

= Coloman , King of Hungary =

Coloman the Learned , also the Book @-@ Lover or the Bookish (Hungarian : Könyves Kálmán ; Croatian : Koloman ; Slovak : Koloman U?ený ; c . 1070 ? 3 February 1116) was King of Hungary from 1095 and King of Croatia from 1097 until his death . Coloman and his younger brother Álmos were still under @-@ age when their father King Géza I of Hungary died and their uncle Ladislaus I ascended the throne in 1077 . The king decided to prepare Coloman ? who was physically disabled , according to late medieval Hungarian chronicles ? for a church career . Coloman was appointed bishop of Eger or Várad (Oradea , Romania) in the early 1090s .

The dying King Ladislaus preferred Álmos to Coloman when nominating his heir in early 1095 . Coloman fled from Hungary but returned around 19 July 1095 when his uncle died . Coloman was crowned in early 1096 ; the circumstances of his accession to the throne are unknown . He granted the so @-@ called " duchy " ? one @-@ third of the Kingdom of Hungary ? to Álmos .

In the year of Coloman 's coronation , at least five large groups of crusaders arrived in Hungary on their way to the Holy Land . Coloman allowed the organized groups to pass through Hungary peacefully but mercilessly annihilated the bands entering his kingdom unauthorized or pillaging the countryside . He invaded Croatia and defeated its last native king Petar Sva?i? in 1097 . Coloman was crowned king of Croatia in 1102 . According to the late 14th @-@ century Pacta conventa , the authenticity of which is not universally accepted by scholars , Coloman was only crowned after having ratified a treaty with the leaders of the Croatian nobility . After Coloman 's coronation , the Hungarian monarchs were also the kings of Croatia for centuries .

Coloman had to face his brother 's lust for power throughout his life ; Álmos devised plots to overthrow him on at least five occasions . In retaliation , Coloman seized his brother 's duchy in 1107 or 1108 and had Álmos and Álmos ' son , Béla blinded in about 1114 . Hungarian chronicles , which were compiled in the reign of kings descending from his mutilated brother and nephew , depict Coloman as a bloodthirsty and unfortunate monarch . On the other hand , Coloman is portrayed as " the most well @-@ versed in the science of letters among all the kings of his day " by the contemporaneous chronicler Gallus Anonymus . Coloman 's decrees , which governed many aspects of life ? including taxation , trade and relations between his Christian and non @-@ Christian subjects ? remained unmodified for more than a century . He was the first Hungarian king to renounce the control of the appointment of prelates in his realms .

= = Early years (till 1095) = =

Coloman was the elder of the future King Géza I 's two sons who survived infancy . Géza 's Byzantine second wife ? whose baptismal name is unknown ? left Hungary after her husband 's death , implying that she was childless . Consequently , the mother of Coloman and his younger brother , Álmos , must have been Géza 's first wife , Sophia , whose family is unknown . According to historians Gyula Kristó and Márta Font , Coloman and Álmos were born around 1070 , . Coloman 's uncommon baptismal name was recorded as Colomanus or Colombanus in medieval documents written in Latin . Kristó and Font write that he was most probably named after Saint Coloman of Stockerau , a missionary who was martyred in Austria in the early 11th century . Another possibility is that his name is of Turkish origin , meaning " rest " .

Coloman 's father ascended the throne in 1074 . Because Coloman and Álmos were still minors when he died on 25 April 1077 , Géza 's brother Ladislaus I succeeded him . The new king decided that Coloman should be prepared for a career in the Church . The king 's decision was unusual because Coloman was older than Álmos . According to the 14th @-@ century Illuminated Chronicle , Coloman was " of mean stature , but astute and quick of apprehension " , which may have induced his uncle 's decision . The chronicler states that Coloman was " shaggy and hirsute , half @-@ blind and humpbacked , and he walked with a limp and stammered in his speech " . However , the reliability of this description is doubtful because the chronicle was completed in the reign of kings descending from Álmos .

In preparation for his clerical life , Coloman learnt to read and write and acquired a good knowledge

of Latin . His proficiency in canon law was eulogized in a letter that Pope Urban II addressed to him in 1096 . According to Kristó , having finished his studies , Coloman was ordained priest and in the early 1090s he was appointed bishop . According to late medieval chronicles , Coloman was bishop of either Eger or of Várad (Oradea , Romania) . The Illuminated Chronicle narrates that Ladislaus I wanted to appoint Coloman " bishop of Agria " but the same source also says that Coloman was " bishop of Warad " .

