

= Emeric , King of Hungary =

Emeric , also known as Henry or Imre (Hungarian : Imre , Croatian : Emerik , Slovak : Imrich ; 1174 ? 30 November 1204) , was King of Hungary and Croatia between 1196 and 1204 . In 1184 , his father , Béla III of Hungary , ordered that he be crowned king , and appointed him as ruler of Croatia and Dalmatia around 1195 . Emeric ascended the throne after the death of his father . During the first four years of his reign , he fought his rebellious brother , Andrew , who forced Emeric to make him ruler of Croatia and Dalmatia as appanage .

Emeric cooperated with the Holy See against the Bosnian Patariens , whom the Catholic Church considered to be heretics . Taking advantage of a civil war , Emeric expanded his suzerainty over Serbia . He failed to prevent the Republic of Venice , which was assisted by crusaders of the Fourth Crusade , from seizing Zadar in 1202 . He also could not impede the rise of Bulgaria along the southern frontiers of his kingdom . Emeric was the first Hungarian monarch to use the " Árpád stripes " as his personal coat of arms and to adopt the title of King of Serbia . Before his death , Emeric had his four @-@ year @-@ old son , Ladislaus III , crowned king .

= = Early life (1174 ? 1196) = =

Emeric was the eldest child of Béla III of Hungary and Béla 's first wife , Agnes of Antioch . His tutor was an Italian priest , Bernard . Nicholas , Archbishop of Esztergom , crowned the eight @-@ year @-@ old Emeric king on 16 May 1182 , which confirmed Emeric 's right to succeed his father . Emeric was betrothed to a daughter of Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I , but she died in 1184 . Béla III appointed Emeric to administer Croatia and Dalmatia around 1195 .

= = Reign = =

= = = Struggles with his brother (1196 ? 1200) = = =

Emeric succeeded his father , who died on 23 April 1196 . Béla III had bequeathed estates and money to Emeric 's younger brother , Andrew , under the condition that Andrew should lead a crusade to the Holy Land . Instead , Andrew turned against Emeric , demanding a separate duchy for himself in 1197 . Leopold VI , Duke of Austria , intervened on behalf of Andrew , and at the end of the year , their combined forces routed Emeric 's troops at Ma?ki , Slavonia . In early 1198 , Emeric was forced to make Andrew Duke of Croatia and Dalmatia as an appanage .

Andrew continued to conspire against Emeric , although Pope Innocent III continued urging Andrew to launch a crusade . On 10 March 1199 , Emeric forced Boleslaus , Bishop of Vác , who was a supporter of Andrew , to give him documents that proved the conspiracy against him . In the summer of that year , Emeric defeated Andrew 's army near Lake Balaton , which made Andrew flee to Austria . A papal legate named Gregory arrived in Hungary to mediate a reconciliation between the two brothers . According to the brothers ' treaty , Emeric once again granted Croatia and Dalmatia to Andrew in the summer of 1200 .

= = = Wars in the Balkans (1200 ? 1203) = = =

From around 1200 , Emeric was deeply involved in the affairs of the Balkan Peninsula . On 11 October 1200 , Pope Innocent urged him to take measures to liquidate the " heretics " in Bosnia . Upon Emeric 's request , the Pope refused to send a royal crown to Grand Prince Stephen of Serbia . Emeric invaded Serbia in 1201 or 1202 , and helped Stephen 's brother Vukan seize the throne . As a token of his suzerainty over Serbia , Emeric became the first Hungarian monarch to adopt the title of King of Serbia in 1202 . He was also the first king to use a royal seal depicting the so @-@ called " Árpád stripes " , which eventually became part of the coat of arms of Hungary .

In the summer of 1202 , the Venetian doge Enrico Dandolo signed a treaty with the leaders of the

Fourth Crusade , who agreed to help the Venetians recapture Zadar , a town in Dalmatia , which had accepted the Hungarian monarchs ' suzerainty since 1186 . Even though Pope Innocent III forbade the crusaders to besiege Zadar , they seized the town on 24 November and gave it to the Venetians . Although the Pope excommunicated the Venetians and the crusaders upon Emeric 's demand , Zadar remained under Venetian rule .

In fear of a crusade by Emeric , Ban Kulin of Bosnia held a synod of the Church of Bosnia at Bilino Polje on 6 April 1203 . The synod acknowledged papal primacy and ordered the reform of the rites . Kulin also acknowledged Emeric 's suzerainty . In a letter written in 1203 , the Bulgarian tsar Kaloyan informed Pope Innocent that Emeric had occupied five districts in Bulgaria , and Kaloyan demanded the Pope 's intervention .

= = = Last years (1203 ? 1204) = = =

Duke Andrew once again rose up in open rebellion against Emeric in the autumn of 1203 . Their armies met at Varaždin on the river Drava in October . Emeric walked into his brother 's camp unarmed , stating , " Now I shall see who will dare to raise a hand to shed the blood of the royal lineage ! " , according to the nearly contemporaneous Thomas the Archdeacon . Nobody ventured to stop the king ; thus , he approached Andrew and seized him without resistance . Duke Andrew was held in captivity for months , but his supporters released him in early 1204 .

Taking advantage of the civil war in Hungary , Kaloyan invaded and captured Belgrade , Barancs (now Braničevci in Serbia) , and other fortresses . Emeric made preparations for a campaign against Bulgaria , but he disbanded his army upon Pope Innocent 's demand . The Pope , who had been negotiating a church union with Kaloyan , sent a royal crown to him , but Emeric imprisoned the papal legate who was delivering the crown to Bulgaria when the legate was passing through Hungary .

Having fallen seriously ill , Emeric had his four @-@ year @-@ old son , Ladislaus , crowned king on 26 August 1204 . He also released the papal legate . He reconciled with his brother , " entrusting to him the guardianship of his son and the administration of the entire kingdom until the ward should reach the age of majority " , according to Thomas the Archdeacon . Emeric died on 30 November , according to the Illuminated Chronicle . Emeric was buried in the cathedral of Eger .

= = Family = =

Emeric 's wife , Constance , was the daughter of King Alfonso II of Aragon . Their marriage took place between 1196 and 1200 . Their only known child , Ladislaus , was born around 1200 and died on 7 May 1205 . Queen Constance , who outlived both her husband and their son , was later married to Frederick II , Holy Roman Emperor .