław IV and Cecilia Renata made it necessary to intensify contacts between the two empresses, thus creating conditions for disputes around precedence and rivalry between their own ladies-in-waiting.

The proper atmosphere of the Habsburg-Vasas meetings was also affected by mutual distrust and suspicion. The first, indirect contacts between Emperor Ferdinand III and King Władysław IV were difficult and overshadowed by stormy negotiations regarding Cecilia Renata's dowry. The Polish monarch was dissatisfied with the fact that the marriage contract failed to include a provision for securing the dowry of the future Polish queen and the unpaid dowry sums of Sigismund III's wives (Władysław's mother and stepmother) in the Silesian duchies, and only on the Wittingau estate (Trzeboń, Třeboň) in Moravia.¹⁰ In turn, the emperor was disappointed that his hopes related to his sister's marriage to the Polish monarch had not yet been fulfilled. Ferdinand III hoped that through Cecilia Renata he would have a significant influence on his brother-in-law's politics. He had similar expectations towards his second sister, Archduchess Maria Anna, who in 1636 married Maximilian I, Elector of Bavaria.¹¹ The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth's relations with France and its actions towards their common enemy, Sweden, also remained sensitive issues in mutual contacts. Each side counted on greater support in the fight against the Swedes, but they understood it differently. Władysław thought about the Emperor's help in regaining the hereditary crown, while Ferdinand was concerned about the military involvement of the Polish king in the Reich. Neither understood, or did not want to understand, the situation in the ally's country and the problems that both monarchs were struggling with.

The stay of the Polish royal family in the Habsburg lands was also a heavy burden for the imperial court, which at that time was in a difficult financial situation – the Habsburg coffers were empty, and the tax administration system was inefficient and corrupt.¹² The General Treasury (*Hofkammer*) had to provide funds for the maintenance of the

Kaiserinnen in der Frühen Neuzeit, ed. by B. Braun, K. Keller, M. Schnettger, Wien 2016, pp. 124–125.

¹⁰ *Wjazd, koronacja, wesele najjaśniejszej królowej jej mości Cecylii Renaty w Warszawie roku 1637*, ed. by A. Falniowska-Gradowska, Warszawa 1991, p. 11.

¹¹ M. Hengerer, *Kaiser Ferdinand III...*, pp. 129–130.

¹² *Ibidem*, p.161.

Polish retinue for ten weeks, from 16 August to 3 November 1638. Among the documents and correspondence addressed to President Ulrich Franz Kolowrat and the Treasury's members, there is one containing information about the size of the Polish retinue. It states that the courts of the king, queen and princess numbered 565 people and 458 horses, and the senatorial retinues had 318 people and 346 horses, giving a total of 883 people and 804 horses.¹³ Ferdinand III's entourage could therefore have been offended by Władysław IV's demonstrative generosity and expensive gifts to members of the Habsburg family, representatives of the power elite, and even courtiers.¹⁴ For the Polish king, these were tools for self-promotion and propaganda of the government. They were also visible signs of his prestige, and a visual message addressed to his own subjects, proving the equality of both states and courts.

In addition to the circumstances that made mutual relationships difficult there were also integrating factors, such as similarity of characters, interests and values. Both the king and the emperor struggled with their respective fathers' legends and tried to develop their own model of governance. They also had in common a condition, namely, their health deteriorated in crisis situations; for example, both became seriously ill after the death of their fathers.¹⁵ They understood their roles as the heads of their families in similar ways as they worked to secure the future of their siblings and tried to satisfy their brothers' ambitions without harming their own majesty. A basis for an understanding between Władysław IV and Ferdinand III could also have been a common interest – a passion for music, visual arts, and hunting. Direct contacts were facilitated by the linguistic skills of both monarchs and there was no language barrier between them, as they could communicate freely in German, Italian, French, and Latin.¹⁶

¹³ Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Finanz- und Hofkammerarchiv, Sammlungen und Selekte, Reichsakten, Faszikel 115, 1543–1745, Karton 188, 26, f. 495.

¹⁴ BNF Paris, Beluze 168, k. 192; J. Sobieski, *Peregrynacja po Europie [1607–1613]. Droga do Baden [1638]*, ed. by J. Długosz, Wrocław 1991, pp. 259, 264; M. Vorbek-Lettow, *Skarbnica pamięci. Pamiętnik lekarza króla Władysława IV*, ed. by E. Galos, F. Mincer, W. Czaplński, Wrocław 1968, p. 102.

¹⁵ M. Hengerer, *Kaiser Ferdinand III...*, p. 125.

¹⁶ "Ferdinand III", in: *Die Habsburger. Ein biographisches Lexikon*, ed. by B. Hamann, Wien-München 2001, pp. 112–115.

A personal meeting between the king and the emperor took place on 22–24 October 1638, in Mikulov (Nikolsburg). The course of the congress is shown only by sources of Polish provenance. It is illuminated by the accounts of eyewitnesses: Jakub Sobieski, the Voivode of Belz,¹⁷ and Maciej Vorbek-Lettow, the royal physician.¹⁸ A description of the meeting was also included in the diary of the Grand Chancellor of Lithuania, Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł. He did not take part in the royal journey but had extensive knowledge of its progress thanks to his informants.¹⁹ Unfortunately, information about the meeting between Władysław IV and Ferdinand III is not provided in the anonymous diary written in German and kept in the National Library in Paris.²⁰ This is valuable source material that sheds a lot of light on the stay of the royal family in the Habsburg lands, but the narrative by the unknown author is interrupted on 20 October 1638.

The preserved sources present a one-sided picture of events, marked by antipathy towards the Habsburgs. Sobieski's prejudices were based on his political views (aversion to absolutism, especially in its Spanish variety), and Vorbek-Lettow's – on religious grounds. Even Radziwiłł, known for his favourable attitude towards the House of Austria,²¹ adopted the point of view of his informants, writing that the emperor's actions were caused by "Austrian pride" and his courtiers were forced to get rid of "German haughtiness". All of them limited their messages to sensitive ceremonial issues as they had no knowledge of the personal conversations between the king and the emperor. Sobieski conclusions were based on his own analysis of the monarch's mood and behaviour. He suggested that Władysław IV's bad mood during his stay in Mikulov was not only the result of severe pain associated with an attack of kidney stones, but of "melancholy" caused by the behaviour of Ferdinand III,

¹⁷ J. Sobieski, *Peregrynacja po Europie...*, pp. 261–266.

¹⁸ M. Vorbek-Lettow, *Skarbnica pamięci...*, pp. 101–103.

¹⁹ A.S. Radziwiłł, *Pamiętnik o dziejach w Polsce*, vol. 2 1637–1646, ed. by A. Przyboś, R. Żelewski, Warszawa 1980, pp.106–107.

²⁰ BNF Paris, Beluze 168, fos 178–195v. I am working on its publication with Professor Ryszard Skowron. See also: R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars. Polsko-hiszpańskie relacje polityczne w latach 1632–1648*, Kraków 2013, p. 207.

²¹ J. Seredyka, "Habsburgowie w Pamiętniku Albrychta Stanisława Radziwiłła", in: *Per saecula ad tempora nostra. Sborník prací k šedesátým narozeninám prof. Jaroslava Pánka*, vol. 2, ed. by J. Mikulec, M. Polívka, Praha 2007, pp. 507–513.

who did not provide comfortable accommodation for the ailing ruler and did not give him, as an honoured guest, precedence during the welcome ceremony.²²

The senators accompanying the king restrained his actions and put additional pressure on him. They felt competent to judge what was – and what was not beneficial to their monarch in terms of politics and dignity. Habsburg dignitaries also noticed the significant influence of the royal environment on the course of the visit. For example, on 7 September 1638, Cardinal Ernst Adalbert von Harrach noted in his diary that the senators advised the king against coming to Vienna to meet with Empress Maria Anna during the absence of Ferdinand III because they were convinced that he would not be properly received there by her, therefore they recommended traveling straight to Baden.²³

There were heated discussions about where Władysław IV should meet Ferdinand III and in what form. The senators supported the idea that the meeting should be almost accidental in nature, on the way back to the country after completing his medical treatment. They wanted to avoid the impression that the ruler of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was going to the emperor or trying to contact him, or even that he was ready to alter the original direction of his journey. So Ferdinand's proposal to hold the convention in the Moravian town of Znojmo was rejected as it was not located on a direct route to Poland. Brno, considered by the Polish side due to the possibility of comfortable accommodation, was excluded because there were rumours of a plague spreading in the city. Ultimately, Mikulov, which was owned by Prince Maximilian Dietrichstein, was agreed as the location for the meeting as it met the senators' logistical criteria.²⁴

Difficult negotiations also took place over the protocol of the meeting. In conversations with imperial dignitaries and Archduke Leopold

²² J. Sobieski, *Peregrynacja po Europie...*, p. 263.

²³ *Die Diarien und Tagzettel des Kardinals Ernst Adalbert von Harrach (1598–1667)*, Bd. 2: *Diarium 1629–1646*, ed. by K. Keller, A. Catalano, Wien, Köln, Weimar 2010, p. 358.

²⁴ J. Sobieski, *Peregrynacja po Europie...*, p. 257; see also: B. Čechová, *Polsko-habsburské vzťahy v době Ferdinanda III. a Vladislava IV. Dynastická diplomacie a třeboňská zústavní drážba*, Brno 2012, pp. 111–118 [Disertační práce, Masarykova univerzita, Filozofická fakulta, Historický ústav, <https://is.muni.cz/th/ujbsl>].

Wilhelm, the Polish lords insisted that the emperor give priority to the Polish king and leave him a more honourable place on the right side (during the greeting and farewell ceremonies, in the carriage, at the table). They referred to the case of the Congress of Vienna in 1515. Their Habsburg interlocutors presented documents proving that Emperor Maximilian had a more privileged position during the meeting with King Sigismund I. The senators put forward a counterargument, citing iconographic representations of the meeting.²⁵ Finally, a compromise was reached according to which Ferdinand III, after initial greeting, was to invite Władysław IV to his carriage, then – being the host of the Habsburg lands – give his guest the first place in a gesture that should be interpreted as courtesy towards the Polish monarch and his entourage. Afterwards, at Mikulov castle, he was to have a more position of greater splendour as both rulers were the guests of Maximilian Dietrichstein. Archduke Leopold Wilhelm was obliged to convey this agreement to his brother. However, as it soon turned out, he did not comply. Sobieski saw in the behaviour of Ferdinand III the bad influence of the Spanish ambassador Sancho de Monroy y Zúñiga, marquis de Castañeda.²⁶

In fact, the expectations of the Polish side were unrealistic – it was unacceptable for the imperial majesty to give the Polish king, who was an elected ruler, the first place during a public, official meeting. The congress of monarchs did not bring tangible political benefits to either side, but in terms of family, the Polish royal family's stay in the Habsburg lands was not a failure. A rich program of court entertainment was prepared for them and Princess Anna Catherine Constance was extremely warmly welcomed, which could be a good omen for the future. Generally, the atmosphere of personal meetings of close relatives was good. Even in Polish sources unfavourable to the Habsburgs we can find references to Ferdinand III's concern for the health of Władysław IV.²⁷

The visit to the Viennese court had a special meaning for Queen Cecilia Renata. A year earlier she had been on a different journey: as a bride, she had travelled to her new home, the Polish-Lithuanian

²⁵ J. Sobieski, *Peregrynacja po Europie...*, pp. 257–258.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 258.

²⁷ M. Vorbek-Lettow, *Skarbnica pamięci...*, p. 102.

Commonwealth. Now she was returning to her homeland in a different role – not as an archduchess, but as a Polish queen. This change required occupying a new place in the ceremonial space of the imperial court as well as ensuring the proper position of her ladies-in-waiting. The monarch tried to fulfil her representative duties in an exemplary manner and meet the expectations of her subjects, even if her courteous gestures towards Polish and Lithuanian senators and their accompanying wives may have seemed surprising and incomprehensible to her relatives. Sobieski wrote that Cecilia Renata was “ashamed and angry” at the way her brother received her royal husband (in uncomfortable, time-worn quarters in Mikulov Castle).²⁸ However, the diarist did not write that the queen could have been embarrassed by the behaviour of her subjects when she had to, out of fear, hide in a carriage due to an argument between the castellan of Sandomierz, Adam Kazanowski, and Crown Court Marshal Stanisław Przyjemski. The two men were drunk and arguing about the question of precedence in the presence of the king and the emperor.²⁹ Cecilia Renata, with all her sense of family pride, managed to adapt to other, more direct and free customs prevailing at the royal court of Władysław IV.

It is difficult to recreate the monarch’s emotions related to her short-term return to her family. Perhaps she was familiar with the feeling of disappointment in married life, but she was brought up to be a good wife which is why she was able to submit to a husband who did not love her. Maybe Cecilia Renata was resentful that she was still not pregnant and had not yet fulfilled her second role in life – that of being a mother. It is possible that contacts with her pregnant sister-in-law,³⁰ Empress Maria Anna, were difficult for her.

The preserved source material shows the royal family in an unusual situation, and also provides a rare insight into the more private spheres of life of both dynasties. The memoirists showed scenes of warm greetings and tender farewells, especially between the female members of both families. Regarding the ceremony of welcoming the royal family

²⁸ J. Sobieski, *Peregrynacja po Europie...*, p. 263.

²⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 265.

³⁰ Empress Maria Anna gave birth to Archduke Maximilian Thomas on 21 December 1638.

in Vienna on 1 September 1638, Jakub Sobieski, who was very critical of Empress Maria Anna, noted that Ferdinand III's wife "made a very nice welcome (...) with Her Majesty the Queen and hugged the princess so much that her pearl earrings became so tangled with the princess's earrings that they had to be torn off".³¹ The empress's effusive gestures towards the wife and sister of Władysław IV contrasted greatly with the dignified but slightly haughty pose of the marble statue that Maria Anna adopted during the act of presenting the Polish senators and courtiers.

Sobieski also reported a very touching moment when Queen Cecilia Renata said farewell to the imperial children (on 17 October). She gave her nephews and niece expensive gifts (we can only assume that they were toys), which, according to the diarist, made them happy. The queen also complimented the court staff who had been taking care of the children. Then she "came to tears"³² – we are unable to know whether it was only a sign of emotion or sadness that she had not yet experienced motherhood. The ballet performance of Archduke Ferdinand and Archduchess Maria Anna, accompanied by children from distinguished families and the court dwarves, led only to positive emotions. It pleased Empress Maria Anna and also brought great joy to the Polish royal couple.³³

It has already been mentioned that the Habsburg side prepared a wide range of entertainment to make the stay of Polish guests more enjoyable. Feasts, hunting for large game and birds, and fishing, were interspersed with more intimate meetings of close family members to take therapeutic and recreational baths in the Baden thermal baths or play card games. Time was also spent visiting residences and gardens in Laxenburg, Wiener Neustadt, and Ebersdorf.

The greatest success of the various court entertainments was the shooting competition organised by Empress Maria Anna on 11 October 1638.³⁴ Due to bad weather, the party was moved from the Favorita

³¹ J. Sobieski, *Peregrynacja po Europie...*, p. 234.

³² *Ibidem*, p. 259.

³³ According to the author of the Paris diary, the show took place on the evening of 13 October 1638. Sobieski included a short description of the performance on 14 October. See: BNF Paris, Beluze 168, f. 191v; J. Sobieski, *Peregrynacja po Europie...*, p. 256.

³⁴ BNF Paris, Beluze 168, fos 190–190v; J. Sobieski, *Peregrynacja po Europie...*, p. 254.

estate near Vienna to the Knights' Hall (*Ritterstube*) in the Hofburg. Empress Maria Anna, Queen Cecilia Renata, Princess Anna Catherine Constance and their ladies-in-waiting shot at the targets. In total, 37 ladies took part in the party, including the ladies-in-waiting of the Dowager Empress Eleonora. She herself watched the competition in the company of King Wladyslaw IV, Archduke Leopold Wilhelm, and the Venetian ambassador, Giovanni Grimani. The competition consisted of shooting at three targets – in the shape of a dragon, a knight and a wreath. All participants shot at the dragon; those who missed, subsequently shot at the knight, and those who hit the black mark on the dragon's shield – aimed at the wreath. The wreath was received by the Czech lady-in-waiting of the reigning empress, Beatrix Kavka of Rican (*Feulin Käffgin*).³⁵ Afterwards, 12 flags were awarded to the women who achieved the best results – first place went to Elżbieta of Slusko, wife of Adam Kazanowski, castellan of Sandomierz. As the Polish ladies were not proficient in this type of entertainment, it was in fact Empress Maria Anna herself that shot for Elizabeth. The winners received attractive prizes from the imperial treasury.³⁶ From the losers, i.e. the ladies who shot at the knight, the Polish princess was singled out and given an award.

Queen Cecilia Renata was familiar with the entertainments of the Viennese court, while Anna Catherine Constance did not feel comfortable with them. However, she could count on the support of her sister-in-law who became her guide through the secrets of the court's unique environment. They had an extremely cordial relationship, which was also visible to the Habsburgs. Undoubtedly, the queen was interested in marrying off her sister-in-law favourably.

During the visit of the royal family to the Habsburg lands, the project of marrying Princess Anna Catherine Constance to Archduke Ferdinand Charles, son of Leopold V of Habsburg and Claudia de Medici, was also consulted. The idea of such a marriage was born in September 1637, during the stay of Archduchess Claudia (then a widow and regent of Tyrol) at the Warsaw court in connection with the celebrations of the

³⁵ Liste der Teilnehmerinnen am kaiserlichen Schießen, neben der Kaiserin und der Königin von Polen, HHStA, Ältere Zeremonialakten, Karton 2 (1611–39), 34, f. 2.

³⁶ *Ibidem*, fos 5–5v.

wedding of Władysław IV and Cecilia Renata.³⁷ According to Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł, the king was the initiator of the talks on this subject.³⁸ At that time, consideration was given to the princess' departure to the court in Innsbruck, where she was to wait until the archduke, who was born in 1628, came of age and took over independent rule. Polish and Lithuanian senators remained very reserved towards this marriage project. They feared what would happen to the royal sister's rich dowry if one of the fiancées died. They were also concerned about the princess' reputation, given the archduke's lack of consent to this marriage, once he had reached the age of maturity. This was caused by the large age difference – nine years – but also by other possible preferences regarding the candidate for his wife. So they played for time, raising the need to agree on the conditions for securing the dowry and a convenient date for Anna Catherine Constance's departure to Tyrol, as well as obtaining the consent of the emperor for this marriage, as he was the most important member of the guardianship council. Although it was decided that both sides would elect commissioners with appropriate powers to conduct further negotiations, no significant actions were taken in the following months. It was only during the royal family's stay in Baden (at the end of September 1638) that talks began with the envoy of Archduchess Claudia who had arrived there. This was Girolamo (Hieronymus) Montecuccoli – an experienced advisor to emperors Ferdinand II and Ferdinand III, director of the secret council at the court in Innsbruck, and steward to the regent of Tyrol.³⁹ Unfortunately, the preserved source material does not contain information about the subject of the negotiations. However, the planned marriage aroused the interest of the Habsburg elites, as evidenced by the entries in the diary of Cardinal Ernst Adalbert von Harrach, as well as European diplomats that included the French consul in Gdańsk, Henri Canasilles.

On 9 September 1638, Harrach wrote a short description of the Polish princess as a candidate for the wife of the oldest archduke of

³⁷ M. Skiba, “Anna Katarzyna Konstancja Vasa (1619-51) and failed dynastic networking”, in: *Frictions and Failures. Cultural Encounters in Crisis*, ed. by A. Bues, Wiesbaden 2017, pp. 147–149.

³⁸ A.S. Radziwiłł, *Pamiętnik...*, p. 55.

³⁹ BNF Paris, Beluze 168, f. 188; A.S. Radziwiłł, *Pamiętnik...*, pp. 103–104.

the Tyrolean Habsburg line. According to the cardinal, Anna Catherine Constance was a very talented person but with visible shortcomings in beauty (she had a slight stoop). She was surrounded by ladies-in-waiting, all dressed in the French fashion, amongst who a courtly maiden from the Guldenstern (Gyllenstiern) family stood out.⁴⁰ According to the diarist, it was not only the woman's extraordinary beauty, but also her grace and abilities.⁴¹ Harrach dedicated another entry, dated 27 October, to the Polish princess and Miss Guldenstern. It is of a gossipy nature – the pages of the diary contain rumours of the wedding of Miss Guldenstern and Hartmann Liechtenstein von Nikolsburg (1613–86), and of the feelings of Anna Catherine Constance for Archduke Leopold Wilhelm. According to Harrach, the sister of the Polish monarch was supposed to leave the Habsburg lands in love with her imperial brother and brother-in-law of Władysław IV.⁴² While information about the shortcomings of the princess's appearance (her short height, curved spine, thick facial features, pale skin with an unhealthy pallor), her care for the appearance of the ladies-in-waiting, organizational skills, and her passion for ballet performances can also be found in the accounts of papal diplomats Honorato Visconti⁴³ and Mario Filonardi,⁴⁴ there is no source confirmation of her affection for Habsburg. However, this cannot be categorically ruled out – the archduke, five years older than the Vasa princess, spent a lot of time with her and turned out to be a good companion for court entertainment and a friendly host. Although he held church positions (Bishop of Passau, Strasbourg, Halberstadt and Olomouc), he did not hide the fact that he wanted

⁴⁰ Most likely Lucrezia Anna Guldenstern, who from 1639 was the wife of Jan Grzybowski, starost of Warsaw.

⁴¹ [A. Harrach], *Die Diarien und Tagzettel...*, p. 358.

⁴² *Ibidem*, p. 371.

⁴³ *Relacye nuncynszów apostolskich i innych osób o Polsce od roku 1548 do 1690*, ed. by E. Rykaczewski, vol. 2, Berlin-Poznań 1864, pp. 216–217.

⁴⁴ Marius Filonardi card. Francisco Barberini Varsaviae, 5 VI 1637, in: *Acta Nuntiativae Polonae*, T. XXV Marius Filonardi, vol. 2 (1 XI 1636 – 31 X 1637), ed. by T. Chynczewska-Hennel, Cracoviae 2006, p.197; “Avviso” ab secretario Marii Filonardi ad card. Franciscum Barberini, Varsaviae, 1 VIII 1637, 19 IX 1637, *Ibidem*, pp.246, 282. More information, see: J. Żukowski, “Infantka Anna Katarzyna Konstancja i kultura artystyczno-kolekcjonerska dworu wazowskiego”, *Biuletyn Historii Sztuki*, 79, 2, 2017, pp. 233–310.

to give them up and follow in the footsteps of his uncle Leopold V.⁴⁵ Perhaps some sympathy that went beyond family connections was established between them, as in the following years they maintained contact through letters.⁴⁶

Another Vasa-Habsburg marriage raised concerns among the French diplomats, as did the vision of a personal meeting between the king and the emperor, which could have resulted in closer political cooperation and increased Polish support for the Habsburgs. Attempts were made to counteract it by spreading anti-Habsburg propaganda. A good example of this is Henri Canasilles's reports of the Habsburg intrigue against the Polish Vasas. It consisted of an offer from the Spanish king, Philip IV, to Prince John Casimir to take over as viceroy of Portugal and a proposal to marry Princess Anna Catherine Constance to one of the archdukes. These efforts were to lead to the Habsburgs taking over the throne of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the near future. After the death of the sickly and childless Władysław IV, the nobility were unable to choose John Casimir who was entangled in Spanish obligations, and they chose the liked and respected Vasa Princess and her Habsburg spouse. According to the French consul in Gdańsk, Cardinal Richelieu's imprisonment of the prince played to the Habsburgs' advantage and the Polish king's departure to Baden gave them the opportunity to finalise the marriage negotiations.⁴⁷

Contrary to expectations, the negotiations were not completed. The overtures of French diplomacy and the anti-Habsburg sentiments of part of the Polish-Lithuanian elite did not create a favourable climate for conducting such talks, and even strengthened the distrust of the parties to the family pact. At the end of 1638, the Polish court was waiting for Montecucoli's arrival but he did not show up.⁴⁸ Negotiations resumed

⁴⁵ M. Hengerer, *Kaiser Ferdinand III...*, p. 126.

⁴⁶ In the Viennese HHStA in the Kriegsakten unit, five letters from Princess Anna Catherine Constance to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm from the years 1641–42 have been preserved (Karton 103, 105, 106, 109).

⁴⁷ M. Serwański, *Francja wobec Polski w dobie wojny trzydziestoletniej (1618–1648)*, Poznań 1986, pp. 245–246; R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars...*, pp. 67–69; W. Tomkiewicz, *Więzień kardynała. Niewola francuska Jana Kazimierza*, Warszawa 1957, pp. 67–69; T. Wasilewski, *Ostatni Wąza na polskim tronie*, Katowice 1984, pp. 24–25.

⁴⁸ A.S. Radziwill, *Pamiętnik...*, pp. 109, 117.

in the autumn of 1639 on the initiative of the Habsburg, with the arrival of an envoy with letters of credentials from the emperor, the Spanish king, and Archduchess Claudia. The talks were not finalised this time either – the Polish side was discouraged by the attitude of the envoy, whose interest was focused only on the value of the princess' dowry.⁴⁹ Marriage negotiations dragged on until the spring of 1641, when they were broken off quite abruptly.

A noticeable change in the princess' attitude towards the Tyrolean marriage was said to have contributed to this. For Anna Catherine Constance, born in 1619, the long wait to get married, at least until 1646 (when the Archduke would come of age) was not a favourable prospect. It could have deprived her of any chance of motherhood or another marriage if the marriage negotiations failed. Her concerns about marrying the much younger Ferdinand Charles increased. She secretly hoped for a better candidate for a husband, one who would be ready to marry immediately. Prince John Casimir conveyed the Princess' doubts to Claudia de Medici in a letter.⁵⁰ The concerned archduchess sent Father Carlo Tirelli to the Polish court. She also sent letters to the king, queen, and the most important senators, demanding explanations why the negotiations were not moving forward, accusing the Polish side of wanting to break them off, and emphasising that such behaviour was inappropriate in relations between the finest families, which were, moreover, closely related to each other. Tirelli reached Warsaw at the beginning of March 1641. However, he was not received favourably. Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł expressed a critical opinion of him as well as his principal and wrote in his diary: "Here arrived (...) a monk from the congregation of St Augustine, of Italian nationality, a cunning and wise man who, under the guise of other matters, was in fact sent to once again persuade our princess to marry Leopold's son (...) Because the mother, an Italian, a Florentine, out of her innate cunning, insisted on announcing the marriage".⁵¹ Although the Grand Chancellor of Lithuania was not a fan of this marriage from the very beginning, at

⁴⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 171.

⁵⁰ John Casimir Vasa to Claudia de Medici, Warsaw, 15 XII 1640, HHStA, Familienakten, Karton 28, fos 32–33.

⁵¹ A.S. Radziwiłł, *Pamiętnik...*, p. 237.

that moment his views did not differ significantly from the position of the royal court which had already given up pushing this project against the will of the princess. The unpleasant duty of communicating this to Claudia de Medici once again fell to John Casimir. In a letter to the archduchess, the prince gave the reasons for his sister's reluctance to enter into the marriage that had been negotiated for four years and made it clear that there should be no further pressure on this matter.⁵²

The regent of Tyrol kept the imperial court informed of the difficulties, and on her order, Dr Issak Volmar provided Ferdinand III with a package of documents⁵³ illustrating the change in the position of the Polish court regarding the proposed marriage. The archduchess asked the emperor, as the main guardian of her son – who was a minor – for advice. She was outraged by the doubts raised by the Polish side regarding the physical and mental maturity of the groom. She countered them by stating that Prince John Casimir had been pleased with the stature and disposition of Ferdinand Charles during his stay in Innsbruck.⁵⁴ She also believed that the royal court had set financial demands that were too high, postulating that the princess be given a price-bride equal to the dowry and secured with appropriately profitable estates. Finally, after receiving the imperial response to Volmar's letter (26 March 1641),⁵⁵ the archduchess decided to break off the marriage negotiations of which she informed Ferdinand III by letter.⁵⁶ She justified her decision by saying that the Polish side was too unreliable. In addition, she considered

⁵² John Casimir Vasa to Claudia de Medici, s.l. s.d., HHStA, Familienakten, Karton 28, fos 54–54v.

⁵³ In the HHStA, Familienakten, Karton 28, there is a folder with documents describing the last phase of negotiations regarding the marriage of Princess Anna Catherine Constance and Archduke Charles Ferdinand. The documents sent by Volmar to Vienna (17 March 1641) included copies of three letters from John Casimir addressed to Claudia de Medici dated 15 December 1640 and 17 January 1641, undated, written in March 1641, as well as copies of the Archduchess's letters to King Wladyslaw IV and Queen Cecilia Renata, dated 25 January 1641, information on the state of negotiations as of 15 March 1641, report by Carlo Tirelli. HHStA, Familienakten, Karton 28, fos 31–56v.

⁵⁴ S. Weiss, *Claudia de' Medici. Eine italienische Prinzessin als Landesfürstin von Tirol (1604–1648)*, Innsbruck-Wien 2004, p. 238.

⁵⁵ Emperor Ferdinand to Claudia de Medici, Regensburg, 26 III 1641, HHStA, Familienakten, Karton 28, fos 57–58v.

⁵⁶ Claudia de Medici to Emperor Ferdinand III, Innsbruck 9 IV 1641, HHStA, Familienakten, Karton 28, fos 59–59v.

Anna Catherine Constance's feelings for Charles Ferdinand to be not strong enough for the marriage plans to be implemented.

However, the failure of the talks regarding the Tyrolean marriage of the princess did not result in retaliation by the imperial court against the Polish Vasas. Emperor Ferdinand III soon took a favourable attitude to the marriage of Anna Catherine Constance to Philip Wilhem Wittelsbach, Duke of Neuburg. He even helped to obtain a papal dispensation due to the close relationship of the fiancées, whose by then deceased mothers – Queen Constance Habsburg and Bavarian princess Magdalena Wittelsbach – were cousins.⁵⁷

The royal family trip to the Habsburg lands in 1638 certainly did not meet all the expectations of the participants of the trip. However, the preserved source material does not provide an answer as to what exactly their hopes were for this expedition and what political, diplomatic, and dynastic goals the Polish Vasas wanted to achieve. The authors of the available accounts did not know the subject of the king and emperor's private conversations, and they often revolved around speculations and conjectures. They interpreted events guided by their system of values. They judged through the prism of prejudices and stereotypes. Despite the ceremonial clashes and the lack of visible political benefits, family ties were maintained after returning from Baden, as evidenced by Władysław IV's decision to make Emperor Ferdinand III and his wife, Empress Maria Anna, the godparents of his first-born son, Prince Sigismund Casimir (born 1 April 1640).⁵⁸

⁵⁷ M. Hengerer, *Kaiser Ferdinand III...*, p. 176.

⁵⁸ R. Skowron, "Budowanie prestiżu...", p. 65.

A SERVANT OF THREE MASTERS? PRINCE MAXIMILIAN II
OF DIETRICHSTEIN'S
DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO POLAND IN 1645

The role of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the foreign policies of the Habsburg imperial court and the Spanish royal court during the reign of the first two kings from the Vasa dynasty is not generally addressed in texts about the history of the Habsburgs' Central European monarchy or the Spanish monarchy. However, studies investigating this issue all reveal that this lack of interest is entirely unjustified.¹ During most of the above-mentioned period, good relations between both Habsburg monarchs and the Polish king represented the keystone of their policies in the East. The basis for this cooperation included not only military and political matters, but also dynastic ties – of which the most important were three marriages between monarchs from the Polish branch of the Vasa dynasty and female members of the Habsburgs' Styrian line. However, research into Habsburg–Polish relations in the period 1587–1648 brings not only insights into the Eastern policies of the emperor and the Spanish king, or Poland's policy towards the Habsburgs. Relations with Poland – and particularly with the Polish king – can also serve as a highly eloquent example that demonstrates how relations between the Spanish and Austrian

¹ See: A. Barwicka-Makula, *Od wrogości do przyjaźni. Habsburgowie austriaccy wobec Polski w latach 1587–1592*, Katowice 2019; P.P. Szpaczyński, *Mocarstwowe dążenia Zygmunta III w latach 1587–1618*, Kraków 2013; *The House of Vasa and The House of Austria. Correspondence from the Years 1587 to 1668. Part I. The Times of Sigismund III, 1587–1632*, ed by R. Skowron, Katowice 2016, vol. 1; R. Skowron, *Olivares, los Vasa y el Báltico. Polonia en la política internacional de España en los años 1621–1632*, Warszawa 2008 (*Olivares, Wazowie i Bałtyk. Polska w polityce zagranicznej Hiszpanii w latach 1621–1632*, Kraków 2002); Idem, *Pax i Mars. Polsko-hiszpańskie relacje polityczne w latach 1632–1648*, Kraków 2013; M. Conde Pazos, *La quiebra de un modelo dinástico. Relaciones entre la Casa de Austria y los Vasa de Polonia (1635–1668)*, Madrid 2022; B. Čechová, *Polsko-habsburské vztahy v době Ferdinanda III. a Vladislava IV. Dynastická diplomacie a treboňská zástavní držba*, Brno 2012 (dissertation thesis, Masaryk University).

Habsburgs functioned on a practical level: both sides worked together on issues related to Poland, yet in many cases their interests differed.

One example of inter-Habsburg cooperation in policy towards the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth is the extraordinary diplomatic mission undertaken by Maximilian II of Dietrichstein in 1645. Maximilian's tasks were to express the Spanish King Philip IV's condolences to Władysław IV on the death of his wife Cecilia Renata of Austria, to inform him about the death of Isabella of Bourbon, and also to sound out the possibilities of a further pro-Habsburg marriage alliance. Emperor Ferdinand III and the Spanish king, Philip IV, were well aware of the risk that Władysław IV could succumb to French diplomatic pressure when choosing his next bride. However, both displayed a striking level of indecision and passivity when it came to choosing their own candidate. Although Dietrichstein's mission has not escaped the attention of Polish and Spanish historians,² it is our opinion that the research potential of this topic has not yet been fully explored, as scholars have so far not taken into consideration relevant documents held by the Moravian Provincial Archive in Brno.³ This study investigates those documents in order to add new insights to our current knowledge of the mission, which can be viewed as one of the last endeavours of Habsburg diplomacy to prevent the Polish king, Władysław IV, from setting a new foreign policy course oriented towards France.

² Dietrichstein's mission was first investigated in some detail by R. Przeździecki, *Diplomatie et protocole à la cour de Pologne*, vol. II, Paris 1937, pp. 235–236 and W. Czaplński, *Władysław IV wobec wojny 30-letniej, 1637–1645*, Kraków 1937, pp. 99–101. Czaplński's study was based mainly on materials from the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv in Vienna. At the beginning of the new millennium, a new interpretation of the mission was presented by Ryszard Skowron, drawing on his outstanding knowledge of Spanish archives: R. Skowron, "Filip IV wobec drugiego małżeństwa Władysława IV", in: *Arx felicitatis, Księga ku czci Profesora Andrzeja Rottermunda w sześćdziesiątą rocznicę urodzin od przyjaciół, kolegów i współpracowników*, Warszawa 2001, pp. 613–617; Idem, *Pax i Mars...*, pp. 275–287. A similar set of sources was also used by Miguel Conde Pazos. M. Conde Pazos, *La monarquía católica y los confines orientales de la cristiandad, relaciones entre la Casa de Austria y los Vasos de Polonia*, Madrid 2016 (dissertation thesis, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), pp. 470–476.

³ Moravský zemský archiv v Brně, fond G 140 Rodinný archiv Dietrichsteinů [hereafter MZA Brno, RAD], inv. no. 106, box 30, fol. 1–92.

The beginning of the cooperation between the Habsburgs and the Vasa dynasty dates back to 1589, when the Treaty of Będzin and Bytom was signed. Sigismund (Zygmunt) III was convinced that an alliance with the emperor and the Spanish king would reinforce Poland's international position, as well as his own position, within the Commonwealth. For this reason, he welcomed the Habsburgs' initiative when they sought to include him in their concept of an international order based on the Catholic faith and the Counter-Reformation.⁴ Although Poland was not directly involved in the Thirty Years' War, during the reign of Sigismund III it was an unambiguous supporter of the Habsburg side. At the very outset of the conflict, in 1619, Sigismund sent 6,000 light cavalry troops (known as *lisowczycy*) to assist Ferdinand II. The troops intervened successfully in Transylvania and later participated in the decisive battle of the Bohemian estates' uprising at White Mountain (8 November 1620).⁵

The 1620s saw the emergence of unprecedented military and political cooperation between Poland and Spain. Olivares' project to create the Admiralty of the Northern Countries (*Almirantazgo de los Países Septentrionales*), whose aim was to gain control over the North Sea and the Baltic, ultimately ended in failure. The fleet was created and in early 1629 Sigismund's Polish vessels became a part of it, but later that year the Treaty of Lübeck was signed, as well as a French-brokered Polish-Swedish armistice. Both these agreements dealt a fatal blow to Olivares' project.⁶ A number of factors also contributed to this failure, but the main reason lay in the disparity between imperial and Spanish policies. Whereas Olivares wanted Poland to participate in the war within the Holy Roman Empire, the emperor took a more reserved stance towards cooperation with Sigismund III, as he feared Poland's ambition to control Silesia.⁷

⁴ U. Augustyniak, *Historia Polski 1572–1795*, Warszawa 2008, p. 595.

⁵ J. Macúrek, *České povstání r. 1618–1620 a Polsko*, Brno 1937.

⁶ For more on the topic see: R. Skowron, *Olivares, los Vasa y el Báltico... passim*; Also see: M. Wanner, "Albrecht z Valdštejna a severní maritimní plán", *Český časopis historický*, 106, 2008, pp. 536–561.

⁷ J. Leszczyński, *Władysław IV a Śląsk w latach 1644–1648*, Wrocław 1969; R. Skowron, "Los aliados de las esperanzas fallidas. La Casa de Austria y los Vasa de

In the early 1630s, the Polish-Habsburg alliance suffered a major blow with the death of Queen Constance (1631) and then Sigismund III himself (1632). Sigismund's successor, Władysław IV, was initially favoured in both Madrid and Vienna, and in 1637 his membership of the pro-Habsburg camp was further cemented by his marriage to Ferdinand II's daughter, Cecilia Renata. However, it was becoming increasingly clear that the political interests of the Vasas and the Habsburgs were diverging. The new character of relations with Poland was reflected in the alliance agreement signed in December 1636 by Ferdinand II and Władysław IV (and subsequently reaffirmed by Ferdinand III in 1637). For the Habsburgs it had no advantage, except for temporarily diverting the Polish king from his intention to forge an alliance with France.⁸ It is significant that the familial pact of 1636–37 was concluded solely between the Polish Vasas and the Austrian branch of the Habsburgs; it did not apply to the Spanish Habsburgs. Naturally the Spanish were interested in cooperation with Poland, but when the agreement was later scrutinized by the ambassador to the imperial court, the Count of Oñate, he concluded (rightly) that it was disadvantageous to Spain and he recommended that the king should not sign it.⁹

The most important new stimulus for Polish-Spanish cooperation following the collapse of the Baltic plan came in 1638, when Prince John Casimir (Jan Kazimierz) Vasa travelled to the Iberian Peninsula to become the Viceroy of Portugal. However, this pro-Habsburg step ultimately affected Spanish-Polish relations in a different manner than had originally been envisaged: on his journey, John Casimir fell into French captivity. The Spanish decided to exploit this situation and attempted to persuade Władysław IV to avenge his family's humiliation by declaring war on France. In 1638–40, secret Spanish-Polish negotiations on this issue were held in the Kingdom of Naples, resulting in an agreement that Poland and Spain would forge an alliance and Władysław would commit to declaring war on France. However, all these plans soon

Polonia (1598–1648)", in: *La dinastía de los Austria: las relaciones entre la Monarquía Católica y el Imperio*, vol. 2, ed. by J. Martínez Millán, R. González Cuerva, Madrid 2011, pp. 997–1022, here 1016–1018.

⁸ W. Czapliński, *Władysław IV wobec wojny...*, pp. 6–7; R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars...*, pp. 173–177.

⁹ M. Conde Pazos, *La monarquía...*, pp. 387–388.

had to be changed in order to adapt to new developments: in June 1640, John Casimir returned to Warsaw. Władysław then began making it clear that due to Poland's political system, he could not declare war on France without consent from the Sejm, and for the same reason he could not accept the condition that he would only conclude a peace treaty with France if Spain granted its consent. He therefore refused to ratify the agreement, which brought an end to the project.¹⁰

The emperor's constant rejections of Władysław's offers to act as a peace-broker in the Holy Roman Empire, as well as the frosty reception the Polish king received when the two monarchs met in 1638 at Nikolsburg (Mikulov), contributed substantially to the growing influence wielded by French diplomacy at the Polish royal court. A key factor in the strengthening of Polish-French relations was a mission to Warsaw undertaken in 1644 by the Count of Brégy, Nicolas de Flécelles. The original aim of his journey was to congratulate the king on the birth of his daughter. However, just a few days after de Brégy had been issued with his instructions, news arrived in Paris that the child had been stillborn and that Władysław's wife Cecilia Renata had also died. The count therefore set out for Warsaw in late August 1644 for the official purpose of expressing condolences to the king for his wife's death. The count remained in Warsaw for around one month, and during his stay he succeeded in gaining the confidence of the king and his court. In lengthy and intensive discussions, de Brégy expressed his support for Władysław's plans to act as a peace-broker in the Holy Roman Empire and proposed that the king should strengthen the newly formed Polish-French alliance by marrying a French noblewoman. When he returned to Paris in early November 1644, the decision on Poland's new pro-French foreign policy orientation had already essentially been taken.¹¹

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, pp. 1017–1019.

¹¹ On de Brégy's mission, see: M. Serwański, *Francja wobec Polski w dobie wojny trzydziestoletniej (1618–1648)*, Poznań 1986, pp. 317–333.

The news of Cecilia Renata's death in Vilnius on 24 March 1644, reached Vienna within no more than three weeks.¹² Shortly afterwards, Count Bubna was sent to the Polish royal court in order to express the emperor's deepest condolences to King Władysław IV. Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł wrote about this brief mission, stating that on 12 May, "*the imperial ambassador de Bubnowo [sic] arrived to meet the King and express his condolences at the Queen's death*", and that "*after fulfilling this mission, the ambassador was received by the Royal Chancellor, after which he left*".¹³ As Count Bubna was returning to Vienna, the news of the queen's death had still not yet reached Madrid. Philip IV learned of the sad news no later than 1 June, and funeral rites were held in Madrid during June.¹⁴ Like the emperor, the Spanish king too decided to send an ambassador to the Polish court to express his condolences and a session of the Royal State Council (*Consejo de Estado*) was convened on 25 June for this purpose. However, expressing condolences was not the only aim of the mission. The Spanish ambassador was instructed to find out what Władysław's future plans were and whether he would be willing to marry one of the ladies from the pro-Habsburg camp. It was clear in Madrid that the Polish king's next marriage could have far-reaching consequences. Only a new marriage alliance between the Habsburgs (or rather their supporters) and the Vasas could ensure that the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth would remain a Habsburg ally.¹⁵ For this reason, Philip IV had to decide which of the ladies he would propose as Władysław's future bride. The greatest support among the Royal State Council was for the Regent of Tyrol Claudia de' Medici (1604–48) and her daughter Isabella Clara.¹⁶ However, the widow and daughter

¹² This is evident from a later dated 13 April, in which the Spanish ambassador in Vienna, the Marquis of Castel Rodrigo, informed Philip IV of the entire matter. R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars...*, p. 275.

¹³ "12go Maia. Król powrócił do Warszawy. Posel téż cesarski de Bubnowo przybył do króla z kondolencją nad śmiercią królowej. Po odprawionej legacji posel częstowany od kanclerza kor. Odjechał": *Pamiętniki Albrychta Stanisława X. Radziwiłła, Kanclerza W. Litewskiego*, sv. II, ed. by E. Raczyński, Poznań 1839, pp. 137–140.

¹⁴ Their description can be found in R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars...*, pp. 277–279.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, pp. 279–280.

¹⁶ Both ladies were proposed to the State Council by the Spanish ambassador in Vienna, Manuel de Moura y Corte Real, the Marquis of Castel Rodrigo. *Ibidem*, p. 280.

of Archduke Leopold V were not the only candidates for the role of Wladyslaw's next wife. A former ambassador to the imperial court, the Marquis of Castañeda, Sancho de Monroy y Zúñiga, preferred Maria Gonzaga of Mantua, who was known for her Habsburg sympathies. Castañeda also played a decisive role in the appointment of Prince Maximilian II of Dietrichstein as the diplomat to undertake the mission.¹⁷

It was quite common for the Spanish Habsburgs to nominate aristocrats from the lands controlled by the Austrian Habsburgs as diplomats for missions to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.¹⁸ In matters related to Poland, the Spanish king usually attempted to act in accordance with the emperor's interests. His priority was not to consolidate his own power at the court in Warsaw, but to strengthen Vienna's position as much as possible.¹⁹ However, the choice of an Austrian nobleman as the ambassador also had practical benefits, as it guaranteed that the mission would be completed quickly and without great expense. The Poles were also closer in their mentality to Central European aristocrats than they were to Spaniards or Italians, and the similarity of the Czech and Polish languages was also an undeniable advantage.²⁰ Maximilian II of Dietrichstein was probably not an active

¹⁷ Archivo General de Simancas, Estado 2345 [hereafter AGS, E. 2345], session of the State Council, 25 June 1644. The status and influence of the Marquis of Castañeda is eloquently demonstrated by the fact that he was the only advisor whose preference during the selection process was for Maximilian II of Dietrichstein. The only other councillor to mention Dietrichstein was the Marquis of Loriana, though only as the third choice. The authors are grateful to Professor Ryszard Skowron for providing a copy of this document and several other documents held by the Archive General de Simancas.

¹⁸ E.g. in 1612, Abraham von Dohna (Abrahám z Doňína) was dispatched to the Warsaw court as the Spanish king's extraordinary ambassador. V. Meysztowicz, "Relatio Burgavii Abraham de Dohna, oratoris Regis Hispaniae, de missione, quam a. 1612 ad Regem Poloniae absolvit", *Antemurale*, 12, 1968, pp. 77–88.

¹⁹ M. Conde Pazos, "Spanish Diplomats in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the Thirty Years' War", *Eastern European History Review*, 4, 2021, pp. 67–78, here pp. 69–70.

²⁰ This is very clearly illustrated by the words of Jiřík Častvice (1587): "Please note that His Grace the King of Spain is dispatching a legate on his behalf to the Kingdom of Poland, and I require people with a knowledge of the Polish language and customs to travel with him to that Kingdom", in: Státní okresní archiv Svitavy, pracoviště Litomyšl, Pernštejnská kartotéka, Jiřík Častvic Janovi z Pernštejna, (Litomyšl, 3 June 1587). The original is located in Lobkowitzký archiv Nelahozeves, LRR, B/160, fol. 80–81.

speaker of Slavic languages, but the courtiers who accompanied him to Warsaw included people from Moravia and Bohemia.²¹

A further reason for choosing Maximilian was his membership of the elite stratum of the pro-Habsburg nobility. The Dietrichsteins were among the wealthiest and most politically influential families in the Habsburgs' Central European monarchy. Since the 16th century, the family had become known for its immeasurable loyalty to the ruling dynasty and its unshakeable faith in the Habsburgs' dynastic policy. This relationship was strengthened by the close blood ties between the Dietrichsteins and leading families in the Spanish monarchy.²² Maximilian was the grandson of the imperial ambassador in Madrid, Adam of Dietrichstein, and his Spanish wife, Margarita de Cardona; in 1614 he was made a Knight of the Order of Calatrava and a Commander of the Encomienda of Cañaverál; and in 1635 he finally received the Habsburgs' highest decoration, the Order of the Golden Fleece. He began his career at the Brussels court of the Governor General Archduke Albrecht; in 1616 he became the Supreme Equerry to Emperor Matthias; and from 1622 to 1637 he was the lord chamberlain at the court of the Empress Eleonora Gonzaga. However, despite Maximilian's high status, for many years he remained in the shadow of his uncle; it was not until the death of Cardinal Francis of Dietrichstein in 1636 that Maximilian became the new head of the family.²³ His nomination to lead the 1645 Spanish diplomatic mission can – to some extent – be understood

²¹ A relatively detailed insight into Dietrichstein's entourage is provided by two surviving consignations and one *furierzettel*, in: MZA Brno, RAD, inv. no. 106, box 30, fol. 63–64, consignment of Dietrichstein's mission, 22 January 1645; fol. 65, consignment of Dietrichstein's mission, 4 February 1645; fol. 5–7, *furierzettel* of Dietrichstein's mission, 8 January 1645.

²² The Dietrichsteins' position in the Habsburgs' clientelistic network has recently been mapped by S. Luska, *Dietrichsteinové a Španělsko. Dvořanství, diplomacie a klientelismus ve šlechtické kariéře konfesního věku*, Brno 2022 (dissertation thesis, Masaryk University). Also see: B. Baďura, "La casa de Dietrichstein y España", *Ibero-Americana Pragensia*, 33, 1999, pp. 47–67; F. Edelmayer, "Ehre, Geld, Karriere. Adam von Dietrichstein im Dienst Kaiser Maximilians II", in: *Kaiser Maximilian II. Kultur und Politik im 16. Jahrhundert*, ed. by F. Edelmayer, A. Kohler, Wien-München 1992 (Wiener Beiträge zur Geschichte der Neuzeit, Bd. 19), pp. 109–142.

²³ Maximilian II of Dietrichstein has so far largely escaped historians' attention. Current knowledge of his life is summarized in S. Luska, *Dietrichsteinové...*, pp. 286–294. However, this biographical text is not without errors; it incorrectly describes Maximilian as the lord chamberlain at the court of Maria Anna of Austria.

as a symbolic affirmation of his new position within his own family. The Marquis of Castañeda defended Dietrichstein's candidacy by noting that he was so strongly inclined towards the king of Spain that he would certainly deserve Philip IV's nomination for the role of ambassador in recognition of his gratitude for Maximilian's services.²⁴

There were also other reasons why Dietrichstein was a suitable candidate, though it is not clear whether these reasons were discussed at sessions of the State Council. Unlike the other candidates, he had personal experience of the Polish Vasas and their court. In August 1637 the Hofburg had hosted the wedding ceremony for Cecilia Renata and Władysław IV, who was physically represented by his younger brother. On their journey to Poland, John Casimir Vasa and Cecilia Renata stayed with the Dietrichsteins in Nikolsburg (Mikulov) and Maximilian – as the emperor's commissioner – accompanied the couple throughout their journey from the Hofburg to the Polish border. An opportunity for another meeting, this time with the king personally, presented itself just one year later when Władysław decided to visit the spa in the Lower Austrian town of Baden. On his journey through Moravia, Dietrichstein played a leading role in looking after the king and his entourage, which numbered around 1300 people. The king stayed at the Dietrichsteins' palace in Brno (Brünn) as well as in Mikulov itself, and he also stayed at the family's residence in Mikulov on his return journey from Baden. It was there that he met personally with Ferdinand III – though the meeting did little to contribute to amicable relations between the brothers-in-law. It was beset by ceremonial conflicts, an inability to reach a satisfactory political agreement, and also (in Władysław's case) health-related problems. Nevertheless, despite these inauspicious circumstances, it should not be underestimated how important this meeting was in forging ties between the two parties. It was not a frequent occurrence for the imperial court to interact directly (albeit briefly) with the Polish royal court. During the congress, Dietrichstein had the opportunity to become acquainted with a number

²⁴ “Príncipe Ditrístain que es del Tuson y vasallo del Emperador mui versado en negocios y tan affecto al servicio de V. Magd. que merece muestre V. Magd. satisfaccion de su persona encomendandole esta embajada”, in: AGS, E. 2345, El Consejo de Estado, Madrid, 25 de junio de 1644.

of Władysław's close associates, most of whom he later met with during his own diplomatic mission – Adam Kazanowski, Jerzy Ossoliński, Albrycht Stanisław Radziwiłł, Kasper Dönhoff, and also the king's confessor, Stanisław Pstrokoński.²⁵

A further reason that contributed to Dietrichstein's nomination as the ambassador was the fact that he was respected by the Marquis of Castañeda – indeed, the two may have been personal friends. The Spanish diplomat frequently came into contact with Maximilian and his uncle Francis when he headed the Spanish embassy in Vienna (1633–41), and he maintained regular correspondence with the two men for many years.²⁶ Perhaps an even more convincing argument that persuaded Castañeda of Dietrichstein's suitability for the role was the fact that he was trusted by the Emperor's widow, Eleonora Gonzaga.²⁷

ELEONORA GONZAGA AND HER ROLE

Eleonora Gonzaga played a more important role in Habsburg policy during the Thirty Years' War than historiographers have previously ascribed to her.²⁸ Following her marriage to Emperor Ferdinand II in 1622, she became the highest-ranking member of her original family and she constantly lobbied the Viennese court on behalf of their interests. When the death of Eleonora's brother, Vincenzo II – the last in the line of Gonzaga dukes – sparked the War of the Mantuan Succession, she stood determinedly against the interests of Spanish diplomacy and, with immense obstinacy, fought for the emperor to acknowledge

²⁵ B. Čechová, *Polsko-habsburské vztahy...*, pp. 97–99, 106–109, 111–113.

²⁶ A brief account of the Marquis of Castañeda's mission, is given in P. Marek, *La embajada española en la corte imperial 1558–1641. Figuras de los embajadores y estrategias clientelares*, Praha 2013, pp. 128–141. Castañeda's letters to Francis of Dietrichstein are held at MZA Brno, RAD, box 430. The Marquis of Castañeda expressed his attitudes to the Dietrichsteins *inter alia* in a letter sent from Madrid on 22 October 1641 to Maximilian II of Dietrichstein, in: MZA Brno, RAD, box 447, fol. 18–20.

²⁷ As has been mentioned above, Maximilian II of Dietrichstein was the lord chamberlain at the court of Eleonora Gonzaga: K. Keller, *Hofdamen. Amsträgerinnen im Wiener Hofstaat des 17. Jahrhunderts*, Wien 2005, p. 256.

²⁸ M. Schnettger, "Die Kaiserinnen aus dem Haus Gonzaga: Eleonora die Ältere und Eleonora die Jüngere", in: *Nur die Frau des Kaisers? Kaiserinnen in der Frühen Neuzeit*, ed. by B. Braun, K. Keller, M. Schnettger, Wien 2016, pp. 117–140, here especially pp. 135–137.

the hereditary rights of Charles I Gonzaga-Nevers. In early 1628, the bishop of Mantua, Vincenzo Agnelli Soardi, a diplomat to the imperial court, correctly described Eleonora as the central figure in the ongoing negotiations: “...*non si fa cosa alcuna senza partecipazione dell’Imperatrice, direttrice di tutto con notabile affetto*”.²⁹ Although Eleonora’s efforts were ultimately in vain and her influence over Ferdinand II proved insufficient to compete with the political and economic pressure exerted by his Spanish relatives, she nevertheless won respect for the role she had played, both in Papal Rome and at other leading European courts.

By contrast, members of the Spanish branch of the Habsburgs expressed their strong condemnation of the empress’s political activities.³⁰ During the War of the Mantuan Succession, Philip IV and his courtiers made their attitude clearly evident not only to Eleonora Gonzaga herself, but also to the lord chamberlain at her court, Maximilian II of Dietrichstein, who, since 1626, had been unsuccessfully attempting to secure the award of the Order of the Golden Fleece. Although Dietrichstein’s aspirations met with understanding from the imperial couple, with Ferdinand II and Eleonora sending numerous letters in his support to the imperial diplomat in Madrid, Franz Christoph Khevenhüller, Maximilian had to wait eight years before finally receiving the Habsburgs’ highest honour. This delay can be attributed primarily to the tense relations between Empress Eleonora Gonzaga and the king of Spain, Philip IV (and his diplomats). When, in December 1631, the State Council finally expressed its consent to Dietrichstein’s induction into the Order of the Golden Fleece, the special Spanish diplomat, Cesare Gonzaga de Guastalla, was instructed to secretly inform Maximilian that he had been granted this favour as an expression of gratitude for the services that members of his family had performed in the past

²⁹ See: his letter to Charles I Gonzaga Nevers, Duke of Mantua (Prague, 28 February 1628). Cited from G. Malacarne, *I Gonzaga-Nevers: morte di una dinastia: da Carlo I a Ferdinando Carlo (1628–1708)*, Modena 2008, pp. 329–330 (I Gonzaga di Mantova. Una stirpe per una capitale europea. Vol. 5).

³⁰ AGS, E. 2333, fols. 79–80 (Madrid, 11 March 1632): El Consejo de Estado al rey Felipe IV; *Ibidem*, E. 2333: *El Consejo de Estado a 3 de agosto sobre lo que contienen las cartas de Jacques Bruneau y fray Diego de Quiroga para V. M. y el conde-duque d San Lúcar desde 28 de mayo hasta 22 de junio 1632*; *Ibidem*, E. 2329, fol. 30 (s.d., s.l.): El Consejo de Estado al rey Felipe IV.

for the ruling dynasty, and that the empress's intercessions had played no role whatsoever in the decision.³¹

However, Eleonora also played a role in political affairs after the conclusion of the Treaty of Regensburg (13 October 1630) and the Armistice of Cherasco (6 April 1631). Mostly without success, she attempted to induce the imperial generals to return the treasures that they had looted while pillaging her hometown in July 1630.³² Alongside Maria Gonzaga (the wife of Charles Gonzaga-Nevers, the son and heir of the new Duke of Mantua), she also played an active role in securing the reconciliation between Mantua and Vienna. However, this was only possible after the death of Charles I Gonzaga-Nevers (on 22 September 1637). From that moment on, and for the next ten years, Eleonora's widowed niece presided over the Duchy of Mantua, ruling as regent for her son Charles II Gonzaga-Nevers while he was a minor.³³

However, while Maria Gonzaga was presiding over the Duchy of Mantua, Eleonora Gonzaga's position became substantially worse, and after the death of Emperor Ferdinand II (on 15 February 1637) she had to withdraw from Vienna to Graz. She was forced to do so by her tense relations with the Spanish wife of her stepson Ferdinand III, the new Empress Maria Anna of Austria.³⁴ Maria Anna, who from her arrival in Vienna had acted as the foremost promoter and defender of the Spanish monarchy's interests, simply could not forgive Eleonora Gonzaga for having rejected the Spanish candidate Ferrante Gonzaga of

³¹ AGS, E. 2332, fol. 85 (Madrid, 20 December 1631): El Consejo de Estado al rey Felipe IV. On the award of the Order of the Golden Fleece to Maximilian II of Dietrichstein: P. Marek, "La red clientelar española en la corte imperial en la época de Olivares", in: *La Corte de Felipe IV (1621–1665) Reconfiguración de la Monarquía católica. De la Monarquía Universal a la Monarquía Católica. La Guerra de los Treinta Años*, Tomo IV, vol. 1, J. Martínez Millán, R. González Cuerva, M. Rivero Rodríguez, Madrid 2018, pp. 117–172, here pp. 158–159.

³² M. Schnettger, *Die Kaiserinnen...*, p. 136.

³³ A biographical text on Maria Gonzaga, including references to sources and literature, has been written by R. Tamalio, *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani*, vol. 70, 2008, available online: https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/maria-gonzaga-duchessa-di-monferrato-e-di-mantova_%28Dizionario-Biografico%29/ [retrieved 4 June 2023].

³⁴ The role played by Maria Anna of Austria at the imperial court in Vienna is described by R. González Cuerva, "Mi mayor embajadora. La Emperatriz María Ana de Austria, agente española en Viena", *Manuscrits: Revista d'història moderna*, 38, 2018, pp. 91–108 (Número monotemático: La Guerra de los Treinta Años).

Guastalla during the Mantuan War, instead supporting the French-based Charles I Gonzaga-Nevers. However, after just a few months of her Styrian exile, Eleonora was once again able to return to Vienna, where she moved into her new residence Katterburg, which was built in 1640 and renamed Schönbrunn in 1642.³⁵ Even over subsequent years, relations between the widowed empress and the ruling Habsburg couple were not entirely ideal, though in the words of Mark Hengerer, there was at least a degree of “amicable reticence”.³⁶ The wounds caused by the War of the Mantuan Succession had healed over time, but the scars still remained.

Nevertheless, it is evident that Ferdinand II’s widow played a key role in the negotiations regarding King Władysław’s next marriage. The Spanish king, Philip IV, and Emperor Ferdinand III displayed a degree of passivity and indecision that at first sight is difficult to understand, as they were reluctant to propose a specific candidate as Władysław’s future bride. By contrast, Eleonora Gonzaga had a very clear idea of a suitable wife for the Polish king. With the help of the Marquis of Castañeda and Maximilian II of Dietrichstein, she was determined to ensure that the king married a “Habsburg” bride, her widowed niece Maria Gonzaga – who had received such strong support from the Marquis at the sessions of the State Council.³⁷ The Spanish king was not opposed to Eleonora’s proposal, even though the State Council had agreed on a different candidate – the already-mentioned Isabella Clara, daughter of Claudia de’ Medici.

Although it was quite common among the Habsburgs for women to negotiate marriage alliances, the passivity shown by Ferdinand III and Philip IV with regard to Władysław IV’s marriage was startling – and it even surprised the Polish king himself. At one of his audiences with Dietrichstein he complained that ten months had passed since Cecilia Renata’s death, yet during that entire time he had not received any offers

³⁵ M. Schnettger, *Die Kaiserinnen...*, p. 124.

³⁶ M. Hengerer, *Kaiser Ferdinand III. 1608–1657: Eine Biographie*, Wien-Köln-Weimar 2012, p. 128 (Schriftenreihe der Kommission für Neuere Geschichte Österreichs 107).

³⁷ This is evident, e.g. from a report (written in Italian) sent by Maximilian II of Dietrichstein to the Spanish King Philip IV after the mission had ended. MZA Brno, RAD, inv. no. 106, box 30, fol. 21–27, undated report by Maximilian II of Dietrichstein to the Spanish king.

of a new marriage either from Vienna or Madrid; the only person to raise the matter with him had been the widowed empress.³⁸ It is our opinion that there was a reason behind the Habsburgs' reticence, and that the role played by Eleonora Gonzaga – which historians have previously considered of little importance with regard to Władysław's planned marriage – in fact deserves closer attention.

At the Warsaw court, Maximilian II of Dietrichstein was an ambassador of the Spanish king, and he himself described his mission as a Spanish royal mission (*kbönig[liche] spanische ambassada*). Despite this, however, the instructions he received from Philip IV, written on 15 July 1644 in the Aragonese town of Fraga, reveal very little about the actual purpose of his legation. The main reason for this is that the instructions were in fact written more than six months before his arrival in Warsaw. The document only mentions the question of the king's marriage in very general terms. Dietrichstein was to attempt to prevent Władysław IV from marrying in such a way as to extricate himself from his existing alliance with the Austrian dynasty. However, the Spanish king left it up to the ambassador (or the preferences of Emperor Ferdinand III) to decide what steps he would take to achieve this goal. Although the instructions mention two potential brides (Claudia de' Medici and her daughter Isabella Clara – though the latter is not mentioned by name, merely as Claudia's eldest daughter), the diplomat was not to present them as candidates recommended by the Spanish king.³⁹

Even the two subsequent instructions given to Maximilian in 1644 by Emperor Ferdinand III in Linz were no more precise regarding this matter. In fact, they were quite the opposite, only mentioning military and political cooperation between the Habsburg Monarchy and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, along with the emperor's stance on Władysław's demands regarding Silesia. Dietrichstein was to persuade Władysław to support the emperor against the Transylvanian Prince George Rákóczi,⁴⁰ but the question of the Polish king's future bride

³⁸ *Ibidem*, also e.g. AGS, E. 2346, session of the State Council, 30 September 1645.

³⁹ MZA Brno, RAD, inv. no. 106, box 30, fol. 41–42, Spanish instructions for Maximilian II of Dietrichstein, Fraga, 15 July 1644.

⁴⁰ The instructions given by Emperor Ferdinand III are held at MZA Brno, RAD, inv. no. 106, box 30, fol. 8–12, Emperor's instructions to Maximilian II of Dietrichstein,

is not even mentioned. Nevertheless, a report sent by Dietrichstein to Ferdinand III after the mission clearly indicates that shortly after departing from Linz, he visited the emperor's widow in Sankt Pölten where she urged him to propose to the Polish king that he marry her niece Maria Gonzaga, the Duchess of Mantua.⁴¹ In view of the fact that Dietrichstein also mentioned his instructions from Eleonora Gonzaga in his report presented to Philip IV after his mission (in which he also gave a detailed description of how he had attempted to achieve her goals during private audiences with Władysław), it seems unlikely that Eleonora's proposals were a private initiative – despite the fact that Dietrichstein attempted to present them as such during his Warsaw mission. It is evident that both Philip IV and Ferdinand III were aware of the empress's activity in this regard and they raised no objection to it. We can even assume that the steps taken by Eleonora and her lord chamberlain, Maximilian of Dietrichstein, were highly beneficial to the interests of Spanish and imperial diplomacy.

In order to understand the stance that Philip and Ferdinand took in the matter of Władysław's marriage, a key source of insights is a report dating from 31 March 1645, in which the State Council informed Philip about the contents of a letter sent from the Viennese court in late December 1644 by the Spanish diplomat Agustín Navarro Burena.⁴² The letter states that Dietrichstein had received an instruction not to mention any specific bride to Władysław, as there were grounds to fear that the Polish king could exploit such an offer in order to pursue his own political and economic goals. No more information is given concerning the nature of these goals, but hints can be found in Dietrichstein's final report in which he informed Philip about what had transpired during his audiences with the Polish king. Władysław had been primarily concerned with ensuring that the Habsburgs would give him the opportunity to act as a peace-broker in the Holy Roman Empire and in Hungary. Spain was to compensate Władysław for the

12 December 1644 and fol. 2–4 of the Emperor's instructions to Maximilian II of Dietrichstein, 15 December 1644.

⁴¹ The report is likewise stored there. *Ibidem*, inv. no. 106, box 30, fol. 12–18, undated report by Maximilian II of Dietrichstein to the emperor.

⁴² AGS, E. 2346, report of the Spanish State Council, Madrid 31 March 1645.

loss of the Polish fleet that his predecessor Sigismund III Vasa had dispatched to Wismar as part of the Baltic plan.⁴³ Władysław had also demanded compensation for the fact that in 1557 the Spaniards had falsified the last will of the Polish Queen Bona Sforza, and on the basis of the counterfeit will they had appropriated her Duchies of Bari and Rossano.⁴⁴ Finally, Władysław IV expected Spain to provide benefits and pensions for his brothers Charles Ferdinand and John Casimir. Charles Ferdinand was to be appointed as the Archbishop of Toledo, and John Casimir wanted to become the viceroy in one of the countries ruled by Spain.⁴⁵ However, Władysław also made demands of Emperor Ferdinand III. He was particularly keen to secure the exchange of the Třeboň estate in South Bohemia (which the Habsburgs had given to him in lien in the late 1630s) for the Silesian Duchy of Opole and Racibórz (Oppeln und Ratibor), which was to be granted to him as a fiefdom.⁴⁶

Whereas the French planned to accommodate Władysław's wishes at least with regard to his role as a peace-broker in the Holy Roman Empire, the Habsburgs refused even to discuss the topic. We can only speculate as to whether their unwillingness to negotiate was influenced by the generally held assumption that the Polish king would take a French bride; indeed, they themselves admitted that they could not compete with the French offer. At a session of the State Council, the Marquis of Santa Cruz openly stated that the French were more adept at forging alliances than the Spanish, and that they would be capable of promising anything to the Polish king purely in order to turn him against the Habsburgs.⁴⁷ This may well be the reason why Philip IV and Ferdinand III were reluctant to present Władysław with an official offer

⁴³ For more on the topic see R. Skowron, *Olivares, los Vasa y el Báltico...*, pp. 189-290.

⁴⁴ These were known as the Neapolitan sums. The debt also included a sizeable loan that the same queen had granted to the Habsburgs in 1556. Although Polish diplomats had demanded the repayment of this debt for more than a century, their efforts were in vain. U. Augustynowicz, *Historia...*, p. 596.

⁴⁵ R. Skowron, *Pax i Mars...*, p. 317; Idem, *Los aliados...*, p. 1009.

⁴⁶ For more information on the topic see B. Čechová, *Habsbursko-polské vzťahy...*, pp. 116-125.

⁴⁷ “y es sin duda que los franceses sabran mejor usar de amistad que acá porque por la cercania de Francia siempre le imbiaran muchas Embajadas y le prometeran grandes cosas para ponerle en desconfianza con V. Magd. y enemistad”, in: AGS, E. 2346, session of the State Council, 30 September 1645.

of marriage. The expected refusal would not only have damaged the reputation of the Habsburg candidate but could also have discredited the entire Habsburg dynasty. Worrying rumours from Poland were already circulating in Vienna, claiming that Władysław had spoken with some disrespect about the possibility of concluding a new pro-Habsburg marriage alliance.⁴⁸

Although it was evident to the Habsburgs that they could not merely look on from the sidelines as their long-term ally defected to the enemy camp, their hands were to a large extent tied by their desire to maintain the dynasty's reputation, as well as the demands that Władysław had made. One potential way out of this complicated situation presented itself in connection with the activities of Eleonora Gonzaga. She could present the Polish king with a sufficiently attractive marriage offer which would serve to strengthen the ties between the Habsburgs and the Vasas, yet without forcing the Habsburgs to make any political or economic concessions to Władysław – let alone risking the possibility that a refusal of the offer would blemish their dynastic honour. Although Eleonora's proposal to Władysław was relayed to him via the Spanish king's ambassador, Maximilian II of Dietrichstein, and although it was obviously in accordance with the Habsburgs' political interests, Eleonora was not the wife of a living monarch and therefore the offer could be presented as her purely personal initiative, motivated first and foremost by the interests of her original family. The fact that Dietrichstein used to be the lord chamberlain at Eleonora's court gave this interpretation a ring of credibility.

The sources used for this study do not enable us to determine whether the originator of this strategy was Eleonora Gonzaga herself. Her active role in the Habsburgs' marriage policy is well-known and suggests that this may indeed be the case.⁴⁹ However, it is also possible that the entire plan was thought up by imperial courtiers or Spanish diplomats in Vienna, whether at the embassy itself or in Maria Anna's court. This is suggested by the fact that from the very outset, the Marquis

⁴⁸ AGS, E. 2346, session of the State Council, 31 March 1645.

⁴⁹ E.g. in 1651 she played an important role in arranging the marriage of Ferdinand III to her niece Eleonora Gonzaga, the daughter of Maria Gonzaga. M. Schnettger, *Die Kaiserinnen...*, p. 125.

of Castañeda was taking the same steps as Eleonora Gonzaga – and after his return to Madrid, Castañeda still corresponded regularly with many representatives of the imperial court. In this context, it is worth mentioning that Maximilian II was accompanied on his Polish mission by men from the young empress's inner circle: the lord chamberlain of his itinerant court was Antonio de Castro,⁵⁰ and his cupbearer was the above-mentioned Doctor Agustín Navarro Burena.⁵¹ During his brief stay in Warsaw, Dietrichstein also remained in written contact with Diego de Quiroga, the influential confessor of Empress Maria Anna and the *éminence grise* of the Viennese court. Maria Anna was also undoubtedly well-informed about each step that Dietrichstein took.

CONCLUSION

Dietrichstein spent two weeks at the Polish royal court where he was granted two public and three private audiences with the king, took part in the funeral rites for the deceased Spanish Queen Isabella of Bourbon, and on 3 March returned safely to his residence in Nikolsburg (Mikulov) where it is likely that he wrote his final report on the mission for Ferdinand III and Philip IV. Shortly afterwards, he also presented a report on his mission to the Spanish ambassador in Vienna, the Marquis of Castel Rodrigo. In it, he noted Władysław's displeasure at the fact that the Habsburgs had still not presented him with an official offer of marriage. Castel Rodrigo also received the same complaint from the Polish resident at the imperial court. The matter of the Polish king's marriage was discussed once more at the State Council in late September 1645; the councillors ruled unanimously that Philip IV should present Władysław IV with a more specific suggestion than Dietrichstein had been able to do. This task was assigned to the Baron of Auchy who was

⁵⁰ “auff wohenschitz Ihrer May[estät] Kayßerin Maria guardas damas undt haubtman in der favorita”, in: MZA Brno, RAD, inv. no. 106, box 30, fol. 63–64, consignation of Dietrichstein's mission, 22 January 1645; fol. 65, consignation of Dietrichstein's mission, 4 February 1645; fol. 5–7, *furierzettel* of Dietrichstein's mission, 8 January 1645.

⁵¹ *Ibidem*. In 1639, Doctor Agustín Navarro was listed as the Secretary to the Empress Maria Anna. See *Hofstaatsverzeichnisse. Hofstaat Kaiserin Maria Anna 1639*, in: Patronage- und Klientelsysteme am Wiener Hof, available online: <https://patronage-wiener-hof.univie.ac.at/> [retrieved 20 Feb. 2023].

preparing to depart from Italy on a diplomatic mission to the Polish royal court. The Spanish king's change of opinion regarding Władysław's marriage was also supported by the Marquis of Castañeda. In his speech to the Council he praised Dietrichstein for having achieved all the goals that he had been set prior to his journey. However, with regard to Auchy's planned mission Castañeda took a sceptical stance, as he (correctly) assumed that in the meanwhile, negotiations on Władysław's marriage to the French princess had progressed so far that it would essentially be impossible to change anything.⁵²

Dietrichstein's negotiations with Władysław IV in February 1645 thus essentially ended in failure. The proposal of a marriage alliance between the Vasa and Gonzaga families was not supported by the Polish court which clearly favoured France. However, from a Habsburg perspective this did not represent a political catastrophe. The above-mentioned rapprochement between Poland and France did not lead to a military alliance, and for the rest of the 17th century the emperor and the Polish king alternated between periods of mutual mistrust and periods of close cooperation. Likewise, it would not be accurate to say that Spanish-Polish relations were completely broken off. Regardless of the mission's success, for Dietrichstein personally it was a worthwhile endeavour. At a session of the State Council on 17 August 1645, it was decided that the payment for his services would be increased.⁵³ Although Dietrichstein had not managed to persuade Władysław to maintain the same foreign policy course, his actions during the mission were for the most part positively received in Habsburg circles. He was entrusted with more diplomatic missions in the future, and he went on to build a very successful career in the services of the emperor. In 1648, he travelled to Innsbruck and agreed a marriage between the emperor and Maria

⁵² AGS, E. 2346, session of the State Council, 30 September 1645. The Baron of Auchy's life and activities are described in M. Conde Pazos, "Cursus Honorum y obra literaria: el caso del barón de Auchy", in: *Historia moderna. Problemas, debates y perspectivas*, ed. by N. Vassallo, A.M. Gonzalez Fasani, A. Chiliguay, Bahía Blanca 2022, pp. 137–149; Idem, *Spanish Diplomats...*, p. 74.

⁵³ However, the full payment for the Polish mission was not made until 1672, long after Maximilian's death. S. Luska, *Dietrichsteinové a Španělsko...*, p. 292; MZA Brno, RAD, inv. no. 959, box 298, debt to Prince Maximilian II of Dietrichstein, 4000 thalers, payable by Philip IV for a mission to Poland in 1645.

Leopoldine of Tyrol (1632–49), subsequently being appointed as her lord chamberlain. After her premature death, in 1650 he became the lord chamberlain of the imperial court, holding that position until his death in 1655.

Maria Gonzaga, who had been Eleonora Gonzaga's preferred candidate to marry Władysław IV, died in 1660. She never remarried. Nevertheless, Eleonora succeeded in her dynastic ambitions shortly after Dietrichstein's Warsaw mission – and in an even more impressive manner than could have been expected from a marriage to the Polish king. Two years after Empress Maria Leopoldine's death in 1649, Eleonora successfully brokered Ferdinand III's marriage to Eleonora Magdalena Gonzaga (1630–86), Maria Gonzaga's daughter. Eleonora Magdalena thus continued the long tradition of dynastic ties between the Gonzagas and the Habsburgs.

Dietrichstein's actions at the Polish royal court in 1645 have previously been viewed by historians primarily from the perspective of the relations between the Habsburgs and the Commonwealth. Historians have (rightly) presented the mission as one of the Habsburgs' last attempts to turn the Polish King Władysław IV back from his new foreign policy course, as from his accession to the throne he had increasingly shifted towards an alliance with Bourbon France. Nevertheless, it is also our opinion that Dietrichstein's diplomatic mission offers insights into the relations between the branches of the Habsburg dynasty. Although it became entirely clear during the Thirty Years' War that the political interests of the Spanish King Philip IV and Emperor Ferdinand II or Ferdinand III were not always identical, the Habsburgs' Eastern policy was guided by the need for dynastic unity. However, it would be very simplistic to view this unity solely as the result of a political agreement between leading members of both courts, represented by the Spanish State Council (*Consejo de Estado*) and the imperial Privy Council (*Geheimrath*). The planning and execution of Dietrichstein's mission to Warsaw clearly show that a major role in decision-making regarding this diplomatic endeavour was played by the Spanish embassy in Vienna and diplomats serving at the court of the Empress Maria Anna. It was the empress who was the real leader of the dynastic group operating at the Viennese court where she zealously

promoted the Spanish Habsburgs' political interests. Dietrichstein's mission was perhaps even more strongly influenced by the widowed Empress Eleonora Gonzaga, whose plan to create a marriage alliance between the Vasa and Gonzaga families is an excellent demonstration of how noblewomen could engage in informal diplomacy to achieve goals at the highest level of high international politics.