According to the Illuminated Chronicle , both Coloman and Álmos accompanied their uncle on a military campaign against Bohemia in early 1095 . Before reaching the border of his kingdom , Ladislaus I " was overcome by a grave infirmity " and decided to appoint Álmos as his heir . However , Coloman did not want to respect his uncle 's decision and fled to Poland . He returned to Hungary around 29 July 1095 when his uncle died . According to the Illuminated Chronicle , Ladislaus had invited Coloman back from Poland . The same source adds that Álmos , " in the true simplicity of his heart honoured his brother , Coloman , and yielded to him the crown of the kingdom " , which suggests that Coloman ascended the throne without bloodshed . Coloman was crowned king in early 1096 , the delay implying that the two brothers had been fighting for the crown before they reached an agreement . It is also possible , as proposed by Márta Font , that Coloman could only be crowned after Pope Urban II had exempted him of his clerical status .

= = Reign = =

= = = Facing the crusaders (1095 ? 1096) = = =

Coloman was crowned in Székesfehérvár by Archbishop Seraphin of Esztergom . According to the Illuminated Chronicle , at the same time he " granted the dukedom with full rights " to Álmos . This report shows that Álmos only acknowledged his brother 's rule in exchange for receiving the one @-@ time ducatus or duchy of their father and grandfather , which comprised one third of the kingdom .

Shortly after his coronation , Coloman had to face problems the armies of the First Crusade caused while passing through Hungary . The first army , which was led by Walter Sans Avoir , reached the frontier on 8 May 1096 , and proceeded through the kingdom without any disturbances . The next arrivals , who were headed by Peter the Hermit , also passed through the country without incidents until they reached Zimony (Zemun , Serbia) , where a dispute between the crusaders and the local inhabitants caused a riot . The crusaders besieged and took the town , where they massacred " [a] bout four thousand Hungarians " , according to the contemporaneous Albert of Aix . They only withdrew when Coloman 's troops were approaching them . A third band of crusaders reached Nyitra (present @-@ day Nitra , Slovakia) around the same time and started to plunder the region . These were soon routed by the locals . A fourth army pillaged the region between Moson and Székesfehérvár , but they were defeated and massacred by Coloman 's troops .

[The crusaders] were even granted a licence to buy and sell necessary supplies , and peace was proclaimed on both sides according to [Coloman 's] instructions , lest a dispute might arise from such a large army . But when they were delayed there for some days , they began to wander , and the Bavarians and Swabians , a bold race , and the rest of the soldiers foolishly drank too much ; they violated the proclaimed peace , little by little stealing wine , barley , and other necessities from the Hungarians , finally seizing sheep and cattle in the fields and killing them ; they destroyed those who stood up to them and wanted to drive them out . The others committed several crimes , all of which we cannot report , like a people foolish in their boorish habits , unruly and wild . For , as those say who were present , they stabbed a certain young Hungarian in the market street with a stake through his private parts , because of a most contemptible dispute [Coloman] was disturbed by this scandal , ... so he ordered ... that the signal should be given to the whole of Hungary to stir to battle in vengeance of this crime and the other insults , and not one of the pilgrims was to be spared because they had carried out this vile deed .

Coloman , alarmed by these incidents , refused to authorize the new crusaders who arrived under

the leadership of one Count Emicho six weeks later to enter Hungary . However , they broke through the defensive lines and laid siege to Moson . In six weeks , Coloman mustered his armies , causing a panic among the crusaders which enabled the garrison of the fortress to carry out a sortie and route the crusader bands . According to Albert of Aix , contemporaneous Christians thought that the Hungarians ' victory over Count Emicho was a punishment that God inflicted on the pilgrims because they had massacred many Jews " rather from greed for their money than for divine justice " .

The first properly organized crusader army which reached the borders of Hungary in September 1096 was led by Godfrey of Bouillon , Duke of Lower Lorraine . He had a meeting with Coloman in Sopron , where they reached an agreement . The king authorized the crusaders to march through his kingdom but stipulated that Duke Godfrey 's younger brother Baldwin and his family should stay with him as hostages . The crusaders passed through Hungary peacefully along the right bank of the Danube ; Coloman and his army followed them on the left bank . Coloman only released his hostages after all the crusaders had crossed the river Sava , which marked the kingdom 's southern frontier . After the uneventful march of the main crusader army across Hungary , Coloman 's fame quickly spread throughout Europe .

