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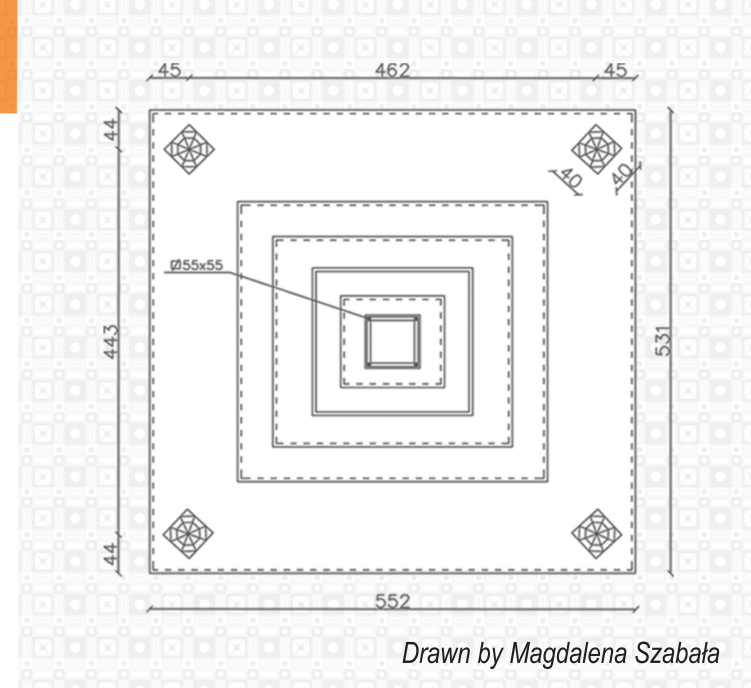
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## DESCRIPTION

The neoclassical form of the monument is typical of the period in which it was erected. Cast iron obelisk is about 13 metres high and rests on a plinth set on a base coated with granite slabs. In the four corners of the slabs there are cast iron posts connected by forged chains. The plinth consists of a square base and narrower stem crowned with prominent cornice on which a high slender obelisk is set. Gilded relief in the stem on the southern side presents two figures shaking hands. The figure on the left, wearing a crown and Roman toga symbolizes the Kingdom of Poland, while the figure on the right, wearing a royal diadem and Greek chiton – the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Between the two personifications there are shields with coats of arms of both countries. On the left there is a shield with Polish Eagle and on the right with the Lituianian Pahonia. On the eastern side of the plinth there is an inscription made of brass letters: EPOKA POMNIKA. ROKU MDLXIX (the monument's origin in 1569). On the northern side there is an inscription: POŁĄCZENIE LITWY Z KORONĄ (Lithuania joins



Drawn by Magdalena Szabala

Poland) and lockable door in the lower part of the obelisk, giving access to the inside of the monument. In its western side there is an inscription: ODNOWIONY ROKU MDCCCXXV (renewed in 1825).

F.K. Christiani, drawing of the bas-relief,  
1825, National Library, Warsaw.



## THE MONUMENT OF THE UNION OF LUBLIN



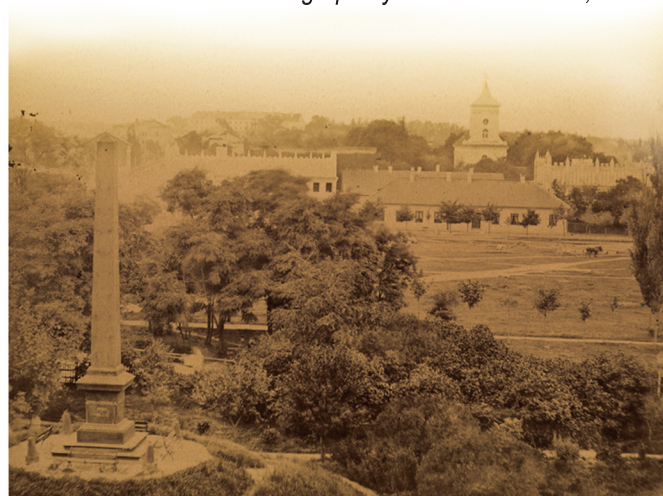


# HISTORY

The first monument commemorating the union between Poland and Lithuania concluded on 1 July 1569 was built in the place where, according to tradition, the envoys from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania stayed during the sejm, i.e. just behind the new city walls. It was probably erected at the behest of king Zygmunt August (Sigismund Augustus). There are no documents describing precisely the circumstances of the monument's erection and shape. There is only a short description in the chronicles of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, whose monastery and church were built in the 18th century opposite the monument. The monument itself was probably a quadrangular obelisk covered with tiles. It was 12 cubits high and close in shape to the monument today. According to Henryk Gawarecki, it was an obelisk with a niche in the front elevation, where the statues of Władysław Jagiełło and queen Jadwiga (Hedwig) were placed. Another source claims that the statues represented a Pole and a Lithuanian.