Abbreviations

- AA – Archivio Apostolico Vaticano
AGAD – Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych, Warsaw
 AKW – Archiwum Koronne Warszawskie
 LL – Liber legationum
 MK – Metryka Koronna
AGR – Archives Générales du Royaume, Brussels
 SEA – Secrétairerie d'État Allemande
 SEG – Secrétairerie d'État et de Guerre
AG – Archivo General de Simancas
AHN – Archivo Histórico Nacional, Madrid
ANF – Archives Nationales de France, Paris
AP – Archiwum Państwowe
AS – Archivio di Stato
BC – Biblioteka Czartoryskich, Cracow
BJ – Biblioteka Jagiellońska, Cracow
BN – Biblioteka Narodowa, Warsaw
 BOZ – Biblioteka Ordynacji Zamoyskich
BNE – Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid
BNF – Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris
BOSS – Biblioteka Zakładu Narodowego im. Ossolińskich, Wrocław
BPAN – Biblioteka PAN, Kórnik
BPANPAU – Biblioteka Polskiej Akademii Nauk i Polskiej Akademii,
 Cracow
BU – Biblioteka Uniwersytecka, Warsaw
CAD – Centre des Archives diplomatiques de La Courneuve
DIR – *Documente privitoare la Istoria Românilor*
EFE – *Elementa ad Fontium Editiones*
HHStA – Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv, Vienna
LBNANU – L'vivska Biblioteka Nacional'noi Akademii Nauk Ukraïni
 im. V. Stefanika, Lviv

MZA – Moravský zemský archiv, Brno
NA – Národní archiv, Prague
PAN – Polska Akademia Nauk
Polonica AGS – *Documenta polonica ex Archivo Generali Hispaniae in Simancas.*
Nova series, vol. 1, ed. by R. Skowron, Cracow 2015.
RA – Riksarkivet, Stockholm
RAD – Rigsarkivet, Copenhagen
TKUA – Tyske Kancellis Underrigske Afdeling
TLA –Tiroler Landesarchiv, Innsbruck

c. – circa
cf. – confer
d. – died
dz. – dzial
ed. – edited, edition
e.g. – exempli gratia
etc. – et cetera
Fasz. – Faszikel
fo., fos – folio, folios
ff. – following (pages)
Konv. – Konvolut
leg. – legajo
ms/MS – manuscript
n. – note
no. – number
p., pp. – page, pages
r – recto
s.a. – sine anno
s.d. – sine dato
s.f. – sine folio
v – verso
vol. – volumen

Correspondence

No. 1

Prince Władysław Sigismund to Archduke Leopold V

Warsaw, 5 May 1632

Prince Władysław Sigismund notifies Archduke Leopold V of the death of his father, King Sigismund III and announces sending Reinhold von Rosen to his court.

Original: TLA Innsbruck, Alphabetisches Leopoldinum, I/855, s.f. Seal.

Durchleuchtigster Erzherzoge Freundtlich Hochgeliebter Herr Vetter, wie ungewieß undt unsicher wir dießes zeitlichen lebens seind, habenn wir leider ein brawriges undt betrübtes Eremzel, da der Allmächtige Gott, nach seinen unerforschlichen, doch sonder Zweifel, gnädigen Wiellenn, die Königliche Majestät unsern Gnädigsten Hochgeliebtstenn Herrnn undt Vatern¹, so gar unvormuttlich, denn letzten Aprilis umb drey Uhr frühe, vonn unß genombenn, und in die Ewiege Seeligkeit, unß aber in großes leidt und betrübenüß gesetzt, Ob es nun nit schmerzlich undt kümmerlich unß furkombt, können. Euer Liebden bey Ihnenn dero hohen discretion nach leicht mitleidentlich abnehmben. Derohalbenn wir solches Ihnen auß betrübten genütz, bey Zeigern unserm lieben getrewen Reinholdt vonn Rosen², Obristens zue Clagenn und Communiciren nit unter laßen mögenn. Euer Liebden Gottlicher Bewahrung trewlich empfehend. Datum Warschaw den 5 May anno 1632.

Euer Liebden

Dienstwiliger Vetter
und Bruder
Wladislaus Sigismundus

¹ King Sigismund III died on 30 April 1632 in Warsaw.

² Reinhold von Rosen (d. 1669), nobleman from Livonia, military commander, courtier of Władysław IV; he was a member of his retinue during his journey across Europe in the years 1624–1625; he took part in the war with Sweden (1626–1629) and Muscovy (1632–1634), he was also a colonel of a guard infantry regiment. His departure to Innsbruck in May 1632 was probably connected with the military recruitment for the war with Muscovy.

No. 2

Prince Charles Ferdinand to Archduke Leopold V

Warsaw, 5 May 1632

Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wroclaw, notifies Archduke Leopold V of the death of his father, King Sigismund III.

Original: TLA Innsbruck, Alphabetisches Leopoldinum, I/855, s.f. Seal.

Durchleuchtigster Erzherzogh Freundlich Hochgeliebtster Herr und Vetter. Die Königliche Majestät meinen allergnädigstenn Herren und Vatern¹, hatt Gott der Allgewalttige numehro nach seinnen gnädigen wohlgefällenn und Rath, mir auch entriessen und genohmben, derohalbem solches Euer Drchlaucht ich mit schwarzen und trowrigen gemüth clagen, avisiren, und sie meines kummers und betrübñuß der hohen Verwandtnüß nach participirend machen nit zweifelende mir nunmehr, alß vom Vater und Mutterverlassenen, mit trewen Rath, trost und Hülffe, milt kidenlich bey standtthuen. Wie dann Euer Drchlaucht Ich hirmit demüttigst anflehenn thue, in ungezweifelter Hoffnung, mir solches nit abzueschlagenn, Ich auch fur meiner Person mit hochstem Vermögen zue demeriren, und bey Gott dem Allmächtigenn zueverbietten einnere mehr unterlassen will. Datum Warschaw den 5 May anno 1632.

Getrewer und dienstwilliger

Vetter weil ich lebe
Carl Ferdinand

¹ Sigismund III.

No. 3

Prince John Casimir to Archduke Leopold V

Warsaw, 5 May 1632

Prince John Casimir notifies Archduke Leopold V of the death of his father Sigismund III.

Original: TLA Innsbruck, Alphabetisches Leopoldinum, I/855, s.f. Seal.

Durchleuchtigster Erzherzog, Hochgeehrtester Herr Vetter und Vater, Nach menschlicher weiße wehre nichts geschicklicher, und vermeinlicher, alß daß Euer Drchlaucht auß solcher ab gelegene, je und allzeit erfreyliche guette zeittungenn vernehmben solltenn. Aber wie unter schieden Gottes wenge vonn unsern sein, also muß Euer Drchlaucht wie auch nunmehr die Königliche Majestät mein Hochrerlang lichter und herzgeliebster Herr und Vater¹, dießen Labyrinth der Vergänglichenn weld gesegnet, und vonn Gott in die himbliche Freude auffgenohmben worden, ich mit trawrigem Herzenn Vermeldenn und Clagen, mit gehorsamben Biettenn Euer Drchlaucht wollen nunmehr dero erledigten stellenn mit Ihrem getrewen Favor und Sorgfeltigkeit ersezen, maßenn ich mich zue deroselbenn gänzlichen Vorsehe Euer Drchlaucht hinkegen vonn dem Allmächtigen Gott, Langwürige gesundtheit und alles beständiges wohlergehen von Herzenn wünschnedt. Datum Warschaw den 5 May anno 1632.

Euer Drchlaucht

Getrewer und dienstwilliger
Vetter weil ich leb
Johan Kasimier

¹ Sigismund III.

No. 4

Prince John Albert to Archduke Leopold V

Warsaw, 5 May 1632

Prince John Albert, bishop of Warmia, notifies Archduke Leopold V of the death of his father, King Sigismund III.

Original: TLA Innsbruck, Alphabetisches Leopoldinum, I/855, s.f. Seal.

Durchleuchtigster Erzherzog Freudtlich Hochgeliebster Herr und Vetter, Euer Drchlaucht mit höchstenn betrübnuß meines Herzens, kann ich meinen undt meiner Hochgeliebsten Geschwistere Liebden trawrigen zue standt Euer öffnen nit unverlassen, wie der Allgewalttge Gott, die Königliche Majestät unsern Hochsehligstenn und geliebtstenn Herren und Vater¹, die deß Zeitlichen mühsehligen Königreiches entlediget, und daß ewige ertheilet. Im waß kummer und herzliche trawrigkeyt ich dahero gesezet, daß wollenn Euer Drchlaucht mitleidentlich betrachtenn, dahero meine Höchste Trawrigkeit in etwaß abzuelegenn, dennselbtenn solches zu communiciren Ich nit umb gehen mögen, demüttigst biettend, mich deren getrewen Raths, Hülffe, und Trost, bestens recommendiret sein zuelassenn. Solches fur Euer Drchlaucht glückliche gesundheit und prosperitet bey Gott zuvorbiettenn weil ich jederzeit unvorgessenhaltten, dieselbten in den schuz der liebenn Engel trawlichst empfehend. Datum Warschaw denn 5 May Anno 1632.

Euer Drchlaucht

Getrewer und dienstwilliger
Vetter weil ich leb
Johan Albrecht

¹ Sigismund III.

No. 5

Prince Alexander Charles to Archduke Leopold V

Warsaw, 5 May 1632

Prince Alexander Charles notifies Archduke Leopold V of the death of his father Sigismund III.

Original: TLA Innsbruck, Alphabetisches Leopoldinum, I/855, s.f. Seal.

Durchleuchtigster Erzherzogh Freundtlich Hochgeliebtster Herr undt Vetter, Euer Drchlaucht ist nunmehr leider alß Zwiel wießend, wie durch unwandelbahren Rath, deß Höchstem Gottes, auch nunmehr die Königliche Majestät mein gnädigter Hochgeehrtster Herr und Vater¹, diesein mühseligen weldt gesegnet, und zweifels ohne in die himblische Freüde abgefordert worden, So dero Drchlaucht auß so naher Verwandtschafft, ich auch sehnlichst Clage und berichte, mit Handthafftiger Confidents, die werdenn solchnes mitleidenblich vernehmnen, und mein trewrenn und kümmernüß zurleidern, mir mit Hülffe Trost und Rath bey pringen. Welche ich in den Schuz deß Allerhöchstenn trewlichst bewehlenn thue. Datum Warschaw den 5ten May anno 1632.

Euer Drchlaucht

Getrewer und dienstwilliger
Vetter weil ich leb
Alexander Carl

¹ Sigismund III.

No. 6

Princess Anna Catherine Constance to Archduke
Leopold V

Warsaw, 5 May 1632

Princess Anna Catherine Constance notifies Archduke Leopold V of the death of her father Sigismund III.

Original: TLA Innsbruck, Alphabetisches Leopoldinum, I/855, s.f. Seal.

Durchlechtigster Erzherzog, Freundlich Hochgeliebster Herr und Vetter, Denn großen schmerzenn so der Allgewaltige Gott mir, durch nunmehr auch Tödlichewegreißung Königliche Majestät meinens gnädigsten und höchst geliebtstenn Herren und Vaters¹, in mein herzeingegossenn, kommen Euer Drchlaucht dero hohen discretion nach, mit leidentlich besser betrachten allß ich leider zue schreibenn vermag, derohalbenn Ich verlaßenes wißle zur dero selbten, alß meinenn Hochgeehrtsten Herren Vetter, der so nahen Verwandnüß nach ich zuefluchtnehmnen muß, demüttigst biettend fur dero Töchtern mich anzuenehmnen, und mit rath und trost beyzuwohnen, solches wiel Ich bey Gott dem Höchstenn, umb Euer Drchlaucht und dero Herzliebsten Gemahlin² langwirige gesundtheit, glück und alle heilsambewohlfart zueverbietten, nimmermehr vergessen. Euer Drchlauchtgottlicher Väterlicher Verwahrung empfehlendt. Datum Warschaw denn 5 May anno AD 1632.

Euer Drchlaucht

Unterthänige und gehorsame
Tochter und Dienerin biß in todt
Anna Catharina Constantia³

¹ Sigismund III.

² Archduchess Claudia de'Medici.

³ Anna Catherine Constantia (1609–1651), daughter of Sigismund III and Constance of Austria; in 1642 she married Philip Wilhelm of Neuburg.

No. 7

Prince Władysław Sigismund to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 7 May 1632

Prince Władysław Sigismund notifies Emperor Ferdinand II that his envoy Athanasius Gerogiceus has returned from Moscow. Despite the failure of the diplomatic mission, he thanks the Emperor for his attempt to stop Muscovy from attacking Poland.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Russland I 7, 1632, fos 15–16.

Sacra Caesarea Maiestas domine avuncule uti parens observantissime.

Redeuntem e finibus Moschoviae legatum¹ Maiestatis Vestrae libenter audiivi, quamvis successus omnis irritum. Tametsi enim omnem curam studiumque in id impenderit, ut et mandato Maiestatis Vestrae et publicae de se expectationi satisfaceret, quia tamen adversas et infestas barbarae gentis artes non obscure deprehendit, maluit pro suo erga Maiestatis Vestrae honorem tuendum debito et obligatione, ingressu ulteriore abstinere, quam legationis suae et simul Maiestatis Vestrae dignitatem ludibrio aut discrimini exponere vel ambiguae calliditatis potestati committere. Ego vero quamvis praesens temporum iniuria me Maiestatis Vestrae beneficio fraudaverit, non minus tamen propensam eiusdem voluntatem studiumque gratissimis semper animis prosequar. Longam de cetero incolumitatem et fortunatos ac felices rerum a Deo successus Maiestati Vestrae ex animo precor. Datum Varsaviae die VII mensis Maii anno Domini MDCXXXII.

Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae

obedientissimus filius

Vladislaus Sigismundus

¹ Atanazije Jurjević (Athanasius Gerogiceus), on his diplomatic mission to Moscow, see *The House of Vasa and the House of Austria*, part 1, vol. 2, no. 803.

No. 8

Prince Charles Ferdinand to Infanta Isabella

Warsaw, 10 June 1632

Through envoy Stanisław Kobierzycki, Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław, notifies Infanta Isabella, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, of the death and funeral of his parents.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 531, fos 392r-393v. Seal.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 141, p. 599; BC Cracow, MS 2064, p. 102. Both copies have been wrongly assigned by the scribe to Prince Władysław Sigismund and dated 20 June 1632.

Serenissima princeps domina cognata uti parens carissima.

In hoc insperato gravique doloris ictu, quo obitus Sacrae Regiae Maiestatis domini parentis nostri¹ desideratissimi, animum nostrum sauciavit, levamenti loco ducimus, acerbiter luctus in sinum cognatae principis deponere. Quod facimus Serenitati Vestrae de funesto hoc et luctuoso casu, qui domum nostram regiam affixit, per generosum Stanislaum Kobierzicki² intimum camerarium nostrum nuntiantes, doloremque nostrum cum ipsa, uti coniunctissima et amantissima principe communicantes. Deum interea precabimur, ut magis fausto deinceps officio, erga Serenitatem Vestram fungi nobis liceat, a Serenitate autem Vestra omnes acerbiores fortunae casus arceat et diu salvam incolumemque nobis servet. Datae Varsaviae die X mensis Iunii anno Domini MDCXXXII.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

cognatus uti filius amantissimus

Carolus Ferdinandus

¹ The funeral of Constance of Austria and Sigismund III took place on 4 February 1633 in Cracow.

² Stanisław Kobierzycki (c. 1600–1665), Polish nobleman, political writer, diplomat, royal secretary, castellan of Gdańsk (1643–1656), voivode of Pomerania (1656–1885).

No. 9

Prince Alexander Charles to Infanta Isabella

Warsaw, 10 June 1632

Prince Alexander Charles, through envoy Stanisław Kobierzycki, notifies Infanta Isabella, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, of the death and funeral of his parents.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 531, fos 396r–397v. Seal.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 141, p. 596, dated 20 May 1632; BC Cracow, MS 2064, p. 103, dated 20 June 1632.

Serenissima princeps domina cognata uti mater carissima et observandissima. Nihil gravius acerbiusque nobis a publicae privataeque fortunae crudelitate accidere potuit, quam ut materni praesidii solatio orbatu serenissimum insuper parentem nostrum¹ hoc tempore, hac aetate, hisque rerum difficultatibus intra eiusdem anni infelicia spatia amitteremus. Quem quidem dolorem nostrum nunc per generosum Stanislaum Kobierzicki², camerarium nostrum nuntiare non distulimus. Circumspicientibus vero nobis maxima arctissimaque sanguinis et aliarum necessitudinum toto orbe nomina, prae aliis Serenitatis Vestrae materna in nos caritas amorque occurrit, in cuius fidissimos, amantissimosque sinus, luctum simul et spes omnino nostras coniceremus, nihil aliud in votis habentes, quam ut aliquid a nobis proficisci aliquando possit, quod obsequentissimi animi studiique erga Vestram Serenitatem nostri promptitudinem testari possit. Deum postremo precamur, ut in Serenitate Vestra incolumi ac florenti diu et hanc nostram et publicae felicitatis fiduciam videre, et cum perpetuae ac constantis prosperitatis securitate propagare possimus. Datae Varsaviae die X mensis Iunii anno Domini MDCXXXII.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

cognatus uti filius amantissimus

Alexander Carolus

¹ Anna of Austria and Sigismund III.

² Stanisław Kobierzycki.

No. 10

Prince John Casimir to Infanta Isabella

Warsaw, 10 June 1632

Prince John Casimir, through envoy Stanisław Kobierzycki, notifies Infanta Isabella, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, of the death of his father, King Sigismund III.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 531, fos 398r–399v.

Copy: BC Cracom, MS 141, p. 609; BC Cracom, MS 2064, pp. 102–103. Both copies have been wrongly assigned by the scribe to Prince John Albert and dated 20 June 1632.

Serenissima princeps domina cognata uti mater carissima et observandissima.

In ea spe eramus, non a maestitia et calamitate, animi studiique nostri erga Serenitatem Vestram significationem incepturam. Quia tamen adversus votorum nostrorum felicitatem infestae fortunae saevitia praevaluit ignoscet Serenitas Vestra necessitati, quae affectus et obsequii nostri primitias voluit nisi luctu inscribere, cum serenissimum regem et parentem¹ nostrum intra decimum mensem morte sua auxisse funus serenissimae reginae consortis suae dilectissimae, matris vero nostrae desideratissimae nuntiare cogamur. Ac triste quidem huius rei indicium adferet ad Serenitatem Vestram generosus Stanislaus Kobierzycki² intimus camerarius noster; dolorem vero nostrum nullius satis documenti tristitia testari poterit. Peramanter itaque et enixe a Serenitate Vestra petimus, ut nos geminae orbitati relictos, materni sinus patrocinio excipere, spesque et solatia omnia nostra in utriusque parentis morte repente destituta et velut emortua in sua benignitate et tutela Serenitas Vestra renovari ac reviviscere iubeat. Quantum autem precibus interim apud Deum possumus, Serenitati Vestrae diu superstitem incolumitatem et rerum omnium felicitatem ex animo optamus et vovemus semper. Datae Varsaviae die X mensis Iunii anno Domini MDCXXXII.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

cognatus et filius amatissimus

Ioannes Casimirus

¹ Sigismund III.

² Stanisław Kobierzycki.

No. 11

Prince John Albert to Infanta Isabella

Warsaw, 10 June 1632

Prince John Albert, bishop of Warmia, through envoy Stanisław Kobierzycki, notifies Infanta Isabella, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, of the death of his father, King Sigismund III.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 531, fos 394r–395v. Seal.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 141, p. 597; BC Cracow, MS 2064, pp. 102–103. Both copies have been wrongly assigned by the scribe to Prince John Casimir and dated 20 June 1632.

Serenissima princeps domina cognata uti parens observandissima.

Ita Regi regum placuit, ut serenissimus rex dominus parens¹ noster desideratissimus pridie Calendis Maii² mortalem coronam pro immortalis commutaret. Ex quo tanti regis obitu, etsi longe lateque per orbem christianum luctus eat, is tamen proprius gravissimusque regiae domus nostrae est, quam geminata utriusque parentis funera³, ita afflixerunt, ut in tanta luctus acerbitate, tota post Deum solatii spes, in cognatorum principum incolumitate caritateque resideat. Utramque vero in Serenitate Vestra tanti facimus, ut pro altera vota nuncupare soleamus, alteri orbitatem regiae domus nostrae commendemus, et mutuo propensissimi animi affectu respondere studeamus. Caeterum officii nostri erat Serenitatem Vestram hac lugubri occasione compellere; praesentis vero fortunae, ista doloris communicatione et luctui levamen et orbitati solatium apud Serenitatem Vestram quaerere. Quod hisce literis nostris et verbis generosi Stanislai Kobierzicki⁴ intimi camerarii nostri facimus, Deum precati, ut et nobis facultatem laetioribus nuntiis Serenitatem Vestram deinceps compellandi, omnique officio demerendi praebeat et Serenitati Vestrae fausta ac prospera omnia diuturnamque incolumitatem largiatur. Datum Varsaviae die X mensis Iunii anno MDCXXXII.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae cognatus uti filius amantissimus

Ioannes Albertus

¹ Sigismund III.

² 30 April.

³ The funeral of Constance of Austria and Sigismund III took place on 4 February 1633 in Cracow.

⁴ Stanislaw Kobierzycki.

No. 12

Prince Alexander Charles to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 6 November 1632

Prince Alexander Charles expresses his gratitude to Emperor Ferdinand II for the support received by the royal family from Emperor's envoys Julius Neidhard Mörsperg and Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein while they stayed in Poland.

Original: HHStA Vienne, Polen I 56,1632, fos 298r–299v.

Serenissime et potentissime imperator domine avuncule colendissime.

Facit Maiestas Vestra in hac nostra domusque nostrae orbitate, ut paternam omnino sollicitudinem Maiestatis Vestrae agnoscamus luculenter id declararunt illustrissimus comes a Morsberk¹ et magnificus Matthias Arnoldinus² legati Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae, quos et audivimus et omni benevolentiae nostrae testificatione excepimus, id vero tanto magis, quanto melius intelleximus, quicquid nomine Maiestatis Vestrae ab illis gestum esse nostro domusque nostrae emolumento atque ornamento factum fuisse, proinde sicut pleraque alia omnia Maiestatis Vestrae beneficia ita hoc etiam aequum est, ut omnibus studiis et filiali observantia colamus. Quod dum facimus Deum optimum maximum precamur, ut Maiestatem Vestram diutissime omnium rerum successibus augustissimis conservet florentem et incolumem. Varsaviae die VI Novembris anno Domini 1632.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

obsequentissimus nepos

Alexander Carolus

¹ Julius Neidhard Mörsperg.

² Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein.

No. 13

King-elect Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 14 November 1632

Władysław IV notifies Emperor Ferdinand II that he has been elected King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. He invites the Emperor to the funeral of Sigismund III and Queen Constance as well as to his own coronation. All the ceremonies will take place in January next year.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 365, p. 1639.

Supremo regi regum placuit, ut die hesternā in regem Poloniae et magnum ducem Lithaniae ab amplissimis eorumdem ordinibus feliciter electi¹ et renuntiati simus. Quod non tantum pro more inter principes christianos recepto verum etiam pro tam arcto sanguinis nexu ac pro ea officii necessitudine, quod nobis per legatos suos Maiestas Vestra impendit nuntiare voluimus Maiestati Vestrae. Nam hoc genere officii erga neminem studiosius defungi potuimus aut debuimus quam erga eum principem, quem praeter memoratas arctae coniunctionis causas, rebus nostris favere hac ipsa occasione egregie experti sumus, ut non immerito confidamus gratissimum Maiestati Vestrae eum nuntium fore. Porro nos imprimis ab eo per quem reges regnant summis votis contendimus, ut sceptrā haec nostra et publica rei publicae christianae et privata domus nostrae regiae felicitate et gloria auspiciari velit, deinde a Maiestate Vestra petimus, ut sicut electioni nostrae per legatos favit, ita inaugurationi faveat Cracoviae die [a] mensis Ianuarii proxime post funus serenissimorum divae memoriae parentum nostrorum, cui diem [a] eiusdem mensis² praefiximus peragenda utrobique vero, ut studium suum nobis ac regiae domui nostrae testari velit Maiestas Vestra maiorem in modum postulamus eidemque uberrima omnis felicitatis atque gloriae incrementa a Deo precamur. Datum Varsaviae die XIV mensis Novembris anno Domini 1632.

[a] *the date is missing; an empty space*

¹ Władysław IV was elected King of Poland on 8 November 1632. On 13 November he swore to the Henrician Articles and *pacta conventa*.

² The funeral of Sigismund III and Constance took place on 4 February, and the coronation was on 6 February 1633.

No. 14

King-elect Władysław IV to King Philip IV

Warsaw, 14 November 1632

Władysław IV informs Philip IV, King of Spain, that he has been elected King of Poland. He also notifies the King of the dates of the funeral of Sigismund III and Queen Constance as well as of his coronation. He invites the representative of Philip IV to take part in all the ceremonies.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 365, pp. 1796–1797.

Quae fuit serenissimorum divae memoriae parentum¹ nostrorum non solum sanguinis verum etiam amoris cum Maiestate Vestra coniunctio, ea ad nos uti filium tota derivavit. Haec vero cum laetorum tristiumque fortunam inter coniunctos principes communem faciat, merito nos utraque in sinu Maiestatis Vestrae deponimus. Nam postquam divinae maiestati prius placuisset optimis nos parentibus orbare et geminato funere domum nostram regiam affligere eidem postea visum est nos paternis sceptris solari, quae nobis incliti ordines amplissimi Regni huius die hesterna concordibus suffragiis detulerunt². Quod Maiestati Vestrae significare voluimus, ut quae ex obitu coniunctissimorum principum vulnus doloris acceperat ex hac nostra in solium paternum provectione solatium caperet. Caeterum cum iustis solvendis dies Ianuarii proximi et inaugurationi regiae solemniter rito Cracoviae peragenda XXXI eiusdem mensis³ sit constitutus maiorem in modum a Maiestate Vestra postulamus, ut et piis serenissimorum parentum caerimoniae manibus officio christianae pietatis parentare et inaugurationem regiam per legatum suum auspiciari velit, nos vicissim nullam occasionem elabi patiemur, quin paribus officiis Maiestatem Vestram demereri adnitamur. Datum Varsaviae XIV Novembris 1632.

¹ Sigismund III and Constance of Austria.

² Władysław IV was elected King of Poland on 8 November 1632.

³ The dates of the coronation in Cracow as well as of the funeral provided by Władysław IV were changed. The funeral of Sigismund III and Constance took place on 4 February, and the coronation was on 6 February 1633.

No. 15

King-elect Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 14 November 1632

Władysław IV, informs Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand that he has been elected King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. He also notifies the Cardinal-Infant of the dates of the funeral of Sigismund III and Constance as well as of his coronation.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 85r–86v. Seal.

Vladislaus quartus Dei gratia electus Poloniae rex, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, electus magnus dux Moschoviae serenissimo principi domino Ferdinando¹ principi Hispaniarum Sacrae Romanae Ecclesiae cardinali cognato nostro carissimo salutem et omnem felicitatem. Serenissime princeps cognate noster carissime.

Postquam divinae maiestati prius placuisset acerbum nobis doloris vulnus per obitum serenissimi divae memoriae parentis² nostri infligere, postea quoque eidem placuit orbitatem et luctum nostrum solari. Nam hestern³ die divino ipsius numine favente in regem Poloniae et magnum ducem Lithuaniae ab inclitis eorundem statibus et ordinibus electi et renuntiati sumus die XXX mensis Ianuarii inaugurationi in urbe Cracoviensi post funus serenissimorum divae memoriae parentum nostrorum ibidem die XXIV eiusdem mensis celebrandum Deo auspicante peragenda⁴. Qua de re pro nostro erga Serenitatem Vestram studio, nuntiare Serenitati Vestrae volumus, maiorem in modum postulamus, velit utrobique testari benevolentiam et affectum suum nobis regiaeque nostrae domui. Quod nos paribus officiis quavis occasione rependere adnitemur Serenitati Vestrae. Cui omnem felicitatem et gloriam a Deo precamur. Datum Varsaviae die XIV mensis Novembris anno Domini MDCXXXII.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

benevolus frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Ferdinand of Austria (1609–1641), also known as Cardinal-Infant, son of Philip III, King of Spain, and Margaret of Austria, younger brother of King Philip IV; from

1619 Cardinal-deacon of Santa María del Pórtico; from 1620 archbishop of Toledo, Primate of Spain; from 1634 Governor of the Southern Netherlands.

² Sigismund III and Constance of Austria.

³ Władysław IV was elected King of Poland on 8 November 1632. On 13 November he swore to the Henrician Articles and *pacta conventa*.

⁴ The dates of the coronation in Cracow as well as of his parents' funeral provided by Władysław IV were changed. The funeral of Sigismund III and Constance took place on 4 February, and the coronation was on 6 February 1633.

No. 16

King-elect Władysław IV to Infanta Isabella

Warsaw, 14 November 1632

Władysław IV informs Infanta Isabella, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, of the dates of the funeral of Sigismund III and Constance as well as of his coronation.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 531, fos 404r–405v. Seal.

Vladislaus quartus Dei gratia electus Poloniae rex, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex electus, magnus dux Moscoviae serenissimae principi dominae Isabellae Clarae Eugeniae infanti Hispaniarum, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Brabantiae, Luxemburgi, Geldriae, comiti Tirolis cognatae nostrae serenissimae salutem et omnem felicitatem. Serenissima princeps cognata nostra carissima.

Postulabat a nobis non solum mos inter principes christianos receptus, sed etiam ea sanguinis necessitudo, quae nobis cum Serenitate Vestra intercedit, ut ei nuntiarem nos hesternae die divinae primum voluntate, deinde concordiam amplissimorum istius republicae ordinum consensus suffragante regem Poloniae et magnum ducem Lithuaniae electos¹, et renuntiatos esse, die XXIV mensis Ianuarii proximi inauguratione Cracoviae assignata post funus serenissimorum divinae memoriae parentum nostrorum die XXXI eiusdem mensis peragendum². Ceterum a Serenitate Vestra peramanter postulamus, ut suum utrobique studium nobis et regiae nostrae testari velit, cui nos pari voluntatis nostrae affectu omni occasione vestra adnitemur. Quod nostro nomine plenius exponet illustris Ianussius Radzivilus in Bierze et Dubinki³ Sacri Romani Imperii princeps intimus, camerarius noster. Quod reliquum est Serenitati Vestrae prosperam ac diuturnam valetudinem a Deo precamur. Datum Varsaviae die 14 mensis Novembris anno Domini MDCXXXII.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

benevolus cognatus

Vladislaus rex

¹ Władysław IV was elected King of Poland on 8 November 1632.

- ² The dates of the coronation in Cracow as well as of his parents' funeral provided by Władysław IV were changed. The funeral of Sigismund III and Constance took place on 4 February, and the coronation was on 6 February 1633.
- ³ Janusz Radziwiłł (1612–1655), Duke, son of Krzysztof Radziwiłł, Grand Hetman of Lithuania, in the years 1629–1632 he studied in Leipzig, Altdorf and Leiden. After he was elected King, Władysław IV sent him on diplomatic missions to Brussels, the Hague and London. In later years, he was, among others, Field Hetman of Lithuania (1646–1654), voivode of Vilnius (1653–1655) and Grand Hetman of Lithuania (1654–1655).

No. 17

King-elect Władysław IV to Queen Anna of Austria

[Warsaw, 14 November 1632]

Władysław IV informs Anna, Queen of France, that he has been elected King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. He also notifies the Queen of the dates of the funeral of Sigismund III and Constance as well as of his coronation. All the details will be provided by his envoy Janusz Radziwiłł.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 365, pp. 1641–1642.

Postquam die hesternā divina primum voluntate deinde concordī amplissimo istius reipublicae ordinum consensu ac applausu in regem Poloniae et magnum ducem Lithuaniae renutiati essemus partium nostrarum esse duximus cum alios principes cognatos tum Maiestatem quoque Vestram certiozem facere ea de re nihil enim nobis laetum ac triste accidere potest, quod non ad cognatos principes pertinere arbitramur ex affectu nostro aliorum sensum metientes quo adversa prosperaque amicorum principum accipere consuevimus. Quare non solum de hac nostra publicaue Regni nostri laetitia Maiestati Vestrae nuntiamus, sed una etiam de funere serenissimorum divae memoriae parentum nostrorum die XXIV mensis Ianuarii celebrando tum et de inauguratione nostra, quae Cracoviae XXX die eiusdem mensis Deo auspicante peragetur¹. Caeterum peramanter a Maiestate Vestra postulamus velit inter haec laeta tristiaque studium suum nobis ac regiae domui nostrae testari et tum funeri quam inaugurationi per legatos suos adesse. Quod nos per omnes occasiones paribus officiis rependere et Maiestatem Vestram mutua benevolentia demereri contendemus. Quae omnia uberius coram exponet illustris Ianussius Radzivilus dux in Bierze et Dubinki² Sacri Regii Imperii princeps et intimus camerarius noster, quem ut Maiestas Vestra benevole audiat et fidem ei habeat peramanter postulamus. Cui de caetero diuturnam incolumitatem a Deo precamur. Datum ut supra.

¹ The dates of the coronation in Cracow as well as of the funeral provided by Władysław IV were changed. The funeral of Sigismund III and Constance took place on 4 February, and the coronation was on 6 February 1633.

² Janusz Radziwiłł.

No. 18

King-elect Władysław IV to King Ferdinand III

[Warsaw, 14 November 1632]

Władysław IV informs Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia, that he has been elected King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. He also notifies the King of the dates of the funeral of Sigismund III and Queen Constance as well as of his coronation. He invites the representatives to take part in all the ceremonies.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 365, pp. 1640–1641.

Ea est cognatorum principum ratio, ut quidquid alterutri adversum prosperumque accidat ad utrumque pertinere videatur. Proinde cum die hesternae divina benignitate ab inclitis reipublicae huius ordinibus rex Poloniae et magnus dux Lithuaniae electi et renuntiati simus significandum et de re Maiestati Vestrae putavimus, cui pro arcto sanguinis nexu gratum eum nuntium fore confidimus. Caeterum cum funeri primum serenissimorum divae memoriae parentum nostrorum dies XXIV mensis Ianuarii proximi deinde inaugurationi nostrae XXX eiusdem mensis¹ Cracoviae peragenda et sit praefixus benevole a Maiestate Vestra postulamus, ut et piis serenissimorum parentum nostrorum manibus officio pietatis per legatos parentare et inaugurationem nostram honorare velit factura rem Maiestatis Vestrae et pietate sua et tam arcta coniunctione dignam. Cui felices omnium rerum successus a Deo precamur. Datum ut supra.

¹ The dates of the coronation in Cracow as well as of his parents' funeral provided by Władysław IV were changed. The funeral of Sigismund III and Constance took place on 4 February, and the coronation was on 6 February 1633.

No. 19

King-elect Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 16 November 1632

Władysław IV informs Emperor Ferdinand II that he has been elected King of Poland and thanks for the support he provided during the election Sejm through Emperor's envoy Julius Neidhard Mörsperg.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1632, fos 254r–255v. Seal.

Copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, fo. 289r–289v.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando secundo divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo et parenti nostro observantissimo. Vladislaus IV Dei gratia electus rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Severiae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorum haereditarius rex electus, magnus dux Moschoviae salutem et filialis observantiae studium. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule et parens observantissime.

Pro paterno Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae in nos amore ac singulari benevolentia, quam praesenti ad ordines Regni legatione¹ cumulatissime nobis exhibuit plurimum nos Maiestati Vestrae Caesareae debere profiteremur. Satis enim declaravit quanti nos Maiestas Vestra Caesarea faciat quantumque orienti spei et fortunae nostrae faveat. Quo nomine magnas Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae agimus et habemus gratias ac libenter fatemur ad ea ordinum Regni erga nos studia, legationem quoque Maiestatis Vestrae maximum nobis pondus attulisse. Cum autem iam divina sui disponente voluntate omnium votis et suffragiis Regni gubernacula sint nobis² delata dabimus vel maxime operam, ut nos semper Maiestati Vestrae gratissimum praestemus, utque re ipsa experiatur hanc novam accessionem et Maiestati Vestrae augustissimaeque ipsius familiae quam vicissim nostram repetamus fore gloriosam totique orbi christiano salutarem. Quae omnia illustres domini legati luculentius nostro nomine Sacrae Caesareae Maiestati referent, nostrumque erga eandem animum et voluntatem promptissimaque studia commendabunt. De caetero Sacrae Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae

prosperam et diuturnam valetudinem ac gloriosam ex hostibus victoriam
et plurima trophaea precamur. Datum Varsaviae die XVI Novembris anno
Domini MDCXXXII.

Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae

nepos uti filius observantissimus

Vladislaus rex

¹ Emperor's envoy to the election Sejm was Julius Neidhard Mörsperg (1590–1642); from 1615 Kämmerer of the Emperor, and from 1637 member of the Privy Council (Geheimer Rat).

² Prince Władysław Sigismund was elected King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania on 8 November 1632.

No. 20

Prince John Casimir to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 16 November 1632

Prince John Casimir informs Emperor Ferdinand II that Prince Władysław Sigismund has been elected King of Poland and thanks for the support he provided during the election Sejm through Emperor's envoys Julius Neidhard Mörsperg and Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein.

Original: HHStA Vienne, Polen I 56, 1632, fos 296r–297v.

Serenissime et potentissime imperator domine avuncule colendissime.

Facile apud nos fidem invenerunt mandata Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae, quae nobis illustrissimus comes a Monsberg¹ et magnificus Matthias Arnoldinus² legati caesarei exposuerunt, nota est nobis et perspecta Maiestatis Vestrae benevolentia, nota facta dictaque nostri causa, quae non tantum fidem, sed etiam omnem gratitudinem a nobis exigunt, quam ut omni officiorum genere quantum quidem erit facultatis nostrae praestemus dabimus operam. Nunc porro maximas habemus gratias pro legatione bona domus nostrae decreta. Renuntiatus est Poloniae rex mirabili omnium ordinum consensu et studio serenissimus frater³ noster ad quam rem plurimum momenti attulit Maiestatis Vestrae Caesareae auctoritas, quo nomine nos etiam plurimum debemus Maiestati Vestrae Caesareae. Caetera legati Maiestatis Vestrae cum testificatione studii et promptissimae voluntatis nomine nostro exequentur. Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram quam diutissime optima incolumitate frui et prosperrimis atque augustis successibus laetari cupimus ex animo et officiorum ac studiorum nostrorum voluntatem deferimus. Varsaviae die 16 mensis Novembris anno Domini 1632.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

obsequentissimus nepos

Ioannes Casimirus

¹ Julius Neidhard Mörsperg.

² Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein; on his earlier diplomatic missions to Poland, see *The House of Vasa and the House of Austria*, part 1, vol. 2.

³ King-elect Władysław IV.

No. 21

Prince Charles Ferdinand to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 16 November 1632

Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław, expresses his gratitude to Emperor Ferdinand II for the support received by the royal family from Emperor's envoys Julius Neidhard Mörsperg and Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein while they stayed in Poland.

Original: HHStA Vienne, Polen I 56, fos 300r–301v.

Serenissime et potentissime imperator domine avuncule colendissime.

Illustrissimum comitem a Morsberk¹ et magnificum Matthiam Arnoldinum² Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae legatos audivimus et in iis, quae Maiestatis Vestrae Caesareae nomine nobis dicta sunt, paternum affectum cognovimus. Plurimum nos debere fatemur Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae idque porro ut omni officii studiique genere testemur, id a nobis et sanguinis coniunctio et beneficiorum nobis praestitorum magnitudo iure deposcere videtur. Proinde rogatam volumus Maiestatem Vestram existimare velit nos omni conatu et studio de gratitudine praestanda sollicitos esse eique incolumitatem et rerum omnium successum a Deo ardentissimis votis precari. Caetera Maiestatis Vestrae legati nomine nostro exequentur simulque paratissima studia nostra deferent Maiestati Vestrae. Datae Varsaviae 16 Novembris anno Domini 1632.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

obsequentissimus nepos

Carolus Ferdinandus

¹ Julius Neidhard Mörsperg.

² Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein.

No. 22

Prince John Albert to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 16 November 1632

Prince John Albert, bishop of Warmia, informs Emperor Ferdinand II that Prince Władysław Sigismund has been elected King of Poland and thanks for the support he provided during the election Sejm through Emperor's envoys Julius Neidhard Mörspberg and Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein.

Original: HHStA Vienne, Polen I 56, fos 301r–302v.

Sacra ac Serenissima Caesarea Maiestas et avuncule noster observandissime.

Praeclara Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae domini avunculi nostri observandissimi amoris significatio erga nos innuit, quam non modo literis suis ad nos datis, sed et praesenti ad ordines Regni Poloniae legatione¹ abunde comprobavit, ostenditque, quantam Caesarea Maiestas Vestra curam et solitudinem nepotum, arcto sanguinis vinculo sibi coniunctorum habeat, eorumque dignitati et honori faveat, id sane quo magis serenissimi Vladislai electi regis Poloniae fratris nostri carissimi accessionem fortunae ad nos pertinere agnoscimus, eo maiori beneficio nos Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae obstrictos sentimus, sedulamque dabimus operam, ut suae benevolentiae et paterno amoris studiis nostris respondeamus, nihilque in referendo a nobis desiderari patiamur. Quae omnia fusius Sacrae Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae domini legati referent, nostramque propensionem et observantiam una cum voluntatis testificatione commendabunt. De caetero Sacrae Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae bonam valetudinem a Deo precamur, utque gloriosam ex inimicis victoriam reportet et frequentissimos agat triumphos ex animo cupimus. Datum Varsaviae die 16 Novembris 1632.

Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae

nepos observandissimus

Ioannes Albertus

¹ Emperor's envoys were Julius Neidhard Mörspberg and Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein.

No. 23

King Philip IV to King-elect Władysław IV

Madrid, 27 December 1632

Philip IV, King of Spain, congratulates Władysław IV on being elected King of Poland. The congratulations will be delivered by his envoy Count of Siruela.

Copy: AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fo. 37r.

Serenissime princeps domine frater et affinis noster carissime. Maiestatis Vestrae felicem faustamque ad Poloniae Regnum assumptionem, ex nostris residentibus in Germania ministris intelleximus. Quae sicut maxime desiderata, adeo nobis iucunda fuit, ut nec brevi temporis mora congratulationem nostram recondere velimus, secure valde nobis etiam ad invicem praestari potest, siquidem nemo alius exhilaratus magis, tum enim ob intimam erga Maiestatem Vestram benevolentiam ac aestimationem nostram, tum etiam quia corona suum obtinuit caput. Maiestatis Vestrae nomine et consortis¹ colerandum comitem de Siruela² mittimus, quem pro suis qualitate et prudentia plurimi facimus. Ex eo Maiestas Vestra negotii huius noscet omnia, alia vero quae de rebus nostris audire placuerit suae narrationi deferentes, nihil aliud insinuandum habemus, praeter illud quod nobis gratissimum videlicet praedictum comitem, ex iis quae exponere commissimus, haud dubio credi, nec non a Maiestate Vestra iuxta merita illius, nostramque illorum acceptionem, debitis honore et gratia prosequi. Deus optimus maximus Maiestatem Vestram quam diutissime servet incolumem. Matrity anno MDLXXII die vero 27 Decembris.

¹ Queen Elisabeth de Bourbon.

² Juan Velasco de la Cueva y Pacheco (1608–1652), Count of Siruela, Spanish nobleman, diplomat, writer; Spanish ambassador in Genoa (1636–1640) and Rome (1643–1645); governor of Milan (1640–1643). He came to Poland at the end of February 1633.

Infanta Isabella to King-elect Władysław IV

Brussels, 30 January 1633

Infanta Isabella, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, congratulates Władysław IV on his election as King of Poland as well as expresses her gratitude for the letter and account of the election ceremony presented to her by envoy Janusz Radziwiłł.

Fair copy: AGR Brussels, SEA 531, fo. 52.

Serenissimo principi domino Vladislao quarto Dei gratia electo Poloniae regi, magno duci Lithaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque, nec non Suecorum, Gothorum, Vandalorumque haereditario regi, electo magno duci Moschoviae. Isabella Clara Eugenia Dei gratia infanta Hispaniarum, archiducissa Austriae, ducissa Burgundiae etc. salute, benevolentiam et mutui amoris incrementum serenissime princeps cognate carissime. Quemadmodum nos Regiae Maiestati Vestrae omne semper felicitatis incrementum ex sincero animi et benevolentiae affectu exoptamus ac laeta desuper nuntia magno cum desiderio expectavimus. Ita etiam maximo affectae sumus gaudio et laetitia, quando tum ex Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae ad nos exaratis literis, tum ex relatione nobis a legato suo illustri Ianussio Radziwiłł¹ duce in Bierze oretenus facta, eandem regem Poloniae et magnum Lithuaniae ducem, concordi amplissimorum Regni istius ordinum consensu electam intelleximus. Et eidem de adepta hac et procul dubio a Deo elargita dignitate regia, ex animo congratulamur, omnemque felicitatis et prosperitatis cumulum, et ut longa multorum annorum serie dignitate hac sospes et incolumis frui et gaudere possit apprecamur. Non dubitantes Deum optimum maximum omnes actiones et consilia Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae ita divina sua benedictione prosecuturum, ut optati inde boni successus cum magno totius rei catholicae et regnorum suorum commodo et incremento subsequi possint. Caeterum hoc sibi Regia Maiestas Vestra persuasum habere velit nos nihil exoptare quam ut eidem propensum animi nostri erga se domum suam regiam studium et affectum, quibuscunque benevolentiae modis comprobare possimus. Pro ut hoc ipsum Regia Maiestas Vestra plenius ex praefata legati sui relatione intelligere poterit, et quam magno nos vicissim aestimationis loco reciprocam Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae amicitiam et benevolentiam

habeamus. Cui de caetero in hoc novi anni introitu fausta auspicia a Deo
apprecamur, et ut quemadmodum Regia Maiestas Vestra eandem nunc
procul dubio feliciter per inaugurationem suam regiam inceptam, ita etiam
divina sua bonitas illam toto eius decursu multisque annis subsequentibus
regnis suis et universae rei catholicae sospitem florentemque conservare
velit. Datum Bruxellis die trigesima mensis Ianuarii anno MDCXXXIII.

Eiusdem Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae
benevola cognata

¹ Janusz Radziwiłł, see no. 13.

No. 25

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Cracow, 1 March 1633

Władysław IV, King of Poland, sends back to Emperor Ferdinand II the sealed and signed treaty of alliance.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 365, pp. 1643–1644.

Post adeptum superis auspicationibus huius incliti Regni solium in hanc cogitationem curamque nobis comprimis incumbendum esse duximus, ut cum amicis vicinisque principibus ac provinciis antiqua foedera sanciamus tutamurque. Tanto vero id studiosius sanctiusque praestare adnitimur, cum Maiestate Vestra regnisque ac provinciis ipsis quanto arctiora cum eodem nobis intercedunt non modo vetustorum pactorum bonae vicinitatis atque amicitiae iura verum etiam arcta sanguinis vincula, quamobrem sicut perlibenter accepimus transmissa nobis a Maiestate Vestra bina pactorum ex veteri formula conscripta diplomata ita altero pro nobis reservato alterum manu et sigillo nostro firmatum¹ Maiestati Vestrae remittimus persuasum esse Maiestati Vestrae cupientes nostrum in colenda cum Maiestate Vestra ditionibusque ipsis amicitia ac bonae vicinitatis officiis studium tot necessitudinibus debitum nullis pactis ac foederibus concessurum. Quod reliquum est Maiestati Vestrae omnem a Deo felicitatem prosperosque rerum successus a Deo precamur. Datum Cracoviae die 1 Martii 1633.

¹ The treaty of alliance between Władysław IV and Emperor Ferdinand II was signed on 12 February 1633.

No. 26

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Cracow, 10 March 1633

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Emperor Ferdinand II that he sends his envoy Piotr Gembicki, Grand Secretary of the Crown, and asks the Emperor to give him a kind welcome and hearing.

Copies: AGAD Warsaw, Libri Legationum 32, fo. 35v; BC Cracow, MS 128, p. 159.

Quae cum Maiestate Vestra hoc tempore communicanda tractandaque videbantur reverendo Petro Gembicki¹ decano Cracoviensi, secretario Regni maiori nuntio nostro commisimus. Cui Maiestas Vestra ut aures benevolas praebeat fidemque iis in rebus de quibus nostro nomine cum Maiestate Vestra aget, habeat, peramanter postulamus. Eandemque omni gloria atque felicitate, quam diutissime florentem esse cupimus. Datum Cracoviae die X mensis Martii anno Domini 1633.

¹ Piotr Gembicki (1585–1657), Polish clergyman, Grand Secretary of the Crown (1633–1635), Deputy Chancellor of the Crown (1635–1638), bishop of Przemyśl (1635–1642), Grand Chancellor of the Crown (1638–1643), bishop of Cracow (1642–1657).

No. 27

King Władysław IV to King Ferdinand III

Cracow, 10 March 1633

Władysław IV, King of Poland, asks Ferdinand III to give a kind welcome and bearing to Piotr Gembicki, Grand Secretary of the Crown, who is on a diplomatic mission to Emperor Ferdinand II.

Copies: AGAD Warsaw, Libri Legationum 32, fo. 36r; BC Cracow, MS 128, p. 151.

Iniungimus reverendo Petro Gembicki¹ decano Cracoviensi, secretario Regni maiori et ad Sacram Caesaream Maiestatem dominum avunculum nostrum carissimum nuntio, ut de iis cum Dilectione Vestra nostro nomine agat, quae praesens rerum status et publicae quietis, utilitatisque ratio postulat. Cui ut fidem habeat Dilectio Vestra, studiumque erga nos suum communemque causam testetur, benevole postulamus, eandemque bene ac feliciter valere optamus. Datum Cracoviae die X mensis Martii anno Domini 1633.

¹ Piotr Gembicki, see no. 26.

No. 28

Prince John Albert to Emperor Ferdinand II

Cracow, 15 March 1633

Prince John Albert, bishop of Cracow, asks Emperor Ferdinand II to give a kind welcome and bearing to Piotr Gembicki, Grand Secretary of the Crown, whom Władysław IV sent on a diplomatic mission to the Emperor.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1633, fos 49r–50v. Seal.

Sacra ac Serenissima Caesarea Maiestas domine avuncule ac parens observandissime.

Cum serenissimus rex dominus et frater meus carissimus ad Maiestatem Vestram Caesaream ableget reverendum Petrum Gembicki¹ ecclesiae meae Cracoviensis decanum ac secretarium Regni maiorem nuntium suum libenter quoque pro mea erga Maiestatem Vestram observantia eidem in mandatis dedi, ut meo nomine debita Maiestati Vestrae reverentia facta, bonam valetudinem et omnem in longum aevum prosperitatem ipsi precetur ac demum studia et officia mea promptissima deferat, meque gratiae Maiestatis Vestrae quam diligentissime commendet. Quare ut ei in omnibus fidem adhibeat et provide de nobis exponentem audiat etiam atque etiam a Maiestate Vestra peto, cui iterato mea studia commendo ac Maiestatem Vestram omnibus felicitatis incrementis et optimis ex hoste triumphis perfrui ex animo cupio. Datum Cracoviae die XV mensis Martii anno Domini MDCXXXIII.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

sororinus observandissimus

Ioannes Albertus Carolus

¹ Piotr Gembicki.

No. 29

Prince John Casimir to Emperor Ferdinand II

Cracow, 18 March 1633

Prince John Casimir asks Emperor Ferdinand II to give a kind welcome and hearing to Piotr Gembicki, Grand Secretary of the Crown, whom Władysław IV sent on a diplomatic mission to the Emperor.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1633, fos 111r–112v. Seal.

Serenissime et potentissime princeps domine cognate et avuncule observandissime.

Ad meam in Maiestatem Vestram observantiam ac officium pertinere existimo, cum omni officio, tum hoc literarum Maiestatem Vestram, quem loco parentis duco, colere ac venerari, quando intervallum loci, aliam testificandi filialis affectus, praeripit facultatem. Non modo igitur hisce literis testatum facio, quantum Maiestatem Vestram observem, quantumve ei debere putem, verum etiam illustrem ac reverendum dominum Petrum Gembicki¹, decanum Cracoviensem et Regni huius maiorem secretarium, Regiae Maiestatis domini fratris mei carissimi ad Maiestatem Vestram, nuntium luculentum eius rei habere volui testem, cui ut benignas Maiestas Vestra praebere dignetur aures, quam possum obnixè Maiestatem Vestram rogo. Amplius quod scribam non habeo, nisi paterno Maiestatis Vestrae favori et patrocinio me devovens, ei diuturnum ac felix imperium, animo intimo cupio. Datum Cracoviae die XVIII mensis Martii anno Domini MDCXXXIII.

Maiestatis Vestrae

obsequentissimus nepos

Ioannes Casimirus

¹ Piotr Gembicki.

No. 30

Prince Alexander Charles to Emperor Ferdinand II

Cracow, 18 March 1633

Prince Alexander Charles asks Emperor Ferdinand II to give a kind welcome and bearing to Piotr Gembicki, Grand Secretary of the Crown, whom Władysław IV sent on a diplomatic mission to the Emperor.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1633, fos 113r–114v. Seal.

Neque ego passus sum sine meis literis quasi peculiari quodam argumento, filialis mere erga Maiestatem Vestram observantiae, abire illustrem et reverendum dominum Patrum Gembicki¹ decanum Cracoviensem secretarium Regni maiorem et serenissimi regis fratris mei longe carissimi, ad Maiestatem Vestram, nuntium. Facile autem mihi persuadeo, Maiestatem Vestram Caesaream paternum erga me gerere affectum, ut multis eam ea de re rogare verbis non sit necesse, verum tamen ne in eo aliquam officii mei partem praetermississe videar, quam possum diligenter rogo, ut quemadmodum reliquos germanos meos fovendos suscepit, ita me quoque gratia sua et patrocinio dignum iudicet; quod ego omnibus meis instar obsequentissimi filii, obsequiis demereri contendam. Sed ne sim molestus, affectum meum pluribus verbis idem regius nuntius Maiestati Vestrae aperiet, cui et aures et fidem benignam Maiestas Vestra impertiri dignetur, summo studio efflagito ac Maiestatem Vestram diutissime et felicissime valere et imperare percupio. Datae Cracoviae die XVIII mensis Martii anno MDCXXXIII.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

benevolus nepos

Alexander Carolus

¹ Piotr Gembicki.

No. 31

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Cracow, 3 April 1633

Władysław IV, King of Poland, assures Emperor Ferdinand II that he will soon supply him with all the lead he ordered.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1633, fos 45r–46v.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Ungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Wirtembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo et parenti nostro carissimo. Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, electus magnus dux Moscoviae, salutem et omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule et parens noster carissime.

Libenter pro mutua inter nos sanguinis et rerum omnium necessitudine Maiestatis Vestrae postulatis, in iis quae ad usum commodumque eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae pertinere videntur, studium semper et officium omne nostrum commodamus. Quare moram nullam fecimus quin plumbi copiam in literis¹ Maiestatis Vestrae expressam et uberius per generosum Bernardum Pirabos a Columbanis Maiestatis Vestrae consiliarium explicatam, eiusmodi negotiorum nostrorum administris curandam expediendamque commiserimus. A quibus cum recte rem curatam intelligamus, in posterum quoque studium ac promptitudinem nostram Maiestati Vestrae offerimus, simulque prosperrimam a Deo valetudinem et faustissimos rerum successus ex animo precamur. Datum Cracoviae die tertia mensis Aprilis anno Domini MDCXXXIII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae et Sueciae primo.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

benevolus filius

Vladislaus rex

¹ The letter of Emperor Ferdinand II to Sigismund III concerning the purchase of lead has not been found.

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 9 April 1633

Emperor Ferdinand II expresses his gratitude to Władysław IV, King of Poland, for Piotr Gembicki's legation, which he is very satisfied with. The Emperor informed the envoy about the current situation with regard to military operations and peace negotiations.

Copy: RAD Copenhagen, TKUA, Polen A I, no. 3, s.f.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1633, fo. 17r–17v.

Published: EFE XX, no. 127, pp. 121–122.

Ferdinandus secundus divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus, ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Wirtembergae, comes Tirolis. Serenissimo principi, domino Vladislao quarto, regi Poloniae et Sveciae, magno duci Lithuaniae ac Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiaequae, electo magno duci Moschoviae, nepoti, vicino, amico et filio nostro carissimo, salutem et mutuam benevolentiam. Serenissime princeps, nepos, vicine, amice et fili carissime.

Ex iis, quae nobis de mandato Serenitatis Vestrae honorabilis, devotus, sincere nobis dilectus Petrus Gembicki¹, decanus Cracoviensis, secretarius suus ad nos missus retulit ac proposuit, admodum quam gratum nobis fuit intelligere, non modo, quo affectu erga nos et augustam nostram Austriae Domum Serenitas Vestra feratur, sed magis ac praecipue, quo studio pacis inter nos et dissidentes quosdam principes ac status Imperii reconciliandae teneatur, illumque animum non potuimus non magnopere probare ac collaudare. Porro autem, qua in statu pacis illud negotium modo versetur, quaeque hac in re mens sit nostra pluribus Serenitati Vestrae idem secretarius suus referet. Cui fidem ut habeat, pro solita nostra fiducia amanter requirimus. Qui de caetero Serenitati Vestrae omnem avunculi, amici, vicinique ac patris amantissimi affectum confirmantes, eandem quam prosperrimis rerum successibus uti optamus. Datum in Civitate nostra Vienna, die nona mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo trigesimo tertio, regnorum nostrorum Romani decimo quarto, Hungarici decimo quinto, Bohemici vero decimo sexto.

¹ Piotr Gembicki.

No. 33

Emperor Ferdinand II to Prince John Casimir

Vienna, 11 April 1633

Emperor Ferdinand II thanks Prince John Casimir for the letter delivered to him by Piotr Gembicki, Grand Secretary of the Crown.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1633, fo. 10r. Full and error-free transcription is impossible due to the handwriting style as well as numerous notes and crossed out fragments.

No. 34

Emperor Ferdinand II to Prince John Albert

Vienna, 11 April 1633

Emperor Ferdinand II thanks Prince John Albert, bishop of Cracow, for the letter delivered to him by Piotr Gembicki, Grand Secretary of the Crown.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1633, fo. 11r. Full and error-free transcription is impossible due to the handwriting style as well as numerous crossed out fragments.

No. 35

Emperor Ferdinand II to Prince Alexander Charles

Vienna, 11 April 1633

Emperor Ferdinand II thanks Prince Alexander Charles for the letter delivered to him by Piotr Gembicki, Grand Secretary of the Crown.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1633, fo. 13r. Full and error-free transcription is impossible due to the handwriting style as well as numerous crossed out fragments.

No. 36

Emperor Ferdinand II to Prince Charles Ferdinand

Vienna, 11 April 1633

Emperor Ferdinand II thanks Prince Ferdinand Charles, bishop of Wrocław, for the letter delivered to him by Piotr Gembicki, Grand Secretary of the Crown.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1633, fo. 15r. Full and error-free transcription is impossible due to the handwriting style as well as numerous crossed out fragments.

No. 37

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 7 May 1633

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand II give a kind welcome to his brother, Prince Alexander Charles, who is going on a journey across Europe.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 365, pp. 1823–1824.

Ut serenissimus princeps Alexander Carolus¹ frater noster carissimus indolem regiam virtutibus regali sanguine dignis militaribusque praesertim disciplinis imbuat auctores rei fuimus, ut christiana regna ac provincias perageret inprimis vero voluimus, ut Maiestatem Vestram avunculum et parentem suum adiret et benedictionem paternam auspiciamque in reliquum iter feliciter continuandum ab ea caperet. Quare maiorem in modum ipsum Maiestati Vestrae commendamus petimusque, ut invicem praeclara indole et regio genere digno praeditum paterno favore complecti consilioque et auxilio iuvare velit. Quod cedet in magnum uti confidimus augustae ipsius domus nostraeque regiae solatium ac ornamentum et perpetuum gratiae voluntatis nostrae in Maiestatem Vestram auctoramentum. Quam ut Deus diu salvam ac incolumem et omni gloria ac felicitate florentem servet ex animo precamur. Datum Varsaviae die 7 mensis Maii 1633.

¹ Prince Alexander Charles arrived in Vienna at the end of July 1633 and stayed at the Emperor's court for over two months. At the beginning of October he left for Italy.

No. 38

King Władysław IV to King Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 7 May 1633

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia, give a kind welcome to his brother, Prince Alexander Charles, who is going on a journey across Europe.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 128, p. 285.

Nolumus deesse praeclarae ac regiae indoli serenissimi principis Alexandri Caroli fratris nostri carissimi, quin eam peragratiōem christianorum Regnorum ac provinciarum excoleret et regio genere dignis virtutibus, militaribusque, praesertim disciplinis imbueret. Quo in itinere, ut ad Serenitatem quoque Vestram diverteret, cum arcta poscebat necessitudo, imprimisque id studium quo demereri Serenitatem Vestram cupit. Minime vero ambigimus Serenitatem quoque Vestram pari affectu ei responsuram et quod in usum reliquae ipsius peregrinationis esse poterit, libenter praestituram. Quod et nos paribus studiis rependere Serenitati Vestrae adnitemur et ille promereri contendet. Cui fausta ac prospera omnia a Deo precamur. Datum Varsoviae 7 Maii 1633.

No. 39

King Władysław IV to Infanta Isabella

Warsaw, 7 May 1633

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Infanta Isabella, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, give a kind welcome to his brother, Prince Alexander Charles, who is going on a journey across Europe.

Copies: AGAD, Liber legationum 32, fos 55v–56r; BC Cracow, MS 128, p. 283.

Nolumus deesse praeclarae ac regiae indoli serenissimi principis Alexandri Caroli fratris nostri, quin eam peragratiōem christianorum Regnorum ac provinciarum excoleret et regio genere dignis virtutibus, militaribusque praesertim disciplinis inbueret. Quo in itinere, ut Serenitatem Vestram quoque diverteret, tam arcta poscebat necessitudo, imprimisque id studium, quo demereri Serenitatem Vestram cupit. Minime vero ambigimus Serenitatem Vestram quoque pari affectu ei responsuram et quod in usum reliquae ipsius peregrinationis esse poterit, libenter praestituram, imprimis vero a Serenitate Vestra peramanter postulamus, ipsi commorari isthic et in exercitu regis catholici bellicis vacare exercitiis cupienti, ut faveat dignitatemque ac securitatem eius pro sua pristina in regiam domum nostram voluntate prospiciat ac rebus fortunisque illius undequaque consulat. Quod et nos paribus studiis rependere Serenitati Vestrae adnitemur et ille promereri contendet. Cui fausta ac prospera omnia a Deo precamur. Datum Varsaviae die 7 Maii 1633.

No. 40

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Vilnius, 30 June 1633

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand II give a kind welcome to Jerzy Ossoliński, Court Treasurer of the Crown, who is on a legation of obedience to Pope Urban VIII.

Copies: BC Cracom, MS 128, p. 379; BN Warsaw, BOZ, MS 1163, p. 78.

Proficiscenti a nobis cum solenni oboedientiae legatione Romam, illustri Georgio comiti de Tęczyn Ossolinski¹ thesaurario curiae Regni, intimo camerario et ad serenissimum dominum legato et oratori nostro iniunximus, ut ad Serenitatem Vestram diverteret et officium amantissimae salutationis cum proluxa propensissima voluntatis nostrae testificatione eidem deferret. Quod exequenti ut fidem habeat Serenitas Vestra et nos quo cepit amore atque studio complectatur, peramanter postulamus. Eidem fausta atque prospera omnia ex animo precantes. Datum Vilnae die 30 mensis Iunii 1633.

¹ Jerzy Ossoliński (1595–1650), politician and diplomat, diarist, from 1617 he worked for the royal court; one of the closest associates of King Władysław IV; Court Treasurer of the Crown (1632–1636), voivode of Sandomierz (1636–1638), Deputy Chancellor of the Crown (1638–1643), Grand Chancellor of the Crown (1643–1650). On 15 September 1633 he left Cracow with a legation of obedience to Pope Urban VIII and arrived in Rome on 27 November.

No. 41

King Władysław IV to King Ferdinand III

Vilnius, 30 June 1633

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Ferdinand III, King of Bohemia and Hungary, give a kind welcome to Jerzy Ossoliński, Court Treasurer, who is on a legation of obedience to Pope Urban VIII.

Copies: BC Cracow, MS 128, p. 379.

Proficiscenti a nobis cum solenni oboedientiae legatione Romam, illustri Georgio comiti de Tęczyn Ossolinski thesaurario curiae Regni, intimo camerario et ad serenissimum dominum legato et oratori nostro iniunximus, ut ad Serenitatem Vestram diverteret et officium amantissimae salutationis cum proluxa propensissima voluntatis nostrae testificatione eidem deferret. Quod exequenti ut fidem habeat Serenitas Vestra et nos quo cepit amore atque studio complectatur, peramanter postulamus. Eidem fausta atque prospera omnia ex animo precantes. Datum Vilnae die 30 mensis Iunii 1633.

Infanta Isabella to King Władysław IV

Brussels, 10 October 1633

Infanta Isabella, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, informs Władysław IV, King of Poland, that following his request she granted an audience to Aleksander Michał Lubomirski.

Fair copy: AGR Brussels, SEA 533, fo. 53r–53v.

Libenter admodum vidimus generosum Alexandrum Lubomirski¹ illustrissimi comitis in Wisnicz palatini terrarum Russiae² etc. senatoris in Regno Poloniae filium, cum propter nobilissimi generis eius multis dignitatibus conspicui splendorem et praeclara parentum suorum in rempublicam christianam percognita merita, eximiumque eorum erga augustam nostram Austriae domum sincere devotionis studium, tum quod eum Regiae Maiestati Vestrae percarum esse ex suis decima nuper elapsi mensis Maii ad nos datis litteris³ intelleximus, quo nomine etiam uti ille omni favore dignus. Ita etiam nobis meliori modo commendatissimus erit, nosque cum desiderato a nobis favore et benevolentia hic ubivis libenter prosequemur. Nihil magis exoptantes quam ut Regiae Maiestati Vestrae cum in hac, tum in alia quacunque oblata occasione comprobatum facere possimus quo aestimationis loco recomendatorum a nobis habentur et quantum eidem omnibus benevolentia atque officiis gratificare desideramus. Cui de caetero longam prosperrimam valetudinem felicissimosque votorum suorumque cum regnorum suorum incremento ex animo apprecamur. Bruxellis decima mensis Octobris MDCXXXIII.

¹ Aleksander Michał Lubomirski (c. 1614–1677), son of Stanisław, voivode of Ruthenia; in the years 1629–1635 he travelled across Europe; he studied, among others, in Ingolstadt, Leuven, Rome and Padua; Master of the Horse (1645–1668), voivode of Cracow (1668–1677).

² Stanisław Lubomirski (1583–1649), Count of Wiśnicz, one of the most distinguished Polish politicians of the first half of the 17th century; military commander; he took part in the wars with Turkey, Sweden and the Tatars; he maintained close relations with the court in Vienna; he significantly developed the economic power of his family; he was a founder of churches and monasteries; voivode of Ruthenia (1628–1638) and Cracow (1638–1649).

³ The letter from Władysław IV to Infanta Isabella dated 10 May 1633 has not been found.

No. 43

King Władysław IV to Infanta Isabella

From the camp near Smoleńsk, 16 October 1633

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Infanta Isabella, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, allow Alexander Stuart to recruit five hundred soldiers for the war with Muscovy and give her consent to rent ships in order to transport the soldiers to Poland.

Copies: Archivo de los Duques de Medinaceli Sevilla, Archivo Histórico, leg. 66, ramo 3, fo. 292; AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fos 85v–86r; BC Cracow, MS 128, p. 680.

Serenissima princeps domina amita et vicina nostra carissima. Abiit iussu nostro generosus Alexander Stuardus¹ in inferiores Germaniae oras legendorum quingentorum militum et supellectilis bellicae contra Moschum comparandae causa, ubi potissimum id commode propter artificium et militarium virorum copiam confici posse scimus. Petendum proinde amanter ab ea putavimus, ut pro materno in nos affectu et iure sanguinis omnem et colligendi et conducendi ad nos militum, bellicae apparatus facultatem eidem Stuarto impertiat, naviumque conductitarum copiam ad transportandum eundem militem non deneget. Id nos in cumulum aliorum erga nos officiorum Serenitati Vestrae referemus. Cui et longaevam vitam et prosperrimos successus filiali desiderio optamus. Datum in castris ante Smolenscum die XVI Octobris 1633.

¹ Alexander Stuart, Scottish military commander in the Polish service; in October 1633, King Władysław IV ordered him to recruit two thousand soldiers from the Netherlands, France and England for the war with Muscovy.

No. 44

King Władysław IV to Infanta Isabella

[From the camp near Smoleńsk, 16 October 1633]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, urges Infanta Isabella, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, to prevent envoys from Muscovy from buying military equipment and ships, because Muscovy began a war with Poland.

Copies: AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fos 86r–86v; BC Cracow, MS 128, p. 681.

Qua fide et audacia erga nos usus sit Moschus hostis Serenitatem Vestram opinamur cognovisse, nempe non elapsis induitiis rupto nefario pacta iureiurando saniter firmata ac copioso exercitu, apparatuque bellico instructus hostiliter finitimas arces domini nostri invasit. Et quod magis dotem in id suppetiis et milite non contemnendo a principibus vicinis statibusque adiutus, qui causae nostrae potioem rationem habere debuerunt. Licet vero minime ambigamus Serenitatem Vestram sua sponte inhibituram quosvis delectus nullo praetextu pro hoste in suis provinciis ac civitatibus arma commeatum naves et alia id genus interdixisse, attamen rogandum Serenitatem Vestram duximus, ut pro iure arctae coniunctionis nostrae omnis communicatio cum perfido illo ac contumace hoste, qui propriae tantum incumbit cupiditati sprete quorumvis principum auctoritate per provincias Serenitati Vestrae subiectas iussu ac mandato illius interdicatur. Id nos inter alia erga nos materna studia grati et libentes referemus ac vicissim in Regnis nostris, quod ad tuendam dignitatem Serenissimae Vestrae putabimus praestare non intermitteremus. Etenim Serenissimae Vestrae omnem prosperitatem filiali corde precamur ac diu valere cupimus. Datum ut supra.

Prince Alexander Charles to King Philip IV

Naples, 17 December 1633

Prince Alexander Charles asks King Philip IV to support the candidacy of Franciscan Luca da Monteforte for the office of a bishop.

Copy: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 3836, fo. 137.

Sacra et Serenissima Catholica Regia Maiestas domine frater noster observantissime.

Reverendus pater Lucas Montefortius¹ ordinis sancti Francisci de observantia religiosus et in sacris litteris apprime eruditus, deque ordine suo benemeritus. Qui ante aliquot annos a serenissimo piae memoriae parente² nostro desideratissimo duci Albensi³ obnixè commendatus fuit, ut ipsius opera et favore a Maiestate Vestra Catholica episcopatum aliquem assequi potuisset. Verum hucusque spe sua frustratus manet. Petiit igitur a nobis submissee, ut illum Maiestati Vestrae commendarem, quod facimus non gravatim, praesertim in re tam pia pro eo rogantes, ut virum devotum gratia et munificentia sua regia condecoret et desiderii sui compotem faciat. Habebit Maiestas Vestra perpetuum apud Deum exoratore. De caetero Maiestati Vestrae faustissima quaeque comprecamur et florentem valetudinis cursum ex animo optamus. Neapoli⁴ 17 Decembris 1633.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

addictissimus frater et servus

Alexander Carolus

¹ Luca da Monteforte, Franciscan monk, theologian, guardian of Santa Maria la Nova monastery in Naples.

² Sigismund III.

³ Antonio Álvarez de Toledo y Beaumont (1568–1639), 5th Duke of Alba, Viceroy of Naples from 1622 to 1629.

⁴ While travelling in Italy, Prince Alexander Charles arrived in Naples in the last days of November 1633 and stayed there for over a month.

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 6 February 1634

Emperor Ferdinand II notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, of conferring the title of Prince of the Holy Roman Empire on Jerzy Ossoliński.

Homograph copies: LBNANU Lvin, fond 5, op. 2, 2657; BC Cracow, MS 1819, pp. 351–354; BPAN Kórnik, MS 1542, fos 9r–10v.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fo. 1r–1v.

Ferdinandus secundus divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae etc. rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Wirtembergae, comes Tirolis etc. Serenissimo principi domino Wladislao quarto regi Poloniae et Sueciae magno duci Lithuaniae ac Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiaequae, electo magno duci Moscoviae, nepoti vicino amico et filio nostro carissimo salutem ac mutuam benevolentiam. Serenissime princeps nepos vicine amice et filii carissime.

Illustris noster et Sacri Imperii princeps, comes in Tentczin Serenitatis Vestrae orator Georgius Ossolinus¹, commisso sibi erga nos officii et humanitatis obeundae munere ita perfunctus est, nihil ut in illo eius, quoad rationem eiusmodi legationis complendam requiritur, desiderare potuerimus. Nos vero ut testificationem hanc Serenitatis Vestrae sui in nos affectus plenissimam solito amore suscipimus, omnique reciprocae benevolentiae genere referre cupimus ac desideramus, ita sane ad hoc ipsum magis contestandum in gratiam potissimum Serenitatis Vestrae tum ratione quoque habita praeclarissimarum animi et ingenii dotium caeterorumque generis tunc donorum, quae in domino Serenitatis Vestrae legato rem dudum perspeximus ac dileximus eundem motu plane prospero titulo et honore nostrorum et Sacri Imperii principum condecorandum duximus, speramus autem id Serenitati Vestrae non modo non ingratum, sed incitamento futurum, ad eum quem nos illo gradu dignitatis dignum existimavimus maiore omni gratiae suae regiae dignatione persequendum. Eidem Serenitati Vestrae quod reliquum est affectum avunculi amantissimi ita vicissim confirmamus, quemadmodum ex eodem legato suo pluribusque

percipiet cuius verbis ut fidem adhibeat, nosque amare pergat amanter
postulamus. Datum in civitate nostra Viennae die sexta Februarii anno
Domini millesimo sexcentesimo tricesimo quarto regnorum nostrorum
Romani quinto, Hungarici decimo sexto, Bohemici vero decimo septimo.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

bonus avunculus

Ferdinandus

¹ Jerzy Ossoliński, see no. 40.

No. 47

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 26 February 1634

Emperor Ferdinand II requests that Władysław IV, King of Poland, give his consent to purchase and transport gunpowder and lead from Poland.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fo. 8. Extensive fragments of the letter are illegible.

No. 48

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 3 March 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, to send engineers skilled at building trenches and fortifications, as he would like to use their expertise in preparations for the war with Sweden.

Copies: AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fos 400r–400v; BC Cracow, MS 129, p. 173.

Ad instans bellum, quod nobis cum Suecis infestis regali domui nostrae hostibus post sexennales indutias gerendum est vario ingeniosorum et oppugnationum peritorum hominum genere indigebimus, quos vel maxime in Belgicis provinciis Serenitatis Vestrae obnoxii est invenire. Qua propter data opera, mittimus illuc qui in primis struendorum cuniculorum idoneos magistros evocet et ad nos conducatur, quod ut illi per Serenitatem Vestram liceat petimus quoque peritiores nancisci possit auctoritate Serenitatis Vestrae et mandato existimamus utendum neque dubitamus, quin nobis pro fraterni amoris et sanguinis vinculo id officii libenter sit praestitura. Quod nobis vicissim omni ex parte Serenitati Vestrae referemus et nunc fraterna studia eidem prolixè deferimus ac felicissimos etc. Datum Varsoviae die 3 Martii 1634.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

From the camp near the village of Archangel, 25 March 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, urges that Emperor Ferdinand II, despite peace negotiations which could end the war in the Empire, continue his support for the King's attempts to regain the hereditary kingdom of Sweden.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fos 15r–16v. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando secundo divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto et Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Wittembergae etc. comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo, Vladislaus quartus Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Mazoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, electus magnus dux Moschoviae salutem et mutui amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Ex fama forte non dubia cognovimus res a tot annis in Imperio turbidas ad pacem et tranquillitatem inclinare, a quo etiam Maiestatem Vestram uti post tot incommodorum fluctus et varias iactationes arbitramur non abhorere. Quod si ergo pacis rationes solidius inter partes venient tractandae, non abs re faciendum putavimus, si Maiestatem Vestram eo nomine iterato compellaremus, quo iuris nostri hereditarii tum et provinciarum nostrarum ex quibus magnam facultatem Imperii incommodandi, hostis ille transmarinus nactus erat, paternam rationem haberi velit iubeatque, id enim cum a Maiestate Vestra per legatum nostrum, maiorem Regni secretarium¹ petissemus spem et promissum a Maiestate Vestra per eundem obtinuimus, ut de ipso quoque effectu ne quidquam addubitare possimus, ita enim res nostras et dominia metimur et aestimamus, ut earum integritatem et florem ad Maiestatis Vestrae amplitudinem augustaeque illius domus dignitatem retinendam pertinere arbitremur, sicque copulati sumus, ut nihil aliunde accidere adversi utrisque possit, quod non ad iniuriam offensamque communem spectet. Certo itaque nobis policemur Maiestatem Vestram secundum Imperii et propriam dignitatem nostram quoque et Regnorum

nostrorum causam, cura ac cogitatione sua paterna complexuram, quod non solum magnitudinem benevolentiae Maiestatis Vestrae erga nos declarabit, verum etiam non mediocre momentum ad serenissimae caesareae domus conservationem adferet, quod ipsam Maiestatem Vestram intelligere et expendere existimamus. Cui omnia ex toto et gloria succedant plurimumque aetatis Maiestas Vestra traducat, velut alter filius exopto. Datae ex castris ad pagum Archangeli² die XXV Martii anno Domini MDCXXXIV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae secundo, Sueciae tertio anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus nepos et filius

Vladislaus rex

¹ Piotr Gembicki, Grand Secretary of the Crown.

² Archangel, a small settlement with the Orthodox church of St Archangel Michael, located near the town of Bely (Polish: Biała), currently in Tver Oblast in Russia.

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 27 March 1634

Emperor Ferdinand II notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, of the possibility of the attack of the Turks and Tatars on Poland.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fo. 23r.