The contemporaneous Cosmas of Prague wrote that " some of the Jews " who had been persecuted by the crusaders in Bohemia arrived in Hungary and " secretly took their wealth away with them " . Although Cosmas does not specify their number , László Mezey and other historians say that the Jews represented a large influx . Coloman issued a number of decrees and separate statutes ? *Capitula de Iudeis* ? regulating the position of Jews in Hungary . For instance , he forbade them from holding Christian slaves and residing " outside episcopal sees " . Historian Nora Berend writes that the " defence of purity of Christians by interdictions against mingling with Jews plays a very minor role " in Coloman 's legislation in comparison with late 12th @-@ century canon law . Whereas Coloman did not try to convert the Jews , he issued decrees aimed at the conversion of his Muslim subjects . For instance , he prescribed that if a Muslim " has a guest , or anyone invited to dinner , both he and his table companions shall eat only pork for meat " in order to prevent Muslims from observing their dietary laws .

= = = Expansion , internal conflicts and legislation (1096 ? 1105) = = =

After Coloman 's victories over the marauding crusaders , Henry IV , Holy Roman Emperor , whom Ladislaus I had supported against Pope Urban II in his last years , wrote a letter to Duke Álmos . The emperor stated that Coloman had neglected imperial interests " because of his own necessities " , and asked the duke to intervene on his behalf . However , Coloman ? a former bishop ? abandoned his predecessor 's foreign policy and supported the pope . Historian Gyula Kristó writes that the fact that his brother , Álmos had for years had a close relationship with Emperor Henry may also have influenced Coloman 's decision . Coloman married Felicia , a daughter of Roger I of Sicily ? a close ally of the Holy See ? in 1097 . In 1095 , her sister Constance had married Conrad , the elder son of Emperor Henry IV , after he rebelled against his father and joined the pope 's camp .

Coloman invaded Croatia in 1097 . Its last native king , Petar Sva?i? , who had for years resisted Coloman 's predecessor , died in the Battle of Gvozd Mountain . The Hungarian troops reached the Adriatic Sea and occupied Biograd na Moru , an important port . Threatened by the advance of Coloman 's army , the citizens of the towns Trogir and Split swore fidelity to the Doge of Venice , Vitale Michiel , who had sailed to Dalmatia . Having no fleet , Coloman sent his envoys with a letter to the doge to " remove all the former misunderstandings concerning what is due to one of us or the other by right of our predecessors " . Their agreement of 1098 ? the so @-@ called *Conventio Amicitiae* ? determined the spheres of interest of each party by allotting the coastal regions of Croatia to Hungary and Dalmatia to the Republic of Venice .

Taking advantage of Coloman 's absence , Álmos began to conspire against the king and mustered his armies . Coloman returned from Croatia and marched towards his brother 's duchy with his troops in 1098 . The two armies met at Tiszavárkony , with only the river Tisza separating them . However , the commanders of the two troops started negotiations and decided not to fight each

other , compelling the king and the duke to make peace .

[Coloman] and his army marched to [Tiszavárkony] against [Álmos] , and [Álmos] drew near to [Tiszavárkony] from the opposite direction , and between them was the river [Tisza] . But loyal Hungarians sought to bring about a truce , in order that they could talk with each other , and they said : " Why do we fight ? If they defeat us in battle , we shall die ; and if they escape , they will flee : in times past our fathers fought against each other and brothers against brothers , and they died . Nor do we see any ground for fighting . Let those two fight if fighting pleases them ; and whichever of them shall win , let us take as lord . " Having taken this decision , the chief men dispersed . When Grak told [Coloman] of their decision and Ilia informed [Álmos] , they kept the peace , though it was not by their own will .

Grand Prince Svyatopolk II of Kiev sent his son Iaroslav ? who was the husband of one of Coloman 's nieces ? to Hungary to seek assistance from Coloman against the princes of the westernmost regions of Rus ' in 1099 . Iaroslav persuaded Coloman to intervene in the conflict . The king and his army crossed the Carpathian Mountains and laid siege to Peremyshl (Przemyśl , Poland) ? the seat of Volodar Rostislavich , one of the rebellious princes . David Igorevich , one of Volodar Rostislavich 's allies , persuaded the Cumans to attack the Hungarians . In the ensuing battle , the Hungarian army was soundly defeated . The Illuminated Chronicle says that " [r] arely did Hungarians suffer such slaughter as in this battle " . According to the Russian Primary Chronicle , many Hungarians " were drowned , some in the Vyagro and others in the San " after the battle . Coloman himself narrowly escaped from the battlefield through the valley of the San . In the same year , Coloman hastened towards the Bohemian border to assist the dukes of Moravia ? Svatopluk and Otto ? against Duke Bretislaus II of Bohemia . Coloman and Bretislaus had a meeting on the border river Olšava " in the field of Lužsko " where " they renewed their age @-@ old bonds of friendship and peace and confirmed them with oaths " , according to Cosmas of Prague .

