

= Mary of Hungary (governor of the Netherlands) =

Mary of Austria (15 September 1505 ? 18 October 1558) , also known as Mary of Hungary , was queen consort of Hungary and Bohemia as the wife of King Louis II , and was later Governor of the Habsburg Netherlands .

The daughter of Queen Joanna and King Philip I of Castile , Mary married King Louis II of Hungary and Bohemia in 1515 . Their marriage was happy but short and childless . Upon her husband 's death following the Battle of Mohács in 1526 , Queen Mary governed Hungary as regent in the name of the new king , her brother , Ferdinand I.

Following the death of their aunt Margaret in 1530 , Mary was asked by her eldest brother , Emperor Charles V , to assume the governance of the Netherlands and guardianship over their nieces , Dorothea and Christina of Denmark . As governor of the Netherlands , Mary faced riots and a difficult relationship with the Emperor . Throughout her tenure she continuously attempted to ensure peace between the Emperor and the King of France . Although she never enjoyed governing and asked for permission to resign several times , the Queen succeeded in creating a unity between the provinces , as well as in securing for them a measure of independence from both France and the Holy Roman Empire . After her final resignation , the frail Queen moved to Castile , where she died .

Having inherited the Habsburg lip and not very feminine looks , Mary was not considered physically attractive . Her portraits , letters , and comments by her contemporaries do not assign her the easy Burgundian charm possessed by her grandmother , Duchess Mary of Burgundy , and her aunt Margaret . Nevertheless , she proved to be a determined and skillful politician , as well as an enthusiastic patron of literature , music , and hunting .

= = Early life = =

Born in Brussels on 15 September 1505 , between ten and eleven in the morning , Archduchess Mary of Austria was the fifth child of King Philip I and Queen Joanna of Castile . Her birth was very difficult ; the Queen 's life was in danger and it took her a month to recover . On 20 September , she was baptized by Nicolas Le Ruistre , Bishop of Arras , and named after her paternal grandmother , Mary of Burgundy , who had died in 1482 . Her godfather was her paternal grandfather , Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I.

On 17 March 1506 , Emperor Maximilian promised to marry her to the first son born to King Vladislaus II of Hungary . At the same time , the two monarchs decided that a brother of Mary would marry Vladislaus ' daughter Anne . Three months later , Vladislaus ' wife , Anne of Foix @-@ Candale , gave birth to a son , Louis Jagiellon . Queen Anne died in childbirth and the royal physicians made great efforts to keep the sickly Louis alive .

After the death of Mary 's father in September 1506 , her mother 's mental health began to deteriorate . Mary , along with her brother , Archduke Charles , and her sisters , Archduchesses Eleanor and Isabella , was put into the care of her paternal aunt , Archduchess Margaret , while two other siblings , Archduke Ferdinand and posthumously @-@ born Archduchess Catherine , remained in Castile . Mary , Isabella , and Eleanor were educated together at their aunt 's court in Mechelen . Their music teacher was Henry Bredemers .

= = Queen of Hungary and Bohemia = =

Mary was summoned to the court of her grandfather Maximilian in 1514 . On 22 July 1515 , Mary and Louis were married in St. Stephen 's Cathedral , Vienna . At the same time , Louis ' sister Anne was betrothed to an as yet unspecified brother of Mary , with Emperor Maximilian acting as proxy . Due to their age , it was decided that the newly married couple would not live together for a few more years . Anne eventually married Mary 's brother Ferdinand and came to Vienna , where the double sisters @-@ in @-@ law were educated together until 1516 . That year , Mary 's father @-@ in @-@ law died , making Louis and Mary king and queen of Hungary and Bohemia . Mary moved

to Innsbruck , where she was educated until 1521 . Maximilian encouraged her interest in hunting , while childhood lessons prompted an interest in music . This passion would later be demonstrated during her tenure as governor of the Netherlands .

= = = Life with Louis = = =

Mary travelled to Hungary in June 1521 , two and a half years after Emperor Maximilian 's death . She was anointed and crowned queen of Hungary by Simon Erd?dy , Bishop of Zagreb , in Székesfehérvár on 11 December 1521 . The queen 's coronation was followed by brilliant festivities . The royal marriage was blessed on 13 January 1522 in Buda . Mary 's anointment and coronation as queen of Bohemia took place on 1 June 1522 .

