

GRANHOLM GENEALOGY

POLISH ROYAL ANCESTRY

Book 1 - Medieval Era (abt. 800-1400)

INTRODUCTION

Poland has had a very tumultuous past involving several wars. It has been attacked by Tatars and Russians from the East, Turks and Austrians from the South, Teutonic Knights and Prussians from the West and Swedes from the North. It has been occupied and divided countless times but always maintained a small but very patriotic core, which has made it possible to survive. I micro similarity to what has happened in Poland is how Berlin was divided in four zones after World War II.

The information about our lineage from the Polish royalty is somewhat unique in that we are directly related to the rulers from the first one to the 12th generation (great grand parents) where our direct lineage branches away from the Polish. The subsequent rulers are thus cousins. Below is a list of the ancestors, those covered in the text are highlighted. In some cases the spouses are also highlighted, this indicated that we are related to them also, but from a different lineage. The lineage to us is listed at the end of this book.

The era and the Piast dynasty, covered by Book 1 ends with Saint Hedwig (Jadwiga) King of Poland, who had no children. Note that although a female, she was designated “King” according to the Polish custom.

Book 2 begins with her husband, Jogaila Wladyslaw II Jagiello King of Poland, who with his second wife was the first of the next Jagellonian dynasty. He is not a direct ancestor for us, but we do have a common ancestor, Vladimir II "Monomach" Grand Duke of Kiev, my 26th great grand father.

Descendants of: Choscisko As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

- 1 **Choscisko** #17479 (35th great grand father)
- 2 **Piast the Wheelwright** #17478 (34th great grand father)
m. **Rzepicha** #17477
- 3 **Siemowit Prince of Piast** #17476 (33rd great grand father)
- 4 **Lestko (Lestek) Duke of Poland** #17475 b. abt 875 (32nd great grand father)
- 5 **Siemomysl Duke of Greater Poland** #15296 b. abt 955 (31st great grand father)
- 6 **Mieszko I Duke of Poland** #15154 b. ABT 935 d. 25 May 992 Poznan, Poland (30th great grand father)
m. **Dobrawka Princess of Bohemia** #15155 m. 965 b. ABT 931 Praha, Czechoslovakia d. 977
[daughter of Boleslaus I the Cruel Prince of Bohemia #15240 and Bozena (Biagota) Duchess of Bohemia #15243]
- 7 **Boleslaw I the Brave King of Poland** #15730 (29th great grand father)
m. **Judith Arpad Princess of Hungary** #15731 d. aft 988
[daughter of Geza of Hungary Grand Prince of the Magyars #15564 and Sarolt Grand Princess of the Magyars #15900]
m. **Emnilda Princess of Lusatia** #15735

[Children of Boleslaw I the Brave King of Poland and Judith Arpad Princess of Hungary]
8 **Bezprym Prince of Poland** #15732 b. 986 d. 1032 (29th great uncle)

[Children of Boleslaw I the Brave King of Poland and Emnilda]
8 **Mieszko II Lambert King of Poland** #15736 b. 990 d. 1034 (28th great grand father)
m. **Richeza of Lotharingia Queen of Poland** #15737 d. March 21, 1063 Saalfeld, Germany
[daughter of Ezzo (Erenfried) Count of Palatine of Lotharingia #15738 and Matilda of Saxony #15739]
- 9 **Casimir I Karol King of Poland** #15232 b. 25 Jul 1016 d. 28 Nov 1058 (27th great grand father)
m. **Dobronegra Mariya Princess of Kiev** #15231 m. ABT 1039 b. ABT 1011 d. 1087
[daughter of Saint Vladimir I the Great Grand Prince of Kiev #15065 and Kunosdotter Countess of Oehningen #15230]
- 10 **Wladislaw I Herman Duke of Poland** #15233 b. ABT 1042 d. 4 Jun 1102 (26th great grand father)
m. **Judith (Premyslid) I Princess of Bohemia** #15234 b. 1057 Praha, Bohemia d. 25 Dec 1085 (26th great grand mother)
[daughter of Vratislav II King of Bohemia #15251 and Adelaida Princess of Hungary #15252]
m. **Judith Sophia of Swabia Queen of Hungary** #15733 m. 1089 b. 1047 d. 1095
[daughter of Henry III the Black Holy Roman Emperor #16814 and Agnes of Poitou Holy Roman Empress #16815]
m. **Przeclawa** #17483

[Children of Wladislaw I Herman Duke of Poland and Judith (Premyslid) I Princess of Bohemia]
11 **Boleslaw III The Wrymouth Duke of Poland** #15235 b. 20 Aug 1085 Krakow d. 1138 (25th great grand father)
m. **Zbyslava Princess of Kiev** #15868 m. 16 November 1102 b. 1085/90 d. 1112
[daughter of Sviatopolk II Prince of Kiev #15867]
m. **Salome of Berg-Schelklingen** #15236 m. 1133 b. 1097 Schelklingen, Donaukreis, Wurttemberg d. 27Jul 1144
[Daughter of Heinrich III Count of Berg #15285 and Adeleide of Monchenthal #15286]

[Children of Boleslaw III The Wrymouth Duke of Poland and Zbyslava Princess of Kiev]
12 **Wladyslaw II the Exile Duke of Poland** #15869 b. 1105 d. 1159 Altenburg (25th great uncle)
m. **Agnes of Babenberg** #15971 b. 1111 d. 1157
- 13 **Boleslaus I the Tall Duke of Wroclaw** #16359 b. 1127 d. 1201 (first cousin, 25 times removed)
m. **Christina** #16360
- 14 **Henry I the Bearded Prince of Poland** #16361 b. 1165 d. 1238 (second cousin, 24 times removed)
m. **Saint Hedwig von Andechs** #16362 b. 1174 d. 1243
- 15 **Henry II the Pious Duke of Poland** #16355 b. 1196 d. 1241 (third cousin, 23 times removed)
m. **Anna Princess of Bohemia** #16354 b. 1204 d. 1265
[daughter of Ottokar I King of Bohemia #16113 and Constance Queen of Bohemia #16115]

16 **Elisabeth Duchess of Wroclaw** #16356 (4th cousin, 22 times removed)
m. **Przemysl I Duke of Greater Poland** #16357 b. 1221 d. 1257
[son of Wladyslaw Odonic Duke of Greater Poland #17512 and Hedwig #17513]

16 **Boleslaw II the Bald Duke of Poland** #16358 b. 1220 d. 1278 (4th cousin, 22 times removed)

13 **Mieszko I Tanglefoot Duke of Poland** #17491 b. 1130 d. 1211 (first cousin, 25 times removed)

[Children of Boleslaw III The Wrymouth Duke of Poland and Salome of Berg-Schelklingen]

12 **Rikissa Sventoslava Princess of Poland** #15229 b. 12 Apr 1116 Krakow d. aft 1156 (24th great grand mother)
m. **Vladimir Dmitrij Prince of Russia** #15228 m. 1135 b. ABT 1123 Novgorod d. AFT 1139 (24th great grand father)
[son of Vsevolod Gavriil Prince of Russia #15226 and Svyatoslavna Princess of Chernigov #15227]
m. **Sverker I den äldre King of Sweden** #15498 d. 25 december 1156 (25th great grand father)
[son of Korn-Ubbe (Erik Årsäll) Småkung i Götaland #16319]

This lineage continues to us from both of her husbands, one complete list is at the end of this book.

12 **Mieszko III the Old Duke of Poland** #15941 b. 1126 d. 1202 (25th great uncle)
m. **Eudoxia (Evdokia) Princess of Kiev** #15940 d. 1209
[daughter of Iziaslav II Grand Prince of Kiev #15937 and Agnes (Liubava) Princess of Germany #15938]
m. **Elizabeth Princess of Hungary** #17516 (7th cousin 26 times removed)
[daughter of Béla II the Blind King of Hungary and Croatia #15898 and Helena of Raska Queen of Hungary #15899]

[Children of Mieszko III the Old Duke of Poland and Eudoxia (Evdokia) Princess of Kiev]

13 **Wladyslaw III Spindleshanks Duke of Poland** #17490 b. 1161 d. 1231 (first cousin, 25 times removed) p22

[Children of Mieszko III the Old Duke of Poland and Elizabeth Princess of Hungary]

13 **Odon of Poznan Duke of Poland** #17514 b. 1149 d. 1194 (first cousin, 25 times removed) p23
m. **Viacheslava** #17515
[daughter of Yaroslav Osmomysl Prince of Halych #17518 and Olga Yurievna of Suzdal #17517]

14 **Wladyslaw Odonic Duke of Greater Poland** #17512 b. 1190 d. 1239 (second cousin, 24 times removed)
m. **Hedwig** #17513

15 **Przemysl I Duke of Greater Poland** #16357 b. 1221 d. 1257 (third cousin, 23 times removed)
m. **Elisabeth Duchess of Wroclaw** #16356
[daughter of Henry II the Pious Duke of Poland #16355 and Anna Princess of Bohemia #16354]

16 **Premislas II King of Poland** #16353 b. 1257 d. 1296 (4th cousin, 22 times removed)
m. **Rikissa of Sweden Queen of Poland** #16352 b. 1273 d. 1293 (second cousin 22 times removed)
[daughter of Valdemar I King of Sweden #16350 and Sofia Queen of Sweden #16351]

17 **Elisabeth Richeza Queen of Poland** #17567 b. 1286 d. 1335 (5th cousin, 21 times removed)
m. **Wenceslaus II Premyslid King of Bohemia** #16170 b. 1271 d. 1305
[son of Ottokar II King of Bohemia #16169 and Kunigunda Queen of Bohemia #16168]

15 **Boleslaw the Pious Duke of Poland** #16095 b. aft 1221 d. 1279 (third cousin, 23 times removed)
m. **Blessed Helen of Poland** #16094 b. 1235 d. 1298 (4th cousin, 22 times removed)
[daughter of Béla IV King of Hungary and Croatia #15910 and Maria Laskarina Queen of Hungary #15911]

12 **Boleslaw IV the Curly High Duke of Poland** #17480 b. 1125 d. 1173 (25th great uncle)
m. **Viacheslava Princess of Novgorod** #17481 b. 1125 d. 1162
[daughter of Vsevolod Gavriil Prince of Russia #15226 and Svyatoslavna Princess of Chernigov #15227]

12 **Casimir II the Just High Duke of Poland** #17482 b. 1138 d. 1194 (25th great uncle)
m. **Helena Duchess of Znojmo** #17486

13 **Leszek I the White Ruler of Poland** #17487 b. 1186 d. 1227 (first cousin, 25 times removed)
m. **Grzymislawa of Luck** #17488

- 14 **Boleslaw V the Chaste Prince of Poland** #16093 b. 1226 d. 1279 (second cousin, 24 times removed)
m. **Saint Kinga of Poland** #16092 b. 1224 d. 1292 (4th cousin, 22 times removed)
[daughter of Béla IV King of Hungary and Croatia #15910 and Maria Laskarina Queen of Hungary #15911]
- 13 **Konrad I Duke of Masovia** #17489 b. 1187 d. 1247 (first cousin, 25 times removed)
m. **Agafia Princess of Rus** #17492 b. 1190 d. 1248
- 14 **Casimir I Prince of Kuyavia and Poland** #17493 b. 1211 d. 1267 (second cousin, 24 times removed)
m. **Euphrosyne** #17494
- 15 **Wladyslaw I the Elbow-high King of Poland** #17495 b. 1261 d. 1333 (third cousin, 23 times removed)
m. **Hedwig of Kalisz** #17496
- 16 **Casimir III the Great King of Poland** #17497 b. 1310 d. 1370 (4th cousin, 22 times removed)
- 16 **Elizabeth of Poland** #16101 (4th cousin, 22 times removed)
m. **Charles I King of Hungary** #16100 b. 1288 d. 1342
[son of Charles I Martel of Anjou King of Hungary #16098 and Klementia Queen of Hungary #16099]
- 17 **Louis I the Great King of Hungary** #16102 b. 1326 d. 1382 (5th cousin, 21 times removed)
m. **Elizabeth of Bosnia Queen of Hungary** #16103
- 18 **Saint Hedwig (Jadwiga) King of Poland** #16108 b. 1373 d. 1399 (6th cousin, 20 times removed)
m. **Jogaila Wladyslaw II Jagiello King of Poland** #15593 b. 1348
[son of Algirdas Grand Prince of Lithuania #15592 and Uliana Alexandrovna Princess of Tver #15591]

Book 2 of the Polish Royal Ancestry begins from the above Jogaila Wladyslaw II Jagiello King of Poland and his descendants by his second wife, Sophia of Halshany. Our common ancestor is Vladimir II "Monomach" Grand Duke of Kiev, my 26th great grand father.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cho%C5%9Bcisko>

Choscisko

Chościsko is a legendary figure in a Polish prehistory, father of Piast the Wheelwright, the founder of the Piast dynasty. His name occurs in the first Polish chronicle, *Cronicae et gesta ducum sive principum Polonorum* by Gallus Anonymus, where the author refers three times to Piast as *the son of Chościsko*.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silesian_Piasts

Silesian Piasts

Władysław II the Exile. First of the Silesian Piasts



The **Silesian Piasts** were the oldest line of the Piast dynasty beginning with Władysław II the Exile (25th great uncle), son of Bolesław III Wrymouth (25th ggf), Duke of Poland. According to Bolesław's testament Władysław II the Exile was granted the Silesian province as his hereditary realm and also the Seniorate Province because he was the oldest among the Piasts.



Boleslaw III Wrymouth, painting by J.B. Jacobi (1828)

Piast the Wheelwright



Monument to Piast Kołodziej in Złotów

Piast Kołodziej (Piast the Wheelwright) was a semi-legendary figure in prehistoric Poland (8th cent. AD), the founder of the Piast dynasty that would rule the future Kingdom of Poland. He is mentioned in the Polish Chronicle of Gallus Anonymus^[1], along with his father, Chościsko and wife Rzepka.



The chronicle tells the story of an unexpected visit paid to Piast by two strangers. They asked to join Piast's family in celebration of the 7th birthday of Piast's son, Siemowit (a pagan rite of passage for young boys). In return for the hospitality, the guests cast a spell turning Piast's cellar ever plenty. Seeing this, Piast's compatriots declared him their new prince, to replace the late Prince Popiel. If Piast really existed, he would be the g-g-grandfather of Prince Mieszko I, the first

historic ruler of Poland, and the g-g-g-grandfather of Bolesław Chrobry, the first Polish king.

Two theories explain the etymology of the word Piast. The first gives the root as *piasta* (*hub* in Polish), a reference to his profession. The second relates Piast to *piastun* (*custodian* or *keeper*). This could hint at Piast's initial position as a *maior domus* (majordomo), or a "steward of the house", in the court of another ruler, and the subsequent takeover of power by Piast.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rzepicha>

Rzepicha

Rzepicha (also **Rzepka**) was the wife of the semi-legendary Piast the Wheelwright (founder of the Piast dynasty) and the mother of Siemowit. She is mentioned in Gallus Anonymus' Polish Chronicle, where her name is explicitly referred to twice.

According to Gallus Anonymus, she lived in the 9th century. Her ancestors are unknown. In the story described in the chronicle she keeps a house together with Piast and hospitably entertains two guests who came to Piast to celebrate their son's first haircut.

Siemowit



Siemowit was, according to the chronicles of Gallus Anonymus, the son of Piast the Wheelwright and Rzepicha. He was considered one of the four legendary Piast princes, but is now considered as a ruler who existed as an historical person.

He became the duke of the Polans in the 9th century after his father, son of Chościsko, refused to take the place of legendary Duke Popiel. Siemowit was elected as new duke by the *wiec*. According to a popular legend, Popiel was then eaten by mice in his tower on the Gopło lake.^[2]

The only mention of Siemowit, along with his son Lestko and grandson Siemomysł, comes in the mediæval chronicle of Gallus Anonymus.^[3]

Siemowit's grandson Mieszko I of the Piast dynasty is considered the first ruler of Poland to be baptized, though evidence of Arian Christians predating his reign was discovered in south Poland.

Lestko



Lestko (also **Lestek**, **Leszek**) is the second legendary duke of Poland, and son of Siemowit, born circa 870–880. Though proof of his actual existence is unclear, if he did exist, he must have been an influential person, because the tribes that lived in what is now Poland were known as "Lestkowici".

Siemomysł

Siemomysł (died circa 950-960 ^[1]) was the third legendary Polish "duke", and said to be the father of Poland's first historical ruler, Mieszko I. Siemomysł is credited with leaving the lands known as Greater Poland to his son Mieszko I, who further expanded them during his reign.

Children

- Mieszko I
- Cidebur (-972)



Mieszko I of Poland



Mieszko I (c. 935–May 25, 992) was a duke of the Polans and the first historical ruler of Poland. Member of the Piast dynasty, he was son of the legendary Siemomysł, grandchild of Lestek and father to Bolesław Chrobry, the first crowned prince of Poland, and Świętosława-Sygyda, a Nordic queen.

In 965 Mieszko married Dobrawa (Dobrava, Dubrawka), daughter of Boleslav I, Duke of Bohemia. In 977 Dobrawa died, and in 980 Mieszko married Oda von Haldensleben, daughter of Dietrich of Haldensleben, Count of the North March (965-985), after abducting her from the monastery of Kalbe.

“Christianization of Poland” by Jan Matejko

The early career of Mieszko was dominated by fighting with the tribes of Wieletes and Volinians south of the Baltic Sea, and their ally, the Saxon count Wichman. Mieszko was baptised in 966, probably under the influence of his Christian first wife or perhaps in order to avoid confrontation with the Holy Roman



Empire to the west. He built a church dedicated to Saint George at Gniezno and in 968 he founded the first cathedral in Poznań, placed under the archdiocese of Magdeburg and dedicated to Saint Peter. Those events are also known as the baptism of Poland.

At the time of the reign of Mieszko there was no single place serving as the capital, instead he built several castles around his country. Of the most important were: Poznań, Gniezno and Ostrów Lednicki. The latter was a ring-fort some 460 feet in diameter, containing his residence, a fine stone palace, the country's first monumental architecture.

Some historians suggest that Mieszko I had pledged allegiance to emperor Otto I the Great, to emperor Otto II and again to emperor Otto III. However, there is much dispute over this point from the Polish side - mainly whether his allegiance represented the whole of Poland, or only part (the disputed fragment is "usque in Vurta fluvium" from Thietmari chronicon).

