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**Wilken Willem Karel Hugo Engelbrecht**

*Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic*

*John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland*

**THE END OF FRISIAN FREEDOM BY ITS CONFIRMATION:  
THE FRISIAN IMPERIAL PRIVILEGE OF EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN I  
AND ITS BACKGROUND. PART II: THE 1493 FRISIAN CHARTER\***

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The article is the second of two papers concerning the end of Frisian freedom. The first paper discussed the history of the only ratified charter that confirmed the so-called Charles Privilege that would have enacted Frisian freedom (a presumably thirteenth-century falsum). It gave a brief overview of the development of Frisian liberty in its relation to Frisian history. The present article focuses on the charter issued on September 23, 1493, by Roman King Maximilian I at the request of a delegation from the West Frisian lands. The charter text consists of five parts. The first part, the *arenga*, is a formal introduction. In the second part, Maximilian I praises the loyalty of the Frisians confirming their privileges, including the so-called Charles Privilege. In the third part, the Charles Privilege is rendered completely, giving it thus an official status. In the penultimate section, Maximilian modifies the Charles Privilege on two points. He wishes the Frisians not to be armed in the French manner, but to follow the custom of the Holy Roman Empire. On the second point, Maximilian I refers to Sigismund's previous privilege of 1417 and demands the payment of a tribute. Furthermore, in the last paragraph, Maximilian calls on the Frisians to choose a *potestate*. As the Frisians proved unable to do so, they were eventually completely subjugated. Thus ended the

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Frisian freedom ended in 1498 for nearly 450 years. This paper obtains as well a complete edition of the Latin text of the charter and its English translation.

**Keywords:** Frisia, Latin, Charles Privilege, Frisian freedom, Maximilian I.

## INTRODUCTION

The previous article<sup>1</sup> discussed the origins of the concept of Frisian freedom and presented the older charters of William II from 1248 and of Sigismund from 1417. This article will focus on the Frisian privilege issued on September 23, 1493, by Maximilian I that was both the final confirmation of the “ancient rights given by Charlemagne” and also signalled the de facto end of the Frisian liberties.

The paper gives first a short survey of the circumstances of this privilege and its consequences. Moreover it gives here the first edition of the Latin text together with a complete English translation.

### 1. THE PRIVILEGE OF MAXIMILIAN I

After further turmoil between the Schieringers and the Vetkopers, the Roman King Maximilian I put an end to the unfortunate situation. He issued the new Frisian privilege on September 23, 1493, the longest and most detailed of all known privileges confirming Frisian freedom. This privilege is structured as follows.

In the *arenga*, the formal introduction stating the reason for writing up the charter, Maximilian first mentions all his titles, using the common *etc.* after the main parts of the title only for his kingdoms, but listing all duchies, counties and the like piece by piece, ending with the territories, where he is only *dominus* (lord). Between these seigneuries, Frisia is the first-mentioned. In this introduction, he mentions his own benevolence, stating that he is obliged by God to be generous towards his subjects, especially if they have shown their loyalty on several occasions, between references limiting the charter explicitly to the present Dutch province of Friesland — “our seignory of West Frisia, namely

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<sup>1</sup> See: Engelbrecht W. W. K. H. The end of Frisian freedom by its confirmation: The Frisian Imperial Privilege of Emperor Maximilian I and its background. Part I: The first charters. *Scandinavian Philology*, 2024, vol. 22, issue 1, pp. 153–171. <https://doi.org/10.21638/11701/spbu21.2024.110>

Oostergo, Westergo and Zevenwouden, with their Islands, districts and dependencies”. He mentions the reason for creating the charter, namely the request made by the Frisians through Otto van Langen, Canon of Mainz (1437/8–1511)<sup>2</sup> to acknowledge all kind of privileges and rights bestowed on them by Charlemagne and several Roman Kings and Emperors. Maximilian’s charter — as did that of Sigismund in 1417 (edited by [Vries, 2017]) — explicitly refers to what the Frisians are called in vernacular *Die Freyen Friesen*.

In the short second section, Maximilian once more praises the Frisians from West Frisia, defined in the same way, for their fidelity to him and his predecessors, granting to them all the privileges bestowed on them by Charlemagne and then, “in order that no one may ignore the tenor of the privileges or doubt them in any way” inserts the privileges “word for word”.

The entire, long third section consists of the literally copied Charles Privilege. This (forged) charter begins with the usual *arenga* in which Charlemagne refers first to why he began war on Liudger (= Widukind) of Saxony. It should be noted that Liudger’s refusal to pay “the tribute which his predecessors were accustomed to pay annually” was the final reason. The introduction proceeds with Charles’ request towards the Frisians to help him, referring both to their bravery as well to the fact that Liudger caused harm to them as well.

Charlemagne then refers to the fact that the Frisians responded without hesitation to his request and returned after their victory home. The paragraph also mentions the help at Rome, without any reference to the request of the Pope. In the fourth paragraph, it is Charlemagne himself who, wishing to thank the Frisians with “a special favour”, frees them from the annual tribute and bestows on them eternal freedom.

The fifth paragraph of the forgery was very important for Maximilian. In this, Charlemagne states that the Frisian should elect annually, “according to the custom of the Romans”, a *potestate* who will rule them, solve higher juridical cases and lead them into wars. The following section condemns anyone who dares to discuss Frisian freedom. In this

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<sup>2</sup> Oebele Vries mentions that Van Langen originated from the region of Twente, near Dutch Friesland [Vries, 1986, p. 109–110]. He had good connections with Wilhelmus Frederici (c. 1455–1525), secretary of the city of Groningen and main parish priest of the Martini church, the main church of Groningen.

section, Pope Leo is asked to excommunicate such people and as well those who help such persons being excommunicated.

The last section of the forgery contains the usual confirmation by a seal (“our golden bull”) and the witnesses, mentioning an extremely varied group of high noblemen living between the ninth and the eleventh centuries. The presumed date of the charter is improved in 798, which was of course not Charlemagne’s second year of Roman Kingship.

Maximilian then returned to his own text. After once again recalling that the Charles Privilege was inserted literally, “de verbo ad verbum,” word for word, by which Maximilian automatically confirmed its validity even if the original could not be shown as the charter explicitly remarks, Maximilian improves the privilege on two points. Knighted Frisians should not be armed in the French manner, but in that of the Holy Roman Empire<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, with explicit reference to Sigismund’s privilege, it is stated that the Frisians are obliged to pay tribute, unlike that stated in the Charles privilege. To make this appear more acceptable, he repeats in the same paragraph that he confirms all the privileges, rights and so on granted to the Frisians by the Roman Kings William and Sigismund and by Emperor Frederick III. This explicit reference had a secondary purpose, as Maximilian elaborates on the issue of the *potestate* and taxation in the following paragraphs.

In the next paragraph, once more explicitly recalling the privileges of Charlemagne and of Sigismund and referring to parts from the mythical Charles Privilege, Maximilian urged the Frisians to elect a *potestate*. If they fail to do so, the Emperor or Roman King himself could appoint such a high lord without the Frisians having any say in the matter. He then discusses the tax to be collected “de quolibet foco, qui specialem mensam et familiam habet” (*for each fireplace that has its own table and household*), joining this with the assurance that “we do not wish to impose on the Frisians any other burden”, making mention once more of the fact that Sigismund required this tax as well.

In the final sections, Maximilian speaks first about the atrocities and wartime woes Frisia suffered in previous years, joining this with a remark that he forgives all rebellious tendencies of the past towards

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<sup>3</sup> O. Vries remarks that this was “a trait typical of Maximilian with his dislike of Frenchmen” [Vries, 1986, p. 125].



the emperors and the Empire and will not punish them. One of the 'rebellions' was the fact that the West Frisians refused to pay the tax to Sigismund after 1417 when he was unable to protect them against the city of Groningen. Another one was that they chose the side of John of Bavaria who then ended the conflict. The last two paragraphs make clear threats to anyone who wants to harm Frisia and the Frisians or question the charter.

## 2. THE END OF FRISIAN FREEDOM

The main purpose of the charter was to finally bring peace to Frisia. We do not know whether Maximilian actually believed that the Frisians would be able to elect a *potestate*. They seriously tried to by electing Juw Dekema (1449/50–1523), but he was only acknowledged by the Schieringer party and the Frisians finally could not agree on a single candidate of their own [Vries, 1986, p. 130]. Maximilian I then annulated the election and conferred the function of high lord on Albrecht of Saxe-Meissen, who had already allowed himself to be recognised by the Frisians in Westergo as their lord. He was officially appointed hereditary *gubernator* and *potestas* on July 20, 1498, at the Imperial Diet in Freiburg im Breisgau [Vries, 1986, pp. 161, 178–185].

Maximilian's charter was the final recognition of Frisian freedom including the (spurious) Charles Privilege, which the Frisians had long yearned for. An irony of fate was that this very recognition opened the door for the recognition, five years later, of Albrecht of Saxe-Meissen as governor of Frisia with which Frisian freedom ended. It seems no coincidence that the printing of the Frisian Land Law took place in the same period. The *Druk*, by far the most important text in medieval Frisian, was a monument to the former Frisian freedom and at the same time a swan song — from the reign of Albrecht of Saxony until almost half a millennium later, first Latin and from the middle of the sixteenth century Dutch became the official language in Friesland. It was not until 1956 that Frisian regained official status, albeit alongside Dutch.

In the following section, a complete diplomatic edition of the Latin text is given. This text is edited according to the copy in Sächsisches Staatsarchiv, Bestand 10024, Geheimer Rat, Loc. 08194/05, Der Friesländer Privilegien 1417 ff., fol. 5<sup>r</sup>-9<sup>v</sup>, that is displayed in the annex with

permission of the State Archive of Saxony. Abbreviations have been solved and are noted in cursive. Punctuation, capitalisation, i/j and u/v are normalised. Otherwise, the original text has been preserved. The English translation is mine as is the paragraph numbering. The folio numbers of the original have been inserted in the text in order to make comparison of the edition with the original easier. This is a first edition of this charter.