Mary and Louis fell in love when they were reunited in Buda . At first , Queen Mary had no influence over politics of Hungary and Bohemia because of her youth . Her court was replete with Germans and Dutch , who formed a base for the interests of the House of Habsburg . By 1524 Mary negotiated significant authority and influence for herself . In 1525 , she took control over one powerful political faction and neutralised another . Austria 's ambassador , Andrea de Borgo , was appointed by the Queen herself .

During her tenure as queen of Hungary , Mary attracted the interest of Martin Luther , who dedicated four psalms to her in 1526 . Despite her brother Ferdinand 's strong disapproval , Luther 's teachings held great appeal for Mary during her marriage and even more for her sister Isabella and her brother @-@ in @-@ law King Christian II of Denmark . Mary turned away from his teachings mostly because of pressure from Ferdinand . Her trusted court preacher , Johann Henckel , is also considered responsible for Mary 's return to orthodox Roman Catholicism . The return was lukewarm , but historian Helmut Georg Koenigsberger considers Mary 's reputation for sympathy with Lutheranism " much @-@ exaggerated " .

Louis and Mary spent their free time riding and hunting in the open country near the palace . They tried unsuccessfully to mobilize the Hungarian nobility against an imminent Ottoman invasion . Louis had inherited the crown of a country whose noblemen were fighting among themselves and against the peasantry . Hungary was deeply divided when , by the end of 1525 , it became clear that the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman I was planning to invade .

= = = Ottoman invasion = = =

On 29 August 1526 , Suleiman and his army broke through Hungary 's southern defences . Louis and his entire government marched out with a small army of 20 @,@ 000 men . The Battle of Mohács was over in less than two hours , with the entire Hungarian army virtually annihilated . Louis tried to flee the site of the battle but slipped from his frightened horse and drowned . Mary would mourn him for the rest of her life .

Hungary was divided into three parts : Ottoman Hungary - a part of the Ottoman Empire , Royal Hungary - ruled by Mary 's brother Ferdinand , and Eastern Hungarian Kingdom - ruled by John Zápolya . Ferdinand was elected King of Bohemia . Mary took a vow to never remarry and always wore the heart @-@ shaped medallion worn by her husband in the fatal Battle of Mohács .

= = Regency in Hungary = =

The day after her husband 's death , Mary notified Ferdinand of the defeat and asked him to come to Hungary . She requested troops to support her until his arrival . Ferdinand , busy in Bohemia where he had already been elected king , instead named Mary his regent in Hungary .

Mary spent the following year working to secure the election of Ferdinand as King of Hungary . On 14 February 1527 , she asked for his permission to resign as regent . Permission was denied , and Mary had to remain in the post until the summer of 1527 , when he finally came to Hungary and assumed the crown , to Mary 's relief .

Mary soon experienced financial troubles , illnesses , and loneliness . In 1528 , her aunt Margaret

suggested that she should marry King James V of Scotland . Mary rejected the idea because she had loved her husband and did not wish another marriage . In 1530 Charles again suggested that she should remarry ; he proposed to arrange a marriage to Frederick of Bavaria , who had unsuccessfully courted Mary 's sister Eleanor sixteen years before . Mary rejected him as well .

Ferdinand offered Mary the post of regent again in 1528 , but she declined , saying that " such affairs need a person wiser and older " . Ferdinand persisted in drawing Mary into his affairs throughout 1529 . Archduchess Margaret died on 1 December the next year , leaving the position of Governor of the Seventeen Provinces in the Netherlands vacant . Ferdinand informed her about their aunt 's death , saying that her affairs might now " take a different course " .

= = Governor of the Netherlands = =

On 3 January 1531 , Mary 's older brother , Holy Roman Emperor Charles V , requested that she assume the regency of the Netherlands . Charles was ruling a vast empire and was constantly in need of reliable family members who could govern his remote territories in his name . Mary reluctantly accepted on Charles ' insistence . On 6 October 1537 , in Monzón , the Emperor wrote to her :

I am only one and I can 't be everywhere ; and I must be where I ought to be and where I can , and often enough only where I can be and not where I would like to be ; for one can 't do more than one can do .