Reign

His reign began around 962 in territory later called Greater Poland, Kuyavia and possibly in eastern Pomerania. In the 960s he probably at least partially conquered western Pomerania, and in the 990s he conquered Silesia and Lesser Poland.

Much of his military activity was along the Baltic coast, in territory later called Pomerania. He defeated Odo I, Margrave of the Saxon Ostmark, at Cedynia in 972, and reached the mouth of the Oder in 976. The decisive battle, fought in 979, ensured Mieszko's position as ruler of the area (or forced him to make an allegiance with Emperor Otto II).

From his first marriage he had a son, his successor Boleslaus, and two daughters, Sygryda (Świętosława) and one whose name is unknown. Sygryda was the wife (as queen Sigrid the Haughty) of Eric the Victorious, king of Sweden and then (as queen Gunhilda) of king Sweyn Forkbeard of Denmark, and mother of king Canute of Denmark and England.

In 1999 the archeologist Hanna Kóčka-Krenz found Mieszko's palace in Poznań

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dobrawa>

Dubrawka of Bohemia

Dubrawka, by Jan Matejko

Dubrawka of Bohemia (Czech, *Doubravka*; Polish, *Dobrawa* or *Dąbrówka*; died 977) was the daughter of Duke Boleslav I of Bohemia.

Dubrawka married Mieszko I Duke of Poland in 965.

FATHER: Boleslaus I the Cruel

SIBLINGS: Boleslaus II the Pious, Mlada (Maria) and Strakhkvas (Christian).

HUSBAND: Mieszko I

CHILDREN: Bolesław I Chrobry and Świętosława.



Bolesław I the Brave

Bolesław I the Brave (or **Valiant**) (Polish: *Bolesław I Chrobry*; 967 – June 17, 1025), in the past also known as Bolesław I the Great, ruled as Duke of Poland from 992-1025 and as the first King of Poland in 1025. He was a member of the Piast dynasty.

Biography

Bolesław was the son of Mieszko I and of his first wife, the Bohemian princess Dubrawka. In 984 Bolesław married an unknown daughter of Rikdag (Riddag, Ricdag), Margrave of Meissen. Subsequently he married Judith Arpad, a daughter of Geza, Grand Duke of Hungary; then Emnilda, daughter of Dobromir; and lastly Oda, another daughter of the Margrave of Meissen. His wives bore him sons, including Bezprym, Mieszko II and Otton; and a daughter, Mathilde.

Portrait by Jan Matejko (1838)



In 997 Bolesław sent Saint Adalbert of Prague to Prussia, on the Baltic Sea, on a mission to convert the heathen Prussians to Christianity — an attempt that would end in Adalbert's martyrdom and subsequent canonization.

In 1000, Emperor Otto III, while on pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Adalbert at Gniezno, invested Bolesław with the title "Brother and Partner in the Empire". Some historians state that the emperor also pledged a royal crown to Bolesław. After the untimely death of Otto III at age 22 in 1002, Bolesław supported Eckard I, Margrave of Meissen, for the German throne. When Eckard was assassinated in April, Bolesław lent his support to Henry IV, Duke of Bavaria, and helped make him king as Henry II. Bolesław and his father had earlier backed Henry II, Duke of Bavaria, against Otto, and Henry IV was the son of the earlier Henry.

"Coronation of the First King of Poland," by Jan Matejko, 1889, oil on canvas, Royal Castle, Warsaw.



Bolesław conquered, and made himself Duke of, Bohemia in 1003-04, ruling as Boleslav IV of Bohemia.

At the request of his son-in-law Sviatopolk I of Kiev, the Polish duke intervened in the affairs of Kievan Rus': not only did he expel Yaroslav the Wise from Kiev, but possibly he deployed his troops in the Rus' capital for about half a year (see Kiev Expedition of 1018). According to popular legend Bolesław notched his sword (Szczerbiec) hitting the Golden Gate of Kiev

Emperor Henry II obliged Bolesław to pledge his fealty again in exchange for the lands that he held in fief. After Henry's death in 1024, Bolesław crowned himself king (1025), thus raising Poland to the rank of a kingdom and being the first Polish king, his predecessors having been princes.

Bolesław sent an army to aid his friend — also his nephew, son of his sister Sigrid — Canute the Great in his conquest of England.

Bolesław and Sviatopolk at Kiev, in a legendary (if ahistorical) moment of hitting the Golden Gate with Szczerbiec sword. Painting by Jan Matejko.

Bolesław's son, **Mieszko II**, crowned himself king immediately upon his father died in Poznań.



New (2000s) 20zł banknote with image of Bolesław the Brave.



Emnilda of Lusatia

Emnilda of Lusatia (Polish: *Emnilda słowiańska*; b. Slovenia, ca. 970-975, d. Kraków, 1017),^[1] was a Slavic princess and by marriage Duchess of Poland.

She was a daughter of certain Dobromir, a Slavic leader ruler of Lusatia and Milsko, who was named *venerable* by Thietmar of Merseburg.

Life

The wedding between Emnilda and the heir of the Polish throne, Bolesław, took place around 987. This was the third marriage for the young prince: his previous two wives, the daughter of Margrave Rikdag of Meissen (perhaps called Hunilda or Oda) and the Hungarian princess Judith, were repudiated after few years or marriages, but both produced offspring to Bolesław, a daughter and a son, Bezprym.^{[2][3]} During her marriage, Emnilda bore her husband five children, two sons (the future Mieszko II Lambert and Otto) and three daughters, one of them a nun and the other two, Regelinda and another whose name is unknown, became Margravine of Meissen and Grand Princess of Kiev, respectively.

It's claimed that Emnilda had a great influence on her husband, and perhaps also in the state affairs. She was probably accompanied Bolesław I to the meeting of Merseburg on 23 May 1013 and perhaps she actively promoted the recognition of his son Mieszko as a vassal of the Emperor for his government over Moravia,^[4] a fact who put in jeopardy the succession rights of Bolesław I's eldest son Bezprym, who at the end was excluded in favor of his younger half-brother.

She was mentioned by Gallus Anonymus and Thietmar of Merseburg; both chroniclers noted she was a wise and charming person.

The exact date of Emnilda's death is unknown, but is assumed that this happened in 1017 at the latest, or, more likely, at the end of 1016, because on 3 February 1018 Bolesław I married with his fourth and last wife, Oda of Meissen.

Mieszko II Lambert

Mieszko II Lambert (990-1034), also spelled **Mieszko II** ruled from 1025-1034 as duke and short-term king of Poland. He was the son of Bolesław I the Brave and Enmilda, daughter of Dobromir, Duke of Lusatia. Mieszko II was married to Richensa of Lotharingia (Rixa), the granddaughter of Otto II, Holy Roman Emperor. Their children were Casimir I of Poland, Rixa of Poland, and Gertrude of Poland.

Mieszko II was very well educated for the period. He was able to read and write, and knew both Greek and Latin. He is unjustly known as Mieszko *Gnuśny* (the "Lazy," "Stagnant" or "Slothful"). He received that epithet due to the unfortunate way his reign ended; but at the beginning he acted as a skillful and talented ruler. He sought to rule as king in 1025, he probably served as his father's governor in Kraków, most likely from 1013, and reputedly built many churches.

Duchess Matilda of Swabia giving a liturgical book to Mieszko II

Beginning in 1028, he successfully waged war against the Holy Roman Empire: he was able to repel the its invading army, and later even invaded Saxony. He allied Poland with Hungary, resulting in a temporary Hungarian occupation of Vienna. This war was probably prompted by family connections of Mieszko's in Germany who opposed Emperor Conrad II.

An understanding of what happened later requires an understanding of Mieszko's family. His older brother Bezprym was the son of an unknown Hungarian wife of Bolesław's and was later expelled by Mieszko. He also had a younger brother, Otton. By Slavic custom, a father should divide his legacy among all his sons. However, since a kingdom cannot be divided, Mieszko's brothers received nothing from their father's legacy.

As Bezprym was the oldest son, many probably felt that he should have succeeded his father as king. Bezprym had, however, always been disliked by his father, as indicated by his name (the Piasts tended to give names such as *Bolesław*, *Mieszko* and later *Kazimierz*, *Władysław* and emperors' names such as *Otto*, *Conrad* and *Heinrich*: *Bezprym* was a commoner's name, which implied that Bolesław did not wish Bezprym to succeed him). He was packed off to a monastery.



Mieszko's two brothers escaped abroad: Otton to HRE, Bezprym to Kievan Rus. Soon after, the HRE emperor and the grand duke of Kiev, Yaroslav I the Wise, made alliance and simultaneously invaded Poland.

Facing two enemies, HRE on the west and Rus on the east, Mieszko escaped to Bohemia. Bezprym began his reign by sending his crown and regalia to HRE. Mieszko soon returned, but was forced to pledge fealty to the German Emperor, and Poland was divided among him, his brothers Otton and Bezprym, and a certain Thiedric (cousin, grandson of Mieszko I and Oda). Otton was killed by one of his own men, and Mieszko was able to reunite Poland.

What happened next is a mystery. Historians now think that Mieszko was killed (1034) in a plot hatched by the aristocracy.

After Mieszko's death, Poland's peasants revolted in a "pagan reaction." The exact reasons and date are unknown. Mieszko's son, Casimir I, was either expelled by this insurrection, or the insurrection was caused by the aristocracy's expulsion of him.

Some modern historians argue that the insurrection was caused more by economic than by religious issues, such as new taxes for the Church and the militarization of the early Polish polity. Priests, monks and knights were killed; cities, churches and monasteries were burned.

The chaos became still greater when unexpectedly the Czechs invaded from the south. The land became divided among local rulers, one of whom is known by name: Masław, ruler of Masovia. Greater Poland was so devastated that it ceased to be the core of Polish Kingdom. The capital was moved to Kraków in Lesser Poland.



Richeza of Lotharingia

Richeza of Lotharingia (also called *Richenza* and *Rixa*; b. ca. 995/1000 - d. Saalfeld, 21 March 1063), was a German noblewoman by birth member of the Ezzonen dynasty and by marriage Queen of Poland. After she returned to Germany after the deposition of her husband in 1031, she became later a nun and today is reverenced as **Blessed Richeza of Lotharingia**.

Through her three known children, she became in the direct ancestress of the eastern rulers of the Piast, Rurikid and Árpád dynasties. Three of her Árpád descendants were Saints: Elisabeth, Landgravine of Thuringia, Kinga, Duchess of Kraków and Princess Margaret of Hungary, and one was Beatificated like her: Jolanta Helena, Duchess of Greater Poland.

Queen Richeza of Poland. Portrait by Wojciech Gerson, 1891.



Family

She was the daughter of the Ezzo (also called Ehrenfried), Count Palatine of Lotharingia by his wife Mathilde, daughter of Emperor Otto II. She was probably the eldest of the ten children born during the marriage of her parents.^{[1][2]} Through her mother, Richeza was a niece of Emperor Otto III, Adelheid I, Abbess of Quedlinburg and Sophia I, Abbess of Gandersheim.

Queen of Poland

Probably already in 1000 during the Congress of Gniezno, was made an agreement between Bolesław I the Brave and Emperor Otto III. Among the usual political talks, was decided to close ties through a marriage. Due to the childlessness of Otto III, the seven daughters of his sister Mathilde (the only of Otto II's daughters who married and produced children), were the only potential brides for Mieszko, Bolesław I's son and heir; the oldest of Otto III's nieces, Richeza, was the chosen one. Bolesław I the Brave died on 17 June 1025. Six months later, on Christmas Day, Mieszko II and

Richeza were crowned King and Queen of Poland by the Archbishop of Gniezno, Hipolit, in the Gniezno Cathedral.

The reign of Mieszko II however, was short-lived: in 1031, the invasion of both German and Kievan troops against Poland forced him to escape to Bohemia, where he was imprisoned and castrated by orders of Duke Oldrich. Mieszko II's half-brother Bezprym took the government of Poland and began a cruel persecution against the followers of the former King.

The Brauweiler Chronicle indicated that soon after the escape of her husband, Richeza and her children fled to Germany with the Polish royal crown and regalia, who was given to Emperor Conrad II and since then, she played an important role in mediating a peace between Poland and the Holy Roman Empire. Richeza and Mieszko II never reunited again; according to some sources, they were either officially divorced or only separated. After Bezprym was murdered in 1032, Mieszko II was released from captivity and returned to Poland, but was forced to divided the country into three parts: between him, his brother Otto and their cousin Dytryk. One year later (1033), after Otto was killed and Dytryk expelled from the country, Mieszko II finally reunited all Poland under his domain. However, his sole rule lasted only one year: between 10/11 July 1034, Mieszko II died suddenly, probably killed at consequence of a conspiracy.

Image of Richeza in Cologne Cathedral.



On 7 September 1047 Richeza's brother Otto, the last male representative of the Ezzonen dynasty who remained laic died, and with him, the territorial and political objectives of his family. Richeza now inherited large parts of the Ezzonen possessions.

Otto's death seems to have Richeza very touched; apparently, they were very close (Otto named his only daughter after her). At his funeral in Brauweiler, according to Bruno of Toul (later Pope Leo IX), she put her fine jewelry on the altar and was declared that she devote the rest of her life as a nun and to preserved the memory of the Ezzonen dynasty.

Richeza's grave in Köln Cathedral.

Her grave was opened multiple times after the transfer to the Köln Cathedral. In 1959 was the last opening and were showed her bones. According to witnesses, Richeza had a small and graceful stature; her collarbone showed traces of a fracture, may have been caused by falling from a horse. The skull was brownish and skinless, his head wrapped up in his face in substance, and the skull was also a golden dome with a cross grid pattern. Because the skull was praying on a red cushion, was made an exhibition of the late Queen. Richeza's relics are located since then in St. Nicholas church in Brauweiler and since 2002 in the Klotter parish church.



Casimir I of Poland



Casimir I the Restorer (25 July 1016 – 28 November 1058), was a Duke of Poland of the Piast dynasty and the *de facto* monarch of the entire country. He is known as *the Restorer* mostly because he managed to reunite all parts of the Polish Kingdom after a period of turmoil. He reinstated Masovia, Silesia and Pomerania into his realm. Son of Mieszko II Lambert and Richensa of Lotharingia, Casimir failed to crown himself the King of Poland, mainly because of internal and external threats to his rule.

Casimir I the Restorer, pencil drawing by Jan Matejko

Relatively little is known of Casimir's early life. Born to Mieszko II of Poland and Richensa of Lotharingia, the granddaughter of Emperor Otto

II, he must have spent his childhood at the royal court of Poland in Gniezno. Casimir seems to have been destined for the cloth as he was sent away to monastery in 1026. He left the church, however, in 1031.

Circumstances of Casimir's flight from Poland

Casimir's father Mieszko II was crowned the king of Poland in 1025 after the death of Boleslaw I Chrobry. However, powerful magnates feared a strong central government reminiscent of Boleslaw's rule. This situation led to considerable friction between crown and nobility. Taking advantage of the king's precarious situation, Mieszko's brothers Bezprym and Otton turned against him and allied themselves with Emperor Conrad II whose forces attacked the country, regaining Lusatia. Years of chaos and conflict followed, during which Mieszko II died (A.D. 1034) in suspicious circumstances after he was forced to abdicate. Following his father's death Casimir attempted to seize the throne in 1034. This precipitated a Barons rebellion, which coupled with the so called "Pagan Reaction" of the commoners forced Casimir to flee to Saxony (A.D. 1034). Casimir returned to Poland and in 1038, once again, tried to regain power with the aide of his influential mother. This also failed and Casimir had to flee to the Kingdom of Hungary where he was imprisoned by Stephen I.



Casimir I the Restorer returning to Poland. Painting by Wojciech Gerson

Restoration

The following year the new Holy Roman Emperor, Henry III, allied himself with the exiled Polish ruler against the Bohemians. Casimir was given a troop of 1,000 heavy footmen and a significant amount of gold to restore his power in the country. Casimir also signed an alliance with Yaroslav I the Wise, the Prince of Kievan Rus'. The alliance was sealed by Casimir's marriage with Yaroslav's sister, Maria Dobronega.

In 1040 Casimir married with Maria Dobronega (b. ca. 1012 - d. 1087), daughter of Grand Duke Vladimir I of Kiev. They had five children:

1. Bolesław II the Bold (b. ca. 1043 - d. 2/3 April 1081/82).
2. Władysław I Herman (b. ca. 1044 - d. 4 June 1102)
3. Mieszko (b. 16 April 1045 - d. 28 January 1065).
4. Otto (b. ca. 1046 - d. 1048).
5. Świętosława (b. ca. 1048 - d. 1 September 1126), married ca. 1062 to Duke (and since 1085 King) Vratislaus II of Bohemia.

Maria Dobroniega of Kiev

Maria Dobroniega of Kiev.



Maria Dobroniega of Kiev (b. bef. 1012 - d. 1087), was a Russian princess member of the Rurikid dynasty and by marriage Duchess of Poland.

Family

She was one of the youngest children of Vladimir I, Grand Prince of Kiev. The identity of her mother is disputed among historians and web sources.

Marriage

Maria married around 1040 to Casimir I the Restorer, Duke of Poland. This marriage helped Casimir to gain support in his reclaim over the Polish throne. Casimir had attempted to seize the throne twice before, both times he failed. With the support of Maria's brother, Yaroslav I the Wise, Casimir was able to make a successful claim.

The couple had five children:

1. Bolesław II the Bold (b. ca. 1043 - d. 2/3 April 1081/82).
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Maria's husband died on 28 November 1058. Her sixteen year old son, Bolesław, became King of Poland. Bolesław II is considered one of the most capable of the Piast rulers; however, he was deposed and expelled from the country in 1079. Bolesław II died two years later, in 1081.

Maria survive her son six years and died in 1087, aged seventy-seven or seventy-six.

Władysław I

Władysław I Herman (c.1042-1102) Duke of Poland from 1079 until 1102. Second son of Casimir I the Restorer and Maria Dobroniega, the daughter of Vladimir the Great, Grand Duke of Kiev.

Władysław I Herman, pencil drawing by Jan Matejko

As second son of Casimir I the Restorer, Władysław was not destined for the throne, however due to his brother's flight from Poland in 1079, Władysław was elevated to the rank of duke of Poland. Opinions vary on whether Władysław played an active role in the plot to depose his brother or whether he was handed the authority simply because he was the most proper person, being the next in line in the absence of the king and his son Mieszko. In 1080, in order to improve Polish Czech relations, he married Judith Premyslid, the daughter of the king of Bohemia, Vratislaus II. Władysław had a son from this marriage called Bolesław, later to be known as Bolesław III Wrymouth. Later he married Judith of Swabia the daughter of Emperor Henry III, with whom he had three daughters. Władysław I also had a son, Zbigniew (1070-1112) from his first marriage to Przecława, a Polish noblewoman from the Prawdzic clan.



