

# **GRANHOLM GENEALOGY**

**POLISH ROYAL ANCESTRY**

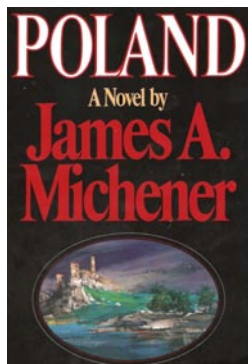
**Book 2— Jagiellon Dynasty (1400 - 1800)**

## INTRODUCTION

Book 1 ended with Saint Hedwig (Jadwiga) Queen of Poland, who died without a heir. This Book 2 begins with her husband, Jogaila Wladyslaw II Jagiello King of Poland, and continues with his descendants by his second wife. He is not a direct ancestor for us but we have common ancestors. Two common lineages, one from Vladimir II "Monomach" Grand Duke of Kiev (26<sup>th</sup> great grand father), and the other from Erik X Knutsson King of Sweden (22<sup>nd</sup> great grand father) are listed and their descendants are described in this book. These descendants are our cousins. They include nearly all Polish rulers during this time period and information about those who is included in this book are **highlighted** in the listings. Some others were ruling Poland for shorter periods, but they are likely not related to us and thus not included.

Historically this is a period mostly involved with wars. As Poland is situated in the middle of Europe its neighbors have always tried to occupy and take away land from Poland. These included also our Swedish royal relatives. In some cases the Polish kings were descendants of Swedish kings, in other cases both Poland and Sweden/Finland were ruled by a common king and queen. One such example were, as titled in Finland, John III King of Sweden Duke of Finland and Catherine Jagellon Duchess of Finland, who for extended times lived in Finland.

Poland was finally divided up in 1795 among Russia, Germany and Austria during the reign of Frederick Augustus I, the last King of Poland described here. It was not recognized as separate country until 1918 after what was then called the Great War.



James Michener wrote in POLAND:

In a battle against Poland in the 1600's a German soldier wrote about the Polish cavalry: *"Then, as they drew near, galloping in the wind, the feathers began to mourn, or to chant like old women at a funeral or like witches at a false Sabbath, and then to shriek as the wind tore through them. I got frightened by the weird sound and the hellish echoes, but my horse became terrified. He reared and whinnied and I could not control him and the effect on the other German horses were the same, so that by the time the Polish hussars reached our battle line, all was in confusion. I can state without fear or apology: The Polish cavalry did not defeat us in fair battle. They sang us to death with those damned feathers."*



## Vladimir II Monomakh (Common ancestor)



Monomakh rests after hunting (painting by Viktor Vasnetsov, c. 1900).

**Vladimir II Monomakh** (1053 – May 19, 1125) was a famous *Velikiy Kniaz* (Grand Prince) of Kievan Rus'. He was the son of Vsevolod I (married in 1046) and Anastasia of Byzantium (d. 1067). Her father some give as Emperor Constantine IX Monomachos.

## Descendants of: Vladimir II "Monomach" Grand Duke of Kiev As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

1 **Vladimir II "Monomach" Grand Duke of Kiev** b. 1053 d. 19 May 1125 (26th great grand father)  
m. **NN Byzantine Princess** d. 7 May 1107  
m. **Gytha Haraldsdotter Princess of England** m. 1074 b. ABT 1053 d. 1 May 1107  
[daughter of Harold II Godwinson King of England and Edyth (Ealdgyth) Swannesha]

[Children of Vladimir II "Monomach" Grand Duke of Kiev and NN Byzantine Princess]  
2 **Yuri I Dolgoruki Grand Prince of Kiev** b. 1099 d. 15 May 1157 (26th great uncle)  
m. **Helena Komnene Princess of Greece**  
[daughter of Isaac Komnenos and Irene Synadene]

3 **Vsevolod III Grand Prince of Vladimir** b. 1154 d. 1212 (first cousin, 26 times removed)  
m. **Maria Shvarnovna**

4 **Yaroslav II Grand Prince of Vladimir** b. 1191 d. 1246 (second cousin, 25 times removed)  
m. **Fedosia Igorevich of Ryazan**

5 **Yaroslav III Yaroslavich Prince of Tver** b. 1264 d. 1271 (third cousin, 24 times removed)  
m. **Saint Xenia of Tarusa**

6 **Saint Michael Yaroslavich Prince of Tver** b. 1271 d. November 22, 1318 (4th cousin, 23 times removed)  
m. **Anna Princess of Rostov**

7 **Aleksandr Mikhailovich Prince of Tver** b. 7 October 1301 d. 29 October 1339 (5th cousin, 22 times removed)  
m. **Anastasia of Halych**

8 **Uliana Alexandrovna Princess of Tver** (6th cousin, 21 times removed)  
m. **Algirdas Grand Prince of Lithuania** m. 1350 b. 1325 d. 1392  
[son of Gediminas Monarch Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Jewna Queen Mother in Lithuania]

9 **Jogaila Wladyslaw II Jagiello King of Poland** b. 1348 (7th cousin, 20 times removed)  
m. **Sophia of Halshany**  
m. **Saint Hedwig (Jadwiga) Queen of Poland** b. 1373 d. 1399 (See Book 1)  
[daughter of Louis I the Great King of Hungary and Elizabeth of Bosnia Queen of Hungary]

[Children of Jogaila Wladyslaw II Jagiello King of Poland and Sophia of Halshany]

10 **Wladyslaw III King of Poland** b. 1424 d. 1444 (8th cousin, 19 times removed)

10 **Casimir IV Jagiellon King of Poland** b. 30 November 1427 d. 7 June 1492 (8th cousin, 19 times removed)  
m. **Elisabeth Princess of Austria** b. 1437 d. 1505  
[daughter of Albert II of Germany and Elisabeth of Bohemia]

11 **John I Albert King of Poland** b. 1451 d. 1501 (9th cousin, 18 times removed)

11 **Alexander Jagiellon King of Poland** b. 1461 d. 1506 (9th cousin, 18 times removed)

11 **Sigismund I the Old King of Poland** b. 1467 d. 1548 (9th cousin, 18 times removed)  
m. **Bona Sforza**

12 **Sigismund II Augustus King of Poland, Grand Duke of Lithuania** b. 1520 d. 1572 (10th cousin, 17 times removed)

12 **Anna the Jagiellonian Co-ruler of Poland** b. 1523 d. 1596 (10th cousin, 17 times removed)  
m. **Stephen Bathory King of Poland** b. 1533 d. 1586