### 3. THE 1493 PRIVILEGE OF MAXIMILIAN I-LATIN TEXT

[Fol. 5<sup>r</sup>][1] MAXIMILIANUS Divina favente clementia Romanorum Rex semper augustus, ac Hungarie, Dalmatie, Croatie etc. Rex, Archidux Austrie, Dux Burgundie, Lotharingie, Brabantie, Stirie, Karinthie, Carniole, Lymburgie, Lucenburgie, et Gheldrie, Comes Flandrie, in Habspurg, Thyrolis, Pheretris, Kyburgie, Arthesie, et Burgundie, Palatinus Hannonie, Hollandie, Seelandie, Namurtii et Zutphanie, Marchio sacri Romani Imperii et Burgonie, Lantgravius Alsatie, Dominus Frisie, Marchie Schlavonice, Portus Naonis, Salinarum, et Mechlynie, etc. Ad futuram rei memoriam, notum facimus tenore presentium universis quod, quamvis Regalis clementia mansueta serenitas se erga cunctos, ditioni sue subiectos liberam exhibere consuevit, et iam semper in eis, quibus largitore *omnium* disponente noscitur dominari dispensationem favoris et gratie habere debeat, qua tranquillitas comedi et honores ipsorum apertissime procurantur, et valeant confirmari. Illos tamen attentius solite benignitatis favore *prosequitur*, et specialibus donis *gratiarum* magnificat, quos *aprobate* fidelitatis conscientia et *actuum* experimentalis ostensio claris virtutum indiciiis clarius recommendant, ut sic ad *continuanda* sedulitatis obsequia tanto valeant *fortius* animari, quanto se a regali maiestate uberioribus gratiis agnoverint insigniri, et deinde *resumptis* viribus<sup>4</sup> sub glorioso principe, non immerito gaudeant militare. Sane honorandorum nobis dilectorum universorum et singulorum nobilium, opidorum, *communitatum*, *incolarum* et *inhabitantium* terre nostre Occidentalis Frisie, videlicet Oestergo et Westergo et Septem Nemorum cum suis Insulis, districtibus et pertinentiis, nostri et Regni sacri Romanorum fidelium, per honorabilem Ottonem de Langen,

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<sup>4</sup> Manuscript: iuribus.

Canonicum Moguntiacum, Consiliarium et *Commissarium* rerum fidelium, *nostrae* maiestati, nuper oblata petitiō continebat, quod ipsis et dicte terre Occidentalis Frisie, videlicet Oestergo et Westergo et Septem Nemorum cum suis districtibus et Insulis et pertinentiis, gratias libertates, immunitates, franckesias, iura, privilegia et *litteras* terris et districtibus Frisie, eorumque incolis et inhabitatoribus Die Freyen Fryesen vulgariter nuncupatis, a dive memorie Karolo Magno Imperatore et aliis [fol. 5<sup>v</sup>] dominis *predecessoribus nostris*, tam Imperatoribus quam Regibus Romanis indultas et commissas, indulta et concessa. Necnon eiusdem terre incolarum et inhabitatorum Districtum, Insularum cum suis pertinentiis, iura municipalia, privilegia, laudabiles consuetudines et observantias, innovare, *approbare*, ratificare, et confirmare, et etiam de novo concordare cum infrascriptis gratiis, de Regali nostra solita clementia dignemur.

[2] NOS Igitur predictorum incolarum et inhabitatorum dicte terre *nostrae* Occidentalis Frisie, Oestergo et Westergo, et Septem Nemorum, magne devotionis constantia et singularis fidei puritate, quas ipsi et ipsorum progenitores, ad nos et Imperium Romanum habuisse et habere noscuntur, diligenter inspectis, eorum vota libenter admittimus, et porrectas nobis supplicationes gratiosius exaudimus. Ne tamen ea que ob hanc incerta conceduntur non sine debita recompensa et meritoria premiis, quocumque casu per negligentiam aut ignorantiam aut alias qualitercumque labantur et languentia permaneant, tenorem privilegiorum Karoli Magni terre Frisie et eius inhabitatoribus de quibus premittitur concessorum ne quis ea ignorare, aut de eis quovismodo dubitare valeat, sed cuncta universitas fidelium tam presentis etatis quam future posteritatis eorum plenam et indubitam naturam possit nostris et futuris perpetuis temporibus habere, duximus ea de verbo ad verbum inserenda, qui sequitur et est talis:

[3a] KAROLUS divina favente clementia Romanorum Imperator Franckorumque Rex Semper augustus. Omnibus tam futuris quam presentibus salutem et pacem in perpetuum. Ne ea, que in tempore aguntur, simul cum tempore labantur, poni solent indictiones testium scripturarum memorie perhennarum. Ea propter ad animi oblivionis confusionem evitandam, universorum notitie cupimus declarare: Quod cum Lyodigarus, Dux Saxorum ducatum suum iure feudali teneret ab Imperio, nec ea cognoscere curaret, et tributum a suo ducatu a Cesare Augusto statutum, quod a predecessoribus suis consuetum fuit singulis

annis predecessoribus nostris exhiberi, nobis dare contempneret, et modis omnibus se Imperio et nobis per suam superbiam contumaciter opponeret, et se in preiudicium et gravamen Imperii pro Rege gereret, seque Regem Saxonie vocari precepisset.

[3b] Nos tandem huiusmodi suam superbiam et iniuriam dicto Imperio et nobis ab ipso sepius illatam, diutius sustinere et dissimulare nolentes, invocato [fol. 6<sup>r</sup>] Frisonum Orientalium et Occidentalium auxilio<sup>5</sup> quos viros strenuos, agiles et mire audacie, sicut nobis quibusdam referentibus intelleximus, quibus etiam idem Dux multa inferebat gravamina, eo quod eosdem sue vellet subicere potestati, tamen ei viriliter defendendo restiterunt, qui maxime gavisi sunt ex eo, quod auxilium eorum inuocare dignabamur, nobis per suos nuntios sponderunt, ac certos et securos reddiderunt, quod parati esse deberent, in nostrum venire subsidium et quod ad obtinendum honorem Imperii et nostrum suam vitam vellent exponere.

[3c] Sicque iam dicti Frisones sine mora et dispendio se ad ineundem prelium contra dictum Lyodegerum ducem et exercitus suos prepararunt, et termino statuto, ad invadendum ipsum et terram suam cum maxima multitudine Frisonum ducatum Saxonie manu forti intrantes, viriliter et crudeliter cum predicto duce et exercitu suo dimicantes, ipsum ac exercitum suum iamdictum evicerunt et una cum melioribus sui ducatus captivaverunt, quos funibus connexis nobis tradiderunt, qui de huiusmodi victoria nobis obtenta maxime exultantes, cum gaudio ad propria remeaverunt. Item cum advene Romani mandatis nostris obedire contempnerent et quedam iura in preiudicium Imperii et gravamen nostrum sibi usurparent, et nos auxilium fidelium, ad resistendum eorum iniuriis invocassemus. Et cum Frisones predicti hoc intellexissent non vocati a nobis, de suo libero arbitrio voluntateque spontanea cum multitudine copiosa in subsidium nostrum venerunt, et cum exercitu nostro Romam perrexerunt, et cum urbi Romane appropinquare cepissent, mox ab exercitu nostro se separantes, in Romanos qui per suam superbiam exercitui nostro occurrerent potenti virtute irruentes, quam plurimis ex utraque parte interfectis eosdem evicerunt, et nobiles Romanos quos ceperant nobis subiugarunt.

[3d] Nos itaque considerata eorum probitate et audacia attendentes, etiam fidele obsequium eorum, quod Imperio et nobis exhibuerunt, de

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<sup>5</sup> Manuscript: *auxilium*.

consueta regie maiestatis benignitate, ipsis *gratiam volentes facere* specialem de consilio nostrorum fidelium accedente, consensu principum Imperii, tributum a Cesare Augusto constitutum, videlicet viginti libras auri, quas nobis et predecessoribus nostris exhibere consueverant, remisimus. Itaque neque nos neque Successores nostri id ab ipsis vel eorum heredibus [fol. 6<sup>v</sup>] detentum requirimus, vel aliquas exactiones in ipsis faciemus. Preterea auctoritate regia indulimus eisdem, ut cum omni prole sua nata vel nascitura in perpetuum liberi permaneant, et a servitute proprietaria penitus absoluti.

[3e] Statuimus etiam ne quis eis dominetur, nisi sit ex eorum bona voluntate et seu consensu. Et tamen ne videantur carere rectori, statuimus ut usualiter eligant Consules quotquot sibi viderint expedire, qui in causis secularibus, de quibus ipsis questio mota fuerit, Iudices eorum existant. Statuimus, ut idem Consules singulis annis secundum consuetudinem Romanorum eligant personam ydoneam et discretam, sub cuius regimine, dominio et potestate Frisia tota sit subiecta. Cui in omnibus et per omnia tamquam suo vero domino infra terminum sibi ab ipsis deputatum teneantur obedire, que persona ‘potestas Frisie’ debet appellari. Item statuimus, ut si quis ex ipsis substantiam habens <militarem><sup>6</sup> militare voluerit, dictus potestas sibi gladium suum circumcingat et dato eidem, sicut consuetudinis est, manu sua colapho<sup>7</sup> sic militem faciat et eidem firmiter iniungendo precipiat, ut deinceps more militum regni Frantie armatus incedat, eo quod consideravimus si predicti Frisones militaverint secundum staturam corporis, et formam eis precipue a deo et natura data cunctis in orbe terrarum militibus sua fortitudine et audacia, dummodo, ut predictum est, sint armati, precellent. Qui scutum sue militie a dicto potestate recipere debent. In quo Corona Imperialis signum sue libertatis a nobis concessa debet esse depicta.

[3f] Et statuimus ut Frisones militare volentes quicumque etiam alii substantiam habentes, usque ad summitatem aurium auro circumfulsi, si facere voluerint, ut per hoc etiam valeant suam ostendere<sup>8</sup> libertatem, ipsis ut dictum est a nobis esse collatam. Quod si quis hanc eorum libertatem aliquo ausu temerario refringere voluerit vel violare presumpserit, secundum sententiam quam annuentibus principibus Imperii tulimus, tam ipsi quam sui coadiutores sint proscripti et a consortio fidelium

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<sup>6</sup> Missing in the manuscript.