Foreign Policy

Władysław I Herman's foreign policy levitated strongly towards appeasement of the Holy Roman Empire. He accepted overlordship of the Empire, and when in 1085 while in Mainz the Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV announced Vratislaus II to be king of Bohemia and Poland, Władysław did not object. He also never pursued the crown due to his subservient status. Władysław abandoned Polish alliance to Hungary, favored by his brother, and joined the anti papal camp. Władysław I Herman returned to paying tribute for Silesia to Bohemia. In addition Kraków and Cieszyn were ceded to Bohemia, Lubusz Land was lost to Germany while Przemyśl Land in the east was lost to Halych-Ruthenia. Władysław I did attempt to regain the control of Pomerania, and through numerous expeditions was only temporarily (1090-1091) able to do so.

Churches Founded

Władysław founded several churches in Poland. Most notably he was the founder of the Romanesque Wawel Cathedral of which the Silver Bells Tower still remains standing. When a boy was born, Władysław began building churches in his honor. He also founded a church "on the sand" dedicated to Virgin Mary which was granted to the Carmelites.

Health issues

According to Gallus Anonymus, Władysław long suffered from a debilitating ailment that affected his legs. There is also a legend which states that in 1086 Władysław was affected by a terrible pox, with abscesses that affected his nose and face. According to the legend Holy Virgin appeared in the duke's dream and led him to find the cure in the sandy area outside the city. Once healed Władysław founded a Church of Holiest Virgin Mary "on the sand" in the spot where he found the cure.

Church "On the Sand" in Kraków



End of reign and succession

Władysław's two sons were eventually granted large districts where they were governors. In 1097 Zbigniew received Greater Poland and Kuyavia while Bolesław received Lesser Poland and Silesia. The Duke remained the lord of Mazovia, and retained control of principal towns and cities. Soon thereafter Władysław Herman passed away (A.D. 1102) without resolving the issue of succession, leaving his sons to struggle for supremacy. His body was interned in the Płock Cathedral

Władysław I Herman, graphic by Aleksandra Lessera

Judith of Bohemia

Judith of Bohemia



Judith of Bohemia also known as **Judith Premyslid** (b. ca. 1056/58 – d. 25 December 1086), was a Bohemian princess member of the Premyslid dynasty and by marriage Duchess of Poland.

She was a daughter of Duke Vratislaus II of Bohemia by his second wife Adelaide, daughter of King Andrew I of Hungary. She was named after her paternal grandmother Judith of Schweinfurt, who died shortly after her birth.

Judith was the second of the four children born from Vratislaus II's marriage with the Hungarian princess Adelaide. The others were Bretislaus II, Ludmilla (later a nun) and Vratislaus, who died young killed in battle. Judith's uncle Duke Spytihnev II died in 1061 and was succeeded by his brother Vratislaus II. One year later, in 1062, Duchess Adelaide died.

Around 1080, Judith married with Władysław I Herman, Duke of Poland (nephew of her stepmother), as a guarantee of the recently established Bohemian-Polish alliance.

According to contemporary chroniclers, Duchess Judith made a remarkable charity work, helping the needy and ensure the comfort of subjects and prisoners. After almost five years of barren marriage, the necessity of an heir was increased:

Because she was barren pray to God every day with tears and orations, made sacrifices and paying debts, helping widows and orphans, and given very generous amounts of gold and silver for the monasteries, commanded the priests to pray to the saints and the grace of God for a child.

On 10 June 1085 Judith and her husband were present in the coronation of her father Duke Vratislaus II as the first King of Bohemia. One year later, in 1086, Judith's prayers were finally answered, and on 20 August of that year she gave birth the long awaited son and heir, the future Bolesław III Wrymouth; sadly, the Duchess never recovered from the effects of the childbirth and died four months later, on 25 December.

Three years later, in 1089, her husband remarried with the widow of Judith's uncle King Solomon of Hungary, Judith of Swabia, who was renamed Sophia in Poland in order to distinguish herself from Władysław I's first wife.

Bolesław III Wrymouth

Bolesław III Wrymouth. Drawing by Jan Matejko.

Bolesław III Wrymouth; 1085 – 1138) was Duke of Poland from 1102. He was the son of Duke Władysław I Herman and Judith of Bohemia, daughter of Vratislaus II of Bohemia. His wife, the mother of his children, was Salome von Berg-Schelklingen (15236).

Bolesław had his older stepbrother Zbigniew of Poland blinded, who died as a result.

Before his death in 1138, Bolesław Wrymouth published his testament (Bolesław Wrymouth's testament) dividing his lands among four of his sons. The "senioral principle" established in the testament stated that at all times the eldest member of the dynasty was to have supreme power over the rest and was also to control an indivisible "senioral part": a vast strip of land running north-south down the middle of Poland, with Kraków its chief city. The Senior's prerogatives also included control over Pomerania, a fief of the Holy Roman Empire. The "senioral principle" was soon broken, leading to a period of nearly 200 years of Poland's feudal fragmentation.



Reception of Jews in Poland in 1096, Painting by Jan Matejko



A great migration of Jews from Western Europe to Poland began circa 1096, around the time of the First Crusade. The tolerant rule of Władysław I Herman attracted the Jews who were permitted to settle throughout the entire kingdom without restrictions. The Polish prince, took great care of the Hebrew Diaspora, as he understood its positive influence on the growth of the country's economy.^[31] The new Jewish citizens soon gained trust of the gentiles during the rule of Bolesław III.

Church Foundations

Sarcophagus Boleslaw III in Plock Cathedral



Duke Boleslaw III was not only a predatory warrior, and a cunning politician and a diplomat. He was also a patron of cultural developments in his realm. Like most medieval monarchs he founded several churches and monasteries most important of which are; the monastery of Canons regular of St. Augustine in Trzemeszno founded in the 1100s and a Benedictine monastery of Holy Cross atop the Łysa Góra which was founded in place of an ancient pagan temple. Also the first major Polish chronicle written by one Gallus Anonymus dates back to the reign of duke Boleslaw III.

Last Years

In 1135, Boleslaw finally gave his belated oath of allegiance to the new Emperor Lothair II (Lothar von Supplinburg), and paid twelve years past due tribute. The emperor granted Boleslaw parts of Western

Pomerania and Rügen as fiefs, however the emperor was not in control of these areas and Bolesław also failed to subdue them.

Family and issue

With his first wife, Zbyslava, daughter of Duke Sviatopolk II of Kiev, Bolesław had one son:

- Vladislav II Wygnaniec, born 1105, Prince of Poland.

Bolesław subsequently married Salome von Berg-Schelklingen, by whom he had 14 children (six sons and eight daughters), of whom six sons and five daughters are known:

- Casimir the Older (d. 1131);
- Bolesław IV the Curly (17480) (born 1125);
- Mieszko III the Old (15941) (born 1126);
- Henryk of Sandomierz (born 1127);
- Casimir II the Just (17482) (born 1138);
- Rikissa of Poland (15299 24th ggm) (born 1116), who married firstly Magnus the Strong, pretender of Sweden and Denmark; secondly Volodar of Polatsk, Prince of Minsk; and thirdly king Sverker I of Sweden
- Dobronega of Poland (born 1128), who married Marquis Dietrich of Niederlausitz;
- Judith of Poland (16060) (born 1130-1135), who married Otto I of Brandenburg; and
- Agnes of Poland (15944) (born 1137), who married Mstislav II Kyjevský.

Władysław II the Exile

Władysław II the Exile, (1105 – 30 May 1159) was a High Duke of Poland and Duke of Silesia from 1138 until 1146. He was the eldest son of Bolesław III Wrymouth by his first wife Zbyslava, daughter of Sviatopolk II of Kiev.



Portrait by Jan Matejko

Around 1125 Władysław married Agnes, daughter of Leopold III, Margrave of Austria; this union gave him a close connection with the Holy Roman Empire and the Kingdom of Germany: Agnes was a granddaughter of Emperor Henry IV and half-sister of King Conrad III. Thanks to Władysław, Silesia was saved during the wars of 1133-1135 with Bohemia: he stopped the destruction of the major areas of his district after the Bohemian forces crossed the Oder River.

High Duke of Poland

At the time of the death of his father, Władysław was already an adult, with many years of marriage and at least one surviving son (Bolesław, born in 1127; the date of birth of the second son, Mieszko, is still debatable and varies between 1130 and 1146). Following the examples of Bolesław I the Brave in 992, Mieszko II Lambert in 1032, and his own father in 1106, the High Duke almost immediately tried to restore the unity of the country. Given his life experience and military leadership, it is expected that in the end, he was successful.

The First Conflicts with the Junior Dukes

The disputes of Władysław with his stepmother Salome and his half-brothers began openly in 1141, when the Dowager Duchess, without the knowledge and consent of the High Duke, commenced to divide Łęczyca province between her sons. Also, she tried to resolve the marriage of her youngest daughter Agnes and thus to find a suitable ally for her sons. The most appropriate candidate for a son-in-law had to be one of the sons of the Grand Prince of Kiev, Vsevolod II Olgovich. After hearing the news about the events in Łęczyca, Władysław decided to make a quick response, as a result of which the Grand Duke of Kiev not only broke all his pacts with the Junior Dukes, but also arranged the betrothal of his daughter Zvenislava to Władysław's eldest son Bolesław. The wedding took place one year later, in 1142.

His ties with the Kievan Rus benefited him during 1142-1143, when Władysław decided to fight against the districts of his brothers. Władysław's victory was beyond dispute, being backed by his alliances with Russia, Bohemia and the Holy Roman Empire.

Death and Legacy

In 1152 King Conrad III died and was succeeded by his nephew Frederick Barbarossa. With this, the hopes of Władysław of returning to Poland were reborn. Following the inducements of Władysław and his aunt Agnes, the new Emperor launched a new expedition against Poland in 1157. The campaign was a success but unexpectedly Barbarossa did not restore Władysław to the Polish throne. Bolesław IV was declared a vassal to Frederick Barbarossa and was compelled to pay tribute to him. In compensation, the Emperor forced Bolesław IV to promise the restitution of Silesia to Władysław's sons.^[2]

At this time, it appears, Władysław knew that his battle for supremacy in Poland was finally lost. He remained in exile at Altenburg, in the Holy Roman Empire, where he died two years later.

It was not until 1163 that Bolesław IV finally granted the province to Władysław's sons. Subsequently Silesia was divided into as many as 17 separate duchies among his descendants and successors, until the Silesian Piasts died out with George IV William of Legnica in 1675.

Marriage and children

In 1125 Władysław married Agnes (b. ca. 1108/1113 - d. Altenburg, 24 January 1160/63), daughter of Margrave Leopold III of Austria and Agnes of Germany, who in turn was a daughter of Emperor Henry IV. She was also the half-sister of King Conrad III of Germany. They had five children:^[3]

1. Bolesław I the Tall (b. 1127 - d. 8 December 1201).
2. Mieszko I Tanglefoot (b. ca. 1130 - 16 May 1211).
3. Richeza (b. 1140 - d. 16 June 1185), married firstly in 1152 to Alfonso VII, King of Galicia, Castile and León, secondly in 1162 to Ramon Berenguer II, Count of Provence and thirdly by 1167 to Count Albert III of Everstein.
4. Konrad Spindleshanks (b. 1146/57 - d. 17 January 1190).

Bolesław I the Tall

Bolesław's tomb in Lubiąż.



Boleslaus I the Tall (Polish: *Bolesław I Wysoki*; b. 1127 - d. Leśnica, 7/8 December 1201) was a Duke of Wrocław from 1163 until his death.

He was the eldest son of Władysław II the Exile by his wife Agnes of Babenberg, daughter of Margrave Leopold III of Austria and half-sister of King Conrad III of Germany.

Early Years

The reign of Władysław II was short and extremely stormy. The conflicts began when the High Duke tried to remove his half-brothers, the Junior Dukes, from his districts. According to the chronicler Wincenty Kadłubek, the confrontation between the siblings was mainly instigated by Władysław II's wife, Agnes of Babenberg, who believed that her husband, as the eldest son, had the right to be the sole ruler of the whole country. On the other hand, Salome of Berg, widow of Bolesław III and Władysław's stepmother, who made her own efforts to form alliances with foreign rulers and took all the opportunities to secure the reign of her sons, feared that the Junior Dukes were relegated to their positions to make way for Władysław's sons, the young Bolesław and his brother Mieszko.

The conflict erupted in 1141, when Salome of Berg, without the knowledge of the High Duke, decided to leave her sons the land of Łęczyca and tried to give her youngest daughter Agnes in marriage to one of the sons of Vsevolod II Olgovich, Grand Prince of Kiev. Władysław was, however, faster and gave the Grand Prince several additional political advantages, as a result of which the marriage of Bolesław with the daughter of Grand Prince Vsevolod, Zvenislava took place in 1142.

Trip to Ruthenia

The Polish-Ruthenian alliance soon proved to be extremely important in the struggle between Władysław II and the Junior Dukes. The final outbreak of the conflict took place after the death of Salome of Berg in 1144. It seemed that the victory over the High Duke - thanks to his military predominance - was just a matter of time. Władysław II was confident enough of winning at home that he sent Bolesław to aid the Grand Prince Vsevolod II during a revolt against him.

Rebellion against Mieszko III the Old

Four years later, it seemed that Bolesław was close to achieving the main objective of his life, recovery of the Seniorate and with this, the title of High Duke. With his uncle Casimir II the Just and his cousin Odon (Mieszko III's eldest son) they made a conspiracy in order to deprive Mieszko III the Old from the government. The coup gained the support of Lesser Poland, which was mastered by Casimir and shortly afterwards the Greater Poland sided with Odon. However, Bolesław suffered a sudden and surprising defeat by his brother Mieszko and his own son Jarosław; this left the way free to Casimir II, who was proclaimed High Duke; Bolesław escaped again to Germany.

Bolesław survived his son by only nine months, and died on 7 or 8 December 1201 in his castle of Leśnica. He was buried in the Lubiąż Cistercian monastery founded by him.

Marriage and Issue

In 1142 Bolesław married firstly with Zvenislava (d. ca. 1155), daughter of Vsevolod II Olgovich, Grand Prince of Kiev^[2]. They had two children:

1. Jarosław (b. aft. 1143 - d. 22 March 1201).
2. Olga (b. ca. 1155 - d. 27 June 1175/1180).

By 1157, Bolesław married secondly with Christina (d. 21 February 1204/1208), a German lady; according to the Historian Kazimierz Jasiński, she probably was a member of the Comital houses of Everstein, Homburg or Pappenheim. They had seven children:^[3]

1. Bolesław (b. 1157/63 - d. 18 July 1175/1181).
2. Adelaida Zbyslava (b. aft. 1165 - d. d. 29 March aft. 1213), married in 1177/82 to Diepold II, Duke of Bohemia.
3. Konrad (b. 1158/68 - d. 5 July 1175/1190).
4. Jan (b. 1161/69 - d. bef. 10 March 1174).
5. Berta (b. ca 1167 - d. 7 May aft. 1200?).
6. Henry I the Bearded (b. 1165/70 - d. Krosno Odrzańskie, 19 March 1238).
7. Władysław (b. aft. 1180 - d. 4 June bef. 1199).

Henry I the Bearded



Henry I the Bearded. Drawing by Jan Matejko.

Henry I the Bearded (Polish: *Henryk I Brodaty*; German: *Heinrich I der Bärtige*; ca. 1165/70 – 19 March 1238), of the Silesian line of the Piast dynasty, was Duke of Lower Silesia from 1201. He was later also Duke of Lesser Poland and thus senior prince of all Poland - internally divided - from 1232 until his death.

He was the son of Bolesław I the Tall, Duke of Wrocław, by his second wife Christina, a German noble lady. Through his marriage with Hedwig of Andechs, Henry became related to the rulers of Germany, Hungary, Bohemia, and France.

Beginning of his reign and loss of Opole

At the time of the death of his father, on 7/8 December 1201, Henry was well prepared to take over the government. However he soon encountered some difficulties. At the beginning of 1202 his uncle, Mieszko I Tanglefoot, in a surprise attack, took the Duchy of Opole (German: *Oppeln*). The ambitious Mieszko desired more lands, but this he couldn't do faced with the opposition of the Church, who strongly supported Henry. Thanks to the intervention of the Archbishop of Gniezno, Henry Kietlicz and the Bishop of Wrocław, Cyprian, Henry maintained his frontiers, although he had to pay 1,000 pieces of his silver to his supporters.

The Congress of Gąsawa. Death of Leszek the White

In 1227 Leszek the White finally decided to resolve the increasing problems with his relatives. To that end he organized an assembly of Piast Dukes at Gąsawa. At the meeting, Władysław Odonic and Henry assisted Leszek and his brother Konrad of Masovia. For unknown reasons, Władysław III did not go to Gąsawa, despite the fact that because of his dispute with Leszek his presence was crucial for a successful conclusion of the summit. Another important point of discussion at the meeting was, according to Leszek, the overly independent behavior of Duke Swietopelk II of Pomerania. The High Duke demanded a serious reprimand for Swietopelk, or his complete removal from the Duchy. However, Swietopelk II (probably with the help of Władysław Odonic) decided to attack first, at Gąsawa. On 23 November 1227, Leszek the White and Henry were trapped in an ambush; Leszek was killed and Henry was seriously wounded, and saved his life only thanks to his faithful knight Peregrinus of Wiesenburg, who covered him with his own body. This act started a new power struggle for the Polish throne.

Loss of Lesser Poland; imprisonment

In 1228 a war between Henry and Konrad I of Masovia erupted. In the beginning Henry was successful as he managed to repel Konrad's attempts to invade his realms in the Battles of Międzybórzem, Skalą and Wrocierzyżem. Shortly there after however, the situation changed drastically. Henry, a strong supporter of the High Duke, had problems ruling the Krakow nobility. Part of the reason for their resistance was that Henry had to split his time as ruler of his Silesian Duchy and as a governor of Krakow and a portion of the nobles thought he favored the first of these.