12 **Catherine Jagellon Duchess of Finland** b. 1626 d. 1583 (10th cousin, 17 times removed) **p 110**  
m. **John III King of Sweden Duke of Finland** b. 1537 d. 1592 (4<sup>th</sup> cousin, 15 times removed)  
[son of Gustav I Vasa King of Sweden and Margareta Leijonhufvud Queen of Sweden]

13 **Anna Vasa Princess of Sweden** b. 1568 d. 1625 (11th cousin, 16 times removed)

13 **Sigismund III Vasa King of Sweden** b. 1566 d. 1632 (11th cousin, 16 times removed)  
m. **Anna Princess of Austria** b. 1573 d. 1598 (12th cousin, 21 times removed)  
[daughter of Charles II Archduke of Austria and Maria Anna Princess of Bavaria]  
m. **Constance of Austria Queen of Poland** b. 1588 d. 1631 (12th cousin, 21 times removed)

[Children of Sigismund III Vasa King of Sweden and Anna Princess of Austria]  
14 **Wladyslaw IV Vasa King of Poland** b. 1595 d. 1648 (12th cousin, 15 times removed)

[Children of Sigismund III Vasa King of Sweden and Constance of Austria Queen of Poland]  
14 **John II Casimir Vasa King of Poland** b. 1609 d. 1672 (12th cousin, 15 times removed)

#### Descendants of: Erik X Knutsson King of Sweden, As Related to: Lars Erik Granholm

1 **Erik X Knutsson King of Sweden** b. 1180 Stockholm, d. 10 Apr 1216 Visingsö, Sweden (22<sup>nd</sup> great grand father)  
m. **Richiza Valdemarsdotter Princess of Denmark** b. ABT 1178 d. 8 May 1220  
[daughter of Valdemar I the Great King of Denmark and Sofiya Vladimirovna Princess of Russia]

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16 **Augustus II the Strong King of Poland** b. 1670 d. 1733 (14<sup>th</sup> cousin, 9 times removed)  
m. **Christiane Eberhardine of Brandenburg**

17 **Augustus III King of Poland** b. 17 October 1696 Dresden d. 5 October 1763 (15<sup>th</sup> cousin, 8 times removed)  
m. **Maria Josepha Princess of Austria**

18 **Frederick Christian Elector of Saxony** b. 1722 d. 1763 (16<sup>th</sup> cousin, 7 times removed)  
m. **Maria Antonia Walpurgis Princess of Bavaria**

19 **Frederick Augustus I King of Poland** b. 1750 d. 1827 (17<sup>th</sup> cousin, 6 times removed)

## Eric X of Sweden (Common ancestor)

King Eric on his gravestone



**Erik Knutsson** (c. 1180 – 1216) was the King of Sweden between 1208 and 1216. He was the son of King Knut Eriksson.

King Canute's sons continued to live in the Swedish royal court, until 1203, when his brothers and family brought forward claims to the throne, and Sverker did not acquiesce, at which point Eric and his brothers escaped to Norway. In 1205, the brothers returned to Sweden with Norwegian support, but lost the Battle of Älgårås, where three of Eric's brothers were killed.

In 1208 Eric returned to Sweden with Norwegian troops and defeated Sverker in the Battle of Lena. Eric became thus chosen the king of Sweden. Sverker attempted to reconquer the throne, but was defeated and killed in Battle of Gestilren in 1210. At that time, king

Eric X married princess Richeza of Denmark, daughter of the late Valdemar I of Denmark, and sister of the then reigning Valdemar II the Victorious. This was to make up relations with Denmark, which had traditionally supported the Sverker dynasty, against the Norwegian-supported dynasty of Eric.

# Jogaila

**Jogaila**, later **Wladyslaw II Jagiello** (born ca. 1362; died 1 June 1434), was Grand Duke of Lithuania and later King of Poland. He ruled in Lithuania from 1377, at first with his uncle, Kęstutis. In 1386, he converted to Christianity, was baptized as Wladyslaw, married the young Queen Jadwiga of Poland, inducted into the Order of the Dragon and was crowned Polish king as Wladyslaw Jagiello. His reign in Poland lasted a further forty-eight years and laid the foundation for the centuries-long Polish-Lithuanian union. He gave his name to the Jagiellon branch of the established Lithuanian Gediminids dynasty, which ruled both states until 1572, and became one of the most influential dynasties in medieval Central and Eastern Europe.

*Presumed image of Jagiello, painted c. 1475–80, Wawel Cathedral, Krakow*



Jogaila was the last pagan ruler of medieval Lithuania. He held the title *Didysis Kunigaikstis*. As King of Poland, he pursued a policy of close alliances with Lithuania against the Teutonic Order. The allied victory at the Battle of Grunwald in 1410, followed by the Peace of Thorn (1411), secured the Polish and Lithuanian borders and marked the emergence of the Polish-Lithuanian alliance as a significant force in Europe. The reign of Wladyslaw II Jagiello extended Polish frontiers and is often considered the beginning of Poland's "Golden Age".

## Early life

His parents were Algirdas, Grand Duke of Lithuania, and his second wife, Uliana, daughter of Alexander I, Grand Prince of Tver.

At the start of his reign, Jogaila was preoccupied with unrest in the Lithuanian Rus' lands. In 1377–78, for example, his own half-brother, the russified Andrei of Polotsk, maneuvered to secede to Moscow. In 1380, Andrei and another brother, Dmitry, sided with Prince Dmitri of Moscow against Jogaila's alliance with the Tatar Khan Mamai. Jogaila failed to arrive with his troops in time to support Mamai who was defeated by Prince Dmitri at the Battle of Kulikovo, after which the principality of Moscow posed a heightened threat to Lithuania. In the same year, Jogaila began a struggle for supremacy with Kęstutis.



*Equestrian statue of Wladyslaw II Jagiello, Central Park, New York*



In the north-west, Lithuania faced constant armed incursions from the monastic state of the Teutonic Order—founded after 1226 to fight and convert the pagan Baltic tribes of Prussians, Yotvingians and Lithuanians—which had established itself as a centralised regional power. In 1380, Jogaila secretly concluded the Treaty of Dovydiskės with the Order, in which he agreed to the Christianisation of Lithuania in return for the Order's backing against Kęstutis. When Kęstutis discovered the plan, the Lithuanian Civil War began. He seized Vilnius, overthrew Jogaila, and pronounced himself grand duke in his place.

In 1382, Jogaila raised an army from his father's vassals and confronted Kęstutis near Trakai. Kęstutis and his son Vytautas, under a promise of safe conduct from Skirgaila, Jogaila's brother, entered Jogaila's encampment in Vilnius for negotiations but were tricked and imprisoned in the castle of Kreva, where Kęstutis was found dead, probably murdered, a week later. Vytautas escaped to the Teutonic fortress of Marienburg and was baptised there under the name Wigand.