<sup>7</sup> Manuscript: calopho.

<sup>8</sup> In the manuscript corrected from “hanc eorum”.

Imperii exclusi. Et precipimus auctoritate regia eosdem tamquam proscriptos et adversarios<sup>9</sup> Imperii ab omnibus evitari. Et si qui eisdem ad preliandum contra dictos Frisones astiterit, vel adiutorium presterit, eandem penam et offensam Imperii se noverit incurrisse. Et auctoritate premissa statuimus quod si eisdem aliquo casu contingente in ipsorum [fol. 7<sup>r</sup>] vita vel bonis aliquod dampnum a dictis Frisonibus vel aliquo alio fuerit illatum, nec successores nostri nec alii iudices seculares, ad alicuius instantiam ex hoc eisdem aliquam exhibeant iustitiam, cum potius tamquam proscripti Imperii sint severius puniendi. Quam sententiam sic dictam a nobis esse collatam, auctoritate predicta precipimus et statuimus ratam haberi firmam et stabilem in perpetuum observari. Et tenore presentium nos a Sanctissimo patre nostro papa Leone protestamur obtinuisse. Quod si predicti Frisones de hoc gravamine ipsis a prefatis malifactoribus illato querimoniam disposuerint, tam ipse dominus papa iam dictus, quam sui successores ostenso ipsis sue libertatis privilegio presenti eosdem excommunicabunt et denunciari facient excommunicatos et nichilominus terram eorum et specialiter illorum qui seculares habuerint dignitates, ponent sub interdicto. Que sententia excommunicationis et interdicti nullatenus relaxari poterit, nisi per mandatum summi pontificis speciale.

[3g] Et ut hoc laudabile factum nostrum robur in perpetuum obtineat firmitatis nec a nobis neque a successoribus nostris, seu a quocumque alio aliquatinus refringi possit vel dubium revocari. Et ut etiam dicti Frisones nobis dilecti memorati tali in perpetuum gaudere possint privilegio, presentem paginam exinde conscribi et bulle nostre auree munimine in testimonium fecimus roborari. Huius igitur facti nos testes sumus: Wentzellaus Rex Bohemie, Verenhardus Dux Bavarie, Luipoldus Dux Moraviensis, Henricus Dux Austrie, Otto Dux Suevie, Conradus Marchio Myssensis, Herbodus Lantgravius Thuringie et aliquam plures viri providi et honesti. Actum et datum Lateranis Anno dominice Incarnationis septuagesimo nonagesimo octavo, Indictione sexta, Anno Regni nostri secundo.

[4] QUE PRESCRIPTA dive memorie Karoli predecessoris nostri privilegia de verbo ad verbum presentibus inserta modo deliberato maturoque principium, comitum, nobilium et fidelium nostrorum antecedente consilio approbavimus, innovamus et auctoritate nostra Regia

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<sup>9</sup> Manuscript: adversarii.

confirmavimus, ac ea etiam in totum et in singulis suis particulis de novo simpliciter et pure concedimus per presentes eaque valere volumus cum effectu, etiam si originalia privilegia Karoli aliter non ostendantur, preterquam in particula, [fol. 7<sup>v</sup>] qua dicitur “Se quis ex ipsis substantiam habens militare voluerent etc. ut deinceps more militum regni Frantie armatus incedat,” quia volumus quod non more militum regni Frantie sed Regni Romanorum debeat incedere; excepta etiam particula que potestatem tributi, videlicet viginti librarum auri, remittit, quia tributum aliud ut infra sequitur, secundum tenorem Privilegiorum Sigismundi singulis annis prestare tenebuntur taliter cum has particulas declaravimus, interpretamur, innovamus et per presentes a nobis prememorata confirmamus, preferenter<sup>10</sup> renovamus, approbamus, innovamus et auctoritate nostra regia de novo concedimus per presentes omnia privilegia Wilhelmi et Sigismundi Regum, Frederici Tercii Imperatoris genitoris nostri colendissimi et omnium aliorum Romanorum Imperatorum et Regum predecessorum nostrorum, qualitercumque et quecumque concessa seu indulta, quorum verba et tenores hic pro expressis et insertis habere volumus et proinde habere ac si presentibus inserta et inserti essent. Et omnia iura municipalia, libertates, honores, bona, laudabiles consuetudines et observantias, quibus hactenus facti sunt et hodie faciuntur eisdem modo et auctoritate approbamus, innovamus ac etiam de novo concedimus per presentes.

[5] Sed ne quisquam de intellectu privilegiorum Karoli et Sigismundi valeat probabiliter dubitare et ea de contrarietate aliquid arguere, ex eo quod privilegium Karoli iubet, potestatem per Frisones fore eligendum. Cuius regimine, dominio et potestati Frisia tota sit subiecta, et privilegium Sigismundi dicit, quod eisdem incolis et inhabitantibus Frisie aliquem principem spirituales, vel seculares, comitem, baronem, nobilem, militem, militarem, civem, vel plebanum aut aliquam aliam personam cuiuscumque conditionis existat et quocumque casu emergente, in gubernatorem sive Rectorem non constituemus, aut prefatis terris et districtibus preficiemus. Sed quod per eorum gretmannos, iudices et iusticiales iuxta ipsorum consuetudines et ritus hactenus servatos regantur, plenam ipsis tenore presentium tribuimus facultatem, atque auctoritate nostra Regia prefata privilegia.

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<sup>10</sup> The word is badly legible.

[6] [Fol. 8<sup>r</sup>] Sic declaramus et interpretamur, quod nec Imperator nec Romanus Rex, incolis et inhabitantibus Frisie predictae aliquem in gubernatorem seu Rectorem, eis invitis constituere debet quem ipsi seu eorum gretmanni, quos “Consules Frisie” diceremus, non eligerint nisi in casu negligentiae pro illa vacatione dumtaxat Imperator vel Rex Romanus pro tempore potestatem eis potuerit constituere. Sed ipsi Incole et inhabitatores predicti terre nostre Frisie, per suos gretmannos, iudices et iusticiales iuxta eorum consuetudines et ritus hactenus observatos, debent iudicare et regi per hoc tamen non debet censere pro habita facultas ipsis Frisonibus seu eorum consulibus, quominus ipsi singulis annis unam indigenam terre Frisie sibi in suam potestatem eligere valeant, quid ymo iuxta privilegia Karoli teneantur eligere potestatem, sub eius regimine, dominio et potestate Frisia tota sit subiecta cum omnibus et per omnia tamquam suo vero domino, infra verum terminum sibi ab ipsis deputatum nomine Imperii teneantur obedire, unde ipsi gretmanni, iudices et iusticiales qualiter suos districtus regere et gubernare ut confectum est debebunt. Sed potestas supradicta in causis appellationis et sententiarum executionibus, quas gretmanni exequi non possunt aut nolunt et aliis casibus, sibi per Frisones seu eorum Consules declarandis seu exprimendis regimen et dominium et iurisdictionem dumtaxat exercebit, predicta enim privilegia taliter per nos declarata et interpretata, ab omnibus sic interpretari et declarari volumus et per presentes mandamus in casu supradicto.

[7] Similiter particulam privilegiorum Sigismundi de solutione tributi disponentis super Festo Ascensionis domini formenda declaramus et interpretamur, ut infra Octavam Ascensionis domini singulis annis pro Imperiali tributo perlevare et cum effectu, de quolibet foco, qui specialem mensam et familiam habet, unus grossus Imperialis, dumtaxat de hiis quorum viginti pro dimidio nobilione et sedecim per floreno aureo Renensi per monetarium Imperii in opido Levardensi aut Sneckensi cudendus solvatur [fol. 8<sup>v</sup>] et per gretmannos in districtibus et burgimagistros in comitatibus seu opidis pro tempore existentibus in singulis suis officiis respective fideliter sub iusiurandi debito, tributum prefatum exigatur et colligatur. Collectumque et exactum infra dies octo post Octavam Ascensionis domini potestati seu Rectori terre predictae, quem iuxta privilegia Karoli predecessoris, a nobis confirmata et de novo concessa sibi eligere teneantur dare, tradere et consignare, sub ipsius potestatis quantitate vite et nomine Imperii recuperantis debebunt.



Ipsiusque potestas tributum sic receptum, in Civitate nostra Daventriensi suo periculo et expensu ad manus Consulatus Daventriensis aut illorum, quibus nos aut successores nostri hoc sublevandum tributum sub seu cum quitanciis nostris mandaverimus infra mensem ab die quo receperit deliberare et cum effectu tradere, in virtute prestiti nobis iuramenti nostre obligationis.

[8] Et ultra premissa prefatos Frisones dicte terre nostre aliquo alio exactionis seu vexationis genere nolimus pregravari pro ut de hoc latius in privilegiis Sigismundi continetur seu declaratur, qua huiusmodi per omnia nolimus esse repetita. Preterea ut nos antedicte terre nostre Occidentalis Frisie, Westergo et Ostergo, Septem Nemorum aliorumque circumiacentium districtum incolarum et inhabitatorum nostrorum fidelium defectibus, dampnis, exactionibus et pressuris, quibus iam pluribus annis et vitibus per et propter vicinos hostes graviter sunt afflicti, attineramus ad hoc ut deinceps affectuosius nos et Imperium honorare ac diligere sub nostri et Imperii potentatus umbraculo consolatorie possint et debeant respirare. Ipsis hanc gratiam specialem pro nobis et successoribus nostris antedictis duximus faciendam videlicet quod omnem rebellionem, inobedientiam et contumaciam, que ipsis aut progenitoribus eorum imputari et penam qua ipsi propterea puniri possunt<sup>11</sup> omnino remissimus omni iuri et actioni nobis et successoribus nostris pro eorum prosecutione competentibus remittantes.