Around 1100 , Coloman " assembled the magnates of the kingdom and reviewed with the advice of the entire council the text of the laws of " King Saint Stephen . The assembly of Tarcál passed new decrees , which regulated several aspects of the economy and tempered the harshness of the legislation of Coloman 's predecessor . One of the decrees prohibited the persecution of strigae ? vampires or mares ? because they " do not exist " . The same law also dealt with malefici or " sorcerers " , punishing their misdeeds . Taxes on trade were increased under Coloman , implying that commerce flourished in his reign . However , his legislation prohibited the export of Hungarian slaves and horses . Coins minted under Coloman were smaller than those issued in his predecessor 's reign , which prevented the cutting down of their smooth edge .

Coloman was crowned king of Croatia in Biograd na Moru in 1102 . The 13th @-@ century Thomas the Archdeacon writes that the union of Croatia and Hungary was the consequence of conquest . However , the late 14th @-@ century manuscript known as the Pacta conventa narrates that Coloman was only crowned after he had reached an agreement with twelve leading Croatian noblemen , because the Croats were preparing to defend their kingdom against him by force . Whether this document is a forgery or an authentic source is a subject of scholarly debate . According to the historian Pál Engel , even if the document is a forgery , its content " is concordant with reality in more than one respect " concerning the special status of Croatia throughout the Middle Ages . For instance , in case of a foreign invasion , Croatian noblemen were obliged to fight at their own expense only up to the river Drava , which was considered the border between Croatian territories and Hungary .

Coloman was a man of warlike spirit , and resolved to subjugate to his lordship all the land to the Adriatic Sea . He came with a force of arms and took possession of the remaining part of Slavonia , which Ladislav had passed over .

In an attempt to prevent an alliance between Coloman and Bohemond I of Antioch , the Byzantine Emperor Alexios I Komnenos arranged a marriage between his son and heir , John , and Coloman 's cousin , Piroška , in 1104 or 1105 . Coloman invaded Dalmatia in 1105 . According to the Life of the blessed John of Trogir , Coloman personally commanded his troops besieging Zadar , the most influential among the Dalmatian towns . The siege lasted until Bishop John of Trogir negotiated a treaty between the king and the citizens who accepted Coloman 's suzerainty . Split likewise

surrendered after a short siege , but two other Dalmatian towns ? Trogir and ?ibenik ? capitulated without resistance . Based on the Life of St Christopher the Martyr , the historian Paul Stephenson writes that a Hungarian fleet subjugated the islands of the Gulf of Kvarner , including Bra? , Cres , Krk , and Rab . Thomas the Archdeacon narrates that Coloman granted each Dalmatian town its own " charter of liberties " to secure their loyalty . These liberties included the citizens ' right to freely elect the bishop of their town and their exemption from any tribute payable to the monarch . Following his conquest of Dalmatia , Coloman assumed a new title ? " King of Hungary , Croatia and Dalmatia " ? which was first recorded in 1108 .

= = = Family affairs (1105 ? 1113) = = =

Coloman had his four @-@ year @-@ old son Stephen crowned in 1105 , which caused Álmos to openly rebel against the king . The duke left Hungary and sought the assistance of Emperor Henry IV against Coloman . Having realized that the emperor , who was facing a rebellion of his own son , could not help him , Álmos returned to Hungary in 1106 . In the same year , Álmos fled to his brother @-@ in @-@ law , Boleslaw III of Poland . With Polish assistance he captured the fortress of Abaújvár in Hungary . Coloman had a meeting with Boleslaw III and the two monarchs " vowed perpetual friendship and brotherhood " . Without the Polish monarch 's support , Álmos was forced to yield to Coloman .