## **Baptism and marriage**

Jogaila chose therefore to accept a Polish proposal to become a Catholic and marry the eleven-year-old Queen Jadwiga of Poland. He was also to be legally adopted by Jadwiga's mother, Elizabeth of Bosnia, so retaining the throne in the event of Jadwiga's death.

Before Wladyslaw's arrival in Krakow for the wedding, Queen Jadwiga despatched one of her knights, Zawisza the Red, to confirm that her future husband was really a human, as she had heard he was a bear-like creature, cruel and uncivilised. Despite her misgivings, the marriage went ahead on 4 March 1386, two weeks after the baptism ceremonies, and Jogaila was crowned King Wladyslaw by archbishop Bodzanta.

## **Polish-Lithuanian-Teutonic war**

In December 1408, Wladyslaw and Vytautas held strategic talks in Navahrudak Castle, where they decided to foment a Samogitian uprising against Teutonic rule to draw German forces away from Pomerelia. Wladyslaw promised to repay Vytautas for his support by restoring Samogitia to Lithuania in any future peace treaty. The uprising, which began in May 1409, at first provoked little reaction from the Knights, who had not yet consolidated their rule in Samogitia by building castles; but by June their diplomats were busy lobbying Wladyslaw's court at Oborniki, warning his nobles against Polish involvement in a war between Lithuania and the Order. Wladyslaw, however, bypassed his nobles and informed new Grand Master Ulrich von Jungingen that if the Knights acted to suppress Samogitia, Poland would intervene. This stung the Order into issuing a declaration of war against Poland on 6 August, which Wladyslaw received on 14 August in Nowy Korczyn.

The castles guarding the northern border were in such bad condition that the Knights easily captured those at Zlotoryja, Dobrzyn and Bobrowniki, the capital of Dobrzyn Land, while German burghers invited them into Bydgoszcz (German: Bromberg). Wladyslaw arrived on the scene in late September, retook Bydgoszcz within a week, and came to terms with the Order on 8 October. During the winter, the two armies prepared for a major confrontation.

## **Battle of Grunwald**

Battle of Grunwald, 1410. Painting by Jan Matejko



When the war resumed in June 1410, Wladyslaw advanced into the Teutonic heartland at the head of an army of about 20,000 mounted nobles, 15,000 armed commoners, and 2,000 professional cavalry mainly hired from Bohemia. After crossing the Vistula over the pontoon bridge at Czerwinski, his troops met up with those of Vytautas, whose 11,000 light cavalry included Ruthenians and Tatars. The Teutonic Order's army numbered about 18,000 cavalry, mostly Germans and 5,000 infantry. On 15 July, at the Battle of Grunwald,<sup>[52]</sup> after one of the largest and most ferocious battles of the Middle Ages, the allies won a victory so overwhelming that the Teutonic Order's army was virtually annihilated, with most of its key commanders killed.

Wladyslaw's second wife, Anna of Celje, had died in 1416, leaving a daughter, Jadwiga. In 1417, Wladyslaw married Elisabeth of Pilica, who died in 1420 without bearing him a child, and two years later, Sophia of Halshany, who bore him two surviving sons. Wladyslaw finally died in 1434, leaving Poland to his elder son, Wladyslaw III, and Lithuania to his younger, Casimir, both still minors at the time.



# Wladyslaw III of Poland

**Vladislaus III of Varna** (31 October 1424 – 10 November 1444, Varna, Bulgaria) was King of Poland from 1434, and of Hungary from 1440, until his death at the Battle of Varna.

*Symbollic sarcophagus of Wladyslaw, Wawel Cathedral, Krakow*



Wladyslaw was the first-born son of Wladyslaw II Jagiello (Jogaila) (15593) of Poland and Sophia of Halshany (Zofia Holszanska) (15594). He ascended the throne at the age of ten and was immediately surrounded by a group of advisors headed by Zbigniew Cardinal Oleśnicki, who wanted to continue to enjoy his high status at court. In spite of that, the young ruler and his ambitious mother were aware that there was opposition to them. Despite the agreements signed

between Wladyslaw Jagiello and the Polish magnates to ensure the succession for his sons, the opposition wanted another candidate for the Polish throne - Friedrich of Brandenburg, who was betrothed to Jadwiga, Jagiello's daughter by his second wife. However, the conspiracy was resolved by the death of the princess, rumoured to have been poisoned by Zofia Holszanska.

*Wladyslaw at the Battle of Varna. Unfinished painting by Jan Matejko.*



The "bulwark of Christianity" and other slogans put forward by the papal envoy Giuliano Cesarini, together with an enticing promise of victory in a glorious crusade for God, persuaded Wladyslaw to engage in a two-year war against the Ottoman Empire. Wladyslaw failed to recognise the serious threat which the Turkish Empire posed to Europe as a whole. Therefore, when the Battle of Varna began on 10 November 1444, the Polish king did not sense that this would be his final fight. He was killed during the charge on the ranks of the janissaries, who were protecting their sultan.

Wladyslaw III had no children and did not get married (contemporary opinions, quoted by Jan Dlugosz, suggested that he was homosexual). He was succeeded in Poland by his younger brother Casimir IV Jagiellon in 1447 after a three-year interregnum.

## The legend

*St. Joachim and St. Anne Meeting at the Golden Gate.*



According to Portuguese legend Wladyslaw survived the Battle of Varna (although the Turks claimed to have his head, his body in royal armor was never found) and after his journey to the Holy Land he settled on Madeira Island.<sup>[3]</sup> King Afonso V of Portugal granted him the lands in Cabo Girão district of the Madeira Islands, rent-free for the rest of his life.<sup>[3]</sup> He was known there as Henrique Alemão (Henry the German) and married Senhorinha Anes (the King of Portugal was his best man<sup>[4]</sup>), who gave him two sons. Later he became knight of Saint Catharine of Mount Sinai and established a church of Saint Catherine and Saint Mary Magdalene in Madalena do Mar. There he was portrayed as Saint Joachim meeting Saint Anne (mother of the Virgin Mary) at the Golden Gate on a painting by Master of the Adoration of Machico in the beginning of the 16th century.

According to legend, he felt his defeat in battle as a warning from God (since he declared war on a false pretext, violating the truce with the Ottoman Turks), and he wandered as a pilgrim, seeking forgiveness, he found in Jerusalem. For the rest of his life he would live in total denial of any Polish title; there are historical records that Polish monks went to Madeira to question him and certified he was in fact long lost King Wladislaw III, living in secrecy, and that he refused to return to Poland and assume the throne.