Henry, wanting to end the conflicts, in 1229 arranged a meeting with Konrad in Spytkowice, Wadowice County. This proved to be one of Henry's worst ideas: during the mass, he was captured by Konrad's knights and several of his followers were wounded when they tried to save him. He was imprisoned in Plock.

With this advantage in his hands, the Duke of Masovia marched against Greater Poland. Although he suffered a defeat at the walls of Kalisz, some time later he managed to score a victory over Władysław Odonic who was his senior as he was the sovereign of Greater Poland. Władysław III managed to escape to Raciborz, and Konrad, without major obstacles, entered Krakow and took the title of High Duke. Konrad's triumph seemed complete. The war wasn't yet over however, because Silesia remained independent thanks to the strong resistance of Henry the Pious, Henry's eldest surviving son and heir, who became the regent of the region after the capture of his father.

Death and Considerations

Henry died in 1238 in Krosno Odrzańskie (German: *Crossen an der Oder*) and was buried in the Cistercian church of Trzebnica which he had founded in 1202 on the request of his wife.

Henry I the Bearded with his family. In the center sit: Henry and his wife Hedwig, from left stand:



Gertrude, Agnes, Henry II the Pious and Bolesław; at the bottom sit: Sophie and Konrad the Curly.

Marriage and issue

By 1188, Henry married Hedwig (ca. 1174 – Abbey of Trebnitz, 15 October 1243), daughter of Berthold IV, Duke of Merania. They had seven children:

1. Agnes (ca. 1190 – before 11 May 1214).
2. Bolesław (ca. 1191 – 10 September 1206/08).
3. Henry II the Pious (ca. 1196 – killed in battle, Legnica, 9 April 1241).
4. Konrad the Curly (ca. 1198 – Czerwony Kosciol, 4 September 1213).

Henry II the Pious

Henry II the Pious, 19th century painting by Jan Matejko.



Henry II the Pious (Polish: *Henryk II Pobożny*, German: *Heinrich II der Fromme*; ca. 1196 – 9 April 1241), was a Piast Duke of Silesia-Wrocław, Krakow and Southern Greater Poland from 1238 until his death. During 1238–1239 he served as a regent of two Piast Duchies: Sandomierz and Opole-Raciborz.

He was a son of Henry I the Bearded, Duke of Wrocław, by his wife (and later Saint) Hedwig, daughter of Berthold IV, Duke of Merania.

Life

Henry was the second son of the Ducal couple, but soon he became the eldest child of the family when the first-born Bolesław died in 1206. Seven years later (1213) the death of his younger surviving brother

Konrad during a hunt left Henry as the sole heir of Lower Silesia. Around 1218 his father arranged his marriage with Princess Anna, daughter of King Ottokar I of Bohemia; this union allowed Henry to participate actively in international politics.

Henry the Bearded quickly began his efforts to designate his sole surviving son as the universal heir of his patrimony, and from 1222, the young prince appears to have signed documents along with his father. Two years later, he had already a separate stamp and his own notary. In 1227 during a meeting of Piast Dukes in Gąsawa, Henry the Bearded and the High Duke Leszek the White were trapped in an ambush, as a result of which Leszek was killed and the Silesian Duke was seriously wounded; this was the first time that the government rested on the shoulders of young Henry.

Although at the time of his father's death Henry was about forty-years-old, he took possession of his inheritance with some complications. Actually, the first problem was the issue of his succession. The strong authority of Henry the Bearded could secure hereditary rule in his bloodline only over Lower Silesia. Southern Greater Poland and Krakow were ruled by election among the Piast princes (although there existed a testament of former Duke of Greater Poland and Krakow, Władysław III Spindleshanks, who left all his lands to Henry the Bearded, but this was ignored by Konrad of Masovia and Władysław Odonic). In the case of Opole-Raciborz and Sandomierz, Henry could retain his authority as a regent during the minority of their rulers Mieszko II and Bolesław V; however one year later (1239) Henry was compelled to resign the regency, although he remained on good terms with the Dukes of Opole and Sandomierz, but also

managed to retain Kalisz and Wieluń. However, the situation in the north was more complicated. The Margrave Otto III of Brandenburg, using the death of Henry the Bearded as a pretext, took an important fortress in Santok and besieged Lubusz. As well as this, he also inherited from his father the disputes with Konrad of Masovia and Władysław Odonic and with the Church, led by Pelka, Archbishop of Gniezno, who claimed the benefits promised by Henry the Bearded.

Mongol invasion. Battle of Legnica and Death

It seemed that the most difficult times for Henry were done - but the worst was yet to come. In the East, a new dangerous opponent appeared: the Mongols, under the leadership of Batu Khan, who, after the defeat and destruction of Russian Grand Principality of Kiev chose as the next target Hungary. Batu Khan rightly recognized that in the event of war with Hungary firstly he had to take control over Poland. So he sent there an army of 10 000 men under the leadership of Orda. Already in January 1241 Batu had sent some reconnaissance troops to Lublin and Zawichost, but the real invasion was launched a month later. In Lesser Poland the Mongols didn't have an equal opponent, defeating and killing almost all the Krakow and Sandomierz nobility in the Battle of Tursko (13 February) and the Battles of Tarczek and Chmielnik. After this all Lesser Poland, including Krakow and Sandomierz, was in the hands of the Mongols.

Henry didn't wait for the promised aid from Western rulers and began to concentrate the surviving Lesser Poland troops and his own Silesian and Greater Poland troops in Legnica. Europe's rulers, more interested in the struggles between Empire and Papacy, ignored Henry's requests for help. The only foreign troops who joined him were of King Wenceslaus I of Bohemia and the combined forces of both Knights Templars and Hospitallers, but at the last moment they stopped their troops close to Legnica, probably fearing that the Christian Army would become an easy prey to the Mongolian troops. The battle took place on 9 April 1241; Henry was defeated and killed in battle.

Marriage and issue

By 1218, Henry married Anna (ca. 1204 – 23 June 1265), daughter of King Ottokar I of Bohemia. They had ten children:

1. Gertrude (ca. 1218/20 – 23/30 April 1247), married by 1232 to Bolesław I of Masovia.
2. Constance (ca. 1221 – ca. 21 February 1257), married by 1239 to Casimir I of Kuyavia.
3. Bolesław II the Bald (ca. 1220/25 – 25/31 December 1278).
4. Mieszko (ca. 1223/27 – 1242).
5. Henry III the White (1227/30 – 3 December 1266).
6. Konrad (1228/31 – 6 August ca. 1274).
7. Elizabeth (ca. 1232 – 16 January 1265), married in 1244 to Przemysł I of Greater Poland.

Elisabeth of Wrocław

Elisabeth of Wrocław also known as *Elisabeth of Poland* (polish: **Elżbieta wrocławska** ca. 1232 – 16 January 1265) was a daughter of Henry II the Pious and his wife Anna of Bohemia ^[1]. She was a member of the House of Piast and was Duchess of Greater Poland by her marriage.

Elisabeth was the seventh of ten children born to her parents. Her siblings included: Bolesław II the Bald, Mieszko, Duke of Lubusz, Henry III the White, Konrad I, Duke of Silesia-Glogau, Ladislaus of Salzburg, Gertrude, Duchess of Masovia and Constance, Duchess of Kujavia.

Elisabeth's maternal grandparents were Ottokar I of Bohemia and his second wife Constance of Hungary. Constance was daughter of Béla III of Hungary and his first wife Agnes of Antioch. Elisabeth's paternal grandparents were Henry I the Bearded and his wife and later Saint Hedwig of Andechs.

Life

Elisabeth spent her childhood in Sanctuary of St. Jadwiga in Trzebnica where she would have lived with her paternal grandmother Hedwig, who would have been a big influence to her granddaughter. It is not certain whether there was pressure for Elisabeth to join the monastery. Elisabeth remained at Trzebnica until she was kidnapped by her brother Bolesław II the Bald because her family wanted her to marry Przemysł I of Greater Poland.

The marriage was for political reasons like most royal marriages of the time. Przemysł wanted to regain some of his father's lost lands in Silesia. The marriage helped the reincorporation of Kalisz into Greater Poland.

Elisabeth and Przemysł had five children:

1. Constance (b. 1245/46 - d. 8 October 1281), married in 1260 to Conrad, Margrave of Brandenburg-Stendal.
2. Euphrosyne (b. 1247/50 - d. 17/19 February 1298), Abbess of St. Clara in Trzebnica.
3. Anna (b. 1253 - d. aft. 26 June 1295), Abbess at Owińska.
4. Euphemia (b. 1253 - d. 5 September 1298), twin of Anna; a nun at St. Clara, Wrocław.
5. Przemysł II (b. posthumously, 14 October 1257 - d. 8 February 1296).

Elisabeth's husband died June 4, 1257 he left Elisabeth her *Oprawa wdowia* ^[2] in which was an estate in Modrze. Elisabeth died on her estate 16 January 1265.

Elisabeth's granddaughter from her son was Elisabeth Richeza of Poland who became the second wife of Wenceslaus II of Bohemia

Bolesław II the Bald

Bolesław II the Horned



Bolesław II the Bald known also as **the Horned** (Polish: *Bolesław II Łysy or Rogatka*; b. ca. 1220/5 - d. 26/31 December 1278), was a Duke of Krakow briefly in 1241, of Southern Greater Poland during 1241 - 1247, and Duke of all Silesia-Wroclaw from 1241 until 1248, when it was divided between him and his brothers. He was Duke of *Neumarkt* in Silesia (Środa Śląska) from 1277 and during his reign the second Mongol raid against Poland, led by Nogai Khan occurred.

He was the eldest son of Henry II the Pious, Duke of Wroclaw, by his wife Anna, daughter of King Ottokar I of Bohemia.

Beginning of his Reign and Fight over the Greater Poland Inheritance

Bolesław, in contrast to his father, didn't have to wait too much before ruling, because on 9 April 1241, during the Battle of Legnica against the Mongols, Duke Henry II was killed after only three years of government. At the time of these tragic events, of the five sons of the Silesian Duke, only Bolesław and his immediate younger brother Mieszko could be considered adults and capable of ruling without a regency.

Bolesław II, Duke of Legnica (1249-51)

In 1249 his younger brother Konrad unexpectedly returned to the country (after concluding his studies in Paris). Bolesław unsuccessfully tried to convince to enter the Church. He proposed him as Bishop of Passau but Konrad refused and began to press his own claims to Silesia. Bolesław obviously refused his consent, so that the young prince took refuge at the court of Bolesław's long-time enemy, the Dukes of Greater Poland. Shortly after, Konrad reformed his bonds with Duke Przemysław I after a double marriage: the Duke of Greater Poland with Konrad's sister Elizabeth, and himself with Duke Przemysław's sister, Salome. The final crash occurred two years later, when the Duke of Legnica was defeated by the combined forces of Przemysław I and Henry III the White, who supported the pretensions of his brother. Bolesław was finally forced to

agree on the division of his own lands and give Głogów to Konrad. After this, the elder Duke of the Silesian branch only retained the small district of Legnica.

Abduction of Henry IV and Battle of Stolec (1272-77)

In the 1270s the political decline of Bolesław was clear. He began to give more and more power to his adolescent sons. In 1273 he granted Jawor (Jauer) as a Duchy to his oldest son Henry V and it seemed that Bolesław resigned definitively from adventurous politics. But in 1277, he surprised everyone. Bolesław signed an alliance with the King Rudolph I of Germany (who with this tried to break the alliance of the other Piast Dukes with the King Ottokar II of Bohemia) and for Rudolph's insistence, he decided to kidnap Ottokar's ally, Henry IV -who also was Bolesław's nephew-. The pretext for this was the young prince's request of one third of Wrocław after the death in 1270 of his uncle Władysław, Bolesław's youngest brother. Henry IV was an important prisoner and shortly after was imprisoned in a castle in Legnica. In order to obtain his freedom, a coalition was made between the Bohemian King and the Dukes Henry III of Głogów and Przemysł II of Greater Poland; however, they soon failed. Although Bolesław's forces were notoriously smaller than the coalition's army in the Battle of Stolec and seemingly started to lose, his son Henry V unexpectedly began to win and finally defeated the allied dukes.

Death and Succession (1278)

This was the last of the success of the Duke of Legnica. Bolesław II died on 26/31 December 1278 and was buried in the Dominican monastery of Legnica. His three sons, Henry V the Fat, Bolko I and Bernhard, inherited their lands and divided them between them.

Marriage and Issue

Around 8 May 1242, Bolesław married firstly Hedwig (d. 21 December 1259), daughter of Henry I, Count of Anhalt. They had ten children:

1. Agnes (b. ca. 1243/50 - d. 13 March 1265), married ca. 1260/64 to Count Ulrich I of Württemberg.
2. Henry V the Fat (b. ca. 1248 - d. 22 February 1296).
3. Hedwig (b. ca. 1250/55 - d. aft. 1280), married ca. 1265/70 to Duke Konrad II of Masovia.
4. Bolko I the Strict (b. ca. 1252/56 - d. Grissow, 9 November 1301).
5. Bernard the Lightsome (b. ca. 1253/57 - d. 25 April 1286).

Mieszko I Tanglefoot

Mieszko I Tanglefoot



Mieszko I Tanglefoot (Polish: *Mieszko I Piłtonogi*; b. ca. 1130 - d. 16 May 1211), was a Duke of Silesia from 1163-1173 (with his brother as co-ruler), Duke of Racibórz from 1173, Duke of Opole from 1202 and from 9 June 1210 until his death, Duke of Kraków and High Duke of Poland.

He was the second son of Władysław II the Exile by his wife Agnes of Babenberg, daughter of Margrave Leopold III of Austria and half-sister of King Conrad III of Germany.

Exile in Germany

From 1146, after the deposition of his father, Mieszko and his family mainly lived in the town of Altenburg in Saxony, which was granted as a temporary possession to Władysław II by his brother-in-law, King Conrad III of Germany.

The Battle of Mozgawą

In 1195 Mieszko and his nephew Jarosław supported Mieszko III the Old in his new attempt to recover Kraków and the Seniorate. The death of Casimir II the Just and the minority of his sons had given them the opportunity to attack and regain control over Lesser Poland. However, Kraków and the nobility of Sandomierz, led by the voivode Nicholas, had other plans and decided to support Casimir II's eldest son, Leszek the White. Both sides clashed in the bloody Battle of Mozgawą near Jędrzejów, where Mieszko III was seriously injured and his son Bolesław of Kuyavia died. The Silesian troops, led by Mieszko and Jarosław, arrived to the battlefield too late, soon after Mieszko III withdrew to Kalisz. Despite the forces of the Count palatine Goworek who also arrived to help Leszek's troops, the Silesians obtained a great victory.

Marriage and issue

By 1178, Mieszko married Ludmilla (d. aft. 20 October 1210). They had five children:

1. Casimir I (b. ca. 1179/80 - d. 13 May 1230).
2. Ludmilla (d. 24 January aft. 1200).
3. Agnes (d. 9 May aft. 1200).
4. Euphrosyne (d. 25 May aft. 1200).
5. Ryksa (d. aft. 24 September 1239)

Rikissa of Poland

Rikissa (Richia) of Poland (b. 1116 d. after 25 December 1156), was queen in Sweden and grand princess of Minsk. She was a daughter of king Boleslaw III of Poland and Salome von Berg-Schelklingen. Married three times, to Viking-originated rulers in two countries.

Biography

Her first marriage was with Magnus the Strong who was the son of King Niels of Denmark and a grandson of king Inge I of Sweden (26th ggf). Magnus died before his father and therefore did not succeed in Denmark, but as one of the heirs of his Swedish grandfather's extinct dynasty, he claimed Sweden and was recognized King in Gothenland whereby some sources dub him as king of Västergötland. Their marriage produced a son, Canute V of Denmark.

Secondly, she married Grand Duke Volodar (Vladimir) of Minsk (LG 24th ggf), a ruler of Viking origin as most of Rus princes then were. Their marriage produced, in addition to two sons, a daughter Sofia of Minsk whom her half-brother Knud had married to his rival, the future Valdemar I of Denmark (LG #15215 ancestor).

Thirdly, she married the widowed king Sverker I of Sweden, (LG 25th ggf) earlier a rival of her first husband. Certainly one son was born from this marriage, Burislav Sverkersson; but the chronicles assign Sune Sik Sverkersson (24th ggf) as another son from Rikissa and Sverker, possibly the youngest.

Death and Aftermaths

Sweden's first Queen Richeza (of two) is thought to be buried at Alvastra Abbey.



Her son with Sverker I, Burislav, became a rival claimant of the Swedish throne against Knud Eriksson and in 1167 he finally could take part of his paternal heritage and was chosen King of Östergötland.

Her daughter Sofia of Minsk, Queen of Denmark by her first marriage with Valdemar I, gave Richeza her only known legitimate grandchildren: the later Kings Knud VI and Valdemar II of Denmark; Sophie (Countess of Orlamünde); Margareta and Maria, nuns at Roskilde; Ingeborg (the later famous repudiated Queen of France); Helena (Duchess of Brunswick-Lüneburg) and Richeza, named after her grandmother and like her, she became Queen of Sweden.

Mieszko III the Old

Mieszko III the Old (Polish: *Mieszko III Stary*; b. ca. 1126/27 – d. 13 March 1202), of the Piast Dynasty, was Duke of Greater Poland, 1138-1202, and High Duke of all Poland, with interruptions, 1173-1202.

He was the fourth but second surviving son of Bolesław III Wrymouth, Duke of Poland, by his second wife Salomea, daughter of Henry, Count of Berg.

High Duke of Poland Portrait by Jan Matejko



Life

Bolesław III's death. Mieszko III, ruler of Greater Poland

According to his father's testament, Mieszko received the Greater Poland Province, composed by Western Greater Poland with Poznań as his main residence. His older half-brother, Władysław II (the eldest son of the late Duke with his first Russian wife) was the High Duke and overlord of the country.

The First Conflict with Władysław II

The first major conflict with the High Duke took place during 1140-1141, when the Junior Dukes and their mother Salome, without the knowledge of Władysław, divided between them the Łęczyca province and decided to arrange the marriage of their younger sister Agnes with one of the sons of the Grand Prince of Kiev, Vsevolod II Olgovich. Only through the rapid intervention of Władysław the independence plans of the Junior Duke failed, because Grand Prince Vsevolod II, between an alliance with the strong High Duke or the weak Junior Dukes and their mother, he chose the first option, reinforced with the betrothal of Władysław's eldest son with Vsevolod's daughter.