Coloman sent his envoys to the Council of Guastalla , which had been convoked by Pope Paschalis II . In October 1106 , they solemnly informed the pope of Coloman 's renunciation of his royal prerogative to appoint the prelates . According to historians Ferenc Makk and Márta Font , without this declaration the Holy See would not have acknowledged Coloman 's conquest of Dalmatia . During the civil war between Boleslaw III and his brother Zbigniew , Coloman intervened on the former 's behalf and helped him overcome the latter 's army in Mazovia in 1107 . Coloman also sent Hungarian reinforcements to the Byzantine Emperor Alexios I Komnenos against Bohemond I of Antioch , who invaded Byzantine territories in October 1107 . Bohemond suffered a sound defeat and was forced to accept the humiliating treaty of Devol in 1108 .

In 1107 or 1108 , Álmos made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land . Coloman decided to take advantage of his absence and seized his duchy . Although Álmos was allowed to keep his own private property , the annexation of his duchy ensured the integrity of Coloman 's kingdom . Having returned from the Holy Land , Álmos set up a monastery at Dömös . On the occasion of its consecration , at which Coloman was also present , Álmos was ? falsely according to the Illuminated Chronicle ? accused of trying to assassinate the monarch . Coloman had his brother arrested but " the most reverend bishops and other well @-@ disposed dignitaries " intervened on Álmos 's behalf and " thus reconciliation was solemnly sworn " between the king and his brother .

Álmos left for Passau . Upon his request , Henry V of Germany invaded Hungary and laid siege to Pressburg (Bratislava , Slovakia) in September 1108 . At the same time , Duke Svatopluk of Bohemia , who also supported Álmos , made an incursion into the regions north of the Danube . Coloman 's ally Boleslaw III invaded Bohemia , forcing the Czech duke to withdraw . The emperor 's attempt to take Pressburg was a total failure , but he persuaded Coloman to forgive Álmos , who was allowed to return to Hungary .

In the same year , Coloman visited Dalmatia and confirmed the privileges of Split , Trogir and Zadar . He returned to Zadar around 1111 and reaffirmed the Dalmatian towns ' liberties . Hungarian historian Font writes that Coloman seems to have set up a new diocese at Nyitra (Nitra , Slovakia) between 1111 and 1113 . According to the contrasting view of Slovak historians , the bishopric had already been established before 1086 . Coloman 's first charter of grants , which was issued in 1111 , for the Zobor Abbey only mentions a provost in Nyitra , but his second charter of 1113 refers to the bishop . These two royal charters also mention a Mercurius as " princeps Ultrasilvanus " , which implies he was the first voivode of Transylvania , but he may have been only an important landowner in the province without holding any specific office . In 1112 , Coloman made an incursion into Austria , possibly in retaliation for Margrave Leopold III 's participation in the 1108 German campaign against Hungary , according to Ferenc Makk .

In 1112 , Coloman ? who had been widowed ? married Euphemia of Kiev , a daughter of Vladimir Monomakh , Prince of Pereyaslavl in 1112 . However , according to the Illuminated Chronicle , the queen " was taken in the sin of adultery " in 1113 or 1114 . Euphemia was soon sent back to her father , who had become Grand Prince of Kiev .

= = = Last years (1113 ? 1116) = = =

In 1113 , Duke Boleslaw III of Poland , who had blinded his rebellious brother Zbigniew , causing his death , " undertook a journey of pilgrimage to St. Gilles and St. Stephen the King " to the Somogyvár Abbey and to the holy king 's shrine at Székesfehérvár in Hungary . Coloman received the Polish monarch cordially in Somogyvár . Shortly afterwards ? between 1113 and 1115 ? Coloman discovered that Álmos was again conspiring to seize the throne . Having lost his patience , Coloman had Álmos and Álmos 's young son Béla blinded to secure a peaceful succession for his own son . On the same occasion , many of his brother 's partisans were likewise mutilated . According to one of the two versions of these events recorded in the Illuminated Chronicle , the king even ordered that Béla should be castrated but the soldier who was charged with this task refused to execute the order . The chronicle also writes that the child was believed to have died after his blinding , but he was actually kept in a monastery for more than a decade .

[The] King took the Duke and his infant son Bela and blinded them . He also gave orders that the infant Bela should be castrated . But the man who was instructed to blind them feared God and the sterility of the royal line , and therefore he castrated a dog and brought its testicles to the King .

The fleet of Venice , commanded by Doge Ordelafo Faliero , invaded Dalmatia in August 1115 . The Venetians occupied the Dalmatian islands and some of the coastal cities but could not take Zadar and Biograd na Moru . By that time , Coloman was gravely ill . The symptoms recorded in the Illuminated Chronicle indicate a serious otitis , which caused encephalitis . Before his death , he " instructed his son and his great men that after his death they should take vengeance on Russia for the injury done to him " during his campaign of 1099 . Upon his councillor 's advice , he also had Álmos , who had taken refuge in the monastery of Dömös , imprisoned .