## Historical places

As a sign of respect, there is a boulevard in Varna, called *Vladislav Varnenchik*, as well as a successful football team named Vladislav Varna in past times. There is also a symbolic Cenotaph of Wladislaus III in Varna.

# Casimir IV Jagiellon

**Casimir IV Jagiellon** (30 November 1427 – 7 June 1492) of the Jagiellon dynasty, was Grand Duke of Lithuania from 1440, and King of Poland from 1447, until his death.

*Kazimierz IV, 17th century, unknown Polish painter*



Casimir was the second son of King Wladyslaw II Jagiello (Jogaila), and the younger brother of Wladyslaw III of Varna.

## Grand Duke of Lithuania

The death of Zygimantas Kęstutaitis left the office of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania empty. The Voivode of Trakai, Jonas Gostautas, and other magnates of Lithuania, supported Casimir Jagiellon as a pretender to the throne. However many Polish noblemen hoped that the thirteen year old boy would become a Vice-regent for the Polish King in Lithuania.<sup>[1]</sup> Casimir was invited by the Lithuanian magnates to Lithuania, and when Casimir arrived in Vilnius in 1440, he was proclaimed as the Grand Duke of Lithuania on 29 June 1440 by the Council of Lords, contrary to the wishes of the Polish

noblemen—an act supported and coordinated by Jonas Gostautas.<sup>[1]</sup> This act dissolved the fragile personal union between the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Kingdom of Poland.

## King of Poland

Elisabeth of Austria



Casimir succeeded his brother Wladyslaw III as King of Poland after a three-year interregnum on 25 June 1447. In 1454, he married Elisabeth of Austria, daughter of the late King of the Romans Albert II of Habsburg by his late wife Elisabeth of Bohemia. Her distant relative Frederick of Habsburg became Holy Roman Emperor and reigned as Frederick III until after Casimir's own death. The marriage strengthened the ties between the house of Jagiellon and the sovereigns of Hungary-Bohemia and put Casimir at odds with the Holy Roman Emperor through internal Habsburg rivalry.

That same year, Casimir was approached by the Prussian Confederation for aid against the Teutonic Order, which he

promised, by making the separatist Prussian regions a protectorate of the Polish Kingdom. However, when the insurgent cities of the Teutonic Monastic State of Prussia rebelled against the Order, it resisted with greater strength than expected, and the Thirteen Years' War (1454-1466) ensued. Casimir and the Prussian Confederation defeated the Teutonic Order, taking over its capital at Marienburg (Malbork Castle). In the Second Peace of Thorn (1466), the Order recognized Polish sovereignty over the seceded western Prussian regions, therefore then called Royal Prussia, and the Polish crown's overlordship over the remaining Teutonic Monastic State of Prussia, transformed in 1525 into a duchy, thus consistently called Ducal Prussia.

Elisabeth's only brother Ladislas, king of Bohemia and Hungary, died in 1457, and after that Casimir and Elisabeth's dynastic interests were directed also towards her brother's former kingdoms.

## Children

- Daughter Hedwig Jagiellon married George the Rich, of the Wittelsbach dynasty of Bavaria. Delegates had gone to Krakow to negotiate the marriage, and their "Landshut Wedding" took place in Bavaria with much pomp and celebration in 1475, starting a tradition which continues to this day.
- Son Casimir was to have married the daughter of Emperor Frederick III, but instead chose a religious life, eventually being canonized as St. Casimir.
- Son Vladislaus II of Bohemia and Hungary combined the thrones of Hungary and Bohemia.
- Daughter Sophie, married to Margrave Frederick V of Brandenburg-Ansbach
- Son John I of Poland succeeded him as the king of Poland while other sons, Alexander and Sigismund I the Old, ruled in turns in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and in Poland.
- Daughter Anna married to Duke Bogislaw X of Pomerania; they had eight children, including Sophie of Pomerania, who became queen of Denmark
- Daughter Barbara married to Duke Georg dem Bärtigen of Saxony

# John I Albert of Poland

**John I Albert** (Polish: *Jan I Olbracht*; 27 December 1459 – 17 Jun 1501) was King of Poland (1492 – 1501) and Duke of Glogow (1491 - 1498).

*Presumed likeness of John I Albert on engraving, early 16th century*



## Life

John was the third son of Casimir IV Jagiellon, King of Poland, and Elisabeth of Austria, daughter of Albert II of Germany. As crown prince, he distinguished himself by his brilliant victory over the Tatars at Kopersztyn (1487). In 1490, the Hungarian nobility proclaimed John King of Hungary at the Rákos diet. He was, however, defeated by his brother, King Ladislaus II of Bohemia and Hungary. In 1492, John succeeded his father as King of Poland.

John desired to pose as the champion of Christendom against the Ottoman Turks. Circumstances seemed, moreover, to favor him. In his brother Ladislaus, who as King of Hungary and Bohemia possessed a dominant influence in central Europe, he found a counterpoise to the machinations of

Emperor Maximilian I, who in 1492 had concluded an alliance against him with Ivan III of Muscovy. As suzerain of Moldavia, John was favorably situated for attacking the Turks. At the conference of Leutschau (1494), the details of the expedition were arranged between the kings of Poland and Hungary and Elector John Cicero of Brandenburg, with the co-operation of Stephen III of Moldavia, *hospodar* of Moldavia, who had appealed to John for assistance.

In the course of 1496 John collected an army of 80,000 men in Poland with great difficulty, but the crusade was deflected from its course by the sudden invasion of Galicia by the *hospodar*, who apparently — for the whole subject is still very obscure — had been misled by reports from Hungary that John was bent upon placing his younger brother Sigismund on the throne of Moldavia. Whatever the reason, the Poles entered Moldavia not as friends but as foes, and after the abortive siege of Suceava were compelled to retreat following defeat at the Battle of the Cosmin Forest. The insubordination of the *szlachta* seems to have been one cause of this disgraceful collapse, for John after his return confiscated hundreds of their estates; in spite of which, to the end of his life he retained his extraordinary popularity.

When the new Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights, Friedrich Wettin von Sachsen, refused to render homage to the Polish crown, John compelled him to do so. His intention to still further humiliate the Teutonic Order was stymied by his sudden death in 1501.



# Alexander Jagiellon

**Alexander Jagiellon** (5 August 1461 – 19 August 1506), Grand Duke of Lithuania and later also King of Poland<sup>[1]</sup>; he was the fourth son of Casimir IV Jagiellon. He was elected Grand Duke of Lithuania on the death of his father (1492), and King of Poland on the death of his brother Jan I Olbracht (1501).