Death of Salome of Berg. The Second Part of the conflict with Władysław II

On 27 July 1144, the Dowager Duchess Salome died. It was then that Władysław incorporated the Łęczyca province to the Seniorate; this was opposed by the Junior Dukes Bolesław and Mieszko, who had the idea to give this land to his brother Henry. Fighting took place in 1145; after an unexpectedly defeat, the High Duke, thanks to his Kievan allies, finally obtain the victory (Battle of Pilicy). Then was made an agreement, under which Władysław retain Łęczyca. However, the High Duke continued with his intentions of reunited all Poland under his rule. This

originated the strong opposition of the voivode Piotr Włostowic, who decided to support the Junior Dukes in order to maintain his power and position. Władysław decided eliminate Włostowic from his way for good. The voivode is captured after an ambush; the Duchess Agnes of Babenberg, Władysław's wife, demanded his death, but the High Duke chosen a terrible punishment: Włostowic was blinded, muted and expelled from the country. This was the began of the fall of Władysław.

Mieszko III the Old, graphic by Aleksandra Lessera



Marriages and Issue

Around 1136, Mieszko married firstly with Elisabeth (b. ca. 1128 - d. ca. 1154), daughter of King Béla II of Hungary.^[1] They had five children:^[2]

1. Odon (b. ca. 1149 - d. 20 April 1194).
2. Stephen (b. ca. 1150 - d. 18 October 1166/77?).
3. Elisabeth (b. 1152 - d. 2 April 1209), married firstly ca. 1173 to Soběslav II, Duke of Bohemia and secondly aft. January 1180 to Conrad II of Landsberg, Margrave of Lusatia.
4. Wierzchosława Ludmilla (b. bef. 1153 - d. bef. 1223), married ca. 1167 to Frederick, Lord of Bitsch and later Duke of Lorraine.
5. Judith (b. bef. 1154 - d. af. 12 December 1201), married ca. 1173 with Bernhard, Count of Anhalt and later Duke of Saxony.

By 1154, Mieszko married secondly with Eudoxia (b. ca. 1131 - d. aft. 1187), daughter of Grand Prince Izjaslav II of Kiev.^[3] They had five children:

1. Bolesław (b. 1159 - killed in the Battle of Mozgawą, 13 September 1195).
2. Mieszko the Younger (b. ca. 1160/65 - d. 2 August 1193).
3. Władysław III Spindleshanks (b. ca. 1161/67 - d. 3 November 1231).
4. Salomea (b. ca. 1162/64 – d. 11 May ca. 1183), married bef. 1177 to Prince Ratibor (II) of Pomerania.
5. Anastasia (b. ca. 1164 – d. aft. 31 May 1240), married on 26 April 1177 to Bogisław I, Duke of Pomerania.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisabeth_of_Hungary_\(1128%E2%80%931154\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisabeth_of_Hungary_(1128%E2%80%931154))

Elisabeth of Duchess of Greater Poland

Elisabeth of Hungary (b. ca. 1128 - d. 1154), was a Hungarian princess member of the House of Árpád and by marriage Duchess of Greater Poland. She was the eldest child of King Béla II of Hungary by his wife Helena, daughter of Duke Uroš I of Raška, Grand Župan of Serbia.

Elisabeth of Hungary



Around 1136, Elisabeth married with Prince Mieszko, son of the Polish ruler Bolesław III Wrymouth. The wedding was performed as a result of the agreement concluded a year earlier in Merseburg. Two years later (28 October 1138), Duke Bolesław III died; according to his will, Mieszko inherited the Greater Poland province and became in his first Duke, with Elisabeth as his Duchess consort.

During her marriage, Elisabeth bore her husband five children, two sons —Odon and Stephen— and three daughters —Elisabeth (Duchess of Bohemia and Margravine of Lusatia), Wierzchosława Ludmilla (Duchess of Lorraine) and Judith (Countess of Anhalt and Duchess of Saxony).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W%C5%82adys%C5%82aw_III_Spindleshanks

Władysław III Spindleshanks

Władysław III Spindleshanks. Drawing by Jan Matejko.



Władysław III Spindleshanks (Polish: *Władysław III Laskonogi*; 1165? – 1231) was Duke of the province of Greater Poland and High Duke of all Poland, overlord of other Dukes, 1202-1206 and 1227-1228, during which periods he also was Duke of Cracow, the duchy customarily held by the overlord.

Władysław became overlord of Poland in place of his cousin Leszek the White who was deposed. Władysław then was himself deposed in favor of Leszek from the overlordship. Twenty years late, he succeeded in regaining the throne.

In 1286, he married Lucia of Rügen, they had no children.

Władysław was the son of Mieszko III the Old and his successor in their family part-realm of Greater Poland.

Odon of Poznań

Odon of Poznań also known as **of Greater Poland** and **Mieszkowic** b. ca. 1149 - d. 20 April 1194), was a Duke of Greater Poland and Poznań during 1177/79-1182.

He was the eldest son of Mieszko III the Old, Duke of Greater Poland and since 1173 High Duke of Poland, by his first wife Elisabeth, daughter of King Béla II of Hungary.

Life

In 1177 Odon joined the revolt of the Lesser Polish nobility against his father; the main reason of his colaboration to the rebels was the favoritism showed by Mieszko III to the offspring of his second marriage and the attempts of the High Duke to force him to became a priest, in order to eliminated from the succession. Also Odon apparently hoped enlarged his dominains, perhaps even so far as to obtain the Duchy of Greater Poland by force. His uncle Casimir II the Just, offered him only Poznań. Odon pursued the war against his father until 1178, when Mieszko III was forced to abdicate and flee.

In 1181 Miesko III returned to the country and with the aid of the Pomeranians, regained the control over Greater Poland and Poznań from his son Odon. One year later, was made an agreement between father and son: Odon received a little portion of Greater Poland south of the river Obrą (however, some historians believed that he remained in the Greater Poland capital until his own death). After Odon's younger brother Mieszko the Younger died on 2 August 1193, Odon obtained the Duchy of Kalisz, with the consent of his father.

Odon died on 20 August 1194 and was buried in the Cathedral of Poznań.

Marriage and issue

About 1184^[1] Odon married with Viacheslava (d. aft. 1200), daughter of Yaroslav Vladimirovich "Osmomysl", Prince of Halych They had four children:

1. Władysław Odonic (b. ca. 1190 - d. 5 June 1239).
2. Ryksa (b. ca. 1191 - d. 18 November aft. 1238).
3. Odon (b. ca. 1191/92 - d. 1225), Provost of Magdeburg.
4. Euphrosyne (b. ca. 1192/94 - d. 23 August 1235), married ca. 1225 to with Duke Swantopolk II of Pomerania.^[6]

Since Odon's son Władysław was too young to reign, Odon bestowed the regency of his duchy in the south of Greater Poland upon his half-brother Władysław III Spindleshanks, while Miesko III reclaimed the Duchy of Kalisz.

Władysław Odonic

Władysław Odonic's seal, dated from 1231.



Władysław (also named **Włodzisław**) **Odonic** (nicknamed **Plwacz**) b. ca. 1190 - d. 5 June 1239), was a Duke of Kalisz during 1207-1217, Duke of Poznań during 1216-1217, in 1223 ruler over Ujście, from 1225 ruler over Nakło, Duke of all Greater Poland during 1229-1234.

He was the eldest son of Odon, Duke of Kalisz, by his wife Viacheslava, daughter of Yaroslav Vladimirovich "Osmomysl", Prince of Halych. Władysław probably received his name after either his paternal uncle Władysław III Spindleshanks or his ancestor Władysław I Herman.

Life

Duke Odon of Kalisz died on 20 April 1194. Władysław (then only a four years old child) and his siblings were placed under the care of his paternal uncle Władysław III Spindleshanks (half-brother of Odon), who acted as regent over the south of Greater Poland (Duchy created to Odon by his father in 1182). The Duchy of Kalisz was directly annexed by his grandfather Mieszko III the Old to his domains.

The Congress of Gąsawa and his tragic consequences. Responsibility over Leszek I the White's death

Feared that he could lost all his domains, Władysław III Spindleshanks decided to find a peaceful solution to the dispute with his nephew. For this purpose, was convened in November 1227 a solemn convention of the Piast princes, bishops and nobles in the Kuyavian district of Gąsawa. Among the princes who assisted to the meeting were Leszek I the White, Henry I the Bearded, Konrad I of Masovia and Władysław Odonic. To the tragic end of the meeting took place on the morning of 24 November, when during a short break from the deliberations the princes were attacked by Pomeranians, who killed Leszek I the White and seriously injured Henry I the Bearded. By sources and historiography, the main culprit in the murder rested on Duke Swantopolk II, although there are some who believe that Władysław Odonic was also involved in the crime (however, contemporary historians were inclined to absolved Władysław from any part in the attack).

Deposition of Władysław III Spindleshanks from Greater Poland and his death

In 1229 took place a concerted action of Władysław and Konrad I of Masovia against Władysław III Spindleshanks. Odonic then managed to control his uncle's domains. A much less successful was the participation of Konrad I, whose troops unsuccessfully besieged Kalisz. Władysław III Spindleshanks ultimately couldn't defend himself and soon after he escaped to Racibórz in Silesia. Władysław Odonic's success was complete, but the risk still remains: in the spring of 1231 Henry I the Bearded launched an expedition against Greater Poland with the purpose of restoring Władysław III Spindleshanks, but soon after the Silesian troops were defeated at the walls of Gniezno.

On 3 November 1231 Władysław III Spindleshanks died unexpectedly, apparently killed by a German girl whom he tried to rape. This brought a slight change in the situation of Władysław, because before his uncle's death, all his rights to inheritance passed to Henry I the Bearded.

Władysław Odonic died on 5 June 1239 and was buried in the Archcathedral Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul, Poznań.

Marriage and Issue

Between 1218/20 Władysław married with Hedwig (d. 29 December 1249), whose origins are disputed among historians and sources. According to some sources,^[3] her parentage is unknown; however, other historians believed that she had a Pomeranian or Moravian origin: she could be the daughter of Duke Mestwin I of Pomerania,^{[4][5]} or a member of the Premyslid dynasty.^{[6][7]} They had six children:

1. Hedwig (b. 1218/20 - d. 8 January aft. 1234), married ca. 1233 to Duke Casimir I of Kuyavia.^[8]
2. Przemysł I (b. 5 June 1220/4 June 1221 - d. 4 June 1257). (16357)
3. Bolesław the Pious (b. 1224/27 - d. 14 April 1279). (16095)
4. Salomea (b. ca. 1225 - d. April 1267?) married in 1249 to Duke Konrad I of Głogów.
5. Ziemomysł (b. 1228/32 - d. 1235/36).^[9]
6. Euphemia (b. ca. 1230 - d. 15 February aft. 1281), married in 1251 to Duke Władysław of Opole.

Przemysław I of Greater Poland

Przemysław I's seal, dated from 1252.



Przemysław I (b. 5 June 1220/4 June 1221^[1] – d. 4 June 1257), was a Duke of Greater Poland (during 1241-1247 with his brother as co-ruler; according to some historians during 1239-1241 sole Duke of Ujście), Duke of Poznań and Gniezno during 1247-1249, Duke of Poznań and Kalisz during 1249-1250, sole Duke of Greater Poland during 1250-1253 and Duke of Poznań from 1253 until his death.

He was the eldest son of Władysław Odonic, Duke of Greater Poland by his wife Hedwig, who was probably daughter of Duke Mestwin I of Pomerania, or a member of the Premyslid dynasty (a fact supported by the name given to her son, the first in the Piast dynasty who bear it).^[2] The numeral *primus* (The First) was given to him in the almost contemporary *Chronicle of Greater Poland*. Duke Władysław Odonic ordered a very strict and complete education to his son, because, as was attested in the *Chronicle*, young Przemysław was easily able to read Latin psalms.^[3]

Life

Reconquest of lost lands

In 1242 Przemysław I reconquer Zbąszyń and Międzyrzecz from Bolesław II the Bold.^[5] The presence of Przemysław in the Silesian borders forced the intervention of Duke Swantopolk II of Pomerania, who captured Nakło; but the young Duke, with the assistance of his Knights quickly could took the control of the district from the Pomeranian ruler.^[6]

Despite his success, Przemysław I wanted to end his disputes with the Silesian Piasts and in 1244 he married Bolesław II's sister Elizabeth,^[7] brought this to the monastery in Trzebnica. Contrary to his plans, this marriage wasn't calmed the situation on the Silesian-Greater Poland border, but allowed Przemysław to recover Kalisz from Duke Władysław of Opole^[8] (who in turn obtain this land from Henry I the Bearded in 1234), but failed in his attempt to recover Wieluń, who was only annexed to Greater Poland in 1249.^[9] The claim actions against the son of Henry II the Pious was completed in 1247 when was recover Santok.^[10]

War against the the expansionism of Brandenburg

On the foreign politics side, Przemysł I's main concern was the expansionism of House of Ascania, rulers of the Margraviate of Brandenburg. Although thanks to his knighthood he could stopped the advances of Brandenburg troops in his domains (Santok in 1247, Zbąszyń in 1251 and Drezdenko in 1252), this didn't ended the continuing tense situation on the Brandenburg border. For this purpose, during 1254-1255 Przemysł I tried to establish warmer relations with Brandenburg with the betrothal of his eldest daughter Constance with Conrad, son of John I, Margrave of Brandenburg (the marriage took place after Przemysł I's death, in 1260); however, this event proved to be a political fiasco, because thanks to this union, later the House of Ascania claim rights over western Greater Poland.

Head traditionally recognised as face of Przemysł I from the Church of Holliest Heart of Jesus and Mother of God of Consolation in Poznań.



Przemysł I died in Poznań on 4 June 1257^[21] and was buried in the Wawel Cathedral. The head showed in the vault of the Church of Holliest Heart of Jesus and Mother of God of Consolation in Poznań and currently preserved in the Historical Museum of Poznań City Hall is probably a Przemysł I's portrait, a fact who is sometimes questioned by art historians.

Marriage and Issue

In 1244 Przemysł I married with Elisabeth (b. ca. 1232 – d. 16 January 1265), daughter of Henry II the Pious, Duke of Wrocław. They had five children:^{[22][23][24]}

1. Constance (b. 1245/46 - d. 8 October 1281), married in 1260 to Conrad, Margrave of Brandenburg-Stendal.
2. Euphrosyne (b. 1247/50 - d. 17/19 February 1298), Abbess of St. Clara in Trzebnica.
3. Anna (b. 1253 - d. aft. 26 June 1295), Abbess at Owińska.
4. Euphemia (b. 1253 - d. 5 September 1298), twin of Anna; a nun at St. Clara, Wrocław.
5. Przemysł II (b. posthumously, 14 October 1257 - d. 8 February 1296).

At the time of Przemysł I's death, his wife was five months pregnant of their last child; for this, his brother Bolesław took the government of all his domains; after the birth of Przemysł II, he remained under the tutelage of his uncle until 1273, when he received Poznań as his own district. Eventually, Przemysł II inherited the whole Greater Poland after his uncle's death in 1279 and became in the third King of Poland in 1295. With his death one year later, the Greater Poland line of the Piast dynasty became extinct.

Przemysław II

Przemysław II (also given in English and Latin as *Premyslas* or *Premislaus*, Polish: *Przemysław* or less properly *Przemysław*) (14 October 1257 – 8 February 1296) was the Duke of Poznań, Greater Poland, Kraków and Pomerelia, and then King of Poland from 1295 until his death. After a long period of Polish High Dukes, and two nominal kings, he was the first one to obtain the hereditary title of King, and for Poland the rank of Kingdom.

Biography

Premislas II. Drawing by Jan Matejko



Przemysław was born to Przemysław I, Duke of Greater Poland, and Elisabeth, daughter of Henry II of Silesia.

Before 1277, he became a duke of Poznań, and after the death of his uncle Bolesław the Pious in 1279, he became the duke of whole of Greater Poland.

According to the last will of Henry IV Probus, duke of Silesia and high-duke of Poland, he inherited in 1290 the provinces of Kraków and Sandomierz (both were called Lesser Poland), but soon ceded them to Wenceslaus II, King of Bohemia. As he was the strongest Polish duke of the time, possessed the royal insignia from Kraków, and had support of the clergy for the unification of Poland, he was crowned king of Poland in 1295 by the archbishop of Gniezno,

Jakub Świnka, and five other bishops.

In 1296, he was kidnapped by men of the electors of Brandenburg, with some help from the Polish noble families of Nałęcz and Zaremba, and murdered on February 8 in Rogoźno by Jakub Kaszuba. His kingship was short but the revived kingdom survived for the next 500 years.

According to medieval chronicles, he murdered his first wife Ludgarda because she could not bear him children. Ludgarda foresaw his intentions, and beseeched him to spare her life and send her away. He declined and is said to have had her strangled.

Marriages

1. 1273 Ludgarda, daughter of Henry I the Pilgrim, Duke of Mecklenburg; no children
2. 1285 Ryksa, daughter of Valdemar I of Sweden; one daughter: Ryksa Elizabeth
3. 1293 Margaret of Brandenburg, daughter of Albert II, Margrave of Brandenburg; no children

Richeza of Sweden, Queen of Poland

Richeza of Sweden, (Swedish: **Rikissa Valdemarsdotter**, born before 1273 – dead before 1293), was a Polish Queen Consort, spouse of King Przemysław II of Poland. In Poland, she was called *Ryksa Waldemarówna* or *Ryksa Szwedzka*.

Biography

Richeza was born to King Valdemar of Sweden and Sophia of Denmark. The year of her birth is not known, but in 1273, there were negotiations regarding a marriage to the count of Brunswick. In 1275, her father was deposed. Richeza married Przemysław by proxy in Nyköping 11 October 1285. Their marriage is traditionally described as happy. In 1290, her spouse became King, and Rikissa became Queen of Poland. The year of her death is not known, but in 1293, Przemysław gave an order that his grave should be placed next to hers in the cathedral of Poznań.

Children

Richeza and Przemysław had one daughter:

- Elisabeth Richeza of Poland, married firstly to Wenceslaus II of Bohemia (16170), had issue. Married secondly to Rudolph I of Bohemia, no issue.

Elisabeth Richeza of Poland

Elisabeth Richenza of Poland (1 September 1286 – 18 October 1335) was a daughter and the only surviving child of Przemysł II of Poland (originally prince of Greater Poland and Poznań) and his second wife Richenza of Sweden, herself a daughter of Valdemar I of Sweden and Sofia of Denmark.

