



# King Danylo

**King Danylo was the first king of Rus' who founded Lviv in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century**

King Danylo Romanovych of Halych was the ruler of the principality of Galicia-Volhynia (Halychyna-Volyn), a medieval Rus' state bordered by Kyivan Rus' and Poland.

He was a talented ruler who managed to unite the Western Ukrainian lands. As a result, Galicia-Volhynia became the largest state in Europe at the time. At one point, it even included the Kyivan principality with its capital in Kyiv.

Forced to confront the Mongol-Tatar invasions, Danylo of Halych sought alliances with Western

Europe. In 1253, he accepted a crown from the Pope of Rome and became the first king of Rus'.

King Danylo established five new cities during his rule, including Lviv, which he named after his eldest son, Lev. Lev later inherited the throne and established Lviv as the new capital.

Though the city never changed its name, it was altered linguistically during different historical periods depending on whose control it was under. Thus, Lviv was known as Lwów in Polish, Lemberg in Ger-



Left: Coat of arms of Galicia-Volhynia (1119-1349)

Above: Stamp, Daniel of Galicia's Cavalier, XIII cent., Postal History of Ukraine set, 2004

**The city's highest point**, the High Castle, has gained a practical function in recent years, as it is now the place where a high TV tower stands, which is visible from many parts of the city

The name of Danylo Halych's son Lev translates to "lion", and **this animal became the city's symbol**. More than four thousand pieces of artwork portraying lions have survived to the present day in Lviv

man, Leopold in Latin, and Lvov in Russian.

At that time Lviv was quite multicultural, as it was inhabited by Germans, Jew, Armenians, Tatars, Saracens and Rusyns/Ruthenians (the former name for Ukrainians). Each ethnicity had its own area of the city. Today, the names of some city centre streets reflect this time period, such as "Virmenska" (Armenian Street), "Staroyevreiska" (Old Jewish Street) and "Rus'ka" (Rus/Ruthenian Street).

The High Castle was a strong

fortification on Lviv's tallest hill. The castle was meant to be King Lev's residence, but was deemed unsuitable due to strong winds. Therefore, a new residence, the Low Castle, was built in the valley.

The High Castle was destroyed several times during battles. Both castles were destroyed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Today, a mound on the site of the former fortress, which offers a magnificent view of the city, is called the Vysoky Zamok (High Castle) or Zamkova Hora (Castle Hill).



# Casimir the Great

**In 1340, Polish King Casimir III the Great conquered the Ruthenian (Ukrainian) city of Lviv. This marked the beginning of the Polish period of Lviv's history**

Casimir the Great was an ambitious ruler who greatly expanded the borders of the Polish kingdom. He became the first Polish monarch to obtain the title "King of Rus".

It was during his second campaign for Lviv in 1349 that he managed to annex the city. This marked a new stage in Lviv's development.

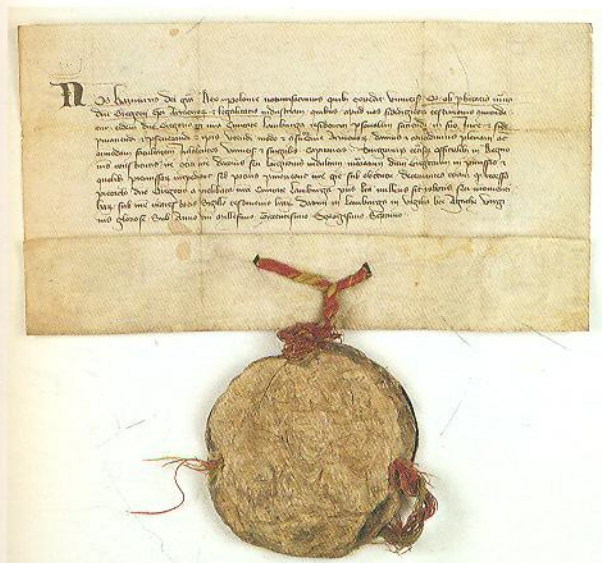
King Casimir built a new fortress for himself atop the High Castle,

as the previous one had been burnt down during battles.

Casimir the Great invited German engineers and builders to construct the city. They built new Gothic-style walled neighbourhoods, styled after existing fortified German cities.

Gradually the German settlers, who were mostly men, assimilated into the Slavic culture by marrying the local Ruthenian (Ukrainian) women.





Left: Marcello Bacciarelli, *Portrait of King Casimir the Great*, 1768–1771

Above: Casimir the Great allowed Gregory, the Armenian Bishop, to stay in Lviv and conduct business there. The document was signed with the royal seal on February 3, 1367

In the 1360s, Casimir the Great built **a tower on the city's main church**, now the Latin Cathedral. The construction plan envisaged two towers, however, the second one is still unfinished

In 1356, King Casimir granted Lviv **the Magdeburg rights**. Until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Lviv remained a self-governing city controlled by an elected city council

According to one of Lviv's first historians, "the arrows of the Ruthenian Amazons" pierced the hearts of the German warriors.

While Lviv had been a part of the Polish political realm since the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Polish culture became dominant in the city only 200 years later. Many Poles who had fled from the failed harvest in central Poland arrived in the city in 1551. Little by little, Polish became the language of clerical correspondence, trade and culture in Lviv.

Polish remained the most popular language in Lviv both during the Habsburg rule and Polish independence between the two World Wars. The Polish era in Lviv ended only in 1939 with the city's annexation to the Soviet Union, along with the rest of the Western Ukrainian lands. It should be noted that throughout these periods, the towns and villages around Lviv were inhabited by a majority Ukrainian speaking population.