Drawing by Jan Matejko



Alexander's shortage of funds immediately made him subservient to the Polish Senate and nobility (*szlachta*), who deprived him of control of the mint (then one of the most lucrative sources of revenue for the Polish kings), curtailed his prerogatives, and generally endeavored to reduce him to a subordinate position. For want of funds, Alexander was unable to resist the Grand Master of the Teutonic Knights or prevent Grand Duke of Muscovy Ivan III from ravaging Grand Duchy of Lithuania with the Tatars. The most the Grand Duke of Lithuania could do was to garrison Smolensk and other strongholds and employ his wife Helena, the Tsar's daughter, to mediate a truce between his father-in-law and himself after the disastrous Battle of Vedrosha (1500). In the terms of the truce, Lithuania had to surrender about a third of its territory to the

nascent expansionist Russian state.

During his reign, Poland suffered much humiliation at the hands of her subject principality, Moldavia. Only the death of Stephen, the great *hospodar* of Moldavia, enabled Poland still to hold her own on the Danube River; while the liberality of Pope Julius II, who issued no fewer than 29 bulls in favor of Poland and granted Alexander Peter's Pence and other financial help, enabled him to restrain somewhat the arrogance of the Teutonic Order.

*Alexander I of Poland in Senate*



Alexander Jagellon never felt at home in Poland, and bestowed his favor principally upon his fellow Lithuanians, the most notable of whom was the wealthy Lithuanian magnate Michael Glinski, who justified his master's confidence by his great victory over the Tatars at Kleck (5 August 1506), news of which was brought to Aleksander on his deathbed in Vilnius.



# Sigismund I the Old

**Sigismund I the Old** (1 January 1467 – 1 April 1548) of the Jagiellon dynasty reigned as King of Poland and also as the Grand Duke of Lithuania from 1506 until 1548. Earlier, Sigismund had been invested as Duke of Silesia.

Sigismund I wearing the Crown of Boleslaw the Brave



## Biography

The son of King Casimir IV Jagiellon and Elisabeth of Austria, Sigismund followed his brothers John I of Poland and Alexander I of Poland to the Polish throne. Their elder brother Ladislaus II of Hungary and Bohemia became king of Hungary and Bohemia. Sigismund was christened as the namesake of his mother's maternal grandfather, Holy Roman Emperor Sigismund, who had died in 1437.

Sigismund faced the challenge of consolidating internal power in order to face external threats to the country. During

Alexander's reign, the law *Nihil novi* had been instituted, which forbade Kings of Poland from enacting laws without the consent of the Sejm. This proved crippling to Sigismund's dealings with the *szlachta* and magnates.

Despite this *Achilles heel*, he established (1527) a conscription army and the bureaucracy needed to finance it.

Intermittently at war with Vasily III of Muscovy, starting in 1507 (before his army was fully under his command), 1514 marked the fall of Smolensk (under Polish domination) to the Muscovite forces (which lent force to his arguments for the necessity of a standing army). Those conflicts formed part of the Muscovite wars. 1515 he entered an alliance with the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I.

In return for Maximilian lending weight to the provisions of the Second Peace of Thorn (1466), Sigismund consented to the marriage of the children of Vladislaus II of Bohemia and Hungary, his brother, to the grandchildren of Maximilian. Through this double marriage contract, Bohemia and Hungary passed to the House of Habsburg in 1526, on the death of Sigismund's nephew, Louis II.

The Polish wars against the Teutonic Knights ended in 1525, when Albert, Duke of Prussia, their marshal (and Sigismund's nephew), converted to Lutheranism, secularized the order, and paid

Sigismund I the Old



homage to Sigismund. In return, he was given the domains of the Order, as the First Duke of Prussia. This was called the Prussian Homage.

"Prussian Homage," by Jan Matejko, 1882, 388 x 875 cm, National Museum in Krakow. Albrecht Hohenzollern receives the Duchy of Prussia in fief from Polish King Sigismund I the Old in 1525



In other matters of policy, Sigismund sought peaceful coexistence with the Khanate of Crimea, but was unable to completely end border skirmishes. Sigismund was interested in Renaissance humanism and the revival of classical antiquity. He and his third consort, Bona Sforza, daughter of Gian Galeazzo Sforza of Milan, were both patrons of Renaissance culture, which under them began to flourish in Poland and in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

On Sigismund's death, his son Sigismund II August became the last Jagiellon king of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania.

## Marriages and issue

In 1517, Sigismund married Bona Sforza, with whom he had:

- Queen Isabella of Hungary
- Sigismund II of Poland
- Anna I of Poland
- Queen Catherine of Sweden

# Sigismund II Augustus

**Sigismund II Augustus I** (1 August 1520 — 7 July 1572) was King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, the only son of Sigismund I the Old, whom Sigismund II succeeded in 1548. Married three times, the last of the Jagiellons remained childless, and thus the Union of Lublin introduced Elective monarchy.



## Biography

Sigismund II Augustus. Drawing by Jan Matejko

From the outset of his reign, Sigismund came into collision with the country's nobility, who had already begun curtailing the power of the great families. The ostensible cause of the nobility's animosity to the King was his second marriage, secretly contracted before his accession to the throne, with (said to be beautiful) Lithuanian Calvinist, Barbara Radziwill, daughter of Hetman Jerzy Radziwill.

But the real forces behind the movement seem to have been the Austrian court and Sigismund's own mother, Bona Sforza, and so violent was the agitation at Sigismund's first *sejm* (31 October 1548) that the deputies threatened to renounce their allegiance unless the King repudiated his wife Barbara. He refused, and his moral courage and political dexterity won the day.

The death of Queen Barbara, five months after her coronation (7 December 1550), under distressing circumstances which led to a suspicion that she had been poisoned by Bona Sforza, compelled Sigismund to contract a third, purely political union with his first cousin, the Austrian archduchess Catherine, also the sister of his first wife, Elisabeth, who had died within a year of her marriage to him, while he was still only crown prince.

*Death of Barbara Radziwill* Painting by Jozef Simmler



Sigismund's reign was a period of internal turmoil and external expansion.

He saw the invasion of Poland by the Reformation, and the *peero-cratic* upheaval that placed all political power in the hands of the nobility; he saw the collapse of the Knights of the Sword in the north (which led to the Commonwealth's acquisition of Livonia) and the consolidation of Turkey's power in the south. Throughout this perilous transitional period, Sigismund successfully

steered the ship of state amid the whirlpools that constantly threatened to engulf it. A less imposing figure than his father, the elegant and refined Sigismund II Augustus was nevertheless an even greater statesman than the stern and majestic Sigismund I the Old.