Her name at birth was Richeza; she adopted the name Elisabeth after her first marriage. She became queen consort of Bohemia as the second wife of Wenceslaus II and remained such as wife of Rudolph of Habsburg who succeeded Wenceslaus as King of Bohemia.

Life

Her father, crowned as a King of Poland, was murdered on 10 February 1296 when she was a young child, and left no other heirs. Young Richeza, as the heiress / claimant of Poland, became an important participant in the dispute of Polish throne. As a child she was engaged to the young Otto, son of the Margrave of Brandenburg and relative of her stepmother Margaret of Brandenburg. However, the boy died soon after.

First marriage

Elisabeth Richeza (right) with her husband's first wife, Judith



In 1300 Elisabeth Richeza was married to a widower, King Wenceslaus II of Bohemia (1271-1305, reigned in Bohemia from 1278 and in parts of Poland from 1304), who wanted to use her succession rights in order to gain Poland. His first wife Judith of Habsburg, had already given him a son and three daughters. He had already subjugated Kraków in 1291, during the lifetime of Elisabeth's father. Because of her young age, the marriage was not celebrated until 26 May 1303, when she arrived in Prague and was crowned the Queen of Bohemia and Poland, adopting the name Elisabeth at the same time (as Richeza was unused and seen as strange in Bohemia). Her husband Wenceslaus II died in Prague 21 June 1305 of tuberculosis. She acted as regent from August until October. Her stepson Wenceslaus III (also a claimant to the throne of Hungary) succeeded the throne but was murdered in 1306 in Olomouc. The Kujavian branch of the Piast dynasty acquired Polish throne.

Elisabeth Richeza had only one child, a daughter Agnes of Bohemia (15 June 1305 - c 1337), who was born just a few days before her husband's death. Agnes married a Silesian prince, Duke Henry I of Jawor, but remained childless.

Boleslaw the Pious

Bolesław the Pious.



Bolesław the Pious (b. 1224/27 - d. 14 April 1279), was a Duke of Greater Poland. He was the second son of Władysław Odonic, Duke of Greater Poland by his wife Hedwig, who was probably daughter of Duke Mestwin I of Pomerania, or a member of the Premyslid dynasty.

Early Years

Certainly the first years of Bolesław weren't easy, because he had to share the fiercely dispute of his father against Władysław III Spindleshanks (his own uncle) for his inheritance. However, is known that Władysław Odonic took care properly for the upbringing of his offspring, evidenced by the fact that Bolesław, like his older brother Przemysł I, was able to read and write Latin.

Foreign Policy

On 4 June 1257 Przemysł I died, aged only 36. With his brother's death, new horizons opened to Bolesław. First of all, he became in the undisputed sole rule over the whole Greater Poland. Although the posthumous son of his brother, Przemysł II, was born on 14 October of that year, until he was declared an adult, his guardianship was taken by Bolesław. The first of Bolesław's new foreign politics was his marriage in 1258 with Princess Jolenta (Helena), daughter of King Béla IV of Hungary. This union resulted in a permanent bond between Bolesław and Hungary, who was reflected in the assistance given to them in the conflict with Bohemia after the extinction of the House of Babenberg. For Bolesław, this alliance cost him a complete devastation of Greater Poland during the winter of 1267-1268 by troops of King Ottokar II of Bohemia during his return from an expedition against the Prussians.

Despite this success, Ziemomysł continue with his German-Pomeranian politics, who caused a new revolt from his subjects, who called again Bolesław for help: in 1271 he invaded the Duchy of Inowrocław and forced Ziemomysł to escape. Bolesław retain the Duchy until 1273, when he gave it to Ziemomysł's brother Leszek II the Black, except Radziejów and Kruszwica, who remained in Greater Poland.

Internal Policy

On 16 August 1264 Bolesław granted the first written privilege to the Jews of Greater Poland (the *Statute of Kalisz*). It regulated the judicial authority over the Jewish population, and Jewish credit and trading activity. The comparatively liberal statute served as a basis for Jewish privileges in Poland until 1795.

Marriage and Issue

In 1258 Bolesław married with Jolenta (Helena) (b. 1244 - d. 16/17 June aft. 1304), daughter of King Béla IV of Hungary. They had three daughters:^{[1][2][3]}

1. Elisabeth (b. 1261/63 - d. September 1304), married in 1273 to Henry V, Duke of Legnica.
2. Hedwig (b. 1270/75 - d. 10 December 1339), married in January 1293 to Władysław I the Elbow-high, Duke of Kuyavia and since 1320 King of Poland.
3. Anna (b. 1276/78 - d. bef. 1300), a nun in Gniezno.

After his death without male heirs, all the Greater Poland Duchy passed to his only nephew Przemysł II. Crowned King of Poland in 1295 but murdered the next year, with his death the Greater Poland branch of the Piast dynasty became extinct.

Jolenta of Poland

Jolenta (Jolanta) of Poland (also known as **Blessed Yolande of Poland** and **Blessed Helen of Hungary (or of Poland)**; (1235-1298) was the daughter of Béla IV of Hungary and Maria Laskarina. She was the sister of Saint Margaret of Hungary and Saint Kinga (Cunegunda). One of her father's sisters was the great Franciscan saint, Elizabeth of Hungary.

Blessed Jolenta



Life

As a young girl, Jolenta was sent to Poland, to be tutored under the supervision of her sister, Kinga, who was married to the Duke of Poland. There, she was encouraged to marry Boleslaus of Greater Poland, which she did in 1257. During the time of her marriage, she was noted for her great services to the poor and needy of the country, as well as being a major benefactor of the monasteries, friaries and hospitals connected to them. Her husband gave her so much support in her charities, that he earned the nickname, "the Pious." She was

widowed in 1279.

- Elisabeth of Kalisz (1263 - 28 September 1304). Married Henry V, Duke of Legnica.
- Hedwig of Kalisz (1266 - 10 December 1339). Married Władysław I the Elbow-high, King of Poland.
- Anna of Kalisz (born 1278). A nun in Gniezno.

Religious work

Jolenta and Kinga, along with one of Jolenta's daughters, retired to the Poor Clare monastery Kinga had founded in Sandez. Forced to relocate due to armed conflict in the region, Jolenta founded a new monastery in Gniezno. She was persuaded to become Abbess of the community shortly before her death. Jolenta and Boleslaus of Greater Poland had three daughters:

Veneration

She has been declared as a candidate for sainthood. Her sisters, Kinga and Margaret, have already been canonized.

Bolesław IV the Curly

Bolesław IV the Curly (ca. 1125 – 3 April 1173) was a Duke of Masovia since 1138 and High Duke of Poland from 1146 until his death.

He was the third son of Bolesław III Wrymouth, Duke of Poland by his second wife Salomea, daughter of Henry, Count of Berg. The death of his older brothers, Leszek and Casimir, in August and October 1131, respectively, left him as the eldest son of their parents.



Life

Bolesław was at the time of his father's death (1138) with the legal age to take personally the government of the lands who received, the Masovian Province (composed by Masovia and eastern Kuyavia). Because his main domain was Masovia, the prince was called *Bolesław of Masovia*.

In the first years of his government, Bolesław remained under the strong influence of his mother Salome and the Palatine Wszebor, who feared that the High Duke Władysław II (the first-born son of the late Duke by his first Russian wife) tried to restore the unity of the country and deposed the Junior Dukes.

Expedition of Emperor Frederick Barbarossa to Poland. The final recognition of the authority of Bolesław IV

The new German King and Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, decided to make a new expedition to Poland in 1157, thanks to the pressures of his aunt Agnes, Władysław's wife. This time the campaign was well organized, and the King was well determined to force Bolesław to accept his own conditions. It's unknown why Bolesław opted for a highly security tactics of war, not defending the borders of the Oder River, who was for centuries the natural defense of Poland and Głogów strongholds in Bytom (Beuthen). Soon the Emperor's army laid siege to Greater Poland and Poznań. Given the difficult situation, Bolesław was forced to accept the humiliating negotiations and in a shameful ceremony, was declared a vassal of the Empire in Krzyżkowo. Bolesław was in his knees and beg for forgiveness to the Emperor, in return for which he kindly received from Barbarossa the further control over the country; also, he had to pay an enormous tribute to Emperor. For unknown reasons, despite the victory of the Emperor, Władysław wasn't restore in the Polish throne. Bolesław formally swore loyalty to the Emperor in the Christmas

Day in Magdeburg, and gave his younger brother, Casimir, as a hostage. Two years later, on 30 May 1159, Władysław died, without return to his country again.

The Return of Władysław II's sons to Silesia

Only in 1163 the sons of the late Władysław, Bolesław I the Tall and Mieszko I Tanglefoot, and according to his treaty with the Emperor, were restored in their Silesia heritage; but this return, wasn't affect the power of Bolesław as a High Duke and overlord of Poland. Thanks to his German affinities, the senior dynasty managed to retain their lands (Wrocław, Legnica, Głogów, Opole and Racibórz) without problems.

Marriages and Issue

In 1137 Bolesław married firstly with Viacheslava (b. ca. 1125 - d. 15 March ca. 1162?), daughter of St. Vsevolod, Prince of Novgorod and Pskov. They had three children:

1. Bolesław (b. 1156 - d. 1172)
2. A daughter (b. ca. 1160 - d. aft. 1178), married ca. 1172/73 to Vasilko Iaropolkovich, Prince of Shumsk and Dorohychyn.
3. Leszek (b. ca. 1162 - d. 1186).

Bolesław's eldest son died in 1172 aged sixteen and reportedly the High Duke was devastated by his death. He was succeeded in the Masovian-Kujavian principality by his second and only surviving son Leszek, at the age of eleven or less. As overlord and holder of Kraków and Gniezno, he however was succeeded by his next brother Mieszko III the Old, Duke of Greater Poland.

Casimir II the Just

Casimir II the Just (1138 - 5 May 1194), was a Duke of Wiślica during 1166-1173, Duke of Sandomierz since 1173 and Duke of Kraków and High Duke of Poland from 1177 until his death. The surname "the Just" wasn't contemporary; this only appears in the 16th century.

High Duke of Poland



He was the youngest son of Bolesław III Wrymouth, Duke of Poland, by his second wife Salomea, daughter of Henry, Count of Berg.

Life

Early Years

Casimir, the sixth but fourth surviving son of the Ducal couple, was born in 1138, shortly before his father's death, but also is possible that he born shortly after, and in consequence, was posthumous. Maybe this was the reason that in the Bolesław III's Testament, he was omitted and left without any land.

During his first years, Casimir and his sister Agnes (born in 1137) lived with their mother Salome in her widow land, Łęczyca. There, the young prince remained far away from the struggles of his older brothers

Bolesław IV the Curly and Mieszko III the Old with their older half-brother Władysław II, who tried to reunite all Poland under his rule.

Salome of Berg died in 1144. Casimir and Agnes were cared by his older brother Bolesław IV and, although under his tutelage he could feel safe, he had any guarantee to receive part of the paternal inheritance in the future. When in 1154 he reached the proper age (according to the standards of that time), to take control over the lands of the family, he remained with nothing. Even worse, three years later (1157) his fate was decided in the successfully campaign of the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa. As a part of the treaty between Bolesław and Barbarossa, Casimir was sent to Germany as a hostage in order to secure the loyalty of his brother to the Emperor.

Duke of Wiślica

The situation changed in 1166, when his brother Henry was killed in battle during the crusade against the Prussians; without issue, in his will he named Casimir the only heir of Sandomierz. However, Bolesław IV decided to divided the Duchy in three parts: the largest (who included the capital, Sandomierz) to him; the second (whithout any name) to Mieszko III and the third part, the district of Wiślica, was given to Casimir.

Angry and disappointed with the decision of the High Duke, Casimir rebelled against him, with the support of by his brother Mieszko III the Old, the magnate Jaksa of Miechów and Sviatoslav, son of Piotr Włostowic, as well as Jan I, Archbishop of Gniezno and Gedko, Bishop of Kraków; also, almost all Lesser Poland was on his side. The quick actions of the High Duke finally stopped the rebellion. At the end, Casimir retain only Wiślica.

In 1172, Mieszko III rebelled against the High Duke, and tried to persuaded his younger brother to join him. For unknown reasons, Casimir refused to participate.

Bolesław IV died in 1173 and was succeeded by Mieszko III as High Duke. He decided to give the rest of Sandomierz to Casimir, then his only surviving brother, who finally could take the Ducal title after the illegal usurpation of the late High Duke.

The last goal of Casimir's reign was at the beginning of 1194, when he organized an expedition against the Yotvingians. The expedition ended with a full success, and Casimir had a triumphant return to Kraków. After a banquet made to celebrate his return, Casimir died unexpectedly, on 5 May 1194. Some historians believed that he was poisoned.

Marriage and Issue

Around 1163, Casimir married with Helena (ca. 1140/42 - ca. 1202/06), daughter of Conrad II, Duke of Znojmo, member of the Přemyslid dynasty of Bohemia.^{[2][3][4]} They had seven children:^{[5][6]}

1. Maria (1164 - 1194), married in November 1178 to Prince Vsevolod IV of Kiev.
2. Casimir (ca. 1165? - 1 March 1167).
3. Bolesław (ca. 1168/71 - 16 April 1182). He died accidentally, after falling from a tree.
4. Odon, died in infancy.^[7]
5. Adelaide (ca. 1177/84 - 8 December 1211), foundress of the convent of St. Jakob in Sandomierz.
6. Leszek the White (ca. 1186/87 - Marcinkow, 23 November 1227).
7. Konrad (ca. 1187/88 - 31 August 1247).

Leszek I the White

Drawing by Jan Matejko



Leszek I the White (Polish: *Leszek Biały*; c. 1186 – 1227) also listed by some sources as **Leszek II the White**^[1], was Prince of Sandomierz and (from 1202 or 1206) of Kraków. Leszek was the ruler of Poland from 1194-1227 except for the short periods following when he was deposed in 1200, 1201 and 1206. Both Mieszko III and Władysław III Spindleshanks contested Leszek's right to be king during this era.^[1] Leszek was actually crowned in 1202.

Other sources give an even more complicated picture of Leszek's rule, where between 1198 and 1211 there were even more points of Leszek's removal from the throne. He is considered in this plan to have been ousted in 1198, restored in 1199, ousted in 1202 and restored again in 1206 and then ousted a third time in 1210 and restored in 1211. The third ousting involved putting Mieszko IV Tanglefoot in as the chief ruler of Poland.

Leszek was the son of Casimir II the Just and his wife Helen of Znojmo. He made claims to the territory of Sandomierz on the death of Casimir.

In 1205 Leszek defeated the Rus' army of Prince Roman the Great at the Battle of Zawichost in Lesser Poland.

In 1207 Leszek placed Poland under the vassalage of the Pope, at that point Innocent III. This put Poland clearly in the camp of pro-Papal territories in opposition to the power of the Holy Roman Emperor.^[2]

After that Leszek cooperated closely with Archbishop Henry Kietlicz in implementing the reforms of Innocent III.^[3]

Leszek fought with Hungary over control of Halich Rus but was not able to extend his rule into that land.^[4] Leszek did come to an agreement on eastern expansion with Hungary by which a Hungarian prince would marry one of Leszek's daughters and be set up as a vassal of Hungary with obvious benefits to Poland as well. However Daniel of Galicia, the son of the late Roman the Great, was able to come to power in Galicia in 1214 and Polish designs in those areas, that were closely connected with attempts to spread Catholicism eastward, were thwarted.^[3]

Marriage

Leszek married Grzymisława of Luck in 1207. Leszek's and Grzymisława's daughter Salome of Cracow was born in 1211. She married Kaloman, Duke of Croatia Kaloman was the **son of King** Andreas II Arpád of Hungary. The marriage occurred in about 1215 when Salome was 4 and Kaloman was 7.

Leszek and Grzymisława were also the parents of Bolesław V.

Statue of Leszek in Marcinkowo



In 1227, during a diet of Polish barons at Gąsawa, he was assassinated (probably on orders from Duke Świętopełk II of Pomerania). This was the result of Leszek having attempted to force the Pomeranian Duke to submit to his authority.

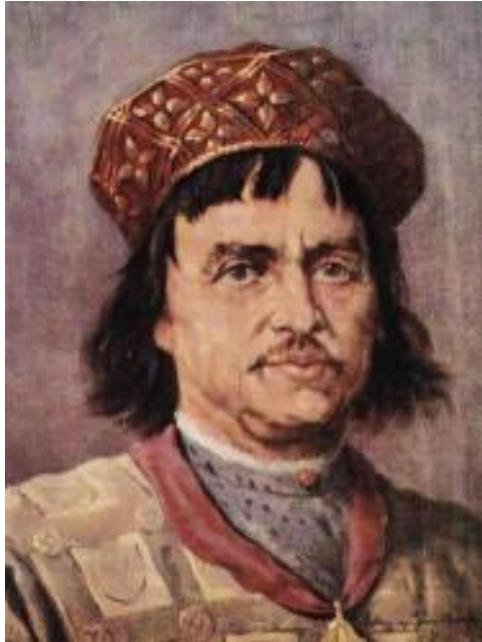


Slaying of Leszek the White in Gasawa Jan Matejko

In a rather famous anecdote, Leszek once explained to the Pope that Polish knights could not participate in his Crusade because there was no mead/beer to be had in Palestine.

Bolesław V the Chaste

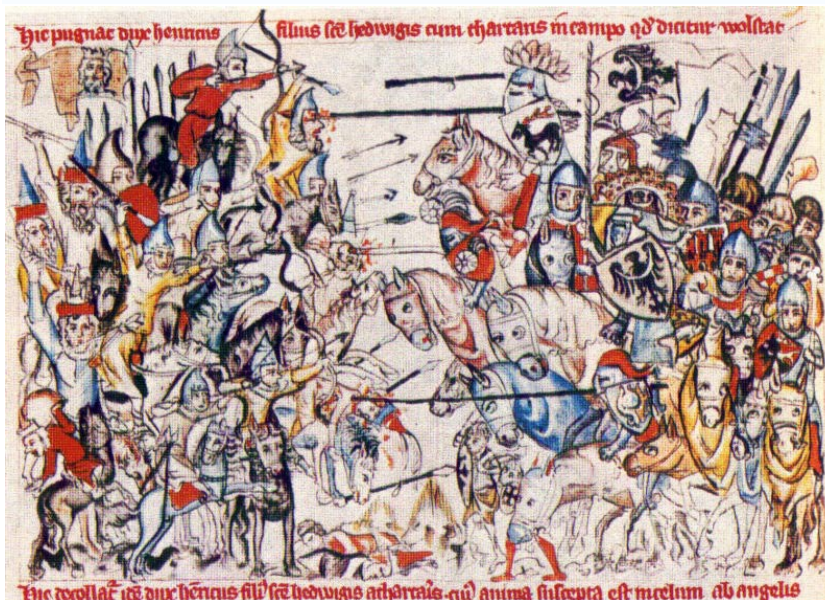
Bolesław V the Chaste



Bolesław V the Chaste or **the Shy** (Polish: *Bolesław Wstydlivy*) (21 June 1226 O.S. – 7 December 1279 O.S.) was the son of Leszek the White. Several years after the death of Henry the Pious at the battle of Legnica (1241), he became prince in Kraków, and thus the predominant prince in fragmented Poland.