[9] Et ipsos omnes et singulos unacum eorum uxoribus et familia utriusque sexus [fol. 9<sup>r</sup>] personis et bonis singulis, ac sepe dictam terram in nostram et Imperii protectionem, tuitionem et salvagardiam singularem recipimus per presentes, ita quod ipsi exeunt in antea dumtaxat ab nos atque nostros in Imperio successores Romanos Imperatores et Reges, et ad nullum alium seu alios respectum habere nec deinceps coniunctim vel divisim, in parte vel in toto, per nos vel successores nostros nec etiam propria spontanea eorum voluntate ab ipso Romano Imperio dividi, scindi, abstrahi, vendi, dari, impingnorari aut alterius cuiuscumque principis, archiepiscopi, episcopi, archiducis, ducis, comitis, baronis, militis, nobilis, domini, civitatum, opidum vel communitatum Imperio dictioni potestati vel iuris dictionis subiri vel astringi, colligari, confederari seu componi omnes divisiones, scissuras, abstractiones,

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<sup>11</sup> Before this word crossed out: essent.

venditiones<sup>12</sup>, donationes, impingnorationes et alienationes. Colligationes, confederationes, conspirationes, compositiones, factiones, obligationes, penales, qualitercumque factas, aut etiam faciendas tamquam in *preiudicium nostrum* et Imperii attemptatas nullas esse declaramus et per *presentes* annullamus, cassamus, irritamus et tamquam iniquas reprobamus. Ipsos Frisones contra omnia *premissa auctoritate nostra* Regia de novo in *integrum* restituimus, non obstante abusionibus, pactionibus, promissionibus, obligationibus, iuramento prius aut aliter quovismodo firmatis privilegiis, prescriptionibus, libertatibus, gratiis, concessionibus aut aliis iuribus generalibus vel specialibus quibuscumque per nos aut *predecessores nostros* aut *alium quemcumque* concessis aut factis, que in *presentibus* aut aliis privilegiis, iuribus et concessionibus ipsis Frisonibus a quibuscumque Romanis Imperatoribus aut Regibus concessis indultis et premissis aut etiam aliis qualitercumque in toto aut in parte valeant quoquomodo adversari que omnia renovamus.

[10] Etiam si in eis clausula quecumque derogatoria habeatur, cum ex certa nostra scientia et de plenitudine *potestatis* motu proprio per [fol. 9<sup>v</sup>] *presentes* derogamus. Nulli ergo omino hominum liceat hanc nostre admissionis, approbationis, ratificationis, concessionis, innovationis, declarationis, interpretationis, protectionis, tuitionis, salvagardie, receptionis, revocationis, cassationis, irritationis, annullationis, ordinationis, dispositionis, voluntatis, gratie, restitutionis, remissionis, remittationis ac edicti *paginam infringere* aut ei ausu quovis temerario contravenire. Sed quis *autem* hoc attemptare presumpserit, indignationem nostram et Imperii Sacri gravissimam ac penam mille marcharum aurei purissimi quas a quolibet totiens quatinus contraventum fuerit irremissibiliter exigi et earum medietatem Imperiali sive Regali errario. Residuam vero partem iniuriam passis volumus applicari eo ipso se noverit incursum. Harum testimonio *litterarum* sub Regalio sigilli nostra appensione munitavimus. Datum in opido nostro Ynnspruck, vigesima Tertia die mensis Septembris Anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo Nonagesimo Tertio, Regnorum nostrorum Romani Octavo, Hungarie vero quarto annis.

Ad mandatum domini  
Regis in Commisso

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<sup>12</sup> Before this word is crossed out: compositiones, factiones, obligationes, penales.

## 5. THE 1493 PRIVILEGE OF MAXIMILIAN I — TRANSLATION

[1] MAXIMILIAN, by the benevolent divine grace always exalted Roman King, and King of Hungary, Dalmatia, Croatia, etc., Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundy, Lorraine, Brabant, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Limburg, Luxembourg and Guelders, Count of Flanders, in Habsburg, Tyrol, Pheretria, Kyburg, Arthesia, and Burgundy, Palatine Count of Hainault, Holland, Zealand, Namur and Zutphen, Margrave of the Holy Roman Empire and of Burgundy, Landgrave of Alsace, Lord of Frisia, of the Mark Slavonia, of Pordenone, Saline, and Malines, etc. For everlasting remembrance, we announce to all who are now living that although the customary royal benevolence shows itself freely towards all subjects subordinate to it, and ever to all over whom it knows to rule by the giver of all good, it is obliged to have the allotment of favour and grace, from which the peace and honours of them openly flow, and may be confirmed. It, however, pursues them all the more attentively with the favour of her customary benevolence and glorifies them with special benevolent gifts, which are recommended in the consciousness of demonstrated faithfulness and very clearly by the actual proof of it with clear signs of their virtues, in order to encourage them to be all the more steadfast in their faithfulness, the more they perceive to be endowed by the royal majesty with even more abundant gifts, and then rejoice to fight with renewed strength not undeserving of praise under the glorious sovereign. Moreover, recently concerning those to be honoured by us, our generally and individually beloved nobles, towns, municipalities, residents and inhabitants of our seignory of West Frisia, namely Oostergo, Westergo and Zevenwouden, with their islands, districts and dependencies, faithful to us and to the Holy Roman Empire, by the Reverend Otto van Langen, Canon of Mainz, Councillor and Commissioner in matters of faith, recently handed over to our Majesty a request with the content that by Charlemagne, blessed memory, Emperor, and by the other lords, our predecessors, both Emperors and Roman Kings, to them and to the said seignories of West Frisia, namely Oostergo, Westergo and Zevenwouden, with their districts, islands and dependencies, have been granted, given and confirmed favours, liberties, immunities, proprietary rights, rights, privileges and charters to the lands and districts of Frisia, and to their residents and inhabitants, called in the vernacular “De Vrije Friezen”. No less do we deign, with our usual

Royal benevolence, to renew, consent to, ratify and confirm the local rights, privileges, praiseworthy customs and usages, of this country, its residents and inhabitants, districts, islands with their dependencies, as well as reconcile them with the favours below.

[2] THEREFORE, after due enquiry, we grant the wishes of the aforesaid residents and inhabitants of the said lands of West-Frisia, Oostergo, Westergo and Zevenwouden, whose steadfast great devotion and purity of loyalty they and their predecessors had and have towards us and the Roman Empire, and graciously hear their entreaties submitted to us. In order that, however, there may be no uncertainty about the debts paid and merits earned in this respect, and since everything may in time become problematic and unclear through neglect, carelessness or for other reasons, and in order that no one may ignore the tenor of the privileges given by Charlemagne to the land of Frisia and its inhabitants or doubt them in any way, but in order that the whole community of believers of both the present time and future descendants may know their full and undoubted nature and have it for eternity, we have inserted these privileges word for word here, as follows:

[3a] CHARLES, by divine grace Emperor of the Romans and ever-exalted King of the Franks. To all who live in the future as well as present salvation and peace in eternity. So that things that happen over time do not become unstable over time, it is customary to confirm them with written testimonies for eternal remembrance. In order to avoid confusion through forgetfulness of mind, we wish to declare for the notice of all that although Liudger, Duke of Saxony, held his dukedom in feudal right of the Empire, he took no care to recognise it, and refused to give us the tribute for his dukedom, established by Emperor Augustus, which his predecessors were accustomed to pay annually to our predecessors, and by his haughtiness in every possible way showed himself obstinate towards the Empire and us, and in contradiction to the right and to the detriment of the Empire, held himself to be King, and allowed himself to be called King of Saxony.

[3b] WHEREFORE we no longer wished to endure and deny his haughtiness and injustice to the said Empire, and to us by him often committed, having sought the aid of the West and East Frisians, of whom, on the recommendation of some to us, we knew that they were powerful, skilful, and very brave men to whom the same Duke had also done much harm, because he wished to subject them to his power, the

Frisians promised us by their messengers, and gave as sure and safe, that they should stand ready to come to our aid, and that they were willing to risk their lives to receive honour from the Empire and from us.

[3c] And so without wavering and delay the aforesaid Frisians prepared themselves to engage in battle with the aforesaid Duke Liudgard and his armies, and in due course to attack him and his country, and with a large crowd of Frisians they invaded the Duchy of Saxony, and by boldly and cruelly dealing with the aforesaid Duke and his army they overcame him and his army and captured them together with the nobles of the duchy, whom they handed over to us, and the Frisians, rejoicing greatly at the victory they had won for us, returned to their own country. Similarly, when Roman laymen refused to obey our orders and usurped some rights to the detriment of the Empire and to our detriment, we enlisted the help of our faithful to resist their injustice. And when the aforementioned Frisians understood this, although they had not been summoned by us, they came to our aid of their own free will and spontaneously with a large crowd, and when they arrived at Rome with our army, they attacked the Romans, who, in their hubris, rushed towards our army, with great courage. After many were killed on both sides, they overcame them and handed over the Roman nobles they captured to us.

[3d] CONSIDERING their courage, and as witnesses of their bravery, as also of the faithful obedience of them, which they have rendered to the Empire and to us, we wished with our customary benevolence of the royal majesty to grant a special favour. On the advice of our faithful and with the consent of the princes of the Empire, we remitted the tribute instituted by Emperor Augustus, namely twenty gold marks, which they were accustomed to pay to us and our predecessors. And thus, neither we nor our successors require this obligation from them or their descendants, nor do we impose any other financial obligations on them. Moreover, we grant on royal authority to them, that they and all their born offspring, as well as those yet to be born, shall be free forever, and shall be completely freed from hereditary serfdom.

[3e] We also ordain that no one shall rule over them except by their good will and with their consent. But in order that they may not lack an administrator, we ordain that they shall, as is customary in the case of Consuls, elect persons to act as their judges in worldly affairs when a question arises concerning them. We decree that, according to the custom of the Romans, they shall annually elect as Consul a suitable and

discreet person, to whose government, rule and power all Frisia shall be subject. They are bound, during the period he is appointed by them, to be obedient to him in everything and for everything, which person is to be called “potestate of Frisia”. We also stipulate that if anyone of them who has military power wishes to fight, the said potestate shall gird his sword to him and, after having given him, as is the custom, a show of hands, make him a knight and strongly recommend him to go armed in the manner of the knights of the kingdom of France, since we have considered that the aforementioned Frisians in battle according to the stature and shape of their bodies, which is especially given to them by God and nature, surpass all knights in the world by their strength and courage, if they will be armed as previously said. They should also receive a shield of the aforementioned potestate. On it should be painted an Imperial Crown as a sign of the freedom granted to them by us.