*Death of Sigismund II at Knyszyn*, by Jan Matejko, 1886, oil on canvas, National Museum, Warsaw.



Sigismund II possessed to a high degree the tenacity and patience that seem to have characterized all the Jagiellons, and he added to these qualities a dexterity and diplomatic finesse which he may have inherited from his Italian mother. No other Polish king seems to have so thoroughly understood the nature of the Polish *sejm*. Both the Austrian ambassadors and the papal legates testify to the care with which he controlled his nation. Everything went as he wished, they said,

because he seemed to know everything in advance. He managed to get more money than his father ever could, and at one of his *sejms* he won the hearts of the assembly by unexpectedly appearing before them in the simple grey coat of a Masovian lord. Like his father, a pro-Austrian by conviction, he contrived even in this respect to carry with him the nation, always distrustful of the Germans, and thus avoided serious complications with the dangerous Turks.

Sigismund died at his beloved Knyszyn on 6 July 1572, aged 51. In 1573, Henry III of Valois was elected King of the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth for a few months, but then returned to France where he was crowned King Henry III of France. Shortly thereafter, Sigismund's sister Anna of Poland married Stefan Batory, and they ruled as King and Queen of Poland.

# Anna the Jagiellonian

**Anna the Jagiellonian** (Polish: *Anna Jagiellonka*, Lithuanian: *Ona Jogailaitė*; 1523–1596), daughter of Poland's King Sigismund I the Old, wife of Stefan Batory. She was elected, along with her then fiancé, Stefan Batory, as co-ruler in the second election of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Anna was the last member of the Jagiellon dynasty.

## Biography

Anna was born in 1523 to the Jagiellon King, Sigismund I the Old and his wife Bona Sforza. Most of her life was not spectacular.

However, in 1572, her brother Sigismund II Augustus died, leaving the thrones to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth vacant. In 1572 Jean Montluc, Bishop of Valence, offered Henry Valois to the electors of the commonwealth as the next King. Montluc promised the electors that Henry would marry Anna, "to maintain the dynastic tradition". Unfortunately, for Anna, after Henry Valois was elected as the first monarch in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, he withdrew his promise and they never wed. By the autumn of 1575 a new candidate was offered to the electors of the commonwealth, Stefan Batory, Prince of Transylvania. Stefan had to agree to the condition that he would marry Anna the Jagiellonian, which he did. On 15 December 1575, near Warsaw, Anna along with Stefan Batory, her fiancé, was elected as co-rulers, as the second monarch in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth with the dual title of King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. The coronation took place in Krakow 1 May 1576.

*A 1595 painting by Marcin Kober*



With the death of her husband in 1586, she had one final play to influence the thrones of the Commonwealth. She put forth, to the electors, Sigismund III Vasa, the only son of her youngest sister, Catherine Jagellon of Poland, Queen of Sweden.<sup>[1]</sup> With Anna's help he gained the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth thrones as the third elected monarch

Anna died, during her nephew Sigismund's reign, in her own country, where she had been born and had lived, on 9 September 1596. She was the last member of the Jagiellons.



# Catherine Jagellon Duchess of Finland

**Catherine Jagiellon of Poland** (Polish: *Katarzyna Jagiellonka*; Finnish: *Katariina Jagellonica*; Swedish: *Katarina Jagellonica av Polen*; 1 November 1526 – 16 September 1583) was Duchess of Finland 1562-83, Queen Consort of Sweden 1569-83 and Grand Duchess of Finland 1581-83 and heir to her mother's claim to the title of King of Jerusalem.

Queen consort of Sweden



She was born the youngest daughter of Poland's King Zygmunt I the Old and Bona Sforza. Catherine became the wife of Sweden's King John III and mother to the future King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Sigismund III Vasa. Tsar Ivan IV of Russia, was among her suitors.

## Duchess of Finland

On 4 October 1562, Catherine was married in the Lower Castle of Vilnius, Lithuania, to Duke John of Finland, second son of Sweden's late King Gustav I and brother of the then reigning Eric XIV. John had not received his brother's permission for the marriage and there were already tensions between them, since John had an independent foreign policy. The newly-weds set up house in Turku Castle in Turku, Finland. Duke John's dealings in Livonia caused Sweden's

King Eric XIV, ultimately to declare war on his brother. Eric sent 10,000 men to besiege the castle. On 12 August 1563, the castle capitulated; Catherine and her husband were taken to Sweden, and imprisoned in Gripsholm Castle.

Her unsuccessful suitor, Tsar Ivan, was in negotiations with Eric over Catherine, asking for her to be separated from John and sent to marry him in Russia. This caused alarm with Catherine and her relations. In popular opinion, this discussion was one of the reasons for the Swedish people's growing dissatisfaction with the increasingly insane Eric. King Eric agreed to hand over Catherine to Ivan, but the Swedish king was deposed before Catherine could be sent away. As his brother John succeeded him, the problem ceased to exist. <sup>[1]</sup> During the incarceration, Catherine gave birth first to her eldest daughter Isabella of Finland in 1564 (died 1566), then to her son Sigismund in 1566, and finally her youngest child Anna Vasa of Sweden on 17 May 1568.



## Queen consort

Catherine and John were released in 1568. In 1569, she was crowned Queen of Sweden, as her husband became John III of Sweden, upon deposing Eric. Queen Catherine had political influence and did much to influence her husband in for the cause of Catholicism and the counter-reformation, just as her successor as queen, her husband's later wife Gunilla Bielke, would influence him in Protestantism. The first version of the later famous royal palace of Drottningholm (*The Queen's Islet*) was founded for and named after her. In her final years, Catherine suffered from gout. She died in Stockholm on 16 September 1583 and was buried in the royal crypt of the Uppsala Cathedral.

## Legacy

The infusion of Polish blood into the Swedish royal lineage that begun with Catherine would cause considerable strife after her death in the context of the ongoing European wars of religion. Her son, Sigismund, inherited the thrones of both the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (in 1587) and Sweden (in 1592), but ruled the latter only seven years before being deposed in 1599. Sigismund and his descendants, as Catholic kings, would continue to lay claim to *de facto* Protestant Sweden over the following century. The succession dispute led (or acted as a pretext) to several destructive wars, until a massive Swedish invasion in the 1650s (known as the Deluge) nearly sundered the Commonwealth. Polish claims to the Swedish throne were finally relinquished in the 1660 Treaty of Oliva.

The image of Catherine Jagellon enjoyed a resurgence in 19th and 20th century Finnish culture and art. John and Catherine were the only Swedish monarchs to reside in the Finnish part of the realm for any length of time, and their alleged fondness for the land inspired Finnish nationalists. The religious issues that made Catherine unpopular with her contemporaries were by then long obsolete, and it has instead become traditional to depict her as a compassionate and loyal queen.