He married Cunegunda (Kinga), daughter of Hungarian King Béla IV. According to medieval chronicles, the marriage was never consummated. Kinga, being extremely pious, was averse to fulfilling her marital duties. At first Bolesław tried to change her mind, but she demurred and he reluctantly accepted the situation. His religious convictions forbade him to take a mistress. Hence the epithet, "the Chaste" or "the Shy."

During his reign the city of Kraków, which had been destroyed in 1241 by the Tartars, was rebuilt, and mainly settled by German immigrants. During his rule there was a second Tartar raid against Poland in 1259, where Sandomierz, Kraków and other cities were plundered by the invading forces led by Nogai Khan.



Battle of Legnica on miniature from 15th century

Kinga of Poland

Saint Kinga of Poland (also known as **Cunegunda**, **Kunigunda**, **Kunegunda**, **Cunegundes**, **Kioga**, **Zinga**; Polish: *Święta Kinga*, Hungarian: *Szent Kinga*) (March 5, 1224 – July 24, 1292) is a saint in the Roman Catholic Church and patroness of Poland and Lithuania.

Saint Kinga of Poland



She was the daughter of King Béla IV of Hungary and Maria Laskarina. She was a niece of St. Elizabeth of Hungary and great-niece of Saint Hedwig. Kinga's sisters were Saint Margaret of Hungary and Jolenta of Poland (Yolanda, Helen).

She reluctantly married Bolesław V the Chaste. Kinga later became princess when her husband ascended the throne as Prince of Cracov. Despite the marriage, the devout couple took up a vow of chastity. During her reign Kinga got involved in charitable works such as visiting the poor and helping the lepers. When her husband died in 1279, she sold all her material possessions and gave the money to the poor. She

soon did not want any part in governing the kingdom which was left to her and decided to join the Poor Clares monastery at Sandeck. She would spend the rest of her life in contemplative prayer and did not allow anyone to refer to her past role as Grand Duchess of Poland. She died on July 24, 1292.



Statue of Saint Kinga near Trzy Korony

Konrad I of Masovia

Łock Diadem, Ducal Crown attributed to Konrad I of Masovia



Konrad I of Masovia (1187? – 1247), son of Casimir II and Helen of Moravia, was the 6th Duke of Masovia.

After his father's death in 1194, Konrad was brought up by his mother. In 1199 he received Masovia and in 1202, Kuyavia. In 1205, he and his brother, Leszek I the White, had their greatest military victory at Battle of Zawichost against Roman the Great. The Ruthenian army

was crushed and Roman was killed in battle. The Russian princess Agafia of Rus became his wife. His maternal grandmother (the princess-consort of Moravia, Znaim (part of Holy Roman Empire) was one Maria of Serbia, apparently a daughter of the pre-Nemanjic Zhupan dynasty.

Konrad I of Masovia, Drawing by Jan Matejko



Attempted conquests of Prussia

Konrad unsuccessfully attempted to conquer pagan Prussia in a 1209 crusade and several times after [1], 1219, 1222 Pg 45. On the advise of the first bishop Christian of Prussia, Christian of Oliva, in 1220 he founded the *Order of Dobrin* (Order of Dobrzyń) and was again defeated. Ongoing attempts on Prussia were answered by incursions across the borders of his lands, while Prussians were in the process of gaining control over the territory of Chełmno Land. Subjected to constant Prussian raids and counter-raids, Konrad now wanted to stabilize the north of the duchy of Masovia in this fight over border area of Chełmno Land.

Thus in 1226, Konrad having difficulty with constant raids over his territory, invited the religious military order of Teutonic Knights to fight the Prussians, as they already had supported Hungary from 1211 to 1225.

When the Order notified Hungary that they are firstly responsible to the pope, the Order was expelled by the Hungarian king though. Thus, in turn for its service, the Order wanted to have its rights documented beforehand, by a deal with Konrad that was to be confirmed by the Emperor and the Pope.

Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II issued in March 1226 the Golden Bull of Rimini, stating that:

"brother Konrad had offered and promised to furnish brother Herrmann, Honorable Master of the Holy Hospital of St. Mary of the Germans in Jerusalem (Teutonic Order).. with the Culmensis^[1] Land between his march and the Prussians and equip them (T.O.) well, so they may take Preussenland (Terra Prussiae) in possession... we recognize the fact, that this land is included in the realm of the empire, we trust the judgement of the Master... we recognize all land in Prussia as an ancient right of the empire ...".

In 1230, the Treaty of Kruszwica was supposedly signed, according to which Konrad granted Chełmno Land to them, and to the Order of Dobrzyń. This document does not exist however, and it is believed ^{[2][3]} that it was never signed and the Order might have forged it.

Konrad's legacy

Konrad is blamed by Poles, that 'his actions began the process whereby the Teutonic Knights came to control much of the Baltic coastline through their monastic state, that had ultimately dire consequences for the Polish state'.

Konrad and Agafia had the following children:

1. Boleslaw I of Masovia (c. 1210-17 April 1248), Duke of Mazovia (1247--1248)
2. Casimir I of Kuyavia (born between 1210 and 1213Died. 14 Dec 1267) Prince of Kuyavia (1247-1267)
3. Siemowit I of Masovia (c.1213-24 June 1262), succeeded eldest brother as Duke of Mazovia (1248-1262)
4. Eudoxia (1215-1240) - The wife of Count Breny I of Wettin
5. Ludmila (born before 1225)
6. Ziemomyst (born between 1216 and 4 Jul 1228 Died between 10 July and 18 September 1241)
7. Salomea (born between 1220 and 1225 died after 30 August 1268), nun
8. Judith (born between 1222 and 1227Died. 4 Dec between 1257 and 1263) - married firstly to Mieszko II the Fat. Secondly to Henry III the White

Casimir I of Kuyavia

Casimir



Casimir I of Kuyavia (c. 1211-14 December 1267) was Prince Kujavia, Mazovia and Greater Poland from 1233 until his death. He was son of Konrad I of Masovia, King of Poland and his wife Agafia of Rus.

Casimir received the Duchy of Kujavia on his father's death in 1233. In 1239 Casimir received a dowry from his second wife Constance, daughter of Henry II the Pious. In subsequent years, actively supporting his father's turbulent politics, brought him to the duchy of Gdańsk. Casimir's brother, Boleslaw became Duke of Mazovia on the death of their father.

In 1248, Casimir became threatened by the alliance of his younger brother, Ziemovit with Daniel of Galicia. A coalition led by Boleslaw the Pious of Greater Poland in 1259 made Ziemovit give back some of the lands that were rightfully Casimir's. Some lands were given to Henry II the Pious.

Meanwhile, Casimir faced more troubles. In 1258 Boleslaw the Pious made an alliance with Wartislaw III, Duke of Pomerania. They launched an attack against Casimir, claiming lands that had been given to him illegally by Henry II the Pious. The attack resulted in a failure but Boleslaw the Pious did not give up. The following year, he succeeded in bringing great dukes in his coalition Casimir (Bolesław V the Chaste, Casimir's brother, Siemovit and Daniel of Galicia).

Marriages and Children

Casimir married secondly in 1239 to Constance, daughter of Henry II the Pious and Anna of Bohemia. They had the following children:

1. Adelaide (before 7 April 1249-8 December 1291), nun
2. Leszek II the Black (1240/42-30 September 1288), Duke of the Fragmentation of Poland
3. Ziemomysł of Kuyavia (1241/45-29 October/24 December 1287), Duke of Kuyavia

After Constance died in 1257, Casimir married in the same year, Euphrosyne, daughter of Casimir I of Opole and Viola, and they had the following children:

1. Władysław I the Elbow-high (1261-March 2, 1333), King of Poland (1320–1333)
2. Casimir (1261/62-10 June 1294), killed while in battle in Lithuania
3. Siemowit (1262/67-1309/14), Duke of Kuyavia-Brieg, married Anastasia of Galicia (daughter of Lev I of Galicia)
4. Euphemia (d.18 March 1308), married Yuri I of Galicia

Władysław I the Elbow-high

Władysław the Short or **Elbow-high** (or **Ladislaus I of Poland**, 1261 – 2 March 1333), was a King of Poland. He was a Prince of Kraków until his coronation as King on 20 January 1320.

Władysław I. Drawing by Jan Matejko



Biography

In 1138, the kingdom of Poland, which had been growing in strength under the rule of the Piast dynasty, encountered an obstacle which impeded its development for nearly two hundred years. In the will of King Bolesław Krzywousty, Poland was divided into five provinces – Silesia, Mazovia with Cuiavia, Greater Poland, the part of Pomerania around the City of Gdańsk, the Sandomierz Region, and Lesser Poland, the 'senior palatinate', comprising the areas around Kraków, Łęczyca, and Sieradz. To prevent his four sons from quarrelling, Boleslaus granted one province to each of them, and the fifth one, the senior palatinate, was to be given to the eldest brother on the grounds of primogeniture. The reason for such a decision was not only to forestall dynastic feuds, but

also to prevent the disintegration of the kingdom.

A Polish-Teutonic War (1326–1332) occupied Władysław's last years. In 1331, 27 September in Kuyavia near Radziejów fought the Battle of Płowce against a group of Teutonic knights. Other groups of enemies withdrew to the north. After numerous casualties the armies were stalemated, though Władysław's forces conquered the field, captured some prisoners and stopped the expansion of the Teutonic Order in the region.

In historic Poland, an ell was a measure of length. 1 ell equalled 0.78 metres. Due to his short stature, the king was nicknamed 'Łokietek', which is a diminutive of the word 'łokieć' (ell, elbow).

Marriage and children

In 1293, Władysław married Hedwig of Kalisz. She was a daughter of Boleslaus of Greater Poland and Jolenta of Hungary. Their children included:

- Kunigunde of Poland (c. 1298 – 9 April, 1331). Married first Bernard of Świdnica. Their children included Bolko II of Świdnica. Married secondly Rudolf I, Elector of Saxony.
- Elisabeth of Poland (1305 – 29 December, 1380). Married Charles I of Hungary.
- Casimir III of Poland (30 April, 1310 – 5 November, 1370).

Casimir III the Great

Casimir III the Great (Polish: *Kazimierz Wielki*; 30 April 1310 – 5 November 1370), last King of Poland from the Piast dynasty (1333–1370), was the son of King Władysław I the Elbow-high and Hedwig of Kalisz.

Casimir III the Great. Drawing by Jan Matejko



Biography

Born in Kowal, Casimir (Kazimierz) the Great first married Anna, or Aldona Ona, the daughter of the prince of Lithuania, Gediminas. The daughters from this marriage were Cunigunde (d 1357), who was married to Louis VI the Roman, the son of Louis IV, Holy Roman Emperor, and Elisabeth, who was married to Duke Bogislaus V of Pomerania. When Kazimierz, the last Piast king of Poland, died in 1370, his nephew King Louis I of Hungary succeeded him to become king of Poland in personal union with Hungary.

Subjection of Ruthenia by the Crown of the Polish Kingdom in 1366 by Jan Matejko



Kazimierz had no legal sons. Apparently he deemed his own descendants either unsuitable or too young to inherit. Thus, and in order to provide a clear line of succession and avoid dynastic uncertainty, he arranged for his sister Elisabeth, Dowager Queen of Hungary, and her son Louis king of Hungary to be his successors in Poland. Louis was proclaimed king on Kazimierz's death in 1370, and Elisabeth held much of the real power until her death in 1380.

Many of the influential lords of Poland were unsatisfied with the idea of any personal union with Hungary, and 12 years after Kazimierz's death, they refused in 1382 to accept the succession of Louis's eldest surviving daughter Mary (Queen of Hungary) in Poland too. They therefore chose Mary's younger sister, Hedwig, as their new monarch, and she became "King" (=Queen Regnant) Jadwiga of Poland, thus restoring the independence enjoyed until the death of Kazimierz, twelve years earlier.

Elisabeth of Poland, Queen of Hungary

Elisabeth of Poland (1305 – 29 December 1380) was Queen consort of Hungary and regent of Poland. She is also known as **Elisabeth of Kujavia** and **Elisabeth Piast**.

Elisabeth of Poland with her sons



Early life

She was a member of the Polish royal clan of Piast, the daughter of Władysław I the Elbow-high, prince of Kujavia and Jadwiga of Greater Poland, she was the sister of Casimir III the Great, King of Poland and the last ruler of Piast dynasty, who died in 1370. Her sister was Kunigunde of Poland, who was married to Bernard of Świdnica.

Before her father became King of Poland, life was very dangerous for Elisabeth and her family. She went to live in hiding with her mother, brother and sister. Wenceslaus II of Bohemia died in 1305, when Elisabeth was born. His son, Wenceslaus III of Bohemia took over as King of Poland. Although, Elisabeth's father, Władysław had a better claim to the crown, being the great-grandson of Casimir II the Just.

The sixteen year old Wenceslaus III was assassinated while on campaign in Poland. In Poland, Elisabeth's father inherited the crown. In Bohemia there was trouble over who inherited.

Marriage

Elisabeth's marriage to Charles Robert of Hungary



She was married on 6 July 1320 to Charles Robert (Charles I), King of Hungary, son of Charles Martel of Anjou and Klementia of Habsburg. Elisabeth was Charles' third wife. The marriage brought an alliance between Poland and Hungary.

While at court in Hungary, Elisabeth is credited as having been the first to introduce perfume, then known as Hungary Water, to Europe and the western world.

Elisabeth and Charles Robert had five sons and possibly two daughter:

- Charles (1321)
- Ladislaus (Belgrade, 1 November 1324 – 24 February 1329)
- Louis I of Hungary (1326–1382)
- Andrew, Duke of Calabria (1327–1345)
- Stephen, Duke of Slavonia (1332–1354)
- Katherine of Hungary (d. 1355) some believe that Elisabeth was her mother but others say that Mary, Charles' first wife was Katherine's mother ^[2]
- Elisabeth of Hungary (d.1367), married Boleslaw Opolski, sister of Katherine and also possible daughter of Elisabeth of Poland.^[3]

Louis and Elizabeth had four daughters, the two of them to survive were Mary of Hungary and Jadwiga of Poland. Both daughters later became Queens in their own right.

Claim on Poland

Elisabeth was heir to her Casimir's throne after the death of their sister, Kunigunde. Her claim passed to Louis after the death of his two elder brothers. Casimir had married four times but none of his wives had given him surviving sons. He instead had four surviving daughters. Among them was another Elisabeth of Poland, whom had married Bogislaw V, Duke of Pomerania and was the mother of Elizabeth of Pomerania. Elizabeth had married Charles IV, Holy Roman Emperor and had six children. Her son was Sigismund, Holy Roman Emperor, who would have had a claim to the Polish crown through his maternal grandmother.

Casimir also had two other surviving daughters from his fourth marriage to Jadwiga of Żagań. One of these daughters, Anna married William, Count of Celje. Anna had been a possible candidate to marry Louis. She had a daughter, Anna of Celje who married a future King of Poland, Jogaila. They had one daughter, Jadwiga of Lithuania, whom after the death of Elisabeth and Louis, claimed the throne of Poland, being the only surviving member of the House of Piast. Jogaila was a member of the House of Jagiellon and had two sons from his fourth marriage to Sophia of Halshany. Many Polish nobles wished for Jadwiga and a husband to succeed Jogaila. But Jadwiga didn't since she was supposedly poisoned by her stepmother, Sophia.

Descendents

Elisabeth had at least seven grandchildren from her three surviving sons. From Louis she gained four granddaughters: Mary of Hungary, Jadwiga of Poland, Catherine and Mary. Only Mary and Jadwiga live to adulthood, Catherine and another daughter named Mary died in childhood. From Andrew she had a short-lived grandson, Charles Martel. From Stephen she gained a granddaughter and a grandson: Elisabeth of Slavonia and Jan of Slavonia. Elisabeth's family line ends with the death of her granddaughter, Elisabeth. None of her grandchildren had surviving offspring, although it is believed by some ^[8] that Elisabeth had one or two daughters, Catherine and Elisabeth. If this is so, then Elisabeth's line may still have died out but would have lasted longer. Katherine was mother of Anna von Schweidnitz, whom married Charles IV, Holy Roman Emperor and had two surviving children: Wenceslaus, King of the Romans and Elizabeth of Bohemia.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_I_of_Hungary

Louis I of Hungary and Poland

Louis the Great (5 March 1326, Visegrád – 10 September 1382, Nagyszombat/Trnava) was Apostolic King of Hungary from 1342 and King of Poland from 1370 until his death.

King of Hungary and Poland



Louis was the head of the senior branch of the Angevin dynasty. He was one of Hungary's most active and accomplished monarchs of the Late Middle Ages, extending territorial control to the Adriatic and securing Dalmatia, with part of Bosnia and Bulgaria, within the Holy Crown of Hungary.

He spent much of his reign in wars with the Republic of Venice. He was in competition for the throne of Naples, with huge military success and the latter with little lasting political results.

Family

Louis was the third son of Charles I of Hungary and Elisabeth of Poland, the daughter of Ladislaus the Short and sister to Casimir III of Poland.

In 1342, Louis married his first wife, Margaret (1335 – 1349), underaged daughter of Charles IV, Holy Roman Emperor, who died while still a minor. He then married his second wife, Elisabeth, daughter of Stephen II of Bosnia, who became Louis's vassal, and Elisabeth of Kuyavia, in 1353

Louis had three known daughters, all born of his second wife:

- Catherine (1370 – 1378)
- Mary, his successor in Hungary, who married Sigismund, at that time Margrave of Brandenburg (1371 – 1395) , who became King of Hungary (1387–1437) and Holy Roman Emperor (1433–1437).
- Hedwige his successor in Poland, who married Jogaila, then Grand Duke of Lithuania

Biography

Louis, named for his great uncle, Saint Louis of Toulouse. Louis acquired the seven liberal arts (grammar, rhetoric, logic, geometry, arithmetic, music, astronomy). When he was sixteen, Louis understood Latin, German and Italian as well as his mother tongue.