[3f] And we stipulate that the Frisians who wish to fight shall have another privilege, that they shall be encrusted with gold up to the height of their ears, if they wish to do so, so that they may thereby show their freedom, which, as has been said, has been given to them by us. Whoever wishes to infringe or intend to infringe this freedom of theirs in any reckless manner shall, according to the judgment we have taken with the consent of the Imperial sovereigns, be excluded both themselves and their helpers as outlaws from the fellowship of the faithful of the Empire. And by our royal authority we have ordered that these outlaws and enemies of the Empire be shunned by all. And if anyone assists these people fighting against the aforementioned Frisians, or comes to their aid, may he know that he will suffer the same punishment and vengeance of the Empire. And we determine by our authority that if in any case any damage is done to them by the aforementioned Frisians in life or property, neither our successors nor any other secular judges may do any justice to them, since they should rather be punished as outlaws of the Empire. With the aforesaid decision taken by us, we order and determine on the aforesaid authority as established and to be valid forever. In front of those present we bear witness that we have received this from our most holy father Pope Leo. That, if the aforesaid Frisians have lodged a complaint concerning this damage done to them by the aforesaid evildoers, then either the aforesaid Lord Pope or his successors will excommunicate those on the basis of this privilege and announce them as excommunicated and place each of them, especially

those who have worldly dignities, under interdict. Which judgment of excommunication and interdict can by no means be mitigated except by special mandate of the supreme priest.

[3g] And so that this praiseworthy fact of ours may remain valid for ever and can neither be broken, doubted or revoked by us nor by our successors, nor by anyone else. And so that the aforementioned Frisians, whom we love, can rejoice for ever over this privilege, we have had the present charter co-signed and sealed as a guarantee with our golden bull. Our witnesses to this fact are: Wenceslaus King of Bohemia, Werinhard Duke of Bavaria, Luitpold Duke of Moravia, Henry Duke of Austria, Otto Duke of Swabia, Konrad Margrave of Meißen, Herbold Landgrave of Thuringia and several more wise and honourable men. Done and given in Lateran, in the year of the Incarnation of Our Lord seven hundred and ninety-eight, in the sixth indiction, in the second year of our Kingship.

[4] THESE PRIVILEGES of Charles our predecessor, described above, after deliberate and mature deliberation we have inserted from word to word in this charter on the advice of our sovereigns, counts, nobles and faithful, we have approved, renewed and confirmed them with our royal authority, and likewise by this charter we simply and purely permit again for the whole as well as in the individual articles that we wish the provisions to be valid with effect, even though Charles' original privilege could not be shown, with the exception of the paragraph, in which it is said "if anyone of those who has military power wishes to fight, etc. should he go armed in the manner of the knights of the kingdom of France", since we want him to be armed not in the manner of the knights of the kingdom of France, but of the Roman Empire; furthermore also with the exception of the paragraph that remits to the potestate the tribute of twenty gold marks, since concerning this tribute as will follow hereafter, we wish that this will be paid annually according to the Privileges of Sigismund, as we have published these paragraphs, interpreted, renewed and with this charter we confirm, renew by preference, approve, renew and reaffirm with our royal authority all the privileges of Kings William and Sigismund, of Emperor Frederick the Third our most honoured progenitor, of all other Emperors and Roman Kings, our predecessors, in whatever manner and however these have been granted and bestowed, whose words and provisions we wish to have here expressly inserted and which shall also be and remain hereafter inserted

in this charter. By this charter we approve, renew and reaffirm all municipal rights, liberties, honours, goods, praiseworthy customs and usages, which were made before them and are still valid today by our authority.

[5] In order that no one may doubt with any probability the understanding of the privileges of Charles and Sigismund or argue against them in any way, on the basis of what the Charles privilege commands, a potestate should be elected by the Frisians. Under whose administration, rule and power all of Frisia should be subjected. Also, the privilege of Sigismund states, that if for the residents and inhabitants of Frisia there exists any spiritual or temporal prince, count, baron, nobleman, soldier, citizen or plebiscite or any other person of any rank, that even in case of need we shall not appoint a governor or ruler, or put at the head of the aforesaid lands and districts. But that they shall be governed by their grietmen, judges and councillors according to their customs and rituals, we concede we share to those present here the full opportunity, and according to our royal authority also the aforementioned privileges.

[6] Thus, we declare and interpret that neither the Emperor nor the Roman King may appoint to the inhabitants and residents of the aforesaid land of Frisia, against their will, any person as governor or ruler, whom they may not elect themselves or by their grietmen, whom we call “the Frisian consuls”, unless in case of negligence the Emperor or Roman King may appoint a potestate for the period of vacancy. But the residents and inhabitants of the aforesaid land of Frisia should themselves administer justice by their grietmen, judges and councillors according to their customs and rituals for this purpose and no decision will have to be taken concerning administration by this possibility, since by the Frisians or by their consuls for the individual years a resident of the land of Frisia will be elected by them as their potestate, since according to Charles’ privileges they are bound to elect a potestate, under whose administration, rule and power all Frisia be subject, to whom they are bound to obey in all things and in all matters as to their real lord during the period that he is by them as deputy on behalf of the Empire, from where the grietmen, judges and councillors in their districts will rule and govern as determined. But the aforesaid potestate shall exercise administration, rule and jurisdiction in matters of appeal and in hanging matters, which the grietmen cannot or will not handle, and in other matters declared and expressed by the Frisians themselves or by their Consuls. Thus, namely, the aforesaid privileges have been declared



and interpreted by us, so we will and by this charter we order that they be interpreted and declared by all in the aforesaid case.

[7] Likewise, we declare and interpret the paragraph of Sigismund's privileges concerning the payment of a tribute with a payment period around the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord to mean that this Imperial tribute is to be collected during the Octave of the Ascension of the Lord, and with the effect that for each fireplace that has its own table and household an Imperial Groschen, to wit a coin of twenty per half noble and sixty per golden Rhine Florin, to be minted in the Imperial mint at Leeuwarden or at Sneek, shall be paid, and by the grietmen in the districts and the viscounts in the counties or cities, then being in function in their separate offices respectively faithfully under oath, this tribute shall be demanded and collected. The amount demanded and collected shall, within eight days after the Octave of the Ascension of the Lord, be given, transferred and consigned to the potestate or ruler of the aforesaid country, which has been reconfirmed and granted to him by us according to the privileges of Charles, our predecessor, and which they shall be bound to choose for themselves, on which amount they shall receive a discharge from this potestate on behalf of the Empire. The tribute thus received by this potestate is to be presented at his own risk and expense in our City of Deventer to the Consulate of Deventer, or to those to whom we or our successors shall have given orders to collect these dues, together with the discharges, within one month after the day of receipt, pursuant to the obligation sworn to us.

[8] Concerning the aforesaid, we do not wish to burden the above-mentioned Frisians of our aforesaid lands with any other burden or tax than that contained or declared in the privileges of Sigismund, which we do not wish to repeat here in full. Moreover, since our aforementioned seignories of West Frisia, Westergo and Oostergo, Zevenwouden and of the other surrounding districts, our faithful inhabitants and residents, by weakening, damage, burdens and oppression, through which they have been severely tormented for several years and times by and on account of neighbouring enemies, we hereby hold that they will honour and love us and the Empire even more heartily in the future, so that they may and will regain their strength comfortably under the protection of the rule of us and the Empire. This special favour to them we have directed for us and our foretold successors, and that we have remitted all rebellion, disobedience and rebellion that may be charged against them

or their forefathers, and the punishment by which they might be punished for it, and we renounce all right and suit by us or our successors in prosecution of them.

[9] We receive by this privilege all of them and each of them separately, together with their wives and families of both sexes, persons and goods, and also all the lands often discussed, in the protection, custody and safeguarding of us and the Empire, so that they will as before directed to us and our successors, the Emperors and Roman Kings, and have no respect for any other or no others, nor also joined or separately, in part or in whole by us or by our successors nor also of their own spontaneous will, be separated, severed, drawn away, sold, given, pledged, or removed from the power and jurisdiction of aforesaid Empire into that of any prince, archbishop, bishop, archduke, duke, count, baron, knight, nobleman, lord, cities, towns or municipalities to be incorporated, joined, federated or subjected to any divisions, separations, withdrawals, sales, donations, pledges and alienations. We declare that amalgamations, confederations, conspiracies, exiles, partialities, obligations, punishments whatsoever imposed, or to be imposed, are void as biases of us or of the Empire, and by this charter we cancel and break them, declare them invalid and reject them as hostile. We re-establish the Frisians themselves against all declarations on our royal authority in full, irrespective of abuses, pacts, promises, obligations, privileges, prescriptions, liberties, acts of grace, concessions or any other general or special rights whatsoever granted or made by us or our predecessors or anyone else, which may in any way wholly or partly contradict the privileges, rights and permissions granted, granted and promised to these Frisians by us or any of the Emperors or Roman Kings in this charter or in other privileges, rights and permissions, and we renew all of them.

[10] Even if there are in these revocation clauses, we revoke them based on our certain knowledge and of our own accord of our full power with this charter. It suits absolutely no one among men to revoke this charter of our consent, recognition, ratification, concession, renewal, declaration, interpretation, protection, guardianship, protection, assumption, revocation, breaking, inducement, cancellation, proclamation, disposition, will, mercy, restitution, remission, remittance or edict or to go against it out of his own reckless whim. If, however, anyone intends to venture to do so, he shall bring upon himself the most heavy

displeasure of us and of the Holy Empire, and shall have to pay irrevocably a fine of a thousand marks of the purest gold and so much more if he dares to go against it, half of which shall be paid to the Imperial or Royal treasury. We want the remaining part to go to the benefit of those to whom he has caused harm. As witness to this charter, we attach our Royal seal to it. Given in our city of Innsbruck, the twenty-third day of the month of September in the year of our Lord one thousand four hundred and ninety-three, the eighth year of our Roman Kingship, the fourth year of that in Hungary.