Mary served as regent of the Netherlands so well that Charles forced her to retain the post and granted her more powers than their aunt had enjoyed . Unlike her aunt , Mary was deeply unhappy during her tenure as governor and never enjoyed her role . In May 1531 , having governed for only four months , Mary told her brother Ferdinand the experience was like having a rope around her neck . While Margaret had been considered truly feminine , flexible , adaptable , humorous and charming , Mary was unyielding and authoritarian . Margaret accomplished her goals using a smile , a joke , or a word of praise , but Mary used cynical and biting comments . Unlike her aunt , Mary was unable to forgive or forget . She recognized this lack of " power as a woman " as her main problem .

= = Guardianship over nieces = =

Assuming the regency in the Netherlands meant assuming the guardianship of her nieces , Dorothea and Christina of Denmark , the daughters of her older sister , Queen Isabella of Denmark , who had died in 1526 . Upon Isabella 's death , the princesses had been cared for by Archduchess Margaret . Charles now relied upon Mary to arrange marriages for them , especially for Dorothea , whom he wanted to place on the Danish throne .

In 1532 , Francesco II Sforza , Duke of Milan , proposed a marriage with Christina , who was then 11 years old . Charles agreed to the marriage and allowed its immediate consummation . Mary determinedly opposed this decision , explaining to Charles that Christina was too young for consummation of the marriage . Charles ignored her , but she nevertheless managed to delay the marriage . She first told the Milanese envoy that her niece was ill and then took her to another part of the Netherlands for " serious affairs " . Christina was finally married on 28 September 1532 , but Mary managed to postpone her departure until 11 March 1533 .

Immediately after Christina 's departure , Mary fell ill and requested that she be allowed to resign as governor , but Charles did not allow it . A year later , Dorothea too was married . A few months after Dorothea 's departure , the now widowed Christina returned to her aunt 's court . King Henry VIII of England immediately proposed marriage to Christina , and Charles urged Mary to negotiate the marriage . She was not in favour of the union , and delayed . Henry was excommunicated in 1539 , at which point Charles had to end the negotiations .

= = Relationship with Charles = =

The Emperor assured Mary that he had no doubts about her loyalty to the Roman Catholic Church . He had learned that the Queen could not easily be bullied , especially not in matters which affected her personally . Yet , upon leaving the States General in October 1531 , Charles gave her a warning , saying that if his parent , wife , child or sibling became a follower of Luther , he would consider them his greatest enemy . Mary was thus forced to suppress Protestantism in the Netherlands , regardless of her own religious tolerance . However , she always strived to enforce her brother 's laws on religion as little as possible . She was accused of protecting Protestants on several occasions .

Her determination sometimes caused clashes of wills with Charles . In most matters of patronage , Mary had to defer to Charles , which is why his relations in this area were not much better with Mary than with their aunt Margaret . He often criticized her decisions , which negatively affected their otherwise affectionate relationship .

= = = Riots = = =

Mary became worried about losing authority and was having trouble with the finances in February 1534 . She complained that the budget could not be balanced even during the times of peace . Charles assured her that she was doing her best .

The Queen complained to Charles in August 1537 that the Low Countries were no longer governable and said he should come himself . In fact , Mary handled the crisis quite well and kept a cool head in public . In October , she travelled to the north of France to meet her brother @-@ in @-@ law , King Francis I of France , the second husband of her sister Eleanor . On October 23 , they signed a treaty . Francis thereby promised Mary that he would not help those who rebelled against her , while the Queen promised to compensate certain French noblemen who lost their land in the Low Countries during the Italian Wars .

= = = Seeking peace = = =

In 1534 , Mary prepared a proposal for a defensive union of all the provinces in her councils . She made the proposal at the States General in Mechelen in July , citing her brother , who had requested the provinces assist each other . The plan had to be given up and , after Mary and Eleanor 's failure to negotiate peace between the Empire and France , Mary 's letters to Charles began to resemble the theatrical outbursts of their aunt Margaret .