In the middle of the 17th century, the church of Corpus Christi and a monastery of Hospitaller Order of the Brothers of Saint John of God (Merciful Brothers) were built near the monument to the west. Cemetery fenced by a wall was located in the vicinity of the

*Photograph by Wanda Chicińska, 1874.*



*Photograph from 1916.*

church and monastery. At the turn of the 19th century, the Merciful Brothers' buildings fell into disrepair so the friars moved to the monastery at Bernardyńska 15. In 1819, the Governor of the Kingdom of Poland, general Józef Zajączek decided to demolish the church and monastery, claiming in his decision that „because it is empty and cracked, it should be pulled down.” Presumably, during the demolition of the walls in 1820, the obelisk was also damaged. The Union monument was overturned and broken into pieces together with the stone statues. Józef Domański, the president of the Lublin Region Commission who ordered the demolition gained ill name.

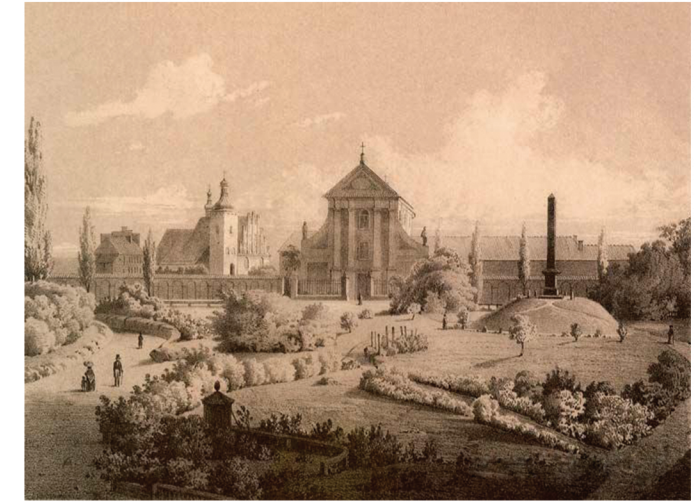
In November 1823, Stanisław Staszic (the then Minister of State) asked the emperor Alexander I who was passing through Lublin to restore the monument of the Union. The works to erect a cast iron monument began already in 1824. In the following year, Feliks Bentkowski (bibliographer and historian of literature) presented the design for commemorative emblems to be placed on the monument. In connection with his proposition, the Society of Friends of Science

accepted the idea to place the following scenes on the monument: the wedding of Władysław Jagiełło to Jadwiga, the Union of Horodło in 1413 and the Union of Lublin in 1569. Drawings for bas-reliefs were made by professor Antoni Brodowski, but only one of the planned bas-reliefs was completed by the sculptor Paweł Maliński. The relief shows two figures symbolising the union of Poland and Lithuania. The monument was cast in Samsonów, and its erection was entirely financed by the treasury fund which was then at the disposal of the Governor of the Kingdom of Poland, general Józef Zajączek. The obelisk was placed on a special mound and the area around it was planted with trees and shrubs. The ceremonial unveiling of the monument took place on 26 August 1826. The monument was repeatedly repaired and renovated in the following years. The last thorough renovation took place in 2009.

The European Commission, by decision of 10 March 2015, granted the City of Lublin the European Heritage Label, as the place of the Union of Lublin, the unique symbol of the peaceful and democratic integration of two countries religiously and ethnically diverse.

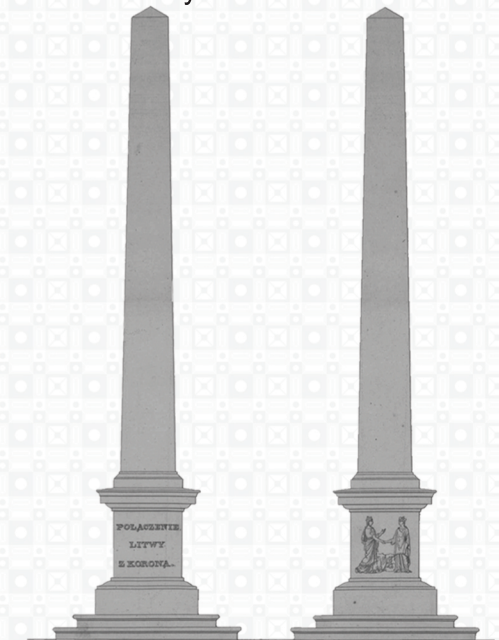


*Unknown author, The Monument of the Union of Lublin, 2nd quarter of the 19th century, the Lublin Museum.*



*J. Cegliński drawn by A. Leure, 1857.*

Ideas represented by the Union of Lublin are manifested by monuments preserved in the landscape of the city. These monuments are witnesses of the Union which at the same time commemorate it. They include the Holy Trinity Chapel at Lublin Castle, the Monument of the Union of Lublin, Basilica of St. Stanislaus and the Dominican monastery.



*F.K. Christiani, drawing of the monument, 1825, National Library, Warsaw.*