



## Building No. 2

Bandinelli Palace is the first in order among the best preserved houses on the East side of the Square. It is one of the most interesting buildings in the complex and it represents well the Renaissance style. The most attractive is its lateral facade facing Stavropihia Street—its skillful decorations resemble the famous Pandolfini Palace in Florence. The polonized German, Jerome Wittemberger (Yarosh Vedelskyi)—a pharmacist and a merchant—was the original owner of the house. Johann Alembek (Jan Alnpek) rented a room in the house and likely was also involved in pharmaceutical practice there. He came from Freiburg. At one time Jan Alnpek was the one who attested that his landlord made curative medications. They say that Jerome Wittemberger built the house from the profits gained from the sale of medications.

In 1630 the house became the property of the Florence merchant Roberto Bandinelli, who is assumed to be the grandson of the famous Italian sculptor Bartholomeo Bandinelli.

The facade of the building is decorated with rustic stones and rare “fish scale” resembling ornament. The main facade fac-

*Bandinelli Palace, lateral facade.*



*Johann Alembek.*





*Bandinelli stone house, beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, (Rynok Square 2).*

ing Rynok Square is decorated with dolphins—symbols of salvation and good luck in commerce. The house also preserves artistic elements in the interior, typical of that time wooden beams. White-stone carved window slopes are also of interest. The name of the architect of the house remains unfortunately unknown.

Having been granted the Royal privilege in 1629 for the establishment of Post Office services in Lviv, Roberto Bandinelli began to make the arrangements for it in his own house. Lviv Central Historical Archive possesses the original of the Charter of the Post (*Ordinatio Posthal*). On May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1629, it was enlisted in the Municipal Book (*City Schematism*).

History preserved for us the names of Lviv postmen of that time (who were called *cur-sors*). They were: Simon or Lomyvoda (Ukrainian—Break-

water), Bartholomey Kozel, Martyn Sokyrnyk, Martyn Kapusta, Martyn Opryshko, Stanislav Volovets, Yakiv Kalynskiy, Andriy Opryshko or Plakhta, Voytekh Shvets from the Tower, Martyn who comes from the Jews, Valentyn Vysokiy who goes to the Jews, Vorona Sharpanyi, Benek—the former Tsipak, Yan Volokh from Pidhirya (the foot of the Carpathian mountains), and Hresko Sokyrnyk.

As some Lviv historians note, the young Bandinelli was very critical of the actions of the polonized City Council and even challenged the authorities of the city to a duel, to which, of course, no one came. Probably they were afraid of the well-aimed sharp sword of the young Italian.

At the time of Bandinelli's descendants, in particular, his son Lauronzo, the building housed the City Mint.