Mary strived for peace in the Netherlands . Charles paid no attention to the problems she was facing as governor and often ignored her warnings . One such incident led to Charles 's loss of the city of Metz to France . Mary was forced to wage war against France in 1537 and to deal with the Revolt of Ghent between 1538 and 1540 . Mary 's appointment as Governor of the Netherlands was renewed on 14 October 1540 , after the revolt in Ghent had been subdued .

= = = Resignation = = =

The Queen had to mediate between her brothers in 1555 , when Charles decided to abdicate as emperor and leave the government of the Netherlands to his son Philip , despite Ferdinand 's objections . When Mary learned of Charles 's decision , she informed him that she too would resign . Both Charles and Philip urged her to remain in the post , but she refused . She chronicled the difficulties she had faced due to her gender , the fact that she could not act as she thought she should have because of disagreements with Charles , and her age . Furthermore , she did not wish to accommodate to the ways of her nephew after years of getting used to Charles 's demands . The actual reason for Mary 's resignation was her numerous disagreements with her nephew . She asked for Charles 's permission to leave the Netherlands upon her resignation , fearing that she would be drawn into politics again if she remained .

Charles finally allowed his sister to resign . She formally announced her decision on 24 September 1555 and dismissed her household on 1 October . On 25 October , her authority was transferred to

Philip , who , despite his personal dislike of his aunt , tried to convince her to resume the post . After another quarrel with Philip , Mary retired to Turnhout . She remained in the Netherlands one more year .

= = Life in Castile = =

Mary wished to retire to Castile and live with her recently widowed sister Eleanor , near Charles , who had retired . She was afraid of moving to Castile because , although her mentally unstable mother Joanna (who died aged 77 in April 1555) had been sovereign there , Mary had never lived in Castile . She was afraid that Eleanor 's death would leave her alone in a country whose customs she did not know . In the end , she decided to move to Castile , while retaining the possibility of moving back to the Netherlands in case she could not adjust to the Castilian customs . Charles , Eleanor , and Mary sailed from Ghent on 15 September 1556 .

Although she repeatedly assured her brother that she had no intention of occupying herself with the affairs of state , Mary offered to become adviser to her niece Joan , who was serving as regent for Philip . Joan did not wish to share power and declined her aunt 's offer .

Mary did not enjoy her retirement for long ; Eleanor died in her arms in February 1558 . The grief @-@ stricken queen travelled to Charles to ask him for advice about her future . Charles told her that he wanted her to resume regency in the Netherlands , and promised a home and a large income , but Mary declined the offer . Her nephew Philip then urged her advisor to convince her to return . When Charles became ill in August , Mary accepted the offer and decided that she would become governor once again .

In September , Mary was fully prepared to depart for the Netherlands and resume her post when she was informed of Charles 's death . Distressed by the death of another sibling , the Queen , who had suffered from a heart disease most of her life , had two heart attacks in October . Both were so severe that her doctors thought that she had died . When Joan visited her , Mary was still determined to fulfill the promise she had given to Charles and assume the regency in the Netherlands , but she was weak and feverish . She died only few weeks later , in Cigales on 18 October 1558 .

In her last will , Mary left all her possessions to Charles . Since Charles had died , Philip inherited his aunt 's property . Shortly before her death , she decided that Philip and Joan should execute her will . She requested that her heart @-@ shaped gold medallion , once worn by her husband , be melted down and the gold distributed to the poor .

Queen Mary was first buried in the Monastery of Saint Benedict in Valladolid . Fifteen years after her death , Philip ordered that the remains be transferred to El Escorial .

= = Legacy = =

Mary was a keen art collector , and owned several important masterpieces of Early Netherlandish painting as well as more contemporary works . These included the Deposition of Christ by Rogier van der Weyden , now in the Museo de Prado , and the Arnolfini Portrait by Jan van Eyck , now in the National Gallery , London . Most of the collection passed to the Spanish Royal Collection after her death .

Queen Mary of Hungary was a great patron of music . She supported both sacred and secular music at her court in the Netherlands , where her maître de chappelle was Benedictus Appenzeller . Several elaborate music manuscripts that she commissioned during her governance are preserved in Spain in the monastery of Montserrat .

= = = Arms = = =

= = Ancestry = =

