

= Mary , Queen of Hungary =

Mary , also known as Maria ( 1371 ? 17 May 1395 ) , was Queen regnant of Hungary and Croatia between 1382 and 1385 , and from 1386 until her death . She was the daughter of Louis the Great , King of Hungary and Poland , and his wife , Elizabeth of Bosnia . Mary 's marriage to Sigismund of Luxembourg , a member of the imperial Luxembourg dynasty , was already decided before her first birthday . A delegation of Polish prelates and lords confirmed her right to succeed her father in Poland in 1379 .

Mary was crowned " king " of Hungary on 17 September 1382 , seven days after Louis the Great 's death . Her mother , who assumed regency , absolved the Polish noblemen from their oath of loyalty to Mary in favor of Mary 's younger sister , Hedwig , in early 1383 . The idea of a female monarch remained unpopular among the Hungarian noblemen , the majority of whom regarded Mary 's distant cousin , Charles III of Naples , as the lawful king . To strengthen Mary 's position , the queen mother wanted her to marry Louis , the younger brother of Charles VI of France . Their engagement was announced in May 1385 .

Charles III of Naples landed in Dalmatia in September 1385 . Sigismund of Luxemburg invaded Upper Hungary ( now Slovakia ) , forcing the queen mother to give Mary in marriage to him in October . However , they could not prevent Charles from entering Buda . After Mary renounced the throne , Charles was crowned king on 31 December 1385 , but he was murdered at the instigation of Mary 's mother in February 1386 . Mary was restored , but the murdered king 's supporters captured her and her mother on 25 July . Queen Elizabeth was murdered in January 1387 , but Mary was released on 4 June 1387 . Mary officially remained the co @-@ ruler with Sigismund , who had meanwhile been crowned king , but her influence on the government was minimal . She and her premature son died after her horse threw her during a hunting trip .

= = Childhood ( 1371 ? 1382 ) = =

Mary was born in the latter half of 1371 to Louis the Great , King of Hungary and Poland , and his second wife , Elizabeth of Bosnia . She was the second daughter of her parents . They had been childless for over a decade before Mary 's older sister , Catherine , was born in 1370 . Mary and Catherine gained another sibling , Hedwig , in 1374 .

Since Louis had fathered no sons , the expectation that he would bequeath Hungary , Poland , and his claims to the Kingdom of Naples and Provence to his daughters made them desirable spouses for members of the European royal families . Before Mary 's first birthday , her father made a promise to Charles IV , Holy Roman Emperor , that Mary would marry the emperor 's second son , Sigismund of Luxembourg . Louis confirmed his promise in a deed in June 1373 . Mary and Sigismund were closely related , because her paternal grandmother , Elizabeth of Poland , was the sister of his great @-@ grandfather , Casimir III of Poland . Pope Gregory XI issued the dispensation necessary for their marriage on 6 December 1374 . The leading Hungarian and Polish lords confirmed Louis 's promise of Mary 's and Sigismund 's marriage on 14 April 1375 .

Mary 's older sister , Catherine , who had been betrothed to Louis of France , died in late 1378 . Louis the Great confirmed his earlier promise of Mary 's and Sigismund 's marriage to Sigismund 's brother , Wenceslaus , King of the Romans , in Zólyom ( now Zvolen in Slovakia ) in 1379 . Louis and Wenceslaus also agreed that they would acknowledge Urban VI as the lawful pope against Clement VII . Mary was formally engaged to Sigismund in Nagyszombat ( now Trnava in Slovakia ) in the same year . Sigismund , who had meanwhile become Margrave of Brandenburg , came to Hungary .

Louis summoned the Polish prelates and lords to Kassa ( now Košice in Slovakia ) in September 1379 , persuading them to acknowledge Mary 's right to succeed him in Poland . The contemporaneous Jan of Czarńków , who was biased against Louis , recorded that the Poles yielded to the monarch 's demand only after he had prevented them from leaving the town by shutting its gates . At a meeting with Leopold III , Duke of Austria in early 1380 , Louis strongly hinted that he would bequeath Hungary to his younger daughter , Hedwig , who had been engaged

to Leopold III 's son , William . Upon Louis 's demand , a delegation of the Polish noblemen again paid homage to Sigismund and Mary on 25 July 1382 . According to the historian Oscar Halecki , Louis wished to divide his kingdoms between his two surviving daughters , but Pál Engel and Claude Michaud write that the ailing king wanted to bequeath both Hungary and Poland on Mary and Sigismund .