Serenissime princeps nepos vicine amice et fili carissime. Omnino crediderim litteras meas 17 mensis Februarii¹ proxime praeterito datas Serenitati Vestrae obtigisse, quibus de Turcarum consiliis ad invadendum Poloniae Regnum aliunde comperta significabantur, nunc porro ab iis, quibus merito fides habenda nuntiatur, etiamnum expeditionem illam ferventer urgeri, ponte Danubium² sterni eo in loco, ubi ante aliquot annos, Osmanno Poloniam invadente, constructus fuerat, Abaza bassae³ sexaginta millia Turcarum et Tartarorum adiuncta, qui statim ac tellus herbescet, primum impetum faciat, Tartaros magnis agminibus, cum uxoribus et liberis totaque suppellectili venire, quasi novas sedes quaesituros habitationis suae, legatum⁴ Serenitatis Vestrae ad Portam destinatum, itinere aliquot dierum citra Constantinopolim detentum non admitti, imo Transilvanum per Capuci bassam⁵ sollicitari ad coniungendum hunc in finem suum cum Turcis exercitum. Quae omnia imminentis gravissimi belli indicia etsi credibile sit Serenitatem Vestram non latere, ad sollicitudinem tamen meam pertinere mutuaque benevolentiam et sanguinis necessitudinem ultra communis periculi metum flagitare arbitratus sum, haec etiam Serenitati Vestrae confidenter insinuare haud quaquam dubitans, quin providentia, quae omnium virtutum mater est et tempestivis consiliis Regnorum suorum saluti et securitati sit prospectura. Datum Viennae die 27 Martii 1634.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

bonus avunculus

¹ HH Polen I 56, fo 3r (foto 2060).

² The Danube.

³ Abaza Mehmed Pasha (1576–1634), Turkish civil servant and military commander from Abkhazia, Beylerbeyi of the Eyalet of Bosnia (1628–1631), Sanjakbey of Silistra

1632–1634; in the autumn of 1633, with the support of the Tatars, Moldovans and Wallachians, he began a war with Poland, but after failing to seize Kamieniec Podolski his army retreated across the Dniester.

⁴ Aleksander Trzebiński (d. 1644), Polish clergyman, diplomat, royal secretary, envoy to Turkey (1633–1634), Chancellor of Queen Cecilia Renata of Austria, bishop of Przemyśl (1642–1644), Deputy Chancellor of the Crown.

⁵ Capuci Pasha.

No. 51

Prince John Albert to Emperor Ferdinand II

Ilza, 3 April 1634

Prince John Albert, bishop of Cracow, congratulates Emperor Ferdinand II on conquering his enemies and traitors within the Empire (the conspiracy of Albrecht von Wallenstein).

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fos 25r-26v.

Si cui hactenus dubium fuit Deum optimum maximum Romani Imperii stabiliendi et ab eo squalore, quem illi faedae superiorum bellorum lacerationes et turbulenti seditiosorum civium motus induxerint, ad pristinum decus et speciem reducendi, gloriam Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae reservare ei iam omnis ambiendi sublata est facultas, qui modo tam praesentem divini numinis opem inscelerati sicarii contra Sacram Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram impia conspiratione, uno pene momento detecta et vindicata cogitarit. Nimirum noluit Deus providentiam suam mortalium obiicere calumniae, cuius cum ubique clarissima extant argumenta, tum in conservandis Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae et augustissimae eius domus capitibus, voluit esse luculentissimum, cum ingratis et ex hominum memoria crudelissimi parricidae damnavit conatus et quantum timoris ac luctus in meditato scelere oppressit, tantum gaudii et gratulationum in Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis salute redhibuit¹. Quo nomine cum immortales divino eius numini ago agamque gratias, tum Sacrae Caesareae Maiestati qua possum maxima animi testificatione gratulor, quod in Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae felicitate invictissimae domus vita confirmata sit et impiae crudelitati contra Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae incolumitatem vires ademptae. Dedit ille perditus meritas perfidiae suae poenas, qui nullam odii causam habuit, nisi quod magna deberet beneficia, utinam et alii Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae hostes, qui Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae fortunam et amplitudinem conturbare nituntur, sentiant Sacram Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram supra mortalium esse offensionem ac iniuriam, quem Deus maximus suo circumvallavit praesidio. Quod aeternum Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae precatus, me

eius paternae benevolentiae, meaque debitae observantiae studia diligenter et reverenter commendo. Datum Ilzae die 3 Aprilis 1634.

Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis

sororinus uti filius observantissimus

Ioannes Albertus Carolus

¹ Prince-Cardinal John Albert refers to a conspiracy against Emperor Ferdinand II which was allegedly organized by imperial commander-in-chief Albrecht von Wallenstein, who was killed on 25 February 1634.

No. 52

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 5 April 1634

At the request of the dukes and estates of Silesia, Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Emperor Ferdinand II to be merciful towards insurgent subjects due to the devastation and suffering inflicted upon Silesia during the war.

Copies: AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fos 400v–401r; BC Cracow, MS 129, pp. 307–308.

Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime. Accepimus paucis ante diebus literas principum et Statuum Silesiae ipsis prope lacrimis exaratas, quibus miserando quaestu calamitates suas deplorant et nobis deprecantibus Maiestatem Vestram placare atque propitiare quaerunt. Non potuimus equidem nec debuimus denegare miseris christiani et vicini principis officium et quanquam nos Maiestati Vestrae et genus sanguine et is genus amore ac benevolentia ita coniunxit, ut nobis cum eadem hostes et amici communes sint, tamen quod isti si hostes aliquando erunt iam esse desierint dum clementiam implorant, ut Maiestati Vestrae gloriosum arbitramur parcere subiectis ita ab officio erga Maiestatem Vestram nostro nomine alienum quin pium et misereri regium afflicto atque calamitosis subvenire. Non imus quidem inficias Silesias praesentem fortunam atque calamitatem ipsos sibi fortassis accersivisse, sed neque id aut Maiestatis Vestrae innatam clementiam morari potest, quae eo illustrior quo noxioribus pascit aut nos christiano et regio affectu exuere, qui ut pertinaciae sontium succensere iure debet ita poenitentia placari. Cum vero etiam erga ipsos ad miserationem flectunt vetus domus nostra regia cum principibus Silesiae cognatio antiqua reipublicae iura, fida vicinitas, mutua commertia, pacta, foedera inprimisque publicae tranquillitatis ratio, quam Imperium et orbis christianus a Maiestate Vestra diu expectat. Quare maiori quo possumus studio a Maiestate Vestra petimus, velit illo suo heroico et catholico affectu, quo utramque fortunam aequanimiter ferre solet miserari sortem florentissimae quondam provinciae serio fortasse, sed serio respiscentis et non minus suspiriis et lacrimis quod unicum miseris superest clementiam Maiestati Vestrae implorantis, quam perpetua fide, obsequio, devotione eam deinceps demereri pollicetis. Satis poenarum se luisse miserando ac horrido sui statu ostendit, quando iam habet, in quod

amplius vel hostis saevire possit vel quod clementia servare. Servet tamen ut pater clementissimus Maiestas Vestra quod fortuna calamitatis iam statura perdere non potuit vel clementiae Maiestatis Vestrae obsecundas noluit ut superstet quod Maiestas Vestra adhuc servare posset et immortalem sibi victoris servitorisque gloriam parere. Ad quam accedent miserorum vota coeli auspicia et obligata voluntati nostrae studia quibus testabimur. Nos plurimum Maiestati Vestrae debere iam suffragatione nostra pacem et veniam aerumnosae provinciae dederit. Cui felix etc. Datum Varsaviae 5 Aprilis 1634.

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 5 April 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends Adam Marcin Kazanowski to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands.

Copies: AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fos 402r–402v; BC Cracow, MS 129, p. 305.

Serenissime et reverendissime princeps cognate et frater noster carissime. Confert se in exteris nationes generosus Adamus Martinus Kazanovius capitaneus Tlomaticensis¹ et intimus cubiculi nostri familiaris iuvenis magnae et spectatae indolis, filius vero magni palatini Podoliae² et campestrium copiarum Regni nostri praefecti, ut illi animum suum ad excelsa quaevis pronum et propensum tam militaribus quam aliis artibus expoliat et varios discat tractandorum armorum modos et scientiam. Quo autem affectu parentem illius atque adeo totam prosapiam uti de nobis optime meritam prosequimur, is quoque ad filium merito redundare debet. Proinde sine peculiari nostra commendatione ea aedibus patriae cum abire noluimus praesertim cum se nobis illas ditiones petere exposuisset, quas Serenitas Vestra imperio suo et regimine continet. Petimus igitur diligenter a Serenitate Vestra, ut cum se Serenitati Vestrae praesentaverit eam illi benignitatem demonstrare velit, quam magno sanguinis et virtutis iuveni magnanimus princeps declarare debet omnique eum benevolentia ac gratia dignum esse iudicet. Quod quid illi Serenitas Vestra exhibebit amoris in parte magni officii ducemus. Cui omnia fraterni amoris officia deferimus ac prosperam etc. Datum Varsaviae die 5 Aprilis 1634.

¹ Adam Marcin Kazanowski (c. 1611–1648), Polish nobleman, soldier, starost of Tlumacz, from 1634 to 1635 he stayed in the Netherlands, where he studied and gained military experience; he participated in the wars with the Cossacks and Tatars; Quartermaster of the Crown (1645–1648).

² Marcin Kazanowski (1563–1636), politician and military commander; participant in the wars with Muscovy, Sweden and Turkey, voivode of Podolia (1632–1636), Field Hetman of the Crown (1633–1636).

No. 54

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Laxenburg Castle, 16 May 1634

In response to Władysław IV's letter, Emperor Ferdinand II confirms that peace negotiations are underway. Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia, is in charge of them as well as of the army.

Copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 59, Polonica 1635, fo. 62r., dated 6 May 1634.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fo. 28r–28v.

Plane sicuti Serenitas Vestra sentit et scribit¹, ita se utriusque res provinciae et Regna habent, eaque ut personarum ita earundem inter se est coniunctio, nihil ut vel illis vel utrius nostrum possit accidere, quod non aequè ad alteram partem pertineat, quem respectum si alias, tum serie vel maxime ad personam resque et dominia Serenitatis Vestrae nobis habendum intelligimus, quando de bello vel pace tractanda vel suscipienda agitur. Nunc autem pacis quidem negotium ita se habet, ut tametsi se nobis ad hoc negotii alias, quod Serenitatem Vestram non latet, serenissimus rex Daniae² obtulerit, nosque ad hanc rem tam legatos nostros destinaverimus, quam saluum conductum pro altera parte expediendum ac transmittendum curaverimus, annus interim elapsus ad tractatum vero nullum hactenus perventum sit. Serenissimo autem regi Hungariae et Bohemiae filio nostro³ carissimo nuper hinc ad castra profecto, ut belli gerendi ita et pacis cum quocunque tractandae potestatem dedimus. Quod si igitur, ut spes nonnulla ex adversa parte ostenditur, res ad aliquam compositionem deducenda sit, potest sibi Serenitas Vestra hoc ut a nobis ita et a dicto serenissimo rege filio nostro, cui eam ob rem scribimus, certissime promittere, quidquid ullatenus res et aequitas perferet, id nos ad commoda promovenda Serenitati Vestrae, totum in hoc negotio omnique studio collocaturos esse. Quod reliquum est Serenitati Vestrae affectum piissimum avunculi ac patris amantissimi benevolentissime confirmantes eidem gloriosos rerum successus ex animo comprecamur. Datum in arce nostra Laxenburgi⁴ 16 mensis Maii anno 1634.

¹ The letter is the Emperor's reply to Wladyslaw IV's letter dated 5 April 1634, see no. 52.

² Christian IV.

³ Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia.

⁴ Laxenburg, a castle located to the south of Vienna; summer residence of the Habsburgs.

No. 55

King Władysław IV to King Philip IV

Orsha, 10 June 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Philip IV, King of Spain, of his victory in the war with Muscovy and expresses hope that with joint forces they will in the future defeat the Ottoman army.

Copies: AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fos 497r; BC Cracon, MS 129, pp. 451–453 (two copies); BN Warsaw, BOZ, MS 1163, pp. 25–26, the date of the letter missing; BPANPAU Cracon, MS 2256, fo. 461r–461v, the date of the letter missing.

Serenissime princeps domine cognate et affinis noster carissime. Bellum quod nobis Moschus ante biennium non expectato indutiarum exitu intulerat, quae felicitate et celeritate propulsaverimus ab ipsa fama Maiestas Vestra intellexit id iam plene pace his diebus aeviterna gloriosis nobis ac Regno condicionibus firmata confectum esse¹ Maiestatem Vestram peculiaribus literis nostris voluimus facere participem quam felicitate ac successibus nostris plurimum affici nobis certo persuaserimus, ius porro nostrum armis superioribus annis acquisitum solo tranquillitatis christianae studio genti illi supplici consignavimus, ut eo firmiter pacatis a septemtrione oneribus adversus orientalem potentiam vires aciesque nostras expedire possemus, receptis nihilominus in ius dominiumque perpetuum arcibus et provinciis qua latitudine qua ubertate soli praestantibus aliisque conditionibus nobis ac Regno nostro perhonestis exortis. Id nos Maiestati Vestrae ideo significandum putavimus, ut cognosceret quam sincero eam affectu persequamur qui successum ac felicitatis nostrae voluerimus eandem facere participem ac ut quoque Maiestas Vestra secundissimo rerum suarum cursu utatur optamus. Maxime vero cuperemus, ut communibus armis Ottomanicus fastus, qui maxime christianorum dissidiisque dilatatur deprimeretur. Sed id divinae videtur communicandum voluntati, quae pro arbitrio regum animos et regna dirigit et gubernat, quae ut Maiestatem Vestram in diuturna valetudine et continua felicitate conservet precamur. Datum Orsae² die X mensis Iunii 1634.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae bonus frater Vladislaus rex

¹ The peace treaty signed on 14 June 1634 in Polyanovka ended the war.

² Orsha (Polish: Orsza, Latin: Orsa), a town by the Dnieper, in the north-east part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania; currently in Belarus.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Radashkovichy, 18 June 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand II of signing the Peace of Polyanovka with the Grand Duchy of Muscovy.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fos 34r–35v. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando secundo divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vittembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo. Vladislaus quartus Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, electus magnus dux Moschoviae salutem et mutui amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Bellum quod nobis Moschus ante biennium non expectato indutiarum exitu intulerat, qua felicitate et celeritate propulsaverimus, et ex literis nostris et ab ipsa fama Maiestas Vestra intellexit. Id iam plene his diebus pace aeviterna¹ gloriosis nobis ac Regno conditionibus firmata confectum esse Maiestatem Vestram peculiaribus literis nostris voluimus facere certiolem, quam felicitate ac successibus nostris plurimum affici, certo persuademus. Ius porro nostrum annis superioribus acquisitum, solo tranquillitatis christianae studio, genti illi supplici consignavimus, ut eo firmiter pacatis a septemtrione rebus, adversus orientalem potentiam, vires aciesque nostras expedire possemus, receptis nihilominus in ius dominiumque nostrum perpetuum arcibus et provinciis, qua latitudine, qua ubertate soli praestantibus, aliisque conditionibus, nobis ac Regno nostro perhonestis, extortis. Id Maiestati Vestrae ideo nos significandum putavimus, ut cognosceret quam sincero affectu eam prosequamur, qui successuum ac felicitatis nostrae voluerimus eandem facere participem ac ut quoque Maiestas Vestra secundissimo rerum suarum cursu utatur, optamus, maxime vero cuperemus, ut communibus armis Ottomanicus fastus, qui maxime christianorum dissidiis dilatatur, deprimeretur. Sed id divinae videtur committendum voluntati, quae pro

arbitrio regum animos et Regna dirigit et gubernat. Quae ut Maiestatem Vestram in continua felicitate ac diuturna valetudine conservet precamur. Datae in Radoszkowice² die XVIII Iunii anno Domini MDCXXXIV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae secundo, Sueciae tertio anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus filius et nepos

Vladislaus rex

¹ The peace treaty was signed on 14 June 1634 in Polyanovka.

² Radashkovichy (Polish: Radoszkowice), a town in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, currently in Belarus, to the north of Minsk.

No. 57

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 1 July 1634

Emperor Ferdinand II informs Władysław IV, King of Poland, that he gave a hearing to his envoy Bakthasar Liesch von Hornau, auxiliary bishop of Wrocław.

Original: RA Stockholm, Extranea IX, Polen 89, s.f.

Ferdinandus secundus divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator, semper augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Virtembergae, comes Tirolis. Serenissimo principi domino Vladislao quarto regi Poloniae et Sueciae, magno duci Lithuaniae ac Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, electo magno duci Moscoviae, nepoti vicino amico et filio nostro carissimo salutem et mutuam benevolentiam. Serenissime princeps, nepos vicine amice et fili carissime.

Ea quae Serenitas Vestra reverendo devoto fideli nobis dilecto Iohanni Balthasaro Lisch de Hornau¹ episcopo Nicopoliensi suffraganeo et canonico Vratislaviensi ad sanctum Ioannem nec non ibidem ad Sanctam Crucem praeposito, coram nobis proponere in mandatis commiserit, omni fide, prudentia ac integritate peregit, ita ut merito ipsum non solum gratia nostra caesarea regiaque amplexi sumus, sed etiam eidem expeditione sua feliciter peracta, Serenitati Vestrae nostram animi propensionem referre commiserimus, amice postulantes dignetur ei benignas praebere aures et verbis ipsius de affectu et propenso studio nostro erga Serenitatem Vestram praedicantibus plenam fidem adhibere, nec non illum de meliori commendatum habere. Faciet in eo nobis rem apprime gratam et vicissim omni animi promptitudine demerendam. De reliquo Serenitati Vestrae cunctarum rerum quam prosperrimos successus ex animo precamur. Datae in civitate nostra Vienna die prima mensis Iulii anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo tricesimo quarto, regnorum nostrorum, Romani decimo quinto, Hungarici decimo septimo et Bohemici decimo octavo.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae bonus avuculus

Ferdinandus

¹ Johann Bakthasar Liesch von Hornau (1592–1661), German clergyman, canon of Wrocław; from 1625 titular bishop of Nicopolis and auxiliary bishop of Wrocław.

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 12 July 1634

Emperor Ferdinand II expresses his gratitude to Władysław IV, King of Poland, for the news about signing peace with Muscovy.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fo. 36r–36v.

Literas Serenitatis Vestrae 18 mensis proxime praeteriti Radoszcowicii datas¹ accepimus et ex iisdem de pace inter ipsam et gentem Moscoviticam gloriosis sibi et Regno isti conditionibus facta, itemque de expeditione nova in communem hostem christiani nominis suscepta intelleximus. Quemadmodum igitur id, quod feliciter gestum est, pro eo ac hoc ipsum summopere ad nos ex arcissimae nostrae coniunctionis ratione pertinere arbitramur, Serenitati Vestrae totique illi inclito Regno ad communem totius reipublicae christianae salutem maiusve decus suum et suorum quam optime evenire cupimus, ita optandum sane erat eiusdem reipublicae christianae statum regumque ac principum inter se contentionem esse, ut inde Serenitas Vestra ad fortia coepta aliquid auxilia sperare posset, nunc vero cum delictis communibus absque dubio ita promerentibus aliter se res habeat, quod possumus ex animo vovemus, ut contra illum etiam hostem iis rerum successibus Serenitas Vestra utatur, quibus respublica christiana in illam partem perpetuo sui ac Poloni nominis tenore in posterum firmetur Vestraeque Serenitati ac toti illi bellicosae nationi immortalis in omne consequens aevum gloria pareatur. Cui de caetero pro communicatione nobis facta gratias agentes omnia avunculi et patris amantissimi officia benevole deferimus. Datum Viennae 12 Iulii anno 1634.

¹ See no. 56.

No. 59

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 24 July 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand II help Krzysztof Suchodolski in his efforts to reclaim properties after the late Piotr Pierzciński.

Copies: BC Cracon, MS 129, p. 517; BPANPAU Cracon, MS 2256, fo. 405r–405v, the date of the letter is missing.

Contulimus iure caduco generoso Christophoro Suchodolski ob militaria ipsius servitia reipublicae sub felicibus duci parentis nostris auspiciis Livonica, Valachica et Moscovitica expeditione praeclare contestata bona omnia obitu cuiusdem Petri Pierzciński Regni nostri incolae fisco et dispositioni nostrae obnoxia, caeterum cum in partibus Silesiae nempe comitatu generosi comitis ab Obersdorff¹ ducatum Opoliensem et Raciboriensem generalis idem Pierzciński fato praeventus res mobiles illic reliquerit a nobisque donatarius supplex petierit, quo repetendis iis auctoritatem nostram regiam apud Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram accomodaremus, proinde meritis eius propensa voluntate faventes amanter a Maiestate Vestra postulamus generoso comiti ab Obersdorff iniungere velit, uti donatario nostro defuncti Pierzciński res easdem mobiles integre restituatur. Declarabit eo nomine Maiestas Vestra quantopere favent praeclare de republica meritis iuris simulve testatum faciet quo loco sit nostra apud eandem intercessio. Cui de caetero longaevam etc. Datum Varsaviae 24 Iulii 1634.

¹ Friedrich von Oppersdorff (1588–1636), Silesian nobleman, starost (Landeshauptmann) of the Duchy of Opole and Racibórz (1625–1636).

King Władysław IV to King Philip IV

Warsaw, 1 September 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends Jerzy Sebastian Lubomirski to Philip IV, King of Spain.

Copies: AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fo. 395r–395v; BC Cracow, MS 129, p. 615; BPANPAU Cracow, MS 2256, fo. 408r–409v.

Proficiscitur ad aulam Serenitatis Vestrae illustris Georgius Lubomirski¹ illustrissimi viri Stanislai comitis in Wiśnie Lubomirski palatini terrarum Russiae, Sandomiriae, Spiscensis, Białocerkiewiensis, Rzepiensis, Zatoriensis² praefecti filius et potissimum animo et instituto ut in ea virtutis palaestra, in qua cum summa laude viri nobiles versantur aetatem suam optimis moribus formaret, variarumque rerum ad omnem vitae degendae cursum necessarium experientia et usu maiori sibi comparata prudentia ad utilitatem quandoque patriae possit traducere. Eum nos cum illustrissimae ipsius familiae maiorumque tam in toga quam in sago excellentissimum virorum paternarumque virtutum et illustrium meritorum in plurimis expeditionibus bellicis, tum praecipue in illa contra Osamanum imperatorem Turcarum suscepta et feliciter singulari ipsius prudentia et felicitate confecta probatorum, tum suae ipsius virtutis et dexteritatis causa Maiestati Vestrae maiorem in modum commendamus amanter postulantes velit tam insignem adulescentem benigno favore in Regnis et ditionibus suis complecti, ipsiusque desiderii pro innata sua humanitate favere. Rem certe nobis gratam Maiestas Vestra praestiterit, si ille commendationis nostrae eumque optatum et nos speramus fructum tulerit. Quod reliquum est etc. Datum Varsaviae die 1 Septembris 1634.

¹ Jerzy Sebastian Lubomirski (1616–1667), Polish magnate, writer and translator, military commander; in the years 1629–1635 he travelled and studied abroad, including Inglostadt, Leiden and Leuven; in 1634, he undertook his journey to Spain at the request of King Władysław IV, who also entrusted him with diplomatic missions regarding cooperation with Philip IV in the matters of the war with Sweden and Turkey. In the later years he became Grand Marshal of the Crown (1650–1664) and Field Hetman of the Crown (1657–1664).

² Stanisław Lubomirski, see no. 42, footnote 2.

No. 61

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 1 September 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Emperor Ferdinand II to join their efforts in preventing banditry on the border between Poland and Silesia and assures the Emperor that he will punish those guilty of committing injustices on the lands belonging to Lazarus Henckel von Donnersmarck.

Copies: BC Cracow, MS 129, p. 60; BPANPAU Cracow, MS 2256, fo. 405v, the date of the letter missing.

Hac licentiosorum quarundam Regno nostro in ditiones Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae excurrentium insolentia, de qua Maiestas Vestra per literas certiores nos facit non possumus sane nisi graviter commoveri, nihil enim antiquius habemus quam ut non minus cultu ac veneratione cognati sanguinis quo tam arcte Maiestati Vestrae devinctissimus quam ipsa pactorum foederumque religione paratam inter nostras et Maiestatis Vestrae ditiones vicinitatem tueamur. Cuius rei satis superque luculentum dedimus documentum cum statim in hisce Regni nostri primordiis et legem publicam contra eiusmodi licentiosos sub felici regimine duci progenitoris nostri sancitam approbaverimus et ipsius rigorem in diversos extendi mandaverimus. Quare pro eodem fruendae utrinque pacis studio in eosdem quoque qui in agris et possessionibus generosi Lazari Henekl de Donneysmarek¹ Maiestatis Vestrae subditi insolenter grassati sunt modo de iis certo constet animadverti faciemus. Vicissim nobis persuadentes Maiestatem Vestram pari etiam in eos qui tempore hoc saevientis in Silesia belli saepius subditos nostros illi provinciae collimitaneos infestant animadversione usuram esse. De caetero Sacrae Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae longaequam valetudinem in fortunatosque rerum successus etc. Datum Varsaviae die 1 Septembris 1634.

¹ Lazarus II Henckel von Donnersmarck (1573–1664), Silesian nobleman from the merchant family from Spiš; from 1629 owner of Tarnowskie Góry, Bytom and Bogumin; in 1636 he received the title of Baron, and in 1651 he became Count of the Empire.

King Władysław IV to King Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 12 September 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends Władysław Leszczyński to Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia.

Copies: BN Warsaw, BOZ, MS 1163, pp. 38–39; BC Cracow, MS 129, p. 663.

Impense favemus nobili Regni nostri iuventuti sese obsequiis augustae domus Serenitatis Vestrae addicenti. Quo animo cum iter ad Serenitatem Vestram suscipiat nobilissimus iuvenis Raphael de Lesno¹ comes clarissimi viri Venceslai de Lesno supremi cancellarii Regni² nostri filius commendationis nostrae literis comitari voluimus. Meretur ille et praeclara indole sua et natalium splendore et prono in augustam Serenitatis Vestrae domum cultu, ut eum Serenitas Vestra innata complectatur benevolentia, caeterum eo uberius id faciet Serenitas Vestra nostri causa, qui clarissimorum maiorum eius causa imprimisque magnifici Raphaelis comitis de Lesno palatini Belzensis patruī sui senatoris amplissimi apprime ipsi favemus ac de meliori nota eundem Serenitati Vestrae commendamus, gratissimo animo totum id prosecuturi quidquid favoris et virtute spectati adolescenti impertiverit Serenitas Vestra. Cui prosperam valetudinem ac felices rerum successus ex animi precamur. Datum Varsaviae 12 Septembris 1634.

¹ Rafał Leszczyński (c. 1614–1647), Polish nobleman, courtier and royal colonel, son of Waclaw, Grand Chancellor of the Crown.

² Waclaw Leszczyński (c. 1576–1628), Polish nobleman, in the years 1592–1598 he travelled across Europe and studied, among others, in Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Basel and Padua; voivode of Kalisz (1618–1620), Deputy Chancellor of the Crown (1620–1625), Grand Chancellor of the Crown (1625–1628).

No. 63

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Zamość, 22 September 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, congratulates Emperor Ferdinand II on the victory over the Swedish army and asks him to release Gustav Horn from captivity.

Copies: BJ Cracow, MS 94, p. 8; BC Cracow, MS 129, p. 647.

In ipso expeditionis armorumque contra Turcas motu plenum laetitiae felicisque ominis nuntium accepimus parta contra hostes Maiestatis Vestrae victoria. Tanto enim maiore is animum nostrum gaudio perfundere debuit quo adversarum secundarumque rerum fortunam communem nobis cum Maiestate Vestra ducimus. Cui nos arctiore sanguinis nexu, religionis, vicinitatis iura copulant. Augent laetitiam serenissimi Ungariae regis¹ fratris nostri carissimi prima isthaec auspicia, tam insigni victoria felicitati atque gloriae inaugurata ac demum fausti ominis fiducia, quod in ipsa expeditionis nostrae limine victoria² nos salutaverit, ut ab ea susceptum contra barbaros bellum feliciter auspicemur. Inter quas communis laetitiae causas fructusque vovemus ac precamur, ut Maiestas Vestra hanc victoriam novis trophis cumulet Imperium et augustam domum suam victricibus armis stabiliat ac orbem christianum post tot bellorum tempestates tranquillet. Caeterum ut privato spolio haec victoria ad nos redundet qua voto et fructu nostra etiam est permanenter petimus, ut Maiestas Vestra Gustavum Horn³ in proelio captum donet nobis vel saltem dimitti aut redimi tamdiu velit, quamdiu nobis lis bellumque cum Suecis intercedet. Vicissim bellorum quae gessimus gerimusque fructum Maiestas Vestra semper decerpat pro suo augustaeque domus suae usu atque commodo. Quod reliquum est Maiestati Vestrae novos ex hostibus triumphos longaequamque incolumitatem a Deo precamur. Datum Zamosci⁴ XXII Septembris 1634.

¹ Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia.

² On 6 September 1634 at Nördlingen, the joint military forces of the Empire and Spain defeated the Swedish army and the Protestant forces supporting it.

³ Gustav Horn (1592–1657), Swedish nobleman of Finnish origin, military commander; he gained his military experience in the Netherlands; from 1621 he fought in Livonia; in 1628 he became a field marshal; from 1630 he took part in the war in Germany; during the battle of Nördlingen he was taken captive and remained in captivity until 1642.

⁴ Zamość (Latin: Zamoscia), a city in Poland in Lubelskie Voivodship.

No. 64

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Lviv, 3 October 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand II of signing peace with Turkey.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fos 56r–57v. Seal.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 12–13.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Ungariae, Bohemiae, Croatiae, Dalmatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, electus magnus dux Moschoviae salutem et mutuae benevolentiae continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Dum compositis in septemtrione rebus in Orientem contra imperatorem Turcarum cum exercitu progredimur, obviam nobis venit nuntius Leopoli pacis¹ cum illo hoste gloriosis et tam Regno huic quam vicinis provinciis utilibus conditionibus transactae. Erat vero hoc tempore, si quando egregia tyranni illius, qui se non modo in nos armaverat, verum etiam vicinos absorpturum superbe minabatur oppugnandi occasio nisi eam christianorum principum dissensiones et res turbulenta turbassent; ipse vero vires et apparatus nostrum praeter spem suam maiorem offendens, pacem demissius flagitasset, quam etiam nobis ipsis expediebat confici. Cuius rei, ut omnium aliarum, quae nobis feliciter eveniunt Maiestatem Vestram pro iure sanguinis et observantiae, quam nostris rebus optime affici et laetari scimus, voluimus facere participem, ut sic fructus et commodum huius pacis etiam ad Maiestatem Vestram aliquo modo redundaret. Porro optamus, ut divina bonitas reliquum Maiestatis Vestrae, quod quam longissimum cupimus aetatis, dulcedine pacis condiat, et quibusvis solatiis tam ex Imperii quam serenissimae domus felicitate provenientibus coronet, hostesque communes penitus debellatos Maiestati Vestrae subiiciat, et

de iis continuas victorias largiatur. Id unice Maiestati Vestrae et optimam
valetudinem filiali² voto precamur. Datum Leopoli die III mensis Octobris
anno Domini MDCXXXIV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae II, Sueciae
III anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis

vestrae bonus nepos
uti filius

Vladislaus rex

¹ On 19 August 1634 in Warsaw, Stanislaw Koniecpolski, Grand Hetman of the Crown, and Sultan's envoy Shahin Agha signed the peace treaty which was confirmed by Murtaza Pasha on 8 September of the same year.

² Ferdinand III.

No. 65

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Ebersdorf, 17 October 1634

Emperor Ferdinand II expresses his gratitude to Władysław IV, King of Poland, for the letter informing him about signing peace with Turkey.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fo. 67r.

Literas¹ Serenitatis Vestrae quibus de pace cum Turcia nuper transacta nos certiore facit, accepimus et de istarum rerum [a] voluit fructum percipimus laetitia ad nos [a] omnibus fruendis suis merito redundatis pro tanta ausi maior res hac occasione in nobis retulit, quod commoda transactioni [a] ad vicinas quoque provincias pertinere debere intelligimus. Gratulamur igitur cum Vestrae Serenitati tum inclito illi Regno bonaque fulcitur ad summum totiusque christiani orbis bonum tot hoc successum munire optamus, prout optare possumus ac debemusque Serenitatem Vestram affectu supra patrino totum viro illius regnum summa quadam benevolentia profiteamur Deus optimus maximus Serenitatem Vestram quam diuturnis plurimum rebus florentem confirmaret. Ebersdorfii² 17 Octobris anno 1634.

^[a] *the word is illegible*

¹ See no. 64.

² Ebersdorf, currently Kaiserobersdorf, south-eastern part of Vienna with the Emperor's summer residence.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Lviv, 24 October 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand II exempt Mikolaj Firlej Broniewski and his wife from taxes and levies which have been put on their properties in Silesia.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 41–42.

Quam bene sit merita de Serenitate Vestra domus et familia baronum a Dhona, nolumus in memoriam Maiestatis Vestrae revocare, certique sumus quod Maiestas Vestra ei optime cupiat, variisque eam commodis et ornamentis velit affectam. Cum autem ex fratre neptis olim magnifici illustris [baronis] a Dhona¹ Maiestati Vestrae ob singularem fidem et obsequium cari, generoso Nicolao Bronienio² magni arcis nostrae Cracoviensis procuratoris³ filio aulico nostro iuveni optimae ac generosae indolis nuper nupserit, bonaque et possessiones in Silesia, partim advitalicio, partim haereditario iure possideat, faciendum putavimus, ut Maiestatem Vestram pro ea rogaremus, quo illius possessiones Tworkow⁴, Rudisvald⁵, Kamienum⁶ cum omnibus aliis praediis libera et immunia, tam a stativis militaribus, quam a quibusquis aliis exactionibus et contributionibus, libera et immunia, speciali diplomate et gratia efficiat, idque magistratibus et officialibus, tam militiae quam fisci regii et imperialis, imprimis vero generoso Friderico de Opersdorf Opoliensi et Ratiboriensi ducatus gubernatori⁷, districtius inhibeat. Habet quoque plura debita inter subditos principis Lihtensztejni⁸ in ducatu Opaviensi, quae ut Maiestas Vestra iisdem subditis exsolvi mandet, magnopere petimus, datis ad creditores illius literis, ut foenore sint tantisper contenti, donec plene subditi illi dictae dominae debita restituant. Quod beneficium non solum ad illos coniuges Maiestati Vestrae obsequentissimos, verum etiam ad nos redundabit, plurimumque hoc nomine Maiestati Vestrae nos debituros semper agnoscet. Quod reliquum est Maiestatem Vestram diutissime valere in summa rerum tranquillitate cupimus. Datum Leopoli die 24 Octobris 1634.

¹ Karl Hannibal von Dohna (1588–1633), son of Abraham von Dohna; after his father's death in 1613 he took over the rule in the free state country of Syców (German: Gross

Wartenberg) and the function of landvogt of Upper Lusatia; he remained loyal to the Emperor during the anti-Habsburg rebellion in Bohemia; in 1621 he became the chair of Silesian Chamber (Finanzkammer).

- ² Mikołaj Firlej Broniewski, royal courtier, starost of Czernichów; he married Maria Salome von Dohna, daughter of Otto Botho von Dohna, the widow of Samuel Lassota von Steblau (d. 1631), owner of Tworków in the Duchy of Racibórz.
- ³ Adrian Firlej Broniewski (c. 1590–1635), royal governor of Cracow and starost of Niepolomice (1633–1635).
- ⁴ Tworków (German: Tworkau), a village in Upper Silesia, to the south of Racibórz.
- ⁵ Rudyszwałd (German: Ruderswald), a village in Upper Silesia, to the south of Racibórz.
- ⁶ Presumably Kamień, a village in Upper Silesia, currently a district of Rybnik.
- ⁷ Friedrich von Oppersdorff.
- ⁸ Karl Eusebius I von Liechtenstein (1611–1684), Duke of Opawa and Karniów (1627–1684).

King Władysław IV to King Ferdinand III

Lviv, 24 October 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that King Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia, exempt Mikołaj Firlej Broniewski and his wife from taxes and levies which have been put on their properties in Silesia.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, p. 42.

Etsi Serenitati Vestrae domus et familia comitum a Dhona speciali modo ob fidem obsequium aliasque virtutes commendata esse debet, tamen quia nos quoque illi favemus petimus a Serenitate Vestra, ut bona ac possessiones Tworkow¹, Rudisvald², Kamienum³ neptis ex fratre⁴ olim magnifici illustris baronis a Dhona⁵ quae in Silesia possidet, cum omnibus aliis praediis libera et immunia [a] [tam a stativis militaribus, quam a quibusvis aliis exactionibus et contributionibus, libera et immunia, speciali diplomate et gratia efficiat, idque magistratibus et officialibus, tam militiae quam fisci regii et imperialis, imprimis vero generoso Friderico de Opersdorf⁶ Opoliensi et Ratiboriensi ducatus gubernatori, districtius inhibeat. Habet quoque plura debita inter subditos principis Libtensztenii⁷ in ducatu Opaviensi, quae ut Maiestas Vestra iisdem subditis exsolvi mandet, magnopere petimus, datis ad creditores illius literis, ut foenore sint tantisper contenti, donec plene subditi illi dictae dominae debita restituant. Quod beneficium non solum ad illos coniuges Maiestati Vestrae obsequentissimos, verum etiam ad nos redundabit, plurimumque hoc nomine Maiestati Vestrae nos debituros semper agnoscet. Quod reliquum est Maiestatem Vestram diutissime valere in summa rerum tranquillitate cupimus. Datum Leopoli die 24 Octobris 1634.]

[^a] *the following annotation was removed: ut supra de verbo ad verbum mutatis mutandis, and next in brackets the text from the letter no. 66 was added*

¹ Tworków.

² Rudyszwałd.

³ Kamień.

⁴ Maria Salome von Dohna.

⁵ Karl Hannibal von Dohna.

⁶ Friedrich von Oppersdorff.

⁷ Karl Eusebius I von Liechtenstein.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 3 November 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand II release from prison and exonerate Ernest Georg Sparr, artillery commander who distinguished himself during the war in Prussia, from the charges of betrayal and give consent so that he could leave for Poland.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 99–100.

Etsi iam bis ad Maiestatem Vestram scripserimus, ut generosum Georgium Ernestum Sparrium¹ tormentorum praefectum, suspicione magis criminis quam ipso facto gravatum, flagitationi ac petitionibus nostris donaret et ab aresto liberum esse iuberet, attamen cum nondum gratiam illi esse factam intelligamus, repetendum id a Maiestate Vestra putavimus, ut hominem nobis praeterito bello Prussico cognitum ac ob militarem scientiam carum, in gratiam suam recipiat, crimine siquidem illud incurrit absolvat, et ad nos eum transire permittat, opera enim illius et industria bellica valde nobis erit necessaria. Multum sane hoc nomine Maiestati Vestrae debebimus et vicissim omni officio referre eam gratiam studebimus. Cui felicissimum ac diuturnum imperium vitamque longaeavam exoptamus. Datum Varsaviae die 3 Novembris 1634.

¹ Ernest Georg Sparr (d. 1666), German soldier in the service of Poland, the Empire and Sweden; he served under the command of Albrecht Wallenstein, after whose death (1634) he was accused of participating in the conspiracy against the Emperor and sent to prison, which he left in 1636.

No. 69

King Władysław IV to King Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 3 November 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia, release from prison and exonerate Ernest Georg Sparr, artillery commander who distinguished himself during the war in Prussia, from the charges of betrayal and give consent so that he could leave for Poland.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 99–100.

Detinetur adhuc sub arresto, mandato Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis¹ generosus Georgius Ernestus Sparrus² tormentorum magnus praefectus, idque ob suspicionem perduellionis a qua eum longe abfuisse accepimus, pro illius libertate bis Sacram Caesaream Maiestatem per nostras literas interpellavimus, sed cum hucusque fructum intercessionis nostrae non sentiat, cum ipsam Sacram Caesaream Maiestatem, tum Serenitatem Vestram rogandam iteratis visibus putavimus, ut hominem variis bellis et certaminibus exercitatum, nobisque ob bene ac fortiter Prussico bello operam navatam carum, nostra causa dimitti et absolvi iubeat. Quam nostram petitionem ut Serenitas Vestra pro suo in nos fraterno affectu efficaciter promoveat, vehementer rogamus, plurimumque nos Serenitati Vestrae hoc nomine debituros pollicemur, porro ut Serenitas Vestra magis ac magis hostes debellet ac debilitet, nec non optime ac diutissime valeat, precamur. Datum ut supra.

¹ Ferdinand II.

² See no. 68.

No. 70

King Władysław IV to King Philip IV

Warsaw, 17 November 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Philip IV, King of Spain, consent to the marriage of Prince John Casimir with Anna Carafa, princess of Stigliano.

Original AGS, Estado, leg. 2336, fols 3 a 6.

Sacra Maestà Catolica.

Mi si presenta occasione di accasar il Signor Principe Casimiro¹ mio fratello con la Signora Principessa di Stigliano², suddita di Vostra Maestà Catolica, intorno che, perché non mi resta altra difficoltà da superare che ottener il consenso di Vostra Maestà, ch'in ciò è necessario, ne faccio però con ogni maggior efficacia istanza a Vostra Maestà, perché si compiaccia darlo in riguardo dell'avanzamento in che ne rimane lo stato di Sua Altezza. Questi Principi miei fratelli si promettono ogni favore da Vostra Maestà in considerazione della stretta congiunzione di sangue che tanto si stringe con Vostra Maestà, et io lo spero anche dandomelo a credere, oltre la ragione, ancor la bontà di Vostra Maestà, la quale vorrà dimostrar in ogni occorrenza che ne fo, né essi c'inganniamo in presuppore questo, et a Vostra Maestà prego da Dio continue prosperità. Varsavia, li 17 di Novembre 1634.

Affezionatissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

¹ John Casimir.

² Anna Carafa della Stadera (1607–1644), princess of Stigliano, an heir of numerous and affluent properties after her grandfather Antonio Carafa (Principality of Stigliano and Duchy of Mondragone) and her grandmother Isabella Gonzaga (Duchy of Sabionetta); many dukes from Europe vied for her hand, including Alexander Charles Vasa in 1633; in 1636 she married Ramiro Felipe Núñez de Guzmán, 2nd Duke of Medina de Torres, Viceroy of Naples.

No. 71

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 23 November 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand II of the death of his brother Prince Alexander Charles.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fos 73r–74v. Seal.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, p. 82.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vittembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo. Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque etc. nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, electus magnus dux Moschoviae salutem et mutui amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Grave et acerbum domui regiae vulnus his diebus inflictum est immatura morte et minus expectata serenissimi principis Alexandri¹ fratris nostri carissimi, quin is quoque doloris sensus in domum Maiestatis Vestrae sit penetraturus nullum est dubium, non modo enim tam propinqui sanguinis iactura, verum etiam regia ipsius indoles ad magnas et gloriosas res efformata dolorem Maiestati Vestrae domuique illius augustae afferre debet. Nos sane tam graviter hunc occasum fratris longe carissimi ferimus, ut nihil nobis potuerit accidere hoc tempore acerbius. Voluimus autem Maiestatem Vestram sicut solemus laetitiarum ita tristitiae praesentis facere participem, ut doloris communicatione luctui nostro levamen afferremus. Deus optimus maximus omnes tristes casus, quibus tamen mortalis vita est obnoxia a Maiestatis Vestrae domo procul depellat et diutissime omnibus affluentem prosperitatibus toti domui caesareae et nostrae conservet.

Datum Varsaviae die XXIII mensis Novembris anno Domini MDCXXXIV
regnorum nostrorum Poloniae II Sueciae vero III anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus nepos uti filius

Vladislaus rex

¹ Prince Alexander Charles died of smallpox on 19 November 1634 in the village of Wielkie near Warsaw.

No. 72

King Władysław IV to King Philip IV

Warsaw, 23 November 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Philip IV, King of Spain, of the death of his brother Prince Alexander Charles.

Copy: BJ Cracon, MS 94, p. 82, the manuscript does not contain the letter; under Władysław IV's letter to Emperor Ferdinand II (see no. 67) there is the note: „Similis ad Regem Hispaniarum”; the contents of the letter, without any titles or the farewell formula, are in brackets.

[Grave et acerbum domui regiae vulnus his diebus inflictum est immatura morte et minus expectata serenissimi principis Alexandri fratris nostri carissimi, quin is quoque doloris sensus in domum Maiestatis Vestrae sit penetraturus nullum est dubium, non modo enim tam propinqui sanguinis iactura, verum etiam regia ipsius indoles ad magnas et gloriosas res efformata dolorem Maiestati Vestrae domuique illius augustae afferre debet. Nos sane tam graviter hunc occasum fratris longe carissimi ferimus, ut nihil nobis potuerit accidere hoc tempore acerbius. Voluimus autem Maiestatem Vestram sicut solemus laetitiarum ita tristitiae praesentis facere participem, ut doloris communicatione luctui nostro levamen afferremus.]

No. 73

King Władysław IV to King Ferdinand III

[Warsaw, 23 November 1634]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia, of the death of his brother Prince Alexander Charles.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 82–83.

Summae et rarae indolis principem serenissimum Alexandrum fratrem nostrum carissimum, mors, quae nulli parcit aetati et conditioni, proxime cum ingenti nostro dolore et omnium luctu abripuit. Principis tanti iactura, qui nuper orbi christiano illuxerat et omnium expectatione ac votis ad maximas res et gloriosas destinabatur, omnium quidem animos sed praecipue Serenitati Vestrae pectus, propter singularem erga eum affectum penetrabit, quod facile ipsi ex nostro sensu et dolore assequimur. Id cum Serenitati Vestrae pro necessitudinis vinculo significaverimus, tum ab ea petimus, ut eundem amorem et affectum, quem erga illum defunctum principem constanter retinuit, erga nos et superstites illius fratres conservet, ipsa vero nullos acerbiores casus, quibus mortalis conditio carere non potest sentiat, continuoque felicitatis cursu laetetur. Cui fraternum nostrum amorem et officia contestamur. Datum ut supra.

No. 74

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 25 November 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, of the death of his brother Prince Alexander Charles.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 87r–88v. Seal.

Copy: BJ Cracon, MS 94, p. 83, dated 23 November 1634.

Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gotthorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, electus magnus dux Moschoviae, serenissimo et reverentissimo in Christo patri domino Ferdinando Dei gratia Hispaniarum infanti Sacrae Romanae Ecclesiae cardinali, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, comiti Tirolis, provinciarum Belgicarum gubernatori cognato nostro carissimo salutem et omnem felicitatem. Serenissime et reverentissime princeps domine cognate noster carissime.

Irrupit protunc in domum nostram regiam insperata illa et inclemens vitae humanae expugnatrix mors et serenissimum principem Alexandrum¹ fratrem nostrum dilectissimum orbis martis et militiae delicias, quem natura et indoles ad omnes gloriosas actiones et occupationes efformaverat, succisa florida illius aetate diuturniore vitae usura privavit, plane eodem tempore, quo mundo velut pulchrum aliquod sidus exoriri praeclaris animi corporis dotibus coepit, extinctus, tantum autem abest, ut ex illius occasu dolori temperemus, quin cum ad plures transmittere et omnium lacrimis in primis vero amicorum et cognatorum principum augere velimus. Quapropter acerbitatis huius nuntium ad Serenitatem quoque Vestram, quam domus regia ob consanguinitatis et amicitiae ius praecipue semper observavit et dilexit, deferimus tandemque communis nostri luctus facimus participem. Quia vero supersunt in regia nostra domo fratres ii sese Serenitatis Vestrae amoris commendant et nos una cum illis omnis prosperitatis incrementum valetudinisque diuturnitatem Serenitati Vestrae precamur. Datae Varsaviae die XXV mensis Novembris anno Domini MDCXXXIV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae II, Sueciae vero III anno.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae benevolus frater Vladislaus rex

¹ Prince Alexander Charles.

Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand to King Władysław IV

Brussels, 30 November 1634

Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, congratulates Władysław IV on his election as King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania.

Fair copy: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fo. 83r–83v.

Serenissimo principi domino Vladislao quarto electo Poloniae regi, magno duci Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gothorum, Vandalorumque haereditario regi, electo magno duci Moscoviae, domino cognato nostro carissimo. Ferdinandus Dei gratia cardinalis infans Hispaniarum etc. salutem, benevolentiam et mutui amoris incrementum. Serenissime princeps domine cognate carissime.

Quemadmodum Regiae Maiestati Vestrae omne felicitatis incrementum pro mutuo nostro interesse ex sincero animi et cognationis affectu semper exoptamus, ita nos summo affecerunt gaudio pergrata illa de electione et inauguratione Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae in regem Poloniae et magnum ducem Lithuaniae ad nos delata nuntia, de qua regia dignitate eidem ex animo congratulamur, omnemque prosperitatis cumulum et ut illa longa multorum annorum serie pro rei catholicae augustissimae domus nostrae bono et commodo, sospes et incolumis frui et gaudere possit apprecamur, ex animo optantes frequentiores sese nobis praeberi occasiones, quibus Regiae Maiestati Vestrae congratulari possimus, quod autem officium hoc hucusque a nobis sit intermissum, inde accidit, quod Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae litterae, decima quarta mensis Novembris anni millesimi sexcentissimi tregesimi secundi ad nos datae, quibus nos praedictae suae electionis et inaugurationis reddit certiolem nisi iam prius post adventum nostrum in hasce Belgii provincias ad manus nostras devenere. De caetero nihil adeo desideramus, quam ut Regiae Maiestati Vestrae propensum animi nostri erga se domumque suam regiam studium et affectum quibuscunque benevolentiae officii comprobare possimus. Cui diurnam incolumitatem et prosperos auguramur rerum omnium successus. Datae Bruxellis XXX mensis Novembris anno Domini MDCXXXIV.

Eiusdem Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae benevolus ^afrater^a

^{a-a} *the word cognatus is crossed out*

No. 76

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Gdańsk, 20 December 1634

Władysław IV, King of Poland, asks Emperor Ferdinand II for permission to conduct peace mediation in the war which is taking place in the Empire. He informs the Emperor that with regard to this matter he has contacted Christian IV, King of Denmark, and John George I, Duke of Saxony. He asks the Emperor to indicate the time and meeting place for the peace talks before the war breaks out.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fos 79r–80v. Seal.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 120–121, dated 13 December 1634.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Cariolae, Wittembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo. Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, electus magnus dux Moschoviae salutem et mutui amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Pacatis a septemtrione et oriente feliciter rebus, nihil nobis ad praesens optatius est quam ut aliunde pax nobis atque adeo toti Imperio oboriatur et tam nos ipsi, quam Maiestas Vestra, cui filialem affectum et cultum debemus, quod reliquum est aetatis, post tot bellorum varias iactationes in portu pacis et tranquillitatis collocemus. Fatigatae totius Imperii diuturnitate et atrocitate bellorum vires, quiete et intermissione indigent, ne omnino concidant bella pacis ergo plerumque suscipiuntur, quae si perpetua sint, actum de humano genere fuerit. Et quidem Maiestatem Vestram nunquam fuisse a restituenda in Imperio pace, alienam cognovimus, et ne nunc quidem eam abnuere scimus, ut idcirco sententiam Maiestatis Vestrae et voluntatem iterato putaverimus explorandam, praesertim cum nos ad eam rem literae serenissimi Daniae regis¹ et fidum illius consilium per legatum nostrum ab eo suggestum excitarit, qui etiam coniuncta opera optat negotium hoc orbi et Imperio salutare, aggredi et feliciter salva imperiali

Maiestatis Vestrae dignitate et serenissimae Austriacae domus antiquo splendore conficere. Petimus itaque a Maiestate Vestra, ut nobis mentem et propensionem suam significet, locumque et tempus, quod Maiestati Vestrae lubebit, assignet; putaremus vero occupandam et praevertendam belli gerendi opportunitatem antequam scilicet exercitus prodeant in campum et vires adveniantur adversariae. Mittimus quoque ad illustrissimum Saxoniae ducem² animi pariter illius cognoscendi causa, putamusque eum neque protelatione neque tergiversatione amplius usurum. Qua in re volumus esse Maiestati Vestrae persuasum, nos nullam privatarum accessionum vel commodorum rationem habituros, solam tantummodo communis pacis revocatae utilitatem et gloriam, nec non serenissimae Austriacae domus, nobis coniunctissimae, decus et dignitatem, quam continuis bellorum fluctibus concuti, non sine gravi dolore intuemur, speraturos. Statuet igitur Maiestas Vestra, quod illi optimum et consultissimum, augustae domui gloriosum et maxime conveniens esse censebit, nosque celeriter reddet certiores. Nostram certe operam et studium, quod ob vetustiores et recentiores cum inclita domo Austriaca nexus summum et sinceritatis plenum esse debet, Maiestas Vestra si quando, profecto in hoc negotio agnoscet, de quo pluribus cum Maiestate Vestra religiosus pater Magnus³ nomine nostro conferet, cui plenam fidem a Maiestate Vestra datam iri confidimus et audemusque felicissime imperantem, diu et optime valere animitus optamus. Datum Gedani die XX mensis Decembris anno Domini MDXXXIV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae II Sueciae vero III anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

benevolus nepos uti filius

Vladislaus rex

¹ Christian IV (1577–1648), King of Denmark and Norway from 1588 to 1648.

² John George I (1585–1656), Duke Elector of Saxony in the years 1611–1656.

³ Valeriano Magni (1586–1661), Italian clergyman, diplomat, theologian, scholar; in 1598, his parents moved from Milan to Prague; in 1602 he joined the Order of Capuchins; he was a close associate of Cardinal Ernst Harrach, Emperor Ferdinand II, Maximilian I, Duke of Bavaria, and Wladyslaw IV, King of Poland. In December 1634 Wladyslaw IV entrusted him with the diplomatic mission to Ferdinand II in order to obtain the Emperor's agreement for the King to conduct peace mediation in the war taking place in the Empire as well as military assistance in case the war between Poland and Sweden begins again.

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Gdańsk, 1 January 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, urges Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, to return the ship which belongs to Gdańsk merchant Georg Hewel. The ship, under the command of Thomas Janson, while on its way to Málaga, was detained by the Dunkirk fleet and is held in Ostend.

Copies: AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fos 397r–397v; BC Cracow, MS 129, pp. 3–4, dated 1 January 1634.

Published: Akta do dziejów Polski na morzu, t. VII, cz. 1, pp. 20–21.

Relatum est nobis nomine spectabilis Georgii Hewel¹ factoris ac subditi nostri civis et mercatoris Gedanensis se in mense Augusto anni praeteriti navim suam Fortunam nominatam, cui famatus Tomas Janson² ex Frislandia oriundus itidem civis Gedanensis praefuit mercibus silvestribus carra et ferro oneratam Malagam³ misisse, ut exinde vina et alias eius loci merces hic vicissim reportaret. Eidem nautae literae certificationis civitatis Gedanensis cum eiusdem sigillo, quod videlicet ea navis et merces intro contentae memorati Hewel propria sit, traditae sunt. Literae quoque passus a Paulo Classen⁴ substituto Gabriellis de Royen⁵ ob maiorem securitatem ipsi communicatae. Quibus quidem literis fretus memoratus nauta nihil sibi periculi metuens cursumque propositi itineris prosequi volens a Dunkierkieriana navi captus et una cum navi et intro contentis mercibus Ostendam⁶ in Septembre ductus est, merces ibidem distractae ac vili pretio divenditae ingens sane detrimentum subditus noster patitur, cui non solum cursus navigationis propositae impeditus est, verum etiam navis et merces abreptae cum tum subditis nostris hactenus semper dummodo in Hollandiam cursum suum non dirigant libera navigatio sit permissa ac insuper idem Hewel serenissimo Hispaniarum regi non ita pridem cum periculosus per Hollandiam sibi inferens munitionem pro gallionibus aliasque merces in quatuor navibus in Hispaniam misit, pro quibus aliquot millia florenorum Hungaricalium summa adhuc sibi debetur. Legatum etiam Suae Serenitatis propria navi sua in Daniam super transvehi fecit ac omnibus offerentibus se se occasionibus de summa domo Hispanica optime mereri contendit. Quapropter dignum eundem Georgium Hewel iudicavimus, qui in hoc negotio favorem Serenitatis Vestrae experiatur. Itaque pro mea

cum Serenitate Vestra necessitudine arctiori et sanguinis coniunctione amice a Serenitate Vestra postulamus velit eisdem mandare, ut memorato Georgio Hewel navem et merces intro contentas restituant vel in earum defectu pretium mercium solvant, nautam si adhuc captivus detinetur libere dimittant navemque aliam aequivalentem si eius copia amplius haberi nequit, tradant. Quod nos Serenitatem Vestram uti rem aequitati et inveteratae consuetudini convenienti facturam esse non dubitamus parem gratiam ac benevolentiam nostram subditis Serenitatis Vestrae ubi id occasio in Regno nostro ferret rependemus. Quod superest Serenitati Vestrae felicissimos. Datum Gedani die 1 Ianuarii 1635.

- ¹ Georg Hewel (d. 1642), merchant and shipowner from Gdańsk; he organized the royal fleet and traded with the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal.
- ² Thomas Janson, from East Frisia, sailor and captain of the ship called “Fortune”.
- ³ Malaga, a city and port in Spain by the Mediterranean Sea.
- ⁴ Paul Clasen, a civil servant in the service of Almirantazgo de Sevilla.
- ⁵ Gabriel de Roy (1570–1645), he came from the county of Artois; diplomat in the Spanish service; he specialized in Northern Europe, especially in the matters of trade; co-creator of Almirantazgo de Sevilla and member of Junta de Comercio and Junta de Almirantazgo; from 1626 to 1631 he was active in Denmark, northern Germany and Poland and his main task was developing the trade in the Baltic area with the Iberian Peninsula as well as building the Spanish military fleet which would counter the trade of the United Provinces of the Netherlands.
- ⁶ Ostend, a city and port in north-western Belgium.

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Sopron, 11 January 1635

Emperor Ferdinand II expresses his gratitude to Władysław IV, King of Poland, for the letter with suggestions concerning peace mediation. The peace treaty signed with John George I, Elector of Saxony, brought about new circumstances both for peace negotiations and the development of the war.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.01–1635.07, fos 9r–10v.

Litteras Serenitatis Vestrae 20 mensis¹ proxime praeterito Gedani datas accepimus et ex iisdem cum de perpetuo suo in nos et totam hanc augustam domum nostram studio, tum imprimis de desiderio, quo teneatur ad restaurandam pacem Germaniae operam conferendi suam ubertim cognovimus. Horum utrumque ita intellectu gratum nobis accidit, quemadmodum id quod gratissimum est accidere potest, quippe qui sciamus hanc tam plenam affectus sui significationem non ex alio quidem amantissimo communis boni, tum praecipue nobis et toti huic domui nostrae addictissimo animo posse proficisci. Pro qua proinde eidem Serenitati Vestrae quam amantissimas gratias habemus ac conservamus semper operam daturi, ne ipsa unquam inferius in nobis rerum suarum studium reperiatur, sed potius, ut tam propensam hanc voluntatem (quoad eius fieri poterit) omnibus paternae benevolentiae officiis quam cumulatissime pensemus. At nunc ad negotium pacis quod attinet, minime quidem necessarium ducimus, eidem Serenitati Vestrae vel demonstrare vel in memoriam revocare, quam cupido in illam animo semper propenderimus, quamque nihil eorum, quae illuc pertinent unquam scientes lubentes omiserimus. Testabuntur id cum necessitates ab adversariis nostris nobis impositae ad bella veniendi, eademque deinceps continuandi, tum in primis earum, quae in Rhaetia, Italia ac ante annos aliquot in partibus Inferioris Saxoniae cum aliis atque aliis nobis intercesserunt, controversiarum et bellorum compositiones, quibus oblationes his posterioribus temporibus adversariis nostris factas addere possumus. At certe clarissime omnium id ipsum demonstrabit nuperus Pirnensis tractatus² cum commissariis electoris Saxonis in districtu primum Regni nostri Bohemiae institutus at postmodum in solum hostile translatus ac hactenus per omnia constantissime continuatus. Et conceptam

quidem esse tantum temporis spatium sub ratihabitione nostra caesarea formam quandam conventionis particularis cum domino electore Saxone³ Serenitatem Vestram latere potest, quam pro eo ac ad electores principes Imperii nostrarium partium pertinet, iisdem per diversos cursores iam tum communicavimus. Expectamus igitur responsum in quam illi sententiam se declarent, ex qua id deinde consilii capiamus, quod utilissimum visum fecerit. Ut ut vero res ceciderit, cum in illo tractatu haud pauca eaque gravissima puncta reservata sint, in futuris Imperii conventibus deliberanda ac componenda, tum praeterea ex hoc ipso tractatu tanquam particulari deinceps ad universalem quandam pacificationem veniendum sit, siquidem ad eam solorum regum vel principum adhibenda fuerit (prout vix aliter fieri poterit) non commitemus sane ut cuiusquam ad hoc studium nobis fuisse videatur, cuius tot pignoribus nobis tutissima voluntas, quam proinde in illum casum omnino amice nobis reservatam cupimus ac promittimus. Faciemus vero ea de re Serenitatem Vestram, ubi tempus fuerit, mature certiolem. Cui de caetero pristinam amici vicini avunculi ac patris erga se amantissimi voluntatem confirmantes prosperos rerum omnium successus ad suam et incliti illius Regni tum totius quoque serenissimae domus suae gloriam ex animo optamus. Sopronii⁴ 11 Ianuarii 1635.

¹ See no. 76.

² The preliminary peace treaty between the Emperor and Saxony, signed on 29 November 1634 in the town of Pirna (Saxony).

³ John George I.

⁴ Sopron, a town in Hungary.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Toruń, 26 January 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand II accept a cousin of Mikołaj Wolski, Grand Marshal of the Crown, as a member of his court.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 182–183.

Nondum e memoria Maiestatis Vestrae eximia magnifici olim Nicolai Wolski¹ Regni nostri supremi marschalci arbitramur effluxisse, non enim nos latet, quam alte animo Maiestatis Vestrae inhaereat, quidquid unquam obsequiorum vel Maiestati Vestrae vel augustae illius domui a quopiam impensum et exhibitum est. Praeterire sane non potuimus praefatum marschalcum ita addictum serenissimae domui Austriacae vel ab ineunte sua aetate fuisse, ut et maiorem eius partem in aulis Austriacorum principum triverit, et quoad deinde vixit, dignitatem et amplitudinem inclitae huius familiae, quantum in eo fuit situm omni studio et contentione conservatam studuerit, cuius rei documenta plura hic possent adduci, nisi eo Maiestatem Vestram optime recordari pro explorato haberemus. Exemplum et vestigia patrum sui nepos² non degener unicus ac ultimus familiae suae surculus, sequi et totum sese, tam Maiestati Vestrae quam serenissimae illius domui applicare, in qua aula Maiestatis Vestrae aetatem suam collocare cupit. Proinde cum et nos ob patrum illius insignia erga serenissimum olim parentem nostrum et rempublicam merita singulari eum favore complectamur et indolem illius magis ac magis efflorescere cupiamus, diligenter eum Maiestati Vestrae commendamus, petimusque, ut specialem Maiestatis Vestrae gratiam et benigniorem vultum, quoad in obsequiis Maiestatis Vestrae perseveraverit, agnoscat. Non dubitamus, quin Maiestas Vestra pro eo affectu, quo patrum illius prosequutus est, nepotem superstitem, ita complexura sit, ut intelligat et patrum suum non frustra pro dignitate serenissimae domus Austriacae desudasse, et nostram commendationem multum sibi profuisse. Caeterum cupimus Maiestatem Vestram diutissime valere felicissime imperantem. Datum Thorunii 26 Ianuarii 1635.

¹ Mikołaj Wolski (1555–1630), from Pidhaysi (Polish: Podhajce) in Ukraine; he spent his childhood and early youth at the Habsburg court; royalist, closely associated with

King Sigismund III: an advocate of cooperation with the House of Austria; from 1588 starost of Krzepice, Court Marshal of the Crown 1600–1616, Grand Marshal of the Crown 1616–1630; an excellent diplomat; he went on diplomatic missions which included Rome (1602, 1609–1610) and Vienna/Prague 1612–1613, 1625–1626. See *The House of Vasa and the House of Austria*, part 1, vol. 1–2.

² Most probably Kazimierz Wolski, son of Mikołaj, castellan of Witebsk.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 30 January 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand II that he has received the information about the death of his brother Prince-Cardinal John Albert.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.01–1635.07, Februar, fos 49–50. Seal. Copy: BJ Cracov, MS 94, pp. 189–190, dated 29 January 1635.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vittembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo. Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogotiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et mutuae benevolentiae continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Placuit divinae maiestati iteratum doloris vulnus pectori nostro infligere, dum parvo temporis intervallo, nec nondum priore luctu¹ et lacrimis detersis serenissimum principem Ioannem Albertum² sacrae regiae eminentiae cardinalem fratrem nostrum, ob excelsissimas et vere regio principe dignas virtutes longe carissimum in aeternum illud regnum transtulit. Eo gravior domui regiae dolor, quo celeriter geminata plaga non sivit adhuc nuperrimum vulnus recte coalescere. Quod si nos literae Maiestatis Vestrae non erexissent et recreassent ingente fuisset oppresi dolore, in quo singularem Maiestatis Vestrae agnoscimus erga nos et domum nostram regiam planeque paternum affectum. Speramus divinam maiestatem clementius in posterum nobiscum acturam et aliis solatiis vel ob felices Maiestatis Vestrae augustaeque illius domus successus processuris affecturam. Quae ut Maiestatem Vestram diutissime sanam et incolumem cum tota illius augustissima sobole conservet et sospitet precamur, nosque illius amori diligentissime commendamus. Datum Varsaviae die XXX mensis

Ianuarii anno Domini MDCXXXV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae II,
Sueciae III anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus nepos uti filius

Vladislaus rex

¹ Prince Alexander Charles died on 19 November 1634.

² Prince-Cardinal John Albert died on 29 December 1634 in Padua; the news of his death reached the royal court on 25 January 1635.

No. 81

Emperor Ferdinand II to Prince Charles Ferdinand

Sopron, 2 February 1635

Emperor Ferdinand II requests that Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wroclaw, give a kind welcome and bearing to his envoy Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein.

Copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.01–1635.07, fos 3r–4v.

Quemadmodum nos vel tristia vel laeta Dilectionem Vestram ac peraeque totius serenissimae illius domus afficiant, eidem Matthias Arnoldinus a Clarstein¹ per quem internuntium hic aliorum negotiorum quorundam causa illic mittimus explicabit. Huic erga ut cum plenam in iis, quae huc spectant fidem tum in caeteris quoque favorem gratiae praestare velit pro solita fiducia nostra benevole ab eadem postulamus. Conservamus etc. quoad reliqua. Eidem Dilectioni Vestrae pristinum affectum paternae nostrae benevolentiae. Datum Sopronii 2 Februarii 1635.

¹ Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein.

No. 82

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Sopron, 2 February 1635

Emperor Ferdinand II sends Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein to Władysław IV, King of Poland. He will present matters of interest to both rulers.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.01–1635.07, fo. 10.

Quo sensu animi ad adversa aequae ac prosperae Serenitatis Vestrae totiusque incliti illius Regni afficiamur. Eidem consiliarius noster imperialis aulicus et secretarius arcanus Matthias Arnoldinus a Clarstein¹ quem ea de causa internuntium ad Serenitatem Vestram mittimus explicabit. Qui idem Serenitati Vestrae exponet, quae pro moderno statu ex re tam utriusque nostrum quam totius reipublicae christianae fore arbitrati sumus. Postulamus igitur a Serenitate Vestra aequa solemus fiducia, ut illi integram quoad haec omnia fidem exhibeat, nosque sibi inclito illius regno omni affectu benevolentiae caesareae addictos existimet. Caeterum eidem Serenitati Vestrae omnia ex animi sententia evenire optamus. Sopronii 2 Februarii 1635.

¹ Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein was given an audience by King Władysław IV on 28 February.

No. 83

Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand to King Władysław IV

Brussels, 23 February 1635

Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, offers Władysław IV, King of Poland, his condolences on the death of his brother Prince Alexander Charles.

Fair copy: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fo. 86r–86v.

Quemadmodum ex intimo amoris et cognationis affectu praeter felices rerum successus regiae suae domus incrementa percipere nihil iucundius sic hisce quidquam contrarium nihil acerbius nobis nuntiari potest, non mediocri enim maerore affecti sumus, dum ex Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae 25 Novembris elapsi anni literis¹ insperatam illam serenissimi principis Alexandri² Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae ac domini fratris dilectissimi, succisa illius florida aetate cognovimus nos latere non potest, quantum ex hoc maestissimo casu regiae praesertim Maiestati Vestrae tristitiae accesserit, cum in eo non tantum martis et Regni, sed et orbis decus deciderit, eidem de tam gravi iactura ex animo condolemus, vitamque ipsi sane longiorem pro totius reipublicae bono exoptassemus, verum cum mortalem hanc innumerabilibus casibus obnoxium cum aeterna illa longe feliciori Deo sic disponente commutarit, non est quod dubitem quin Regiam Dignitatem ac Dilectionem Vestram tristem hunc casum prominata sua fortitudine et constantia mitigato dolore fortiter et christiane sustinebit et se in refrugabili divinae voluntati conformabit, que Regia Maiestas Vestra superstitibus regiae suae domus fratres Regnumque a quovis ulteriore luctus et maeroris casu clementer praeservare velit non dedignetur quod praeter omne prosperitatis incrementum valetudinisque diuturnitatem ex animo apprecamur. Datae Bruxellis 23 Februarii 1635.

¹ See no. 74.

² Prince Alexander Charles.

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 3 March 1635

By means of his envoy Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein, Emperor Ferdinand II appeals to Władysław IV, King of Poland, to send to his aid cavalry with an experienced commander. He announces that he will also provide the King with military help if need be.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.01–1635.07, März, fos 23r–24v. Seal.

Ferdinandus secundus divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Wierttembergae, Superioris et Inferioris Silesiae, marchio Moraviae, Superioris et Inferioris Lusatiae, comes Tirolis et Goritiae. Serenissimo principi domino Vladislao quarto, regi Poloniae et Sueciae, magno duci Lithuaniae ac Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiaeque electo magno duci Moscoviae, nepoti, vicino, amico et filio nostro carissimo, salutem ac mutuam benevolentiam, serenissime princeps, nepos, vicine, amice et fili carissime.

Recenti adhuc nobis haeret memoria benevolus Serenitatis Vestrae erga nos et bonum publicum affectus quando triennio elapso sese partes nostras ingente succursu militiae Polonicae propria persona tuituram obtulerat, quod ipsum ad gratitudinem et contestandum reciprocae benevolentiae studium nos singulariter obstringit. Quia vero subsecuta mox morte serenissimi quondam principis ac domini Sigismundi tertii¹ Poloniae et Sueciae regis fratris et affinis nostri carissimi felicitis recordationis et Serenitatis Vestrae, tunc ad solium regium evecta, negotium illud desideratum effectum sortiri non potuit at nunc eiuscemodi succursum rebus nostris maiori quam unquam usui et adiumento fore speramus. Hinc est quod continuantis eiusdem amoris fiducia freti, Serenitatem Vestram hisce peramice requirendam iudicaverimus, dignetur nobis pro ratione moderni status bellici certo numero eiusdem equitatus Polonici sub experto duce assistere et super hoc negotio iis, quae consiliarius noster imperialis aulicus et fidelis dilectus Matthias Arnoldinus a Clarstain² sibi plenius expositurus est, omnimodam fidem habere. Id quod mutuis officiorum studiis rependere nulla occasione intermissuri sumus. De caetero Serenitati Vestrae bonam

valetudinem et prosperos votorum successus animitus desiderantes.
Datae in civitate nostra Vienna, tertia die mensis Martii anno millesimo
sexcentesimo trigesimo quinto regnorum nostrorum, Romani decimo
sexto, Hungarici decimo septimo, Bohemici vero decimo octavo.

Serenitatis Vestrae

bonus avunculus

Ferdinandus

¹ Sigismund III.

² Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein, see no. 82.

No. 85

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 20 March 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Emperor Ferdinand II that he has given an audience to his envoy Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein and provided him with the relevant reply.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.01–1635.07, März, fos 129r–130v. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Ungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo. Vladislaus quartus Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Severiae, Smolensciae, Czernihoviaequae nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et mutui amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Dedimus publicam audientiam generoso Matthiae Arnoldino a Clarstein¹ internuntio Maiestatis Vestrae in qua luculentis verbis nobis ac senatui Regni huius propensissimum Maiestatis Vestrae animum aperuit et caetera, quae in commissis a Maiestate Vestra habuit, prudenter exposuit. Quae omnia quam grata et prona voluntate a nobis et optimatibus Regni audita et accepta sint, coram ipse exponet et oretenus scriptoque responsum nostrum a sincero affectu profectum eidem referet. Interim Deum precamur, ut Maiestati Vestrae longaevam incolumitatem et prosperos rerum omnium successus largiatur. Datum Varsaviae die XX mensis Martii anno Domini MDCXXXV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae et Sueciae III anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

benevolus nepos

Vladislaus rex

¹ Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein was given a public audience on 28 February 1635 in Warsaw. See also no. 84.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 28 March [1635]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Emperor Ferdinand II to give back to dukes from Ostróg the right to the properties in Régec in Hungary, which were handed over to Cardinal Péter Pázmány.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 238–239.

Devoluta est successio in Regno Hungariae post defunctam dominam Alagini¹ bonorum dictorum Regietz² et aliarum pertinentium possessionum ad illustres duces Ostrogiae³ uti veros et legitimos haerdes quam quidem ut illis adire et in possessionem suam vindicare liceret, iam antea Maiestatem Vestram etiam nobis petentibus oraverunt. Cum vero illis nuntiatum esset dicta bona domino cardinali Stragoniensi⁴ praeter omne ius et aequum adiudicata et addicta esse iterum Maiestatem Vestram per nos tanquam supremos suos tutores veniunt obnixè rogatam, petuntque ne bonis, quae eos omni iure et sanguinis et legitimae successionis maternae concernunt, priventur immo vero in eorum possessionem et bonum pacificum admittantur. Quod Maiestatem Vestram uti supremum iuris et iustitiae authorem, praesertim in manifesto dictorum haeredum praeiudicio et iniuria, benigne et imperatorie expensuram, eosque circa ius et possessionem conservaturam esse certo confidimus. Id memorati haerdes cum Maiestati Vestrae, tum toti inclitae domui Austriacae omnibus obsequiis promereri contendunt. Nos vero quodvis mutuuum officium ob redditum exhibitumque illis ius et gratiam Maiestati Vestrae debebimus et referemus. Quam causam uberius Maiestati Vestrae legatus illius dominus Arnoldinus⁵ explicabit et nomine nostro commendabit. Cupimus autem Maiestatem Vestram diutissime valere et in summa optataque publicarum et privatarum rerum felicitate imperare. Datum Varsaviae die 28 Martii.

¹ Judit Bekény de Alaghy (d. 1591), Hungarian noblewoman, wife of Zsigmond Rákóczi, heir of the property in Régec.

² Régec, a village and castle in north-eastern Hungary. From 1541 this estate belonged to the Hungarian family of Serédy, who received it as a royal donation. After the death

of György Serédy (d. 1557), the property went into the possession of the descendants of his sister Veronka, who was the wife of Gáspár Alaghy.

³ Duke Janusz Ostrogski (c. 1554–1620), castellan of Cracow (1593–1620), in 1582 he married Zuzanna Serédy, daughter of Hungarian nobleman Gáspár. The family links with the Serédy family gave the Ostrogski family the legal right to claim the property in Regéc.

⁴ Péter Pázmány (1570–1636), Hungarian Jesuit, theologian and preacher; from 1616 Archbishop-Primate of Esztergom (Latin: Strigonium, Slovak: Ostrihom); Cardinal from 1629.

⁵ Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 5 April 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Emperor Ferdinand II to show mercy to the dukes and residents of Silesia who disobeyed the Emperor's will by committing numerous offences.

Copies: Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fos 539v–540v; BC Cracov, MS 130, pp. 305–306, 309–308.

Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime. Accepimus paucis ante diebus literas principum et statuum Silesiae ipsis prope lacrimis enaratas, quibus miserando questu calamitates suas deplorare et nobis deprecantibus Maiestatem Vestram placare atque propitiare quaerunt. Non potuimus equidem nec debuimus denegare miseris christiani et vicini principis officium et quanquam nos Maiestati Vestrae et genus sanguine et is genus amore ac benevolentia ita coniunxit, ut nobis cum eadem hostes et amici communes sint, tamen quod isti, si hostes aliquando erant iam esse desierint, dum clementiam implorant, ut Maiestati Vestrae gloriosum arbitramur parcere subiectis, ita ab officio erga Maiestatem Vestram nostro nomine alienum quin pium et regium misereri afflictis atque calamitosis subvenire. Non minus quidem inficias Silesios praesentem fortunam atque calamitatem ipsos sibi fortassis accersisse, sed neque id aut Maiestatis Vestrae innatam clementiam morari potest, quae eo illustrior, quo noxioribus parcit aut nos christiano ac regio affectu exuere, qui ut pertinaciae sontium succensere iure debet, ita poenitentia placari. Cum vero etiam erga ipsos ad miserationem flectunt, vetus domus nostrae regiae cum principibus Silesiae cognatio, antiqua reipublicae iura, fida vicinitas, mutua commercia, pacta, foedera, imprimisque publicae tranquillitatis ratio, quam Imperium et orbis christianus a Maiestate Vestra diu expectat. Quare maiori quo possumus studio a Maiestate Vestra petimus, velit illo suo heroico et catholico affectu, quo utramque fortunam aequanimiter ferre solet, miserari sortem florentissimae quondam provinciae sero fortasse, sed serio respiscentis et non minus suspiriis ac lacrimis, quod unicum miseris superest clementiam Maiestatis Vestrae implorantis quam perpetua fide, obsequio, devotione eam deinceps demereri pollicentis. Satis poenarum se luisse miserando ac horrido sui statui ostendit, quando iam vix habet in

quod amplius vel hostis saevire possit, vel quod clementia servare. Servet tamen ut pater clementissimus Maiestas Vestra quod fortuna calamitatis iam satura perdere non potuit, vel clementiae Maiestatis Vestrae obsecundans noluit, ut supereset, quod Maiestas Vestra adhuc servare posset et immortalem sibi victoris servatorisque gloriam parare. Ad quam accident miserorum vota coeli auspicia et obligatae voluntatis nostrae studia quibus testabitur. Nos plurimum Maiestati Vestrae debere cum suffragatione nostra pacem et veniam aerumnosae provinciae dederit. Cui felix ac longaevis imperium a Deo precamur. Datum Varsaviae 5 Aprilis 1635.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, [9 April 1635]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand II show mercy to the captive Hans Ulrich von Schaffgotsch, Field Marshal.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 248–249.