At the orders of the lord  
In committee of the King

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**Энгельбрехт Вилкен**

*Университет Палацкого, Чехия*

*Католический университет Люблина им. Иоанна Павла II, Польша*

**КОНЕЦ ФРИЗСКОЙ СВОБОДЫ В РЕЗУЛЬТАТЕ ЕЕ ПОДТВЕРЖДЕНИЯ:  
ФРИЗСКАЯ ИМПЕРСКАЯ ПРИВИЛЕГИЯ ИМПЕРАТОРА МАКСИМИЛИАНА I  
И ЕЕ ПРЕДЫСТОРИЯ. ЧАСТЬ II: ФРИЗСКАЯ ХАРТИЯ 1493 г.\***

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Статья является второй из двух работ, посвященных концу фризской свободы. В первой статье рассматривалась история единственной ратифицированной хартии, подтверждавшей так называемую Карлову привилегию, которая ввела бы фризскую свободу (предположительно фальшивку XIII в.). В ней был дан краткий обзор развития фризской свободы в ее связи с фризской историей. Настоящая статья посвящена хартии, изданной 23 сентября 1493 г. римским королем Максимилианом I по просьбе делегации из западнофризских земель. Текст грамоты состоит из пяти частей. Первая часть, *аренга*, представляет собой официальное вступление. Во второй части Максимилиан I восхваляет доляльность фризов, подтверждая их привилегии, в том числе так называемую Карлову привилегию. В третьей части Карлова привилегия переводится полностью, что придает ей официальный статус. В предпоследней части Максимилиан изменяет Карлову привилегию по двум пунктам. Он хочет, чтобы фризы не вооружались на французский манер, а следовали обычаям Священной Римской империи. Во втором пункте Максимилиан I ссылается на предыдущую привилегию Сигизмунда от 1417 г. и требует уплаты дани. Кроме того, в последнем абзаце Максимилиан призывает фризов выбрать себе *нотестата*. Поскольку фризы оказались неспособны сделать это, они были полностью поработаны. Так закончилась фризская свобода, просуществовавшая к 1498 г. почти 450 лет. В этой статье также имеется полное издание латинского текста хартии и ее английский перевод.

**Ключевые слова:** Фризия, латынь, Карлова привилегия, фризская свобода, Максимилиан I.

### **Wilken Willem Karel Hugo Engelbrecht**

Full Professor of Dutch and of Literary Theory,

Palacký University Olomouc,

511/8, Křižkovskeho, Olomouc, 779 00, Czech Republic;

John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin,

14, Al. Racławickie, Lublin, 20-950, Poland

E-mail: wilken.engelbrecht@kul.pl

### **Энгельбрехт Вилкен**

профессор голландского языка и теории литературы,

Университет Палацкого,

Чешская Республика, 799 00, Оломоуц, ул. Кржижковского, 511/8;

Католический университет Люблина им. Иоанна Павла II,

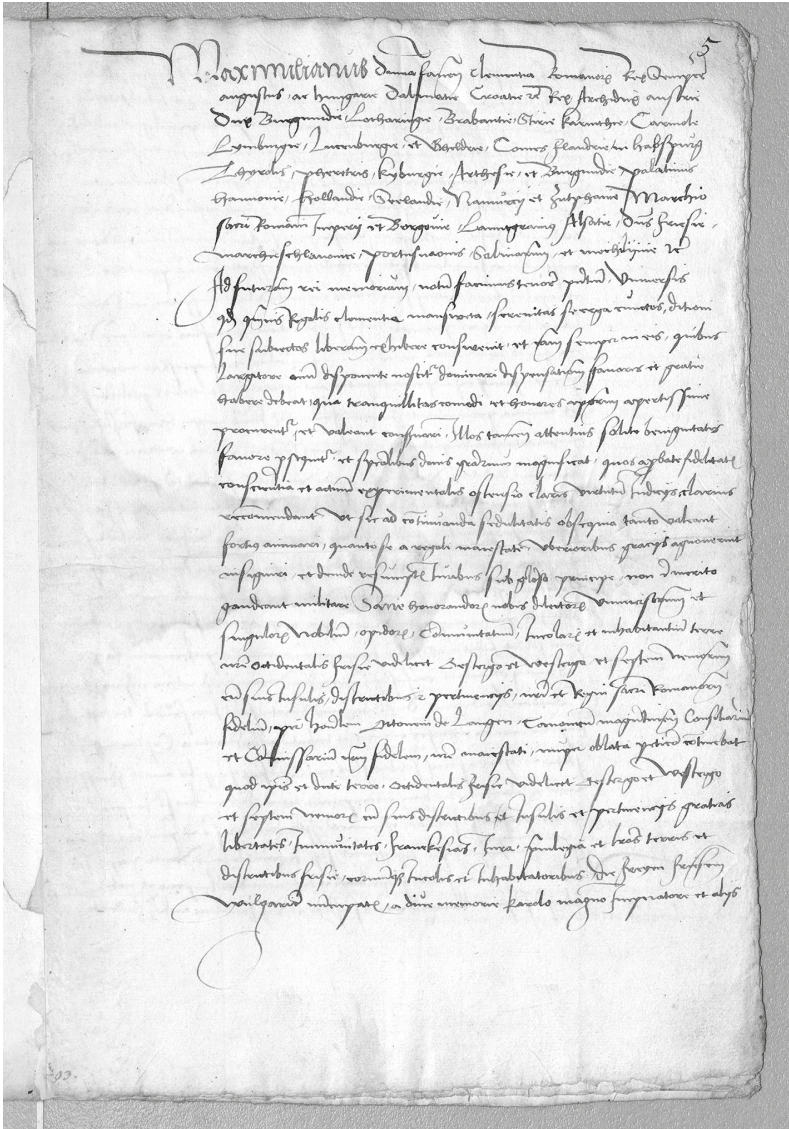
Польша, 20-950, Люблин, Аллея Рацлавицке, 14

E-mail: wilken.engelbrecht@kul.pl

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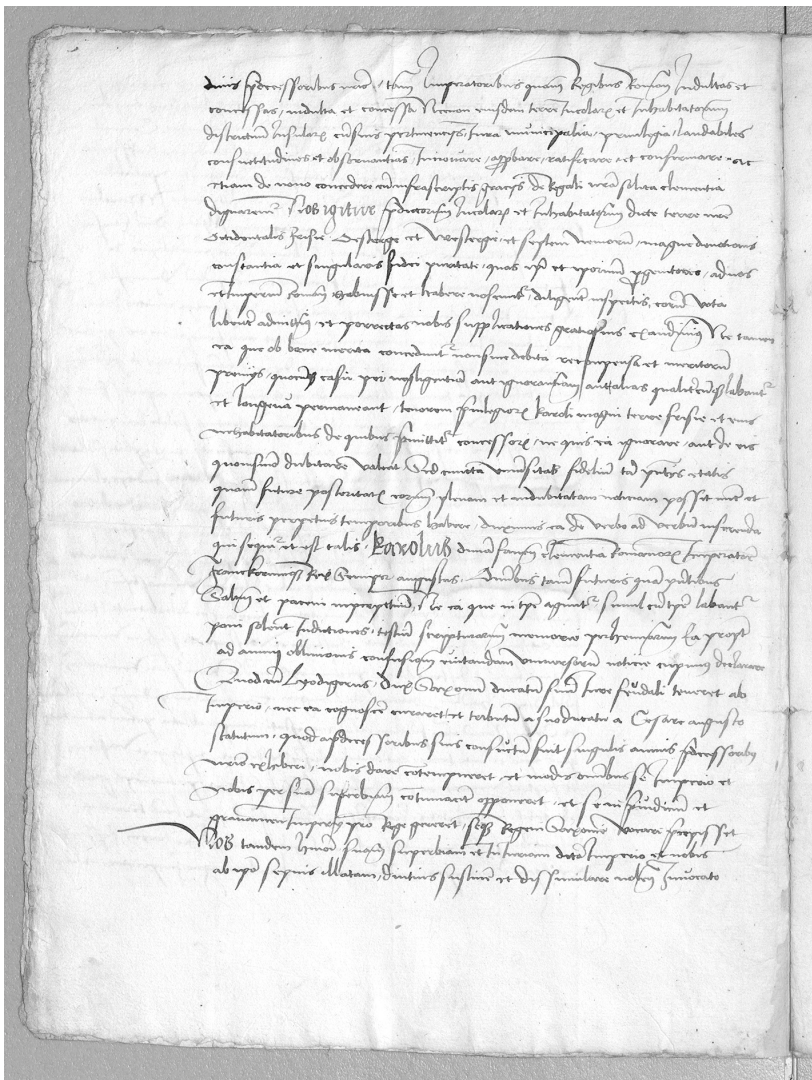
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APPENDIX — THE 1493 PRIVILEGE OF MAXIMILIAN,  
PHOTOS OF THE ORIGINAL