= = Reign = =

= = = First years ( 1382 ? 1384 ) = = =

Louis the Great died on 10 September 1382 . Cardinal Demetrius , Archbishop of Esztergom , crowned Mary " king " with the Holy Crown of Hungary in Székesfehérvár on 17 September , a day after her father 's burial . Mary 's title and her rapid coronation in the absence of her fiancé , Sigismund , show that her mother and her mother 's supporters wanted to emphasize Mary 's role as monarch and to postpone or even hinder Sigismund 's coronation .

The queen mother , Elizabeth , assumed regency . Palatine Nicholas Garai and Cardinal Demetrius became her main advisors . Most of Louis 's barons preserved their offices ; the queen mother only dismissed the master of the cupbearers , George Czudar , and his brother Peter , voivode of Ruthenia . According to the 15th @-@ century historian Jan D?ugosz , the Czudar brothers surrendered forts to the Lithuanians , who had " [ h ] eavily bribed " them . Queen Elizabeth had Peter Czudar imprisoned before 1 November ; her charters only stated that he " had obviously been disloyal " without specifying the reasons for his arrest .

All royal charters issued during the first six months of Mary 's reign emphasized that she had lawfully inherited her father 's crown . However , most Hungarian noblemen were strongly opposed to the very idea of a female monarch . They regarded Charles III of Naples as Louis the Great 's legitimate heir because Charles was the last male offspring of the Capetian House of Anjou . Charles could not openly lay claim to Hungary , because his rival for the Kingdom of Naples , Louis I , Duke of Anjou ? who was Charles VI of France 's uncle ? had invaded Southern Italy in the previous year .

Noblemen from Greater Poland offered to pay homage to either Mary or Hedwig at a meeting in Radomsko on 25 November , but they stipulated that the queen and her husband should live in Poland . The assembly of the nobility of Lesser Poland passed a similar resolution in Wi?lica on 12 December . On the latter occasion , in response to Queen Elizabeth 's demand , the noblemen also promised that they would not pay homage to anyone else than either Mary or Hedwig . Mary 's fiancé , Sigismund , who had stayed in Poland , returned to Hungary . Bodzanta , Archbishop of Gniezno , the Na??cz family , and their allies in Greater Poland favored a native prince , Siemowit IV of Masovia . To avoid a civil war , Queen Elizabeth sent envoys to the Polish noblemen 's next assembly which met in Sieradz in late February 1383 . Her envoys absolved the Poles from their 1382 oath of loyalty to Mary on 28 March , announcing that the queen mother would send her younger daughter , Hedwig , to Poland .

John of Palisna , Prior of Vrana , rose up in open rebellion against the rule of Mary and her mother in the spring of 1383 . The queens made Stephen Lackfi Ban of Croatia . The royal army marched to Croatia and laid siege to Vrana , forcing John of Palisna to flee to Bosnia . The defenders of Vrana surrendered to Mary , who had been present during the siege along with her mother , on 4 November . To strengthen Mary 's position against Charles of Naples , Queen Elizabeth sent her envoys to France and opened negotiations on the marriage of Mary to the younger brother of Charles VI of France , Louis , who had once been engaged to Mary 's sister , Catherine . Mary and the queen mother only left Croatia and Slavonia early next year . Queen Elizabeth replaced Stephen Lackfi with Thomas Szentgyörgyi , who used draconian measures to put an end to a conspiracy against the queens in Zadar in May 1384 .