Fama clementiae Maiestatis Vestrae orbi universae illustris et nobis optime perspecta facit, ut adhuc iterato pro generoso Schaffgottzio¹ Maiestatem Vestram rogandum statuerimus, quo cum eo clementius agere, pro innata sibi benignitate iubeat, dum magis eum accuratione delatorum opprimi audimus. Profecto vix illa alia virtus maximo praesertim principi convenire potest, si quid ille forte contra debitam Maiestatis Vestrae fidem deliquit, id sedulitate obsequiorum et inviolata in posterum fide, sarcire et emendare vel nobis spondentibus contendit. Obnixae a Maiestate Vestra, a qua nihil unquam frustra petimus, rogamus, ut huic intercessioni nostrae apud se locum relinquat et hominem de serenissima domo Austriaca alias optime meritum primarie inter Silesios nobilitatis patrocinio nostro maxime fidentem, tempestate horum temporum et hominum malevolorum consilio magis quam sponte sua abreptum ab obiecto crimine absolvat et liberum pronuntiet, quod etiam a serenissimo Hungariae rege fratre² nostro delectissimo, maiorem in modum postulamus. Caeterum certi sumus clementiae Maiestatis Vestrae, quae propria et singularis maiorum et ipsius Maiestatis Vestrae est virtus, quam ut Divina Maiestas diutissime orbi augustissimae familiae domui quoque nostrae regiae sospitem conservet precamur et omnia observantissimi nepotis officia deferimus. Datum Varsaviae ut supra.

¹ Hans Ulrich von Schaffgotsch (1595–1635), Silesian nobleman, military commander; during the Thirty Years' War he was a close associate of Albrecht Wallenstein; from 1633 he was Field Marshal. After Wallenstein's murder, he was imprisoned and charged with betrayal. He was sentenced to death. The sentence was executed on 23 July 1635.

² Ferdinand III, see no. 89.

No. 89

King Władysław IV to King Ferdinand III

Warsaw, [9 April 1635]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia, show mercy to the captive Hans Ulrich von Schaffgotsch, Field Marshal.

Copies: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 249–250; BPANPAU Cracow, MS 2256, fo. 23r, the date of the letter is missing.

Afflicta generosi illustri Schanffgottz¹ fortuna et pene desperata vita patrocinium nostrum et antea imploravit et nunc non desistit nos obsecrare. Cui quid multis de causis non potuimus non subvenire praesentibus vehementer Serenitatem Vestram rogamus, ut amore et respectu nostri, nihil eiusmodi contra illius caput et salutem decerni iubeat, quod hominem diminuere fortunisque et vita privare possit. Non est insolenter hominibus errare, sed cum perverso magis aliorum consilio, quam propria voluntate labuntur et maculas contractas melioribus factis et fide constantissima in posterum eluere statuunt, misericordiam et veniam aequum est illis ostendi, maxime ab iis principibus quam a multis retro saeculis cum maximis virtutibus, tum imprimis clementia etiam adversariis exhibita florere. Idcirco Serenitatem Vestram, quae ab augustis illis maioribus nulla degenerat virtute, magnopere oramus et obsecramus, ut intercessio haec nostra pondus et locum apud Serenitatem Vestram obtineat, et viri istius qui postmodum melius mereri de serenissima domo Austriaca nobis sponsoribus contendet, salus et dignitas salva integraque beneficio et imperio Serenitatis Vestrae conservetur. Ad nos a Serenitate Vestra impetraturos certo confidimus, nihil vicissim in gratiam Serenitatis Vestrae non facturi. Cui prosperrimos et continuos rerum bellorumque successus fraterno affectu apprecamur, nec non quaevis studia coniunctissimi fratris deferimus. Varsaviae ut supra.

¹ Hans Ulrich von Schaffgotsch, see no. 88.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 26 April 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends Jan Fryderyk and Krzysztof Franciszek Sapieha, who are travelling for educational purposes, to Emperor Ferdinand II.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.01–1635.07, April, fos 50r–51v. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino cognato et avunculo nostro carissimo. Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolenciae, Severiae, Czernihoviaequae nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et mutuum amoris benevolentiam atque omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps, domine cognate et avuncule noster carissime.

Clarissimae et nobilissimae in Magno nostro Ducatu Lithuaniae Sapiehorum familiae, ob insignia erga nos et rempublicam merita ex animo favemus. Qua prognati generosi Ioannes camerae nostrae familiaris et Christophorus Sapiehowiae¹, cum in Austriam praecipue Graecium² aliasque orbis christiani provincias, studiorum et animi optimis moribus ac disciplinis perpoliendi causa proficiscantur, noluimus nobilissimos adolescentes absque commendationis nostrae patrocinio, dimittere. Amanter itaque a Maiestate Vestra Caesarea postulamus, velit memoratos iuvenes, debita cum veneratione ad Maiestatem Vestram venientes gratia et benevolentia sua complecti, facultatemque ubi voluerint et necessitas postulaverit, commorandi ipsis concedi ac in iis, quae usus tulerit favorem et humanitatem exhiberi iubeat. Quod nos a Maiestate Vestra gratissimo suscepturi sumus animo, vicissimque subditis Maiestatis Vestrae, ubi sese obtulerit occasio, parem humanitatem et favorem exhiberi curabimus. Prosperam de caetero valetudinem et felices rerum omnium successus Maiestati Vestrae a Deo precamur eique studia nostra deferimus. Datum

Varsaviae die XXVI mensis Aprilis anno Domini MDCXXXV regnorum
nostrorum Poloniae III, Sueciae IV anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

benevolus nepos uti filius

Vladislaus rex

¹ Jan Fryderyk (1618–1664) and Krzysztof Franciszek (1623–1665) Sapieha.

² Graz.

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 30 April 1635

Emperor Ferdinand II urges Władysław IV, King of Poland, to take action with regard to Sweden due to the fact that the end date of the truce in the war between Poland and Sweden is approaching. Since Sweden has recently suffered defeats in Germany, the Emperor encourages the King to begin a war which would enable him to regain the lost legacy and at the same time will provide support for the military operations conducted by the Emperor and King of Spain.

Copies: AGAD, Liber legationum 32, fos 716v–717v; BC Cracow, MS 130, pp. 349–351 and 353–356.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.01–1635.07, April, fos 67r–68r.

Serenissime princeps nepos vicine amice et fili carissime. Bellumne an pacem an longiores indutias Vestra Serenitas atque inclitum Regnum Poloniae cum Regno Sueciae imposterum habiturum sit¹, intelligimus propediem inter utriusque partis depopulatos ad hoc commissarios tractandum esse. Tametsi igitur non ignoramus eam Serenitati Vestrae ac illi Regno domi esse prudentiam, quae alienis consiliis non egeat, adeoque ipsa per se facile perspectura sit, quid ipsis quam convenientissimum fuerit, attamen vel ob arctam necessitudinem, qua non modo nos ipsi cum Serenitate Vestra, sed res quoque nostrae cum rebus eiusdem coniunctae sunt, omittendum nobis non fuit, quin in hac re tam gravi quid sentiamus candide ac confidenter eidem aperiemus, tanto minus veriti, ne hoc ingratum sit officium Serenitati Vestrae, quanto certius scimus, etiam externorum principum monita ab eadem benevole audiri. Ac quin bello pax, si ea honesta et tuta haberi possit, praeferenda sit, nemo negaverit, utrum vero eam talem in Regno Sueciae Serenitas Vestra ac Regnum Poloniae obtenturum sit, merito ambiget, quisquis dissidiorum, offensionumque causas novit. Quod si neque Serenitas Vestra Regnumque haereditarium, neque Regnum Poloniae amplissimas ditiones sibi ereptas pro derelictis habere, neque iniuriam bello illatam, absque aliqua nominis et gloriae iactura inultam relinquere potest, atque ob id bellum aliquando resummendum sit, nescimus quod aliud tempus et occasio commodior eius faciendi Serenitati Vestrae ac Regno Poloniae possit offerri, quam hae quam modo in manibus habet, quando aliis bellis ubique gloriose superatis res ipsas domi florentissimas iamque

adeo omnia ad bellum comparata habet ac e contra adversarii non modo iam ante bello diuturno fatigati, nuper etiam a nobis gravi clade afflicti in se ipsis debiliores facti sunt, sed ancipiti etiam imposterum a nobis et serenissimo nepote nostro rege catholico² bello distinebuntur expositi insuper periculo, necta catholicis ipsis deserantur, si bello alio transferantur vel compositio aliqua fiat aut certe parum ab utriusque subsidii habeant, alibi occupatis. Potissimum vero quod animos nisi superessent addere deberet, hoc est quod et idoneo capite Regnum ipsum destitutum est, ac pro certo statuendum, quod Deus optimus maximus, qui has tot opportunitates Serenitati Vestrae in manum dedit, ad hoc etiam dederit, ut hac occasione usa non tantum iuste quae serenissimo patri³ ac illi Regno olim ac nuper iniuste per arma vel dolum praerepta sunt, repetat, sed Dei ipsiusmet causae consulat partes huc suas conferendo, quod tandem ille hostis, quem per hos annos communis religio maxime infensum habuit et per quem elata inimicorum eius arrogantia iam triumphum de illa adornabat, frangatur nec dubitandum, quin qui haec ita disposuit, idem Deus optimus maximus pro perpetuo suo in causam iustam atque utrumque nostrum favore vires ad exequendum sit daturus, haec vel ad Serenitatem Vestram vel ad explendum vere amice animi officium satis arbitramur. Ad privatas rationes nostras quod attinet, volumus hic addere expectare nos et inclitam hanc nationem nostram Germanicam hoc officium a Serenitate Vestra ac illo Regno pro eo studio, quod nos illi semper ac bello proxime superior luculentius contra illum hostem impendimus, quam potissimum ille sibi nostri impugnandi causam sumpsit, ne minorem nos de sua in nos benevolentia aut grati animi officio opinionem, quum vult habere existimet. Neque quicquam dubitamus, quin perpensis iam ante maturo iudicio suo his omnibus, in hac tam gravi re id consilii captura sit quod non minus ipsi et Regno illi utile ac honorificum quam toti reipublicae christianae salutare sit futurum. Eidem autem sicuti his omnibus affectum avunculi amantissimi benevole confirmamus, ita prosperos rerum omnium successus ex animo optamus. Dabantur in civitate nostra Viennae die 30 mensis Aprilis anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo trigesimo quinto regnorum nostrorum Romani 16, Hungarici 17, Bohemici 13.

¹ The truce expired on 26 September 1635.

² Philip IV.

³ Sigismund III.

No. 92

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 10 May 1635

Emperor Ferdinand II requests that Władysław IV, King of Poland welcome and give a hearing to envoy Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.01–1635.07, fo. 33.

Sua arcta sanguinis aliarumque necessitudinum inter nos intercedentium coniunctio, tum reciproca etiam ob ditionum vicinitatem, communium tam negotiorum quam officiorum vicissitudo postulabat, ut aliquem, qui partes residentis nostri ordinarii ibidem ageret ad aulam Serenitatis Vestrae expediremus. Mittimus itaque fidelem nobis dilectum consiliarium nostrum Alexandum a Greiffendau a Vollraths¹ pro solita nostra fiducia benevole atque amice postulantes eundem, ut non modo in praesentiam, sed in posterum quoque, quoties negotium et causa ita exigerit benigne audire plenaque et indubitata fide dignari velit. Cui de caetero Serenitati Vestrae constantem constantissimum avunculi affectum confirmantes omnia fausta ac salutaria ex animo comprecamur. Viennae 10 Maii 1635.

¹ Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts (d. 1648), imperial councillor, diplomat, imperial resident in Warsaw (1639) and Constantinople (1643–1648).

No. 93

Prince John Casimir to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 26 May 1635

Prince John Casimir notifies Archduke Leopold Wilhelm of his return to Warsaw and the death of Ursula Meyerin. He announced his arrival in order to serve Archduchess Anna Maria during her journey.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.01–1635.07, Mai, fos 109r–110v.

Serenissimo e Reverendissimo Signore e fratello¹ mio Osservantissimo.

Sabato passato che fassimo a 19 del corrente² arrivai con bona salute qui in Varsovia, dove per la mancanza che ho trovata della Signora Orsola³ ho ritrovate cusì in confuso le mie cose, che non posso hora in modo alcuno pensar a determinar, circa il giorno della mia partenza, per ritornarmene costì. Ne do parte a Vostra Altezza, così perché ella mi conosca con questo osservante in riverirla, come anche perché intenda dame ogni mio interesse, da che prenda argomento de miei affetuosi sensi verso Vostra Altezza, la quale, con tutto l'animo prego hora a far humil riverenza in mio nome alla M. Maestà Cesaree⁴ e Serenissimi di Ungheria⁵, poi avisarmi di quel che costì occorra, et in particolare del preciso giorno destinato alla partenza della Serenissima Arciduchessa sposa⁶, perché sento movermi con ogni riverente affetto a servir di presenza in quell'occasione a Sua Altezza. Sarà questo tra i favori ch'io son per ricever da Vostra Altezza, alla quale poi che di più non mi occorre, bacciando con ogni affetto di cuore le mani, prego da Dio continue felicità. Varsavia di 26 di Maggio 1635.

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima e Reverendissima

affezionatissimo servitore e fratello

Giovanni Casimiro

¹ Archduke Lepold Wilhelm (1614–1662), son of Emperor Ferdinand II and Maria Anna of Bavaria; bishop of: Passau, Halberstadt, Magdeburg, Olomouc, Wroclaw; from 1641 the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order; from 1647 to 1656 Governor of the Southern Netherlands.

² Prince John Casimir came back from Vienna, where he went at the beginning of April 1635.

- ³ Ursula Meyerin (Meierin, Meyer, c. 1570–1635), noblewoman from Bavaria; she came to Poland in 1592 with Queen Anna of Austria and was the maid-in-waiting at her court. After the Queen's death she remained at the court and took care of her and Władysław Sigismund's children as well as of the royal children from the marriage of Sigismund III and Constance of Austria. She was the trusted confidante of the royal family. She remained at the court until her death on 15 April 1635.
- ⁴ Ferdinand II.
- ⁵ Ferdinand III.
- ⁶ Archduchess Anna Maria of Austria (1610–1665), daughter of Emperor Ferdinand II and Maria Anna of Bavaria; on 15 July 1635 she married Maximilian I, Elector of Bavaria; Prince John Casimir took part in the wedding ceremony.

No. 94

King Władysław IV to King Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 2 June 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia, that he gave an audience to his resident Alexander Greiffenclau.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, p. 290. At the end, the annotation from the scribe: Similis ad Lepoldum¹ fratrem eius.

Abunde nobis sermone suo contestatus est fraternum Serenitatis Vestrae erga nos affectum et amorem generosus Alexander Greiffenclau² a Sacra Caesarea Maiestate ad aulam nostram constitutus residens, quem vel ideo libenter admissum diligenter audivimus, ut ea quae nobis nomine Serenitatis Vestrae exposuit, placidissime accepimus. Ita vero sibi Serenitas Vestra persuadeat pro certoque habeat constantem nos erga Serenitatem Vestram et augustam illius domum, cum qua nobis et vetustioribus temporibus et recentioribus maxima et indissolubilia necessitudinum ac sanguinis vincula intercedunt, conservaturos et nullo unquam fraterno officio, quod ad tuendam et propugnandam dignitatem inclitae domus Austriacae spectet, defuturos. Quod reliquum est Serenitati Vestrae fraterno animo felicissimos rerum successus et diuturnam valetudinis incolumitatem precamur. Datum Varsaviae die secunda Iunii 1635.

¹ Archduke Leopold Wilhelm.

² Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts (d. 1648), imperial councillor, diplomat, resident in Constantinople 1643–1648.

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Baden, 8 June 1635

Emperor Ferdinand II thanks Władysław IV, King of Poland, for his consent to recruit Polish cavalry, which his envoy Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein asked for.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.08–1635.09, Juni, fos 27r–28v. Seal.

Ferdinandus secundus divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae et Sclavoniae rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Wurttembergae, Superioris et Inferioris Silesiae, marchio Moraviae, Superioris et Inferioris Lusatiae, comes Tirolis et Goritiae. Serenissimo principi, domino Vladislao quarto Dei gratia regi Poloniae et Sueciae, magno duci Lithuaniae ac Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiaeque electo magno duci Moscoviae, nepoti vicino, amico et filio nostro carissimo, salutem ac mutuam benevolentiam. Serenissime princeps, nepos vicine, amice et fili carissime.

Descripsit nobis sincero studio consiliarius noster aulicus et fidelis dilectus Matthias Arnoldinus a Clarstain declaratum sibi a Serenitate Vestra in ferendis nobis subsidiis militaribus et emittendis brevi cohortibus aliquot selectioris equitatus Polonici animum et quam praesertim sollicitudinem hactenus in promovendo rei illius effectu impenderit. Ex quo cum permagni fructus et utilitates rei nostrae bellicae sperandae sint, si succursus ille exercitui nostro imperiali iam iam in campum progredienti tempestive coniungi posset tanto gratius nobis accidit, desiderata haec nova ab ipso Arnoldinus percepisse, nil dubitantes, interposita tanta auctoritate Serenitatis Vestrae praedictum equitatum iam in eo procinctu fore, ut singulis quasi diebus in ditiones nostras et armilustria sibi in Ducatu Silesiae assignata egredi debeat ac possit. Quod proinde ut pro rei gravitate commodissimo hoc anni tempore quanto celerius effectui demandari velit, est quod ab eadem Serenitate Vestra officiose contendamus, non defuturi, quin oblatis occasionibus hanc benevolentiam paternis officiorum studiis prompte demereri valeamus. De caetero Serenitati Vestrae salutem continuam praeter felices votorum successus comprecamur. Datae in civitate Baden octava Iunii anno millesimo sexcentesimo trigesimo quinto, regnorum

nostrorum Romani decimo sexto, Hungarici decimo septimo, Bohemici
vero decimo octavo.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

bonus avunculus

Ferdinandus

No. 96

Prince Charles Ferdinand to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 9 June 1635

Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław, thanks Emperor Ferdinand II for the letter delivered to him by envoy Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen 57, Polonica 1635.01–1635.07, Juni, fos 31r–32v. Seal.

Sacra atque Serenissima Caesarea Regiaque Maiestas domine domine avuncule uti parens clementissime.

Maiestatis Vestrae literas per nobilem Alexandrum a Greiffenclau a Volradt¹ consiliarium et hic residentem Maiestatis Vestrae inibi exhibitas, ea quam filialis mea observantia et animi submissio exposcit reverentia exosculatus sum. Voluntati vero Maiestatis Vestrae ita semper morem humiliter geram, ut Maiestatis Vestrae nepotis et servi obsequia in me omnibus numeris completa esse clementer agnoscat. Residentis porro postulatis et accessui fores auresque meae semper patebunt, quod tractanda negotia communem Regnorum, cognatarumque domuum salutem ac felicitatem concernere videantur. Nec quicquam aliud vota et desideria mea suspirant, quam a nutibus Maiestatis Vestrae perpetua mea studia et servitia dependeant, eaque ratione paternae clementiae favores mereri liceat. Quod reliquum est Sacrae Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae ut parenti meo clementissimo diuturnam sospitatem et felicissimos rerum successus a Deo precor. Datae Varsaviae die IX mensis Iunii anno Domini MDCXXXV.

Sacrae atque Serenissimae Maiestatis Vestrae
obsequentissimus nepos et filius
Carolus Ferdinandus

¹ Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts.

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Toruń, 19 June 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends Adam Marcin Kazanowski to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 296–297.

Magnae virtutis est indicium, non modo intra domesticos parietes sese in vario genere rerum et virtutum exercere, verum etiam peregrinando exteras nationes cum fructu lustrare et laudabiles eorum mores institutaque cognoscere. Quod innatum quodammodo est, cum aliis in hoc Regno tum imprimis familiae Kazanoviae¹, vetustate, splendore, meritisque in reges et rempublicam clarissimae, ut tam domesticis virtutibus quam militaribus artibus imbui, continuo contenderit. Porro cum in diversas orbis partes generosus Adamus Kazanowski capitaneus Tlumacensis² et interioris cubiculi nostri familiaris magnifici palatini Podoliae³ et campestrium nostrarum copiarum praefecti filius proficiscatur, imprimisque eum Belgium gloria bellica rei et variarum aliarum artium celeberrimum ad se trahat, nobilissimum iuvenem clara indole praeditum, nec non ad ardua quaevis contendentem regis literis Serenitatis Vestrae de meliore nota, pro singulari nostra erga hanc domum propensione commendamus et peramanter a Serenitate Vestra petimus, ut eum istic commorantem, gratia sua et favore complecti dignetur, quo sese quidem ipse dignum, modestia et omni alio ad virtutem impetu praestabit. Quidquid Serenitas Vestra illi benignitatis ostenderit, id nos magni facturi sumus, ille vero omni obsequio una cum tota domo sua de serenissimo illius nomine bene mereri adnitetur. Quod reliquum est Serenitati Vestrae felicissimos rerum successus et valetudinem prosperrimam fraterne precamur. Datum Thorunii die 19 Iunii.

¹ The Kazanowski family, Polish noble family.

² Adam Marcin Kazanowski, see no. 53.

³ Marcin Kazanowski.

No. 98

King Philip IV to King Władysław IV

[Madrid, 20 June 1635]

Philip IV, King of Spain, accredits at the court of Władysław IV, King of Poland, his envoy Alonso Vázquez de Miranda, abbot of the Abbey of Santa Anastasia and royal preacher.

Fair copy: AG Simancas, Estado leg. 2461, s.f., office note: Madrid 20 junio 1635. Al Rey de Polonia. Con el Padre Alonso Vazquez.

Serenissime rex consobrine et affinis noster carissime, pro negotiis publicum ac commune bonum spectantibus mittimus ad Vestram Maiestatem don fratrem Alfonsum Vazquez abbatem Sanctae Anastasiae¹, nostrumque aulicum concionatorem, virumque probitate, eruditione ac rerum experientia condecoratum, cui non solum Vestra Maiestas in omnibus, quae nostro nomine exponet fidem adhibere, verum etiam eo honore afficere dognabitur, quem omnes nostri ministri a regia Maiestatis Vestrae benignitate semper experiuntur, quod nos magni habebimus et pro nostro in Vestram Maiestatem studio et fraterna benevolentia haud dubie confidimus. Deus optimus maximus Vestram Maiestatem incolumem diutissime servet. Datum.

¹ Alonso Vázquez de Miranda (1586–1661), Spanish clergyman, Mercedarian, theologian, writer, diplomat, royal confessor, abbot of the Abbey of Santa Anastasia in Sicily. He came to Poland with Count of Solre in June 1636.

No. 99

King Philip IV to King Władysław IV

[Madrid, 20 June 1635]

Philip IV, King of Spain, offers his condolences to Władysław IV, King of Poland, on the loss of his brothers and cousins who passed away in the past.

Fair copy: AG Simancas, Estado leg. 2461, s.f., the place and date on the attached folio: Madrid 20 junio 1635. Al Rey de Polonia. Con el Padre Alonso Vazquez.

Etsi serenissimos principes Maiestatis Vestrae amantissimos fratres, affines et consobrinos nostros carissimos in medio aetatis flore fato cesisse natura ipsa condoleat, pietas tamen, nostraque religio ipsos aeterna beatitudine perfruenter congaudet et cum divinam voluntatem et providentiam reverenter suspicere debeamus, ipsorum obitus Maiestatis Vestrae prudentiam, animi virtutem et constantiam reddet illustriorem, serenissimique fratres superstisse, qui nobis cordi sunt, et amissas defunctorum spes erigens altius et nostrum Maiestatis Vestrae solatium firmiter augebunt. Deus optimus maximus Vestram Maiestatem diutissime incolumem servet. Datum etc.

No. 100

King Philip IV to King Władysław IV

[Madrid, 20 June 1635]

Philip IV, King of Spain, by means of Alonso Vázquez de Miranda, congratulates Władysław IV, King of Poland, on the victories over the Tatars, Turks and Muscovy.

Fair copy: AG Simancas, Estado leg. 2461, s.f., the place and date on the attached folio: Madrid 20 junio 1635. Al Rey de Polonia. Con el Padre Alonso Vázquez.

Singulari animi nostri laetitia accepimus Maiestatem Vestram de Tartarorum, Turcarum atque Moscuorum coniunctis armis felices et gloriosas victorias reportasse. Et non solum pro mutua nostra fraterni amoris necessitudine et sanguinis coniunctione, Maiestatem Vestram tot triumphis decoratum gaudemus, sed etiam illos christianae rei et catholicae religionis exaltationi, pio et exviscerato corde gratulamur, quod a don Alfonso Vazquez¹ abbate sanctae Anastasiae nostroque aulico concionatore fusius intelliget Maiestas Vestra quam Deus optimus maximus quam diutissime servet incolumem. Datum etc.

¹ Alonso Vázquez de Miranda, see no. 98.

No. 101

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Toruń, 3 July 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Emperor Ferdinand II to show mercy to dukes and residents of Silesia and to begin talks with them, despite numerous offences they committed. The King underscores long-lasting and diverse connections between Poland and the neighbouring Silesia.

Copies: AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fos 511r–512v; BC Cracom, MS 131, pp. 109–110.

Cum ea sit Maiestatis Vestrae clementia, ut sontibus ultro parcere soleat, ea aequitas ut insontes alieno apud ipsam patrocínio haud quaquam egeant, eo promptius utriusque fiduciae causam ordinum Silesiae regio apud Maiestatem Vestram patrocínio tuendam suscepimus sive enim illi in Maiestatem Vestram peccarunt aditum sibi ad innatam Maiestatis Vestrae clementiam nobis deprecantibus patefiunt sive nihil excusandum mulctandumque commiserunt, eo fidentius in aequitate Maiestatis Vestrae suffragioque nostro innocentiae suae praesidium constituunt¹. Nos quidem non possumus vicinae cognataeque provinciae causam negligere cum vero ob vetera reipublicae iura arctam sanguinis necessitudinem, fidam vicinitatem, mutua commercia, pacta, foedera imprimisque publicae tranquillitatis studium quam imperium et orbis christianus dum a Maiestate Vestra expectat, tum etiam ob christianae pietatis affectum quem florentissimae provinciae miseranda facies in nobis excitat quemque innocentiae impendere pium regiumque comprimis arbitramur. Quamvis enim ordines ducatus Silesiae religionis libertatis salutis extremum discrimen in partes egisse videatur, a fide tamen ac officio in Maiestatem Vestram illos nunquam descivisse vel ipsa Maiestas Vestra iudicabit, si miseris adstruendae innocentiae locum dederit. Quod quidem apud optimum patrem aequissimumque principem eo facilius obtentu quo vel ipsa severitas inauditas non plectit noxas, ut eo minus timeri possit, ne clementia indefensam damnet innocentiam. Proinde quod hostibus quod Caesareae Maiestatis reis dare solet Maiestas Vestra, ut audiantur et quamvis sontes esse constet asserendae innocentiae locum habeant id insontibus, ne denegare velit maiorem in modum a Maiestate Vestra petimus. Si fidem erga Maiestatem Vestram exuissent, si arma sumpsissent, patuisset tamen illis ad

clementiam Maiestatis Vestrae aditus, allegare potuissent errorem tempora necessitatem ac delicata illa mortalium bona religionis libertatis salutis quorum discrimen fidissimos etiam populos agit transversos quanto aequius ad purgandas eluendasque suspiciones patere debet ob quas etiam sontes ni legitime audiantur iniuste damnantur. Proinde maiore quo possumus studio a Maiestate Vestra petimus velit pro summa aequitate sua ordinibus Silesiae spatium adstruendae innocentiae concedere causamque ipsorum ita cognoscere, ut ne ab executione inchoetur, sed relictis in suo pristino statu provinciae rebus facti veritatem indagari ac inquiri iubent ac tum demum de hac provincia statuatur quicquid ordines ac incolas eius promeruisse constiterit. Sic enim et Maiestatis Vestrae aequitatis gloriam et subditis eiusdem fidei ac innocentiae fructum vel meritum perfidiae noxaeque mulctam ferent et una paci atque tranquillitati publicae consuletur, dum provincia haec caeteraque exemplo eius tutum innocentiae suae praesidium in clementia et aequitate Maiestatis Vestrae constituent, nec ab eis exclusae spem resque suas in ancipitem et saepe principibus noxium desperationis casum praecipitabunt. Quae omnia confidimus Maiestatem Vestram heroico illo gravissimoque iudicio expensuram et cum aequitatis ipsius tum etiam suffragationis nostrae benignam rationem habituram. Cui felices rerum successus a Deo precamur. Datum Torunii 3 Iulii MDCXXXV.

¹ See no. 87.

No. 102

King Philip IV to King Władysław IV

Madrid, 16 July 1635

Philip IV, King of Spain, accredits at the court of Władysław IV, King of Poland, his envoy Jaen de Croÿ, Count of Solre.

Draft: AG Simancas, Estado leg. 2461, s.f., office note: Madrid 16 julio 1635. Al Rey de Polonia. Con el conde de Solre, en su creencia.

Dominum Ioannem de Croy comitem de Solre¹ insignis Ordinis Aurei Velleris equitem nostrum auratae clavis cubicularium equestri nostro primario militum comitatu praefectum et aliquando nos Flandriae nostrum supremum consilium ad Maiestatem Vestram praeclarum mittemus oratorem; et cum ipsum sanguinis splendore conspicuum, mentis probitate ingenuum, in tractationis negotiis expertum, necnon Maiestatis Vestrae obsequio deditissimum uterque nostrum agnoscat, gratum etiam nobis et Maiestatis Vestrae haud dubie confidimus benigne igitur ipsum excipere, et qua nostro nomine exposuerit confidenter audire, dignabitur Maiestas Vestra utriusque siquidem domus utilitatem, mutuam officiorum et animarum conspirationem feliciter crescere exoptamus et firmari securius Deus.

¹ Jaen de Croÿ (1588–1638), Count de Solre, Baron de Molembais and Beaufort, knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece, initially in the service of Archduke Albert and Infanta Isabella; from 1624 at the Madrid court, where he became the commander of the archers of the royal guard and royal councillor of, among others, the Supreme Council of Flanders and Burgundy (Consejo de Flandes). His first journey to the Polish court took place in 1619. He represented Archduke Albert at the baptism ceremony of Anna Catherine Constance, daughter of Sigismund III and Constance of Austria. As an extraordinary ambassador of Philip IV, he came to Poland in 1626. See *The House of Vasa and the House of Austria*, part 1, vol. 2, nos. 664, 678.

No. 103

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Toruń, July 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, expresses his gratitude to Emperor Ferdinand II for the mercy he has shown towards colonel Ernest Georg Sparr and asks the Emperor to release Anton von Schlieff from prison.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen 58, Polonica 1635.07–1635.09, Juli, fos 217r–218v.

Sacra Cesarea Maestà

Dal Bibboni¹ mio residente, vengo avvisato della gratia della vita che Vostra Mestà Cesarea a mia intercessione si è compiaciuta fare al colonello Spar² di che se bene io gli ho commesso ringraziar vivamente Vostra Maestà per la publica dimostrazione che con questo ha voluto dar della stima che di esse mie intercessioni fò il che gratissimo m'è stato, non ho voluto nondimeno tralasciar di passar anch'io questo devoto uffizio perché rimanga assicurata della memoria che son per tenerne, obligata anche da i rispetti della liberazione dello Schlieff³, che pur ci riconosce dalla mia intercessione et io dalla bontà di Vostra Maestà, la quale quanto a quello che tocca la sicurezza dello Spar, Vostra Maestà potrà rimanerne con quiete di animo, determinando di tenerlo in modo tale onde ella la possi havere, et a Vostra Maestà prego da Dio continue prosperità. Turogna li di luglio 1635.

Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea

affetuosisissimo nipote et fratello

Vladislaus rex

¹ Francisco Bibboni, Italian diplomat in the service of the House of Vasa; resident of the Polish kings at the courts in Vienna, Naples and Madrid (1634–1663).

² Ernest Georg Sparr, see no. 68.

³ Anton von Schlieff lub Schlieffen (1576–1650), German officer and diplomat; he came from West Pomerania; he fought with the Turks in Hungary; during the uprising in Bohemia he took the side of the Protestants; in the service of Bogislaw XIV, Duke of Pomerania, he went on diplomatic missions to Prague and Dresden; after 1630 he became associated with Albrecht Wallenstein, after whose death he was arrested and charged with betrayal. He was released from prison in 1635.

No. 104

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

From the camp near Kwidzyn, 30 August 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, congratulates Emperor Ferdinand II on signing peace with Saxony. He also informs the Emperor that peace negotiations with Sweden are still in progress.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 377–378.

Iucundum nobis fuit antea ex literis generosi Mathiae Arnoldini¹ Illustritatis Vestrae arcani consilarii cognoscere de transacta inter Illustritatem Vestram et illustrissimum Saxoniae ducem² pace³, multo tamen iucundius accidit, cum de eo ipsius Maiestatis Vestrae literae nuperrime redditae nuntiassent. Gratulamur eo quo par est animo tam Maiestati Vestrae quam inclitae archiducali domui, totique Imperio satis aequis conditionibus restitutionem rei longe ab omnibus expectatae, quam ut reliqui quoque Imperii ordines autoritate primarii principis amplecterentur, cuperemus, ut post diuturnas belli tempestates tam subditi Maiestatis Vestrae quam ipsamet fessa tot laboribus, sub aureo pacis umbraculo conquiescat, ditionesque quas illi divina subiecit Maiestas, quiete ac iucunde gubernet et serenissimi illius liberi, pari perfruantur tranquillitatis publicae felicitate. Quod autem Maiestas Vestra commodorum nostrorum circa huius transactionis executionem rationem habitam iri paterne pollicetur, non possumus eo nomine nostro plurimum Maiestati Vestrae debere, pari quoque in praesenti tractatione cum Sueticis commissariis erga Maiestatem Vestram affectu et studio utemur, quanquam ob varias difficilesque ab adversa parte motas quaestiones res hucusque nondum est transacta. Quod superest cupimus Maiestatem Vestram diutissime valere, cuius incolumitatis ac felicitatis nos studiosissimos esse profiteamur et nullo non genere solationum et publicarum rerum tranquillitate ac serenissimae archidomus prosperitate perfrui nostramque illi filialem observantiam et amorem deferimus. Datum in castris ultra Kwidzinum⁴ die 30 Augusti 1635.

¹ Matthias Arnoldin von Clarstein.

² John George I.

³ Ferdinand II signed a peace treaty with Saxony in Prague on 30 May 1635.

⁴ Kwidzyn (Latin: Insula Sanctae Mariae/Quedin; German: Marienwerde), a town in Poland in Gdańsk Pomerania.

No. 105

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

[From the camp near Kwidzyn, 30 August 1635]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends Jan Butler, an experienced soldier, to Emperor Ferdinand II.

Copy: BJ Cracon, MS 94, p. 378.

Cum sese ad castra et exercitum Maiestatis Vestrae generosus Ioannes Buthlerus conferre in animum induxerit, speciali eum commendatione nostra uti virum de nobis optime meritum, strenuum ac bello exercitatum, obsequiisque Maiestatis Vestrae idoneum persequendum putavimus ac diligenter quidem Maiestatem Vestram rogamus, ut cum sese illius Maiestati praesentaverit, gratiaque imperiali egerit, eam singularem agnoscat, praesertim cum sese beneficiis Maiestatis Vestrae dignum velit reddere, et eo exemplo gentilium suorum nullis non modis et militaribus obsequiis promereri. Quapropter non dubitamus eum a Maiestate Vestra ita acceptum iri, eoque loco fore, quo homo militaris, nobisque ob eam virtutem imprimis carus, ac de serenissima archiducali domo magis ac magis bene mereri contendendo esse debet, quod etiam atque etiam Maiestatem Vestram rogamus. Cui ex animo continuam felicitatem et quotidianas de hostibus victorias etc. In castro ut supra.

No. 106

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

From the camp near Kwidzyn, 31 August [1635]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, release French nobleman Nikolas Martini, who was unlawfully detained at Dunkirk and who ransomed many Polish prisoners from Turkish captivity.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, p. 383.

Dum Constantinopoli nobilis Nicolaus Martini e Gallia oriundus, superioribus annis degeret, insignem nobis ac Regno nostro navavit operam, multumque ad tranquillitates nostras cum illo Imperio res pro parte sua contulit, non mediocrem praeterea captivorum numerum e servitute Turcica sua dexteritate exemit, multisque aliis modis et officiis de nobis in illo loco bene mereri studuit, ut eo nomine merito sibi singularem nostram benevolentiam comparasse censendus est. Hunc cum e Regno Poloniae ubi sedem ac domicilium fixit, in Galliam ut cognatos suos inviseret, animo in hoc Regnum revertendi ac per mare iter faceret, nulli crimini aut suspicioni obnoxius a Duncherkanis interceptus hucusque ab iis captivus detinetur. Quod postquam nobis innotuisset, minime negligendum esse putavimus, quin homini praeclare de nobis et Regno nostro merito opitularemur. Pro ea igitur quae nobis cum Serenitate Vestra intercedit necessitudine et amoris vinculo, quam diligentissime eam rogamus, ut hominem tot nominibus nobis gratum imprimisque carum, liberum una cum rebus, quarum multae erant magni pretii et valoris in auro et clenodiis dimitti et relaxari huius nostrae intercessionis gratia iubeat. Quo officio nihil nobis gratius Serenitas Vestra praestitura est, quod mutua promptitudine Serenitatis Vestrae referre parati et obligati erimus. Quod antea reliquum est Serenitati Vestrae fraterno animo et valetudinis et armorum, quibus magis ac magis inclarescit prosperitatem precamur, amorem autem illi nostrum prolixè deferimus. Datum in castris ad Kwidzinum die 31 Augusti.

No. 107

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

From the camp near Kwidzyn, 1 September 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, repeats his appeal to Emperor Ferdinand II to show mercy to dukes and residents of Silesia who still feel unsafe despite the regulations of the peace treaty in Prague.

Copies: AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fos 520–521v; BC Cracow, MS 131, pp. 215–216.

Ad literas nostras quas mense Iulio¹ ad Maiestatem Vestram in causa ordinum Silesiae dedimus nullum hactenus responsum habuimus. Cum vero eos clementia Maiestatis Vestrae pace et venia data in spem plenioris gratiae erigere videatur eo nos quoque fidentius prioribus literis nostris novas adiungimus preces. Non diffitentur illi oblatam a Maiestate Vestra veniam emortuam prope eorum patriae spiritum reddidisse ipsosque dum iam meliora sperare ab eadem clementia audent praeteritorum pene oblivisci. Verum cum rigido commissariorum Maiestatis Vestrae Nissensium responso terreantur et ad pacificationis Pragensis formulam adigantur resumptum spiritum rursus amittunt. Nos equidem ipsi dum pacificationis istius articulos expendimus paene illis Maiestatis Vestrae clementiae et aequitati iniuriam inferri arbitramur. Nam Maiestatis quidem Vestrae vitae et fortunae pepercit at illi in honorem, qui utroque praestat saeviant libertatem petunt, leges patrias tollunt eo gravius in Maiestatem Vestram iniurii quod literas Maiestatis libertatum suarum vindices oppugnent. Non venia haec sed omni supplicio gravior poena foret fidem novo sacramento asserere ac velut perfidiam eiurare antequam obiecta nedum probata esset. Transversos enim fatalis potius temporum necessitas quam perfida mens egit vel si tutiora rerum in Imperio vicissitudo partiumque arma sequi cogeant metus non fides accusanda a qua si ad hostes Maiestatis Vestrae defecissent non tam facile ab illis deserti fuissent. Verum iam excusandum non est quod venia et amnestia sepultum illud perquam obnixe a Maiestate Vestra contendimus, ne cognatos nobis principes, sanguinem regum et multis necessitudinibus obstrictam provinciam pudendis et ipso perfidiae supplicio atrocioribus articulis plecti iubeat, sed miseros ac supplices pleno clementiae sinu in fidem recipiat in quod suae perpetuum deponunt nobis spondentibus auctoramentum. Non esset adeo gloriosum Maiestati Vestrae pepercisse

nisi servaverit hos vero servatos tum demum orbis iudicabit cum non tantum personis et fortunis, sed famae libertati iuribus quae semper innoxia pepercerit. Nos etiam Maiestatis Vestrae in partem huius gloriae adsciverit cum praesens et postera memorabit aetas nos afflictæ provinciae patrociniū suscepisse, Maiestatem Vestram ignovisse. Cui longævum ac felix imperium a Deo precamur. Datum in castris ad insulam Marianam² die 1 Septembris 1635.

¹ See no. 101.

² Wyspa Świętej Marii (Latin: Insula Sanctae Mariae; German: Marienwerder), the original name of the town of Kwidzyn.

No. 108

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

From the camp near Kwidzyn, 13 September 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand II of signing truce with Sweden on 12 September. He explains that he was forced to do it because his country has been severely weakened by the wars. While signing the treaties he also tried to secure the interests of the Empire and prevent the whole Swedish army from entering Germany. He appeals to the Emperor to protect the border with Poland, especially in Pomerania.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen 58, Polonica 1635.08–1635.09, September, fos 56r–57v. Seal. Copies: HHStA Vienna, Polen 58, Polonica 1635.08–1635.09, September, fo. 58, AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fos 522v–524v; BC Cracow, MS 131, pp. 233–234.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando secundo divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Ungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Slavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo Vladislaus quartus Dei gratia Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Severiae, Czernihoviaeque, nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et omnem felicitatem. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Sicut a nobis flagitabat id arcta sanguinis, vicinitatis, pactorumque necessitudo, quae nobis cum Maiestate Vestra ditionibusque eius intercedit, ne cum communi nostro hoste Sueco pacem hoc rerum in Imperio statu sanciremus, ita alia ex parte continuis bellorum calamitatibus attritae reipublicae facultates, ordinumque ob id Regni publicus ad pacem consensus poscebat, ut tandem rempublicam tot bellis fessam pacaremus. Verum tamen ita pacis tractatus cum hoste isto instituimus, ut eum integro prope anno illis detinuerimus, aestatemque ipsi eo fine extraxerimus, ne illi spatium foret bellum in Imperium aestivo tempore transferendi. Ea ergo de causa tractatio pacis de industria per commissarios nostros ac reipublicae trahebatur et tum primum ei finis impositus, id est die XII praesentis¹, cum iam autumnale tempus bellis infestum appeteret. Traxissemus vero eosdem tractatus in gratiam Maiestatis Vestrae diutius, si id rationes publicae huius

Regni tulissent, et ne veriti fuisset, ne per anni tempus navigatione maritima exclusus hostis totum exercitum in Pomeraniam, inde vero in Imperium traduceret. Cavimus praeterea in iisdem tractatibus, quoad eius fieri potuit, ne hosti liceret terra copias in Germaniam ducere, sed ut mari traiciat in Sueciam, quodsi navium copia non suppeteret, terrestri itinere reliquam earum et praesertim equitatus partem in ditiones suas. Verum etsi nos omnino in id intentos esse duces nostros mandabimus, ut pactis ea in parte a Suecis satisfiat, veremur tamen, ne equitatum saltem cuius traiciendi magna est difficultas, in Pomeraniam, indeque in ditiones Maiestatis Vestrae immittat ac ob eam causam mature ea de re Maiestatem Vestram praemonere volumus, ut ducibus suis observare loca et passus intercludere praesidiis iubeat, ne ex Pomerania aliqua pars exercitus Suetici Imperium invadat, quod nos quoque pro virili avertere conabimur daturi operam, ut indutiae istae ad viginti sex annos cum Suecis non indecoris conditionibus recuperatae nimirum sine sanguine florentissima Regni provincia Deo favente sancita in commodum quoque Maiestatis Vestrae nostra ex parte cedant, eo enim commodius poterunt paratae equitum turmae ad stipendia Maiestatis Vestrae evocari, modo id fiat ex praescripto pactorum, legumque publicarum, quo nomine etiam agimus hic modo cum Maiestatis Vestrae nuntio. Quod reliquum est Maiestati Vestrae pacatum felix ac longaeum imperium a Deo precamur. Datum ex castris ad insulam Marianam² die 13 mensis Septembris anno Domini 1635 regnorum nostrorum Poloniae III, Sueciae IV.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

benevolus nepos

Vladislaus rex

¹ On 12 September in Sztumska Wieś (German: Stuhmsdorf), Poland and Sweden signed the 26-year truce treaty.

² Wyspa Świętej Marii, see no. 107.

No. 109

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

From the camp near Kwidzyn, 13 September 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand II of signing truce with Sweden. He explains that he was against signing the truce but he was unable to convince szlachta to continue the war, because the Emperor and King of Spain have not guaranteed military assistance.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen 58, Polonica 1635.08–1635.09, September, fos 60r–61v.

Sacra Cesarea Maestà

Ill'arrivo di queste mie stimo che Vostra Maestà haverà già havuto ragguaglio della tregua qui conclusa¹, per quello che di mio avviso gli rihaverà fatto sapere il suo residente² presso di me. La qual tregua, se io havessi havuta così forza da impedire, come mi è stata fatta in approbarla, mi sarebbe hora di maggior contento che non è per il pregiudizio che porta seco ne gl'interessi miei, molto ben noti a Vostra Maestà. Ma in ciò ogni mio sforzo è stato vano col pretesa di questi Signori di non haver modo da mantener la guerra, con che in questo mi è convenuto concordar con essi. Ma è ben vero ciò che se detti Signori havessero veduto qualch'aiuto da cotesta parte e da quella di Sua Maestà Cattolica, e per questo sarebbe stato sufficiente anche quello che ne' passati giorni mi fu avvisato che si disegnava mandare, che né essi si sariano mostrati così alieni dall'abbracciar questa guerra, né io haverci havuta difficoltà in impegnarveli, ma come Vostra Maestà sa gl'effetti non sono stati che in parole, né intorno ciò mi occorre aggiunger di più, essendo bastante quello che per se stessa ne può considerare. Hora, perché con questa non ho altro fine che di parteciparla anch'io di tal tregua, riportandomi perciò intorno le particolarità di essa a quel tanto che glie n'haverà potuto scrivere detto suo residente a Vorsta Maestà, prego da Dio continuate prosperità. Dal campo oltre Marienverder³, li 13 di Settembre 1635.

Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea

affettuosissimo nipote et filio

Vladislaus rex

¹ See no. 108.

² Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts.

³ See no. 104.

No. 110

King Władysław IV to Queen Anna of Austria

[From the camp near Kwidzyn, 15 September 1635]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, thanks Anna, Queen of France, for the greeting delivered to him by Count d'Avaux, who will provide her with a report on the negotiations in Poland.

Copy: AGAD Warsaw, Liber legationum 32, fo. 560.

Published: La mission de Claude de Mesmes comte d'Avaux, ambassadeur extraordinaire en Pologne 1634–1636. Publié par F. Pulaski et L. Tomkiewicz, Paris 1937, p. 201.

Serenissima princeps¹ soror nostra carissima. Nihil nobis iucundius accidere potuit amantissima Maiestatis Vestrae salutatione quam nobis litteras et illustrissimum christianissimi Regis legatum² impertivit. Referimus Maiestati Vestrae officium id pari affectu cupientes eandem omnibus demereri studiis testatamque reddere nobis gratissimam fuisse officiorum Maiestatis Vestrae compellationem. Quod pluribus Maiestati Vestrae idem domino legatus referet. Ceterum eadem Maiestati Vestrae omnis felicitatis incrementa a Deo precamur. Datum ut supra.

¹ Anna of Austria (1601–1666), daughter of Philip III, King of Spain, and Margaret of Austria; in 1615 she married Louis XIII, King of France.

² Claude de Mesmes, Count d'Avaux (1595–1650), French diplomat; he went on diplomatic missions to Venice, Rome, Denmark, Germany and Sweden; from 1634 to 1635 he stayed in Poland and was a mediator in the Polish-Swedish peace negotiations.

No. 111

King Władysław IV to King Ferdinand III

Toruń, 19 September 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Bohemia, to duly reward colonel Eberhard Manteuffel, who has always faithfully and devotedly served in the imperial army.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen 58, Polonica 1635.08–1635.09, September, fos 105r–106v. Trace of the seal.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 423–424, dated 3 October 1635.

Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Luceoriae, Smolensciae, Severiae, Czernihoviequae nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex. Serenissimo principi domino Ferdinando Ernesto Dei gratia Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Scalvoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, cognato et fratri nostro carissimo salutem et omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime princeps cognate et frater noster carissime.

Multos iam annos simul cum facultatibus suis militiae Caesaruae Maiestatis impendit generosus Eberhardus Manteuffel¹ colonellus cuius cum fidem et militarem fortitudinem meritaque castrensia non obscuris aut incertis argumentis cognita habeamus isque e Regno nostro oriundus sit dignitatem et fortunam illius diligenter Serenitati Vestrae commendamus, ut fructus tot stipendiorum opportuna et non ingloria remuneratione ac liberalitate Serenitatis Vestrae sentiat, ea vero, quae saepe cum incommodo rerum suarum in militum necessitates exposuit, plene integreque persolvantur. Accedet hoc ad reliquas Serenitatis Vestrae laudes, ut miles in tanta potestate, etiam beneficentiam agnoscat, quae praecipue animos et fiduciam militaribus viris addit. Quod superest diuturnam Serenitati Vestrae incolumitatem et prosperrimos belli rerumque successus precamur. Datum Thorunii die XIX mensis Septembris anno Domini MDCXXXV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae III, Sueciae vero IV anno.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

- ¹ Eberhard Mantueffel (1590–1637), nobleman from Courland, officer in the Polish and imperial service; he participated in the Polish-Swedish war; later on, he became the regiment commander in Würzburg; during the battle of Breitenfeld he was taken captive by the Swedish army; after he was released, he joined the imperial service again. He owned landed properties in Courland and Lower Silesia.

No. 112

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

From the camp near Kwidzyn, 28 September 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Ferdinand II provide good care for Aleksander, son of Stanisław Koniecpolski, castellan of Cracow, who is on an educational journey across Europe.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, pp. 391–392.

Magnae virtutis est indicium non modo intra domesticos penates sese in vario genere rerum et virtutum exercere, verum etiam peregrinando exteras nationes cum fructu lustrare et laudabiles eorum mores institutaque cognoscere, cum itaque generosus Alexander Koniecpolski¹ illustris magnifici Stanisłai Koniecpolski castellani Cracoviensis² exercituum nostrorum generalis praefecti viri vetustate et splendore familiae meritisque in nos et rempublicam clarissimi filius iuvenis ad quaevis praeclara facinora natus in enteras nationes praecipue vero in ditiones Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae studiorum causa proficiscatur, eum regiis literis nostris pro singulari nostra erga hanc familiam et parentem eius Maiestati Vestrae propensione diligenter commendamus et peramanter a Maiestate Vestra petimus, ut sub patrocínio Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae singularem eius favorem et benevolentiam agnoscat. Quidquid Maiestati Vestrae illi benignitatis ostendent, id nobis praestitum existimabimus, ille vero omni obsequio una cum tota domo sua de serenissimo illius nomine bene merenti adnitetur. De caetero Maiestati Vestrae felices rerum successus ac gloriosos de hostibus triumphos ex animo precamur. Datum in castris ad Kwidzinum die 28 Septembris 1635.

¹ Aleksander Koniecpolski (1620–1659), Polish nobleman, son of Stanisław, Grand Hetman of the Crown; in the years 1635–1642 he was on an educational journey across Europe (Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy); in 1637 Emperor Ferdinand II conferred upon him and his father the title of Duke of the Empire; Grand Standard-Bearer of the Crown (1641–1653) and voivode of Sandomierz (1653–1656).

² Stanisław Koniecpolski (1591–1646), one of the most distinguished Polish military commanders; he fought in the wars with Muscovy, Turkey and Sweden; Field Hetman of the Crown (1618–1632), voivode of Sandomierz (1625–1633), Grand Hetman of the Crown (1632–1646), castellan of Cracow (1633–1646).

No. 113

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

[Toruń, 3 October 1635]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Emperor Ferdinand II to duly reward colonel Eberhard Manteuffel, who has always faithfully and devotedly served in the imperial army.

Copy: BJ Cracow, MS 94, p. 423.

Semper quid Maiestati Vestrae curae fuit, ut eorum precipua haberetur ratio, qui fidem et industriam suam Maiestati Vestrae difficillimis temporum casuumque experimentis praestitere. Tamen cum ad nos quoque pertinere videantur ii, qui in ditionibus nostris nati, hodie in castris Maiestatis Vestrae militant non omittere potuimus, quin generosum Eberhardum¹ Manteuffel colonellum Maiestatis Vestrae, e provincia nostra Livonia ortum, magnisque et insignibus affinitatibus, adeoque sanguinis necessitudinibus in Regno nostro innexum singulariter Maiestati Vestrae commendaremus. Multorum is annorum stipendia meritis, facultates suas sanguine aut periculis paratas pro honore et commodo Maiestatis Vestrae ultro impendit. Enixe itaque et amanter a Maiestate Vestra petimus, ut ei non inhonora apud Maiestatem Vestram militia sit, ea vero quae ad militem in disciplina fideque continendum ac confirmandum exposuit, stipendiaque sua ipsi plene et liberaliter exsolvantur. Prosperam de caetero valetudinem et felicissimos rerum successus Maiestati Vestrae precamur. Datum ut supra.

¹ Eberhard Manteuffel, see no. 111.

No. 114

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 7 October 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, allow the purchase of the Rhenish wine for the purposes of the royal court by Gothard Modesfels and exempt it from duty fees.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 90r–91v. Seal.

Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Severiae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, serenissimo et reverendissimo principi domino Ferdinando Dei gratia Hispaniarum infanti, Sacrae Romanae Ecclesiae cardinali, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, comiti Tirolis, provinciarum Belgicarum gubernatori generali cognato et fratri nostro carissimo. Salutem et fraterni amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et reverendissime princeps cognate et frater noster carissime.

Etsi non dubitamus Serenitatem Vestram in Trevirensi¹ ditione, quae in hostili vel in certa paupertate hactenus versata nunc armis catholicae maiestatis recepta vel occupata est immunitatem vini Rhenani coemendi et efferendi pro more nobis et negotiatoribus nostris praestaturam, ut id tamen certius et securius fiat amanter a Serenitate Vestra petimus, quatenus locorum illic et vectigalium praefectis atque administratoribus mandet, ut negotiatorem nostrum vinarium famatum Gottardum Modesfels vel eius mandatarium permittant absque theloneo vectigali et licentiis aliisque quibus exactionibus et molestiis in usum nostrum viginti quattuor plaustra maiora vulgo zolfuder dicta Rhenensis vini ibidem comparare et terra vel flumine deinde ad nos exportare. Prosperam de caetero valetudinem et fortunatos rerum successus Serenitati Vestrae precamur. Datum Varsaviae die VII mensis Octobris anno Domini MDCXXXV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae III, Sueciae vero IV anno.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

benevolus cognatus

Vladislaus rex

¹ Trier, a city in Germany by the Moselle, the seat of Elector, Duke-Archbishop.

No. 115

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 23 November 1635

Emperor Ferdinand II notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, of sending his envoy Father Valeriano Magni.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 59, Polonica 1635.10–1635.12, November, fo. 10r.

Propensissimo voluntatis nostrae affectu, quo commodum et utilitatem Serenitati Vestrae totiusque Regni Poloniae fovere nitimur tum deinde eam publica ita stimulatī permoti ac confisi in benevolentia vicissim erga nos Serenitatis Vestrae honorabilem patrem Valerium Magnum¹ ad eandem Serenitatem Vestram impediendum duximus. Eundem Serenitas per quam benigne [a] ut eundem quo nostro nomine ac communis reipublicae exposcit, ut libenter audiat faciliter ad prestita perhibeat ac si ei indubitata[m] fidem adhibeat. Qui de caetero eidem Serenitati Vestrae omnia avunculi amantissimi officia deferentis eandem bene ac feliciter ad suam atque incliti Regni sui gloriam [a-a] ex animo vocitamus. Viennae 23 Novembris anno 1635.

[a] *the word is illegible*

[a-a] *two words are illegible*

¹ Capuchin Valeriano Magni; he came to Warsaw on 14 December 1635.

No. 116

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Warsaw, 22 December 1635

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Emperor Ferdinand II that he has given a hearing to his resident Alexander Greiffenclau; he assures the Emperor that he will not allow Emperor's enemies to recruit soldiers in Poland.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 59, Polonica 1635.10–1635. 12, Dezember, fos 5r–6v. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Wirtembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Severiae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Quaecunque generosus Alexander Greiffenclau¹ Maiestatis Vestrae in aula nostra residens in commissis tam ad nos quam universos ordines huius Regni habuit, non modo diserte, verum etiam prudenter et diligenter oratione explicavit. Quem uti benigne audivimus, ita commodum ad omnia, quae nobis nomine Maiestatis Vestrae retulit responsum dedimus. Cur enim Maiestatis Vestrae rebus ac inclitae Austriacae domus amplitudini non studeamus qua cum nobis nostrisque maioribus a tot saeculis indissolubiles nexus arctissimae necessitudines intercessere, testatum sane re ipsa a Maiestate Vestra faciemus, quanti dignitatem Maiestatis Vestrae, quanti serenissimae Austriacae domus splendorem magis ac magis splendescere et perennare cupiamus. Tantum abest, ut e Regno nostro copias aliquas in usum aut obsequium adversariis Maiestatis Vestrae emitti, aut educi permittamus, quin imo dimissis nuper quaqua versus eductis (quantumvis nihil de ullo hominum globo vel manu, quae parti adversae militare cogitet, nobis constet) domi incolas nostros retinendos vel hoc solo respectu censuimus. Itaque non est quod Maiestas Vestra vel minime suspicetur nos aliqua in re nostro erga Maiestatem Vestram officio defuturos, quem

semper tanquam alterum parentem omni cultu et observantia prosequi sumus et nullis ab hoc proposito sive respectibus sive persuasionibus unquam abducemur. Conservet Maiestatem Vestram nobis Suprema illa Maiestas quam diutissime et omnes reliquos aetatis illius annos optatissimis secundet successibus. Datum Varsaviae die XXII mensis Decembris anno Domini MDCXXXV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae III, Sueciae vero IV anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus nepos uti filius

Vladislaus rex

¹ Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts.

No. 117

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Gdańsk, 20 January 1636

Władysław IV, King of Poland, thanks Emperor Ferdinand II for the advice offered to him through Father Valeriano Magni and promises to give his reply to the envoy.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1636, fos 5r–6v, Trace of the seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vittembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo, Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Severiae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex. Salutem et omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Intelleximus ex religioso patre Magno¹ ea, quae iussu et voluntate Maiestatis Vestrae nobis graviter et prudenter exposuit, eaque ita accepimus, tanquam ab altero parente suggesta fuissent. Profecto felicitatis magnae loco ducimus, talia nobis consilia, a Maiestate Vestra quam filiali cultu prosequimur, subministrari, quae non minus fida quam salutaria videantur. Quapropter quid eidem religioso patri aperuerimus, quaeve sit nostri consilii necessitas, ex illis literis, quas ad Maiestatem Vestram daturus est, cognoscat. Interea sibi certo persuadeat, observantiam nostram et amorem nos erga Maiestatem Vestram integerrimum semper conservaturos et quibus par est officiis augustissimam illius domum, qua cum per longam affinitatum et coniunctionum seriem, nimis quam arcte copulati sumus, prosequuturos, nec quidquam de innato nostro erga eam affectu imminui passuros. De caetero Maiestatem Vestram non modo per hunc quem recenter auspicati sumus annum, optime valere, verum plurimos alios sequuturos perennare optamus. Gedani die XX mensis Ianuarii anno Domini MDCXXXVI regnorum nostrorum Poloniae III, Sueciae vero IV anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae bonus nepos uti filius Vladislaus rex

¹ Valeriano Magni, see no. 115.

No. 118

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Królewiec, 20 February 1636

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand II that he sent his envoy Stanisław Mąkowski to the court of Philip IV, King of Spain. He asks the Emperor to order the imperial ambassador at the Spanish court to cooperate with the Polish envoy.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1636, fos 7r–8v.

Sacra Cesarea Maestà

Vien di nuovo ispedito da me alla corte cattolica l'internunzio mio Moncoschi¹, col quale desiderando che l'ambasciatore di Vostra Maestà in quella², concorra nelle occorrenze di mio servizio che se gli presenteranno, a Vostra Maestà faccio istanza di volerle in tal conformità ordinar tanto sicura ch'io lo riconoscerò altrettanto per piacere quanto è buoni l'effetto ch'io ne spero. E confermandole sempre il mio corrispondente affetto et animo le prego et auguro prosperità continua. Regimonte li 20 di Febbrao 1636.

Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea

affettuosissimo nipote et filio

Vladislaus rex

¹ Stanisław Mąkowski (d. 1656), Polish clergyman, diplomat, royal secretary; he went on a few diplomatic missions to Madrid (1627, 1634–1635, 1636), and from 1638 to 1647 was the ambassador at the Madrid court. While travelling between Poland and Spain, he also went on diplomatic missions to the courts in Brussels (1627, 1636) and Naples (1633); from 1649 to 1655 he was a royal agent in Naples. See *The House of Vasa and the House of Austria*, part 1, vol. 2, nos. 697, 698, 710.

² Johann Karl von Schönburg auf Wesel (1591–1640), imperial ambassador in Madrid (1634–1640).

No. 119

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Regiomontium, 22 February 1636

Władysław IV, King of Poland, gives his authorization to his envoy Jan Zawadzki at the court of Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, and asks the Cardinal-Infant to give him a bearing.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 92r–93v. Seal.

Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Severiae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex serenissimo et reverendissimo principi domino Ferdinando Dei gratia Hispaniarum infanti Sacrae Romanae Ecclesiae cardinali, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Tirolis comiti, provinciarum Belgicarum gubernatori generali cognato et fratri nostro carissimo salutem et mutui amoris omnisque felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et reverendissime princeps cognate et frater noster carissime.

Etsi ea sanguinis rerumque omnium inter nos necessitudo est, ut nihil affectui huic addi possit, tamen ad animum nostrum erga Serenitatem Vestram contestandum, negotium dedimus generoso Ioanni Zawadzki¹ praefecto Suecensi et intimo camerario nostro ac legato, ut quanti amicitiam felicesque eius successus ac in posterum spes, fortunamque nobiscum coniunctam faciamus, Serenitati Vestrae explicet. Amanter itaque a Serenitate Vestra petimus, ut eum benigne admittere et iis, quae nostro nomine exponet, fidem plene integreque praestare ac pro mutuo coniunctionis vinculo, rationibus nostris ubicunque opus fuerit, favere velit. Quidquid vicissim a nobis ad honorem et dignitatem Serenitatis Vestrae proficisci potest, libenter utroque Serenitati Vestrae offerimus. Cui longam prosperamque valetudinem et florentissimum rerum statum ex animo precamur. Datum Regiomonti² die XXII mensis Februarii anno Domini MDCXXXVI regnorum nostrorum Poloniae et Sueciae IV anno.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

- ¹ Jan Zawadzki (1580–1645), Polish nobleman, diplomat, royal secretary, who specialized in the matters of Northern Europe; in the years 1633–1634 he was an envoy to Saxony, the Netherlands and England. In 1636 he was on a diplomatic mission to the Netherlands, England and France; starost of Świecie (1632–1637), castellan of Gdańsk (1637–1642), voivode of Parnawa (1642–1645).
- ² Currently called Kaliningrad (Latin: Regiomontium, Polish: Królewiec, German: Königsberg), a city by the Baltic sea; currently in Russia; at that time the capital of the Duchy of Prussia.

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 9 April 1636

Emperor Ferdinand II informs Władysław IV, King of Poland, that 7 June will be the date of the convent of Electors in Regensburg and that he has faced difficulties while choosing the place for the peace conference due to the position of France, which rejects the cities suggested by the Emperor and the Pope. He also stresses that he is doing his utmost to begin peace talks as soon as possible.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1636, fos 15r–16r.

Ex literis huc transmissis honorabilis religiosi devote nobis dilecti patris Valeriani Magni¹ relatum mihi fuit Serenitatem Vestram tandem feliciter confectis et negotiis et itinere suo Vilnam rediisse. Quae res singularem sane in modum me affecit et recreavit, quippe cui nihil optatius obtingere potest, quam de continuis quam prosperrimis successibus suis, quam frequentissimis nuntiis intelligere. Gratum igitur Serenitati Vestrae eo, quem sibi coniunctissimum novit, animi affectu de praeteritis eamque porro omnis felicitatis cumulo beari voveo. Ad me et res meas quod attinet eidem Serenitati Vestrae amanter significo, me re prius cum principibus electoribus Imperii communicatae conventum electoralem ad diem septimum proximi mensis Iunii Ratisbonam² indixisse ad tractandum dum ibidem, quae e re summae reipublicae erunt. Serenissimus filius meus Hungariae et Bohemiae rex³ iam in procinctu et propediem hinc in Bohemiam atque inde peractis ibi negotiis suis ad exercitum proficiscendi. Quoad tractatum pacis universalis inter me et serenissimos catholicos et christianissimos reges instituendum etiam num in his terminis versor promulgatio, plenipotencia, ratio, qui a singulis ad id negotii deputati sunt a Sua Sanctitate⁴ die 3 Martii proxime elapsi Romae facta esse speraveram idem de loco, quo conveniendum foret, futurum esse ad quem finem iam pridem Constantiam⁵, Augustam Vindelicorum⁶, Tridentum⁷ ac Spiram⁸ denominaveram, arbitrio unum eligendi ex omnibus modo tam Suam Sanctitatem collato. Verum ex tam multis nullum regi Galliae placere, sed Leodium⁹ vel Coloniam¹⁰ peti per nuntium sic ad aulam nostram caesaream eiusdem Sanctitatis Suae certior factus sum. Tametsi igitur causae ob quas ea recusatio fit, minime quidem mihi relevantes sunt visae, nihilominus tamen pacis studio, tum desiderio etiam gratificandi hac in re Suae Sanctitatis; et quia earum civitatum in

quas regem Galliae¹¹ inclinare mihi insinuat utraque hoc tempore cum ob distantiam earundem, tum aliis etiam gravissimis de causis omnino est incommoda, animum induxi, ut ad numerum priorum locorum etiam Francofurtum ad Moenum¹² adiicerem. Ex quibus an et qui tandem determinandus sit in proximum praestolor. Spe vero bona cum propitii numinis bonitas, tum iustae causae fiducia, conscientia pacifici animi mei esse iubet, fore ut haud diu deinceps in his turbis colluctemur, sed ut omnipotentis Dei cui militamus, dextra vel tractatus propositos vel arma nostra secundante tandem ad securae portum tranquillitatis appellamus, sitque tam utriusque nostrum uberius et frequentius cum gratulandi, tum mutuis omnibus officiis concertandi occasio. Quod reliquum est Serenitati Vestrae perpetuum avunculi et patris amantissimi affectum quam prolixissime confirmo. Vienne 9 Aprilis 1636.

¹ Valeriano Magni.

² Emperor Ferdinand II postponed the date of the convent of Electors (Kurfürstentag) a few times and it finally began on 15 September 1636 in Regensburg.

³ During the convent of Electors (Kurfürstentag) Ferdinand III was to be elected King of Rome.

⁴ Pope Urban VIII.

⁵ Konstanz (Latin: Constantia).

⁶ Augsburg (Latin: Augusta Vindelicorum).

⁷ Trento (Latin: Tridentum).

⁸ Speyer (Latin: Spira).

⁹ Liège (Latin: Leodium).

¹⁰ Cologne (German: Köln, Latin: Colonia Agrippina)

¹¹ Louis XIV.

¹² Frankfurt am Main (Latin: Francofurtum ad Moenum).

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 15 May 1636

Emperor Ferdinand II notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, of the arrival of envoys from Matei Besarab, voivode of Wallachia, who desires to tighten his cooperation with Christian rulers.

Published: DIR 4.1, no. 545, pp. 624–625.

Illustris princeps vayvoda Valachiae Transalpinae¹ per internuntios suos ad nos ablegatos, inter alia nobis repraesentanda esse voluit, etiam propensionis suae erga rempublicam christianam bonique publici studium sincera voluntate declarari fecit, cuius nos affectum, quemadmodum et praedecessores nostros imperatores et reges, antecessoribus ipsius principibus Valachiae factitasse recolimus, benigne ac grato animo complexi sumus. Noluimus autem deesse ut Serenitati Vestrae res eiusdem principis (postulato eiusdem annuentes) vel saltem commemoratione repraesentaremus, non dubitantes quin Serenitas Vestra pro constanti et excellenti animo desiderioque, quo reipublicae christianae et communis boni promotioni intentam esse firmiter apud nos statuimus, favoris et benevolentiae argumenta, uti res temporisque oportuna occasio sese in posterum praesentatura esset, rebus ipsius vaivodae eximia voluntate, etiam interpellationi huic nostrae pondus tribuendo, Serenitatem Vestram prosecuturam esse. Id quod nos etiam grato et optimo loco habituri sumus. Serenitati Vestrae in reliquo omnis boni optatos successus cum prospera valetudine comprecamur. Datum in civitate nostra Vienna die 15 mensis Maii anno Domini 1636. Regi Poloniae.

¹ Matei Besarab (1588–1654), voivode of Wallachia 1632–1654.

No. 122

Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand to King Władysław IV

[Brussels], 30 May 1636

Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, that he has given an audience to his envoy Jan Zawadzki.

Draft: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fo. 94r.

Quae Regia Maiestas Vestra generoso Ioanni Zawadzki praefecto Sucensi¹ et intimo suo camerario ac legato commisit nobis oretenus explicanda omnia tam verbo quam scripto summa qua valet fide et dexteritate fusius repraesentavit ex quibus abunde cognovimus quo luculento Regia Maiestas Vestra singularem suum erga nos animum contestatur, quantum debemus tanto eiusdem studio absque favore. Cui cum ex parte [^a] respondere commisimus [^a] Datum 30 Maii 1636.

^[a] *some words are illegible and crossed out*

¹ Jan Zawadzki, starost of Świecie, see no. 119.

No. 123

King Władysław IV to King Philip IV

[Vilnius, c. 13 August 1636]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Philip IV, King of Spain, of giving an audience to his envoy Count of Solre. He assures the King of his friendship and readiness for cooperation.

Copy: PANPAU Cracon, MS 2256, fos 19v–20r, the date of the letter missing.

Per pagos terrarum tractus iterum difficultates non suae valetudinis discrimine illustris Ioannes de Crei comes de Solre¹ missus ad nos orator Vilnae² Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae metropoli nos offendit. Quem ubi coniunctissimi regis legatum decuit nataliumque eius et functionum gravissimarum praerogativa poscebat humaniter excepimus et admisimus. Quae vero is a Maiestate Vestra nobis explicando in commissis habet luculenti sermone et singularem Maiestatis Vestrae erga nos affectum spirantem explicavit. Gratum proinde et iucundum fuit ab eo audivisse quantum Maiestatem Vestram nos domumque regalem diligit quantum incrementis illius studeat de nostra antea gratia rebusque gestis reprimens laetetur. Cum vero artissimis necessitudinum vinculis invicem coniungamur, nunquam de tam eximio Maiestatis Vestrae erga nos animo addubitavi, quod quidem antea variis officiis dum et felicissimam inaugurationem nostram legatione sua condecoravisset perspectum habuimus. Erit quoque vicissim partium et officii nostri coniuncti, ut Maiestas Vestra mutuam in nobis amorem omnium studiorum argumentis emicantem agnoscat, referatque a nobis hactenus gestum quodque gloriae comparatum dat id ad communem dignitatem retinendam et commodorum cumulum referendum censeamus. Quod etiam quoties dolus et occasio poposcerit re ipsa testari sumus parati. Ea vero quae idem orator nobis domui nostrae regali nomine Maiestatis Vestrae prolixè detulit expolliatus est sicut grato animo complectimur ita non ambigimus quaecumque sese dabant occasiones nobisque ratificandi eis Maiestatem Vestram libenter usurum esse. Caetera quae privatim a viva nostra voce emanata id Maiestatis Vestrae orator accipiet ad Maestatem Vestram deferet et coram qua propensione et promptitudine in serenissimam Maiestatis Vestrae domum et amplitudinem feramus, testificabitur. Deus optimus maximus conservet Maiestatem Vestram diutissime rei catholicae

christianae incolumem propagetque domum et nomen Maiestatis Vestrae
omni felicitatum et victoriarum gloria.

¹ Count of Solre, see no. 102.

² Count of Solre came to Vilnius on 6 August 1636 and five days later was given an audience by Wladyslaw IV.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Vilnius, [25 August] 1636

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand II allow Jakub Weiber, after marrying Anna Elisabeth Schaffgotsch, to return to Poland due to the development of the fortifications in the Bay of Puck.

Copy: BPANPAU Cracow, MS 2256, fo. 68v. The day of the letter is missing. The date 25 August was established on the basis of the letters from Władysław IV to Jerzy Ossoliński and Jakub Weiber, which he wrote on that day; both letters are in BC Cracow, MS 132, pp. 219–221.

Imperatori Romanorum, serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando secundo divina favente clementia etc. Vladislaus quartus etc. Serenissime etc. Quot apud Maiestatem Vestram commendatione nostra pro generoso nostro Veiherro¹ colonello nostro cui petieramus lectissimam virginem Szaffgotsiam² in matrimonium elocari effectum suum sit sortita, est quod Maiestati Vestrae debeamus. Sed hunc quoque aptum virum potentium fortissimorum heroum propaginem qui dotatam suam iuvenilem per bella varia et certamina reddidit satis gloriosam Maiestatis beneficio obligatissimum sibi ac inclitae suae domui reddet, ita enim maturescit et sese conformat, ut summis principibus indoles illius merito gratissimam esse debeat. Porro cum Maiestate Vestra uni iam nostrae postulationi benigne annuerit, non verebimur quidpiam aliud postulare, ne videlicet diutius in aula Maiestatis Vestrae subsistere cogatur aut solemnia nuptiarum in longum extrahantur. Nam praesentia illius ad illud propugnaculum, quod in promontorio Pucensi nomine nostro insignitum ereximus, plurimum est necessaria ad alios nostros usus et imperia eum in promptu atque ad manum eum habere cupimus. Qua in re non dubitamus Maiestatem Vestram facilem sese benignamque vestrae intercessionis causa exhibiturum. Recipit vero et pollicetur se nuncupatam virginem ad sacrae orthodoxae religionis catholicae professionem et gratam fieri poterit, modis omnibus adducturum. Caeterum Maiestati Vestrae catholici affinis rerum omnium successus et aetatem per omnia iucundissimam peculiari filiali affectu precamur. Vilnae 1636.

- ¹ Jakub Weiher (1609–1657), Polish nobleman from Pomerania; after finishing his studies in Bologna he joined the imperial army and was a captain under the command of Hans Ulrich Schaffgotsch; in 1632 he came back to his home country and took part in the war with Muscovy; in 1635 he joined the imperial army again; in 1636 Ferdinand II conferred upon him the title of Imperial Count; voivode of Malbork (1643–1657).
- ² Anna Elizabeth von Schaffgotsch (1622–1650), daughter of Hans Ulrich Schaffgotsch; her wedding with Jakub Weiher took place on 18 October 1636 in Regensburg; Emperor Ferdinand II and his wife attended the wedding ceremony.

No. 125

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Grodno, 14 October 1636

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends Wincenty Korwin Gosiewski, who is embarking on an educational journey, to Emperor Ferdinand II.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1636, fos 23r–24v. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Severiae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Abeunti in Germaniam studiorum et aliarum disciplinarum causa generoso Vincentio Corvino Gosievio¹ magnifici Alexandri Gosievii palatini Smolenscensis², viri militari gloria et rebus fortiter gestis clarissimi filio, commendatione nostra apud Maiestatem Vestram noluimus deesse et quanquam pro innata modestia et virtutibus propriis generoso patricio dignis Maiestati Vestrae commendatum fore non dubitamus, quo tamen illum Maiestas Vestra magis sereno vultu excipat et maiori favore prosequatur efflagitandum id hisce peculiaribus nostris literis, censuimus, agnoscat nimirum usitatam Maiestatis Vestrae benevolentiam et omnia alia gratiae caesareae argumenta. Cupimus interim Maiestatem Vestram diutissime orbi christiano debellatis hostibus, pace parta imperare nostraque filialia studia eidem contestamur. Grodnae³ die XIV mensis Octobris anno Domini MDCXXXVI regnorum nostrorum Poloniae IV Sueciae vero V anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus nepos uti filius

Vladislaus rex

- ¹ Wincenty Aleksander Korwin Gosiewski (d. 1662), military commander and diplomat from Lithuania; from 1636 to 1638 he studied in Vienna, Rome and Padua; he fought in the wars with the Cossacks, Sweden and Moscow; Grand Treasurer of Lithuania (1652–1662), Field Heman of Lithuania (1654–1662).
- ² Aleksander Korwin Gosiewski (d. 1639), military commander and diplomat; he fought in the wars with Moscow and Sweden; voivode of Smoleńsk (1625–1639).
- ³ Grodno, a city in Grand Duchy of Lithuania, currently in Belarus, near the Polish border.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand II

Grodno, 9 November 1636

Władysław IV, King of Poland, expresses his gratitude to Emperor Ferdinand II for giving a kind welcome and support to courtier Stanisław Kazimierz Wolski and once again he commends him to the Emperor.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1636, fos 25r–27v. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando II divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino avunculo nostro carissimo, Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Severiae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et mutui amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine avuncule noster carissime.