Catherine Jagiellon in prison, by Jozef Simmler



# John III King of Sweden Duke of Finland

**John III** (Swedish: *Johan III*, Finnish: *Juhana III*) (20 December 1537 – 17 November 1592) was King of Sweden from 1568 until his death. He was the son of King Gustav I of Sweden and his second wife Margaret Leijonhufvud. He was also quite autonomously the ruler of Finland (as **Duke John**) from 1556 to 1563. In 1581 he assumed also the title Grand Prince of Finland.

*John III portrayed by Dutch artist Johan Baptista van Uther in 1582.*



## Biography

He was the second son of Gustav Vasa (1523–1560). His mother was Margareta Leijonhufvud, a Swedish noblewoman. As a Duke of Finland he opposed his half-brother Eric XIV of Sweden (1560–1568) and was imprisoned in 1563. After his release from prison, probably because of his brother's insanity, John again joined the opposition, deposed Eric and made himself the king. His important ally was his maternal uncle Sten Leijonhufvud, who at deathbed was made Count of Raseborg. Shortly after this John executed his brother's most trusted counsellor, Jöran Persson, whom he held largely responsible for his harsh treatment while in prison.

John finished the Scandinavian Seven Years' War in 1570 without many Swedish concessions and during the following years he successfully fought Russia until 1582, a war that meant a Swedish reconquest of Narva. As a whole his foreign policy was affected by his connection to Poland of which country his son Sigismund III Vasa (1587–1632) was made king in 1587.

## John III as king

In January of 1569, John was recognized as king by the same riksdag that forced Eric XIV off the throne. But this recognition was not without influence from John; Duke Karl received confirmation on his dukedom without the restrictions of his power that the Arboga articles imposed. The nobilities power and rights were extended and their responsibilities lessened.

John was still concerned about his position as king as long as Eric was alive. The fear of a possible liberation of the locked up king worried him to the point that in 1571 he ordered the guards that in the event of any suspicion of liberation attempt to murder the captured king. It is possible this is how his life ended in 1577.

John III was reportedly like his father in propaganda, with repeated claims to have "liberated Sweden" from the "bloodhound" Christian II, as well as rescuing the population from the "tyrant" Eric XIV. He was reportedly violent, hot tempered and greatly suspicious.

## Family

John married his first wife, Catherine Jagellonica of Poland (1526–1583), house of Jagiello, in Vilnius on 4 October 1562. In Sweden she is known as *Katarina Jagellonica* and she was the sister of king Sigismund II Augustus of Poland. Their children were:

- Isabella (1564–1566)
- Sigismund King of Sweden (1592–1599), and King of Poland (1587–1632), Grand Duke of Finland and Lithuania
- Anna (1568–1625)

*Gunilla Bielke*



He married his second wife Gunilla Bielke (1568–c. 1592) on 21 February 1584 and together they had the son:

- John (Johan) (1589–1618), firstly Duke of Finland, then from 1608 Duke of Ostrogothia. The young duke married his first cousin Maria Elisabet (1596–1618), daughter of Charles IX of Sweden (reigned 1599–1611)

Together with his mistress Karin Hansdotter (1532–1596) he had at least four illegitimate children:

- Julius Gyllenhielm (1559–1581)
- Augustus (1557–1560)
- Sofia (1556–1583) who married Pontus De la Gardie
- Lucretia (1560–1585)

John cared for Karin and his children with her after he married with Catherine Jagellonica of Poland in 1562. He took care that Karin got a husband that should take care of her and his children. In 1561 Karin was married to a nobleman Klas Andersson (Västgöte), a friend and servant of John. Together they had a daughter named Brita. When John became King in 1568 he continued to support Karin and his illegitimate children. In 1572 Karin was married again, her earlier husband was murdered by Erik XIV in 1563, to a Lars Henrikson. In 1576 he was nobled by John if he took care about his issue with Karin. The same year he sent for his daughter Sofia to be a lady in the castle as a servant to his sister Princess Elisabet. 1580 he married her off to Pontus de la Gardie. She later died giving birth to Jacob De la Gardie.

*Tomb of John III in Uppsala Cathedral.*



# Anna Vasa of Sweden

**Anna Vasa** or **Anna of Sweden** also **Anne** (Polish: *Anna Wazowna*) (17 May 1568 – 26 February 1625) was a Swedish princess. She was the sister of the monarch of Poland, Sweden and Lithuania, Sigismund III Vasa, and starosta of Brodnica and Golub.

Anna of Sweden



## Biography

Anna was the youngest child of Duke John of Finland and Catherine Jagellonica, sister of Sigismund II Augustus of Poland. Her birth took place in Eskilstuna and was just after her family was released from captivity at Gripsholm, during which she had been conceived.

Her father ascended in 1569 to the throne of Sweden. Although her mother had raised her in Catholicism, she converted to the Lutheran faith later in 1580s. In 1587, Her brother became King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. Anna went with her brother to Poland in 1587, but was sent back in 1589 because the Polish court greatly disliked her

being a Lutheran and the influence she had over her brother. After this she lived in Sweden during the reign of her father.

Anna engaged herself to marry her father's first cousin, Count Gustav Brahe who was a general in Poland. She fell in love with him as a child - he was raised at the royal court. The couple later met at the house of Brahes sister, Ebba Sparre, meetings which was considered scandalous: it was said, that Brahe had plans to take the throne through a marriage with Anna. In 1589, Brahe came to Poland, and her brother Sigismund was not averse to the idea. Although it was not the most desirable marriage proposed to her, she declined all other suitors. However, time passed and nothing came of her intended marriage.

When her uncle took the throne in 1598, she left for Poland to live in her brother Sigismund III's, court, where she spent the rest of her life. She was known as *Anna of Svecia* (Anna of Sweden) and was a Protestant member of a Catholic royal family. She did, however, return to the Swedish court on several brief occasions, among them in 1618.

Anna remained unmarried. In 1596, she was engaged to marry George John, Margrave of Brandenburg; the dowry and the date was decided, but the wedding was cancelled for political reasons before it had been completed.

# Sigismund III Vasa, Grand Duke of Finland

**Sigismund III Vasa** (Polish: *Zygmunt III Waza*) (20 June 1566 – 30 April 1632 N.S.) was a monarch of joined Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from 1587 to 1632, and King of Sweden (where he was known simply as **Sigismund**) from 1592 until he was deposed in 1599. He was the son of King John III of Sweden and his first wife, Catherine Jagellonica of Poland.