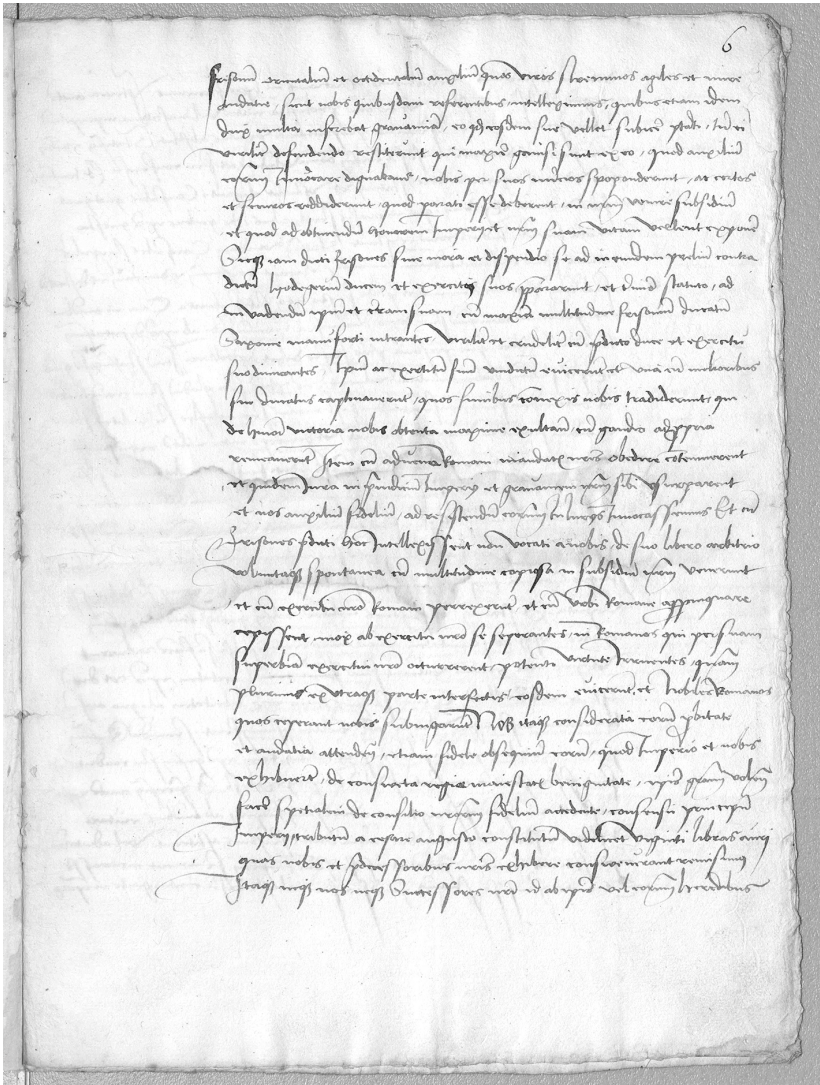


Picture 1: The 1493 charter of Maximilian I, fol. 5r

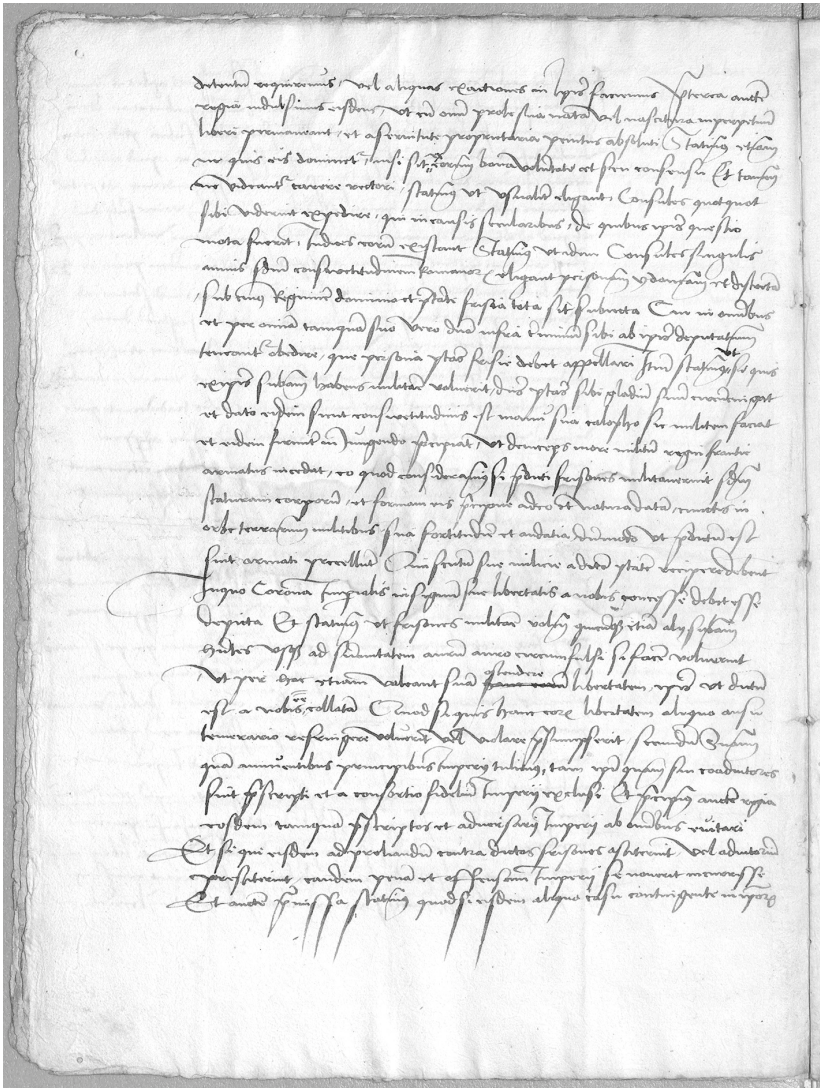




Picture 2: The 1493 charter of Maximilian I, fol. 5v

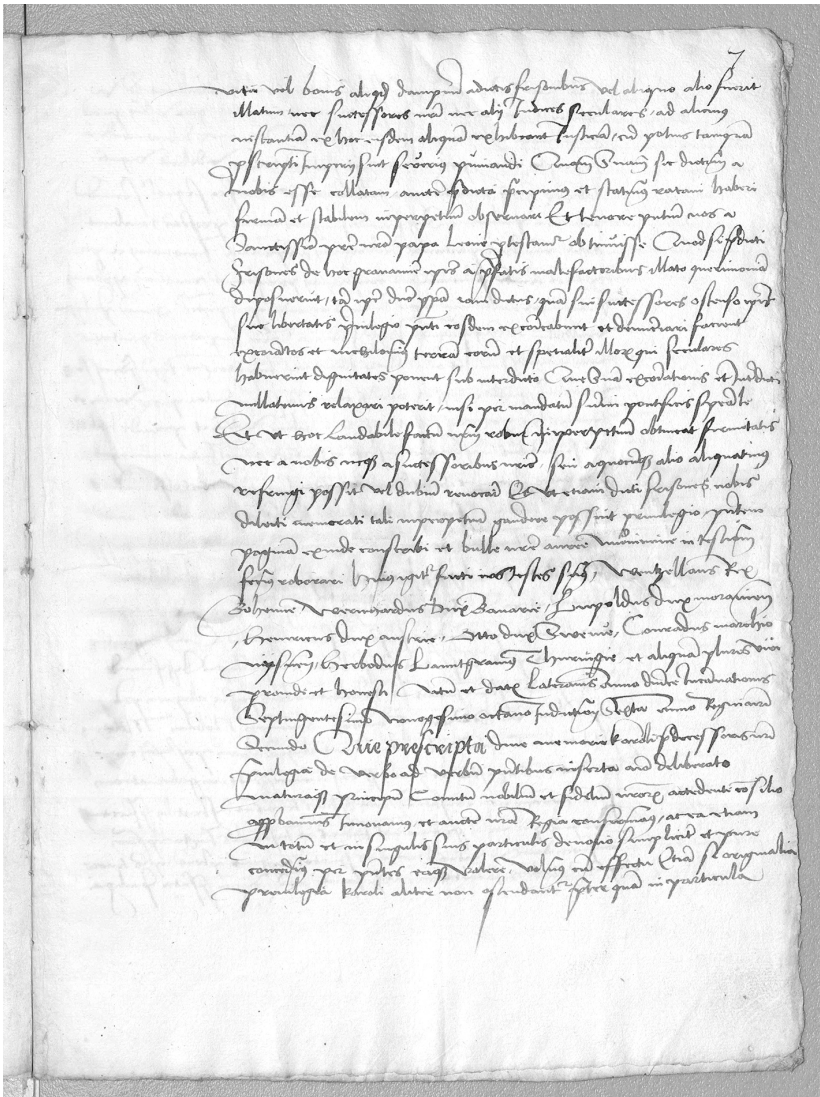


Picture 3: The 1493 charter of Maximilian I, fol. 6r

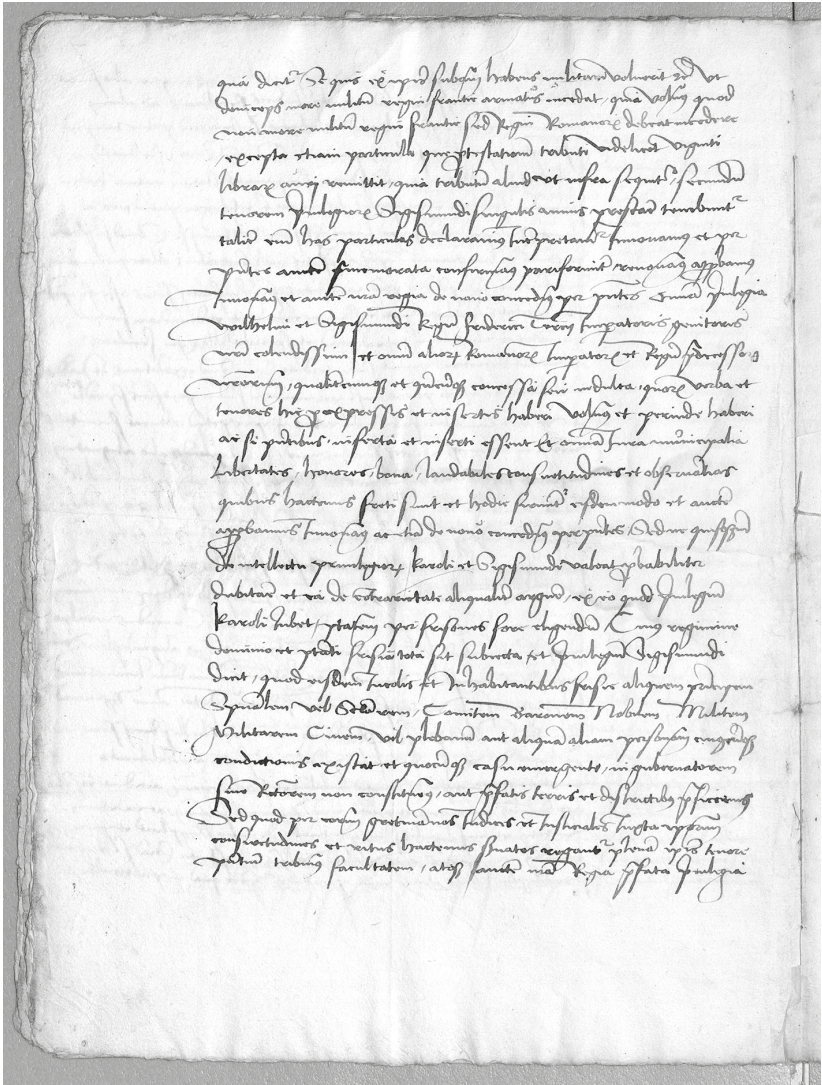


Picture 4: The 1493 charter of Maximilian I, fol. 6v