Ex mutua principum amicitia, illud vel maxime subditi operant et optant emolumentum, ut sibi invicem commendati et quasi de manu in manum traditi mutuis eorum gaudere possint patrociniis. Quod equidem generosus Casimirus Stanislaus de Podhaiec Wolski¹ aulicus noster intimus et Maiestatis Vestrae camerarius effectualis, nec non colonellus apud Maiestatem Vestram sibi prospere evenisse grato animo nobis id libenter audientibus praedicabat, quomodo Maiestas Vestra illum pro nostra commendatione in suum patrocinium recipiendo, eximiis beneficiis et honoribus ampliavit. Quibus ille ad ulteriora obsequia Maiestati Vestrae obligatus et maioris adhuc gratiae demerendae spe animatus, nova commendatione nostra novum pondus ad omnia sibi accessurum sperans, petiit a nobis, ut ea beneficiorum genera in illum collatorum grata nobis fuisse significarem. Qua propter nihil omnino addubitando illum semper gratum et alacrem ad omnia Maiestati Vestrae servitia maiorum suorum vestigiis insistendo et nostrae commendationi respondendo futurum Maiestatem Vestram rogamus quam maxime ut innovata negotia commendatione novis enim adhuc gratiis et favoribus complecti et prosequi non dedignetur. De caetero

longaevam incolumitatem et felicem victoriarum successum ex animo
precamur. Datum Grodnae die IX mensis Novembris anno Domini
MDCXXXVI regnorum nostrorum Poloniae IV, Sueciae vero V anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus nepos uti filius

Vladislaus rex

¹ Kazimierz Wolski, see no. 79.

No. 127

Emperor Ferdinand II to King Władysław IV

Regensburg, 13 December 1636

Emperor Ferdinand II notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, that Father Valeriano Magni gave an account of the discussions he had with the King.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1636, fo. 28r, extensive fragments of the letter are illegible.

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 17 February 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends Aleksander Koniecpolski to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 95r–96v. Part of the seal.

Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex serenissimo et reverendissimo principi domino Ferdinando Dei gratia Hispaniarum infanti Sacrae Romanae Ecclesiae cardinali, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, comiti Tirolis provinciarum Belgicarum gubernatori generali cognato et fratri nostro carissimo salutem et omnem felicitatem, serenissime et reverendissime princeps cognate et frater noster carissime.

Peragraturu varias orbis christiani regiones illustri Alexandro Koniecpolio¹ summae indolis iuveni filio illustrissimi et magnifici Stanislai Koniecpolski exercituum nostrorum generalis praefecti², consentaneum fuit, ut quem praerogativa generis et paternorum meritorum magnitudo commendaret regiae quoque nostrae commendationis pondus adiiceremus, magni patris filius ad excelsa quaevis conformatus, ac licet domi praeclara virtutis et fortitudinis habeat quae sequatur vestigia nihilominus foris quoque vestigare voluit fortissimorum nostrorum res gestas unde futurae vitae quam more clarissimorum maiorum marti et rebus fortiter gerendis est consecraturus hauriat, comparetque adiumenta tantae indolis magnique herois imaginem ut Serenitas Vestra omni suo favore complectatur etiam atque etiam postulamus, quem quanto luculentior agnoverit, tanto magis nos in spe et opinione de Serenitatis Vestrae erga nos prompto affectu solidaverit. Quod reliquum est commendamus Serenitati Vestrae hunc multis nominibus patricium nostrumque eximium amorem eidem deferimus. Datum Varsaviae die XVII mensis Februarii anno Domini MDCXXXVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae et Sueciae V anno.

Vladislaus rex

¹ Aleksander Koniecpolski, see no. 112.

² Stanislaw Koniecpolski, Grand Hetman of the Crown.

No. 129

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 24 February 1637

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, of the state of the Empire and the war proceedings after the death of Emperor Ferdinand II.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1637, fo. 1, extensive fragments of the letter are illegible; on the margin there is the annotation: Fiat in simili mutatis mutandis ad Regem Catholicum.

No. 130

Prince John Casimir to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 4 March 1637

Prince John Casimir informs Emperor Ferdinand III that he has appointed Francesco Bibboni the resident at his court. He asks the Emperor to pay Bibboni 2100 florins from the sum established by Emperor Ferdinand II, which he needs to prepare the Prince's visit in Vienna.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1637, fos 3r–4v.

Sacra Cesarea Maestà Signore Clementissimo

Questa mia la renderà a Vostra Maestà il Baron Francesco Bibboni residente del Re mio amatissimo fratello¹ appresso la Maestà Vostra, al quale potrà dare interna fede sopra tutto quello gli parlerà per parte mia perché gli dò diverse commissioni. Solo noterò a Vostra Maestà brevemente come desidero ordini alli suoi ministri di Slesia che paghino al sopradetto Baron Bibboni quanto prima 2100 fiorini che mi ci devono maturati fin dal primo di genaro del corrente anno, per pensione annua clementemente concessami e come Vostra Maestà va informato dalla santa memoria del imperatore suo padre², e mio Signore, perché li deve subito investire in cose necessarie per la mia venuta costà, quale col l'assistenza di Dio sarà verso la fine del prossimo mese di maggio. Esso Baron Bibboni per mio ordine diffusamente dichiarerà a Vostra Maestà la mia mente toccante il mio interesse contro lo Sciampochi, quale caldamente raccomando a Vostra Maestà che gli faccia dar fine una volta, et non volendo tediare davantaggio la Maestà Vostra in tutto e per tutto mi rimetto alla viva voce del Baron Bibboni, con che per fine à Vostra Maestà pregi dal cielo l'adempimento de suoi generosi pensieri facendogli humilissimo inchino. Varsavia il di 4 marzo 1637.

Di Vostra Maestà

humanissimo servitore et cognato

Giovanni Casimiro

¹ Wladyslaw IV.

² Ferdinand II.

No. 131

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 6 March 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, gives his authorization to Francesco Bibboni at the imperial court and asks Emperor Ferdinand III to put full trust in him.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1637, fos 7r–8v.

Sacra Cesarea Maestà

Il Baron Bibboni che sostiene il carico di nostro residente in cotesta corte, ha con tal nostra sodisfazione portato in essa il nostro servizio, che ritornandosene hora costì gli habbiamo voluto incaricare di dar parte a Vostra Maestà Cesarea di alcune nostre disposizioni, che dalla voce di lui intenderà. Compiacessi Vostra Maestà di darla piena fede sopra quanto gli esporrà intorno di esse, che sarà tutto di nostra commissione, e nel rimanente instandola di vederlo favorire come nostro Ministro grato gli auguriamo ogni maggior felicità. Varsavia li 6 di Marzo 1637.

Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

No. 132

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 6 March 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand III that Francesco Bibboni has returned to the imperial court and asks the Emperor to put full trust in him.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1637, fos 5r–6v.

Sacra Cesarea Maestà

Per affare che ha riguardo a cosa di nostro particolar servizio, esporrà a Vostra Maestà Cesarea il Baron Bibboni nostro residente, giunto da noi tiene in commisione. Vostra Maestà si compiaccia dar le piena fede in quel tanto che la dirà che segue tutto di ordirle nostro, e gli auguriamo ogni maggior felicità. Varsavia li 6 di Marzo 1637.

Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 15 March 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, accredits at Emperor Ferdinand III's court his envoy Maksymilian Przerębski, who will offer condolences on the death of Emperor Ferdinand II and congratulations on Ferdinand III's election as the new Emperor.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienakten, Karton 28, s.f., no. 1. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando Ernesto divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vittembergae, comiti Tirolis, vicino et fratri nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolenciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine vicine et frater noster carissime.

Ob hunc Maiestatis Vestrae luctum, qui nobis cum Maiestate Vestra est communis simulque recenter ad Maiestatem Vestram imperatoriam dignitatem delatam, magnificum Maximilianum Przerębski castellanum Siradiensem, Litiniensem, Moscicensem praefectum¹, legatum nostrum mittimus, qui utramque sortem maestam scilicet et laetam illam quidem utcunque mitigaret, hanc nomine nostro gratularetur. Eidem quoque dedimus in commissis negotiis Maiestati Vestrae tractandi, quod in se utriusque domus datiis vinculum et amplificationem complecteretur². Quae omnia, ea sinceritate et studio prosequetur, quo ipsi, si Maiestatem Vestram alloqueremur prosequeremur. Non modo igitur illum Maiestas Vestra affectum nostrum et votum explicantem benevole audiet, verum etiam cum commodo et honorifico utrique inclitae similiter responso ad nos primo quoque tempore dimittet. Caeterum Maiestati Vestrae quaevis optimi et fidi fratris officia deferimus et hanc novam sublimem dignitatem in magnum reipublicae christianae decus et emolumentum diutissime et fortunatissime sustinere peroptamus. Varsaviae die XV mensis Martii

anno Domini MDCXXXVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae V et Sueciae
VI anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Maksymilian Przerębski, on his diplomatic missions to the imperial court, see *The House of Vasa and the House of Austria*, part 1, vol. 1–2, nos. 214, 294, 295, 337, 338, 344, 637, 638, 643, 645.

² The main aim of Przerębski's mission was to gain Emperor Ferdinand III's approval of Władysław IV's marriage with Archduchess Cecilia Renata.

No. 134

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 28 March 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand III allow widow of Stanisław Thurzóg, Countess Anna Czabor, who is going to marry Count Michał Stanisław Tarnowski, to retain her right to possess the properties after her deceased husband.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 133, pp. 77–78.

Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine cognate et frater noster carissime. Inter eas Regni nostri familias, quae vel antiquitate temporum et splendore generis ac consanguinitatis nobilitate vel caritudine famae et gentilitia dignitate eminent, praecipua semper gloria enituere comite a Tarnów¹. Prae curis enim maximisque cum belli tum pacis studiis et pro patria laboribus, sumptibus ac periculis defuncti, eos semper honores meruere et perpetua serie gessere, qui in republica summi amplissimique fuere. Nunc quoque domesticae virtutis haeres atque aemulus magnificus Michael Stanislaus comes a Tarnów² pristinae opinioni et existimationi maiorum non solum indefesse respondet, sed novum in dies decus vetustis in senibus meritisque adiicit. Quibus de causis nobis magnam et peculiarem necessitudinem inicit, ut res ac fortunas illius et familiae magnitudinem nomini ipsius innixam singulari semper favore et benevolentia prosequamur et domi forisque auctam ac cumulata capiamus. Cum itaque is ad nuptias magnificae Annae a Czabor³ comitissae magnifici olim Stanislai a Turzo perpetui comitis de Bethlen⁴ talia viduae animum adiecerit et ad Maiestatem Vestram virili stirpe Thurzeviorum extincta⁵ amplissimarum haereditatum ius ex legibus et institutis patriae devolutis enixe a Maiestate Vestra contendimus, ut circa derelictas possessiones seu ad vitae tempora seu ad annos ex gratia Maiestatis Vestrae concedendis, eadem vidua cum futuro sponso suo conservetur, nec in aliorum manus eadem bona deveniant, magno certe beneficii nexu hominem de principum benevolentia semper bene merendi cupidum et grati animi testificationem in gloria ponentem Maiestas Vestra devinciet; et nos ea in re singularem Maiestatis Vestrae erga nos amorem paribus vicissim studiis atque officiis agnoscemus. Quod superest longam prosperitatem, valetudinem et felicem ineuntis Imperii successum Maiestati

Vestrae ex animo imprecamur. Datum Varsaviae die vigesima octava mensis Martii anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo trigesimo septimo regnorum nostrorum Poloniae et Sueciae quinto.

- ¹ The Tarnowski family, Polish noble family, counts of Tarnów.
- ² Michał Stanisław Tarnowski (c. 1590–1655), royal captain of horse, castellan of Wojnicz (1645–1655).
- ³ Anna Czabor (d. 1656), Hungarian noblewoman, wife of Stanisław, Count of Thurzó, after whose death in 1638 she married Michał Stanisław Tarnowski.
- ⁴ Stanisław IV Thurzó (c. 1599–1627), Hungarian Count of Bethlenfalva (Slovak: Betlanovce), zupan of the comitat of Szepes (Slovak: Spiš, Polish: Spisz).
- ⁵ Michał, the last descendant of the Thurzó family, died in 1636.

No. 135

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 2 April 1637

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, of receiving the letter authorizing Francesco Bibboni as the royal resident at the imperial court.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1637, fo. 13r, extensive fragments of the letter are illegible. See no. 131.

No. 136

Emperor Ferdinand III to Prince John Casimir

Vienna, 2 April 1637

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Prince John Casimir of receiving the letter authorizing Francesco Bibboni as the royal resident at the imperial court.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1637, fo. 14r, extensive fragments of the letter are illegible. See no. 132.

No. 137

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 20 April 1637

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, that he has received envoy Maksymilian Przerębski, who will provide the King with his report on all the discussions.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Familienakten, Karton 28, s.f., no. 9.

Ferdinandus tertius divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus ac Germaniae, Ungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniaeque etc. rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Wirtembergae, comes Tirolis et Goritiae. Serenissimo principi domino Vladislao quarto regi Poloniae et Sueciae, magno duci Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Suecorum, Gothorum, Vandalorumque haereditario regi electo magno duci Moscoviae, consobrino vicino et fratri nostro carissimo. Salutem ac mutuae benevolentiae omnisque felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime princeps consobrino vicine et frater carissime.

Inter hunc nostrum luctum simulque recenter ad nos delatam imperatoriam dignitatem nihil vel maerorem nostrum lenire vel laetitiam magis augere poterat, quam Serenitatis Vestrae cum amantissima consolationis et gratulationis officia, quibus nos per suum ad nos legatum illustrem et magnificum Sacri Romani Imperii comitem Maximilianum in Przeremb castellanum Siradiensem, Litinensem, Moscicensemque praefectum¹ complecta est, tum cumulatam studium, quo nobis peculiare votum suum in utriusque domus arctius vinculum et amplificationem conceptum per eundem explicari ac de eo nobiscum tractari ulteriori mandato curavit. Quae omnia veluti ab ipso legato amplissime ac summa cum prudentia integritate atque zelo apud nos peracta sunt, ita pleniore ipse testificatione Serenitatis Vestrae referet, quanti nos impensum hunc Serenitatis Vestrae erga nos affectum faciamus et quam benevolo vicissim animo eandem Serenitatem Vestram unice semper prosequamur is itaque dum praeter caetera praesertim in memorato etiam negotio peramantem declarationem nostram Serenitati Vestrae pluribus expositurus est, Deum ter optimum precamur, ut quod divino suo instinctu atque optimo utrinque amore et

fiducia inceptum est, Regnis ac populis utrinque omnibus et toti reipublicae christianae in exoptata commoda et beneficia felicissime succedat. Quibus Serenitati Vestrae hunc fraternum ac fidum amorem nostrum confirmantes eidem omnem prosperitatem perimpense adprecamur. Datum in civitate nostra Viennae die vigesima Aprilis anno millesimo sexcentesimo trigesimo septimo regnorum autem nostrorum Romani primo, Ungarici duodecimo, Bohemici vero decimo. Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae.

¹ Maksymilian Przerębski, see no. 133.

No. 138

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 20 April 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, invites Archduke Leopold Wilhelm to his wedding ceremony with Cecilia Renata, which is to take place on 8 September in Warsaw.

Copy: PANPAU Cracon, MS 2256, fo. 8r-8v. In the heading of the letter the addressee is given only as Archiduci Austriae.

Cum praecipua regum gloria ac felicitas in rebus fortiter gestis consistat, eam iam ex parte contenti sumus. Restat, ut eandem quoque sacro connubii foedere stabilitamus, quo nomen nostrum perennare per longas vicinitates faventibus superis possit. Quapropter cum ex antiquo amplissimi senatus consilio serenissimam Renatam Caeciliam¹ serenissimi Regni imperatoris natu minorem sororem delegerimus, quam in thoro Regni consortem constitueremus auspiciis vero nuptiis diem octavam mensis Septembris² Varsaviae celebrandas assignaverimus locum et pondus deputavimus Serenitatem Vestram qua cum nobis arctus sanguinis nexus et variae necessitudines intercedunt nec non in dies plurimum amoris erga nos emicant argumenta pro illa festivitate invitari. Petimusque ab ea maiorem in modum, ut maiestate et splendore nominis sui modo peculiari legato dies illos reddet illustriores. De quo uti non dubitamus ita vicissim omni benevolentiae genere relaturi simus. Cui felicitatem omnium rerum et diuturnam valetudinem precamur. Varsoviae die 20 Aprilis 1637.

¹ Archduchess Cecilia Renata (1611–1644), daughter of Emperor Ferdinand II and Maria Anna Wittelsbach; sister of Emperor Ferdinand III.

² The date of the wedding ceremony was changed to 12 September 1637 in Warsaw.

No. 139

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 20 April 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, asks Archduke Leopold Wilhelm for his consent to and support for his efforts to marry Archduchess Cecilia Renata and he announces sending his envoy to the Emperor with regard to this matter.

Copy: PANPAU Cracon, MS 2256, fo. 8v.

Quod nobis ad serenissimae domui nostrae cum inclita Austriaca familia a vetustis nuperis temporibus intercesserunt necessitudines eas magis ac magis confirmare et augere in animum induximus, cum ex ea sponsam et futurae vitae ac sceptri sociam serenissimam Renatam Caeciliam¹ archiducissam Austriae Serenitatis Vestrae carissimam sororem petendam habendamque statuerimus. Cuius rei renovandum gradum cum oratores nostros magni nominis et auctoritatis viros as Sacram Caesaream Maiestatem² totamque augustam domum mittamus Serenitatem Vestram peramanter rogamus, ut eis desiderium nostrum quod ipse Deus optimus maximus prospere promoventibus ita favere adhibita fiducia velit, unde eximius illius et singularis affectus erga nos elucere et sese prodere possit. Ita Serenitas Vestra sibi persuadeat, ita sentiat, uberimum ex hac coniunctione fructum in utramque familiam redundaturum esse. Quod quia praedicti oratores nostri sint confirmaturi, nos a commemoratione abstinebimus. Cupimus autem Serenitatem Vestram diutissime valere et omni rerum felicitate florere eidemque amorem nostrum etiam atque etiam contestamur. Datum ut supra.

¹ Archduchess Cecilia Renata.

² Ferdinand III.

No. 140

Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 26 April 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, invites Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand to his wedding ceremony with Archduchess Cecilia Renata, sister of Emperor Ferdinand III, which is to take place on 6 September in Warsaw.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 97 and 100. Seal. The letter is severely damaged.

Copy: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 98–99, translation into Spanish.

Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, serenissimo et reverendissimo principi domino Ferdinando Dei gratia Hispaniarum infanti Sacrae Romanae Ecclesiae cardinali, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, comiti Tirolis, provinciarum Belgicarum gubernatori generali cognato et fratri nostro carissimo salutem et fraterni amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et reverendissime princeps domine cognate et frater noster carissime.

Quam nobis felicitatem suasit studium conservanda regalis domus Regni rationes ac unanimis populorum oratio augurata est hanc amplecti et obsecundare publicis votis voluimus. Quapropter cum in thori ac Regni consortem serenissimam Renatam Ceciliam serenissimi Romanorum Imperatoris¹ natu minorem sororem virginem moribus venustateque formae conspicuam desponsandum statuerimus, solennitati autem nuptiarum tempus ad diem sextam mensis Septembris² Varsaviae destinaverimus huic ut Serenitas Vestra praesentia sua tantum splendoris impertiri velit, quantum illius dignitas et propinquitas variis culta officiis nec non peculiaris in nos ac domum nostram regiam propensio postulat invitamus et maiorem in modum rogamus quo officio quanti prosperitatem ac incrementum domus nostrae faciat declarabit nosque sibi maiore benevolentiae nexu obstringet. Cui studia nostra deferimus ac beneficio literisque valere cupimus. Varsaviae

die XXVI mensis Aprilis anno Domini MDCXXXVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae et Sueciae V anno.

^aEiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae^a

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

^{a-a} *the fragment is blurred and illegible*

¹ Ferdinand III.

² The date of the wedding ceremony was changed to 12 September 1637 in Warsaw. Cf. no. 139.

No. 141

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

14 June 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, repeats his request to Emperor Ferdinand III to favourably consider the case of Count Michał Stanisław Tarnowski (in regard to Anna Czabor's property).

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 133, pp. 313–314. The heading of the letter as follows: List Króla JMCi do cesarza, pisany drugi raz, za JW Hrabim 14 Junii (The letter of the King to the Emperor, written for the second time, pleading for the Count, 14 June).

Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine frater noster carissime. Optimos Maiestatis Vestrae erga nos affectus multis se prodit argumentis sed vel eum maxime tunc perspicimus, quando preces ac intercessionem nostras benigne accipit. Quod in negotio magnifici Michaelis Stanislai comitis a Tarnów abunde Maiestas Vestra videtur esse contestata¹. Verum cum adhuc illud sub deliberatione Maiestatis Vestrae suspensum existat. Vehementer Maiestatem Vestram rogatum volumus, ut benignitatis ac voluntatis suae sensum declaret. Ac verum illum imprimis hoc in regno prosapia ortum ac incliti nominis Austriaci (qui illi est haereditarius affectus) studiosum obstringat. Iudicabit profecto Maiestas Vestra non ingrato aut inutili se se beneficium contulisse ac ubique rependentibus nobis dignitatem et augustum Maiestatis Vestrae nomen propugnabit. De caetero Maiestati Vestrae fraterna nostra officia deferimus ac felicissime orbi christiano imperare cupimus.

¹ Władysław IV wrote to the Emperor in regard to Michał Stanisław Tarnowski and the property of Anna Czabor, widow of Stanisław Thurzó, on 28 March 1637, see no. 135. Tarnowski was a member of the legation to Vienna for Archduchess Cecilia Renata.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 22 June 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, authorizes at Emperor Ferdinand III's court envoys Jan Lipski, bishop of Chełmno, and Kasper Denhoff, voivode of Sieradz, in order to sign the agreements concerning the King's marriage with Archduchess Cecilia Renata.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienakten, Karton 28, s.f., no. 21. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando III divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Scлавoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis domino vicino et fratri nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithunaae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et fraterni amoris continuum incrementum serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine vicine et frater noster carissime.

Quoniam eae coniunctiones, quae tam superioribus, quam recentioribus temporibus inter maiores nostros intercesserunt, satis sufficere videbantur ad retinendam inter nostram et serenissimam domum Austriacam amicitiam. Attamen cum recordaremur plerumque parum firmas et necessarias esse longinquorum et externorum principum necessitudines, maiore ex usu tam publico, quam etiam private arbitrati sumus fore, si e propinquo eoque tam virtutum quam heroum facundissimo nido inclita nimirum Austriaca domo reliquae vitae nostrae et Regni sociam peteremus cuius rei cum iam compotes promissi Maiestati Vestrae facti sumus, maximos etiam et uberrimos fructus nos atque adeo rempublicam hanc cui potissimum hac ex parte prospicere voluimus, relaturam esse confidimus. Quod itaque superi secudent nobis ac huic reipublicae felix faustumque sit. Oratores nostros iuris prudentia genere ipsaque dignitate senatoria conspicuos reverendum in Christo patrem dominum Ioannem Lypski episcopum Culmensensem et Pomesaniae¹ ac magnificum dominum Gasparum Denhoffum palatinum Siradiensem, Vielunensem, Boleslaviensem praefectum² ad Maiestatem Vestram et totam augustam domum mittimus, qui serenissimam principem

virginem dominam Renatam Ceciliam archiducissam³ Austriae, Maiestatis Vestrae longe dilectissimam sororem primum nomine nostro repetant, deinde alia omnia, quae ad rite et legitime ineundum ac stabiliendum matrimonium pertinent idonee perficiantur ac exequantur, quapropter eos ita a Maiestate Vestra exceptos iri speramus, ut et singulari benevolentia prosequatur et omnia, quae mandato nostro egerint Maiestatique Vestrae proposuerint, tam fiduciae quam amoris declaratione complectatur. Iam vero fraternum nostrum affectum ac quaevis studia Maiestati Vestrae deferimus, nec non diutissime ad utriusque inclitae domus totiusque rei christianae utilitatem imperare percupimus. Varsaviae die XXII mensis Iunii anno Domini MDCXXXVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae V Sueciae vero VI anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Jan Lipski (1589–1641), Polish clergyman, royal secretary, bishop of Chelmno and Pomesania (1635–1638), archbishop of Gniezno and Primate of Poland (1638–1641).

² Kasper Denhoff (1588–1645), Polish nobleman, courtier and King's supporter, voivode of Dorpat (1627–1634) and Sieradz (1634–1645), starost of Wieluń and Boleslawiec (currently in Łódzkie Voivodship); in 1635 Emperor Ferdinand II conferred on him the title of Count of the Holy Roman Empire, and in 1637 Ferdinand III the title of Prince of the Holy Roman Empire; from 1639 he was Court Marshal of Queen Cecilia Renata's court.

³ Archduchess Cecilia Renata.

No. 143

King Władysław IV to Empress Maria Anna

Warsaw, 30 June 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, invites Empress Maria Anna to his wedding ceremony with Archduchess Cecilia Renata, which is to take place on 6 September in Warsaw.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1637, fos 46r–47v. Seal.

Serenissimae et excellentissimae principi dominae Mariae divina favente clementia electae Romanorum imperatrici ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae reginae natae Hispaniarum infanti, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, dominae sorori cognatae nostrae carissimae Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex. Salutem et fraterni amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissima et excellentissima princeps domina soror et cognata nostra carissima.

Cum praecipua regum gloria ac felicitas in rebus fortiter gestis consistat, eam iam ex parte consequi sumus. Restat ut eadem quoque sacro connubii foedere stabiliamus, quo nomen nostrum per longas aetates, perennare faventibus superis possit. Quapropter cum ex amplissimi senatus *consilio* serenissimam Ceciliam Renatam serenissimi Romanorum imperatoris¹ natu minorem sororem delegerimus, quam in thori Regnique consortem assumeremus auspiciis vero nuptiis diem sextam mensis Septembris² Varsaviae celebrari assignaverimus. Officii et amoris nostri esse putavimus Maiestatem Vestram, qua cum nobis tot necessitudines ac propinquitas sanguinis intercedit, pro illa festivitate invitare. Petimusque maiorem in modum ut praesentia nominis personaeque suae dies illos reddat illustriores. De quo uti non dubitamus, ita vicissim omni benevolentiae genere relaturi sumus. Quod etiam oratores nostri prolixius postulabunt. Cui felicitatem omnium rerum et diuturnam valetudinem precamur. Datum Varsaviae die

XXX Iunii anno Domini MDCXXXVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae V,
Sueciae VI.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Ferdinand III.

² The date of the wedding ceremony was changed to 12 September 1637 in Warsaw.

No. 144

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 30 June 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand III show mercy towards the children of the deceased Frederick V, Elector of the Rhine Palatinate, and return their inheritance in accordance with their father's last will.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1637, fos 48r–49v. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando III divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino vicino et fratri nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernihoviaequae nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et mutui amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine vicine et frater noster carissime.

Habent secundum matrimonii negotium hoc inter alia oratores¹ nostri sibi a nobis commissum, ut Maiestati Vestrae nomine nostro afflictum illustrissimae principis electricis palatinae senioris² ac illius prolis statum exponant ac diligenter commendent, quo illis clementiam suam post longi temporis adversitatem declarare et ditionibus ex testamento paterno assignatis restituat. Quod sane ad gloriam clementiamque Maiestatis Vestrae pertinebit. Nos vero qui nitimur pro hac stirpe, quae se nulla foedaverat rebellione singulariter sibi Maiestati Vestrae obligaverit. Quod dum fusius oratores nostri explicabunt, dabit illis Maiestas Vestra benignam aurem et intercessionem nostram optimo ponet apud se loco. Cupimus vero Maiestatem Vestram optime valere et feliciter imperare. Datum Varsaviae die XXX mensis Iunii anno Domini MDCXXXVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae V, Sueciae vero VI anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae bonus frater Vladislaus rex

¹ Jan Lipski and Kasper Denhoff.

² After the death of Frederick V (29 November 1632), his wife Elizabeth Stuart and their children solicited the Emperor for returning their inheritance to them.

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 10 August 1637

Emperor Ferdinand III informs Władysław IV, King of Poland, that the proxy marriage of Archduchess Cecilia Renata and the King, represented by Prince John Casimir, took place on 9 August. The Emperor also authorizes Prince John Casimir as his envoy to the wedding ceremony in Poland.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Familienakten, Karton 28, s.f., no. 60.

Ferdinandus tertius divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Wittembergae, comes Tirolis et Goritiae serenissimo principi domino Vladislao quarto regi Poloniae, magno duci Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditario regi, consobrino, vicino affini et fratri nostro carissimo salutem et fraterni affectus, omnisque felicitatis perpetuum incrementum. Serenissime princeps consobrino vicine affinis et frater carissime.

Postquam ex Serenitatis Vestrae desiderio et mutuo nostro propensissimo affectum in utriusque serenissimae domus populorumque eis subiectorum bonum et beneficium matrimonio inter Serenitatem Vestram et serenissimam ac carissimam nostram sororem, regiam suam sponsam dominam Ceciliam Renatam Ungariae et Bohemiae principissam, archiducissam Austriae per nostros caesareos suosque regios mandatarios in Dei nomine conclusa iam ipsa sponsalia de praesenti per serenissimum Poloniae et Sueciae principem Casimirum Serenitatis Vestrae fratrem ac consobrinum nostrum carissimum in nomen Serenitatis Vestrae vigore potestatis ab ea acceptae cum dicta serenissima principe domina Cecilia Renata haesterna die ex praecepto Ecclesiae Romanae eodem inter et rite inita sunt¹, nihil quidem nobis optatius fuisset, quam ut nuptiis proxime celebrandis nos ipsi adesse ac Serenitati Vestrae totique serenissimae domui suae amantissimum nostrum animum propria praesentia nostra testari potuissemus, quia vero rerum status id non permittit benevole cum Serenitatis Vestrae fratre serenissimo principe Casimiro egimus, ut tanquam mutui amoris pignus

utrimque longe carissimum amplissimumque memoratas apud nuptias vices nostras gerere vellet. Qui cum genus hoc officii pro suo sincero nostro studio lubenti animo in se suscepit, hisce Serenitatem Vestram quam amanter requirimus, ut ab ipso serenissimo fratre suo omnia ea, quae dilectio sua in hac nuptiarum solemnitate tanquam caesareus noster legatus actura et testificatura est non aliter quam a nobis ipsis excipere grataque habere velit. Hisceque ut Serenitas Vestra una cum amantissima hac vitae et thori socia pro sperato utriusque serenissimae domus totiusque reipublicae christianae commodo diu multumque incolumis vivat ac quibus suis rerum secundis successibus prosperrime regnet amice cupimus. Datum Viennae die decima Augusti anno millesimo sexcentesimo trigesimo septimo. Regnorum nostrorum Romani primo, Hungarici duodecimo ac Bohemici decimo. Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae.

¹ The proxy marriage of Archduchess Cecilia Renata and Wladyslaw IV, who was represented by Prince John Casimir, took place on 9 August 1637, in the Augustinian Church in Vienna.

No. 146

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 12 August 1637

Emperor Ferdinand III authorizes György Drašković, bishop of Laurinum (Győr), Girolamo Montecucoli and Veit Künigl von Ehernburg at the court of Władysław IV, King of Poland. They are appointed as commissioners for the negotiations of the agreements concerning the marriage of the King with Archduchess Cecilia Renata.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Familienakten, Karton 28, s.f., no. 73. See no. 149.

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 19 August 1637

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, of the end of Jan Lipski and Kasper Denhoff's diplomatic mission concerning the marriage of the King with Archduchess Cecilia Renata. The envoys' skills and care for the mutual good of both rulers deserve the highest praise.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Familienakten, Karton 28, s.f., no. 60.

Quo animo et amore Serenitatis Vestrae desiderium mutuae amicitiae inter nostram et suam serenissimam domum praeter antiquas necessitudines novae affinitatis et coniunctionis vinculo confirmandae ad ingressum statim huius negotii complexi sumus eundem in maturandis et perficiendis iis, quae ad rite et legitime ineundum ac stabiliendum matrimonium inter Serenitatem Vestram et serenissimam sororem nostram regiam suam sponsam carissimam dominam Ceciliam Renatam Ungariae et Bohemiae principissam, archiducissam Austriae nos proprietissime praestitisse testabuntur regii sui ad nos et totam augustam domum nostram ablegati oratores reverendus Ioannes Lypski episcopus Culmensis et Pomesaniae ac illustris Gaspar comes a Denhoff palatinus Siradiensis, Vielunensis, Boleslaviensis praefectus¹, qui cum de caetero etiam nostrum amantissimum quem erga dictam sororem nostram ac totam Serenitatis Vestrae domus gerimus affectum Serenitati Vestrae pluris relaturi et explicaturi sint, eis hac in parte haud minorem quam nobis ipsis fidem a Serenitate Vestra adhiberi cupimus. Peculiarem autem virtutis aestimationem qua dicti oratores sui a Serenitate Vestra ad istam legationem electi sunt eandem et apud nos ipsi praeclara prudentia et communi boni zelo quem in curando et pertractando hoc matrimonio in sese spectanda dederunt, longe maximam promeriti sunt, ita ut hoc praesertim nomine non absque benignissima nostra in se propensione hinc redeant. Faxit interim Deus, ut ad Serenitatem Vestram regia sua sponsa felici itinere incolumis perveniat et ea nova hac coniunctione sperati fructus in utramque domum et utriusque populum uberrime redundant. Quem in finem ut Serenitas Vestra diu multumque sospes conservetur quam sincere precamur. Datum Viennae die 19 Augusti 1637. Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae.

¹ Jan Lipski and Kasper Denhoff, see no. 142.

No. 148

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Ebersdorf, 1 September 1637

In response to Władysław IV's letter, Emperor Ferdinand III assures the King that he will attend to the case of the heirs of Frederick V, Elector of the Rhine Palatinate.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 56, 1634, fo. 56r.

Non minus ex literis Serenitatis Vestrae de dato 3[0] Iunii¹ quas nobis eiusdem ad nos destinati oratores² ea qua par erat observantia exhibuerunt quam ex eorundem oratorum viva voce benevole intelleximus, quae Serenitas Vestra in favorem principis electricis palatinae³ senioris eiusdem prolis ad nos deferri voluit. Quemadmodum igitur in ea, quae iuris ratio postulat iam ante nostramet voluntas nos inclinat, ita libentius etiam in his quae praelibatam causam concernunt operam dabimus, ut Serenitas Vestra intelligat, haud exigui apud nos momenti commendationem hanc suam fuisse. Quod reliquum est eidem Serenitati Vestrae felices omnium rerum successus ex animo precamur. Datum Eberstorffii, primo Septembris anno 1637.

¹ See no. 143.

² Jan Lipski and Kasper Denhoff.

³ The children of Elizabeth Stuart and Frederick V, Elector of the Rhine Palatinate.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 20 September 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Emperor Ferdinand III that the imperial commissioners who conducted the marriage negotiations have completed all the formalities and submitted the relevant documents.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienakten, Karton 28, s.f., no. 79. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto et Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis domino vicino et fratri nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et fraternum amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime excellentissime princeps domine vicine et frater noster carissime.

Deduxerunt ad nos serenissimam dilectissimam coniugem¹ nostram sanam et incolumem commissarii² Maiestatis Vestrae quaeque ad stabiliendam initi matrimonii causam ac tabulas eo nomine rite conficiendas pertinebant, nobis proposuerunt. Peracta sunt omnia tam nostro ex usu, quam Maiestatis Vestrae voto, quin porro Maiestas Vestra nostris quoque desideriis sit responsura, minime dubitamus, quae hi ipsi commissarii uberius explicabunt. Quos ut Maiestas Vestra solita fiducia ac benevolentia sua excipiat diligenter petimus. Maiestati autem Vestrae fraterno pectore successus secundissimos diuturnum imperium et omnia alia fausta precamur, amoremque nostrum etiam atque etiam contestamur. Varsaviae die XX mensis Septembris anno Domini MDCXXXVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae V Sueciae VI anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Queen Cecilia Renata.

² The Emperor's commissioners were György Drašković, bishop of Győr (Latin: Iaurinum, German: Raab), Girolamo Montecuccoli and Veit Künigl von Ehernburg.

No. 150

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 20 September 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, thanks Emperor Ferdinand III for receiving young nobleman Andrzej Kuczborski at his court.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienakten, Karton 28, s.f., no. 80. Trace of the seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando III divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis domino vicino et fratri nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et fraterni amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine vicine et frater noster carissime.

Quod Sacra Caesarea Maiestas Vestra favore commendationis oratorum nostrorum, quos non ita pridem ad Maiestatem Vestram pro deducenda ad nos Regnumque nostrum serenissima coniuge nostra ablegaveramus, Andream Kucborski in numerum aulae suae puerorum cooptarit, praeclaro id ipsum documento nobis est, propensae Maiestatis Vestrae in gentem voluntatis. Caeterum cum nos ipsi pariter domum Kucborscianam ob avitam generis nobilitatem, praeclaraque illius in divum progenitorem nostrum ac rempublicam merita singulari prosequamur affectu, nostrum quoque hisce adiicere voluimus commendationem amanter a Maiestate Vestra postulantes eo benevolentiae studio Andream Kucborski complecti velit, uti per eam servitii illius Maiestati Vestrae occasionem simul etiam rei litterariae operam navare possit, quo non tantum cultis in aula tanti principis moribus instructus, verum etiam honestissimis litterarum studiis imbutus deinceps nostris ac reipublicae usibus commodare possit. Rem et pietatis plenam et nobis longe gratissimam praestiterit Maiestas Vestra cui de caetero longaeavam valetudinem optatosque rerum successus a Deo immortali ex animo precamur. Datae Varsoviae die XX mensis Septembris

anno Domini MDCXXXVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae V Sueciae
vero VI anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

No. 151

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 27 September 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends Aleksander Szemet, whose father is the chamberlain of Vilnius, for the service at Archduke Leopold Wilhelm's court.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 45r–46v. Seal.

Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, serenissimo et reverendissimo principi domino Leopoldo Vilhelmo archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Vitembergae, archiepiscopo Magdeburgensi, episcopo Argentoratensi, Halberstadii et Passaviae administratori in Murbach et Luder, comiti Tirolis, fratri et cognato nostro carissimo. Serenissime et reverendissime princeps, domine frater et cognate noster carissime.

Famam nominis Serenitatis Vestrae orbis quidem universus, sed imprimis Sarmaticus magni ut par est aestimat. Proinde excivit inter alios generosum Alexandrum Szemetum¹ iuvenem praestanti indole ac imprimis vestusta nobilitate in Magno Ducatu Lithuaniae oriundum, cuius parens succamerarii Vilmensis² dignitate ad praesens fungitur, ut sese ad aulam Serenitatis Vestrae conferat, cupiatque inter ephebos Serenitatis Vestrae adscribi. Quod ut eo facilius obtineat, peramanter Serenitatem Vestram rogamus, ut eum hoc loco esse velit, dignum se is nostra commendatione, sua modestia et moribus nobilissimo iuvene dignis, praestabit et vel ipsos nutus Serenitatis Vestrae observabit, quod de eo confirmamus. Iam autem Serenitati Vestrae fraterna nostra officia deferimus, eandemque feliciter valere percipimus. Datum Varsaviae die XXVII mensis Septembris anno Domini MDCXXXVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae V Sueciae vero VI anno.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

affinis frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Aleksander Szemet (Szemiot), Lithuanian nobleman.

² Jarosław Aleksander Szemet (Szemiot, d. c. 1645), the chamberlain of Vilnius from 1631.

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 14 November 1637

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, that he has received his letter and note by resident Francesco Bibboni concerning the peace mediation and safe-conduct for the Swedes and Dutchmen. The Emperor's position on these matters will be presented by Bibboni (who is on his way back).

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1637, fos 57r–58v, copy with the Emperor's signature, without the seal.

Ferdinandus tertius divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Witembergae, comes Tirolis serenissimo principi domino Wladislao quarto regi Poloniae et Sueciae, magno duci Lithuaniae ac Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiaequae consobrino, affini, vicino, amico et fratri nostro carissimo, salutem ac mutuam benevolentiam. Serenissime princeps consobrini affinis vicine amice et frater carissime.

Benevole cum ex litteris Serenitatis Vestrae tum ex memoriali a residente suo magnifico nostro et Sacri Imperii fideli dilecto Francisco Bibboni exhibito intelleximus, quae in negotio pacis promovendae ac nominatim ratione salvorum conductuum Suecis, Hollandis ac nonnullis etiam nostris et Sacri Imperii statibus impertiendorum proponere voluit. Quemadmodum igitur nihil nobis fuit nec est antiquius, quam ea omnia, quae ad provehendum domino negotium pertinent, omni cura inquirere et amplecti. Ita ac tametsi non omnes aequae rationes huc impellerent; nihilominus tamen almae pacis studio, tum desiderio etiam affectum erga Serenitatem Vestram nostrum quantique ipsam ac interpositionem suam faciamus, magis contestandi, in partem eius, quod ipsa desiderare se ostendebat, benigne concessimus, quoad alteram partem resolutionis nostrae iam alias datae inhaesimus, quod Serenitatem Vestram minime moleste laturam, ex rationibus tum adductis omnino confidimus. De quibus omnibus Serenitas Vestra ex responso domino residenti suo super praelibato memoriali dato, plenius accipiet. Quod reliquum est Serenitati Vestrae acceptum consobrini amantissimi saepius etiam confirmantes, eandem omnium votorum suorum computem

fieri ex animo optamus. Datum in civitate nostra Viennae die decima quarta Novembris anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo tricesimo septimo regnorum nostrorum Romani primo, Hungarici duodecimo, Bohemici vero decimo.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

bonus consobrinus

Ferdinandus

No. 153

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 16 November 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, urges Emperor Ferdinand III to intervene in defence of the rights of Count of Oldenburg. Citizens of Bremen hinder him from collecting the duty fees on the Weser.

Copy: BNF Paris, Melanges de Colbert, MS 10, pp. 532–533.

Recens haec coniunctio nostra facile omnibus ex Imperio ac ditionibus Maiestatis Vestrae persuadet, ut negotia sua ac si quas sentiant difficultates ad nos Maiestati Vestrae commendandas deferant. Itaque nuper illustris comes Oldenburgensis¹ nobis multis nominibus devinctus nos compellavit, ut pro eo apud Maiestatem Vestram intercederemus. Habet is demum divorum imperatorum et imprimis serenissimi parentis Maiestatis Vestrae decreta ac diplomata ex consensu electorali super vectigali certo in flumine Visurgis², quod ditiones illius alluit in cuius etiam usu et possessione hactenus extitit. Nunc queritur hoc praedecessorum Maiestatis Vestrae beneficium a civitate Bremensi³ in dubium vocari. Quapropter rem coniunctioni posteræ consentaneam censuimus, si pro optime de nobis merito comite apud Maiestatem Vestram auctoritatem nostram interponeremus. Quantum vero Maiestas Vestra nostri causa iis, pro quibus intercedere solemus, favere non obscura iam habemus documenta, quod hac quoque in causa nos re ipsa agnituros confidimus, si iubeat Maiestas Vestra ius hoc et causam totam per idoneos viros expendi ac quod aequitas postulabit, quodque est dignitate decretorum ac diplomatum praedecessorum Maiestatis Vestrae statuere eaque in re commendationis etiam nostrae rationem habeat, ut plurimi nos a Maiestate Vestra fieri sentiat, qui tantum momenti in nobis et intercessione nostra collocavit. Quod superest Maiestati Vestrae longam prosperamque incolumitatem, felicissimum Imperii statum et gloriosos ab hostibus triumphos a Deo precamur. Varsaviae die 16 mensis Novembris anno Domini MDCXXXVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae V Sueciae vero VI.

¹ Anton Günther (1583–1667), Count of Oldenburg from 1603.

² Weser (Latin: Visurgis), a river in Germany which flows into the North Sea near Bremen.

³ Bremen, a city and port in Germany by the North Sea.

No. 154

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 21 November 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Emperor Ferdinand III that Francesco Bibboni will present the King's position on peace negotiations with Sweden.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1637, fos 67r–68v.

Serenissimo Imperatore

Dal Baron Bibboni nostro residente sarà esposto a Vostra Maestà il desiderio nostro sopra il corrente negozio della pace con Svezia. Compiacesse Vostra Maestà crederle quanto le significherà che sarà tutto di nostro ordine, et a Vostra Maestà desideriamo continue felicità. Varsavia li 21 Novembre 1637.

Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea

affettuosissimo fratello et affine

Vladislaus rex

No. 155

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 19 December 1637

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Emperor Ferdinand III that royal resident Francesco Bibboni will present to him a matter of great importance. He requests that the Emperor attend to this matter in the way suggested by Bibboni.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1637, fos 67r–68v.

Serenissimo Imperatore

Intenderà Vostra Maestà dal Baron Bibboni nostro residente quanto compila al nostro servizio il particolar negozio, del quale a nome nostro li farà istanza. Desideriamo, che Vostra Maestà ce ne compiaccia, discendendo a questo nella maniera, ch'il detto gl'esporrà, che per farlo di nostra commissione potrà Vostra Maestà darle piena fede, e con questo le desideriamo continuate prosperità. Varsavia li 19 dicembre 1637.

Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea

affettuosissimo fratello et affine

Vladislaus Rex

No. 156

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

[December 1637]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Emperor Ferdinand III that there are no legal reasons to separate the bishopric of Wrocław from the archbishopric of Gniezno, because since its establishment the bishopric of Wrocław has been subordinate to the archbishopric of Gniezno, and the Pope and the archbishop should settle this dispute.

Copy: PANPAU Cracow, MS 2256, fo. 12v, the place and date of the letter missing.

Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine frater et cognate noster carissime. Nullum ante quam superioribus temporibus fuit dubium, quin episcopatus et dioecesis Vratislaviensis ad metropolitanam ecclesiam Gnesnensem¹ ab antiquo et prima institutione sua pertinuerit cuius rei quamquam evidentia et vetustatis plena extant documenta, tamen unum pro mille sufficiat, quod non ita prudentissimus archidux Carolus² episcopus Vratislaviensis propriis suis non aliis se rem habere fatetur, nisi forte capitulum Vratislaviense illud pro se adducet, quod posteaquam iuramento prudenti pseudo regi Bohemico obstrinxerit, ab illo tempore merito ab archidicesi Gnesnensi avelli debuerit, quod certe illis minime poterit suffragari, meminisse potius illi convenit ecclesiam illam statim, a quo tempore beneficio regum et principum Poloniae erecta et dotata est iurisdictioni archiepiscopi Gnesnensis commissam concessisse et per tot aetates in gremio illius conquivisse. Proinde cum id pacta conventa ea se caveant, ne aliquo modo iurisdictione ecclesiae confundantur aut minuantur utrinque vero praefatorum bona et possessiones in Ducatu Silesiae et e contra in ditionibus nostris consistant aequissimum est, ut in antiquo statu et usu permaneant ac iura pactorum praescriptum ius suum eiusque praelatorum obtineat. Praeterea istius rei arbitrium et controversia omnino Sedi Apostolicae competit, cui sollenne fuit suarum litterarum executionem archiepiscopo Gnesnensi committere, quod nuper in voluntate episcopatus Vratislaviensis serenissimo principi Carolo fratri³ nostro carissimo est confirmatum. Cum ita res sic se habeat diligenter a Maiestate Vestra expostulamus, ne capituli Vratislaviensis parum est quas preces attendat et potius negotium totum arbitrio et et definituri sunt parti relinquat, quod Maiestatem Vestram pro rei ipsius aequitate facturam

et certo confidimus. Cui prosperrimos rerum omnium successus fraterne
optamus diuque orbi christiano imperare optamus.

¹ In the years 1637–1638 the cathedral chapter of Wrocław strived to separate the bishopric of Wrocław from the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Gniezno and subordinate it directly to Rome.

² Archduke Charles (1590–1624), son of Charles II of Styria and Maria of Bavaria, bishop of Wrocław from 1608 to 1624.

³ Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław from 1625.

No. 157

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

[c. 1638]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, asks Emperor Ferdinand III to support the marriage of Wilhelm Truchsess von Wetzhausen with Konstanze von Herberstein.

Copy: PANPAU Cracow, MS 2256, fo. 12v, the place and date of the letter missing.

Quos non minus inclitae Austriacae quam nostrae regiae domui addictos et obnoxios esse novimus, eos peculiari solemus affectu et favore prosequi. Cum itaque generosos fratres Truchsessios, qui in Maiestatis Vestrae obsequio versantur ac fidi imprimis sunt ob virtutis impetus et specimina, quod in ambobus luculenter elucent adamemus, ita ut quidquid illis prosperius eveniat magnam exinde capiamus voluntatem. Percepimus vero unum eorum generosum Guilielmum¹ Maiestatis Vestrae tribunum et colonellum in illustrissimam virginem Constantiam ab Herbeistein², oculos ac affectum convertisse suum, eamque in matrimonium deposcere. Quod cum sub Maiestatis Vestrae patrocinio et tutela existat, quanquam Maiestas Vestra sponte sua favere viro illi benemerenti sciamus. Nihilominus postulamus, ut voto illius cuius compos esse cupit benignus aspirare et cum aliis tum hac occasione declarare dignetur, quod fortunam ac incrementa eius, quae omnia pro Maiestatis Vestrae dignitate, lubens devovere statuit, curae habeat. Quod Maiestatis Vestrae beneficium confirmantibus nobis ille ita aestimabit, ut altero nexu eius nomine Maiestati Vestrae sit futurus adstrictus. Nobis vero erit gratissimum, contueri virum ob commendationem nostram Maiestatis Vestrae beneficio auctum et ornatum. Cui fraterna nostra studia deferimus ac diutissime magno nostro solatio rei christianae superesse cupimus.

¹ Wilhelm Truchsess von Wetzhausen (d. 1647), nobleman from the Duchy of Prussia; soldier in the imperial service; his older brother Johann Anselm became a field general in 1636.

² Konstanze von Herberstein.

No. 158

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 2 January 1638

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 109r–110v. Seal. The letter is severely damaged and completely illegible.

No. 159

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Pozsony, 24 January 1638

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, of the letters delivered to him by Wilhelm Forbes.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1638, fo. 10r.

Reddidit nobis literas Serenitatis Vestrae 10 Decembris intimus causarum familiaris Guilelmus liber baro Forbes¹ continuoque opportunis a nobis literis passus instructus huic profectus est. De quo Serenitati Vestrae [a] benevolo significare voluimus. Cui de caetero affectum consobrini amantissimi de animo confirmantes omnia felicia precamur. Posonii² 24 Ianuarii anno 1638.

[a] *the word is illegible*

¹ Wilhelm Forbes, son of Miss de Forbes (wet nurse) from Scotland; milk brother of King Wladyslaw IV; royal secretary and diplomat; he went on diplomatic missions to, among others, the Emperor, France and Spain.

² Bratislava (Latin: Ponium, Hungary: Pozsony, German: Pressburg), currently the capital of Slovakia.

No. 160

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Pozsony, 30 January 1638

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, of another discussion he had with his resident Francesco Bibboni.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1638, fo. 14r.

Exposuit nobis noviter Serenitatis Vestrae quae illi in mandatis dedit rursus residens baro Bibboni, qui quae eidem in illo negotio¹ respondimus Serenitati Vestrae de ea qua solet fide referet. Nos eidem Serenitati Vestrae affectissimi consobrini amantissimi quam contestamur confirmatas illam rerum omnium secundis successibus quam diutissime frui de animo optamus. Posenii 30 Ianuarii anno 1638.

¹ The meeting of Francesco Bibboni with Ferdinand III most probably concerned the Emperor's intervention in the Hanseatic cities in regard to the Gdańsk duty fees, which is suggested by the information found in Bibboni's letter to Maximilian Trautmansdorff dated 26 January 1638, see HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1638, fo. 12r.

No. 161

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 6 March 1638

Władysław IV, King of Poland, urges Emperor Ferdinand III to intervene in defence of the rights of Count of Oldenburg. Citizens of Bremen hinder him from collecting the duty fees on the Weser.

Copy: BNF Paris, Melanges de Colbert, MS 10, pp. 529–530.

Recens haec coniunctio nostra facile omnibus ex Imperio ac ditionibus Maiestatis Vestrae persuadet, ut negotia sua ac si quas sentiant difficultates ad nos Maiestati Vestrae commendandas deferant. Itaque cum nuper illustris comes Oldenburgensis¹ nobis multis nominibus devinctus a nobis petisset, ut pro eo apud Maestatem Vestram intercederemus, libenter illi studium nostrum impertiri voluimus. Res vero ita se habet, concessit superioribus annis serenissimus Maiestatis Vestrae parens illi vectigal ex Visurgi² fluvio, quatenus territorium et ditionem eius alluit exigendum, quod postmodum electorale collegium comprobavit. In cuiusdem beneficii possessione licet fuisset ac in defluentibus mercibus per ditiones suas ripam telonium exegisset, id nihilominus civitas Bremensis³ insolenti pretextu et ausu non modo in dubium vocare, verum etiam impedire et resistere coepit. Quod cum denuo per Maiestatem Imperatoriam inhibitum illi civitati interpositis Maiestatis fuisset, de pristina tamen benevolentia Bremenses nihil remittendum putaverant, imo ius hoc illustres comites Oldenburgenses variis modis et remoris magis interturbare non desisterunt. Hinc iam apparet quantum praeiudicium illustris comes a Bremensibus patiatur et quo loco apud eos desit imperatoria voluntas ac placita. Proinde cum intersit, ut tam serenissimi olim Maiestatis Vestrae parentis, quam ipsius Maiestatis Vestrae imperia et mandata exacte observentur, diligenter Maiestatem Vestram efflagitamus, ut praefato illustri comiti hac in causa patrocinetur ac auctoritatem imperialem tueatur quam civitates hoc tempore quodammodo videntur abuti. Quo autem haec controversia compendiosis procedat dignabitur Maiestas Vestra eam per viros idoneos iudicesque inspicere et expendi quodque aequitas postulabit, quod momentum diplomatum et decretorum serenissimi Maiestatis Vestrae parentis requiret, statuere et decernere. Demum etiam commendationis nostrae fraternam habere rationem, ut ita

a Maiestate Vestra nos plurimi fieri et diligere, qui multum spei in nostra intercessione et coniunctione collocant, sentiant. Quod superest Maiestati Vestrae longam prosperamque incolumitatem et gloriosos ab hostibus triumphos a Deo immortalis precamur. Datum Varsaviae die VI mensis Martii anno Domini 1638. Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae.

¹ Anton Günther von Oldenburg, see no. 153.

² Weser.

³ Bremen.

No. 162

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 4 April 1638

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, about the peace negotiations in Cologne, including the matter of passports for the Dutch negotiators.

Copy: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fo. 103r, the letter is damaged, faded, barely legible.

No. 163

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 4 May 1638

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends Aleksander Koniecpolski to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 101r–102v. Seal. The letter is severely damaged and illegible. Copy: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fo. 107r, translation into Spanish.

En medio se las laureas triumphales, no es la menor felicidad el ser no solamente terror a las enemigos, sino también admiración a los estrangeros. Desta dicha puede preciarse con razón Vuestra Alteza la augusta fama de cuyo nombre no solamente entre sisniestros sucesos, pero también con los estrangeros erigue tropheos gloriosos, cuyo esplendor fue ocasión a que el generoso Alexandro Koniecpolsky¹ saliesse de su patria, para que además del dicho renombre de Vuestra Alteza fuesse también espectador de sus hazañas. Vuestra Alteza se sirvirá de favorizer su intento que es de veer paysses estrangeros y honrrarle assy por sus buenas partes y calidades, como por los meritos de su padre², general de las exercitos de nuestro reyno, que ha alcanzado tan famosas victorias contra los barbaros assy en la patria, como fuera del la al bien de la Cristianidad, por lo qual no necessita de nuestra recomendación con Vuestra Alteza. Atento que sus raras virtudes y los meritos que le acompañan le hazen harto famoso y dicho Koniecpolsky tendrá por mucha dicha de acquerir aumentos de sus virtudes y fortunas de baxo la mano de Vuestra Alteza.

¹ Aleksander Koniecpolski, see nos. 112 and 128.

² Stanisław Koniecpolski.

No. 164

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 4 May 1638

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 105r–106v. The letter is severely damaged and totally illegible.

No. 165

Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand to King Władysław IV

12 June 1638

Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, urges Władysław IV, King of Poland, to give his patronage to Friars Minor of the Observance.

Copy: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fo. 111.

Draft: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fo. 112.

Serenissimo principi domino Vladislauo quarto, regi Poloniae, magno duci Lithuaniae, Russiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditario regi, domino cognato, fratri nostro carissimo Ferdinandus Dei gratia Hispaniarum infans, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, salutem et fraterni amoris omnisque felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime princeps domine, cognate et frater noster carissime.

Patres reformati nationis Hibernicae ordinis sancti Francisci, vita, integritate et fidei propagatione passim celebres digni nobis sunt visi, qui patrocinio Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae commendarentur, impetrarunt ipsi Lovanii a triginta annis¹ uti intelligo a patre meo² colendissimo gloriosae memoriae fundari collegium suae religionis missionariis, ex quo praeclari religionis fideique prodire antistites et athletae, qui in Hibernia³, Anglia et Scotia ingentem in ecclesia Dei fecerunt fructum et progressum, haud exigua opera ipsorum commissarii et Daniae provincialis patris Hugoies de Burgo⁴, qui a quindecim annis multis laboribus Belgio, Italia, Hispania et Germania apostolicorum missionem in praefata regna et alias regiones procuravit, nec non ulterius procurare intendit. Eius personae et sanctae intentionis conatus, ad Dei gloriam pure destinati, fulcro Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae indigent, quam nostrae intercessionis intuitu ipsi efficaci subventionem desidero propitiam. Dignum vere Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae patrocinio opus virum tanti adiuvare zeli eiusque bonae mentis conatus ad fidei promovere agat. Quod nobis semper erit gratissimum et regiae pietatis studio condignum. Cui diuturnam incolumitatem prosperos apprecor rerum omnium successus. Datum die XII Iunii anno MDCXXXVIII. Eiusdem Regiae Maiestatis Vestrae.

- ¹ The Irish College of St Anthony in Louvain was established in 1607.
- ² King Philip III.
- ³ Ireland (Latin: Hibernia).
- ⁴ Hugh Burke (Bourke, De Burgo; d. c. 1654), Irish reformed Franciscan and theologian; he studied at the Irish College of St Anthony in Louvain, where he became a professor of theology; from 1627 to 1634 he stayed in Spain; in 1634 he became Provincial of the Order in Denmark and commissary general of the Irish colleges of the Order in Louvain and Prague; during the Irish Confederate Wars (1641–1653), he organized military help for Irish Catholics in Belgium and Germany; bishop of the Irish diocese of Kilmacduagh (1647–1654).

No. 166

King Władysław IV to Archduchess Maria Anna

[October 1638]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Archduchess Maria Anna, Duchess of Bavaria, of his sojourn in Austria and of sending his courtier with letters to Munich.

Copy: PANPAU Cracow, MS 2256, fo. 29v, the place and date of the letter missing.

Cum in hanc propinquiorem Serenitatis Vestrae regionem¹ sanitatis cura evocavisset amoris nostri ac optimi affectus esse putavimus Serenitatem Vestram peculiariter invisere ac benevoli fratris officia contestari, mittimus itaque Monachium generosum nostrum², qui serenissimum electorem Serenitatis Vestrae maritum³ ac aptam Serenitatem Vestram nomine nostro salutet omniaque boni affinis nostra studia contestetur id salutisque acceptum iri a Serenitate Vestra speramus, ut singulari affectu perfectum esse existimet. Quiquid enim id generosus noster prolixius Serenitati Vestrae referet in eo, ut debitam fidem obtineat, petimus. Quod amplius est optime ac diutissime valere delatisque expectatis frui peroptamus ac amorem nostrum integerrimum eidem deferrimus.

¹ In October 1638, Władysław IV and Cecilia Renata stayed in Vienna and Baden.

² It has not been established who took the King's letters to Munich.

³ Maximilian I, Duke of Bavaria, Elector of the Palatinate, husband of Archduchess Maria Anna.

No. 167

Archduchess Maria Anna to King Władysław IV

[October–November 1638]

Archduchess Maria Anna, Duchess of Bavaria, notifies Władysław IV, King of Poland, that her husband Maximilian I has sent his courtier to the King. She asks the King to welcome him and give him a hearing.

Copy: PANPAU Cracon, MS 2256, fos 29v–30r, the place and date of the letter missing.

Transmisso ad Regiam Maiestatem Vestram serenissimi coniugis¹ nostri camerario et supremo stabuli praefecto generoso NN pro nostra etiam parte verbis commissimus², quae illum, Regiae Maiestati Vestrae nomine nostro coram referre voluimus. Quae cum nil aliud nisi optimi et constantis nostri in illam affectus et promptitudinis summam contineant. Speramus pro rei magnitudine diligenter expositurum adeoque plenam verbis illius fidem dari cupimus, ut Regiae Maiestati Vestrae persuasum fiat, nullam nobis occasionem gratiorem optabilioremque obtingere posse illa qua promptissimam nostram voluntatem ipso facto explicare et viceis semper testimoniisque comprobare liceat. Quod autem reliquum Regiam Maiestatem Vestram omnem a Deo felicitatem et prosperos rerum omnium eventus animitus precamur.

¹ Maximilian I.

² See no. 166.

No. 168

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Radom, 15 November 1638

King Władysław IV notifies Archduke Leopold Wilhelm of his plans to go hunting. He announces sending Gerhard Denhoff to the Archduke.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 47r–48v.

Serenissimo Arciduca fratello charissimo

Ogi siamo arivati con buona salute al destinato loco per le cacie, per gratia di Dio con bel tempo et buona strada qui in Polonia, spero che il tempo durara. Desidero a Vostra Altezza Serenissima per le medisime cacie tal bon tempo et stagioni, quello che passara nelle cacie, avisara il Maidel¹ al cavalerico maggiore di Vostra Altezza Serenissima. Mandando alla corte il signor Denhof² servo mio di Marienburgo colonello et camerier mio segretario comandato che in nome mio saluti Vostra Altezza Serenissima con augurarli buona salute come ancora io lo facio con queste poche rige, pregando Vostra Altezza Serenissima che mi tengo nel suo fraterno amore, et fui che [a] sono.

di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus Rex

Di Radom 15 Novembre

AD 1638

^[a] *the word is illegible*

¹ Jan Teodor Majdel (Maydell, Maidel, d. 1667), nobleman from Livonia, royal courtier, soldier and diplomat, from 1646 Court Master of the Hunt.

² Gerhard Denhoff (1589–1648), royal courtier, captain of horse, diplomat; from 1636 starost of Malbork, then castellan of Gdańsk (1642–1643), voivode of Pomerania (1643–1648).

No. 169

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 17 February 1639

*Władysław IV writes to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand concerning Aleksander Koniecpolski*¹.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 116r–117v, trace of the seal. The letter is damaged, extensive fragments are illegible.

¹ See no. 164.

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 28 February 1639

Emperor Ferdinand III informs Władysław IV, King of Poland, that in regard to the King's dispute with Christian IV, King of Denmark, he intervened at the Danish court through his envoy Ferdinand Sigismund Kurtz von Senftenau. He attaches an excerpt from the letter of Christian IV.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1639, fo. 3r.

Quemadmodum semper alias Serenitatis Vestrae regiaequae suae domus et incliti istius Regni res rationesque cum ob arctissimum inter nos sanguinis nexum, tum ditionum quoque sese contingentium vicinitatem cum nostris atque augustae nostrae domus velut coniunctas attentioris cupidissimae voluntatis cura amplexi omnia, quae ad eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae atque inclitae domus ac Coronae suae commoda et ornamenta amplificanda, incommoda vero amolienda pertinere sollicito studio suscepimus provehenda, ita etiam in praesentiarum ad controversias, quae inter Coronam istam et Danicam erupturae videbantur, mature sedendas nostra apud serenissimum Daniae regem¹ per legatum illis nostrum Ferdinandum Sigismundum comitem Curtium² sedulo interponenda curavimus. Atque quid serenissimus rex respondi dederit ex adiuncto extractu, Serenitas Vestra pluribus poterit percipere, cui id communicandum benevole duximus quacunquae alia data occasione gratificandi studium impensuri; de caetero eidem Serenitati Vestrae sincerum amantissimi consobrini et affinis affectum constanter offerentes diuturnam incolumitatem et prosperos rerum successus ex animo precamur. Viennae 28 Februarii 1639.

¹ Christian IV. The dispute between Poland and Denmark was caused by the fact that in 1637 Władysław IV introduced new duty fees in Polish ports, which led to, among others, an intervention of a squadron of Danish ships in Gdańsk.

² Ferdinand Sigismund Kurtz von Senftenau (1592–1659), German nobleman, diplomat, imperial councillor; from 1637 Vice-Chancellor of the Holy Roman Empire; member of the Privy Council (1640–1659).

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Vilnius, 16 April 1639

Władysław IV, King of Poland, thanks Emperor Ferdinand III for the mediation in the dispute with Christian IV, King of Denmark. The King highlights the discrepancies between the contents of King of Denmark's letters and his actions. He also points out that the ships in the port of Gdańsk are subject exclusively to the King of Poland.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1639, fos 11r–12v. Trace of the seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando tertio divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino cognato affini et fratri nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem aeterni amorisque omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime ac excellentissime princeps domine cognate affinis et frater noster carissime.

Heroicum plane Maiestatis Vestrae animum et eximiam pro publica salute solitudinem agnoscimus, quod de rerum nostrarum statu huiusque rei publicae commodis eam Maiestas Vestra curam gerat, quae cum veteribus ac recentioribus inter augustos Maiestatis Vestrae maiores et regiam domum nostram necessitudinibus et formatis antiqua fide bonae vicinitatis studiis praeclare consentit. Facit Maiestas Vestra rem dignam genere suo dignam imperatorii nominis titulo, dum et sociarum ditionum tranquillitati gloriosam operam et fraterni amoris sinceritati constantem affectum impendit. Nihil quoque nobis magis est cordi, quam ut arctissima cognati sanguinis vincula religiose tueamur et in secunda Maiestatis Vestrae fortuna secundam in adversa adversum cogitemus. Caeterum quod inter nos Maiestas Vestra et serenissimum Daniae regem¹ in emergentibus dissidiis² arbitri ac reconciliatoris officio defungi voluerit et acceptam a legato suo declarationem in qua perspectum serenissimi Daniae regis explicat sensum nobis transmiserit cum nostro, tum Regnorum nostrorum nomine multum nos Maiestatis Vestrae debere profiteamur. Sed in ea verborum

a rebus dissensionem magno nobis intervallo admirari licet, cum aliud legati Maiestati Vestrae literae aliud serenissimi Daniae regis actiones spirant et in iis amicae voluntatis significatio in navibus portui Gedanensi cuius regimen soli nostrae potestati subest, temere oppositis armorum ostentatio praebeatur. Haec an inter se cohaereant facile Maiestas Vestra conqueri potest, aliis quidem fingere animum luet et vultum pro tempore dissimulare, sed regum non solum actiones sed et animorum inclinationes dum erudito dissimulationis artificio teguntur illustrius conspiciuntur. Id profecto serenissimus Daniae rex non dissimulanter et recte affirmat, nihil a nobis profectum esse, quod minus sinceræ benevolentiae signum prae se ferret vel mutuam turbaret pacem, sed ipse diligentius ad animum revocet, an mutuis conservandae vel propagandae bonae vicinitatis et concordiae studiis omni ex parte respondeat. Quo vero facilius Maiestati Vestrae constet, quod nos de sincera serenissimi Daniae regis voluntate dubitare cogat ea, quae ad nos perscribuntur, nec vanam nobis suspicionem praebent in sperata scheda Maiestati Vestrae transmittenda esse duximus. Cui felicissimos imperii successus diuturnam ac prosperam valetudinem omniaque optatae felicitatis incrementa a Deo precamur. Datum Vilnae die XVI mensis Aprilis anno Domini MDCXXXIX regnorum nostrorum Poloniae et Sueciae VII anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus consobrinus et frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Christian IV.

² On the dispute between Poland and Denmark, see no. 170, footnote 1.

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 4 July 1639

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Władysław IV that he sent soldiers commanded by Herman Both to Livonia in order to carry out an act of sabotage against the Swedes. He assures the King that these actions are not aimed against the King, and the details will be provided by resident Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts.

Copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1639, fo. 16.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1639, fo. 15.

Cum, quae arma contra nos et Sacrum Romanum Imperium Regnaque et provincias nostras haereditaria regina¹ et Regnum Sueciae ferat, notorium sit, minime arbitramur, cuiquam mirum visum iri, si nos iustae defensionis iure utentes rationes omnes, quibus praedictus hostis noster repelli, eique media ad oppugnandum nos comparata ubicunque ea sint, eripi possint perquiramus. Quando igitur praedicta de causa nec sane ullo alio fine, quam ut dictum hostem nostrum distrahamus, eumque ad pacem aequam ac stabilem, quae unice nobis proposita est, compellamus nobilem Botten² cum expedita manu militum in Livoniae illas oras, ex quibus ille subsidia ad oppugnandum nos sumit, miserimus, amice hac de re Serenitati Vestrae hisce significare volumus pro solita nostra fiducia requirentes, non modo ne ipsa quicquam sinistri de hoc consilio nostro concipiat, sed potius ut ita sibi persuadeat, gratissimum nobis fore, si quo modo per hanc expeditionem nostram rebus etiam Serenitatis Vestrae ac incliti Regni Poloniae suo tempore commodare potuerimus. De quo eidem residens illic noster Alexander Greiffenclaus a Volraths³ pluribus exponere poterit, cuius verbis fidem adhiberi cupimus. Caeterum eidem Serenitati Vestrae sincerum affectum consobrini amantissimi ex animo confirmantes ac cuncta prospera voventes. Viennae 4 Iulii anno 1639.

¹ Kristina Vasa (1626–1689), daughter of Gustav II Adolf and Maria Elonora Hohenzollern; Queen of Sweden 1632–1654.

² In 1639, in agreement with George Wilhelm, Elector of Brandenburg, Emperor Ferdinand III organized a sabotage army commanded by colonel Herman Both. The army attacked the Swedes in Livonia.

³ Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts.

No. 173

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Szczytno, 17 July 1639

Władysław IV, King of Poland, congratulates Emperor Ferdinand III on his victories in the war with France.

Copy: RA Stockholm, Extranea IX, Polen 79, no pagination.

Summa nos affecerunt laetitia Maiestatis Vestrae literae quae nobis memorabilem de Gallis victoriam nuntiarunt, tantoque nobis is nuntius gratior fuit, quanto gravibus aliorum hostium Maiestatis Vestrae successibus affligebamur. Proinde Maiestati divinae eo nomine ingentes reddimus grates, quod Maiestatem Vestram hac felicitate et successu erexerit, hostium vero animos hac insigni clade fregerit. Gratulamur igitur Maiestati Vestrae et maiorem in modum hoc successu laetitiam sicut enim nos adversae res, quas Deus avertat conturbant, ita secundae quas maximas votis comprecamur exhilarant. Augeat porro divina bonitas praesens hoc suum beneficium novis et novis victoriis quaeque sempiternae memoriae parenti Maiestatis Vestrae opitulata est evidenti exemplo eadem quoque Maiestati Vestrae assistat et omnium hostium victorem ac debellatorem efficiat. Quod unice ac fraterne optamus, nec non diutissime valere et orbi christiano imperare cupimus. Orteloburgi¹ die 17 Iulii 1639.

¹ Szczytno (Latin: Ortelsburg), a town in north-eastern Poland, at that time in the Duchy of Prussia.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Szczytno, 23 July 1639

Władysław IV, King of Poland, demands from Emperor Ferdinand III an immediate withdrawal of the army which he ordered to begin military action in Livonia against the Swedes, because this endangers the internal security of Poland and violates the Polish-Swedish peace treaty.

Copies: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1639, fos 18r–19r; HHStA Vienna, Polen I 84, fo. 295; BC Cracow, MS 136, pp. 287–288; LBNANU Lwiv, fond 5, op. 1, 240, fos 36v–37r.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando tertio divina faventa clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Scavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vittenbergae, comiti Tirolis, domino fratri, consobrino et affini nostro carissimo Vladislaus quartus Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex satulem et magni fraterni amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine frater consobrino et affinis noster carissime.

Redeuntibus nobis e Magno Ducatu Lithuaniae per ducatum Prussiae in Poloniam nuntiatum est certam militum manum, quae nomen et auspicia Maiestatis Vestrae prae se ferret in Livoniam inopinato irrupsisse¹, ibique violenter ac hostiliter locis quibusdam occupatis ad ripam fluvii Duna², munimenta excitasse ac munivisse. Notum quidem id nobis accidit, quod in provinciam ad praesens licet vigore induciarum Sueticae possessionis perpetui tamen iuris ac dominii nostri et reipublicae Polonicae, is miles nomen Maiestatis Vestrae praetendens ignaris insciisque nobis ac minime sperantibus penetrarit. Quod cum nos non mediocriter commoveat, tum ordines Regni dubio procul plurimum afficiet, qui ad perturbandam tranquillitatem et securitatem suam pertinere censebunt, hoc in contermina suique dominii provinciae, belli ac hostilitatis excitatum incendium, quo diligentius Maiestatem Vestram interpollandam putavimus, ut si iussu ac consilio Maiestatis Vestrae, quod nobis in mentem venire non potest, haec

irruptio facta est, facessere, quamprimum e Livonia militem iubeat, nosque ac dominia nostra quae hucusque pacata servavimus a periculis quae ore vicino, planeque domestico bello proclive est subsequi, immunia reddat, ut vel ex hac nostra solitudine Sueci intelligant, nos nihil magis procurare, quam ne ulla ex parte etiam aliena culpa, fides pactarum induciarum labefactetur. Proinde non dubitamus Maiestatem Vestram id serio ad animum suum revocaturam et mentem suam quantocius explicaturam, quo tam regno Sueciae quam Regni nostri ordinibus constare possit, nos ignaros et minime consilii istius participes ac opprobatores extitisse. Quod autem reliquum est cupimus Maiestatem Vestram omni felicitate et optima valetudine perfrui, eidemque nostra studia fraterna deferimus. Datum Ortelsburgi die 23 mensis Iulii anno Domino MDC39 regnorum nostrorum Poloniae septimo, Sueciae vero octavo anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ On the invasion of the imperial army commanded by Herman Both, see no. 172.

² Daug (Latin: Duina, Duna; Polish: Dzwina), a river in north-eastern Europe; it flows into the Gulf of Riga.

No. 175

King Władysław IV to Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand

Warsaw, 31 July 1639

Władysław IV, King of Poland, asks Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand, Governor of the Southern Netherlands, to allow unhindered transportation of twenty barrels of Rhenish wine which were ordered by the King through Johann Klokker, a citizen of Gdańsk.

Original: AGR Brussels, SEA 286, fos 120r–121v. Seal. The letter is damaged and barely legible.

Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando Dei gratia Hispaniarum infanti, Sacrae Romanae Ecclesiae cardinali, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, comiti Tirolis, provinciarum Belgicarum gubernatori generali, domino cognato et fratri nostro carissimo salutem et fraterni amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et reverendissime princeps domine cognate et frater noster carissime.

Committimus fidei industriae famati Ioannis Klokker factoris nostri civis Gedanensis ut in usum nostrum aulaeque nostrae pro anno praesenti viginti que plaustra maiora vini Rhenani, vulgo Zolffudder dictaque trans mare caeteras ^[a] ad nos ^[a] opportune advehat aut add ^[a] faciat. Amanter itaque a Serenitate Vestra petimus, ut ei potestatem faciat literis idoneis ad hoc datis dictum vini Rhenani numerum per loca et ditiones Maiestatis Catholicae libere sine thelonei vectigalis et licentiarum exactione coemendi, advehendique, quod Serenitatem Vestram nostrae gratiae facturam non dubitamus, eam de caetero bene valere cupientes. Datum Varsaviae die XXXI mensis Iulii anno Domini MDCXXXIX regnorum nostrorum Poloniae VII Sueciae vero VIII anno.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

^[a] *the word is illegible*

No. 176

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Ebersdorf, 18 September 1639

In response to the letter of Władysław IV, King of Poland, Emperor Ferdinand III informs the King that the intervention of the imperial army in Livonia is aimed at fighting the Swedes and thus combating the common enemy. Neither does it endanger good relations between the Emperor and Poland nor violate the Polish-Swedish peace treaty.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 84, fos 97r–298v. The note on the margin: exp. Eberstorffj 18 Septembries anno 1639.