In 1342, at the age of sixteen, he succeeded his father as king of Hungary and was crowned at Székesfehérvár on the 21st of July with great enthusiasm. Louis led his armies many times in person. Besides his best known campaigns, he fought in Bulgaria, Bosnia, Wallachia, and against the Golden Horde. The first Ottoman Hungarian clash occurred during his reign.

He led assaults personally and climbed city walls together with his soldiers. He shared the privations and hardships of camp life with his soldiers. Although few legends were woven around his name, one incident casts light on his courage. When one of his soldiers who had been ordered to explore a ford was carried away by the current, the King plunged into the torrent without hesitation and saved the man from drowning. Louis liked warfare - he came close to losing his life in several battles -, tournaments and hunts. Similarly to his mother he was deeply religious. As an excellent commander and a gallant fighter, Lajos resembled his exemplar, King Saint Ladislaus.



Louis on Heroes Square, Budapest

Wars and Campaigns

During his 40 years-long reign, there were only three years of peace (1342, 1375, 1376).

In the spring of 1346 the Hungarian King arrived with his vast Royal Army of 100,000 men, of whom more than 30,000 were horsemen and men-at-arms and 10,000 were soldiers under Stephen II. The Venetians had attempted to bribe several Hungarian generals, including the Bosnian Ban, who gave away the positions of Hungarian troops for a handsome sum of money.

On 1 July 1346 a fierce clash followed, which the Hungarian side eventually won only due to numerical superiority although more than 7,000 Hungarian troops killed in battle.^[11] However this Hungarian victory served as an admonition to Venice.

When Louis died in 1382, the Hungarian throne was inherited by his daughter Mary. In Poland, however, the lords of Lesser Poland did not want to continue the personal union with Hungary, nor to accept Mary's fiancé Sigismund as a regent. They therefore chose Mary's younger sister, Jadwiga of Poland as their new monarch. After two years of negotiations with Louis widow, Elisabeth of Bosnia, who was regent of Hungary, and a civil war in Greater Poland (1383), Jadwiga finally came to Kraków and was crowned "King" (not Queen) of Poland on 16 November 1384. The masculine gender in her title was intended to underline the fact that she was a monarch in her own right and not a queen consort.

Jadwiga of Poland

Jadwiga (Saint Hedwig) (1373/4 – 17 July 1399) was monarch of Poland from 1384 to her death. Her official title was 'king' rather than 'queen', reflecting that she was a sovereign in her own right and not merely a royal consort. She was a member of the Capetian House of Anjou, the daughter of King Louis I of Hungary and Elisabeth of Bosnia. She is venerated by the Roman Catholic Church as Saint Hedwig, where she is the patron saint of queens and a United Europe.

Jadwiga, King of Poland



Royal titles

Queens regnant being relatively uncommon in Europe at the time (see Empress Matilda), she was officially crowned a king rather than a queen.^[2]

Childhood

Jadwiga was the youngest daughter of Louis I of Hungary and of Elizabeth of Bosnia. Jadwiga could claim descent from the House of Piast, the ancient native Polish dynasty on both her mother's and her father's side. Her paternal grandmother Elisabeth of Cuyavia was the daughter of King Władysław I the Elbow-high, who had reunited Poland in 1320.

Jadwiga was brought up at the royal court in Buda and Visegrád, Hungary. In 1378, she was betrothed (*sponsalia de futuro*) to Habsburg scion William of Austria, and spent about a year at the imperial court in Vienna, Austria. Jadwiga's father Louis had, in 1364 in Kraków, during festivities known as the *Days of Kraków*, also made an arrangement with his former father-in-law Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV to inter-marry their future children: Charles' son and future Holy Roman Emperor Sigismund of Luxemburg was engaged and married, as a child, to Louis' daughter and future Queen Mary.

Jadwiga was well-educated and a polyglot, speaking Latin, Bosnian, Hungarian, Serbian, Polish, German interested in the arts, music, science, and court life. She was also known for her piety and her admiration for Saints Mary, Martha, and Bridget of Sweden, as well as her patron saint, Hedwig of Andechs.

Reign

Until 1370, Poland had been ruled by the native Piast Dynasty. Its last king, Casimir III, had left no legitimate son and considered his male grandchildren either unsuited or too young to reign. He therefore decided that his surviving sister Elizabeth of Poland and her son, Louis I of

Hungary, should succeed him. Louis was proclaimed king, while Elizabeth held much of the practical power until her death in 1380.

As child monarch of Poland, Jadwiga had at least one relative in Poland (all her immediate family having remained in Hungary): her mother's childless uncle, Władysław the White (d. 1388), Prince of Gniewkowo.

In 1386, Jadwiga's mother Elizabeth and her sister Queen Mary of Hungary were kidnapped, probably on the order of Mary's husband and consort Sigismund.

In January 1387, Elizabeth was strangled, while Mary was released in July of the same year, by the effort of future Frankopan family and Jadwiga's adopted maternal uncle King Tvrtko of Bosnia. Mary, heavily pregnant, died in 1395 under suspicious circumstances.

As a monarch, young Jadwiga probably had little actual power. Nevertheless, she was actively engaged in her kingdom's political, diplomatic and cultural life and acted as the guarantor of Władysław's promises to reclaim Poland's lost territories. In 1387, Jadwiga led two successful military expeditions to reclaim the province of Halych in Red Ruthenia, which had been retained by Hungary in a dynastic dispute at her accession. As she was an heiress to Louis I of Hungary herself, the expeditions were for the most part peaceful and resulted in Petru I of Moldavia paying homage to the Polish monarchs in September 1387.^[3] In 1390 she began a correspondence with the Teutonic Knights, followed by personal meetings in which she opened diplomatic negotiations herself.

Death and inheritance

On 22 June 1399 Jadwiga gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth Bonifacia. Within a month, both the girl and her mother had died from birth complications. They were buried together in Wawel Cathedral. Jadwiga's death undermined Jogaila's position as King of Poland, but he managed to retain the throne until his death 35 years later.

Jadwiga's husband Władysław Jagiello kept the throne, mostly because no claimant with clearly better stature appeared. He was never ousted, not even after the death of his second wife, and eventually succeeded to found a dynasty in Poland by the sons of his last wife, who were not related to earlier Polish rulers.

Legends and veneration

From the time of her death, Jadwiga was venerated widely in Poland as a saint, though she was only beatified by the church in the 1980s. She was canonized in 1997, by the Polish-born Pope John Paul II. Numerous legends about miracles were recounted to justify her sainthood. The two best-known are those of "Jadwiga's cross" and "Jadwiga's foot."

Jadwiga often prayed before a large black crucifix hanging in the north aisle of Wawel Cathedral. During one of these prayers, the Christ on the cross is said to have spoken to her. The crucifix, "Saint Jadwiga's cross", is still there, with her relics beneath it.

Jadwiga liked to smuggle food from the castle to give to the poor, and carried it in her apron. King Jagiello was informed of these excursions at night, and was told that Jadwiga might be giving information to rebels. King Jagiello was, of course, very angry. He decided to find the meaning of these wanderings after dark. One night, while Jadwiga “was leaving by a secret door”, Jagiello “sprang out of the bushes and demanded to see” what was in her apron. “A miracle occurred and the food she was carrying (which would have earned her a death sentence), turned into a garland of roses. To this day, Jadwiga is always depicted wearing an apron of roses.” According to another legend, Jadwiga took a piece of jewelry from her foot and gave it to a poor stonemason who had begged for her help. When the King left, he noticed her footprint in the plaster floor of his workplace, even though the plaster had already hardened before her visit. The supposed footprint, known as "Jadwiga's foot", can still be seen in one of Kraków's churches. [1]

Another story was when Jadwiga was “taking part” in a Corpus Christi Day procession. During this time, a coppersmith’s son drowned by falling into a river. Jadwiga threw her mantle over the boy’s body, and he regained life.^[5]

On 8 June 1979 Pope John Paul II prayed at her sarcophagus; and the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments officially affirmed her beatification on 8 August 1986. The Pope canonized Jadwiga in Kraków on 8 June 1997.

Exhumations and sarcophagus

Jadwiga's sarcophagus, Wawel Cathedral, Kraków



Jadwiga's body has been exhumed at least three times. The first time was in the 17th century, in connection with the construction of a bishop's sarcophagus next to Jadwiga's grave. The next exhumation took place in 1887. Jadwiga's complete skeleton was found, together with a mantle and hat. Jan Matejko made a sketch of Jadwiga's skull, which later helped him paint her portrait (see above).

On 12 July 1949, her grave was again opened. This time she was reburied in a sarcophagus paid for by Karol Lanckoroński, which had been sculpted in white marble in 1902 by Antoni Madeyski. The queen is depicted with a dog, a symbol of fidelity, at her feet. The sarcophagus is oriented with Jadwiga's feet pointing west, unlike all the other sarcophagi in the cathedral. On display next to the sarcophagus are the modest wooden orb and scepter with which the queen had been buried – she had sold her jewels to finance the renovation of the Kraków Academy, known today as Jagiellonian University.

Part 2 of the Polish Royal Ancestry begins with her husband, Jogaila Wladyslaw II Jagiello King of Poland and his descendants by his second wife, Sophia of Halshany.

Rikissa of Poland

Rikissa (Richia) of Poland (b. 1116 d. after 25 December 1156), was queen in Sweden and grand princess of Minsk. She was a daughter of king Boleslaw III of Poland and Salome von Berg-Schelklingen. Married three times, to Viking-originated rulers in two countries.

Biography

Her first marriage was with Magnus the Strong (LG #15386) who was the son of King Niels of Denmark and a grandson of king Inge I of Sweden. Magnus died before his father and therefore did not succeed in Denmark, but as one of the heirs of his Swedish grandfather's extinct dynasty, he claimed Sweden and was recognized King in Gothenland whereby some sources dub him as king of Västergötland. Their marriage produced a son, Canute V of Denmark.

Secondly, she married **Grand Duke Volodar of Minsk (LG 24th great grandfather)**, a ruler of Viking origin as most of Rus princes then were. Their marriage produced, in addition to two sons, a daughter Sofia of Minsk whom her half-brother Knud had married to his rival, the future **Valdemar I of Denmark (LG 23rd great grandfather)**.

Thirdly, she married the widowed king **Sverker I of Sweden, (LG 25th great grandfather)** earlier a rival of her first husband. Certainly one son was born from this marriage, Burislav Sverkersson; but the chronicles assign Sune Sik Sverkersson as another son from Rikissa and Sverker, possibly the youngest.

Direct Lineage from: Choscisko to: Lars Erik Granholm

1 Choscisko

2 Piast the Wheelwright
m. **Rzepicha**

3 Siemowit Prince of Piast

4 Lestko (Lestek) Duke of Poland b. abt 875

5 Siemomysl Duke of Greater Poland b. abt 955

6 Mieszko I Duke of Poland b. ABT 935 d. 25 May 992 Poznan, Poland
m. **Dobrawka Princess of Bohemia** m. 965 b. ABT 931 Praha, Czechoslovakia d. 977

7 Boleslaw I the Brave King of Poland
m. **Judith Arpad Princess of Hungary** d. aft 988
m. **Emnilda Princess of Lusatia** d. 1017

[Child of Boleslaw I the Brave King of Poland and Emnilda Princess of Lusatia]

8 Mieszko II Lambert King of Poland b. 990 d. 1034
m. **Richeza of Lotharinga Queen of Poland** d. March 21, 1063 Saalfeld, Germany

9 Casimir I Karol King of Poland b. 25 Jul 1016 d. 28 Nov 1058
m. **Dobronegra Mariya Princess of Kiev** m. ABT 1039 b. ABT 1011 d. 1087

10 Wladislaw I Herman Duke of Poland b. ABT 1042 d. 4 Jun 1102
m. **Judith (Premyslid) I Princess of Bohemia** m. 1080 Plitzk, Poland b. 1057 Praha, Bohemia d. 25 Dec 1085
m. **Judith Sophia of Swabia Queen of Hungary** m. 1089 b. 1047 d. 1095
m. **Przeclawa**

[Child of Wladislaw I Herman Duke of Poland and Judith (Premyslid) I Princess of Bohemia]

11 Boleslaw III The Wrymouth Duke of Poland b. 20 Aug 1085 Krakow d. 1138
m. **Salome of Berg-Schelklingen** m. 1133 b. 1097 Schelklingen, Donaukreis, Wurttemberg d. 27 Jul 1144
m. **Zbyslava Princess of Kiev** m. 16 November 1102 b. 1085/90 d. 1112

[Child of Boleslaw III The Wrymouth Duke of Poland and Salome of Berg-Schelklingen]

12 Richia Sventoslava Princess of Poland b. 12 Apr 1116 Krakow d. aft 1156
m. **Volodar Glebovitj of Minsk Prince of Russia** m. 1135 b. ABT 1123 Novgorod d. AFT 1139
m. **Magnus Nielssen King of Sweden** b. abt 1106 d. 1134
m. **Sverker I den äldre King of Sweden** d. 25 december 1156

[Child of Richia Sventoslava Princess of Poland and Volodar Glebovitj of Minsk Prince of Russia]

13 Sofiya Vladimirovna Princess of Russia b. 1140 Novgorod d. 5 May 1198
m. **Valdemar I the Great King of Denmark** b. 14 Jan 1131 d. 12 May 1182

14 Richiza Valdemarsdotter Princess of Denmark b. ABT 1178 d. 8 May 1220
m. **Erik X Knutsson King of Sweden** b. 1180 Stockholm, Sweden d. 10 Apr 1216 Visingsö, Sweden

15 Märtha Erikssdotter Princess of Sweden b. ABT 1213
m. **Nils Sixtensson Sparre av Tofta** b. ABT 1188 Tofta, Uppsala, Sweden

Direct Lineage from: Choscisko to: Lars Erik Granholm

- 16 **Sixten Nilsson Sparre av Tofta** b. _____ d. 1310
m. **Ingrid Abjörnsdotter** b. Abt 1220 Adelso, Uppsala
- 17 **Abjörn Sixtensson Sparre av Tofta** b. ABT 1240 d. 1310
m. **Ingeborg Ulfsson Ulf** b. ABT 1258 d. AFT 1307
- 18 **Ulf Abjörnsson Sparre** b. 1348
m. **Kristina Sigmundsdotter Tre Klöverblad** m. 1330 b. 1295
- 19 **Karl Ulfsson Sparre av Tofta**
m. **Helena Israelsdotter** b. 1340 d. 1410
- 20 **Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre av Tofta** b. _____ d. 1429
m. **Knut Tordsson Bonde** b. ABT 1377 Vadstena, Sweden d. 1413
m. **Steen Tureson Bielke** m. 1414
- [Child of Margareta Karlsdotter Sparre av Tofta and Knut Tordsson Bonde]
- 21 **Karl VIII Knutsson Bonde King of Sweden** b. 1409 Uppsala d. 15 May 1470 Stockholm
m. **Birgitta Turesdotter Bielke** m. 1428 d. 1436
- 22 **Karin Karlsdotter Bonde**
m. **Erengisle Björnsson Djäkn** d. bef 1447
- 23 **Märta Erengisledotter Djäkn**
m. **Johan Henriksson Fleming** b. 1465 Rada, Sverige d. AFT 1514
- 24 **Anna Johansdotter Fleming** b. 1435 d. 1505
m. **Olof Pedersson (Wildeman) Lille** d. 1535
- 25 **Karin Olofsdotter Wildeman** b. 1465 d. 1535
m. **Ludolf Boose** b. 1465 Holstein d. 1535
- 26 **Johan Ludolfsson Boose** b. 1526 d. 1596 Karuna
m. **Ingeborg Henriksdotter**
- 27 **Kirstin Johansdotter Boose** b. 1576 d. 1646 Karuna
m. **Bertil von Nieroht** b. 1582 d. 1652
- 28 **Maria Bertilsdotter von Nieroht** b. 1612 d. 1682
m. **Carl Henriksson Lindelöf**
- 29 **Carl Carlsson von Lindelöf** b. 1642 d. 1712
m. **N.N. Laurisdotter Laurentz**
- 30 **Anna Maria Carlsdotter von Lindelöf** b. 1670 d. 1 Feb 1747 Suomensjärvi
m. **Ericus Christierni Orenius** b. ABT 1658 d. 2 Mar 1740 Suomensjärvi
- 31 **Margareta Eriksdotter Orenia** b. 16 Jan 1710 Suomensjärvi, Laperla d. 1804
m. **Johan Urnovius** b. 1706 d. 1783

Direct Lineage from: Choscisko to: Lars Erik Granholm

- 32 **Christina Margareta Urnovia**
m. **Johan Flinck** m. 20 Dec 1781 Turku
- 33 **Johan (Flinck) Årenius** b. 12 Jan 1787 Pemar Vista d. 6 Nov 1823 Eckois Tyrvää
m. **Ulrika Abrahamsdotter Sevon** m. 15 Mar 1810 b. 9 Jun 1784
- 34 **Johan Gustaf Johansson Årenius** b. 5 Jun 1810 Eckois Tyrvaa
m. **Johanna Carolina Röring** b. 24 Jun 1802 d. ABT 1839
m. **Anna Helena Roswall** m. 2 Nov 1839 b. 2 Jul 1799
- [Child of Johan Gustaf Johansson Årenius and Johanna Carolina Röring]
- 35 **Charlotta Constantia Renlund** b. 4 Jun 1830 d. 28 Jan 1905
m. **Erik Eriksson Kåll** m. 19 Mar 1854 b. 24 Jun 1829 d. 23 Jan 1905
- 36 **Johanna Karolina Eriksdotter Kåll** b. 9 Jan 1863 d. 8 Nov 1934
m. **Karl-Johan Granholm** m. 24 Mar 1887 b. 14 Mar 1866 d. 22 Jun 1920
- 37 **Erik Anton Granholm** b. 28 May 1906 d. 29 Jan 1959
m. **Karin Hildegard Kasén** m. 20 Aug 1933 b. 3 Jul 1914
- 38 **Lars Erik Granholm** b. 28 Jul 1934
m. **Leena Elisabeth Kentala** b. 23 Oct 1936