Although the last Diet was held in the early 1350s , the queens convoked a Diet to deal with the grievances of the noblemen . Mary confirmed her father 's decrees of 1351 summarizing the

noblemen 's privileges on 22 June 1384 . The negotiations of Mary 's marriage in France caused a new rift within the Hungarian nobility , because the Lackfis , Nicholas Zámbo and Nicholas Szécsi and other high officers , who had been appointed during Louis the Great 's reign , continued to support Mary 's fiancé , Sigismund , in accordance with Louis the Great 's will . The queen mother replaced them with Nicholas Garai 's supporters in August 1384 . The prelates were also opposed to the French marriage , because the French supported Clement VII whom the Hungarian clergy considered an antipope . Mary 's sister , Hedwig , went to Poland where she was crowned on 16 October 1384 . Cardinal Demetrius , who had accompanied Hedwig to Poland , remained absent from the queens ' court after his return to Hungary . The royal government could not properly function during his absence because he was the keeper of the royal seal .

= = = Neapolitan threat ( 1384 ? 1385 ) = = =

Louis I of Anjou died on 10 September 1384 , enabling his rival , Charles III of Naples , to stabilize his rule in Southern Italy during the next months . The consolidation of Charles III 's position in Naples also contributed to the formation of a party of noblemen who supported his claim to Hungary . John Horvat , Ban of Macsó ( now Ma?va in Serbia ) , and his brother , Paul , Bishop of Zagreb , were the leading figures of their movement . Sigismund of Luxembourg tried to persuade the queen mother to consent to his marriage to Mary , but she refused him . He left Hungary in early 1385 .

The queens and their supporters initiated negotiations with the representatives of the opposition , but no reconciliation was reached at their meeting in Po?ega in the spring of 1385 . After a French delegation came to Hungary in May 1385 , Mary was engaged to Louis of France . Louis of France thereafter signed his letters " Louis of France , King of Hungary " , according to Jean Froissart . In the same month , the queen mother dismissed Stephen Lackfi , accusing him of high treason . She also sent letters to Zagreb and other places in the kingdom , forbidding the local inhabitants to support Lackfi , Nicholas Szécsi , Bishop Paul Horvat and their relatives . John and Paul Horvat and their allies formally offered the crown to Charles III of Naples and invited him to Hungary in August . In the same month , Mary confirmed Tvrtko I of Bosnia 's acquisition of Kotor in Dalmatia . Sigismund stormed into Upper Hungary , accompanied by his cousins , Jobst and Prokop of Moravia , and occupied Pozsony County . The queen mother replaced Nicholas Garai with Nicholas Szécsi , and made Stephen Lackfi voivode of Transylvania and Nicholas Zámbo master of the treasury .

Charles III of Naples landed at Senj in Dalmatia in September 1385 and marched to Zagreb . Sigismund of Luxembourg came to Buda and persuaded the queen mother to give her consent to his marriage to Mary . The marriage took place in Buda in October , but Sigismund was not crowned king and received no governmental function . The queen mother convoked a new Diet and Mary again confirmed the noblemen 's liberties , but the queens ' rule remained unpopular . Sigismund left Buda and mortgaged the territories west of the River Vág to his Moravian cousins . Charles of Naples had meanwhile left Zagreb , stating that he wanted to restore peace and public order in Hungary .

= = = Charles 's reign ( 1385 ? 1386 ) = = =

Many noblemen joined Charles of Naples who marched towards Buda . Mary and her mother received him ceremoniously before he reached Buda , and he entered the capital in the two queens ' company in early December 1385 . Mary renounced the crown without resistance in the middle of December out of fear that Charles would kill her . Charles first adopted the title governor , but the Diet elected him king . Charles was crowned king of Hungary in Székesfehérvár on 31 December . According to the contemporaneous Lorenzo de Monacis , Mary and her mother , who attended Charles 's coronation , visited Louis the Great 's tomb during the ceremony where they burst into tears because of their ill fate .

Charles did not detain Mary and her mother who continued to live in the royal palace in Buda . Queen Elizabeth and Nicholas Garai decided to get rid of Charles . They persuaded Blaise Forgách , the master of the cupbearers , to join them , promising him the domain of Gimes ( now Jelenec in

Slovakia ) if he murdered the king . Upon Queen Elizabeth 's request , Charles visited her and her daughter on 7 February 1386 . During the meeting , Blaise Forgách attacked the king , seriously injuring him on the head . The wounded King Charles was carried to Visegrád where he died on 24 February .