Serenissime quod apud nos Serenitas Vestra de irruptione in certa quadam Livoniae loca nostris sub auspiciis facta conqueratur ac de inviolabili induciarum inter Serenitatem Vestram et Regnum Sueciae initarum observatione sollicita militem nostrum educi postulet ex eius literis Ortelsburgi 23 Iulii¹ datis benigne percipimus. Sed non est, ut Serenitas Vestra se eiusve inclitum Regnum hac de re sollicitum reddat, nihil enim nobis prius nihilque potius est quam ut foedera, quae inter nos et Serenitatem Vestram intercedunt, sarta tecta servantur. Haud diffitemur equidem copias illas ex mandato nostro gentem ac hostem nostrum Sueticum invasisse, tamen de nobis sinistre accipiendum non est, dum illo ipso principio, quod adversarii nostri in publicis scriptis profitentur ac pro praesumpta irruptionum suarum iustificatione allegare solent innixi publicum hostem nostrum omni loco ubicunque illum offendendi se fert occasio adoriamur, eiusque vires hostiles omni qua possumus, via ac ratione insequi, divertere ac debellare studeamus, ita ut indignum non sit, si etiam ipse hostis noster suis in possessionibus id patiat, quod sibi in Imperio Romanorum nostrisque Regnis ac haereditariis provinciis licere gloriatur. Idcirco Serenitatem Vestram de hac augusta nostra mente certiore reddere volentes eandem securam esse cupimus, ut quandoquidem praenominatus impetus ea intentione, ut Serenitatis Vestrae eiusve Regno Poloniae ulla ratione molesti esse vellemus nullatenus factus est. Ita nos uti hactenus sic et deinceps iura vicinitatis et quidquid eorum ratione a nobis desiderari potest constanti amicitiae studio continuaturi simus ac tuituri. De caetero Serenitati Vestrae affectum consobrini et affinis amantissimi benevole confirmantes, eidem diuturnam incolumitatem et secundissimos omnium rerum successus ex animo apprecamur.

¹ See nos. 174 and 172.

No. 177

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 7 January 1640

Władysław IV notifies Archduke Leopold Wilhelm of receiving his letter of 14 December. He expresses hope that the imperial army will be even more successful after they take a rest. He confirms that the Empress informed him about Pallavicini.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 51r–52v. Seal.

Serenissimo Archiduca Signore fratello mio charissimo

Ha del 14 de decembre¹ scritta da Vostra Altezza questa posta ho ricevuto, ralegrando mi con lei che queste fatiche, conservino Vostra Altezza sana, non meno di quello che mi scriva del la congiunzione delli eserciti. Et veramente hanno ragioni di riposo dopo si lungo magio, ma essendo riposati a Vostra Altezza auguro con il novo anno novi progressi (essendo qui apresso di noi come la primavera, caldo et senza inverno) perché non posso haverne maggior contento nel animo mio si non sentir felici successi di Vostra Altezza alla quale do con il novo anno (tutto quello che Vostra Altezza desidera nel suo core) li resto sin a morte.

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

PS. La del Palavicino² mi mando nel suo piego la Serenissima Imperatrice³ mi è stato gratissimo et prego che li comandi di continuar queste lettere.

Di Varsovia 7 di Janaro
AD 1640

¹ The letter of Archduke Leopold Wilhelm to Władysław IV dated 14 December 1639 has not been found.

² Most probably Francesco Maria Sforza Pallavicini (1607–1667), Italian clergyman, theologian, philosopher, Church historian; in 1637 he joined the Society of Jesus; Cardinal from 1657.

³ Empress Maria Anna.

No. 178

King Władysław IV to King Philip IV

Warsaw, 16 March 1640

Władysław IV, King of Poland, calls on Philip IV, King of Spain, to pay him out the interest due to him from the Kingdom of Naples.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 1723, p. 19.

Sperabamus quod Maiestatis Vestrae bini oratores¹ ad nos missi confirmarunt et polliciti sunt nos absque omni difficultate aut excusatione proventibus nostris e Regno Neapolitano absque desiderii nostris petituos fuisse. Sed cum longe aliter rem se habere paratoque fructu nuntium² nostrum ad aulam Maiestatis Vestrae immorari intelligamus, non possumus id non paulo aegrius ferre, quod a ministris Maiestatis Vestrae tam grave iuri nostro praeiudicium creetur, ac postulata nostra praetereantur; ut id autem Maiestatis Vestrae scitu vel imperio agant, nequaquam credimus, quam cum aliis fraternis officiis, tum hoc quod iure successionis ac haereditatis nos excernit, quaeque nobis ultro promiserit, libenter gratificari velle certo nobis persuademus. Proinde officium istud tanto ferventius praesentibus litteris Maiestati Vestrae in memoriam revocamus, quanto maiora et inusitata nos experturos ac relatuos confidebamus. Iniungat igitur Maiestas Vestra tam illustrissimo proregi Neapolitano³, quam aliis procuratoribus, ut in posterum proventus isti nobis a maioribus nostris iure naturali ac successionis relictis et consignatis, stato tempore de integro, absque quibusvis dilationibus extradantur ac repraesententur atque ita nuntii nostri laetioribus quam hactenus literis habeant non appellandi. Quod Maiestatem Vestram respectu coniunctionis nostrae ipsiusque aequitatis serio et effective facturam certo nobis pollicemur, quam diutissime ac felicissime regnare cupimus, nostrum Maiestati Vestrae fraternum affectum contestamur. Varsaviae 16 Martii 1640.

¹ Count of Solre and Abbot Alonso Vázquez.

² Adam Małkowski.

³ Ramiro Núñez de Guzmán (d. 1668), 2nd Duke of Medina de las Torres, Grandee of Spain, Duke of Sabbionetta, Sumiller de Corps at Philip IV's court, member of the Council of Aragonia, Council of Italy and Council of India; General Treasurer of Aragonia; Viceroy of Naples 1637–1644.

No. 179

King Władysław IV to King Philip IV

[Warsaw], 16 March 1640

Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Philip IV, King of Spain, to make sure his subjects suitably treat or give back freedom to those Poles who were ransomed from Turkish captivity or fled to the Kingdom of Spain.

Copies: BC Cracon, MS 2732, p. 21; BPANPAU Cracon, MS 2256, fo. 67.

Intelleximus ex literis nuntii¹ ad aulam Vestrae Maiestatis degentis plurimos captivos e terris Russiae imperio nostro subiectis e servitute Turcica partim pretio partim fuga in ditiones Maiestatis Vestrae elabi unde nequaquam dimittantur. Sed ad instar nanorum principes Turcicorum a subiectis Maiestatis Vestrae tractentur et habeantur. Quod cum christianae pietati ac caritati repugnet, optime vero Regno huic ac populis cum Maiestatis Vestrae Regnis, licet longinquos semper convenerit, aequum ac inglorium est, ut Maiestas Vestra abolita literas austeriore consuetudine, illam in meliorem et nomini Iberico conformiorem commutet, captivosque qui christiano nomine censeantur, humanius tractari neque violenter detineri imperio suo edicat. Quod Maiestas Vestra pro sua innata pietate et christiani nominis gloriam facturam esse confidimus. Cui officia nostra fraterna deferrimus et felicissime regnare cupimus, die 16 Martii 1640.

¹ Stanislaw Mąkowski.

No. 180

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 16 March 1640

Władysław IV, King of Poland, asks Emperor Ferdinand III to intercede with Philip IV, King of Spain, on his behalf in regard to the interest which is due to him from the Kingdom of Naples. He also announces that because no decisions have been made he will have to withdraw his envoy from Spain.

Copies: BC Cracow, MS 2732, pp. 20–21; BPANPAU Cracow, MS 2256, fo. 67v, the place and date of the letter missing.

Non possumus Maiestatem Vestram celare, quantum praeiudicium a ministris ac procuratoribus serenissimi Hispaniae regis¹ fratris nostri et affinis carissimi in Regno Neapolitano reportemus, ii enim in extradendis proventibus nostris, qui nos iure naturali ac successionis istinc concernunt, difficillimos se praebent et pertinaciter ad statum tempus repraesentare recusant, quod ut Maiestas Vestra pro suo in nos amore serenissimo Hispaniae regi deferat, diligenter petimus, qui cum luculenta quaevis officia per suos oratores² nobis obtulisset, nunc ministrorum illius culpa proprio ac haereditario nostro proventu aegerrime potiri non possumus. Non dubitamus itaque Maiestatem Vestram, iusto huic desiderio ac rationibus nostris apud catholicam maiestatem suffragaturam. Alias necesse esset nuntium³ nostrum in illa aula residentem revocare, si frustra illic immorandum illi sit, parvique desideria nostra aestimentur. De caetero Maiestati Vestrae omne nostrum fraternum studium prolixè deferimus et felicissimos rerum omnium successus ac imperium felix optamus. Varsaviae 16 Martii 1640.

¹ Philip IV, see no. 178.

² Count of Solre and Alonso Vázquez (1586–1661), member of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy, theologian and diplomat, royal confessor, abbot of Santa Anastasia. Together with Count of Solre he came with legation to Poland in June 1636.

³ Stanisław Mąkowski.

No. 181

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 28 March 1640

Władysław IV, King of Poland, thanks Emperor Ferdinand III for paying out the overdue salary to Johann Anselm Truchsess von Wetzhausen, artillery commander, who will now be able to return to Poland for the preparations for the war with Turkey.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 1723, pp. 21–22.

Significavit nobis illustris comes Ioannes Anzelmus Trussechius a Westhauzen¹ generalis rei tormentariae Maiestatis Vestrae praefectus, sibi a Maiestate Vestra intercessionis nostrae respectu singularem factam esse gratiam ex parte debitorum stipendiorum ac errogatorum in militem, quem ad usum ac obsequium Maiestatis Vestrae conscripserat, sumptuum, ita ut tam benigne cautione ac promisso Maiestatis Vestrae contentus sit. Superest ut Maiestas Vestra quantocius constitutam et asecuturam summam, illi restitui ac numerari iubeat, quo sese celerius istinc expediat, ad nosque revertatur, si belli Turcici miles irruat. Interim magnas habemus Maiestati Vestrae gratias, quod plane benignitatem illi ostenderit nostraeque hac in parte commendationis rationem habuerit. Parati erimus vicissim Maiestatis Vestrae desideriis obsecundare. Caeterum non desinat Maiestas Vestra illustrem hunc virum inclitae Austriacae domus studiosissimum et magnae ad obsequendum eidem alacritatis, gratia ac favore suo caesareo prosequi. Quod nobis gratissimum accidet, servet Deus optimus maximus Maiestatem Vestram diutissime incolumem et triumphos accumulat. Cui nos fraterna studia nostra deferimus. Varsaviae die XXVIII Martii 1640.

¹ Johann Anselm Truchsess von Wetzhausen (1605–1647), nobleman from the Duchy of Prussia; soldier in the imperial service, an artillery commander; in the years 1636–1637 he commanded two Polish regiments and fought in Silesia and West Pomerania.

No. 182

King Władysław IV to Empress Maria Anna

Warsaw, 28 March 1640

Władysław IV, King of Poland, thanks Empress Maria Anna for her help in paying out the overdue salary to artillery commander Johann Anselm Truchsess von Wetzhausen.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 1723, pp. 22–23.

Valde nobis gratum accidit Maiestas Vestra illustrem comitem Ioannem Anselmum Trauchsensium a Westhausen¹ rei tormentariae in exercitu Caesariae Maiestatis generalem praefectum, virum de nobis optime meritum, sua intercessione adiuvarit, nuntiavit enim nobis se potissimum Maiestatis Vestrae beneficio, debitorum sibi stipendiorum summam ad certam rationem redactam et cautione imperiali promissam esse. Quod ut ad effectum quantocius deducat fretus iterata nostra petitione rogat: nollet enim illic diutius subsistere, si bellum Turcicum, quod Deus avertat subsequatur. Petimus itaque a Maiestate Vestra, ut illum non desinat, sicut coepit in consequenda hac summa per tot commissarios ac capita elucidatam adiuvarere quo beneficio tanto illum magis Maiestas Vestra nomini suo Augusto obstringet et ad obsequia accendet, nobisque rem gratissimam fecerit. Cui omnem felicitatem a Deo precamur, fraternaue nostra studia deferimus. Varsaviae die 28 Martii 1640.

¹ Johann Anselm Truchsess von Wetzhausen.

No. 183

King Władysław IV to King Philip IV

Warsaw, 6 April 1640

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Philip IV, King of Spain, of the birth of his son Sigismund Casimir.

Original: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2350, s.f.

Serenissimo Re

È piaciuto alla divina bontà con l'havermi concesso nel di primo del corrente della Serenissima Regina¹ mia un figliol maschio², rendermi a mio desiderio consolato. Io ne dò parte a Vostra Maestà per che so che per lo stretto vincolo di amicitia, e di sangue che mostri la forza farà sentirlene contento, e gl'insinuerà che questo Principe haverà da ma per particolar ricordo il doverla sempre ossevare, come son certo che sarà per fare, et a Vostra Maestà desidero con questo ogni maggior prosperità. Varsovia li 6 di Aprile 1640.

Di Vostra Maestà Cattolica

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

¹ Queen Cecilia Renata.

² On 1 April 1640 Cecilia Renata gave birth to her son Sigismund Casimir (1640–1647).

No. 184

Princess Anna Catherine Constance to Archduke
Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 13 April 1640

Princess Anna Catherine Constance thanks Archduke Leopold Wilhelm for the letter dated 17 March and informs him that Prince John Casimir has been released from the French captivity. After giving birth to her child, the Queen feels good, but the King is not well.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Kriegsakten 98 (alt 128), 1640 Jänner-Mai, 98-24. Seal.

Durchlechtigster Ertzhertzog frintlich gelnebten Herr Wetter Euer Liebden liebes Schreiben von 17 Marcz¹ datiret habe ich mit freunden empfangen ist mir von Herten lieb das ich unß Euer Liebden Schreiben hab feiwmen das sich Euer Liebden in gutter gesuntheit befinden Gott erhalte Euer Liebden auf fill langen wer erhalten zu seines namen ehr und der windung Euer Liebden frendt und das ich machte haten die gutte Zeittung das Euer Liebden und großen freiden und triumph machte auf mich comen. Fuhr Euer Liebden mit großen freiden und triumph machte auf Wien comen. Ich fuhe Euer Liebden mein große Freut zu wißen daß Euer Liebden der Printz Casimir² schon ledig ist auß seiner sweren gefangnis am tag S. Mathiae Apostel³ ich forhofs Euer Liebden werden sich mit uns erfreuen Gott hatt mir an auf eimal fill freiden tan an eilen Zeit erleben mennlich Eure Mayestät Konigen so glicklich erfreut und meinem Bruder⁴ er bediget, Eure Mayestät die Konigen befinden sich in gutter gesuntheit⁵ Euer Mayestät der König befinden sich nit gar woll empfangen, hie mit brifen ich mich in Euer Liebden wetterliche lieb und affectum. Datum Warschaw 13 Aplir 1640.

Eurer Liebden

getreue und dinstwillige
mumb unt dienerin
biß in dott
Anna Catharina Constantia

- ¹ The letter of Archduke Leopold Wilhelm to Anna Catherine Constance dated 17 March 1640 has not been found.
- ² Prince John Casimir.
- ³ 24 February.
- ⁴ Emperor Ferdinand III.
- ⁵ This probably refers to the birth of Prince Sigismund Casimir on 1 April 1640.

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 3 May 1640

Emperor Ferdinand III appeals to Władysław IV, King of Poland, to make sure the King and Polish estates maintain friendly relations with the House of Austria due to the Sejm declaration made to Louis XIII with regard to the negotiations concerning releasing Prince John Casimir from French captivity.

Copy: BPANPAU Cracow, MS 2256, fos 65v–66r.

Pervenit ad nos quo sub tenore incliti Regni Serenitatis Vestrae Poloniae ordines et status praetensam a rege Gallorum¹ cautionem de non vindicanda captivitate qua serenissimus consobrinus princeps Poloniae et Sueciae² affinis noster carissimus Galliciis in partibus hactenus detentus fuit, in comitiis anno proximo praeterito Varsaviae habitis 23 mensis Octobris³ faciendam decreverit et licet eius famam ac tenorem ita comparatam conspiciamus, ut in ea nec nimirum ab altera parte iuste desiderari queat, verum cum aliunde perspiciamus a rege Galliae ea cumulate contento missum esse ad praesentia Regni comitia qui dictam cautionem in grave pactorumque, quae inter nostramque domum augustam ac Serenitatem Vestram eiusque Regnum Poloniae constant publicum ad generalitatem quandam extendi apud Serenitatem Vestram et eiusdem ordinis Regni curiosius urgeat, nos sane tametsi de inclitorum ordinum ac statuum, consueto in nos, augustamque domum nostram studio, necnon communi iurium inter Regna invicem nostra intercedentium observantia minime dubitemus non omittendumque tamen duximus, quin Serenitatis Regiae Vestrae hisce et incliti eiusdem Regni ordinibus, mutua nostra compactata et foedera periculosaque quibus hactenus adversa pars in viribus antiquitus coniunctis disrumpendis insidiosae, uti consuevit consilia ob oculos benevole statueremus, eandem fraterne et amanter requirentes, ut pro regio suo quo gloriose pollet officio providere velit, ne quid ad cuiusvis instantiam circa cautionis illius formam, quod vel saepedictis compactatis vel etiam mutuae inter nos necessitudinis studio vel nunc vel in futurum aversari possit, admittatur multo minus provincialibus Regni constantibus firmetur sed potius protensae istius generalitatis fraude explosa supra memorato, qui in comitiis proximo decretus fuit, modo constanter inhaereatur. Factura in

eo Serenitas Vestra rem aequitati non modo sed et mutuae necessitudinis studio perquam consentaneam. De reliquo Serenitati Vestrae omnem prosperitatem felicemque etc. Datum in curia nostra Viennae 3 Maii 1640.

¹ Louis XIII.

² In January 1638 Prince John Casimir went to Spain to take the office of Viceroy of Portugal which was entrusted to him by Philip IV. In May 1638, the Prince was arrested by the French authorities in Port de Bouc during the stopover of the ship he was travelling on. Next, he was kept in prison in Salon and Vincennes. After long negotiations between Wladyslaw IV and Louis XIII the Prince regained his freedom on 25 February 1640. He embarked on his return journey on 30 March and stopped on his way, among others, at the court of Cardinal-Infant Ferdinand in Brussels.

³ On 23 October 1639, the Sejm that was in session in Warsaw passed the declaration which assured Louis XIII that after releasing Prince John Casimir Poland would not undertake retaliatory action against France and would maintain friendly relations.

No. 186

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

3 May 1640

Władysław IV, King of Poland, replies to Ferdinand III that he does not know whether Louis XIII, King of France, will expect anything more than what is in the Sejm declaration concerning the release of Prince John Casimir. He assures the Emperor that relations with France do not endanger the friendship treaties with him.

Copy: BPANPAU Cracow, MS 2256, fo. 66r.

Nihil nobis hucusque constat an rex Galliae¹ plusquam in illa generali ordinum Regni Poloniae et Magni Ducatus Lithuaniae cautione expressum² sit, desideret an ut nihil praeiudiciosum inclitae domui Austricae aut pactis confinitimis Regni sancitis contraria praeter solam libertatis serenissimi Casimiri³ fratris nostri curam esse insertum. Ita ne quid in posterum a nobis aut ordinibus obtineat, magnae nobis erit curae. Ita en et antiquis et recentibus pactis rem apto sanguinis nexu constringimur, ut nihil statui ab istius Regni ordinibus velimus, quod minima ex parte aliquod horum officiorum laedat aut infirmet. Secura igitur Maiestas Vestra de eo sit atque ita sibi persuadeat, nos ad omnia bonae vicinitatis studia absque ullo incitamento aut adhortatione esse propensissimos. Cui ex hostibus victorias ac optimam valetudinem. Die 3 Mai 1640.

¹ Louis XIII.

² See no. 185, footnote 3.

³ John Casimir.

No. 187

King Philip IV to King Władysław IV

Madrid, 27 May 1640

The letter probably concerns the marriage of Princess Anna Catherine Constance and the diplomatic mission of Count of Siruela to Poland.

Copy: ACA Barcelona, Generalitat, Correspondencia del virrey Conde de Santa Coloma, carta 10520. The letter is damaged (defect in the folio).

Philippus Dei gratia Castellae, Legionis, Aragonum, utriusque Siciliae, Hierusalem, Portugaliae, Navarrae, Indiarum etc. rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae et Mediolani, comes Habsburgi, Flandriae, Tirolis etc. Serenissimo principi domino Vladislao, regi Poloniae, Suecorum, Gottorum etc. magno duci Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae et Livoniae, fratri et affini nostro carissimo salutem et omne bonum. Serenissime princeps frater et ^[a] carissime.

Latere Maiestatem Vestram nequa ^[a]mus quem statum teneant res consanguinei ^[a] principis cardinalis, quodve de mutando habitu^[a] successione consilium inierit, quem quidem in finem ^[a] Vestrae sororem principem Annam Catherinam¹ ^[a] nostram mentis oculos coniecisse, nuper intellexi mea ^[a] omnino desideramus, ut quaecumque ad Maiestatem Vestram pertinent, eum qui iure iis meritoque debetur gradum ac locum obtineant. Quae vero ex hoc negotio et qualia commoda ad omnes redundatura sint, eximiae Maiestatis Vestrae prudentiae pensanda relinquimus. De coetero pergratum nobis foret, si consanguineam nostram praedictam condigne collocatam videremus, praefatus vero cardinalis tanto studio in hoc incumbere videtur, ut omni se benevolentiae commonstratione dignum reddat. Sed ex his feliciter ad Maiestatem Vestram referet comes Siruaelae² orator noster extraordinarius Genuae degens, quem ut nostro nomine libenter audiat, amice ac fraterne rogamus. Deus optimus maximus Maiestatem Vestram quam diutissime servet incolumem. Datum Madriti die 27 mensis Maii anno Domini MDCXL.

Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater et affinis

Philippus

^[a] *torn piece of a card*

¹ Anna Catherine Constance.

² Juan Velasco de la Cueva y Pacheco (1608–1652), 8th Count of Siruela, Spanish ambassador in Genoa (1638–1641), Rome (1643–1645); governor of Milan (1641–1643). His mission to Poland in 1640 did not come into effect.

No. 188

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 28 May 1640

Władysław IV, King of Poland, assures Emperor Ferdinand III that the agreements signed with Louis XIII, King of France, in no way endanger the interests of the Empire or the friendship treaties.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 2732, p. 36.

Non est quod Maiestas Vestra subvereatur, ne quid a nobis vel ordinibus istius Regni ultra quam in illa generali ordinum Regni cautione est insertum Galliarum rex¹ in praeiudicium inclitae domus Austriacae et pactorum inter finitima regna initorum labefactionem obtineat, quibus praeter coniunctionis nexum et ius ita astringimur, ut nihil ab utrinque statui aut concedi velle debeamus, quod minima ex parte aliquod horum vinculorum laedat aut convellat securam itaque Maiestatem Vestram ac omnino persuasam esse volumus, nos omnia bonae vicinitatis et coniunctionis foedera et studia ita culturos, ut nihil a nobis Maiestatis Vestrae possit desiderare. Cui ex hostibus victorias ac optimam valetudinem precamur, studiaque nostra fraterna eidem amanter deferimus. Datum Varsaviae 28 Maii 1640.

¹ Louis XIII. See no. 185, footnote 3, and no. 186.

No. 189

**Princess Anna Catherine Constance to Archduke
Leopold Wilhelm**

Warsaw, 15 July 1640

Princess Anna Catherine Constance thanks Archduke Leopold Wilhelm for the letter dated 12 June. She is glad to hear that the Archduke is in good health. She trusts Leopold Wilhelm will continue to be successful in his fight against the Swedes.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Kriegsakten 99 (alt 129), 1640 Juni–Juli, 99-1-8, fos 256r–257v. Seal.

Durchlechtigster Ertzhertzog frentlich geliebter Herr Wetter Euer Liebden Schreiben den 12 Juny¹ datiret habe ich mitt großen freiden emfangen hab Euer Liebden mein leben Herren Wetter mit fribal das e.m. nit gesiben hatt dan ich waß woll das Euer Liebden nit der wetll sicken ist mir woll last das K.May. woll seyn auf geweßen Gott lob das Euer Liebden schon woll auf seint Gott woll Euer Liebden auf fill lange er erhalten, ist muc ser lieb zu heren der Baner² schon weg marseret Gott als in einer commen und Euer Liebden victora furleischen unser seine frunt, ich thue mich bedancken gegen Euer Liebden mein Herr Wetter das Euer Liebden mein mich in seinen gebett nit forgesen ich hab es will umb Euer Liebden ent fordmiet ich an guß al auch nit in meinem gebett und forbleiben sein dienerin biß in todt und wunsche im alles das was zu Euer Liebden contento mahte gewachen bitt Euer Liebden woll nich int irehm gebett nit forgeßen und mich in seines liebe er halten dem ich mich nur beferben. Datum Warschaw 15 July 1640.

getreue und dinstwillige
munh und dienerin biß
in todt
Anna Catharina Constantia

¹ The letter of Archduke Leopold Wilhelm to Anna Catherine Constance dated 12 June 1640 has not been found.

² Johan Banér (1596-1641), Swedish military commander, Field Marshal; participant in the wars with Poland and in the military operations in Germany during Thirty Years' War.

No. 190

King Philip IV to King Władysław IV

20 July 1640

Phillip IV, King of Spain, congratulates Władysław IV, King of Poland, on the birth of his son.

Draft: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 2350, s.f., the place and date of the letter missing. The date of the letter was established on the basis of the note of Władysław IV's letter to Philip IV dated 6 April 1640, see no. 183.

Haviendo hecho la grande y devida estimación de la nueva que Vuestra Magestad me da en su carta del 6 de abril¹ del feliz susceso que la Serenissima Reyna mi prima tubo en su parte de un hijo² baron rey a Vuestra Magestad la nora buena dello con ... alborozo. Espero en dios que ha de darnos en su Magestad de la Reyna mas deudos aquien complacer y para significar a Vuestra Magestad mas particularmente mi contentamiento y affectos a Vuestra Magestad y sus cosas he orednado a que pase a Polonia desde Flandes donde al ... se halla persona de calidad y partes y aquien Vuestra Magestad se servira de honorle y dar en todo credito a lo que en mi nombre y de la reyna representare a Vuestra Magestad y de ordenarle a su vuelta, todo lo que se offrecido y tubiere Vuestra Magestad por bien y que holgare de entenderlo ... su medio y de que Vuestra Magestad tenga satisfacción en todo.

¹ See no. 183.

² On 1 April 1640 Queen Cecilia Renata gave birth to her son Sigismund Casimir (1640–1647).

No. 191

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Regensburg, 16 November 1640

Emperor Ferdinand III urges Władysław IV, King of Poland, to prevent Rosciszewski from implementing his plans to organize recruitment of soldiers for the Swedes, which is against the treaties between Poland and the Emperor.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 2732, pp. 86–87.

Pro certo compertum habemus Polonum quondam Rosciszewski nomine accepto a bannerio stipendio legionem novem cohortium Polonicae militiae colligere easdemque in assignatum sibi a Suecis armilustrum in Ducatu nostro Silesiae educere velle. Quae cum praeter scitum et assensum Serenitatis Vestrae et procerum ac statuum Coronae Polonicae fieri eo magis nobis persuasum habeamus, quod eiuscemodi conscriptio militis plane pactis et confoederationibus, quae inter nos cum Serenitate Vestra atque dicto Polonico Regno intercedunt, e diametro repugnet. Ideo de his Serenitatem Vestram necessario monendam duximus, fraterne ac benevole eandem requirentes, dignetur dicto Rosciszewski aut quiscunque tandem fuerit, qui hostibus nostris succursum aliquem e dicto Regno Poloniae contra nos et Regna ac provincias nostras efferre meditaretur seriis praeceptis demandare, ut ab eius modi machinationibus statim desistant, pactaque et conventiones nobis cum praedicta Corona Polonica communia hac in parte illesa servant atque simul occasiones iustis repulsionis evitatis maneant. Statuet Serenitas Vestra in eo rem tam aequitati, quam etiam solito suo erga nos amore et consanguinitatis nexu dignam, et nos reciproce datis occasionibus gratis officiorum studiis demereri conabimur. Ac de reliquo Serenitati Vestrae a Deo praepotente omnia ad votum prospera ac felicia desideramus. Dabantur in nostra ac Sacri Romani Imperii civitate Ratisbonensi die 16 mensis Novembris 1640.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 2 December 1640

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand III show mercy towards the children of the deceased Frederick V, Elector of the Rhine Palatinate, and return their inheritance.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 2732, pp. 168–169.

Etsi saepius a Maiestate Vestra¹ pro serenissimi olim principis Friderici electoris² domo, quae satis miseriarum et calamitatum a tot armis pertulit, efflagitaverimus, quatenus benignitate et clementia sua imperiali illi affulgeret, cum tamen in pristino squallore et aerumnis adhuc versetur, non possumus illi repetitis iterum atque iterum precibus deesse apud Maiestatem Vestram. Imprimis vero pro serenissimis filiis eiusque olim serenissimi principis, ut eos ad gratiam suam admittat, necnon avitis ditionibus et praerogativis restituat, amanter apud Maiestatem Vestram intercedimus, nam non minus gloriae Maiestati Vestrae ex clementia prostratis exhibita, quam a victoria ex hostibus parta accedet. Et profecto haec sola virtus videtur principibus et imperatoribus propria, quo enim plus possunt, eo minus inferioribus praesertim tam debellatis incommodare debent, praesertim si ad vetus obsequium et modestiam sinceram redactos viderint eos, qui aliquando resistere sibi ausi sunt. Patendum quia est patrem peccavisse, sed abunde temeritatis poenas exilio fortunave dispendio, vita denique ipsa contracto ex animi paritudine morbo luit, an vero eamque sortem innocentes liberos subire oporteat, Maiestas Vestra pro sublimi suo iudicio expendat, qui non modo quod parentis execreantur factum verum toto desiderio ad obsequium Maiestatis Vestrae et antiquam erga domum serenissimam Austriacam observantiam contendunt. Quapropter non est cur eos Maiestas Vestra et inclita Austriaca domus diutius in hoc moerore et angustiis versari velit, quos clementia potius in perpetuum devinciendos, quam severitate prorsus alienandos censeat, novimus Maiestatis Vestrae benignum animum proinde confidimus intercessionem nostram locum habiturum, praesertim cum isthaec gratia et restitutio non leve momentum pacificandis per imperium rebus sit allatura. Quod autem reliquum est,

a Deo optimo maximo Maiestati Vestrae prosperrima quaevis felicia ac diuturnum imperium precamur. Varsaviae die 2 Decembris 1640.

¹ See no. 144 and no. 148.

² Frederick V, Elector of the Rhine Palatinate and King of Bohemia, died on 29 November 1632.

No. 193

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

[Warsaw, 2 December 1640]

On behalf of Elizabeth, wife of the Elector of the Rhine Palatinate, and her daughter Sophia, Władysław IV, King of Poland, asks Emperor Ferdinand III to return to them their property and dowry.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 2732, pp. 169–170.

Eo libentius apud Maiestatem Vestram pro electrice palatina Rheni¹ et illustrissima principe Catherina Sophia² filia eius annitimur, quo Maiestas Vestra nobis in negotio ipsarum spem non dubiam clementiae suae coram ostendit. Implorat vero mater et filia nobis confisi, gratiam et benignitatem Maiestatis Vestrae erat mater sibi dotalitium cum fructibus perceptis et percipiendis restitui, debitaque a camera olim electorali contracta reddi, filia alimenta per tot annos subtracta, una cum contractis debitis exposcit. Res prope divina, talibus personis tamdiu praeter natalicium splendorem afflictis, gratia et liberalitate imperiali subvenire. Superet igitur Maiestas Vestra maiores suos hac gloria profecto comperiet plus a clementia et placabilitate, quam severitate obsequii comparari et emanare gloriae posse. Sed cum Maiestatem Vestram, cuius naturam benignam novimus sponte sua in hanc virtutem, pronam esse non dubitemus, non utemur pluribus verbis, saltem quam diligentissime possumus Maiestati Vestrae harum personarum rectum statum fere ab universo orbe deploratum commendamus, dignetur eas vindicare et pristino restituere splendori et dignitati, ita enim demum res augustae suae domus, ita thronum imperialem solidabit, si devictos et debellatos amicorum potius quam hostium loco habeat. Cui de caetero omnia fausta, felices bellorum eventus, incolumem ac diuturnam valetudinem precamur, nostraque fraterna studia deferimus. Varsaviae ut supra.

¹ Elizabeth Stuart, wife of Frederick V, Elector of the Rhine Palatinate.

² Sophia von der Pfalz (1630–1698), daughter of Frederick V, Elector of the Rhine Palatinate and Elizabeth Stuart.

No. 194

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

[Warsaw, 2 December 1640]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand III show mercy towards Philipp von der Pfalz-Simmer and return his legacy to him, because he has always shown impeccable loyalty and obedience towards the Emperor.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 2732, pp. 170–171.

Adeo nobis cordi est negotium illustrissimi Philippi ducis Simeriensis¹, ut frequentius ad Maiestatem Vestram pro ipso preces nostras interponere non gravemur ac eo magis quod probe sciamus eum ducem ab omni culpa alienum fuisse, fideque intemerata et obsequio erga Maiestatem Vestram semper exstitisse, dum scilicet pulchrius et honestius duxerit, exilium et gravissima quaevis incommoda perferre quam in augustam Maiestatis Vestrae domum aliquid audere. Proinde velit Maiestas Vestra praefati ducis sibi ac domui suae devotissimi, ad obnixam nostram petitionem et rationem benignam ducere, necnon ducatum et ditiones post illustrissimum parentem² suum ex testamento devoluto, in possessionem tradere et consignare. Quod cum Maiestatem Vestram velut aequissimum principem pro innata sua clementia atque intuitu tam diuturni exilii speremus facturam, eique miseretur, tum etiam atque etiam a Maiestate Vestra per amicitiae et sanguinis iura, quae nobis cum ipsa intercedunt, benigne rogamus et obtestamur Maiestati Vestrae felicissimos rerum successus, longum imperium et ex hostibus triumphos precati. Varsaviae ut supra.

¹ Philipp von der Pfalz-Simmer (1627–1650), son of Frederick V, Elector of the Rhine Palatinate and Elizabeth Stuart.

² Frederick V.

No. 195

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 5 December 1640

Władysław IV, King of Poland, assures Emperor Ferdinand III that he has forbidden Rościszewski to conduct any military recruitment to the Swedish army and that all such actions will be severely punished.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 2732, pp. 87–88.

Non sine gravi animi nostri molestia ex litteris¹ Maiestatis Vestrae cognovimus Rosciewiczium subditum nostrum hominem infamem in exercitu Suetico praeter scitum ac voluntatem nostrum, accitis in societatem paris conditionis hominibus militare. Insuper eo facto non contentum, novas cohortes novem in obsequium Sueticum conscribendi negotium sumpsisse. Movet nos profecto is ausus, quem omni severo modo, datis ad praefectos nostros litteris prohibemus, mandamusque, ut quascunque ad illam militiam contendere, illicque stipendia mereri intellexerint, talium publica lege damnatove bona, fortunas et capita diminutioni et processioni obnoxia publicent, in eosque animadvertant. Nolumus enim, ut pacta sacrosancte inter nos et divos maiores nostros inita et ad nos propagata per subditos nostros labefactentur, praesertim cum recenti teneamus memoria, quam tenaciter nuper ordines Sueciae nobiscum expostulaverint de illa militum in Livoniam sub nomine Maiestatis Vestrae per ditiones nostras irruptione quapropter sedulo curabimus, ne Maiestas Vestra in posterum habeat occasionem de subditis nostris hac in parte conquerendi. Cui omnia alia nostra officia fraterna constabunt ac ad praesens vero prosperrimos rerum successus precamur. Datum Varsaviae die V mensis Decembris 1640.

¹ See no. 191.

No. 196

King Władysław IV to King Philip IV

Warsaw, 26 January 1641

The letter probably concerns Polish-Spanish negotiations in regard to the military alliance which were conducted in Naples. Two negotiators are mentioned: Viceroy Count of Medina de las Torres and Wojciech Tytlewski, secretary of the Polish King.

Original: AG Simancas, Estado, leg. 3264, s.f., the letter almost entirely destroyed, trace of the seal. See also EFE XXI, nos. 67–69, p. 79.

No. 197

**Princess Anna Catherine Constance to Archduke
Leopold Wilhelm**

Pobylkowo, 27 April 1641

Princess Anna Catherine Constance thanks Archduke Leopold Wilhelm for the letter dated 1 April and sends him Easter wishes.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Kriegsakten 103 (alt 135), 1641 März–April, 103-2-66, fos 284r–285v.

Durchlechtigster Ertzhertzog freuntlich hertz liebster Her Wetter Euer Liebden schreiben den 1. Aprill datret hab ich mit Freiden enfangen und Euer Liebden gutte gesuntheit frewen wellchen mich woll hertz duherfriet Gott wille Euer Liebden langerhalten. Ich hab auß Euer Liebden brif frewnen den glicklichen progeres under den samt welches ich mitt freuden habe frewen winsche Euer Liebden das Gott Euer Liebden noch weiter mitt seiner gottlichen sant machte weiter selbten und alle fent helfen derwenden beiancke nich gegen Euer Liebden wegen empfang glucklich ostern wunschte Euer Liebden wiederumb das Euer Liebden durch All andere in gutter gesuntheit und allem wolle guten machte erleben, tue Euer Liebden zu maßen das es bete sich in gutter gesuntheit befirden er haben gette acht Hie mitt befele ich in Euer Liebden wetterlichee lebe. Datum Pabolckow¹ 27Aprill 1641.

¹ Pobylkowo.

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Pobylkowo, 27 April 1641

Władysław IV thanks Archduke Leopold Wilhelm for the letter of 1 April which concerned the successes of the imperial army and taking Swedish commander Erik Claesson Slang captive. The King expresses hope that the army commanded by Johan Gustav Banér will soon achieve victory.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 57r–58v.

Serenissimo Archiduca Signore fratello mio charissimo

Del primo di aprile date a Teisingensono le lettere¹ che ricevo di Vostra Altezza dalle quali in uno tempo medesimo riservo consolatione e dispiacere, per le bone nove che mi da della prigionia Szlaug² et successi felici di queste armi in quella parte, e per le meno prosperi seguiti contro il Banier³, a cui haverei havuto caro intendere fossi accaduto istesso che a Szlaug et suoi compani che non poco havrebbe meliorato li interessi di Sua Maestà Cesarea. Il valore et accorteza della Altezza Vostra et le ragioni della causa che agita contra li inemici della Serenissima Casa di Austria et Imperio spero che riporterà no finalmente il compimento delle victorie che dal cielo li augur con fraterno affetto. Ringratio la intanto della parte, che mi ha voluto fare delli avvenimenti di questi successi pregandola a continuar mene la aviso, resto di Vostra Altezza

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

Di Pobolkovo⁴ 27 di Aprile
AD 1641

¹ The letter from Archduke Leopold Wilhelm to King Władysław IV which was written in Teising (Teisnigen) on 1 April has not been found.

² Erik Claesson Slang (d. 1642), Swedish military commander, major general; taken captive during the battle of Neunburg on 19 March 1641.

³ Johan Banér.

⁴ Presumably Pobylkowo, currently Pobylkowo Duże and Pobylkowo Małe, two neighbouring villages in Mazovia, to the south of Pultusk; in April 1641 Władysław IV stayed in Nieporęt and probably travelled around the area.

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Regensburg, 30 April 1641

Emperor Ferdinand III requests that Władysław IV, King of Poland, call on Vasile Lupu, hospodar of Moldavia, to put an end to conflicts and maintain friendly relations with Matei Basarab, hospodar of Wallachia, for the sake of the Christian faith.

Published: DIR 4.1, no. 587, p. 660.

Ferdinandus tertius Dei gratia electus Romanorum imperator, semper augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniaeque etc. rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae et Wierthembergae, comes Tirolis et Goritiae etc. serenissimo principi domino, Wladislao quarto regi Poloniae, magno duci Lithaniae ac Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniaeque nec non Gottorum, Suecorum, Wandalorumque haereditario regi etc. consobrino, affini et fratri nostro carissimo salutem et fraterni affectus omnisque felicitatis perpetuum incrementum. Serenissime princeps, consobrino, affinis et frater carissime.

Sinceram illustris Matthaei Bassaraba¹, Valachiae Transalpinae vaivodae in emolumentum christianitatis propensionem, declarataque hactenus optima studia, denuo benigne intellegimus. Qui cum eam animi et benevoli affectus significationem etiam deinceps contestandi desiderium ac voluntatem habeat, in eo privatis affectibus et odiis Moldaviae vaivodae Lupi², qua per occulta consilia et tractatus cum Turcis et Tartaris, qua aperta arma, turbationemque rerum ipsius Matthaei in Porta Otthomannica vehementer sese impediri, quietique suae incommodari conqueritur. Cum autem salutarem suam in bonum publicum inclinationem auxilio et interpositione Serenitatis Vestrae plurimum iuvare non dubitet, eandem fraterne requirimus, velit occasione vicinitatis, praefatum Lupum Moldaviae vaivodam serio commonefacere ac hortari ad conservandam et invicem cum Mattheo colendam bonam vicinitatem et amicitiam, quatenus depositis intestinis odiis et simultatibus, studia potius in bonum christianitatis utilia consecrari, neque Turcas et Tartaros cum damno et detrimento patriae adversus Matthaicum concitare ac instigare velit. Ne exigui populi illi christiani auctore Lupo mutuis armis atque odiis sese conficiant atque etiam consumant. Factura in eo Serenitas Vestra studium reipublicae christianae utile et proficuum

nobis vero gratum et acceptum. Cui in reliquo vitam semper incolumem et longævam prosperosque rerum omnium successus ex animo comprecamur. Datum in nostra Sacri Romani Imperii civitate Ratisbona, die trigesima mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo quadragesimo primo, regnorum nostrorum Romani quinto, Hungariae et reliquorum decimo sexto, Bohemiae vero anno decimo quarto. Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae etc.

¹ Matei Basarab (1588–1654), hospodar of Wallachia 1632–1654.

² Vasile Lupu (1597–1661), hospodar of Moldavia 1634–1653.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 6 June 1641

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand III show mercy towards Ernst Bogislaw von Croj and return his inherited property.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 1882, pp. 13–14.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando III divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vittembergae, comiti Tirolis domino fratri et affini nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia etc. salutem et mutui amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine frater et affinis noster carissime.

Ita se nostra cum Caesarea Maiestate Vestra necessitudine, deque eiusdem erga nos benevolentia aliaque est existimatio, ea vero nobis de Caesarea Maiestatis Vestrae in nos semper fiducia fuit, ut plurimum momenti intercessionem nostras apud Caesarem Maiestatem Vestram habuisse, gloria decusque nostrum et solatium alium fuerit. Quod vere nunc ad commendationis nostrae auctoritatem confugerit, eamque aliquoties suppliciter fatigaverit, illustrissimus princeps dominus Ernestus marchio Brandenburgensis in Prussia, Stetini¹, Pomeranorum, Cassuborum², Vandalorumque nec non in Silesia, Crosnae³, Carnoviaeque⁴ dux⁵ quod ipsis adeo afflictis et oppressis adversa fortuna animum et miserationem nostram evicerit, ut sane non modo calamitas externa praesertim in principatus illustris prosapio, verum etiam vetustas sanguinis cum regia nostra domo iam diu coniunctio et eius familiae multa ac praeclara studia et officia necessariis de causis effecere, sed et is eo miserabilior et misericordia dignior nobis et humanitati merita auderi debet, quod in nulla vel annorum indolisque factorum suorum parte nocens reusve esse potuerat, quippe qui per aetatem delicti nullius contra Maiestatem Caesarem capax fuerit. Hunc tum in felicibus temporum rationibus praeter spem votumque et noxam facinusque esse suum infeliciter immixtus obrutusque qui peccare ipse et ostendere aut fontium nominibus inferi non potuit, ditone hereditaria et titulis onerosis olim acquisita et domesticis suorumque suo patrimonio exutus reorum

poena spoliatus eiectus et veluti exterris patitur qui ante paternum reatum natus nihil postea admisit, quo maior suorum iura et haereditates amitteret. Haec et plura quae in principum fortuna benigne meritoque principes respicere debemus et quae nos propius iustiusque in cognato principe non absque dolore et compassione spectamus tardius forte quam tanta calamitas merebatur graviter tum et vehementer nos commovere, ut preces pro dicto illustri principe ad Maiestatem Vestram Caesaream exactissimas offeremus, a clementia et misericordia tantum excipiendas ut speramus, cupimus sane ex animo et petimus, quibus Caesarea Maiestas Vestra dare velit, ut pro innatae tempestatis magnitudine gloriaque eum post tot annorum calamitatum et afflictæ indignaeque conditionis patiamur, auctis ditionibus et maiorum suorum terris et facultatibus restituere vel ad aequivalentes possessionum fructus iuraque admittere velit. Cedet hoc in Maiestatis Vestrae et imperatorum clementiae decus sempiternum praesertim nunc spe mundi ad pacem et condonationem publicam vota ac desideria conferentia. Et restituti principis in posterum familiaeque totius gratitudinem et obsequia tanto magis beneficio hoc obstricta et obligata sibi Maiestas Vestra habebit, quanto maiori et promptiori gratia prostrata ad pedes suos humilitatum et supplicem calamitatum exciperit atque erexerit. Nobis quoque iucundum et honorificum erit, non vanas initasque pro consanguineo principe attulisse preces. Quod superest Caesariae Maiestati Vestrae longam prosperamque incolumitatem et florentis ac gloriosi imperii statum atque incrementum a Deo precamur. Datum Varsaviae die VI mensis Iunii anno Domini MDCXLI regnorum nostrorum Poloniae IX Sueciae X anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater et cognatus

Vladislaus rex

¹ Szczecin.

² Kaszuby (Latin: Cassubia), a region in northern Poland, to the west of Gdańsk.

³ Krosno Odrzańskie (Latin: Crosna, Crosno), a town in western Poland, on the Oder river.

⁴ Krnov (Latin: Carnovia, Polish: Karniów), a town in the Czech Republic, in Opavian Silesia.

⁵ Ernst Bogislaw von Croÿ (1620–1684), son of Charles Philippe, Duke of Croÿ and Aerschot, and Anna, daughter of Bogislaw XIII, Duke of Pomerania; Lutheran, brought up at the court of his uncle Bogislaw XIV; Prince-Bishop of Kamień Pomorski (1637–1650), governor of Middle Pomerania (1665–1670), governor of the Duchy of Prussia (1679–1684).

No. 201

**Princess Anna Catherine Constance to Archduke
Leopold Wilhelm**

Warsaw, 10 August 1641

Princess Anna Catherine Constance thanks Archduke Leopold Wilhelm for the letter. She informs him that the King and Queen are in good health and the Sejm will begin on 20 August.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Kriegsakten, 105 (alt 137, 138), 1641 Juli-September, 105-2-36, fos 133r-134v.

Durchlechtigster Ertzhertzog Freuntlich Hertzlibster Wetter Euer Liebden Schreiben habe mit großen freuden emtfangen auch wellchen ich mitt großen freunden habe Fridung Euer Liebden gutte gesuntheit Gott wolle Euer Liebden lang dorbey erhalten. Thue mich auch gegen Euer Liebden bedancken wegen der aucsen son Euer Liebden mir geschicket samt mir will über die maßen unganem ob will es nit sonst ab gangen wie es Euer Liebden ferlanget haben aber Gott latt das allso gefalen die mut Euer Liebden mitt seine stonken hande aber sey und alle funt muter Euer Liebden freiser legen umb welches ich Gott woll treilch mitt und mitt ferlangen er warte eine gutten Zeitung. E May. beide befnden sich Gott lob woll. Der Buchtag hebett an den 20 Augusti¹ Gott [a] das es sich machte glicklich auch, verfahren, wegen auf die acht Uhr mitt befele ahnelen Euer Liebden watterliche liebe und gnadt. Datum Warshaw 10 Augusti 1641.

Euer Liebden

getreue und dienstwillige
mub und dienerin biß in todt
Anna Catharina Constantia

^[a] *the word is illegible*

¹ The Sejm was in session in Warsaw from 20 August to 4 October 1640.

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Regensburg, 3 September 1641

Ferdinand III informs Władysław IV that the attempts to reach peace failed and his enemies began to significantly expand their armies. That is why he appeals to the King to give his consent to the recruitment of soldiers in the Kingdom of Poland in accordance with the treaties guaranteeing mutual help.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1641, fo. 9.

Tametsi hactenus omne studium nostrum eo contulerimus, ut cum hostibus nostris honestam aliquam constantemque pacem et in toto christiano orbe inter universos principes firmam concordiam stabileremus, nihilominus tamen videmus omnem nostram in id decollatam operam ac sollicitudinem frustraneos exitus consequi hostesque vel exinde insolentiores factos undiquaque uti fertur vires suas adaugere et ampliore quam hactenus exercitus parare, ita ut et nobis pro paterna nostra, qua Sacro Romano Imperio Regnisque ac provinciis nostris curae ac protectioni nostrae a divino numine commissis adstricti sumus, sollicitudine merito vigilandum et de eiusmodi mediis tempestive cogitandum sit, quibus hostium nostrorum viribus omni loco et tempore sufficere, nec non funestos illorum conatus fortiter reprimere valeamus. Cum itaque in fide et virtute bellica inclitae nationi Polonicae fiduciam singularem constitutam habeamus, deinde etiam ratio pactorum et vis foederum, quae inter nos Regnumque nostrum Bohemiae et Serenitatem Vestram inclitum Regnum Poloniae ab antiquo constant nos utrinque ad mutua auxilia ferenda obligent et simul utrique nostrum ex terris et provinciis alterius voluntarios milites aere suo conductos educendi licentiam concedant. Idcirco Serenitatem Vestram hisce fraterne amanterque requirendam duximus, ut tum pro sua auctoritate regia statuere, tum in comitiis proxime instantibus apud inclitos sui Regni status ac ordines efficere haud gravetur, quo nobis in eum casum, si forsan adversus praefatos hostium nostrorum apparatus in Serenitatis Vestrae Regno Poloniae milites conscribere nos urgeret necessitas, communi simul statuum consensus facultate illa vigore pactorum utrique nostrum de conscribendo milite reservata libere et sine obstaculo uti liceat. Factura in eo Serenitas Vestra rem non modo dictis foederibus et pactis omnino congruam, sed nobis

etiam apprime gratam quam vicissim pari data occasione rependere studerimus. Eidem de caetero prosperos rerum omnium successus ex animo precamur. Ratisbonae 3 Septembris anno 1641.

Emperor Ferdinand III to Prince Charles Ferdinand

Regensburg, 3 September 1641

Emperor Ferdinand III calls on Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław, to support his efforts in gaining the agreement of King Władysław IV and the Sejm to carry out recruitment of soldiers in the Kingdom of Poland.

Fair copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1642, fo. 11. At the end, the following list: In simili mutatis mutandis, ad principem Casimirum, ad episcopos, palatinos et reliquos primarios proceres Regni Poloniae.

Reverendissime, devote sincere nobis dilecte, non latet Devotionem Vestram quemadmodum ea quae inter nos Regnumque nostrum Bohemiae et inclitum Regnum Poloniae ab antiquo intercesserunt foedera inter alia illud etiam postulat, ut non modo omnem inter se amicitiam constanter colant, verum etiam utrique ex terris et provinciis alterius voluntarios milites aere suo conductos, educere liceat. Cum igitur hostes nostros undequaque vires suas adaugere inaudiamus serenissimum regem¹ universosque inclitae Reipublicae Polonicae ordines ac status hac dieta² una congregatos, amice ac benigne requirendos duximus ut communi consensu nobis in casum, si adversus hosce hostium nostrorum apparatus, copiis aliquibus Polonicis indiguerimus easdem libere conscribere integrum sit. Tametsi autem de optimo huius nostri iusti desiderii successu minime dubitemus, nihilominus tamen et Devotioni Vestrae negotium hoc hisce singulariter commendandum censuimus, benigne requirentes, ut pro sua qua in dicta Republica pollet auctoritate desiderium illud nostrum apud caeteros Reipublicae status ita promovere velit, ut id ex voto nostro quam felicissime succedat, et quae vigore praefatae confoederationis communium sunt iurium nobis quam lubentissime praestentur. Nos vero bonae promptitudinis officium data occasione erga Devotionem Vestram vicissim gratia et benevolentia nostra caesarea ac regia recognoscere haud intermitteretur. Ratisbonae 3 Septembris anno 1641.

¹ Władysław IV.

² The Sejm was in session in Warsaw from 20 August to 4 October 1641.

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Regensburg, 7 October 1641

Emperor Ferdinand III asks Władysław IV, King of Poland, to give a hearing to Justus von Gebhard, who was on a diplomatic mission to George Wilhelm, Elector of Brandenburg.

Draft: HHSŒA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1641, fo. 13.

Cum strenuum nostrum et Sacri Imperii fidelem dilectum Iustum a Gebhard¹ in Petschau² ad serenissimum electorem Brandenburgicum³ in negotiis consiliarium item nostrum aulicum Ioannem Adolphum comitem a Schwarzenberg⁴ concernentibus mitteremus, dedimus ei in commissis, ut ea etiam de re cum Serenitate Vestra diligenter communicet. Amanter igitur ac solita nostra fiducia Sereniatem Vestram rogamus non modo, ut consiliarium nostrum imperialem aulicum libenter audire plenamque eidem fidem adhibere bono sed sua ita parte apud praelibatum nostrum electorem Brandenburgensem eo cooperari velit, ut illam mentem et desiderium nostrum in lentum commissionis scopum feliciter assequatur. Cui de caetero Serenitati Vestrae amantissimi consobrini affectum offerentes eandem diutissime incolumem vivere ex animo optamus. Ratisbonae 7 Octobris 1641.

¹ Justus von Gebhard (1588–1656), lawyer, diplomat, secret imperial councillor.

² Červene Pečky (German: Petschaku), a town in the Czech Republic, to the east of Prague.

³ Elector George Wilhelm.

⁴ Johann Adolf von Schwarzenberg (1615–1683), Count, son of Adam Count von Schwarzenberg, minister of George Wilhelm, Elector of Brandenburg. From 1637 he stayed at the imperial court as chamberlain; in 1640 he became a member of the Imperial Aulic Council (Reichshofrat), and from 1653 of the Privy Council (Geheimer Rat). From 1645 he was also the chamberlain and advisor of Archduke Leopold Wilhelm, including the period when he was the Governor of the Southern Netherlands (1647–1656). In 1670 Emperor Leopold I conferred upon him the hereditary title of the Count.

No. 205

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 9 October 1641

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand III that in agreement with the Senate he gives his consent to organize military recruitment in the Kingdom of Poland.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 2732, pp. 183–184.

Nihil nobis debet esse curae ac cordi quam ut desideria Maiestatis Vestrae praesertim quae intuenda Maiestatis Vestrae propaganda dignitate consistunt adimplere et iis correspondere possimus, id enim necessitudo et coniunctio sanguinis tam propinqua id vicinitatis iura et officia mutuo agnita a nobis requirunt. Proinde cum non ignoremus Maiestatem Vestram et inclitam domum Austriacam ab infensis hostibus premi et oppugnari libenter permittimus accedente consensu senatus, ut miles necessitate exigente stipendiis Maiestatis Vestrae iuxta pactorum tenorem e ditionibus nostris ad destinata loca non catervatim aut turmatim, neque sub signis, sed sigillatim evocetur, aliter enim auctorari militem leges Regni prohibent. Caeterum fraternum nostrum studium et voluntatem promptissimam semper agnoscet, quam hac occasione cuperemus, multo luculentius declarare, si nobis eam facultatem publicae Regni istius leges et rationes non adimerent. Interea felicissimos progressus Maiestati Vestrae vovemus et optamus, officiaque nostra fraterna deferimus. Varsaviae 9 Octobris anno Domini 1641.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 12 October 1641

Władysław IV, King of Poland, calls on Emperor Ferdinand III to intervene in regard to regaining the ship held by the city of Lübeck. The details will be provided by Johann Heinrich Fogli von Hainsheim, the King's agent in Hamburg.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1641, fos 16r–16v, 19–19v (between the folios of the letter there is Władysław IV's letter to Lübeck).

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando tertio divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis domino fratri et affini nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorum haereditarius rex, salutem et mutui amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine frater et affinis noster carissime.

Prompte ac libenter serenissimus olim parens¹ noster ante aliquot annos caesareis usibus naves aliquot armatas pro mutua necessitudine exhibuit et consignavit, quarum una in portum Lubecensem² subitae necessitates vi compulsula a civitatis Lubecensis magistratu retenta et arestata, militeque et armamentis atque instrumento omni militari exuta fuit. Dictam vero navem neque ad nostras easque crebras et diligentes requisitiones, neque ad caesareum mandatum praememoratus magistratus hucusque restituere ulla ratione voluit, sed variis solummodo et futilibus responsis aut tergiversationibus potius tam caesareis mandatis quam nostrae auctoritati adhuc illudit. Quam ob causam ad Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram mittimus generosum Ioannem Henricum Fogli ab Hainsheim colonellum et agentem nostrum Hamburgensem, qui negotii huius statum omnem et Lubecensium longam et praefractam pervicaciam Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae exponet. Quem ut benigna admittere et audire Caesarea Maiestas Vestra velit et tam pro imperialis maiestatis quam nostra dignitate iureque negotium hoc apud Lubecenses ad exitum deduci iubeat imperetque diligenter petimus.

Quod superest Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae diuturnam prosperamque a Deo incolumitatem et felicissimos rerum successus ex animo precamur. Datum Varsaviae die XII mensis Octobris anno Domini MDCXLI regnorum nostrorum Poloniae IX, Sueciae vero X anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater et cognatus

Vladislaus rex

¹ Sigismund III.

² Lübeck.

No. 207

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 21 December 1641

Władysław IV, King of Poland, sends Christmas wishes to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 59r–60v. Trace of the seal.

Serenissimo Arciduca Signore fratello mio carissimo

Sono continuate le preghiere che porgo a Dio Signore Nostro in ogni tempo per la lunga e felice conservazione di Vostra Altezza et in questo del Santissimo Natale e rinovatione dell'anno vengo a farnele espressione con le presenti. Si compiaccia Vostra Altezza con il solito della sua molta cortesia e fraterno affetto d'aggradir questi miei affettuosi sensi, e me ne dia segni col riamarmi, mentre resto.

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

Varsavia li 21

Dicembre 1641

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

[1641]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, calls on Emperor Ferdinand III to return his and Queen Cecilia Renata's belongings which were taken by an imperial soldier. Foreman Hieronim Pinocci has been sent to the Emperor regarding this matter.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 1882, pp. 5–6, the place and date of the letter missing.

Cum nostrae menti grave ac molestum accidere nobis potuerit, quod res serenissimae reginae consortis¹ nostrae nostris carissimis etc. quod soror quoque est Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae cum aliis quibusdam mercibus subditorum nostrorum per summam iniuriam a milite Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae disreptae fuerint, ideo diligenter hac de re ad Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram nuper perscripsimus, ut vero tanto melius negotium hoc procuraretur remisimus illud industriae fideique nobilis Hieronimi Pinocci² factoris nostri, qui nostrae et serenissimae consortis nostri oratione apud Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram de rebus restituendis aut resarciendis ageret, praesertim cum de auctoribus et complicibus constet, nec vix modique desint quibus vindicari et compensari possint. Nec enim ita licentiate et impunitati permissa credi potest res militaris apud Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram ut nihil iustitiae administrandae supereat vel non omnes pateat, quibus satisfactio institui et curari possit, cum non ignoti sint, qui maleficio huic consilium, operam vel conniventiam aut consensum praestitere vel in quorum manus pars maior rerum ablatarum venit. Quare pro mutuae amicitiae et sanguinis necessitudine a Caesarea Maiestate Vestra petimus, ut eos modos iniri iubeat et in effectum deduci, quibus serenissimae reginae consorti nostrae aliisque subditis nostris satisfiat et sic Regnis pactisque foederibus et mutuis accessionibus ratio constet. Quod superest Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae longam prosperamque incolumitatem et fortunatissimos rerum successus a Deo precamur.

¹ Queen Cecilia Renata.

² Hieronim Pinocci (1612–1676), Italian merchant from a patrician family in Siena. The Pinocci family cooperated with the Habsburgs and Emperor Ferdinand III granted

them indygenat (naturalisation and recognition of nobility). In 1640 Hieronim settled down in Cracow; in 1645 he became the royal secretary; he worked in the crown chancellery and archives; while in the royal service he took part in diplomatic missions to, among others, the Emperor, Holland and England, among others; he was an author of treatises on politics and economy; in 1662 he received indygenat in Poland.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 27 January 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, calls on Emperor Ferdinand III to order Franz Albrecht, Duke von Sachsen-Lauenburg, to compensate Kasper Denhoff, voivode of Sieradz, for the damage done to his property by the imperial soldiers.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 2732, p. 203.

Allatum est proximis his diebus ad nos globum ducentorum ex Maiestatis Vestrae exercitu militum in Silesia hibernantium violenter et licentiose in limites Regni nostri Ducatus Silesiae contiguos irrupisse et non contemnenda damna subditis nostris, praesertim vero in bonis magnifici palatini Siradiensis¹ praecipui Regni huius senatoris camerae reginalis maiestatis consortis nostrae carissimae praefecti et de nobis ac inclita Austriaca domo optime meriti contra ius et fas grassatos esse equos agricolis, armenta aliasque fortunas diripuisse. Ausus autem is et licentia non mediocriter nos commovit, ut de ea Maiestati Vestrae necessarium fuerit significare, quatenus constituto in Ducatu Silesiae generali praefecto, illustri principi Francisco Alberto duci Saxoniae² Maiestas Vestra ea damna resarciri et restitui, iustitiamque convenientem de eiusmodi licentiosis militibus administratis imperet, id enim cum ius optimae vicinitatis tum veterum recentiumque pactorum sanctitas ipsumque nostrae coniunctionis momentum requirit. Quod quidem Maiestatem Vestram pro aequitatis et postulationis nostrae ratione facturam confidimus. Cui felicissimos rerum successus, prosperam valetudinem in hunc et plurimos alios subsequentes annos precamur, fraternaque nostra studia deferimus. Varsaviae 27 Ianuarii 1642.

¹ Kasper Denhoff.

² Franz Albrecht (1598–1642), Duke von Sachsen-Lauenburg, German military commander during Thirty Years' War; he was in the service of both sides of the conflict, under the command of Albrecht Wallenstein as well as Gustav II Adolf; he was Field Marshal of the army of John George, Elector of Saxony.

No. 210

King Philip IV to Prince John Casimir

[Madrid], 8 February 1642

Phillip IV, King of Spain, requests that Prince John Casimir stand in for him as the godfather during the baptism ceremony of Władysław IV and Cecilia Renata's child. He also suggests that his wife Elizabeth be represented by Princess Anna Catherine Constance. If the Prince is absent during the ceremony, he proposes that Adam Kazanowski should replace him.

Published: S. Małkowski, Consultas, decretos, resoluciones y otros despachos dados per orden Su Md. Católica y sus Consejos... 1639–1647, [Madrid, 1647], fo. 21r. In the heading: 1642. En 8 de hebrero. Copia de la carta, que Su Magestad Católica escribió al príncipe Casimiro para mismo efeto.

El Serenissimo Rey de Polonia mi hermano y primo me ha combidado y a la Serenissima Reyna¹ mi muger, para que saquemos de pila el hijo o hija, que naciere del parto que se espera a de la Serenissima Reyna de Polonia mi prima². Quisiera gozar en propria persona de día tan alegre. Ya que esto no me es posible, espero que Vuestra Alteza y la serenissima primcesa mi prima, por el amor que nos tiene, holgarán de hazer en nuestro nombre esta función con que será muy autorizada y de satisfacción y contentamiento de todos, y asi en la parte que me toca la encomiendo a Vuestra Alteza. Y si se hallere ausente y no conviniere alargar mas el tiempo a Adamo Casanosqui³ por su gran calidad y mercimientos y por lo que todos estimamos su persona. No dudo que Vuestra Alteza querrá a mostrar y asegurar por mi en esta ocasión el buen animo con que desearé siempre la sucesión y felicidad de toda essa Real Casa y estimaré las estrechas obligaciones que ay para ello.

¹ Queen Elisabeth de Bourbon.

² On 8 January 1642 Queen Cecilia Renata gave birth to her daughter Anna Isabella, who died on 7 February the same year.

³ Adam Kazanowski.

No. 211

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 22 February 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Emperor Ferdinand III to return the property to Louis Philip, Count Palatine of Simmern.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 2732, pp. 207–208.

Quod saepius per literas nostras pro serenissima electrice palatina Rheni nata principe Asaraniae, comite Nassaviae vidua¹, cuiusque illustrissima prole principe Ludovico Philippo palatino Rheni principe Simeriensi², filiaque illustrissima principe Catharina Sophia³ ageremus et expostularem, maximopere permovebat nos afflictus eiusdem prosapiae status et diuturna calamitas. Cum vero iam Maiestas Vestra animum suum imperialem eo flexerit, ut disquisitionem negotii illius consiliariis suis commiserit et demandarit, qui amplissimum tum aequitatis causae, tum innocentiae prememoratarum personarum dederint testimonium, summe iucundum et gratum nobis evenit audivisse facile enim coniicimus idem negotium felicem sortitum in effectum, tum quod clementia in pectore imperiali locum invenerit, tum quod praefatorum principum innocentia manifestis documentis comprobata, tanto efficacius id pro ipsis efflagitet. Porro nos uti alias fecimus ulterius quam diligentissime easdem Maiestati Vestrae commendamus, minime dubitantes, quin iuxta repetitas toties preces nostras serenissimae electrici dotalitium cum fructibus omnibus, filiae vero alimenta reddita ac restitui denique illustrissimo Simeriensi duci ditiones iure agnationis vigoreque testamenti paterni eum concernentes realiter in possessionem tradi mandabit. Quod nos tanto magis a Maiestate Vestra petimus, quanto magis nobis de benignitate eiusque erga afflictos constat vel quod personarum istarum innocentia id mereatur et exposcat. Sed iam pro fraterna fiducia, totum id in sinum Maiestatis Vestrae clementissimum tradimus ac reponimus. Cui de caetero prosperrimam valetudinem ac felicissimos quosvis successus precamur, studia et officia nostra Maiestati Vestrae deferentes. Varsaviae die 22 Februarii 1642.

¹ Louise Julianna (1576–1644), Princess of Orange-Nassau; in 1593 she married Frederick IV, Elector of the Rhine Palatinate; mother of Frederick V; in 1620 she left the

Palatinate and went to her daughter Elizabeth Charlotte to Berlin; from 1638 she lived in Königsberg.

² Louis Philip (1602–1655), Count Palatine of Simmern, younger brother of Elector Frederick V; in his last will, his father left him Simmern and a few other properties. In 1622, during Thirty Years' War, his properties were taken over by Spain, and after Emperor Ferdinand III divested Frederick V of the title of Elector, Louis Philip unsuccessfully sought to receive it. He was the governor in the Lower Palatinate, which was controlled by the Swedes. After 1635 he lived abroad, mainly in France. He regained Palatinate-Simmern in accordance with the Peace of Westphalia.

³ Catherine Sophia (1595–1626), daughter of Frederick IV and Louise Julianna.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 12 March 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand III that his envoy Albrecht Wengierski has delivered letters to him. The King will allow recruitment of small groups of soldiers on the borderland. Because of the threat of war with Turkey he cannot let Weibera leave the country.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 2732, p. 231.

Reddidit nobis generosus Albertus Wingierski¹ bellicus Maiestatis Vestrae consiliarius et ad nos ablegatus tres uno de negotio epistolas, quas et sermone uberrime prosecutus est. Quid porro is responsi a nobis acceperit, pronam nimirum nostram Maiestati Vestrae gratificandi voluntatem explicabit. Id nos quoque inuimus quod Maiestati Vestrae eam manum, quae a generoso colonello de Crocau² collecta in promptu habetur, licebit educere idque tamen iuxta expressum tenorem pactorum inter Regna Hungarorum et Bohemiae sancitorum, scilicet ne per turmas catervasve aut sub ullis militaribus signis, sed sigillatim aut ad minimum deni duodenique milites ad proviciarum hereditariarum Maiestatis Vestrae confinia idque absque ulla noxa aut maleficio commeant. Quod attinet Vaierianum³ militem, in quo is statu sit, idem commissarius Maiestatis Vestrae bellicus referret. Et libenter sane Maiestati Vestrae amplius gratificarem nisi obversaretur in ipso fere Regni limine magnum belli Turcici periculum; nam et eae copiae, quae ab obsidione Azacensi⁴ retro cesserunt, in vicinis Regno nostro locis hibernant et plures nuntiantur adventura, nullo certo rumore, an ad tentandam adhuc intermissam obsidionem, an alio, quo eas commoditas melior vocaverit, sint a callido hoste promovendae. Habebit nos itaque Maiestas Vestra hac ex parte excusatos, securitati etenim Regni nostri nobis est consulendum. Caeterum Maiestati Vestrae alia prompti animi officia prolixè deferimus Deum optimum maximum precati, ut diutissime incolumem ac triumphantem orbi christiano conservet. Datum Varsaviae XII Martii 1642.

¹ Albrecht Christoph Wengierski (Wengerski, Wingierski), nobleman from Silesia, colonel; he served in the imperial army; Albrecht Wallenstein nominated him to become

the governor of Mecklenburg; he was involved in building the Habsburg-Vasa fleet on the Baltic Sea.

² An unidentified person.

³ Jakub Weiher. See nos. 124 and 214.

⁴ Azov (Latin: *Asovia*), a city in Russia, situated near the place where the Don River flows into the Sea of Azov.

No. 213

**Princess Anna Catherine Constance to Archduke
Leopold Wilhelm**

Warsaw, 22 March 1642

Princess Anna Catherine Constance notifies Archduke Leopold Wilhelm of her engagement to Philip Wilhelm von Neuburg.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Kriegsakten 109 (alt 143), 1642 Februar–September, 109–56, fos 157r–158v. Seal.

Durchleuchtigster Ertzhertzog freuntlich Hertzlieber Herr Wetter einen salldakitt hatte wollerfordet Euer Liebden mitt meinem Schreiben schon lengster auf zu warten so sahe ich nitt lengen weiter laßen Euer Liebden mitt dißen wenigen zeiten auf Anworth und nach Euer Liebden gutte gesuntheit an erkundigen. Und nich auf Euer Liebden begeren Perto an geben wegden meine thue Euer Liebden zu wißen das ich furchemen Sonntag bin mitt Euer Liebden den Hertzog von Neiburg¹ fersprochen werden ich den wiel sagen das dißer Heirat wen Gott ist Kõng ich safe und der dirct meine ocasion Anlaben Euer Liebden In zwang willfor will alezeit mein liechstes ferlangen ist gemeißen Euer Liebden an dienen nt wollte Euer Liebden geden man schreiben aber mein Hof ticht mir so ... das ich nit vor den ... mitt befale ich mich in Euer Liebden wetterliche affectlin. Datum Warschaw 22 Marcy 1642.

Euer Liebden

getrewe und dienstwillige
mub und dienerin
Anna Catharina Constantia

¹ Philip Wilhelm von Neuburg.

No. 214

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 3 April 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Emperor Ferdinand III that because of the threat of the war with Turkey he cannot allow Jakub Weiher to serve in the imperial army.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 2732, pp. 236–237.

Exposuit nobis generosus Veier¹ colonellus noster se ad militiam et obsequium Maiestatis Vestrae vocari atque eo nomine obtinere a nobis licentiam voluit. Sed quemadmodum dum antea de milite qui illius regimini subest ac in fortalicio Vladislaviensi collocatus est, per generosum Albertum Wingerski² Maiestati Vestrae perscripseramus et oretenus egimus, ita quoque istic illius opera et praesentia assidua ad omnes repentinos casus indigemus. Proinde diligenter Maiestatem Vestram rogamus, ut id in optimam partem accipiat, quod hoc tempore sese sistere Maiestati Vestrae non possit, quando et transmarini principes apparatus bellicose facere nuniantur et Turcae prope confinia Regni nostri exercitum promptum habeant, quem quocunque sint mortui, nobis opus est esse intentis. Habebit igitur Maiestas Vestra praefatum generosum Veiserum excusatum. Quod reliquum est Maiestati Vestrae in omni genere officii promptitudinem nostram et studium deferimus ac felicissimos rerum bellorumque successus optamus. Varsaviae die 3 Aprilis 1642.

¹ Jakub Weiher, see no. 212.

² Albrecht Christoph Wengerski.

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 27 June 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends general Wolf Heinrich von Baudissin to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm and asks him to support the general's efforts to receive his overdue salary from the Emperor. The King requests that the Archduke put trust in the general, since he maintains close relations with Christian IV and can play a significant role in the negotiations, whose aim will be reaching a military alliance between Denmark, Poland and Muscovy against Sweden.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 61r-64v, folios incorrectly numbered. Trace of the seal.

Serenissimo Archiduca Signore fratello mio charissimo.

Non mi sono accinto prima di hora a scrivere a Vostra Altezza ritardato prima dalla recreatione delle caccie, dopoi dalle noze della Serenissima Principessa¹, che non mi hanno dato il modo. Hora che più sbrigato mi trovo lo faccio prontamente e dopoi da haverla partecipata della optima salute, che godo per gratia di Dio, le esprimo alcuni miei sensi con quella confidentia che è solita fra di noi tenersi. Il Signor Baudis², già generale, ha pretensioni con il Serenissimo Imperatore³ di essere rimborsato di danari propri spesi, non pretendendo renumerationsi o altra cosa di avantagio, e perché li era stato ciò asseniato sopra il ^aRemering^a della città di Hamburgo⁴, dalla quale mai ha potuto ricevere sotisfatione per essere medesimamente asseniato ad altri, desidera al presente che tal assennio per opera della mia intercessione li sia cummulato nel Duca di Holsatia⁵, da cui si promette poterne con più facilità optenerlo nel intento et essere sotisfatto. Io che considero la persona del Signor Baudis esser bene contentarla in qualche modo, ne richiedo Vostra Altezza acciò ponderando il fatto ne tenga proposito son Sua Maestà Cesarea, e faccia che honorandosi la mia intercessione, resti consolato il generale sudetto, per mantenerlo divoto verso la Serenissima Casa di Austria e non dar li occasioni di apilcarsi ad altri partiti e resolutioni, conforme non una volta è stato invitato, et elli ha havuto intentione, per esser cavaliero di ventura, dalché fin hora io [^b] sempre rimosso; e per più impeniarlo mi parrebbe bene che da cotesta parte si sorrisse di lui nel monstrar magior confidentia a far stima al occasione del Re di Dania⁶,

di chui è molto caro, e tanto più che quel Re si scorgie poco affetto alli Suedesi, per quel che mi è stato insinuato, contro li quali si appiliarebbe volentieri a qualche partito, havendomene di ciò fatto cenno, et in specie dalla parte di Moscovia, come più facile e riuscibile, e perché questo fatto mi parebbe più proporcionato per cotesta parte, e più profittevole, lo significato confidentemente a Vostra Altezza, acciò fattovi le debite considerationi ne faccia parte a Sua Maestà Cesarea. Che al certo con la unione di Moscoviti e Dania, quando succedesse, potrebbe far una potente diversione, nel Regno di Suetia di molto utile alli interessi sui Imperiali, e quando in ciò cocorresse il Serenissimo Imperatore li proponga uno altro mego, che forse il miliore e più effettuosio non si po ritrovare che è la persona mia, poiché con il significarmi li sui sensi veri ne potrei io medesimo trattare con il Re di Dania, quale monstrandosi desideroso di abboarsi meco in qualche loco, et io presuponendomi di poter con esso negoziare in voce di molte cose importanti, e particolarmente per qualche impiego per la quiete universale, vi concorro prontamente e penso di sodisfar lui e me medesimo in uno istesso tempo. Di tutto ciò ho voluto partecipare Vostra Altezza con ogni maggior confidentia, et ella non resti di cominciar ciò che li pareva a Serenissimo Imperatore (da cui in ogni caso mi sarebbe necessario haver piena plenipotenza, senza la quale ogni negoziato sarebbe indarno), con riserva però di non far saper tutto (e particolarmente il mio abocamento con il Re di Dania) alli sui ministri, poiché mi par di vedere che non tutti habbiano la devota mira al maggior servitio di Sua Maestà Cesarea e della Serenissima Sua Casa, conforme il bisogno riciederebbe, et io che le sono si congiunto di sangue et amore vorei. A suo tempo e con ogni prestezza starò atendendo da Vostra Altezza sentire li sui sensi sopra di questi particolari, con quella libertà e con fidutia che io li ho significato li miei per mia satisfactione, et acciò che il tempo non trascorra della bona naviatione presente. E senza più resto di Vostra Altezza

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

PS. Mando con questa uno cosaco apostata per via di Ungaria per maggior sicurezza, et prestezza della risposta.

Varsovia 27 Juni 1642

^{a-a} *uncertain transcription*

^{b¹} *the word is illegible*

- ¹ On 8 June 1642 in Warsaw, Princess Anna Catherine Constance married Philip Wilhelm von Neuburg.
- ² Wolf Heinrich von Baudissin (Bauditz; 1579–1646), nobleman from Upper Lusatia; military commander and diplomat; during Thirty Years' War he was in the service of Christian IV, King of Denmark, Gustav II Adolf, King of Sweden, and from 1635 John George I, Elector of Saxony. From 1636 he stayed at the Polish court; in 1638 he accompanied Wladyslaw IV in his journey to Baden; in the years 1642–1643 he went on diplomatic missions to Christian IV in order to form an alliance between Denmark, Poland and Muscovy against Sweden.
- ³ Ferdinand III.
- ⁴ Hamburg.
- ⁵ Frederick III (1597–1659), Duke of Holstein-Gottrop from 1613.
- ⁶ Christian IV.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Cracow, 15 July 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand III that he has sent to him his brother-in-law Philip Wilhelm, Duke of Neuburg, who will present the proposal for a military alliance with Christian IV, King of Denmark, against Sweden.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1642, fos 1r–4v.