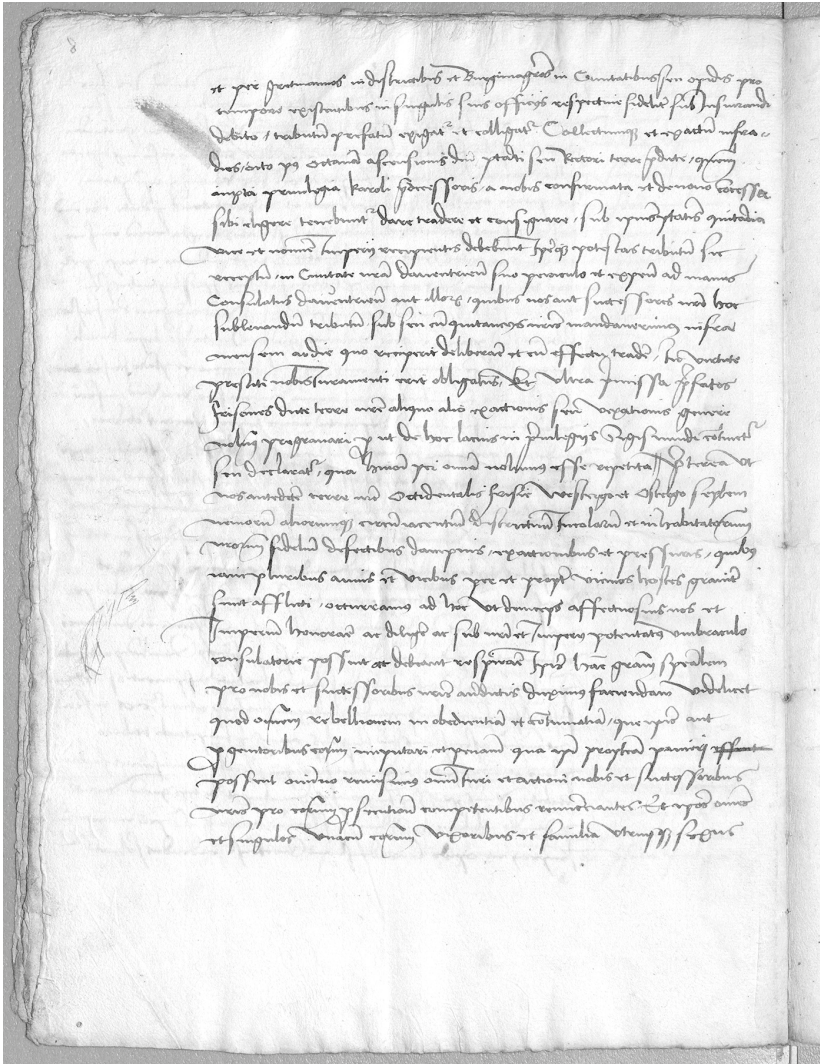
Picture 5: The 1493 charter of Maximilian I, fol. 7r



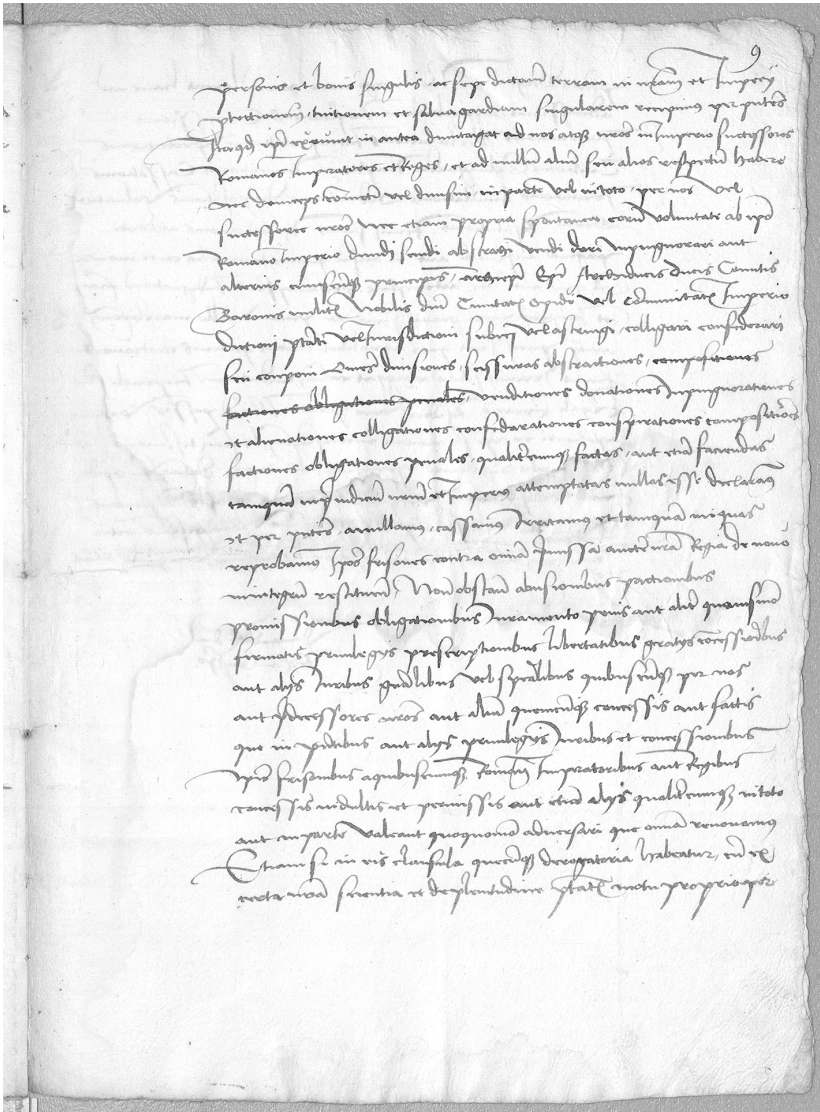
Picture 6: The 1493 charter of Maximilian I, fol. 7v





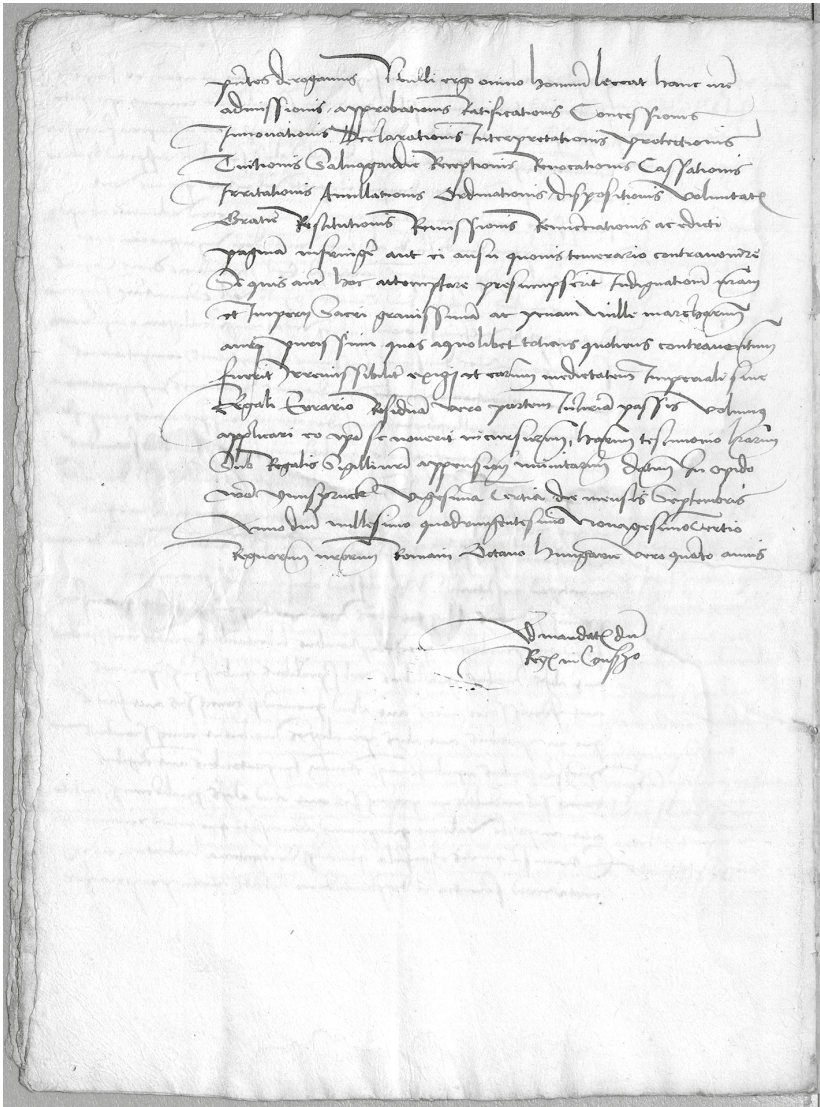


Picture 8: The 1493 charter of Maximilian I, fol. 8v



Picture 9: The 1493 charter of Maximilian I, fol. 9r





Picture 10: The 1493 charter of Maximilian I, fol. 9v