= = = Restoration and capture ( 1386 ? 1387 ) = = =

Mary was restored to the throne , with her mother ruling in her name . The queen mother informed the citizens of K?szeg already on 14 February that " Queen Mary had regained the Holy Crown " . However , the Horvat brothers rose up in open rebellion on behalf of the murdered king 's son , Ladislaus of Naples . Mary 's husband , Sigismund , and his brother , Wenceslaus , invaded Upper Hungary in April . After weeks of negotiations , the queens acknowledged Sigismund 's position as consort in a treaty which was signed in Gy?r in early May . They also confirmed Sigismund 's mortgage of the lands west of the Vág to Jobst and Prokop of Moravia . After the treaty was signed , the queens returned to Buda and Sigismund went to Bohemia , suggesting that he was dissatisfied with the treaty .

Queen Elizabeth , who according to the 15th @-@ century historian Johannes de Thurocz was " driven by folly " , decided to visit the southern counties of the kingdom that were controlled by supporters of Ladislaus of Naples . The queen mother and Mary set out for ?akovo , accompanied by Nicholas Garai and a modest following around 15 July . However , John Horvát , John of Palisna and their retainers ambushed and attacked the queens and their retinue at Gorjani on 25 July . The queens ' small entourage fought the attackers , but all were killed or captured . Blaise Forgách and Nicholas Garai were beheaded and their heads were thrown into the queens ' carriage . Elizabeth took all blame for the rebellion and begged the attackers to spare her daughter 's life , according to Johannes de Thurocz 's account .

Mary and her mother were imprisoned . They were held in captivity in Gornec Castle , which was a fortress of the Bishopric of Zagreb . In the queens ' absence , the barons of the realm convoked a Diet under the newly carved " seal of the regnicoles " . On Queen Mary 's behalf , they promised a general pardon , but the Horvats refused to submit . The two queens were dragged to Krupa , and from there to Novigrad Castle on the coast of the Adriatic Sea . The barons of the Diet elected Stephen Lackfi palatine and made Sigismund of Luxembourg regent . John Horvat 's henchmen strangled Queen Elizabeth in Mary 's presence in early January . In the same month , Sigismund invaded Slavonia , but could not defeat the rebels .

Taking advantage of the anarchy in Hungary , Polish troops invaded Lodomeria and Halych in February . Only Vladislaus II of Opole , who claimed the two realms for himself , protested against their action . Sigismund was crowned king on 31 March as it was decided that the kingdom could no longer be without an effective ruler . One of his supporters , Ivan of Krk , laid siege to Novigrad Castle with the assistance of a Venetian fleet , which was under the command of Giovanni Barbarigo . They captured the castle and liberated Mary on 4 June 1387 . She was especially grateful to Barbarigo ; she knighted him and granted an annuity of 600 golden florins to him .

= = = Her husband 's co @-@ ruler ( 1387 ? 1395 ) = = =

Mary met her husband in Zagreb on 4 July . She officially remained Sigismund 's co @-@ ruler until the end of her life , but her influence on government was minimal . Sigismund 's land grants were always confirmed with Mary 's own great seal during the first year of their common rule , but thereafter the grantees rarely sought her confirmation . Royal charters counted her regnal years not from her ascension , but from her husband 's coronation . Nevertheless , Mary persuaded her husband to torture and execute John Horvat who was captured in July 1394 although Sigismund would have been willing to spare his life .

Mary was pregnant when she decided to venture out alone on a hunt in a Buda forest on 17 May 1395 . Her horse tripped , threw her and landed on top of her . The trauma induced labor and she gave birth prematurely to a son . The queen succumbed to the fatal injuries ; being far from any kind

of assistance , her son died as well . She was buried in the cathedral of Várad ( now Oradea in Romania ) . Mary 's sister , Hedwig , claimed the crown , but Sigismund retained it without much difficulty .

= = Ancestors = =