Serenissimo Imperatore Signore fratello e cognato carissimo

Non giongerà nuovo a Vostra Maestà il dirle che io habbia a cuore li di lei interessi e della sua Casa Imperiale, che li stimi come proprii e ne desideri ogni miglior successo, il che vedendo che si fa sempre più lontano quanto più da Vostra Maestà si adoperano mezzi per farli riuscire con sua riputatione per il bene comune e della Cristianità insieme, mi muove con l'occasione che costì è per portarsi il serenissimo Principe di Naiburg¹ cognato mio carissimo ad esprimerle alcuni miei sensi, che ponderati dalla somma prudenza della Maestà Vostra vi riconoscerà il molto della mia affettione verso di lei, quando ben anche non si appigliasse ad essi. È sì torbido il mare nell'Imperio et ogni giorno vi si sia sì fattamente dibattendo la nave dell'interessi di esso, che a mio parere per tentare di farla una volta giongere in porto, prima che rimanga sommersa dalle procelle inimiche e fiere, che sempre più insorgono contro di essa, non vi restano che due vie l'una dell'armi e l'altra della pace, in ordine alle quali mi accingo hora a farle espressione del mio consiglio con quel candore che è mio proprio et è dovuto al servitio maggiore di Vostra Maestà; et incominciando della prima le dico come per esperienza ho veduto in tanti anni che Vostra Maestà ha cercato di superar i suoi inimici con la forza dell'armi, non ha potuto giongere al suo intento per difetto d'una armata marittima, che non ha havuta coadiuvante alle Sue intentioni, senza la quale pare a me che non sia per arrivare ai suoi fini, poiché agl'inimici resta sempre libero campo d'ingrossarsi nelli stati Imperiali, non essendoli preclusa la via della navigatione che ghe ne da l'adito; volendo perciò Vostra Maestà tentar con la forza di discacciar l'inimico di Casa, il mio parere sarebbe, che la Maestà Vostra pensasse primieramente al haver armata in mare e per far ciò più facilmente si stringesse con il Re di Danimarca², il quale (quando

seco si usassero modi convenevoli) tengo quasi per fermo che fosse per concorrere nelli desiderii di Vostra Maestà, et ella forse per riceverne rilevanti servitii, potendosi a mio giuditio far fondamento maggiore in quel Re, che sopra Amburg³, o altre città ansiatiche, che per esperienza si sa, sempre mirano ad avvantaggiar la loro conditione nelle turbolenze, et approfittarsi nell'occasioni che il tempo li porta, havendo elleno sempre l'occhio al potersi ridurre al governo e libertà che godono quelle d'Hollandia; faciliterebbe ancora l'impresa il tentare di levare l'allianza del Re Cristianissimo⁴ alli Suetesi, e far che questi rimanessero soli e senza li di lui aggiunti; e perciò fare si potrebbe però procurare qualche aggiustamento con la Francia con quelli modi più proportionati ci potessero adoperare nelle presenti congiunture e strettezze, il che non solo renderebbe più pronto il Re di Dania ad assistere all'interessi di Vostra Maestà, ma altri principi ancora, che tutti unitamente cooperariano all'avantaggi di Vostra Maestà et utile de suoi stati; di non poca conseguenza sarebbe anco se Vostra Maestà stringendosi con li principi dell'Imperio, si allontanasse un poco dall'interessi di Spagna (che ciò da essi sarebbe veduto più che volentieri) et attendesse solamente a stabilir li suoi proprii e delle sue provincie, con che è certo che alli Suetesi s'imporrebbe necessità di uscir dalli stati di Vostra Maestà per se stessi con biasmo quando non volessero aspettare d'esserne scacciati con danno, dandomi io a credere che contro di loro ci moverebbono tutti li principi e sudditi dell'Imperio, essendo sicuri di militare in quel caso per la quiete delle cose proprie, e non per avvantaggiare il partito delli stranieri, come hoggi pensano segua per l'interessi di Spagna, che non vedono volentieri siano communi con la Casa di Vostra Maestà nella quale stimano fomentino il fuoco a finché ne resti più libera che possono la loro, senza haver riguardo al pregiudicio altrui. Venendo poi alla seconda della pace dico che per incaminarsi per mezzo di essa alla meta delli desiderii della Maestà Vostra sia necessario primieramente il non mostrarsi tanto attaccato alla parte spagnola, e riconciliarsi con la Francese, e guadagnarci l'animo delli principi dell'Imperio che alhora sarebbe non difficile e particolarmente del Re di Dania, in cui (seben sono passati fra me e lui differenze e disgusti, più tosto causati dal non esservi intesi insieme, che da volontà cattiva, conforme al presente mi consta) ho subodorato sia inclinatione non ordinaria verso gl'avantaggi di Vostra Maestà, e non poca avversione all'interessi de Suetesi, contro li quali, si è scoperto meco, si appiglierebbe a qualche risoluzione d'una potente diversione in quel Regno, quando Vostra Maestà, aggiustatasi con la Francia, li facesse restar privi dell'aggiunti di quella parte, e li si movesse contro con tutte le Sue

forze. Et io facessi ancora la mia parte, il che se bene come Re di Polonia non mi sarebbe permesso di fare palesamente, come hereditario di Suetia, però mi potrei operare in modo che fossero per riuscir profittevoli li miei impieghi all'impresa da farsi, poiché se mi mancano li tesori et aggiunti, farei partiti tali con il medesimo Re di Danimarca con impegnarli qualche parte del Regno di Suetia più contigua alli suoi stati, e da lui desiderata, o vero col cedergliela affatto per impossessarmi di nuovo del restante dovutomi, che egli vi impiegherebbe per mia parte ancora le sue forze, e promovendo la giustezza delle mie ragioni, ne spererebbe ottimi fini a beneficio di Vostra Maestà, mio, e suo proprio, divertendo le turbolenze dall'Imperio, ricuperando quelli stati a me spettanti, et accrescendo egli al Suo Regno proprio, con la parte che io sarei procedergli come ho detto, aggiogendosi a ciò che in quel caso Vostra Maestà potrebbe facilmente muovere contro li Suetesi istessi li Moscoviti ancora per proprii interessi e pretensioni che hanno con quelli, che di non poco aggiunto sarebbono alli intenti nostri. Questi a mio parere sarebbono modi proportionati alle congiunture presenti, atti a render una volta tranquillo cotesto tempestoso mare dell'Imperio, stimando ogn'altro infruttuoso e fallace. Tali appunto sono li miei sensi in queste materie, che ho voluto significare a Vostra Maestà, non per apportar pregiudizio al suo sanissimo giuditio, ma sodisfare a me stesso, et all'obbligo che tutti teniamo di porre in consideratione all'interessati quel tanto si conosce di proficuo per la quiete commune della Cristianità, che non va disgiunta dal servitio di Dio, che forse per aspettare che da Noi medesimi venghi posto rimedio alle calamità della Republica Cristiana, tiene tuttavia bendati gl'orechi et offuscata la mente al Turco inimico implacabile d'essa, a finché non veda, né conosca l'avantaggio che sarebbe per havere in questi tempi invadendo la Cristianità, che debole e consumata, potrebbe servirli appunto per delicato cibo da faticare l'arrabiata fame che sopra di essa continuamente tiene. Ponderi il tutto Vostra Maestà (che ne la prego) e risolvendosi a voler intraprendere qualche negoziato con il Re di Danimarca in conformità dell'accennatole io me le offero ad esserne il mezzano, sapendo che verun'altro potrà farlo con maggior fede e candore di me, né con più vantaggi della Maestà Vostra, in qual caso però sarebbe di necessità che Vostra Maestà mi mandasse sofficiente plenipotenza da trattare il tutto in Suo nome con quel Re, con il quale sono in procinto di abboccarmi in qualche luogo. La prego a ricever questo mio discorso in confidenza, né palesarlo o farlo sapere ad altri che ad interessati e principi dell'Imperio [a] Serenissimo Principe di Naiburg potrà sopra ciò intendere più diffusano la somma di questi miei sensi a cui

l'ho espressi; et a suo tempo starò attendendo qualche risposta da Vostra Maestà per mia sodisfatione e governo, e senza più la prego dal cielo felicissimi avvenimenti come di Vostra Maestà Cesarea.

affettuosissimo fratello et cognato

Vladislaus rex

Cracovia, li 15 Luglio 1642.

^[a] *the middle fragment of fo. 4, probably containing the seal, was cut out*

¹ Philip Wilhelm von Neuburg (1615–1690), Count Palatine of Neuburg (1653–1690), Duke of Jülich and Berg (1653–1679), Elector Palatinate (1685–1690). From the end of February 1642 he stayed in Warsaw, where on 8 June he married Princess Anne Catherine Constance.

² Christian IV.

³ Hamburg.

⁴ Louis XIII.

No. 217

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 5 August 1642

Emperor Ferdinand III informs Władysław IV, King of Poland, that after receiving the letter dated 15 July and the discussion with the King's envoy Philip Wilhelm von Neuburg he will send to him his own envoy in order to debate the matters in regard to the continuation of the war and reaching peace.

Fair copy: HHSŁA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1641, fo. 7.

Draft: HHSŁA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1641, fo. 9.

Amantissimas litteras Serenitatis Vestrae 15 Iulii¹ proxime elapsi datas, quibus sensus mihi suos tam quoad belli gerendi quam pacis conciliandae rationes diffusius explicare voluit. Philippus Guilielmus princeps palatinus Rhenensis² mihi tradidit simulque oratione praecatus litterarum argumentum rationes consilii Serenitatis Vestrae explanavit. Ex quibus omnibus prolixum sane studium Serenitatis Vestrae in rempublicam christianam ac bonum commune Sacri Romani Imperii tum affectum quoque peculiaris in me et augustam hanc domum nostram amoris et benevolentiae perquam libenter agnovi. Quo utroque nomine eas quas par est Serenitati Vestrae habeo gratias. Res autem ipsa vel suapte nostra vel ob eas quas undique graves atque arduas connexas habet circumstantias, tanti mihi visa fuit momenti, ut ad digerendas eaque qua par est maturitate deliberandas quae offeruntur difficultates, aliquantum plus temporis opus sit, quam ut nunc continuo vel etiam per litteras me super omnibus ac singulis resolvere possim. Mittam igitur quantocius ea de causa personam³ peculiarem ad Serenitatem Vestram ulterius quae mea in hoc gravi negotio sit mens eidem pro solita inter nos confidentia communicaturam. De quo Serenitati Vestrae hisce significare volui. Caeterum affectum consobrini et fratris amantissimi eidem sincere deferens. Viennae 5 Augusti anno 1642.

¹ See no. 216.

² Philip Wilhelm von Neuburg.

³ See no. 218.

No. 218

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 17 August 1642

Emperor Ferdinand III sends Alexander Greiffenclau to Władysław IV, King of Poland, and asks the King to welcome him and give him a hearing.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1642, fo. 35r.

Mittimus ad Serenitatem Vestram consiliarium nostrum camerae Silesicae et fidelem nobis dilectum Alexandrum a Greiffenau¹ baronem, ut de iis super quibus in literis suis 15 Iulii² proximi ad nos datas sensum et intentionem nostram habere desiderat, nomine nostro ad eandem pluribus referat, hunc igitur ut benevole audire plenamque ei fidem adhibere velit, amanter poscimus de caetero amantissimi consobrini affectum offerentes Serenitatem Vestram prosperis rerum successibus frui ex animo optamus. Vienna 17 Augusti 1641.

¹ Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts.

² See no. 216.

No. 219

Emperor Ferdinand III to Prince Charles Ferdinand

Vienna, 17 August 1642

Emperor Ferdinand III sends his greetings to Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław, through Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1642, fo. 35r.

Officiosissimum observantissimi animi Dilectionis Vestrae quo nos augustamque domum nostram Austriacam hactenus coluit atque etiamnum constantissime colere pergit studium tam nobis est gratum et acceptum, ut intermittere non possimus, quin vicissim Dilectioni Vestrae optimum nostrum erga eandem de quo iam ante secure est, affectum per Alexandrum in Greiffenclau¹ magis magisque contestemur omneque id, quod ab amatissimo consobrino expectari potest, eidem quam cumulatissime offeramus. De caetero Dilectionem Vestram diu sospitem felicem ac superstitem vivere ex animo vovemus. Viennae 17 Augusti anno 1642.

¹ Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts.

No. 220

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 12 September 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand III that imperial councillor Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts, who has come to Warsaw, delivered the letters from the Emperor dated 17 August. They are the Emperor's response to the King's letters dated 15 July. The King has presented his position on the matter to the councillor.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1642, fos 55r–56v.

Serenissimo Imperatore.

Dal consigliere Alessandro Greiffenclau¹ mandatoci da Vostra Maestà con sue lettere delli 17 agosto² habbiamo inteso il quanto ella gli ha imposto riferirei in ordine alle sue intentioni toccanti li motivi fattili con nostre lettere delli 15 luglio³ prossimo passato, et ad esso medesimo havendoli noi espresse le nostre, acciò ne facci a Vostra Maestà intiera significatione, come pensiamo sia per seguire, ci riportiamo. A Vostra Maestà intanto ratificando il desiderio che teniamo di ogni sua prosperità maggiore ne le preghiamo da Dio il compimento. Varsavia li 12 settembre 1642.

Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea

affettuosissimo fratello et cognato

Vladislaus rex

¹ On the diplomatic mission to Poland of Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts in 1642, see no. 218 and no. 219.

² See no. 218.

³ See no. 216.

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 12 September 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Archduke Leopold Wilhelm give his recommendation at Ferdinand III's court to colonel Ernest Georg Sparr, a distinguished military commander in the imperial service.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 70r–71v. Seal.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 1882, p. 25.

Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex serenissimo et reverendissimo principi domino Leopoldo Vilhelmo archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Virtembergae, archiepiscopo Magdeburgensi, episcopo Argentoratensi, Halberstadii et Pasaviae, administratori in Murbach et Luder, comiti Tirolis, fratri et affini nostro carissimo salutem et fraterni amoris continuum incrementum, serenissime et reverendissime princeps domine frater et affinis noster carissime.

Cum iam Serenitatis Vestrae gloriae debeatur, ut caesaream militiam fortunamque summo imperio ductuque suo ad felicitatem optatam perducatur non dubitamus eam virorum quoque militarium rationem praecipuam simul habituram. Ea vero merita sunt generosi Ernesti Georgii a Sparr¹ generalis armamentarii in exercitu Caesareae Maiestatis² praefecti, colonelli et cubicularii nostri, ut is non solum fidelem fortemque et praeclaram operam imperatoriae domui praestiterit, verum etiam aere sumptibusque suis in maximis rerum difficultatibus exercitui subvenerit. Ne vero haec virtus immo beneficium sine fructu et honore, adeoque sine debita mercede sit, ad dignitatem quidem famamque Caesareae Maiestatis et iustitiae rationem pertinent. Decus tamen aliis Serenitatis Vestrae coeptis factisque iam cum gloria et de salute publica incedentibus addet, si cum ad praemia vel remunerationem potius laborum suorum et ad ea, quae caesareae militiae usibus ac necessitatibus e suo impendit, recipienda Serenitatis Vestrae gratia et auctoritate apud Caesaream Maiestatem adiuvetur et quamprimum satisfactione recepta, liber et solutus ubique caesarei nominis et aequitatis

testimonium adeoque depraedicationem circumferre possit. Nos ut eum virum maximi semper fecimus, ita in votis gloriaque nostra ducimus, si ad commendationem nostram ei bene merenti bona debitaque gratia reddatur. Summopere igitur et diligentissime causam fortunamque ipsius ad Serenitatis Vestrae curam et sollicitudinem ac patrocinium et favorem afferimus, cum ea spe ac fiducia, quae ex mutua necessitudine et amore expectari potest. Quod superest Serenitati Vestrae diuturnam ac prosperam incolumitatem et felicem ac fortunatum rerum successum a Deo precamur. Datum Varsaviae die XII mensis Septembris anno Domini MDCXLII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae X Sueciae XI anno.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Ernest Georg Sparr, see no. 68 and no. 220.

² Ferdinand III.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 12 September 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends colonel Ernest Georg Sparr, a distinguished soldier and military commander in the imperial service, to Emperor Ferdinand III.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 1882, p. 24.

Dignus saepe commendatione nostra fuit generosus Ernestus Georgius a Sparre¹ generalis armamentariique in exercitu Maiestatis Vestrae praefectus, colonellus et cubicularius noster quippe cuius virtutem et peritiam militarem singulari iudicio et favore prosecuti sumus ita erga eundem animo cum adhuc libenter simus, vota fortunaeque eius desistimus Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae gratiae commendare. Crebram strenuamque ille operam Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae prestitit in gravissimis occasionibus et acerrimis difficultatibus ac quod rarae fidei et obsequii est ea periculosa necessitas exercitum caesareum invaderet suis ille sumptibus suo sudore subvenerit. Sed non ignota eius merita sunt fortuna subinde iniqua et praeter merita eius rei remedium in auctoritate et beneficentia Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae est, ne tot laborum et sumptuum irritus nil nisi infelicitatem et tristem exitum a longo arduoque et operoso servitio meruisse videatur. Hunc quidem vel annis vel curis ac molestiis fessus vel libertatem non inhonoratam aut indignam quaerens, commeatum a Caesarea Maiestate Vestra suppliciter petit, ut liceat ei bona cum gratia Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae liquida laboriosae aetatis ubicunque sors tulerit deponere ita quidem post tot annorum militiam post tot expensas antea tamen a Caesarea Maiestate Vestra remuneratus, ut et illi nec infructuosum aut paenitendum militarium virtutum praemiis affecisse, nec in alienis benefactis impendiisque permissis praeteriri et omitti aliquid non plena fide et iustitia exolutum abire. Nobis sane iucundissimum erit etiam nostram illi commendationem illi adiumento fuisse apud Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram. Cui longam et prosperam incolumitatem et felicem ac florentium rerum statum a Deo precamur. Datum Varsaviae die XII mensis Septembris.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae bonus frater et cognatus

Vladislaus rex

¹ Ernest Georg Sparr, see no. 68.

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 12 September 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Archduke Leopold Wilhelm that he has received the information on the development of the military operations and wishes him further successes. In order to have quick access to current information he has located messengers (the Cossacks) starting at the Polish border and into the country. That is why he asks the Archduke to send correspondence to Leszno. The King is going hunting with his wife.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 72r-73v. Seal.

Serenissimo Signore Arciduca.

Non poco è stato il piacere apportatoci dall'ultime ricevute di Vostra Altezza con le quali ci ha partecipato li progressi prosperi di coteste armi, sotto la buona e prudente sua direttione, che sempre più gle l'auguriamo felici, e perché vorressimo esser ragguagliati spesso di cotesti successi, habbiamo ordinato che un de nostri cosacchi costì in campo, e due altri per il tratto di strada che si frapone alla nostra corte stiano sempre da quali ci venghino portati l'avvisi speditamente si compiaccia perciò Vostra Altezza voler dar ordine che ci venghino in tal maniera continuati per rinovarci il contento che saranno per recarci con buone nuove; resti servita Vostra Altezza che ne la preghiamo, di sodisfarci in questa parte, certa di farci particolar dimostrazione dell'animo suo cortese et affettuoso, e salutandola caramente in nome della Serenissima Regina¹ nostra carissima consorte con le presenti, che di nostra propria mano non habbiamo potuto scrivere per il viaggio al quale hoggi ci appigliamo per le solite ricreationi delle caccie, restiamo per sempre di Vostra Altezza Serenissima.

P.S. piaccia a Vostra Altezza di far capitare le lettere che a noi vorrà inviare in Lesno² nei confini del nostro Regno verso cotesta parte, ove a questo effetto si troverà sempre un cosacco nostro, che haverà l'incumbenza di sporgerle ad altro che a noi le porterà.

affettuosissimo fratello Vladislaus rex

Varsavia li 12 settembre 1642

¹ Cecilia Renata.

² Leszno, a town in western Poland, at that time located near the border with the Kingdom of Bohemia.

No. 224

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Strzegocin, 2 October 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, confirms that he has received the letters about the development of the military operations from Archduke Leopold Wilhelm. He informs the Archduke that at present he has gone hunting with his wife.

Original: HHStA, Fam Kor 49, f. 77r. In the top right corner the date 1642 2 8bre.

Serenissimo Arciduca Signore fratello carissimo.

Dallo Stefaniglio¹ mi sono state rese le lettere di Vostra Altezza e con esse la relatione delli movimenti di coteste armi, che per essermi stata gratissima non resto di farne con le presenti significatione a Vostra Altezza della quale spero riceverne e con mio gusto altri rincontri in conformità delli successi che si accaderanno. Da queste nostre parti non ho di che concambiare Vostra Altezza mentre la quiete che vi si gode non mi porge materia di parteciparla di novità veruna, ben le dico come in queste campagne con la serenissima Regina² mia consorte amantissima me la passo di presente con la ricreatione delle caccie solite e con buona salute, simile l'auguro a Vostra Altezza dal Signor Dio, a cui piaccia di prosperarla sempre e concederli ogni felicità mentre io resto.

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

Strzegocin³ li 2 Ottobre 1642

¹ An unidentified person.

² Cecilia Renata.

³ Strzegocin, a village in Mazovia, to the west of Pultusk.

No. 225

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 25 November 1642

Emperor Ferdinand III informs Władysław IV, King of Poland, that on the basis of the report of Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts and the backing from the Catholic electors he supports the King's suggestions regarding the peace talks with Christian IV, King of Denmark, and that he is ready to send his representative to the meeting of both rulers.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1642, fo. 80.

Pluribus ad nos retulit Aleksander Greiffenklau a Volraths¹ nupera in negotio diversionis contra Suecos per serenissimum regem Daniae et Norvegiae faciendae ad Serenitatem Vestram missione functus cum quod eiusdem in communem rem christianam ac nominatim in tranquillitatem publicam Imperii promovendam sit studium, tum praecipue propensae in nos et augustam domum nostram voluntatis affectus ac demum circa dictae diversionis ac tractatum cum memorato serenissimo rege Daniae negotium, mens et intentia. Quibus omnibus nominibus Serenitati Vestrae magnas gratias reddimus. Sicut igitur cogitationes omnes curaeque in id intentae sunt, ut media ad restaurationem quietis publicae pertinentia perquiramus eaque quae aliunde offeruntur, libenter amplectamur. Ita cum principes electores catholici quoad praelibatum diversionis negotium ita mecum concurrunt, ut illud miramur omne studium construant visum mihi fuit Serenitati Vestrae hac de re significare pro solita fiducia requirentes, ut nos haud gradatim certiores velit reddere, an et quando congressus sive colloquium inter ipsum et praedicum serenissimum Daniae regem effectum suum sit habiturum quo et nos cum opportuna instructione et mandatis illuc possimus mittere. Cui de caetero affectum consobrini affinis et fratris amantissimi confirmantes eidem omnia ex voto succedere vovemus. Viennae 25 Novembris anno 1642.

¹ On the diplomatic mission to Poland of Alexander Greiffenclau von Vollarts in 1642, see no. 218, no. 219 and no. 220.

No. 226

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 5 December 1642

Władysław IV, King of Poland, confirms that he has received Archduke Leopold Wilhelm's letter dated 23 November with the report on the development of military operations. The King expresses his concern that the Archduke puts too much trust in the light cavalry.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 76r–77v. Seal.

Serenissimo Archiduca Signor fratello mio charissimo.

Ricevo la letera di Vostra Altezza delli 23 del passato¹ e con essa il ragualio del successo poco favorevole ultimamente seguito li con le arme inimiche, rendo a Vostra Altezza gratia della parte data me ma non resto di non esprimerle il dispiacere non ordinario che ne ho sentito, come quello che le desidero sempre ogni felicità e gloria. Con questa occasione non vollio lasciare di darli uno ricordo [^a] è offesa del suo valore e prudentia) che è di non fidarsi o far fundamento sopra la cavaleria particolarmente legiera poiché come qualla che è più agile e disposta alla fuga, così abandona facilmenti nel bisonio maggiore, è che apunto è succeduto molte volte particolarmente è questa ultima factione a Vostra Altezza havrò attendendo qualche nuova di maggior mia satisfacione et in tanto augurando le dal cielo occasioni a ciò proporcionati. Resto per sempre

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo fratello
Vladislaus rex

Varsovia 5 di Dicembre AD 1642

^[a] *the word is illegible*

¹ The letter of Archduke Leopold Wilhelm to Władysław IV dated 23 November 1642 has not been found.

No. 227

Prince John Casimir to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 6 December 1642

Prince John Casimir sends Christmas and New Year's wishes to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Kriegsakten 117 (alt 153, 154), 1644 Aug–Dez, fos 339r–340v.

Serenissimo Signore mio e fratello osservantissimo.

È ben conveniente che quel continuo riverente affetto, che interiormente porto all'Altezza Vostra Serenissima si manifesti esteriormente sempre ch'io n'habbia occasione. Onde vengo hora ad annuntiare a Vostra Altezza felicissime le sante feste di Natale con l'ingresso prospero dell'anno nuovo con molti altri a venire, si per mostrare a Vostra Altezza la devozione dell'animo mio, come per supplicarla a commandarmi accio le possa rappresentar con gli effetti, l'affetto e servitù che professo a Vostra Altezza, alla quale terminado baccio di tutto cuore le mani, e prego Il Signore la conservi lungamente. Varsavia li 6 Dicembre 1642.

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo servitore et fratello
Giovanni Casimiro

Prince John Casimir Vasa to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Vienna, [1642]

Prince John Casimir commends musician Angelo Simonelli to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm. Simonelli has taught music to Polish princes. The details of the matter will be presented by Francesco Bibboni, royal resident at the Emperor's court.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Kriegsakten 110 (alt 144), 2–7, fos 24–25.

Serenissimo Signore Osservantissimo.

Ho havuto sempre particolare inclinatione di beneficiare Angelo Simonelli¹ mio servitore essendose egli reso meritevole con la sufficienza della virtù, et con la fedeltà della sua servitù, mentre fu institutore di musica alli Serenissimi Principi miei fratelli, et a me, et ho havuto continuata intentione di richiamarlo ai miei proprii servitii, havendomene esso più volte supplicato, ma essendo io sin hora stato in continuo moto, come pur anco sono di presente, non ho havuto, ne ho luogo di consolarlo. Pur vorrei lasciarli memoria della mia buona volontà, e non compiacendolo io con gli effetti di me medesimo desiderarei appoggiarlo alla gratia, e protezione di Vostra Altezza Serenissima, et ascriverglielo quel servitore per quale Vostra Altezza restarà servita a mia intercessione come vivamente la prego in mio luogo riceverlo, promettendomi io, che in quello che Vostra Altezza l'impiegarà, o nella musica, o nelle cancellarie latine di qualche suo vescovato, o nel servitio di cammerdiener, ella ne sia per havere ogni satisfattione e gusto. Il residente Baron Bibboni² al quale ho comesso quest'uffitio in mia assenza lo presenterà a Vostra Altezza, la prego restar servita farli con veri effetti della gratia sua fede, che non fu mai nasca la speranza, che egli ha della mia protezione. Il tutto riceverò dal Altezza Vostra a gran parte di quei affetti, che sempre mi ha dimostrato della sua benevolenza, della quale vicendevolmente professandomele per sempre d'eterna obligatione, resto con pregarle dal cielo vera prosperità, e le bacio affettuosamente le mani. Viena li

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo fratello et servitore Giovanni Casimiro

¹ Angelo Simonelli, Italian musician, organist at the court of Sigismund III Vasa and Wladyslaw IV; Vasa's agent in Vienna.

² Francesco Bibboni.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

[1642]

Władysław IV, King of Poland, requests that Emperor Ferdinand III provide aid in returning the horses and carts which were lost by the royal subjects in Silesia and Moravia.

Copy: BC Cracow, MS 1882, pp. 32–33, the place and date of the letter missing.

In hac rerum in Silesiae Moraviaeque Ducatu perturbatione nonnullis subditis nostris, qui meritoriis equis ac curribus quotidianum sibi quaerere victum consueverant ingens et insperata accidit calamitas equis aurigis curribus miseri homines spoliati ac privati sunt iis orbibus ad usum exercitus Caesariae Maiestatis conversis. Deploranda profecto illorum est infelicitas eoque maiore Maiestatis Vestrae benignitate merentur, quod sub repentinum tempus corepti sunt, cumque satis iam obsequii praestiterint extensa est illis misericordia. Retulit sibi haec omnia, quae recensuimus una cum mercede restitui alioquin ad extremum necessitatis necesse esset eosdem devenire. Quod Maiestatem Vestram qua est clementia erga miseros homines aversuram speramus. Nec non subditis nostris satisfactum a ministris Maiestatis Vestrae bellicis iri. De quo Maiestatem Vestram diligenter rogamus felicissimos eidem rerum bellorumque successus precati.

Emperor Ferdinand III to Prince Charles Ferdinand

Vienna, 7 January 1643

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław and Płock, that he has sent envoy Georg Ludwig Starhemberg to Poland to take part in the session of the Sejm in Warsaw in order to discuss their position on Sweden, their common enemy.

Copy: BPAN Kórnik, MS 1128, fo. 94r-94v.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1643, Polen I 60, fo. 32r. The words on the margin: Ad principes Poloniae utrumque, suggest that a similar letter was sent to Prince John Casimir.

Reverendissime et serenissime consobrine et princeps carissime.

Cum magnificum fidelem mihi dilectum Georgium Ludovicum liberum baronem a Stahremberg et Schönpuhl in Bielitz, Fuchswinkel et Weisbach, meum consiliarium et utriusque principatus Schweidnicii et Iaverensis capitaneum¹ per occasionem comitorum Regni id duodecimam Februarii² proxime futuri Varsaviam indictorum ad serenissimum regem Poloniae et Sueciae consobrinum affinem et fratrem meum carissimum mitterem, collaturum cum Serenitate Sua, quae ad res contra communes hostes Suecos, bene gerendas pertinent, dedi eidem in commissis non modo, ut Dilectionem Vestram meo nomine quam amantissime salutaret, verum etiam in rebus sibi commissis opem favoris et dignationis suae demisse requireret; quem proinde ut Dilectio Vestra et plena in his fide et gratiae favorisque sui suffragio dignetur, pro solita fiducia requiro. Caeterum eidem Dilectioni Vestrae affectum consobrini amantissimi conservans, omniaque salutaria ex animo comprecans. Datum Viennae die septima Ianuarii anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo quadragesimo tertio.

Eiusdem Dilectionis Vestrae

benevolus consobrinus

Ferdinandus

¹ Georg Ludwig von Starhemberg (Stahremberg, Stahrenberg; 1602–1651), Austrian nobleman, councillor and Kämmerer of the Emperor; Landeshauptmann of Świdnica and Jawor 1637–1651; owner of properties in Silesia: Bialice (German: Bielau), Lisie Kąty (German: Fuchswinkel) and Błý Potok (German: Weissbach).

² The Sejm was in session in Warsaw from 1 February to 29 March 1643.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 18 March 1643

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Emperor Ferdinand III that envoy Georg Ludwig von Starbemberg will deliver the letter in which the King explains the reasons for not fulfilling the Emperor's expectations.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1643, Polen I 60, fos 62r–63v. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando III divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vittembergae, comiti Tirolis domino cognato, affini et fratri nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et fraterni amoris atque omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine cognate affinis et frater noster carissime.

Reddidit nobis literas¹ Maiestatis Vestrae illustris Georgius Ludovicus baro de Starhemberg principatus Svidnicensis et Iavoriensis capitaneus² Maiestatis Vestrae ablegatus summaque fide et diligentia negotia sibi a Maiestate Vestra demandata apud nos egit. Cui sicut benevolas aures prae buimus, ita optassemus pro eximia fraternae voluntatis nostrae propensione in postulatis Maiestatis Vestrae, quae semper et magni fecimus et nullam hactenus gratificandi Maiestatis Vestrae occasionem praetermisimus studium nostrumque testatissimum reddere, rebusque ipsis, cui nihil tam triste laetumque accidere potest, quod non mutua derivatione ad nos redundet, commodare. Quibus autem de causis id ipsum praestare ad praesens non potuerimus, is idem illustris baro de Starhemberg Maiestatis Vestrae ablegatus fusius exponet rationesque nostras sibi propositas, luculentius et apertius declarabit. Cui ut Maiestas Vestra in omnibus fidem habeat, responsumque hoc nostrum in bonam partem accipiat, amanter a Maiestate Vestra postulamus. De caetero cum nihil prius, nihil antiquius habeamus, quam eam negotiorum ipsius ducere rationem, quam arctissimae necessitudinis officia, gravissimaeque publicae tranquillitatis rationes

exposcunt, nihil in posterum ex parte nostra desiderari patiemur, quod ad optatum desideriorum Maiestatis Vestrae eventum pertinere intelligemus, omnesque modos inibimus et quantum in nobis est enitemur, ut re ipsa affectum nostrum Maiestati Vestrae testari possemus. Quod reliquum est Maiestati Vestrae optimam valetudinem omnemque felicitatis et gloriae accessionem a Deo precamur. Datum Varsaviae die XVIII mensis Martii anno Domini MDCXLIII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae et Sueciae XI anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater et affinis

Vladislaus rex

- ¹ The letter from Emperor Ferdinand III to Wladyslaw IV has not been found. See no. 230.
- ² Georg Ludwig von Starhemberg arrived in Warsaw on 17 February 1643.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 23 March 1643

In response to the propositions presented by Emperor Ferdinand III through envoy Georg Ludwig von Starbemberg, Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs the Emperor that he cannot make any decisions regarding the matter of the war with Sweden without the agreement of the Sejm. However, he is ready to assist the Emperor by undertaking peace negotiations together with Christian IV.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1643, Polen I 60, fos 64r–65v. Part of the seal.

Serenissime princeps domine cognate affinis uti frater noster carissime.

Quem in omni occasione benevolentissimi animi affectum propensumque et fraternum studium Maiestati Vestrae exhibere solemus, idem officii ac studii genus in his postulatis, quae nobis nomine Maiestatis Vestrae illustris Georgius Ludovicus baro de Starchemberg¹ ablegatus Maiestatis Vestrae proposuit, experiretur Maiestas Vestra, si rebus ipsius commodandi facultate aequae ac desiderium haberemus. Verum cum in his rebus pro more et instituto Regni, nihil absque scitu et consensu ordinum a nobis statui et decerni possit, quod omnes qui statum huius reipublicae calent optime norunt Maiestas Vestra pro excelso iudicio et prudentia sua ita aestimabit, nobis id ipsum praestandi sine auctoritate comitali praeclusam esse facultatem. Caeterum cum Maiestas Vestra ea familia iisque maioribus orta sit, quibus pacis et tranquillitatis publicae stabiliendae et propagandae studium caeteris omnibus incrementis potius antiquiusque fuit, ipsamque pacis studiosam sciamus, ad eam inter Maiestatem Vestram et adversarios eius conciliandam, studium et sollicitudinem nostram idque totum quicquid hoc in negotio interpositio nostra (associato in partem laboris et curarum serenissimo rege Daniae²) a nobis praestari possit, offerendum putavimus, certo sibi persuadentes Maiestatem Vestram salutaria pacis consilia non aspernaturam nostramque hanc interpositionem promptis primamque de ipsa ad praesens bene merendi voluntatem in bonam partem accepturam. Quam deinceps etiam quantum in nobis erit, posteaquam opera nostra Maiestas Vestra uti voluerit testatam faciemus, nihilque tam arduum et difficile iudicabimus, quod nobis Maiestatis Vestrae causa facile ac iucundum

videri non possit, gloriosum ducentes in iis elaborare, quae ad communem pacis atque religionis stabilitatem spectare videbuntur. Deus quam diutissime servet Maiestatem Vestram felici atque auspicatissimo imperio rem christianam administrantem, omnique gloria atque felicitate affluentem. Datum Varsaviae die XXIII Martii anno Domini MDCXXXIII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae et Sueciae XI anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater et cognatus

Vladislaus rex

¹ Georg Ludwig von Starhemberg.

² Christian IV.

No. 233

Prince John Casimir to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 26 March 1643

Prince John Casimir thanks Emperor Ferdinand III for the trust he puts in him, which can be noticed in the letter and discussions with Georg Ludwig von Starhemberg. He will present to the Emperor the difficulties he encountered during the talks with the Polish. He regrets he could not do much in the matters brought up during the talks.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1643, Polen I 60, fos 69r–70v.

Sacra Cesarea Maestà mio Signore Clementissimo.

Intesi dalla benignissima lettera¹ di Vostra Sacra Maestà, et dalla viva voce del Signor di Storemberg² quanto Vostra Maestà mi honori di confidare nella mia inviolabile fede verso i servitii della Sua Augustissima Casa. Il medesimo Signore riferirà alla Maestà Vostra quant'io li habbia havuti a cuore; ma le difficoltà, che egli (con tutta la sua prudenza) ha rincontrato in questi signori del Regno, hanno levato a me il mezzo di rendermi habile al suo, tanto da me bramato, servitio: Ne ho rincrescimento proportionato all'mio infortunio, però supplico humilmente la Maestà Vostra di credere, che resta in me sempre incessante il desiderio di poter meritare un giorno, con ragione la clementissima gratia di Vostra Maestà, con qualche effettiva espressione della servitù che le professo, ch'è il fine col quale facendo alla Sacra Maestà Vostra humilissima riverenza, prego il Signore le conceda ogni maggior felicità. Varsavia il 26 Marzo 1643.

Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea

humanissimo servitore et cognato
Giovanni Casimiro

¹ See no. 230.

² Georg Ludwig von Starhemberg.

No. 234

Prince Charles Ferdinand to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 26 March 1643

Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław and Płock, notifies Emperor Ferdinand III of receiving the letters from envoy Georg Ludwig von Starhemberg. The Prince did his best to support the imperial diplomat.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1643, Polen I 60, fos 71r–72v. Seal.

Sacra atque Serenissima Caesarea Regiaque Maiestas domine cognate clementissime.

Exhibuit mihi literas¹ Maiestatis Vestrae magnificus Georgius Ludovicus liber baro a Staremburg² legatus Maiestatis Vestrae ad praesentia comitia Regni ablegatus ex quibus optatam erga me Maiestatis Vestrae benevolentiam et constans propensae voluntatis studium perspexi. Porro in iis negotiis, quae mihi Maiestas Vestra commendata esse voluit, quantum meae vires ferre poterant contendere, ut optatis Maiestatis Vestrae responderem et legitimum fraternae erga Maiestatem Vestram fidei ac observantiae munus implerem. Caeterum hanc officii mei promptitudinem magnificus Maiestatis Vestrae legatus coram uberius exponet et ego omnem a supremo Numine Maiestati Vestrae felicitatem apprecatus Maiestatis Vestrae favori me diligentissime commendo. Datae Varsaviae die 26 Martii 1643.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

obsequentissimus nepos
Carolus Ferdinandus

¹ See no. 230.

² Georg Ludwig von Starhemberg.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 11 April 1643

Władysław IV, King of Poland, intercedes with Emperor Ferdinand III for Johann Albrecht, Count of Solms-Braunfels, who strives to regain the whole city of Butzbach together with adjoining properties.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1643, Polen I 60, fos 92r–93v. Trace of the seal.

Allerdurchlächtigster Römischer Cayser, auch zu Hungarn und Böhmen König etc. freundliche geliebtester Herr Vetter, Bruder undt Schwager. Euer Kaiserliche Majestät undt Liebden Sindt Unser freundlich Gruß undt was Wir sonst der Nahen Anverwandt unß noch mehr Liebes undt Gutes vermögen, iederzeit besser maßen bevohr. Undt entseinen sich hiedurch Euer Kaiserliche Majestät und Liebden Außer allem zweifel, was der Hoch undt Wolgebohren Unser besonders Liebe Johann Albrecht Grafe zu Solmsen¹, traff im habenden deß Gnädigst vertheilten Diplomatis zu Vollkommener Restitution seiner Gutter vor diesem gehorsambst erhalten, gestaltsamb Ihme auch folgendes sonder Weitläufigkeit sein Stamm Haus Braunfelß eingeräumet, undt zu behöriger Possession wieder eingantwortet worden. Gleichwol aber hat bey diesem die Total Restitution nicht Ihren gänzlichen Effect erreichtet, in deme derselbige zu dem durch gehenden Vierden Theile an der Stadt Butzbach², sambt zugehörigen Dorfsschafften, allß seinem VH alten Väterlichen Erbe undt noch dazu Fidei-Commiss Güttern von Herren Landt Graff George zu Hesen³ etc. nicht kommen undt gelangen mögen, vorüber auff demüthigstes sein anbringen und suchen Euer Kaiserliche Majestät und Liebden durch Seine Chur Fürstlich. Liebden zu Mayntze⁴ etc. sich Gnädigst entschloß, daß solches Theil welches in Abgebunge der übrigen Gütter nachgeblieben, gleichfalß ausgegeben, undt zu ebenmäßiger Possession, wie die ersten gebracht werden solte. Ob nun zwar in Cayserliche Gnade und beshehene Vertröstunge Er niemaln auch noch nicht einiges mißtrawen gesetzt, so hat Er doch zu schleuniger erlangung deren Vorträgliche Mittel an die handt nehmen, undt unß demüthigst ersuchen wollen, Wir geruheten durch Vermögende Intercessionales bey Euer Kaiserliche Majestät und Liebden vor Ihn dißfalß einzukommen, damit bemeltes Theil Gütter an

der Stadt Butzbach mit allen pertinenties Vorhergangerner Cayserlicher Entschließunge würcklich folgen, undt selbiges unfehlbar aus gegeben werden möge. Wann nu selbiger Grafe von Solmsen sein guttes Vertraten in gegenvertige Promotoriales gesetzt, undt Wir Ihme auch ohne diß mit Königlicher Zuneggunge wolbeigethan. Allß ersuchen und bitten Wir Euer Kaiserliche Majestät und Liebden hiemit Freundt-, Vetter-, Brüder-, undt Schwägerlich, deroselben gefasten Hoffnung in ertheilung volliger besitzung aller und ieder seiner Gütter Gnädigsten aus schlag zu ertheilen, wodurch Er wirdt zu unsersten Vermögen gegen dem Hoch Löblichen Hause von Österreich verbunden werden, wie nicht weniger Wir zu aller Freund-, Vetter-, Brüder- und Schwägerlichen Willfähigkeit, deren Euer Kaiserliche Majestät und Liebden Wir gewiß versichern, undt dieselbige sambt dem gantzen Kaiserliche Hause nebenst Verwünschung alles hohen Wolergehns undt erstrißlichen Wolständigkeit der Gnädigen Verschützung Gottes Trawlichst, Vnnst aber deroselben zu beharrlicher Freundt-, Vetter-, Brüder-, undt Schwägerlichen Affection maißigst ergeben und empfahlen. Gegeben in Warschaw den 11 Monats Tag Aprilis des MCCXLIII Jahres, Unserer Reiche deß Pollnischen undt Schwedischen in Eylften Jahres.

Euer Kaiserliche Majestät und Liebden

Affinis bruder und
schwager
Wladislaus Rex

¹ Johann Albrecht II (1599–1647), Count of Solms-Braunfels.

² Butzbach, a town in Hessen in Germany.

³ George II (1605–1661), Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt.

⁴ Anselm Casimir Wambolt von Umstadt (1582–1647), archbishop and Elector of Mainz (1629–1747).

No. 236

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 2 May 1643

Władysław IV, King of Poland, commends his secretary Lodovico Fantoni to Emperor Ferdinand III and asks the Emperor to place his trust in him.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1643, Polen I 60, fos 104r–105v. Seal.

Serenissimo Imperatore Signore fratello et cognato mio charissimo.

Si presenterà a Vostra Maestà il canonico Ludovico Fantoni¹ mio segretario, et le esprimerà alcuni miei sensi tocante li vantaggi maggiori delli interessi di Vostra Maestà, et altre satisfattioni da me desiderate. Si compiaccia di udir lo volentieri dando li piena credencia, e considerate le propositioni che sarà per far le, rispedir lo, con bone risoluzioni et accertamenti, mentre io augurando le prosperità continua resto di

Vostra Maestà

affettuosissimo fratello et cogniato

Vladislaus rex

Di Varsovia ali 2 Magio 1643

¹ Lodovico Fantoni (d. 1681), Italian singer; he came to Poland c. 1632 and became a member of the court music ensemble; priest, custos of the collegiate church of St. John the Baptist in Warsaw and canon of Warmia; royal secretary and diplomat of Władysław IV and John Casimir.

No. 237

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 3 May 1643

Władysław IV, King of Poland, informs Archduke Leopold Wilhelm that he sent his secretary Lodovico Fantoni to Emperor Ferdinand III and he assures the Archduke of his dedication to the House of Austria.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 78r-79v.

Serenissimo Arciduca Signore fratello carissimo.

Spedisco al Serenissimo Imperatore¹ il canonico Ludovico Fantoni² mio segretario di camera per rappresentarli alcuni miei sensi, che hanno per fine l'avantaggi maggiori dell'Augustissima Casa, e dell'imperio tutto, a cui ho anco incaricato il far significatione a Vostra Altezza del mio continuato amore e fraterno verso di lei, e parteciparla delle materie correnti piacciale di sentirlo volentieri e prestarli pienna fede mentre io resto.

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

Varsavia li 3 Maggio 1643

¹ Ferdinand III, see no. 236.

² Lodovico Fantoni.

No. 238

Prince John Casimir to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Baden, 13 May 1643

Prince John Casimir notifies Archduke Leopold Wilhelm that he has arrived in Baden and would like to take this opportunity to meet the Archduke. He was informed that the Archduke is away and therefore he sends assurances of his loyalty.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Kriegsakten 112 (alt 146, 147), 1–28, fos 75r–76v, trace of the seal.

Serenissimo Signore mio e fratello osservantissimo.

La mia sorte non vuole, che dopo molti anni io non habbia a rinovare quella servitù et vera fratellanza, che così in alterabile passa fra di noi mentre hora che io me ne venivo a Baden più per abbracciare et stringermi con l'Altezza Vostra che per godere la salute di queste salutifere acque, eccho che con mia somma mortificatione trovo l'Altezza Vostra partita dal che Dio sa il dolore che ne provo, per refrigerio del quale ne ho voluto sfogare la pena con questi quatro versi all'Altezza Vostra quale affettuosissimamente prego volerli ricevere, invece della mia persona che così in spirito li baccia affettuosamente le mani come faccio con la penna per mille volte all'Altezza Vostra di cui sono e sarò sempre.

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo servitore et fratello

Giovanni Casimiro

Baden¹ li 13 Maggio 1643

¹ Prince John Casimir stopped in Baden on his way to Rome, where he intended to join the Jesuit order.

No. 239

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 15 June 1643

Emperor Ferdinand III accredits Hubert Walderode von Eckhausen at the court of Władysław IV, King of Poland, as his resident and asks the King to give him a favourable welcome and hearing.

Copies: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1643, fos 133r–134v, 135r–136v.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1643, fo. 128r.

Ferdinandus tertius divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Wirtembergae, comes Tirolis, serenissimo principi domino Wladislao quarto regi Poloniae et Sueciae, magno duci Lithuaniae ac Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiaeque etc. consobrino affini et fratri nostro carissimo salutem ac mutuam benevolentiam. Serenissime princeps consobrino, affinis et frater carissime.

Ut sit per quem mutua communicationum inter nos et Serenitatem Vestram officia peragantur commode mittimus ad eandem consiliarium et secretarium feudalem nostrum honorabilem fidelem nobis dilectum Hubertum Walderode ab Eckhausen¹ residentis illic munere nostro nomine functurum, quem proinde ut benevole in negotiis sibi commissis nunc et quoties res postulaverit audire plenaque fide dignari velit, amanter requirimus. Quod reliquum est eidem Serenitati Vestrae affectum consobrini amantissimi confirmantes, felicissimos rerum omnium successus ex animo precamur. Datum in civitate nostra Viennae die decima quinta mensis Iunii anno millesimo sexcentesimo quadragesimo tertio regnorum nostrorum Romani septimo, Hungarici decimo octavo, Bohemici vero decimo sexto. Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae.

¹ Hubert Walderode von Eckhausen (d. 1665), imperial councillor; he came to Poland in July 1643 and was the King's resident until 1648.

No. 240

Princess Anna Catherine Constance to King Philip IV

Neuburg, 2 July 1643

Anna Catherine Constance, Countess Palatine of Neuburg, accredits Stanisław Małkowski, ambassador of the King of Poland, at the court of Philip IV, King of Spain, and asks the King to give him a hearing.

Original: AG Simancas, Estado leg. 2344, fo. 18.

Copy: AG Simancas, Estado leg. 2344, fo. 17.

Serenissime potentissime rex.

Scripsi Stanisłao Makoski¹ serenissimi regis Poloniae et Sueciae fratris² mei apud Catholicam Maiestatem Vestram oratori, ut eidem humillimam reverentiam meis verbis exhibeat, eaque exequatur officia, quae ipsa devotissime praestarem, si ea felicitate qua propius per matrimonium meum ad ditiones Vestrae Maiestatis accessi, contingeret me etiam in regium eiusque devenire conspectum; quod cum modo non liceat, patietur summa regia Maiestati Vestrae bonitas uti submisce deprecor, ut vices meas expleat dictus orator, eique negotia quaedam mea humillime proponat, ipsi in omnibus gratiosam audientiam plenam fidem et benignissimum favorem impartiendo, dum ego me clementissimae Maiestatis Vestrae benevolentiae ac beneficentiae animitus commendo. Neoburgi 2 Iulii 1643.

Regiae et Catholicae Maiestatis Vestrae

humillima neptis

Anna Catharina Constantia comes palatina Rhenensis

¹ Stanisław Małkowski.

² Władysław IV.

King Władysław IV to Queen Anna of Austria

[August 1643]

After receiving from Baron d'Avaugour the letters about the death of King Louis XIII, Władysław IV, King of Poland, sends Anna, Queen of France, his condolences and expresses hope that the next King, Louis XIV, will be a worthy successor of his father.

Copy: CAD La Courneuve, Correspondance politique, Pologne V, fo. 84v, fo. 85v; BNF Paris, Clair-ambault MS 387, f. 405v–406r.

Posteaquam de immaturo olim serenissimi principis Ludovici XIII¹ Galliarum regis christianissimi coniugis Maiestatis Vestrae obitu et antea ex certis rumoribus et nunc ex literis generoso Carolo barone ab Avaugour² ad nos ablegato intelleximus, non potuimus nisi graviter commoveri hoc fato tam amici et nobis illustribus officiorum ac necessitudinis nexibus coniunctissimi regis casu. Nihil ille dum vix studii nihil officii erga nos unquam praetermisit ac nos continuo sinceri amoris atque benevolentiae affectu ita complexus est, ut vicissim merito et viventi mutuis officiis respondere semper niteremur et defuncti manibus iusto animi dolore parentare debeamus. Enim vero cum ipsamet sanguinis necessitudo sic soleat suapte natura miros in animis hominum erga amicos atque cognatos amoris atque benevolentiae excitare affectus, ut aequae ipsorum ac sua laeta tristisque commoveantur fortuna, necesse est certe nos maestissimo animo ferre obitum eius principis, quo cum situm plurimae et arctissimae sanguinis atque necessitudinis intercesserunt coniunctiones. Illud tamen non mediocris solatii loco ducimus serenissimum Ludovicum XIV inclitum Maiestatis Vestrae filium in solio paterni regni locatum, ea indole atque virtute esse praeditum, qua insignem rei christianae iacturam obitu serenissimi parentis sui susceptam egregie resarciat et paternorum erga nos studiorum cursum morte interruptum clare continuet. Haec ad praesens Maiestati Vestrae testari nobis visum est, caetera supplebit ablegatus³ noster, quem hisce diebus in Galliam convocando nostrum moerorem cum Maiestate Vestra expeditivimus, divinam maiestatem precati, ut communem hunc nostrum dolorem, communibus quoque secundarum rerum accessionibus, novaquae laetitiae segete compensare velit. De caetero Maiestati Vestrae optimam et diuturnam valetudinem largiatur.

- ¹ Louis XIII, King of France, died on 14 May 1643.
- ² Baron d'Avaugour, Charles du Bois de Bretagne (1600–1657), French diplomat, colonel of cavalry; from 1629 in the French diplomatic service of Gustav II Adolf, King of Sweden. He was one of the mediators in the Polish-Swedish peace negotiations in 1635 in Sztumska Wieś (Stuhmsdorf); from 1636 the resident of France in Gdańsk. On 3 August 1643, Baron d'Avaugour came to Warsaw with the letters concerning the death of Louis XIII. From 1644 he was the representative of Louis XIV in the Swedish army, and from 1654 the French ambassador at the court of Charles X Gustav.
- ³ Domenico Roncalli (d. c. 1658), Italian clergyman, protonotary apostolic, in the service of the Polish kings from c. 1623; royal secretary, canon of Warmia, diplomat; he was the secretary of legations to Rome (1633) and Paris (1639). He left for Paris between the end of September and beginning of October 1643.

No. 242

King Władysław IV Vasa to Emperor Ferdinand III

Grodno, 19 September 1643

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand III that he has authorized his resident Francesco Bibboni to conduct discussions concerning the matters of importance to both rulers.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 60, Polonica 1636–1643, 1643, Polen I 60, fos 178r–179v.

Serenissimo Imperatore Signore e fratello mio carissimo.

Al baron Bibboni¹ mio residente ho commesso di trattar con Vostra Maestà sopra negozio che non poco mi preme per certa consideratione, che vi ho. Desidero che Vostra Maestà si compiaccia d'ascoltarlo e far buona riflessione sopra quanto a mio nome gl'esporrà, certificandola, che con farne a me desiderato piacere, stimo anche, ch'ella sarà per fare il proprio servitio, che e quanto mi occorre riportandomi nel resto al detto et a Vostra Maestà auguro ogni prosperità. Grodno li 19 Settembre 1643.

Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea

affettuosissimo fratello

et cognato
Vladislaus rex

¹ Francesco Bibboni.

No. 243

Emperor Ferdinand III to Prince John Casimir

Vienna, 7 November 1643

Emperor Ferdinand III congratulates Prince John Casimir on joining the Jesuit Order.

Copy: AS Parma, Carteggio farnesiano estero, Polonia, busta 119, f. 131.

Published: EFE XIII, no. 286, p. 85.

Honorabilis, religiose, devote, mihi dilecte, consobrine carissime.

Intellexi ex suis sub 3 proxime elapsi mensis ad me exaratis, quod Divino sic aspirante numine Societati Iesu se addixerit et huius mundi facultates dominatum atque illecebras cum paupertate, obedientia, castitate (quod solius Dei opus est) rariori exemplo commutaverit. Gratulor eidem, quod duriusculum huius vitae genus, salutis tamen proximum ad capescenda aliquando beatitudinis praemia elegerit illique se religioni associaverit, que mihi semper carissima extitit et apprime grata. Precans Divinum numen atque ex animo vovens, ut optatum confirmet feliciterque terminet, ipsum vero benignissimo affectu, uti semper, prosequor. Datum Viennae 7 Novembris 1643.

Reverentiae Vestrae

benevolus consobrinus

Ferdinandus

Prince John Casimir to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Rome, 13 December 1643

Prince John Casimir thanks Archduke Leopold Wilhelm for the letter. He is glad that he has found his calling and joined the Jesuit Order. He praises his superiors, especially Father General, who took care of him. He declares that his aim is to spend the rest of his life with the Jesuits in total dedication to the service of God. He informs the Archduke that on the day of St John the Evangelist, he will celebrate his first Mass and then be ordained a priest.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Kriegsakten 114 (alt 149, 150), 2–22, fos 89r–90v.

Serenissimo Signore mio Osservantissimo.

Acresce le consolazioni, delle quali il datore d'ogni bene colma l'anima mia, questa lettera¹ dall'Altezza Vostra, con la quale si degna non solo d'animarmi al divino servitio, ma anco accennarmi, che le sarà di gusto, sentire qualche nuova del mio ben stare. Confesso all'Altezza Vostra con ogni ingenuità, che sperimento vero quel'invito, gustate et videte guoniam svanis est Dominus, e si come godo la svanita del divino servitio, così mi doglio d'haver cominciato troppo tardi. Posso ben dire con San Agostino², vero te cognovi, vero te dilexi pulchritudo tam nova et tam antiqua. Volesse Dio, che io fusse entrato nella compagnia³ da fanciullo, e non havessi consumati tanti anni, nelle inutili vanità del mondo, che non apportano se non rimorsi di consienza, e pericoli della dannatione. Ma per venire più al particolare, riconosco il segnalatissimo beneficio, che mi ha fatto la misericordia di Dio, non solo con levarmi dal mondo, ma con condurmi a Roma, per eseguire la mia resolutione, dalla quale ogni [di più mi trovo consolato e contento; la carità, che io trovo in tutti questi padri, e massime ne miei superiori, è maggiore di quello, che io possa dichiarare. Vivo tra gl'angioli, e l'innocenza di costumi, et fervore, col quale ognuno fa a gara, di perfettionarsi, e crescere in virtù non si puo desiderare maggiore. Quello che più mi consola è il santo vecchio padre nostro generale⁴, il quale con somma prudenza, e discretione, mi rende tanto facile il servitio di Dio, che non solo non trova difficoltà da superare (si come il demonio, e la mia fragilità ingannata mi supponevano) me vedo, che il giogo di Cristo è mane. Vorrei patire qualche cosa, et havere difficoltà da superare per piacere al mio Dio, e sodisfare alle offese fatte a sua Divinia Maestà. Certmente mi

pare di vivere tra li angioli, e con mio sommo contento, stò qui in Roma, dove puo dirsi, che è tutta la compagnia unendosi nelli padri assistenti tutte le nationi le quali con vincolo di carità unite fanno vedere qual sia la forza dello spirito del nostro santo patriarca Ignatio⁵, che ha fondato la sua compagnia nella carità fraterna, e nella innocenza de costumi angelici. Questo è lo scopo de desiderii miei, passare la vita che mi resta in sanctitate et iustitia; di che trovo tanto nella comodità, e per le regole sante, e per l'osservanza, che vedo in tutti, e per gl'aiuti, che il Signore mi da, con tanti eseritii spirituali, e con ordine così esatti, di questa benedetta Casa di Dio, che non posso desiderare d'avantaggio.

Sentirà l'Altezza Vostra con gusto, per l'affetto che si degna portarmi, che io per questi rispetti, e per corrispondere, per quanto posso alle misericordie con le quali il Signore mi previene, in benedictionibus dulcedinis; che son per celebrare la prima messa, nel giorno festivo di Santo Giovanni Evangelista⁶ pigliando, in questo Santo Advento gl'ordini sacri. Veramente vorrei darmi tutto al servizio di Dio, e vorrei inseparabilemte unito col mio Signore consegnarmi tutto me stesso il cuore, e la volontà mia; lasciando di benissimo voglia, con la libertà, tutto quello che può dare il mondo, per vivere e morire col mio benedetto Giesù. Supplico con humilissimo affetto l'Altezza Vostra che si contenti aiutarmi a ringraziare Dio di tante grazie fattemi, e particolarmente, che chiamandomi al suo servizio, m'ha condotto in Roma, e insieme si degni Vostra Altezza d'impetrarmi con le sue orationi, che io corrisponda allo spirito della mia vocatione, amando il Signore e servendolo con tutte le mie forze sin alla morte; come sommamente bramo. E qui con humilissima riverenza auguro a Vostra Altezza ogni felicità, non apparente e fallace del mondo bugiardo, ma vera e soda, per la salute dell'anima e per la vita eterna. Roma li 13 di Dicembre 1643.

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

humilissimo et devotissimo servo in Christo et fratello

Giovanni Casimiro novitio della Compagnia di Giesù

¹ The letter from Archduke Leopold Wilhelm to Prince John Casimir concerning the latter's joining the Jesuit Order has not been found.

² Augustine of Hippo (354–430), saint, theologian, Doctor and Father of the Church.

³ The Jesuit Order.

⁴ Muzio Vitelleschi (1563–1645), Italian clergyman; he joined the Jesuit Order in 1583; from 1615 to 1645 he was Father General of the Order.

⁵ Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556), Catholic saint, Spanish clergyman, founder of the Jesuit Order.

⁶ 27 December.

No. 245

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Vilnius, 15 December 1643

Władysław IV, King of Poland, sends Christmas and New Year wishes to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 80r–81v. Seal.

Serenissimo Archiduca humilissimo fratello mio charissimo.

L'annuntio di ogni desiderata prosperità che con questa invio a Vostra Altezza Serenissima nelle prossime feste del Santissimo Natale et anno nuovo è così accompagnato dal desiderio incessante che tengo e fraterno delle sue felicità che giustamente mi persuado si per essere da Lei gradito; che tanto però si compiaccia, mentre io resto

di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

Di Vilna 15 Dicembre AD 1643

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 27 January 1644

Emperor Ferdinand III appeals to Władysław IV, King of Poland, to mediate in the process of returning the sum of 1585 florins, which is due to Johan Georg Strein von Schwarzenau.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1644, fo. 66.

Praeterquam quod ad iusti cuiusque magistratus officium pertinet servitium incumberet ut tuum recte atque ordine tribuatur cum ad rempublicam quoque iuvandam ornandamque tam ad mutuuum reciprocae negotiationis usum nexumque conservandum ac stabiliendum quam plurimum affert momenti servata creditis in rebus fides iustaque legitimorum nominum ad diem persolutis. Quum itaque nobis humillime exposuerit noster et Sacri Imperii fidelis dilectus Franciscus Stain¹ mercator noster imperialis aulicus Ioannem Georgium Strein de Schwarzenaw², qui divenditis rebus suis ex provincia nostra haereditaria Austriae in Regnum illud Poloniae migraret novicies mille quingentorum octoginta quinque florenorum creditorum summa ab anno inde usque supra mille sexcento quinto et vigesimo per chirographum manu sua et sigillo consignatum, sibi obstrictum esse ac partier benignum caesariae nostrae suffragationis subsidium ad facilius impetrandum non exigui istius nominis solutionem supplicabunde implovit, id ei tanto libentius impertiti quanto nobis liquidique constat, ad quas angustias res ipsius ob creditas eiusmodi summas redactae sint. Si itaque benignam Serenitas Vestra supradicti creditoris rationem habuerit et auctoritate sua apud suos interposita providerit, ut quam ceterorum ex iuris iustitiaeque praescripto consequi debebat istis sat grandis nominis solutionem eam tanto mutuuum citra ulteriora et temporis et rerum suarum dispendia consequetur atque ita speratur caesariae nostrae interpositionis fructus reapse percipiati rem nobis fecerit Serenitas Vestra gratissimam cognitoque suo nobis gratificandis studio consentanea quam pars acceptatum officium vicissitudine reponere data occasione non intermitteremus. De caetero Serenitati Vestrae constantem fratris et affinis amantissimi affectum prolixè offerentes eandem diutissime sospitem felicem ac florentem ex animo precamur. Viennae 27 Ianuarii 1644.

¹ Franz Stain.

² Johan Georg Strein von Schwarzenau.

No. 247

Queen Anna of Austria to Prince John Casimir

Paris, 30 January 1644

Anna of Austria, Queen of France, warmly welcomes the information that Prince John Casimir joined the Jesuit Order and expresses belief that their friendship will not cease.

Original: ANF Paris, Monuments historiques, K. 1311, Pologne, Archives de Jean-Casimir, no. 86. Seal.

Copy: ANF Paris, Monuments historiques, K. 1311, Pologne, Archives de Jean-Casimir, no. 88, translation into Italian.

Mon Cousin. J'ay recu pour une marque tres particuliere de Vostre bienveillance l'advis que Vous m'avez donné de la resolution que Vous avez pris de Vous donner entierement au servir de Dieu. Vous avez tousiours proffessé une si haute et rare pieté, que j'ay bien creu qu'elle ne seroit jamais satisfaicte, qu'elle n'egalasse Vostre naissance. Afin qu'ainsy qu'elle est au dessus de celles du commun, elle peust servir aux princes et aux grands de la terre et comme je croy que l'estat ou Vous estes ne diminuera de rien l'amitié, a quoy nostre proximité nous oblige. Je ne doute point que Vous ne me conservoite dans Vos saintes prieres et devotions la mesme part que Vous aurez tousiours eu l'affection de celle qui Vous prie de croire qu'elle est tres veritablement.

Vostre bonne et bien

affectionnée cousine

Anne

A Paris le XXX^{eme} janvier 1644

No. 248

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Vilnius, 9 February 1644

Władysław IV, King of Poland, thanks Archduke Leopold Wilhelm for the Christmas and New Year wishes.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 82r–83v. Seal.

Serenissimo Archiduca humilissimo fratello charissimo.

Ricevo poi nuovo segno della continuata affetione di Vostra Altezza verso di me lo annuntio di felicità inviato mi nelle feste del Santissimo Natale et anno presente, et io ne rendo le debite gratie a Vostra Altezza; non lasciando di ripregarli dal cielo le prosperità che ella istessa sa desiderarmi offerendo.

Di Vostra Altezza

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

Vilna 9 Febraio AD 1644

Queen Anna of Austria to King Władysław IV

Paris, 9 February 1644

Anna of Austria, Queen of France, expresses her gratitude to Władysław IV, King of Poland, for the condolences on the death of her husband delivered to her by his envoy (Domenico Roncalli).

Copy: BNF Paris, Clairambault MS 391, pp. 316–317. The last part of the letter (p. 317) is illegible because the manuscript folios were sewn together; the names Domenico Roncalli and Baron d'Anvaugour are mentioned there.

Tres haut, tres excellent et tres puissant Prince nostre tres cher et bon ami, bon frere et cousin.

En enovoyant vers nous une personne¹ qui Vous est tres confidente, Vous nous avez temoigné que vous prenez part a nostre juste douleur et que Vous conserveriez pour le Roy Monsieur² mon fils les mesmes affections que Vous aviez eues pour le Roy Monseigneur³ d'immortelle memoire. Nous Vous avouerons avec beaucoup de sincerité que l'office de condoléance que Vous avez accompli enver nous a soulagé nostre déplaisir nous rendant tesmoignage d'un vray parent et alié. Ce que Vous devez en eschange attendre de nous s'exprime aisement a savoir est une reciproque affection a quoy la proximité qui est entre nous, nous oblige. Qui esleverons nos enfans a la conserver envers Vous et les Vostres et en rendre des preuves aux occasions qui s'offriront. Celle de la paix generale a quoy tout prince Chrestien doit se porter faisant cognoistre a tout le monde que nous suivons les inclinations du Roy deffunct et que nous la souhaitons pour voir fleurir la Religion catholique et le nom Chrestien craint et redouté des nations barbares; il Vous sera glorieux comme tres utile d'y contribuer son [a] Paris le neuf jour de fevrier 1644. Vostre bonne soeur Anne.

^[a] *fragment of the letter is illegible*

¹ Presumably Domenico Roncalli.

² Louis XIV.

³ Louis XIII.

No. 250

Archduke Leopold Wilhelm to Prince John Casimir

Vienna, 13 February 1644

Archduke Leopold Wilhelm notifies Prince John Casimir of receiving his two letters. He expresses joy at John Casimir's novitiate and regrets that the Prince had to postpone his ordination to priesthood. In the postscript he thanks the Prince for informing him about delivering the letter to Władysław IV.

Holograph: ANF Paris, Monuments historiques, K. 1311, Pologne, Archives de Jean-Casimir, no. 98. Seal.

Reverendissimo in Cristo Padre.

Fratello amantissimo, ho ricevuto di Vostra Reverenza due carissime lettere¹, le quale se me erano di singular consolatione, prego a perdonarmi se non ho risposto prima, la cascata di Sua Maestà del Imperatore² con un cavallo, e per questo essendo alcuni giorni amalati, come ancor altri diversi negotii, me hanno impedito. Vedo di quelle di un canto la gran consolatione che ha in questo santo novitiate, del altro canto la mortificatione che sente, in dover diferir a pigliare i sacri ordini. Insin adesso Iddio li ha fatto sentir solamente le sue dolcezze, adesso ancor li vuol mandar qualche amarezza, a provarlo tanto più, se sarà forte guerriero e sotto questa sacra bandiera, non se havrà di dubitar che oteneremo vittoria contra il inimico del humano genere. Io starò continuamente aspetando [lettere] di Vostra Reverenza, per sentir il suo bono e felice stato, come ancora io li darò sempre parte del mio. Restando sempre di Vostra Reverenza

Affetionatissimo parente

e fratello insin la morte

Leopoldo Guglielmo

PS. Ringratio grandemente a Vostra Reverenza di havermi dato parte, come la mia prima lettera sia stata comunicata al Re suo fratello³; resto molto apagato di questo, mentre il nostro privato, habbia di esser solamente fra noi doi.

Vienna. Il 13 di feb[raio] 1644.

¹ See no. 244.

² Ferdinand III.

³ Władysław IV.

No. 251

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Vilnius, 21 February 1644

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Archduke Leopold Wilhelm of the victory over the Tatars.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 84r–85v. Seal.

Serenissimo Signore e fratello nostro carissimo.

Essendoci con lettere sotto li 31 del passato stata significata dal Signor castellano di Cracovia¹ nostro general dell'armi una vittoria molto considerabile, che nel precedente giorno haveva riportata del Tartaro², havendolo in modo tale rotto e disfatto senza che nel Regno habbia potuto fare ne pure una picciola preda, cosa insolita, e tanto, si per gli accidenti della battaglia come per altro che da'un corso d'anni in quà da constituir un età non se'n'è in quelle parti havuta un'altra simile, ne portiamo l'avviso a Vostra Altezza come quella che per ogni consideratione sappiamo che sarà per allegrarsene. Noi riconoscondola dalla potente mano di Dio gli ne porgiamo humilissime ringratiamenti et a Vostra Altezza desideriamo con questo ogni maggior bene. Vilna li 21 febraro 1644.

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

¹ Stanisław Koniecpolski.

² The battle in which the Polish army led by Stanisław Koniecpolski defeated the Tatars took place at Okhmativ (Polish: Ochmatów) on 30 January 1644.

No. 252

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 8 March 1644

Emperor Ferdinand III accredits Hubert Walderode von Eckhausen¹ as his resident at the court of Władysław IV, King of Poland.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1644, fo. 87r, extensive fragments of the letter are illegible.

¹ See no. 239.

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 16 March 1644

Emperor Ferdinand III congratulates Władysław IV, King of Poland, on his great victory over the Tatars.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1644, fos 66r–67v, probably a duplicate. Seal.

Drafts: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1644, fos 104r–106r.

Ferdinandus tertius divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae etc. rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Witembergae, comes Tirolis etc. serenissimo principi domino Wladislao quarto Dei gratia regi Poloniae et Sueciae, magno duci Lithuaniae ac Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiaeque etc. consobrino affini et fratri nostro carissimo salutem ac mutuam benevolentiam. Serenissime princeps consobrino affinis et frater carissime.

Quod nos Serenitas Vestra per litteras suas vigesima prima Februarii¹ proxime praeteriti Vilnae datas de praeclarissima post hominum memoriam de Tartarorum exercitu fuso profligatoque parta victora² certiores facere voluit, in eo singularem sinceram erga nos suam benevolentiam affectum agnovimus. Attulit sane is nuntius tantum nobis solatii, quantum Serenitas Vestra ex mutuo erga se affectus nostri studio facile aestimare poterit. Sicut igitur supremo illi exercituum duci Deo maximas merito laudes ac gratias, qui Serenitatem Vestram tam insigni laurea fortunare voluit agimus. Ita eidem Serenitati Vestrae tanto gratulamur impensius, quanto victoria ista barbaro illo tam feliciter profligato fuit hoste gloriosior, praepotentem Deum rite venerantes uti prosperrimorum hunc successum ad maiorem divini Numinis sui gloriam, immortale Serenitatis Vestrae decus, Polonici nominis splendorem atque universae christianae rei salutem aliis super aliis felicioribus rerum eventis propitius volens cumulet, adeoque laetitia haec tam publice quam privatim perpetua sit et sempiterna. De caetero sincerum amantissimi fratris et affinis affectum Serenitati Vestrae prolixè offerentes, eandem diutissime sospitem atque incolumem vivere exoptamus. Datum in civitate nostra Viennae die decima sexta mensis Martii anno Domini

millesimo sexcentesimo quadragésimo quarto regnorum nostrorum Romani octavo, Hungarici decimo nono, Bohemici vero decimo septimo.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

bonus affinis et frater

Ferdinandus

- ¹ The letter from Władysław IV to the Emperor dated 21 February 1644 has not been found.
- ² The battle of Okhmativ (Polish: Ochmatów), see no. 251.

No. 254

Prince Charles Ferdinand to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 24 April 1644

Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław and Płock, notifies Emperor Ferdinand III of the death of Queen Cecilia Renata, wife of Władysław IV. The other news will be presented by the royal envoy.

Copy: BPAN Kórnik, MS 1128, fo. 142.

Domine frater clementissime. Non potuit graviorem Polonia ac acerbiorem regia domus iacturam accipere quam cum serenissimam reginam sororem meam dilectissimam repentino mortis¹ ictu succisam vidit et indoluit. Ita enim eximiae pietatis et heroicarum virtutum admiratione cunctorum animos hominum pollexerat, ut tantum immaturus eius obitus doloris conciliaverit quantum praeclare gesta vita desiderii. Sed cum divina voluntas ita tulerit, ad eius normam me quoque compono et vota quibus longiorem ei mortalem vitam praecabar ad immortalis verto comprecationem. Id et Sacram Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram facturam praeclare confido et huius aegritudinis partem non solum in virtutum eius exemplo, sed et in relictæ carissimæ sobolis digna tantæ matris prole praesentissimo solatio desposituram. Haec quo meum erga Sacram Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram propensissimæ observantiae studium testarer innuere volui. Caetera generosus nomine nuntius serenissimi regis domini et fratris mei carissimi communis declarandi doloris causa missus Sacrae Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae uberius exponet. Ego interea diuturnam incolumitatem et felicissimos rerum successus apprecatus, studia et obsequia mea Sacrae Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae reverenter defero. Varsoviae 24 Aprilis 1644.

Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae

deditissimus frater et servitor

Carolus Ferdinandus

¹ Queen Cecilia Renata died on 24 March 1644 in Vilnius.

No. 255

Prince Charles Ferdinand to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

[Warsaw, 24 April 1644]

Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław and Płock, notifies Archduke Leopold Wilhelm of the death of Queen Cecilia Renata, wife of Władysław IV.

Copy: BPAN Kórnik, MS 1128, fos 142v–143r, the place and date of the letter missing. The letter has been dated the same day as the one from Prince Charles Ferdinand to Emperor Ferdinand III, see no. 256.

Serenissime archidux. Defero ad Serenitatem Vestram publicam christiani orbis et communem regiae domus iacturam ex immaturo serenissimae reginae sororis meae desideratissimae obitu¹ non vulgaris acerbitate luctus redundantem, eo sane molestior accidit votorum ac desideriorum meorum frustratio quo mutua spes in exoptanda firma ac diuturna serenissimae reginae valetitudine prolixiores et uberiores effloruerant. Et cum mortis eius nuntius ante quodammodo allatus sit, quam de adversa aegritudine rumor auditus, eo gravior animo meo doloris ac moeroris sensus obiretur. Sed dum aequalem nascendi monendique sortem in memoriam revoco, tantum ad immortalitatem serenissimae reginae gloriae ex laudatissimis virtutibus accessisse reputo, quantum ex diuturnioris vitae spatio vel cursu importuna morte detractum. Hoc igitur in eo luctu solatio furor, nec dubito Serenitatem Vestram ad divini placiti praescriptum voluntatem suam accommodaturam et communem orbitatem communis aequitate legis solatura. Sed haec generosus nomine nuntius serenissimi regis domini fratris mei carissimi uberius exponet. Cui optimam valetudinem et prosperrimos rerum successus apprecatus studia et officia mea diligenter defero. Datum.

¹ Queen Cecilia Renata, see no. 254.

No. 256

Queen Anna of Austria to King Władysław IV

Paris, 4 June 1644

Anna of Austria, Queen of France, informs Władysław IV, King of Poland, that after beginning the preparations for the departure of the French envoy to participate in the baptism of the royal couple's child she received the information about the death of Queen Cecilia Renata. Therefore, she has decided to send to Poland Count of Brégy to offer her condolences to the King.

Copy: CAD La Courneuve, Correspondance politique, Pologne V, fo. 112.

Tres haut, tres excellent et tres puissant Prince, nostre, tres cher et tres amé bon frere et cousin. Aiant eu tres agréable la preuve qui me fut faite de Vostre part et de celle de la Reyne Vostre espouse de tenir aux saintcs fonds de baptesme¹, l'enfant qui estoit attendu de sa grossesse, j'avois desia disposé le voyage de ce gentilhomme, vers Vous pour cet effect, lors que je receus de Vostre part la nouvelle de la mort de la mere² et son fruit tout ensemble et nous aurons bientost changé la joye que nous esperions, en soignant cette aliance spirituelle, a la parenté qui est si proche entre nous, a une douleur qui nous a esté grandement sensible, causé par la perte que Vous avez faite et pour Vous tesmoigner nostre desplaisir extreme, nous Vous renvoyons le seigneur de Bregy³ conseiller du Roy nostre tres honoré Sire et fils⁴ en son conseil d'estat pour en son nom, et au nostre Vous rendra nos offices de condoleances sur la rencontre d'un si desplorable accident et comme cette occasion nous donnera celle de Vous faire cognoistre nos sinceres et cordiales affections. Nous l'avons chargé de Vous expliquer plus particulièrement nos intentions sur les affaires qui se presentent et Vous assurer que nous avons en recommandations Vos interests autant que les nostres propres. C'est pourquoy nous Vous prions d'escouter favorablement ledict seigneur de Bregy et adiuster creance a toutes les choses qu'il Vous dira de nostre part, auquel nous remettant nous prions Dieu qu'il Vous ait; tres haut; tres excellent, et tres puissant prince, nostre tres cher et tres amé bon frere et cousin, en sa sainte et digne garde. Escrit le IIII juin 1644. Vostre bonne seur et cousine Anne.

- ¹ In March 1644, on behalf of Wladyslaw IV and Cecilia Renata, Domenico Roncalli, agent of the Polish King in Paris, asked Queen Anna of Austria to be the godmother of their child.
- ² Queen Cecilia Renata died on 24 March 1644 in Vilnius.
- ³ Nicolas Léonor Flesselles (1615–1689), French nobleman, Count of Brégy and Vice-Count of Corbeil en Brie; officer of the French Guard; royal councillor, diplomat; from 1644 to 1645 envoy to Poland and Sweden.
- ⁴ Louis XIV.