The King now began to be gravely ill , and he had a Latin doctor , named Draco , in whom he placed too much trust . This doctor applied a poultice to the ears of the King , who was oppressed by headaches , and the strength of the poultice drew out through the cavities of his ears no small part of his brain . When the poultice had been removed because he could endure it no longer , he showed it to Count Othmar . When he inspected it and saw upon it the matter drawn forth from the brain , he said to the King : " Lord , it behoves you to prepare yourself for extreme unction " . When the King heard this , he groaned and was afraid .

Coloman died on 3 February 1116 . According to the Illuminated Chronicle , " divine vengeance made him drink the bitterness of early death " because of his " shedding of innocent blood " when ordering the punishment of Álmos , Béla and their partisans . Coloman was buried in the Székesfehérvár Cathedral , near the holy King Stephen I.

= = Title = =

" King of Hungary , Slavonia , Croatia and Dalmatia " (1108) .

= = Family = =

Coloman 's first wife Felicia ? who is incorrectly named Busilla in earlier historiography ? was the daughter of Count Roger I of Sicily . There is scholarly uncertainty whether her mother was the count 's first wife Judith of Évreux or his second wife Eremburga of Mortain . The marriage of Coloman and Felicia took place in the spring of 1097 . She gave birth to at least three children . According to Font , the eldest child Sophia was born in or before 1100 . In 1101 , Sophia was followed by twin brothers Stephen and Ladislaus . Felicia 's death preceded that Ladislaus , who died in 1112 .

Coloman married his second wife Eufemia in the summer of 1112 . Born in 1096 or 1097 , she was at least 25 years younger than Coloman . She was the daughter of Vladimir Monomakh , who was Prince of Pereyasavl at the time of her marriage . After Coloman repudiated her on a charge of adultery , Eufemia fled to Kiev , where she gave birth to a son , Boris , who was never regarded as Coloman 's son by his Hungarian relatives .

The following family tree presents Coloman 's ancestors and some of his relatives who are mentioned in the article .

* Whether Géza 's first or second wife was his children 's mother is uncertain .

= = Legacy = =

Late medieval Hungarian chronicles , written under kings descended from Álmos who was blinded upon Coloman 's order , preserved an unfavorable image of Coloman and his rule . According to the Illuminated Chronicle , many " evil things were done " in Coloman 's reign . It states that the saintly Ladislaus I predicted that Coloman " would shed blood " . Modern historians ? including Márta Font , László Kontler and Gyula Kristó ? agree that this negative view was a form of " revenge " by his brother 's descendants , who persuaded their chroniclers to emphasize Coloman 's failures and to hide his successes . However , the one @-@ time existence of a favorable image of Coloman can be proven . For instance , the 13th @-@ century Roger of Torre Maggiore writes that Coloman was " inscribed in the catalogue of saints " along with the members of the Árpád dynasty who were actually canonized . Coloman 's decrees , which moderated the severity of Ladislaus I 's laws , also contradict to the chroniclers ' report of his bloodthirsty nature . His scribe clearly mentions him as " the most Christian King Columban " , who is " endowed with the artless grace of a dove and with all discernment of the virtues " in the preamble to his decrees .

Coloman 's statesmanship is appreciated in modern historiography . According to László Kontler , " it was ... under Coloman 's reign that the medieval Hungarian state became consummate and acquired its final structure " . Font and Kristó wrote that Coloman 's laws governed his kingdom without modifications for more than a century , even under monarchs hostile towards his memory . Likewise , coinage in Hungary followed the pattern established by Coloman 's small denars throughout the 12th century .

His contemporaries Pope Urban II and Gallus Anonymus were aware of Coloman 's " uncommon erudition " . According to the chronicles , the Hungarians called him Cunues or Qunwes ? the Learned or the Book @-@ Lover ? " because of the books he owned " . The Illuminated Chronicle says that Coloman " read the canonical hours like a bishop " in his books . According to Kristó , Coloman 's court was a center of learning and literature . Bishop Hartvik compiled his Life of King Saint Stephen under Coloman . Kristó writes that it is probable that the Lesser Legend of Saint Gerard of Csanád (Cenad , Romania) was also written during Coloman 's reign . Historians attribute the first compilation of Hungarian historical records , which gave rise to the development of Hungarian historiography , to Coloman 's efforts .