No. 257

Prince Charles Ferdinand to Emperor Ferdinand III

Cracow, 22 June 1644

Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław and Płock, assures Emperor Ferdinand III that he was his worthy representative at the funeral ceremony of Cecilia Renata.

Copy: BPAN Kórnik, MS 1128, fos 148r–149v.

Sacra et Serenissima Caesarea Regiaque Maiestas. Domine frater clementissime. Mihi vero nihil optabilius contingere potest quam in exequendis Maiestatis Vestrae mandatis debitum obsequii munus implere et prompto cultus ac observantiae erga Maiestatem Vestram studio defungi. Quod eo libentius in demandata Maiestatis Vestrae functione, ut iusti Maiestatis Vestrae maeroris in lugubri serenissimae reginae sororis¹ meae desideratissimae funere interpres essem, praestiti quo maioribus et sanctoribus Maiestatis Vestrae cum devotionis meae, tum mutuae necessitudinis vinculis obstringor. Deum de caetero precor, ut Maiestatem Vestram diu salvam et incolumem glorioseque imperantem servet. Cui mea obsequia reverenter defero. Cracoviae 22 Iunii 1644.

¹ The funeral of Cecilia Renata took place on 20 June 1644 in Cracow.

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Cracow, 9 July 1644

Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm to mediate in regaining the silk for the royal court. That is why he sends his representatives Giovanni Ardeni and Angela Simonelli.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 86r–87v. Seal.

Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex. Serenissimo et reverendissimo principi domino Leopoldo Wilhelmo, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae et Wirtembergae, archiepiscopo Magdeburgensi, episcopo Argentoratensi, Halberstadii et Passaviae, administratori in Murbach et Lader, comiti Tirolis, fratri et affini nostro carissimo salutem et mutui amoris omnisque felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et reverendissime princeps domine frater et affinis noster carissime.

Cum in aliis rebus tum vero in negotio direptionis mercium sericearum ad nos et serenissimam reginam et consortem nostram desideratissimam pertinentium singulare Serenitatis Vestrae studium cognoverimus non dubitamus iterum ad Serenitatem Vestram negotium hoc simulque agentes et plenipotentes nostros nobiles Ioannem Ardeni¹ salisfodinarum nostrum Wieliciensensem ponderatorem et Angelam Simonelli² dirigere. Tempus quidem erat, ut in cognati principis iudicio causa nos tantopere concernens promptiore iustitiae executione gauderet aut saltem res militaribus minibus directae in militari iterum tribunali iniquis aut inofficiosis modis distraherentur, dum variis protractionibus ac diffugiis a debito fine et prompta iuris administratione abstrahuntur. Id ne diutius patrari posset diligenter a Serenitate Vestra petimus, ut suam auctoritatem interponat, tum ad factiones, quae impedimento sunt, Caesareae Maiestati detegendas, tum ad obstacula omnia amovenda ac postremo ad iustitiam sine mora administrandam, quo nobis post tot iniurias et incommoda plene integreque aliquando satisfiat. Itaque negotium hoc nostrum iterum atque iterum Serenitati Vestrae ita commendamus, ut non diffidamus

studio et contentione ipsius et dignitatis tantae interpositione rem ex usu et voto nostro recte confieri posse et speratum finem consecuturam. Quod superest diuturnam ac felicem incolumitatem Serenitati Vestrae ex animo precamur. Datum Cracoviae die IX mensis Iulii anno Domini MDCXLIV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae XII, Sueciae vero XIII anno.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Giovanni Ardeni, Italian merchant, weighing inspector in the salt mine in Wieliczka.

² Angela Simonelli, an unidentified person.

No. 259

King Philip IV to King Władysław IV

Fraga, 15 July 1644

Philip IV, King of Spain, offers Władysław IV, King of Poland, his condolences on the death of his wife Cecilia Renata and announces the arrival of the ambassador, who will offer his condolences once more.

Copy: MZA Brno, G 140, Rodinný archiv Dietrichštejnů, inv. no. 106, karton 30, fol. 91–92.

Plurima nos ob excessum serenissimae reginae Poloniae sororis¹ nostrae carissimae ad debitum dolorem excitant. Sed illud praecipue quod Maiestas Vestra eius amissione nimia anxietate ac maximo sui desiderio afficiatur. Nec mirum sane, cum illam tot tantisque eximiis virtutibus et animi dotibus praeclaram pari amore Maiestas Vestra protegeretur. Sed in summo hoc moerore, in ingenti hac tristitia robur animi, pietas ac prudentia, quibus Maiestatem Vestram Deus optimus maximus prestanter ornavit, eo magis elucescente et iure quodam suo voluntatis propriae in divinam resignationis, insigne praestabit documentum, cum optime sciat, illud semper quod nobis praecipue convenit e summo disponere atque eidem serenissimae reginae immortalē coronam et caelestia premia ob egregia in se et in ecclesiam pietatis merita peracto huius vitae curriculo rependere voluisse. Quae fiducia omnes de eius obitu moerentes luctum debemus consolari. Ut autem dolorem nostrum omniumque solitudinem debite exponat principem in virum, qui propter expertam probitatem ceterasque generis ac prudentiae dotes Maiestati Vestrae benevolentiam et existimationem sibi merito conciliabit, oratorem² elegimus, cui integram fidem Maiestatem Vestram adhibere enixe petimus, simulque pro certo habere nos summo studio omnimodam Maiestatis Vestrae satisfactionem semper optaturos, quod gratia animi et mutuae necessitudinis officiis pro debito comprobare conabimur Deus optimus maximus Maiestatem Vestram quam diutissime servet incolumem. Datum Fragae³ 15 Iulii 1644.

Maiestatis Vestrae bonus frater et affinis

Philippus

¹ Cecilia Renata.

² King Philip IV entrusted Prince Maximilian von Dietrichstein (1596–1655) with the legation to Poland. The Prince arrived in Warsaw on 1 February 1645.

³ Fraga, a town in Spain, in the province of Huesca (Aragon).

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Ebersdorf, 29 July 1644

Emperor Ferdinand III thanks Władysław IV, King of Poland, for his efforts in attempting peace negotiations in the war in Hungary against George I Rákóczi, Prince of Transylvania. He points out that by agreeing to peace negotiations Rákóczi is only playing for time. That is why if Rákóczi, allied with Sweden, does not withdraw his army from Hungary, the King should consider the possibility of military intervention against him in order to protect the borders of his own kingdom.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1644, fos 223r–224r.

Serenissime princeps literas Serenitatis Vestrae negotium interpositionis ad effectum pacis cum principe Transilvaniae¹ ineundae concernentes accepi, ex quibus fraterni in me affectus et benevolentiae significationes ac sincera in publicam Regni Hungariae quietem et tranquillitatem studia ac desiderium uberius intellexi, quae etiam a Serenitate Vestra grato animo accipio et quidem eam haud latere arbitror, quantum ab initio horum motuum desideraverim eos placidioribus potius mediis quam armorum vi complanari, exercitusque e Regno eductos alio converti, in quorum finem omnia etiam hactenus opportuna remedia adhibere non praetermisi, atque id peto, ut Ragotius Regno alieni iuris excederet, ad sua sese reciperet atque occupata restitueret, negotium vero religionis et gravamina in comitiis tractari solita ad ea elongarentur, quibus vero ambagibus Ragotius usus sit et adhuc utatur imo quod asserverit, vi contracti foederis cum Corona Sueciae tractatus hosce non huc, sed ad ipsos universales spectare, sine dubio ablegatus Serenitatis Vestrae eidem fuse retulerit atque inde etiam ipsa intellexerit, quo in pacem animo feratur, prout certe non in eum finem potitae sunt ab illo induciae, ut tractatus eo magis promoverentur, sed ut nostros, quos armis non posset, aeris intemperie et omnium rerum penuria sensim opprimeret, videtur nunc ad interpositionem Serenitatis Vestrae confugere, et vel hoc ipso, quantum ad pacis consilia propendeat testari velle. Atqui ponderet Serenitas Vestra quod postquam huic interpositioni locus detur, Ragotius hoc quam primum in lucro ponat, quod stante hac interpositione nihil sibi a subsidiis Vestrae Serenitatis nobis ferendis et milite Polonico amplius imminere polliceri queat, ego vero et Serenitas Vestra plane nihil promittere nobis possimus, quod maiori sinceritate post

quam ante acceptatum tam interpositionem solum anguius haereret, ne et Regni Poloniae vires in se concitaret, pacis consilia amplexurus sit, nolim plane Serenitatem Vestram dubitare quantum candor et affectui suo in me augustamque domum nostram tribuam. Hoc ipso persuadeor Serenitatem Vestram nolle nec sibi nec Regno Poloniae viam ac rationes praeccludere, ultiores Ragotii tergiversationes armis compescendi atque ita a communi periculo non tam Regnum Hungariae, quam Poloniae liberandi, memor, quid in simili necessitate et Serenitas Vestra et Regnum Poloniae a gloriosissimo patre² ac praedecessore nostro luculenter experta sit, quocirca Serenitatem Vestram fraterneque requiro, ut cum praefatus princeps nullam iustam belli causam habeat, nihil ipsum donec quid amplius statuatur, iterum serio commonere ac urgere, ut depositis armis ad sua redeat, copiasque dimittat et occupata in Regno restituat difficultatesque regnicolarum in comitiis complanari permittat, cum ibi sit locus cum iisdem agendi et gravamina ipsorum, si quae habendi, tollendi. Ebersdorff 29 Iulii 1644.

¹ George I Rákóczi, (1593–1648), Hungarian nobleman, Prince of Transylvania (1630–1648). In 1643 he formed an alliance with Sweden and France and in the next year he began the war with the Habsburgs by attacking Upper Hungary. The letter from Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III concerning the peace negotiations with George I Rákóczi has not been found. It was probably written soon after the Council of the Senate which was in session from 22 to 26 June 1644.

² Emperor Ferdinand II.

King Władysław IV to Queen Anna of Austria

Warsaw, 31 October 1644

Władysław IV, King of Poland, expresses his gratitude to Anna, Queen of France, for offering him the role of the mediator in the conflict between France and the Habsburgs. However, he doubts if the Emperor will consent to this option. He suggests that the Queen should openly put forward this proposition of mediation. Next, the King extensively discusses his matrimonial plans. He believes that the best decision for him would be to marry Christina, Queen of Sweden, which would solve the problem of regaining his hereditary kingship. He informs the Queen that he is interested in marrying one of the French princesses, especially Anne Marie Louise d'Orléans. He is waiting for the portraits of the candidates. He asks the Queen to support Philip Wilhelm, Duke of Neuburg, in his dispute with Elector of Brandenburg about the Duchies of Jülich and Berg. He expresses satisfaction at the diplomatic service of Count of Brégy. He considers him a loyal servant of the Queen and asks her to send him again to Poland.

Holograph: CAD La Courneuve, Correspondance politique, Pologne VI, fos 57r–62v.

Serenissima Regina Signora sorella mia charissima.

L'amor fraterno et affettuoso di Vostra Maestà verso di me e di questa casa regia, rapresentatomi già dal mio ministro di [a] residente¹, mi è stato ora testificato a pieno in voce dal Signor di Breggi Visconte di Corbiel² con le espresioni commessele da Vostra Maestà, dopo fatale significatione della stima singulare che ne facio, le ne rendo affettissime gratie e mi acingo a diciarle in questa carta sciettamente li miei sensi, tocanti alcune propositioni fattemi dal sudetto Visconte in nome della Maestà Vostra, acciò conosca che io vado seco con ogni candore. La interpositione et arbitrio ad una pacie generale fra cotesta corona e colegati con li austriaci non sarò per ricusare, anzi vi concurerò con prontezza per tentare con straordinaria applicatione uno solievo tanto bramato alla Christianità, delle cui calamità e turbulentie tengo grande comiseratione; et in vedermi invitato da Vostra Maestà a tanto maneggio, non posso tacierle che mi è di summo piacere, ma perché dubito che li Austriaci possino essere renitenti in accetarmi per mediatore, mentre io medesimo me li offerissi, metto in considerazione a Vostra Maestà che sarebbe, a mio credere, molto a proposito che ella istessa facesse proporre a loro la mia persona, che forse in quello caso non potranno ricusarmi, et io in tanto non lasciarò di farle destramente

penetrare questi concietti, acìò venga instradato il negotio senza aparentia di conciertò, né causarle ombra veruna. Tocante poi il pasar io al nuovo maritaggio, ancor che mi sia alargato assai con il Signor Visconte, tutta volta, dico sinceramente a Vostra Maestà per la mira che avanti a ogni altra cosa derigo di ricuperare il mio regnio hereditario di Suetia, ho inclinatione in primo loco alla Principessa Christina³ designata in Regina da quelli ordini, poi che con essa lo potrei conseguire senza spargimento di sangue, et con minore difficoltà. La autorità per ciò della Maestà Vostra resti servita che vi cooperi con efficatia et ardore per mezzo di suoi vaevoli officii, et acorti ministri, prosupponendomi che, quando il negotio sia portato da doverò, possa essere considerabile a quelli ordini, poi che potendo ellino esser certi che in me et in questa Familia Regia si nutrisca particular desiderio di rihavere il posesso del usurpatoci Regnio, e che non trascuraremo occasione che ci si presenti di tentarne il riaquisto con le armi, quando li trattati non giovano; non è da dubitare che rifletterano esser atto di vera amicicia la propositione di Vostra Maestà di concedermi la sudetta principessa per consorte, per vedere senza di dispossessare questa, rinosessar me pacificamente del mio Regnio, con condizioni honeste e ragionevoli, delle quali mi contenterò che Vostra Maestà habbia il arbitrio, e ne disponga in conformità della sua prudentia, potendosi assecurare di obligar me in ciò al maggior segno, e in caso di riuscita non haverà da presupporsi che siano per riavere pregiudicio veruno li interessi di Vostra Maestà, o di cotesta corona, poi che io sarei per subentrare a le alianze che di presente si trovano havere con il Regnio di Suetia, e corisponderei con veri atti di gratitudine a tanto beneficio. Quando poi la propositione incontrase repulsa, et il negotio si cognoscesse disperato a fatto o tiratto troppo in lungo, non vollio tacere a Vostra Maestà di haver inclinatione di applicarmi al partito di una di coteste principesse fattemi proporre dalla Maestà Vostra, o sia della di Orliens⁴, che in ogni caso Vostra Maestà saperà la mente del Principe suo padre⁵, e ne haverà il consenso, o sia di una de le altre tre, de le quali tutte però starò attendendo li ritratti, per sodisfar in essi primieramente al sorriso delli ogi [sic], e sentir poi di ciascheduna specificatamente la dote, e le conditioni con le quali mi si volino dare, et ancora li vantaggi che ne possi io e la mia casa sperare da Vostra Maestà e da cotesta Corona, desiderando io in primo loco, per dir a lei liberamente, che Vostra Maestà prometta di assistermi con la propria sua autorità, et impegno di cotesta Corona di Francia, alla recuperatione del mio Regnio di Suetia, o con trattati di acordo, o con la forza delle armi, quando però saranno terminate le presenti alianze che tengono con li Suedesi, e sia fatta la pace universale

con li austriaci, in qual caso Vostra Maestà verrebbe ad esser disincurata apresso i Re [d]el mundo tutto di non esser incorsa in nota di mancamento verso li su[o]i amici, mentre haverà prima proposta alli Suedesi il partito dell'accasamento di la Principessa Christina meco, con la restituzione del Regnio al vero e legitimo Signore e da loro mancato, et io altro sì haverò satisfatto alla mia conscientia a Dio e al Mondo di non haver trascurato i mezi più facili di recuperar il mio senza spargimento di sangue o novi disturbi al Christianesimo. Rifletta Vostra Maestà, che ne la prego, con il suo summo giudicio questi mei sensi, che li saranno più difusamente espressi dal Signor Visconte suo ministro, a cui perciò ha aperto la mia mente, e li sia ricomandato anco certo negotio, che sarà per notificarle in mio nome tocante li pregiudici, che dalli holandesi, e con il braccio di essi, si vanno preparando dal elector di Brandenburgo⁶ nelli stati di Giuliors e Berg⁷, in materia di religione et interessi alla casa di Najburg, dove havendo la mia unica sorella⁸, sì strettamente a Vostra Maestà congiunta, mi sarà summamente cura che Vostra Maestà operi con la autorità sua e grande pietà, che vi siano aplicati oportunamente li necessari rimedi, e li faccia godere il suo patrocínio. Non lascio dirle in oltre di haver ricevuta satisfattione del Signor di Bresi⁹, per haverlo scorto degno ministro di Vostra Maestà di molta acortezza e desiderio di ben servire alla Maestà Vostra, e mi sarà grato che elli istesso mi venga spedito di novo da Vostra Maestà, per il tempo della futura dieta di questi mei stati, con le risposte assicurando Vostra Maestà che sarò per tener suspeso in tanto ogni altro partito che mi potessi esser proposto.

Ratifico in ultimo a Vostra Maestà il mio costante e corrispondente amore fraterno et affetuoso, e pregandole da Dio la continuatione di felici avvenimenti resto per sempre

di Vostra Maestà

affetionatissimo fratello

Vladislaus Rex

PS. Occorendo a Vostra Maestà per farmi saper qualche cosa in asenza del Signor Visconte potrà servirsi securamente del Signor Marszalko della mia corte, il Kasanowski¹⁰.

Di Varsovia

31 Octobre Anno 1644.

^[a] *the word is illegible*

- ¹ Domenico Roncalli.
- ² Nicolas Léonor Flesselles, Count of Brégy and Vice-Count of Corbeil.
- ³ Christina Vasa, Queen of Sweden.
- ⁴ The French candidates for Władysław IV's wife were: Anne Marie Louise d'Orléans (1627–1693), Marie de Lorraine (1615–1688), Duchess of Guise, and Marie Louise Gonzaga (1619–1667), Duchess of Nevers.
- ⁵ This probably refers to Gaston d'Orléans (1608–1660), father of Anne Marie Louise.
- ⁶ Frederick Wilhelm I (1620–1688), Elector of Brandenburg from 1640.
- ⁷ Duchies of Jülich and Berg.
- ⁸ Anna Catherine Constance, wife of Philip Wilhelm von Neuburg.
- ⁹ Count of Brégy.
- ¹⁰ Adam Kazanowski.

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 26 November 1644

Władysław IV, King of Poland, reminds Archduke Leopold Wilhelm that a few weeks ago he sent to Emperor Ferdinand III his secretary Lodovico Fantoni in order to present his request to exchange the property of Wittingau (Třebon) for the Duchy of Opole and Racibórz. The aim of this exchange is to secure future income for his son Sigismund Casimir. He asks the Archduke to intercede again with the Emperor in regard to this matter. Francesco Bibboni, his resident in Vienna, can be contacted if need be.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 88r–89v.

Serenissimo Arciduca Signore fratello mio carissimo.

Di qual premura sia a me il veder accomodato il Principe mio figlio¹ l'haverà Vostra Altezza inteso le settimane addietro dalla viva voce del canonico Fantoni² mio segretario di camera che per tale effetto spedii a cotesta corte imperiale; richiese egli in mio nome in concambio della signoria di Wittingau³ li Ducati di Oppolia e Ratibor⁴ in feudo per me e per mio figlio con i nostri discendenti, e Vostra Altezza con il solito dell'amoroso suo affetto fraterno vi cooperò con efficacia, come l'istesso canonico mi riferi, ne io potevo prosupormi altrimenti, per la corrispondenza equiparata che ne le professo. Le convenienze e l'avantaggi i rimostrati per l'interessi di Vostra Maestà Cesarea⁵ non furono bastanti a riportar il compimento del mio desiderio, che si volse prender tempo a darne parte, et haverne il consenso dall'ordini di quei ducati (ancorché ciò non seguisse in altri tempi, et in specie quando furono concessi al Bethlem Gábor⁶ all'arciduca Carlo⁷ che sia in cielo, et al moderno imperatore⁸ prima di essrere re di Boemia) [88v] per non pregiudicarli nelli loro privilegi. Io a tal risposta mi acquietai, ne resi gratie a Vostra Altezza dell'operato in ciò per farlo poi compita l'opera; ma vedendo che l'indugio è lungo e che non misi dà l'ultimata risoluzione scrivo al Serenissimo Imperatore per intenderla, e prego Vostra Altezza di nuovo a voler insistere nel negotio con l'autorità sua, acciò ne fortiscano l'effetti desiderati, quali mi giova sperare, se si lasciaranno correre liberamente li voti nell'accennati ducati, essendo che quei popoli in negotio che non puole che partorire buoni successi al servizio di Sua Maestà Cesarea, et utile a loro medesimi, non saranno al certo contrarii, anzi vi

concorreranno prontamente. Al baron Bibboni mio residente mi riporto in quel di più le potrà rappresentante in mio nome, e Vostra Altezza dimostri in questo particolare la continuatione dell'animo suo fraterno et affettuoso verso di me e del Principe mio figliuolo e suo nipote, che ne sarà sempre corris posta a pieno, e resto intanto

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

Varsavia li 26 Novembre 1644

¹ Prince Sigismund Casimir.

² Lodovico Fantoni came to the imperial court in the second half of August 1644 and submitted the King's document concerning the exchange of the property of Wittingau for the Duchy of Opole and Racibórz.

³ Třeboň (German: Wittingau), a town in the southern Czech Republic. In 1637 Władysław IV received the property of Wittingau from Ferdinand III as security for the unpaid dowry sums of archduchesses Anna, Constance and Cecilia Renata as well as the loans to the Emperor.

⁴ The Duchy of Opole and Racibórz.

⁵ Ferdinand III.

⁶ Gábor Bethlen, Duke of Opole and Racibórz from 1622 to 1625.

⁷ Archduke Charles, bishop of Wrocław, was Duke of Opole and Racibórz from 1623 to 1624.

⁸ Emperor Ferdinand III was Duke of Opole and Racibórz from 1624 to 1645.

No. 263

King Władysław IV to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm

Warsaw, 10 December 1644

Władysław IV, King of Poland, sends Christmas and New Year wishes to Archduke Leopold Wilhelm.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Familienkorrespondenz A, Karton 49, fos 90r–91v. Seal.

Serenissimo Archiduca Signore fratello mio amantissimo.

Novi testimonii del animo mio affetuoso e fraterno vengono a Vostra Altezza per inizio di questa carta, quale li porta li augurii delle feste prossime del Natale Santissimo et anno novello felicissime; gradisca Vostra Altezza il officio e media segni di con amor mi mentre resto.

Di Vostra Altezza

affettuosissimo fratello

Vladislaus rex

Varsovia 10 di Dicembre AD 1644

No. 264

Prince Charles Ferdinand to Emperor Ferdinand III

Myszków, 9 February 1645

Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław and Płock, requests that Emperor Ferdinand III prolong the privilege guaranteeing duty-free transportation of Edenburger wine from Hungary to Poland.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1645, fos 18r–19v.

Allerdurchlächtigster Großmächtigster Römischer Kaiser, Auch zu Hungarn und Böhaimb König, Allergnedigster Herr und Vetter.

Euer Kaiserliche Majestät seindt meine Unterhänigst: gehorsambste Vetterliche dienste iederzeit zuvor. Euer Kaiserliche Majestät hab ich demüttigst erinnern wollen, waß massen Sie für diesem ein fünffähriges Priuilegium Kraft desen ich hundert Vaß mit allerhandt Weine ganz Zohlfrey hab anhero abführen lassen mögen, mir gnedigst ertheilet. Weile nun mit außgang dero albereits verflossenen Jahren, ietzt erwehtes Priuilegium in sich ganz Kraftenloß worden. Als wolte ich abermahlen Euer Kaiserliche Majestät hiemit unterthänigst gebethen haben, selbige geruhen mich mit einem gleichförmlichen in patenti, wenigst auf zehen Jahren sich erstverkemden Priuilegio mich zuerfreuen, undt so wohl Edenburger: als Ungrische von mir erkaufte Wein Zoll und Mauthfrey in Pohlen zuführen, mir vor diesen geschehen, gnedigst zuerwilligen. Walliche gnad mit meinen gehorsambsten Vetterlichen diensten zuvergelten Ich Zeit lebens mir werde angelegen sein lassen. In dero Hochkayserl. Hulden mich Unterthänigst ergebandt. Datum Mischkow¹ den 9 February A. 1645.

Euer KaiserlicheMajestät

Unterthenigster und gehorsamb
Euer Vetter
Carl Ferdinand

¹ Myszków, a town in Poland, currently in Silesian Voivodship.

No. 265

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 17 February 1645

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand III of giving an audience to Prince Maximilian von Dietrichstein.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1645, fos 22r–23v. Seal.

Aller Durchläuchtigster Römischer Kayser, auch zue Hungarn undt Böhmeimb König etc., freundlich geliebtester Herr Vetter, Bruder undt Schwager. Waß in Nahmen undt wen wegen Euer Kaiserliche Majestät undt Liebden Wie der Hochgebohren Herr Maximilian Fürst von Dietrichstein zue Nikloßburg, Erbschenck in Cärntnen, Ritter deß Guldenen Flueß, Euer Kaiserliche Majestät undt Liebden Rhat¹ etc., so woll mündt-, alß schriftleich vor undt angebracht, daß habe Euer Kaiserliche Majestät undt Liebden begehren nach, Ich gar gerne angehoret. Undt nach dem mit Euer Kaiserliche Majestät Liebden Ich Ihme Fürsten von Dietrichstein hinwiederumb neuest undt anders zue conferiren gnädigst aufgetragen; Alß hiemit Mein Freundt-, Vetter-, Brüder- undt Schwägerlichen ersuchen und bitten Euer Kaiserliche Majestät undt Liebden wolen Ihme Fürsten von Dietrichstein, nicht allein gutwillig anhören undt vernehmben, sondern auch sich in alle wege Meine Freudt-, Vetter-, und Schwägerlichen affection unfehlbahrlich versichert halten. Dero ich dabey mit alle Freundschaft und sonderlich geneigtem, Vordeist wolbeygethan verbliebe. Warschau am XVII Monatstage February, deß MDCXXXV Jahrß.

Euer Kaiserliche Majestät undt Liebden

affe. Bruder und
Schwager
Wladislaus Rex

¹ Prince Maximilian von Dietrichstein (1596-1650), Austrian nobleman, Kämmerer, Lord Chamberlain (Obershofmeister) and secret councillor of Emperors Ferdinand II and Ferdinand III, a knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece. He arrived in Poland at the end of January 1645 as an extraordinary ambassador of Philip IV, King of Spain. See no. 259.

No. 266

King Władysław IV to King Philip IV

Warsaw, 16 March 1645

Władysław IV, King of Poland, calls on Philip IV, King of Spain, to order Viceroy of Naples and other civil servants to pay him out the overdue interest from the income in this kingdom.

Original: BU Warsaw, MS 63, fo. 62r–63v, probably a copy. Seal.

Serenissimo principi Philippo quarto Dei gratia Castellae Legationis, Aragonum utriusque Siciliae, Hierusalem, Portugaliae et Navarrae et Grenadae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae et Habsburgi, comiti Flandriae et Tirolis, fratri et affini domino carissimo Vladislaus quartus Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaequae nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex, salutem et fraterni amoris continuum incrementum. Serenissime princeps frater et affinis noster carissime.

Sperabamus quod Maiestatis Vestrae bini oratores¹ ad nos missi, confirmarunt et polliciti sunt nos absque omni difficultate aut excusatione proventibus nostris e Regno Neapolitano, aliisque desideriis nostris potituros fuisse. Sed cum longe aliter rem se habere, parvoque fructu, nuntium nostrum ad aulam Maiestatis Vestrae immorari intelligamus, non possumus id, non paulo aegrius ferre, quod a ministris Maiestatis Vestrae tam grave iuri nostro praeiudicium creetur ac postulata nostra praetereantur. Ut id autem Maiestatis Vestrae scitu vel imperio agant, nequaquam credimus. Quam cum aliis fraternis officiis, tum hoc, quod iure successionis ac hereditatis nos concernit, quaeque nobis ultro promiserit, libenter gratificari velle, certo nobis persuademus. Proinde officium istud, tanto ferventius praesentibus literis Maiestati Vestrae in memoriam revocamus, quanto maiora ac inusitata nos experturos ac relatuos confidebamus. Iniungat igitur Maiestas Vestra tam illustrissimo proregi² Neapolitano quam aliis procuratoribus, ut imposterum proventus isti nobis a maioribus nostris iure naturali successionis relictis et consignati, stato tempore dum absque quibusvis dilationibus extradantur ac represententur atque ita nuntii nostri laetioribus quam hactenus, literis occasionem habeant id appellandi. Quod Maiestatem Vestram respectu cognitionis nostrae ipsiusque aequitatis,

serio ac effectu facturam nobis certo pollicemur. Quam diutissime ac felicissime regnare cupimus, nostrumque Maiestati Vestrae fraternum affectum contestamur. Datum Varsaviae die XVI mensis Martii anno Domini MDCXLV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae et Sueciae XIII anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Count of Solre and Alonso Vázquez, abbot of Santa Anastasia.

² Juan Alonso Enríquez de Cabrera (1594–1647), Duke of Medina de Rioseco; admiral of Aragon; Viceroy of Sicily (1641–1644) and Naples (1644–1646).

No. 267

Prince Charles Ferdinand to King Philip IV

Brok, 28 July 1645

Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław and Płock, commends Ioannes Baptista de Willembrock to Philip IV, King of Spain. He aims to join the Military Order of Saint James of the Sword.

Copy: BPAN Kórnik, MS 1128, fo. 185r.

Serenissime et catholicissime rex. Inter eos qui regiae domui meo ab ineunte aetate fidelis obsequii operam navarunt, non postremum sibi vindicat locum nobilis Ioannes Baptista de Willembrock¹ generis splendore tum eximiis ac bene de Maiestate Vestra merendum dotibus ornatus. Cum igitur ad amplissimum Sancti Iacobi ordinem, qui crucis decus et insignia praefert annuente Maiestatis Vestrae favore promoveri cupiat, honestissimo illius voto mea apud Maiestatem Vestram subscribendum esse duxi commendatione. Favebit Maiestas Vestra homini cum praestantibus in regiam domum meam meritis conspicuo tum bellicae laudis studio flagranti et Maiestati Vestrae perpetuo studiosissimi obsequii cultu mancipando. Quod reliquum est diuturnam valetudinem et prosperrimos rerum omnium successus Maiestati Vestrae ex animo precor. Brocovi² 28 Iulii 1645.

Eiusdem catholicissimae Maiestatis Vestrae
benevolus cognatus et servitor
Carolus Ferdinandus

¹ An unidentified person.

² Brok, a town in Poland, currently in the Mazowieckie Voivodship; it was a summer residence of bishops of Płock.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 3 August 1645

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Emperor Ferdinand III of his marriage with Louise Marie, Princess of Mantua and Duchess of Nevers; he invites the Emperor's representative to the wedding, which will take place on 15 October in Gdańsk.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 87, Polonica 1554.04–1848, fos 109–110. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando III divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Scлавoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, domino cognato affini et fratri nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et fraterni amoris atque omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps domine cognate, affinis et frater noster carissime.

Post illud sacrosanctum regalis nostri connubii foedus, quod anno praeterito dolenda fatorum acerbitas inter nos et olim serenissimam Ceciliam Renatam¹ sororem Maiestatis Vestrae consortem vero nostram desideratissimam restrinxerat, venit iterum ipsa supremi numinis voluntate ac Regni nostri voto ea mens, ut orbatam socia regnatrice dexteram novo copularemur consortio. In quo dum deliberando haeremus, contemplamurque quam potissimum e christianis principibus in partem huius felicitatis legeremus, flexit e vestigio divina bonitas, quem auctorem huius connubii veneramur et agnoscimus mentem nostram ad serenissimam Ludovicam Mariam principem Mantuae ducem Nivernensium². Hanc igitur senatu amplissimo et universis Regni incolis assentientibus throni atque thalami regii adeoque omnis fortunae participem facere volentes diem XV mensis Octobris anni praesentis his auspiciis nuptiis Gedani celebrandis designavimus³. Quas ut Maiestas Vestra pro fraterno suo in nos amore fulgore dignitatis suae illustrare, praesentiaque legati sui adornare velit amanter postulamus, pollicemurque omnia vicissim officia, quae a nobis ad testandam benevolentiam vestram et propensissima erga Maiestatem Vestram studia proficisci

poterunt libenter exhibituros. De caetero Maiestatem Vestram diu salvam et incolumem omnique felicitate affluentem vivere ex animo vovemus. Datum Varsaviae die III mensis Augusti anno Domini MDCXLV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae XIII Sueciae vero XIV anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater et cognatus

Vladislaus rex

¹ Queen Cecilia Renata died on 24 March 1644.

² Louise Marie (Marie Louise) Gonzaga (1611–1667), daughter of Charles I Gonzaga, Prince of Mantua and Duke of Nevers and, Catherine Mayenne-Lorraine-Guise; the proxy marriage of Louise Marie and Władysław took place on 5 November 1644 in Paris.

³ The date and place given by the King were changed. Louise Marie arrived in Gdańsk on 11 February 1646, and the wedding took place on 10 March in Warsaw.

King Władysław IV to Empress Maria Anna

Cracow, 3 August 1645

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Empress Maria Anna of his marriage with Louise Marie, Princess of Mantua and Duchess of Nevers; he invites the Empress's representative to the wedding, which will take place on 15 October in Gdańsk.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1645, fos 131–132. Seal.

Serenissimae et excellentissimae principi dominae Mariae divina favente clementia electae Romanorum imperatrici semper augustae ac Germaniae, Ungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae reginae, archiducissae Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Vitembergae, comitissae Tirolis natae Hispaniarum, infanti dominae sorori et cognatae nostrae carissimae Vladisalus quartus Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissima et excellentissima princeps domina soror et cognata nostra carissima.

Pro eo amore quo erga Maiestatem Vestram tot vinculis cognationum et sanguinis nexibus nobis obstrictam ferimur, nihil in omnibus benignioris fortunae laetitii ita carum habemus, quod non Maiestati Vestrae matura significatione communicemus. Postquam ergo divina ordinante bonitate, quae disponit omnia suaviter ad quaerendam vitae et sceptrisariam legendamque prae aliis serenissimam Ludovicam Mariam principem Mantuae et Nivernensium ducem¹ animum nostrum fleximus, mature de ea significare Maiestati Vestrae voluimus, ut et affectum nostrum quo Maiestatem Vestram prosequimur, testemur, et eandem praesentis felicitatis nostrae participem reddamus. Quibus auspiciis nuptiis cum diem XV mensis Octobris anni praesentis Gedani² peragendis destinaverimus peramanter a Maiestate Vestra petimus, velit hunc actum laetitiae nostrae nominis sui splendore illustrare, praesentiaque legati sui exhilarare, qua volutatis suae testificatione magnopere nos Maiestas Vestra devinxerit gratumque benevolentiae suae documentum in eo posuerit. De caetero Maiestati Vestrae longaevam et diuturnam valetudinem ex animo precamur. Datum Varsaviae die III

mensis Augusti anno Domini MDCLV regnorum nostrorum Poloniae XIII
Sueciae vero XIV anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Louise Marie Gonzaga, see no. 268.

² Louise Marie arrived in Gdańsk on 11 February 1646, and the wedding took place on 10 March in Warsaw.

No. 270

Emperor Ferdinand III to Prince Charles Ferdinand

Sankt Pölten, 28 August 1645

Emperor Ferdinand III requests that Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław and Płock, represent him at the wedding ceremony of Władysław IV and Louise Marie Gonzaga, which is to take place on 15 October in Gdańsk.

Copy: BPAN Kórnik, MS 1128, fo. 196.

Ferdinandus tertius divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus. Reverendissime et serenissime consobrine et princeps clarissime. Cum nobis serenissimus princeps dominus Vladislaus IV Poloniae et Sueciae rex consobrinus affinis et frater noster amantissimus amanter significasset se in novam serenissimam coniugem Ludovicam Mariam et Mantuae ac Nivernii¹ principibus sibi delegisse, simulque ad nuptiarum festivitatem 15 Octobris proxime instantis Gedani² celebrandam nos invitasset, optandum sane nobis erat, ut vota Serenitatis Suae adimplere coramque novis nuptiis rite apprecari nobis licuisset. Verum cum id nobis solatii non locorum modo intercapedo, sed et ipsa temporum iniuria vel angustia eripiat, proximum erat, ut vices nostras in personam Serenitatis Suae quam gratam conferremus. Quo quidem nomine cum Dilectione Vestra facile primum inter omnes locum apud Serenitatem Suam teneat, nos de summo quoque suo in nos benevolentiae affectu confisi eandem amanter requirimus, ut acceptis riteque traditis appositis fiduciariis vel serenissimo regi fratri suo vel nobis hoc dare ac nomine nostro celebritati illis nuptiali adesse, iisque omnibus quae in eiusmodi munere requiri possunt partibus rite perfungi velit. Erit id nobis longe quam gratissimum, qui vicissim Dilectioni Vestrae omnem benevolentiae affectum ex animo confirmamus. Datum in civitate nostra sancti Hyppoliti³ die 28 Augusti anno MDCXLV regnorum nostrorum Romani nono, Hungarici vigesimo, Bohemici vero decimo octavo.

Eiusdem Dilectionis Vestrae bonus consobrinus

Ferdinandus

¹ Louise Marie Gonzaga, see no. 268.

² Louise Marie arrived in Gdańsk on 11 February 1646, and the wedding took place on 10 March in Warsaw.

³ Sankt Pölten (Latin: Cetium, Fanum Sancti Hippolyti), a town in Lower Austria.

No. 271

Prince Charles Ferdinand to Emperor Ferdinand III

Jazdów [September 1645]

Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław and Płock, thanks Emperor Ferdinand III for making him the Emperor's envoy at the wedding ceremony of Władysław IV and Louise Marie.

Copy: BPAN Kórnik, MS 1128, fos 196v–197r. The date of the letter is missing.

Sacra ac Serenissima Caesarea Regiaque Maiestas domine frater clementissime.

Nihil mihi gratius et ad sinceræ voluptatis sensum iucundius accidere potest, quam in suscipiendis ac exequendis Sacrae Caesarae Maiestatis Vestrae mandatis¹ debitum obsequii et officii suppetentibus occasionibus munus implere. Qua propter quod in appetentium serenissimi Poloniae et Sueciae regis fratris mei carissimi cum serenissima Ludovica Maria Mantuae et Nivernii² principe celebritate nuptiarum meam Sacrae Caesarae Maiestatis Vestrae in testificanda communi laetitia ac votis serenissimis sponsis rite nuncupandis operam desideret, libens ac volens in id incumbam, nullum ut in ea functione nomine Sacrae Caesarae Maiestatis Vestrae obeunda amantissimi studii ac officii genus praetermittam. Cui prosperrimam cum felicissimo imperii incremento valetudinem apprecatus obsequia mea devo-
veo. Datum Iazdae³.

Sacrae Caesarae Maiestatis Vestrae

deditissimus frater et servitor

Carolus Ferdinandus

¹ See no. 270.

² Louise Marie Gonzaga.

³ Jazdów (Ujazdów), previously a village near Warsaw with a summer palace of Polish kings, currently part of Warsaw.

Prince Charles Ferdinand to Empress Maria Anna

Wyszków, 23 October 1645

Prince Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław and Płock, thanks Empress Maria Anna for making him the Empress's envoy at the wedding ceremony of Władysław IV and Louise Marie.

Copy: BPAN Kórnik, MS 1128, fols 198v–199r.

Sacra ac Serenissima Caesarea Reginalisque Maiestas domina cognata et soror clementissima.

Veterem Sacra Caesarea Maiestas Vestra et arctissimis firmatam vinculis fovet necessitudinem, cum novo serenissimi Poloniae et Sueciae regis¹ cum serenissima Ludovica Maria Mantuae ac Nivernii principe² connubio constantissime favet. Hoc vero demum est constanter ac sincere ius et nomen amicitiae tueri nusquam eius colendae firmiorisque reddendae studium deponere. Qua propter cum in appetentium celebritate nuptiarum meum Sacra Caesarea Maiestas Vestra studium ac officium in declaranda communi laetitia fructuque votorum serenissimis sponis rite nuncupando elucere cupiat libens ac volens enitar meam, ut Sacrae Caesareae Maiestati Vestrae testatam in eo munere reddam observantiam et propensissimae Maiestatis Vestrae erga regiam domum voluntati promptissimo officio ac obsequio respondeam. Cui prosperrimam valetudinem cum felicissimo imperii incremento apprecatus obsequia mea devoveo. Viscoviae³ XXIII Octobris 1645.

Sacrae Caesareae Maiestatis Vestrae

addictissimus frater et servitor

Carolus Ferdinandus

¹ Władysław IV.

² Louise Marie Gonzaga.

³ Wyszków (Latin: Viscovia), a town in Poland, to the north-east of Warsaw.

King Philip IV to King Władysław IV

Madrid, 28 February 1646

Philip IV, King of Spain, thanks Władysław IV, King of Poland, for the invitation to his wedding with Louise Marie Gonzaga. He received the information about the wedding before ambassador Stanisław Małkowski delivered to him the letter from the King.

Fair copy: AG Simancas, Estado leg. 2471, s. f., office note: Madriti die XXVIII mensis february 1646. Regi Poloniae cum Henrico Telleri.

Prius quam Maiestatis Vestrae litterae ab eiusdem apud nos residente oratore Stanislao Macosqui¹ praeteritis diebus redditae fuissent, quibus nos de regni cum domina Ludovica Gonzaga Mantuae et Nivernensium² principe contrahendis nuptiis certiores reddere voluit, pervenerat vulgata eius rei fama ad nostras aures. Eo accepto nuntio ditionum nostrarum Belgicarum praefecto generali marchioni de Castel Rodrigo³ in mandatis dederamus, ut devotum nostrum fidelem dilectum Henricum Tellerum⁴ canonicum in praefatis provinciis agentem, virum non minus prudentia quam aliis conspicuis dotibus praeditum, eoque nomine nobis inprimis carum ad Maiestatem Vestram nomine nostro ad hoc ablegaret, ut conceptum nostrum ex eo animi gaudium significaret, quod Maiestas Vestra praefatam dominam Nivernensium principem in regalis sceptri ac thalami sociam elegisset, eam nimirum cuius praeclarae et singulares naturae et animi virtutes et ornamenta regio Maiestatis Vestrae connubio condigne collocantur. Cum igitur praefatus Tellerus praesentium exhibitor pro iniuncto sibi iam pridem munere fusius Maiestati Vestrae sit expositurus quantum laetitiae ad nos redeat ex omnibus iis, quae Maiestati Vestrae grata esse et ad maiorem eius prosperitatem conducere possunt et potissimum quae ad Maiestatis Vestrae solamen regnorumque ipsius felicitatem pertinere, nobisque antiquius nihil aut optabilius esse quam ut id pro intercedentibus utrimque amoris ac sanguinis nexibus reipsa commonstrare possimus iis prolixius significantis superdedimus, id solum a Maiestate Vestra postulantes, ut praefato Telleri in omnibus, quae hanc in rem expositurus est omnimodam fidem tribuere velit. Caeterum erit nobis periucundum, si de prospera Maiestatis Vestrae valetudine quae assidue peroptamus nuntia retulerit, easque occasiones praebuerit quibus Maiestati Vestrae fraternum et amicum nostrum complacendi studium magis in dies magisque patefacere possimus.

- ¹ Stanislaw Mąkowski.
- ² Louise Marie Gonzaga.
- ³ Manuel de Moura y Corte Real (1590–1651), 2nd Marquis of Castel Rodrigo; a Portuguese in the Spanish service, ambassador of Spain in Rome (1632–1642), Governor of the Southern Netherlands (1644–1647).
- ⁴ Enrique Teller (Henry Taylor; 1602–1662), English librarian of Count of Gondomar, ambassador of Spain in London (1613–1622); next, diplomat at the court of Brussels.

No. 274

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

Vienna, 30 April 1646

Emperor Ferdinand III renews his accreditation to Hubert Walderode von Eckhausen¹ as his resident at the court of Władysław IV, King of Poland.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1646, fo. 39. Extensive fragments of the letter are illegible.

¹ See no. 239 and no. 252.

No. 275

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Niepolomice, 27 July 1646

Władysław IV, King of Poland, accredits Francesco de Magni, Count of Strassnitz, as his envoy at the court of Emperor Ferdinand III. The King requests that the Emperor give him a hearing.

Holograph: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1646, fols 99r–100v.

Serenissimo Imperatore Signore fratello mio charissimo.

Dopo li officii publici passerà il Conte di Strassnic¹ il gentiluomo di camera mia a trattare con Vostra Maestà alcuni particolarità che riguardano il publico beneficio della Christianità, di cotesta sua Imperial Casa, e di questa mia regia ancora, piaciali però di sentirlo volentieri e con le risoluzioni proportionati alli disegni faccia apparire in effetti li segni della sua ben cognoscita pietà et dal affetto che porta a me et alla mia casa e pregando le felicità resto di Vostra Maestà. Di Niepolomice² 27 di Julio AD 1646.

affettuosissimo fratello e cognato

Vladislaus rex

¹ Francesco de Magni (Franz/František Magni or Magnis; 1598–1652), Count of Strassnitz (Czech: Strážnice), Bohemian nobleman, from a family in Lombardy, military commander in the imperial army (Field Marshal from 1644); in 1628 he became the owner of extensive properties in Strážnice in Moravia and in 1635 the Emperor conferred upon him the title of Count of these properties; diplomat in the service of Emperor Ferdinand III and Władysław IV; plenipotentiary (Landeshauptmann) of the Duchy of Opole and Racibórz (1646–1649); his wife Johanna Franziska Priska Pergau from Pergu was the maid-in-waiting at the court of the Polish Queens Cecilia Renata and Louise Marie Gonzaga. His brother was famous Capuchin Father Valerian Magni.

² Niepolomice, a town in Poland, to the east of Cracow; the castle located there was a summer and hunting residence of Polish kings.

No. 276

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Cracow, 3 August 1646

Władysław IV, King of Poland, sends to Emperor Ferdinand III his envoy Francesco de Magni, Count of Strassnitz, in order to discuss matters of importance concerning the situation in both countries as well as other Christian countries in Europe.

Copy: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1646, fo. 112.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando III divina favente clementia electo, Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis, cognato, affini uti fratri carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et mutui amoris atque felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps cognate, affinis, uti frater noster carissime.

Illustris Franciscus Magnis comes in Strasnitz¹ mittitur a nobis ad Sacram Caesaream Maiestatem Vestram in iis negotiis, quae non solum salutem Regnorum nostrorum, sed Imperii Romani atque adeo totius christianitatis incolumitatem et fortunam concernunt. Dabit Maiestas Vestra in omnibus fidem praefato comiti eamque sollicitudinem nostram, quam publico bono impendere volumus, propriis sublevabit curis atque conatibus. Cui de reliquo optimam valetudinem et faustos votorum omnium eventus ex animo precamur. Datum Cracoviae die III mensis Augusti anno Domini MDCXLVI regnorum nostrorum Poloniae XIV Sueciae vero XV anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater et cognatus

Vladislaus rex

¹ Francesco de Magni, Count of Strassnitz, see no. 275.

Emperor Ferdinand III to King Władysław IV

8 September 1646

Emperor Ferdinand III expresses his gratitude to Władysław IV, King of Poland, for the information on the King's plans delivered to him by Francesco Magni. He will continue peace negotiations concerning the whole Empire.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1646, fos 136r–137v. Office note: 8 Septembris 1646.

Ferdinandus tertius divina favente clementia electus Romanorum imperator semper augustus ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae etc. rex, archidux Austriae, dux Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carintiae, Carniolae et Vitembergae, comes Tirolis etc. serenissimo principi domino Wladislao quarto regi Poloniae et Sueciae, magno duci Lithuaniae ac Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae etc. consobrino affini et fratri nostro carissimo salutem ac mutuam benevolentiam. Serenissime princeps, consobrino, affinis et frater carissime.

Quae ad nos ex commissione Serenitatis Vestrae magnificus noster et Sacri Imperii fidelis dilectus Franciscus comes Magnis¹ retulit, benigne percepimus. Et gratias sane Serenitati Vestrae magnas in primis habemus, quod nos de consiliis suis in quibus quales certiores facere [a]. Ad negotium vero pacis in Imperio et christiano orbe componendae, quod attinet Vestrae Serenitati et toti mundo constat, quod nihil eorum, quae ad eam promovendam pertinent ex nostra parte hactenus omissum sit vel omittatur, in utroque ad dictum quoque comitem Magni nos referentes ac de caetero affectum consobrini et affinis amantissimi Serenitati Vestrae benevole confirmantes, eidem prospera omnia ex animo vovemus. Datum in civitate nostra Viennae octava Septembris anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo quadragesimo sexto regnorum nostrorum Romani decimo, Hungarici vigesimo primo, Bohemici vero decimo nono.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae bonus consobrino et frater

[a] *Some words are crossed out and overwritten and thus illegible.*

¹ Francesco de Magni, Count of Strassnitz, see no. 275 and no. 276.

No. 278

Prince John Casimir to Emperor Ferdinand III

Frascati, 8 September 1646

Prince-Cardinal John Casimir is delighted to receive Emperor Ferdinand III's decision to crown his son Ferdinand King of Bohemia.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1646, fos 132r–133v.

Sacra Cesarea Maestà mio Signore clementissimo.

Non essendo cosa, che possa alterare il mio affetto divotissimo verso di Vostra Maestà e la sua propria Augustissima Casa, come fondato non meno, che nelle ragioni del sangue, nelle gratie, che in ogni tempo ho ricevuto, e spero tuttavia della Maestà Vostra, può ella restar certa, che con infinita consolatione io habbia sentita la coronatione del Serenissimo Arciduca suo figliuolo¹ in Re di Boemia. Ma come qui non restaranno i miei uffici, per li gradi d'esaltatione maggiore che per conseguire colla suprema autorità della Maestà Vostra, così tanto più spero, che farà per gradire il presente come acompagnato anco da una particolar volontà di haver la a servire, et che dir sempre, et fu humilissima riverenza. Frascati² li 8 settembre 1646.

Di Vostra Maestà

humilissimo et divotissimo servitore

Giovanni Casimiro

¹ Ferdinand IV (1633–1654), firstborn son of Emperor Ferdinand III and Maria Anna, crowned King of Bohemia on 5 August 1646.

² Frascati, a town in Italy, in the Lazio region, to the south-east of Rome.

No. 279

Prince John Casimir to Empress Maria Anna

Frascati, 8 September 1646

Prince-Cardinal John Casimir informs Empress Maria Anna that he has been summoned by Władysław IV to come to Poland and that he intends to set out in ten days. He expresses his joy at crowning Archduke Ferdinand King of Bohemia.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1646, fos 134r–135v.

Sacra Cesarea Maestà mia Signora madre clementissima.

Io, che non posso dubitare del solito affetto benignissimo di Vostra Maestà verso di me, per la divotione, che a lei stessa integramente conservo, seguito a ricorreci colla prima confidenza; la Maestà del Re mio Signore fratello¹ mi ha chiamato in Polonia, e per confermarmi col suo volere, essendo io per incaminarmi a quella volta fra dieci giorni, mi promette la benignità di Sua Maestà Cesarea, non mancandola particolarmente i miei ossequii, che il transito per gli stati della Maestà Sua mi sarà sicurissimo; ne ho voluto nondimeno dar conto a Vostra Maestà accioché mi faccia gratia di farne partecipo Sua Maestà medesima, per quel termine di osservanza, che le renderò in ogni tempo, et alla Maestà Vostra ne restarò obligatissimo.

Non posso pretermettere di rallegrarmi insieme con Vostra Maestà della felice coronatione del nuovo Re di Boemia², con auguraro a Sacra Maestà, et a tutta cotesta Augustissima Casa felicità, et esaltatione maggiore et alla Maestà Vostra fu humilissima riverenza. Frascati 8 settembre 1646.

Di Vostra Maestà

humilissimo et divotissimo servitore et figlio

Giovanni Casimiro

¹ King Władysław IV.

² King Ferdinand IV, see no. 278.

No. 280

Prince John Casimir to Emperor Ferdinand III

Fische, 19 November 1646

Prince John Casimir informs Emperor Ferdinand III that he will not be able to meet him in person. However, he sends his confessor Father Karol Soll and requests the Emperor to put full trust in him.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, fols 147r–148v.

Sacra Cesarea Maestà Signore mio clementissimo.

Perché non posso essere di presenza a riverire devotamento Vosta Maestà come ardentemente desidero, invio il padre Carlo Sol¹ mio confessore renditore di questa, acciò parsi in mia vece questo debito con Vostra Maestà la quale intenderà del medesimo tutto quello, che per mia parte gl'ho ordinato di rappresentarle; e però la supplico a prestarli piena fede in ogni cosa, e le fo humilissima riverenza. Di Fische² li 19 Novembre 1646.

Di Vostra Maestà Cesarea

humilissimo et divotissimo servitore

Giovanni Casimiro

¹ Karol Soll (Scholl; 1613–1677), German Jesuit, penitentiary of the German nation in Loreto (1644–1648), where he befriended John Casimir and became his confessor; he performed this function until the King's abdication in 1668.

² Perhaps Fischau, currently Bad Fischau, a town in Austria, near Wiener Neustadt.

No. 281

Emperor Ferdinand III to Prince John Casimir

Pressburg, 20 November 1646

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Prince-Cardinal John Casimir of receiving his letter dated 19 November¹, delivered to him by Father Karol Soll.

Drafts: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 61, Polonica 1644–1646, 1646, fo. 159 (text in German), fo. 160 (text in Latin), in both, extensive fragments are illegible.

¹ See no. 280.

No. 282

King Władysław IV to King Philip IV

Warsaw, 10 August 1647

Władysław IV, King of Poland, notifies Philip IV, King of Spain, of the death of his only son Sigismund Casimir.

Original: AG Simancas, Estado leg. 2351, s. f. Trace of the seal.

Serenissimo principi domino Philippo quarto Castellae, Legionis, Aragonum utriusque Siciliae, Hierusalem, Portugaliae, Navarrae et Indiarum regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae et Mediolani, comiti Habsburgensi, Flandriae et Tirolis domino cognato et affini nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czernichoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gottorum, Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et fraterni amoris atque omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime princeps domine cognate et affinis noster carissime.

Luctuosum atque non minus nobis quam toti Reipublicae funestum deferimus Serenitati Vestrae nuntium, Sigismundum Casimirum¹ unigenitum nostrum et unicum domus nostrae regiae solatium inter arctissimos totius aulae complexus, die hesternae flexo iam ad occasum sole ineluctabili nostri maerore humanis cecidisse. Amisimus sane progeniem, cuius augusta et sublimis indoles, summam in animo nostro pepererat expectationem, ardensque succrescentis spei et solatii desiderium. Sed cum ita supremo Numini visum sit, ut nos et Reipublicam hoc unico pignore orbaret vel imprimis Serenitati Vestrae pro mutuo inter nos sanguinis nexu, cum qua uti prospera et laeta, ita partier adversa communia nobis semper duximus, cum qua ex tam praecoci et immaturo filioli nostri obitu acerbo percussi sumus, dolorem communicandum duximus. Deum optimum maximum precati, ut similes maestitiae casus ab augustissima Serenitatis Vestrae domo avertat, eandemque secundis rerum successibus auctam, quam diutissime servet incolumem. Datae Varsaviae die X mensis Augusti anno Domini MDCXLVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae XV Sueciae vero XVI anno.

Eiusdem Serenitatis Vestrae bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

¹ Prince Sigismund Casimir died on 9 August 1647 in Warsaw.

No. 283

King Philip IV to King Władysław IV

Madrid, 6 October 1647

Philip IV, King of Spain, sends Władysław IV, King of Poland, the recredential letter due to the completion of the diplomatic mission by abbot Stanisław Małkowski at the court in Madrid.

Copy: AG Simancas, Estado leg. 2350, s.f.

Revertitur ad patrios lares Maiestatis Vestrae orator abbas Stanislaus Makowski¹, iis nimirum mandatis morem gerens, quae se ab eadem Maiestate Vestra accepisse retulit. Quo vero tempore hic commoratus est eum qui par est apud nos obtinuit existimationis gradum, cum ob eximias, quibus praeditus est animi dotes, tum ob comprobata in tractandis commissis sibi negotiis prudentiam, affectum et solertiam, adeo ut probi ac fidi Maiestatis Vestrae partes omnino adimpleverit. Cum autem inter alia in hoc etiam peculiari studio incubuerit, ut amicitia et necessitudines, quas a nobis utrinque exigunt intercedentia fraterni amoris et consanguinitatis vincula diu feliciterque propagentur, fecit ut eum condignis incrementis promotum cupientes Maiestati Vestrae noluerimus non significare praedictum abbatem iis se favoribus dignum praeuisse, quos ab regia Maiestatis Vestrae gratia iure merito se consecuturum confidit. Caeterum quantum ad modernum commissorum sibi negotiorum et nostratium, quas Maiestas Vestra scire voluerit, rerum statum pertinet, ad eam remittimus, quae ipse procul dubio fideliter referet inter quae propensissimum nostrum et quem erga Maiestatem Vestram semper professi sumus porroque conservabimus animum uti re ipsa est contestari poterit. Deus optimus maximus Maiestatem Vestram diutissime servet incolumem. Datum Madriti die 6 Octobris MDCXLVII.

¹ Stanisław Małkowski stayed at the court in Madrid from 1638.

Prince John Casimir to Emperor Ferdinand III

Kobryń, 18 November 1647

Prince John Casimir notifies Emperor Ferdinand III that because of the death of Prince Sigismund Casimir and on Władysław IV's request he resigned his Cardinal title and left the clerical state.

Original: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 62, Polonica 1647–1651, 1647, fos 73r–74v.

Sacra Cesarea Maestà Signore mio e padrone clementissimo.

Al dominio, che la grandezza del suo merito, e la prontezza delle mia devotione hanno costituito a Vostra Maestà sopra la mia persona, si richiede, ch'io la tenga ragguagliata di qualunque mio considerabile accidente. Onde le do parte, come per volontà del Re mio fratello¹ ho risoluto rimandare a Sua Beatitudine la beretta di cardinale, come fò di presente per persona espressa. Ha occasionato questa mutatione la morte del principe Sigismondo Casimiro², per la quale ha stabilito Sua Maestà pigliare altra risoluzione della persona mia in stato secolare. Sodisfo con questo avviso al mio debito con Vostra Maestà acciò ella sodisfaccia all'autorità sua col valersi della devota mia servitù in qualunque conditione io mi trovi, come la supplico di fare con l'honore de suoi comandamenti e le fò humilissima riverenza.

Cobrinò³ li 18 Novembre 1647

Vostra Cesarea Maestà

humilissimo et divotissimo servitore

Giovanni Casimiro

¹ Władysław IV.

² Prince Sigismund Casimir died on 9 August 1647.

³ Kobryn (Polish: Kobryń), currently a town in south-western Belarus.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Warsaw, 13 December 1647

Władysław IV, King of Poland, appeals to Emperor Ferdinand III to reject all accusations against Count of Strassnitz made by his enemies, because he is a loyal subject of the Emperor and associate of the King. The royal secretary will present the details of the matter.

Original: MZA Brno, G 146, Rodinný archiv Magnisú Strážnice, karton 9, inv. č. 152, fos 1–5. Seal.

Serenissimo et excellentissimo principi domino Ferdinando tertio divina favente clementia electo Romanorum imperatori semper augusto ac Germaniae, Hungariae, Bohemiae, Dalmatiae, Croatiae, Sclavoniae regi, archiduci Austriae, duci Burgundiae, Stiriae, Carinthiae, Carniolae, Vitembergae, comiti Tirolis domino cognato affini et fratri nostro carissimo Vladislaus IV Dei gratia rex Poloniae, magnus dux Lithuaniae, Russiae, Prussiae, Masoviae, Samogitiae, Livoniae, Smolensciae, Czarniechoviaeque nec non Suecorum, Gothorum Vandalorumque haereditarius rex salutem et fraterni amoris atque omnis felicitatis continuum incrementum. Serenissime et excellentissime princeps, domine cognate affinis et frater noster carissime.

Inter praecipua Maiestatis Vestrae fraterni amoris et fiduciae testimonia, libenter fatemur hoc quoque intercessisse, cum subdito et servitori suo merito, generoso comiti Straznicensi¹ in sinu gratiae ac favoris caesarei quiescenti ad nostram fraternam requisitionem auctoritate sua motor esse voluit, obsequiis nostris adhaerenti, una cum coniuge eius consortis² nostrae aulae regendae destinata. Quam Maiestatis Vestrae benevolentiam quo magis aestimamus eo acerbius ferre necesse est, ab aemulis dicti comitis, hanc Maiestatis Vestrae licentiam et nostram in eum propensionem, in eius trahi ruinam et infamiam. Sub hoc enim praetextu eius (a provincia Moraviae in qua officium tot annis exercitatum fores obtinet) absentia, hac ipsa dignitate eum privandum denuntiant, sicque per indirectum nos in comite puniunt, non ignari nostrorum negotiorum et administrationis eorundem causa, eum ab ea provincia abesse. Quam absentiam tot annis sine praeiudicio Moraviae toleratam³, nunc primum animadvertunt fideles scilicet provinciarum Maiestatis Vestrae custodes. Sunt et alia quas nostri

causa vel saltem occasione obsequiorum nostrorum, quibus ex speciali Maiestatis Vestrae luentia eum applicavimus, ab iisdem inimicis suffert, iniurias quas dum secretarius⁴ noster harum praesentium exhibitor oretenus Maiestati Vestrae enucleabit, ut benignam aurem et plenam fidem ei adhibere Maiestas Vestra velit, amanter postulamus. Non patietur porro Maiestas Vestra privatis [a] nonisi morum peti et corrumpi fructus nostrae fraternae ad invicem benevolentiae, imo conservabit non dubitamus, hunc amoris hinc inde defluentis sui cum in utramque domum promanantem. Nos porro promittimus Maiestati Vestrae unumquemque subditorum nostrorum, qui Maiestatis Vestrae obsequiis additus ea fortiter praestiterit inter eos numeraturos, qui de nobis et Regnis nostris optime sunt meriti, neque hoc dividi permissuros, quod post tot artissimos sanguinis et amoris nexus separari nequit. Sed non comitem duntaxat illi censores petunt, nobis quoque ipsis iniuriis, quod ubi praedictus secretarius noster Maiestati Vestrae retulerit, occurret Maiestatis Vestrae tantae licentiae, quae et ipsiusmet Maiestati Vestrae fidem et verbum caesareum violare contendit, ei fratri et consanguineo datum, qui necessitatibus Maiestatis Vestrae praesentibus, plus commodare voluit, quam suis propriis emolumentis. Haec omnia Maiestati Vestrae iterum iterumque commendamus Deumque precamur, ut Maiestatem Vestram diutissime sospitem et compositis orbis christiani rebus florentem conservet. Datum Varsaviae die XIII mensis Decembris anno Domini MDCXLVII regnorum nostrorum Poloniae XV Sueciae vero XVI anno.

Eiusdem Maiestatis Vestrae

bonus frater

Vladislaus rex

[a] *The word is illegible due to the binding of the manuscript folios.*

¹ Francesco de Magni, Count of Strassnitz.

² Johanna Franziska Priska Pergau of Pergau, see no. 275.

³ Count of Strassnitz, from 1638 he was the plenipotentiary (Czech: *podkomoři*) of Moravia. In 1645 he was accused of betrayal for his contacts with the Swedes. After Wladyslaw IV and Father Valerian Magni interceded on his behalf, the Emperor agreed to allow him to leave for Poland. Two years later he was again accused of disloyalty to the Emperor.

⁴ Presumably royal secretary Marcin Neumann.

No. 286

Emperor Ferdinand III to Prince John Casimir

Prague, 22 February 1648

Emperor Ferdinand III notifies Prince John Casimir of receiving the letter dated 18 November concerning his resignation from the Cardinal title.

Draft: HHStA Vienna, Polen I 62, Polonica 1647–1651, 1648, fo.1.

Percepimus ex literis Dilectionis Vestrae 18 Novembris¹ nuper elapsi datis, quibus rationibus inducta Serenitati Suae pileum cardinalitium per expressum remittat. Sicut igitur constans ex illis erga nos augustamque nostram Austriae domum devotionis suae studium cognoscimus. Ita Dilectioni Vestrae ad susceptum novum statum omnia prospera ex animo voventes eidem consobrini amantissimi affectus benevolentissime confirmamus. Pragae 22 Februarii 1648.

¹ See no. 284.

King Władysław IV to Emperor Ferdinand III

Vilnius, 28 March 1648

Władysław IV, King of Poland, repeats his appeal to Emperor Ferdinand III to reject all accusations against Count of Strassnitz. He urges the Emperor not to take away from him his offices and to pass a just verdict on him. He defends the Count, highlights his merits and competences and requests that the Emperor also give him protection. The King underlines his full trust in the Count. He adds that for full credibility he intended to write the letter himself, but due to paresis of the hand the royal secretary had to replace him. He assures the Emperor of his own loyalty.

Copy: MZA Brno, G 146, Rodinný archiv Magnisů Strážnice, karton 9, inv. č. 157, fos 33v–34r, not dated. In the heading the following text: Copia di lettera scritta alla Maestà dell'Imperatore dalla Maestà di Polonia, toccante gli interessi del Conte Magni. Di Vilna 28 Marzo 1648.

Serenissimo Imperatore Signore fratello e cognato osservantissimo.

Sto con desiderio attendendo risposta ad una mia lettera ultimamente scritta a Vostra Maestà Cesarea, toccante gli interessi delli Ducati di Oppolia e Ratiboria¹, quali per mio conto desiderare, per quiete e consolatione d'ambe le parti, fussero di nuovo nelle mani di Vostra Maestà et io fuori d'impegno e peso, che hormai mi si rende intolerabile. Non posso in tanto celare a Vostra Maestà il sentimento non ordinario mi reca l'intendere li rigori, che si praticano di presente contro il Conte Magni² con il toglierli le cariche, mettere in dubbio le sue già approvate et fondate giustificationi, non concedergli una supplicata commissione, rimmetterlo a giudici sospetti e male affetti e cose simili, dal che argomentandosi esser'egli in disgratia della Maestà Vostra, le ne seguano molti gravi pregiudicii, differendosegli la giustizia, restando abbandonate le sue cause, cumolandosegli processi civili. Et in tanta distanza e nelle presenti turbolenze de'tempi, sele pronuntiano sentenze in consumacia, sele minacciano esecuzioni con altri aggravii, che essendo costi pubblici a ciascuno, perciò sono ben noti. E perchè cotesta sua corte Imperiale è piena, che detto Conte patisce per puro pruvito de suoi e moli, che non potendo denigrare la di lui innocenza e costante fedeltà et altri meriti verso di servitio di Vostra Maestà intendo si gagliano per pretesto della sua ruina, l'essersi ricourato sotto la mia protettione regia, il che ancor qui è fatto palese, non posso se non persuadermi sia ella per presupponersi il sentimento particolare, che mi causa il vedere sotto si giusto principe in

faccia del mondo et al mio lato opprimere persona di fedele alla Maestà Vostra e si devota al suo imperial servitio, nel quale è pieno di meriti, cumulati per lo spatio di trentacinque anni continui; verità, alla quale (mediante l'eguità di Vostra Maestà) indarno si è opposta sin'hora la potenza (ancorche grande) degli e moli del medesimo Conte, non havend' io inteso essersegli potuto addossare un minimo mancamento, ma ben veduto insigni Cesarei attestati delle sue segnalate attioni, valore e meriti; e se hoggi mi si mostrasse cosa in contrario, d'hoggi desisterei da qualla protectione, che con saputa, consenso e gusto di Vostra Maestà (come appare per sue lettere originali) con fini si honorati e con esito si felice ricercò di lui tengo. Non so per tanto, ne posso persuadermi, che l'aiuto si ben composto di Vostra Maestà sia per tolerare più lungamente rigori tanto ingiusti in persona innocente e benemerità, ne mi giova credere, che li nodi d'affinità e stretta congiunzione di sangue e di amore, che frà di noi passa, debba permettere in pregiudicio anco e discapito del Regio decoro e total ruina del sudetto Conte, il di lui procacciato abbandono e sollecitata disperatione. La onde assicurato dalla giustitia della Maestà Vostra e persuaso dall'innocenza e meriti del Conte, la prego con ogni fraterno e maggior affetto, o di farmi partecipare le di lui mancamenti e colpe per obligarmi ad abbandonarlo, o essend'egli, come consta, innocente, lo prenda di nuovo in quella da lui già tanto commendata e celebrata cesarea (ma piena) protectione, da esso per tanti capi ben meritata, il che seguendo, sarà da me ricevuto per particolare dimostrazione dell'affetto di Vostra Maestà corrispondente al mio, che le porto inalterabile e come fatto a me stesso. Intanto si compiaccia di dar'ordine (che vivamente ne la ricerco) in Moravia³ acciò si suspendino le minacciate esecutioni civili contro di lui, almeno per sei mesi in avvenire, acciò egli comparendovi personalmente, possa aggiustarvi le cose sue. Per testificare a Vostra Maestà, che le particolarità contenute in questa carta sono i miei veri sensi, haverei desiderato di scriverle di propria mano, ma non havendo ripigliato ancor'intieramente l'uso della destra, supplisce per me la del segretario. Et auguro con tutto il cuore alla Maestà Vostra dal cielo il colmo delle prosperità, et avvenimenti più felici, restando per sempre.

¹ The Duchy of Opole and Racibórz.

² Francesco de Magni, Count of Strassnitz, see no. 285.

³ Moravia.

SUPPLEMENT

(to the first part of *The House of Vasa*
and the House of Habsburg.
The correspondence from years 1587–1668)

No. 809

**Prince Władysław Sigismund to Archduchess
Maria Magdalena**

Loreto, 16 December 1624

Prince Władysław Sigismund thanks Archduchess Maria Magdalena, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, for the letter with an invitation to visit her and informs that, on his way back from Rome, he will stop in Florence.

Original: AS Firenze, Stati esteri 4292 P. II, fo. 515. Trace of the seal.

Serenissima Signora

Il Signor Cavaliere Giulio Medici¹ inviato da loro Altezza a me, mi ha reso insieme con la lettera, raguaglio del desiderio che hano di favorirmi in Casa Sua. Del che tutto a Vostra Altezza ne ringratio, restando con non manco desiderio del loro, di vedere et bramando anche occasione di servirla, assicurando Vostra Altezza che nel mio ritorno di Roma non mancherò di fare quanto l'Altezza Sua mi comanda. Fra tanto da Nostro Signore le augurerò ogni desiderata prosperità bacciandoli le mani. Di Loreto, il 16 Dicembre 1624.

Di Vostra Altezza

affettuosissimo

Vladislao Sigismundo

¹ Presumably Giuliano de' Medici, the illegitimate son of Giulio de' Medici (d. 1598), Knight of Saint Stephen.

No. 810

**Archduchess Maria Magdalena to Prince
Władysław Sigismund**

Florence, 7 April 1626

Archduchess Maria Magdalena, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, informs Prince Władysław Sigismund that she has instructed the merchant Gettard Hatting from Cologne to bring saltpetre and lead from Poland to Livorno and asks for his support in this endeavour.

Draft: Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Mediceo del Principato 6102, s.f.

Per servizio di questa Casa desideriosa di fare venire di cotesto Regno cento lasti di salnitre, et 500 pani di piombo, et ne habbiamo però dato commisione a Gottardo Hatting mercante di Colonia il quale condurrà tutto con sua nave a Livorno, et su la roba pagherà costì il danaro a che bisogni. Io prego affettuosissimamente Vostra Altezza, in assenza del Gran Duca¹ mio figlio, che si trova ora in viaggio alla volta d'Allemagna, che non soltanto si contenti di intercedere dalla Maestà l'estrazione de' sudetti salnitri et piombi, ma di favorire il medesimo Hatting in quel più che gli occorra per questo conto.

¹ Ferdinand II de' Medici (1610 –1670), Grand Duke of Tuscany from 1621 to 1670.

No. 811

Prince Władysław Sigismund to Archduchess
Maria Magdalena

Warsaw, 15 July 1626

Prince Władysław Sigismund asks Archduchess Maria Magdalena, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, to grant office to Flaminio Rosso, who served Prince Charles Ferdinand, his brother.

Original: Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Mediceo del Principato 4595 II, fo. 1. Trace of the seal.

Serenissima Signora Zia Osservantissima

Partendo di quà il Dottor Flaminio Rosso presentator di questa, da noi conosciuto in particolare servitio per il Serenissimo Principe Carlo Ferdinando nostro fratello per huomo diligente et meritevole della nostra gratia, ci ha esposto, che desiderano ritornarsene con qualche condecante honore in Cosenza sua patria, tien per sicuro, che sotto l'ombra della benignità di Vostra Altezza Serenissima (dalli cui principali ministri per haver dieci anni continui habbitato in Firenze, è ben conosciuto) potrebbe infallibilmente conseguir il desiderato effetto. Noi, che gli desideriamo ogni bene per non defraudarlo della fide, che ci ha, et per corresponder al merito, et si giusto suo desiderio, non habbiamo voluto mancar d'insinuarlo per mezzo di questa sotto la protezione dell'Altezza Vostra Illustrissima, sperando n'habbi restar consolato. Lo raccomandiamo dunque instantissimamente all'Altezza Sua acciò in gratia nostra vogli riceverlo nel suo patrocínio et in occasione di vacanza di qualche honor' nella sua patria conforme ne supplicherà l'Altezza Vostra, tanto per via di Roma, quanto per via di Napoli, promoverlo et aiutarlo. Sicura l'Altezza Sua, che d'ogni demonstration di gratia, che farà a questo soggetto, staremo anche noi a parte presso Vostra Altezza Serenissima, alla quale con ogn'affetto di cuore baciamo le mani. Varsovia, li 15 di Luglio 1626.

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo

Vladislao Sigismundo

¹ Charles Ferdinand, bishop of Wrocław.

² Cosenza, a city in Calabria, Italy.

No. 812

**Archduchess Maria Magdalena to Prince
Władysław Sigismund**

Florence, 16 March 1629

Archduchess Maria Magdalena, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, asks Prince Władysław Sigismund to help Christian Horstman, a merchant from Gdańsk, to bring saltpetre to Livorno.

Draft: Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Mediceo del Principato 6102, s.f.

Christiano Horstman di Danzica ha ordine, per quanto intendo, da mercanti di questa piazza, di fare condurre nel porto di Livorno una nave carica di salnitro di lasti cento cinquanta da cotesto Regno. Et perché egli dubita di non incontrare difficoltà nell'estrarre tale mercanzia, io prego affettuosamente Vostra Altezza di favorire con la sua cortesia et autorità il sudetto Cristiano, nella sudetta estrazione, presupponendola io concessibile, l'istanza che me ne viene fatta da persona alla quale io desidero ogni soddisfazione, il quale pagherà prontamente sul luogo il prezzo di salnitro in contanti. Che io et ^[a] servizio, che da essa può risultare, anesse a questi stati, et resterò con particolare obbligo a Vostra Altezza et con augumento non ordinario nel desiderio, che tengo di revederla. Et le bacio di cuore le mani.

^[a] *two words are illegible*

¹ Gdańsk.

No. 813

**Prince Władysław Sigismund to Archduchess
Maria Magdalena**

From the camp near Malbork, 14 VIII 1629

Prince Władysław Sigismund asks Archduchess Maria Magdalena, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, for permission to transfer the commenda resulting from the award of the Cross of St. Stephen to Francesco Maria Girdali in favour of his brother, Roberto.

Original: Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Mediceo del Principato 4295, s.f. Trace of the seal.

Serenissima Signora mia Signora e Zia Osservantissima

Conserviamo viva memoria dell'honore che Vostra Altezza Serenissima si compiaccque già di fare a nostra intercessione al Cavalier Francesco Maria Girdali d'una Croce di Santo Stefano con comenda. Considerandosi ora ch'il sudetto Cavaliere per le sue gravi e continue indisposizioni è fatto quasi inhabile a godere l'effetto della gratia e desiderando noi di veder per ciò honorato qui di detta commenda Roberto fratello di esso Cavaliere, ci siamo mossi a pregar Vostra Altezza che si compiaccia di conservarci il possesso di quella con impetrarci appreso il Serenissimo Gran Duca la sudetta traslatione. Il che sarà facile a Vostra Altezza se risguarderà insieme non meno i meriti paterni che le qualità proprie del sudetto Roberto per cui riporta molta lode in questa corte e preghiamo a Vostra Altezza dal Signore Dio continua felicità. Dal Campo a Marieburgo, li 14 d'Agosto 1629.

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo

Vladislao Sigismundo

¹ See *The House of Vasa and the House of Austria*, part 1, vol. 2, no. 617, p. 370.

No. 814

**Prince Władysław Sigismund to Archduchess
Maria Magdalena**

Merecz, 25 February 1630

Prince Władysław Sigismund asks Archduchess Maria Magdalena, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, to employ Nicolò Olhasio, whose father Gioacchino rendered services to Sigismund III, at the hospital Santa Maria Nova in Florence.

Original: Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Mediceo del Principato 4295. s.f. Trace of the seal.

Serenissima Signora et Zia nostra Osservantissima

La buona sodisfatione, che la Maestà Serenissima del Re Padre nostro ha ricevuta dal servizio di Gioacchino Olhasio, ci obliga ancor noi a favorirlo in ogni sua occorenza. Onde che havendo egli in Italia Nicolò Olhasio suo figliolo dottor di medicina, desideroso di esser ammesso nell'ospedale di Santa Maria Nuova costì di Fiorenza per medico assistente, noi con ogni efficacia gli lo raccomandiamo, pregando l'Altezza Vostra Serenissima a favorirlo in quello, che giusto le parerà, della questa gratia, sì come gli ne saremo tenuti, così ci esibiamo prontissimi a suoi tanto desiderati comandi, augurandoli per fine il colmo di tutte le felicità. Di Meraz, li 25 di Febraro 1630.

Di Vostra Altezza Serenissima

affettuosissimo

Vladislao Sigismundo

¹ Sigismund III.

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