*Painting by Marcin Kober, ca. 1590*



Elected to the throne of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Sigismund sought to create a personal union between the Commonwealth and Sweden (Polish-Swedish union), and succeeded for a time in 1592. After he had been deposed in 1595 from the Swedish throne by his uncle, Charles IX of Sweden, and a meeting of the Riksdag (Swedish *Riksdag*), he spent much of the rest of his life attempting to reclaim it.

Sigismund Waza-Jagellon (1566-1632) was elected King of Poland and reigned 1587-1632. By paternal inheritance, he succeeded 1592 as King of Sweden and was regarded as having abdicated 1599 and finally deposed 1604.

## Biography

He was born at Gripsholm during his parents' imprisonment by King Eric XIV. Although Sweden was Protestant, Sigismund was raised a Catholic. This fact, combined with the troublesome personal union, would later strike back at his attempts to find support in Sweden.

His mother, Katarzyna Jagiellonka, was the daughter of Sigismund I the Old and his wife Bona Sforza. The Jagiellon dynasty had held the crown of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth since the first Jagiellon ruler, Wladyslaw II Jagiello, had received it in 1386 through his wife Jadwiga Angevin.

*Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth at the time of the Polish-Swedish union 1592-1599*



In 1592 he married the Austrian archduchess Anna of Austria (1573-1598) Anna Habsburzanka and after his father's death the same year, he received permission from the Sejm to accept the Swedish throne. After Sigismund promised to uphold Swedish Lutheranism he was crowned king of Sweden in 1594; for a short time there was a personal union between Commonwealth and Sweden (Polish-Swedish union). He tried to rule Sweden from



Poland, leaving Sweden under control of a regent, his paternal uncle Duke Charles.

Due to Sigismund's strong support of the Counter Reformation, his support in largely Protestant Sweden eroded quickly. Charles soon took full control of Sweden and rebelled against Sigismund, ostensibly due to fears that Sigismund might re-Catholicize Sweden. In 1598 Sigismund tried to defeat him with a mixed army from Sweden and Poland but was defeated at the Battle of Stångebro. Sigismund was forbidden to rule Sweden from abroad but nevertheless returned to Poland, and so in 1599 was deposed. This and his decision to incorporate Livonia into the Commonwealth led to the Polish-Swedish War, which lasted, with minor breaks, to 1629. Little was gained in this war by either side. The kingship was ultimately ceded to Charles. Sigismund, however, did not relinquish his claim to the Swedish throne, and his subsequent foreign policy was aimed at regaining the Swedish crown. This led to bitter relations and several wars between the two countries, to end only after the Great Northern War.

*Tsar Shuisky and his Brothers before the King Sigismund III at the Royal Castle in Warsaw*



Another important conflict in his reign was the Polish-Muscovite War (1605-1618), also known as The Dymitriads. Sigismund and many Polish magnates attempted to exploit the Muscovite civil war (the Time of Troubles), and after a lengthy war the 1618 Truce of Deulino gave some territorial concessions to the Commonwealth. Nonetheless, this war increased tensions between Poland and Russia, and ruined the prospects for a Polish-Lithuanian-Muscovy Commonwealth.

Sigismund died at the age of 65 in the Royal Castle in Warsaw.

## **Sigismund's politics**

While Sigismund never managed to regain the Swedish throne, his politics of personal ambition did succeed in provoking a long series of conflicts between the Commonwealth and Sweden and Muscovy. While the Commonwealth Sejm managed to thwart many ambitious (and dangerous) offensive plans of Sigismund (and later of his son, Wladislaw), the Vasa dynasty nonetheless succeeded in partially drawing the Commonwealth into the Thirty Years' War. This senseless conflict with Sweden, combined with wars against Ottomans and Muscovy, eventually culminated well after Sigismund's death in the series of events known as The Deluge, which ended the Golden Age of the Commonwealth.

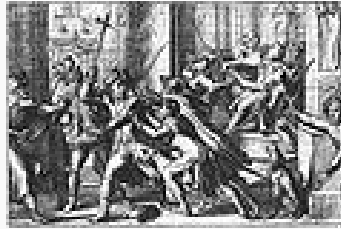
During his reign he allowed the Brandenburg Hohenzollerns to inherit Ducal Prussia.



## Gallery



*False Dmitry I takes an oath of allegiance to Sigismund III, by Nikolai Nevrev (1874).*



Assassination attempt on King Sigismund III Vasa by Michał Piekarski in 1620.



Sigismund III on catafalque displayed in the Guard Chamber at the Royal Castle.

Sigismund married twice. Firstly, on 31 May 1592, to Anna of Austria (1573 – 1598), daughter of Archduke Charles II of Austria (1540 – 1590) and his wife Maria Anna of Bavaria (1551-1608). They had five children:

1. Anna Maria (23 May 1593 – 1600)
2. Catherine (9 May 1594 – 1594)
3. Vladislaus (1595 – 1648), (reigned 1632 – 1648 as Władysław IV Waza of Poland) (17504)
4. Catherine (27 Sept 1596 – 1597)
5. Christopher (10 Feb 1598 – 1598)

And secondly, on 11 December 1605, to his first wife's sister, Constance of Austria (1588 – 1631). They had seven children:

1. John Casimir (25 Dec 1607 – 14 Jan 1608)
2. John Casimir (1609 – 1672), (reigned 1648 – 1668 as John Casimir II Vasa of Poland) (17506)
3. John Albert (1612 – 1634)
4. Charles Ferdinand (1613 – 1655)
5. Alexander Charles (1614 – 1634)
6. Anna Constance (26 Jan 1616 - 24 May 1616)
7. Anna Catherine Constance (7 Aug 1619 – 8 Oct 1651)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna\\_of\\_Austria\\_\(1573-1598\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_of_Austria_(1573-1598))

# Anna of Austria

**Anna of Austria**, or **Anna of Habsburg** also **Anne** (Graz 16 August 1573 - Warsaw 10 February 1598) was an Archduchess of Austria and Queen of Poland and Sweden.

*Queen consort of Poland*



Anna was a daughter of Charles II of Austria and Maria Anna of Bavaria. Her paternal grandparents were Ferdinand I, Holy Roman Emperor and Anne of Bohemia, daughter of King Ladislaus II of Bohemia and Hungary and his wife Anne de Foix..

She was also a younger sister of Ferdinand II, Holy Roman Emperor, Margaret of Austria, Leopold V of Austria and an older sister of Constance of Austria.

Anna became the first wife of Sigismund of Poland and Sweden on 31 May 1592. When Sigismund sent a diplomatic mission, lead by Cardinal Radziwill, to Prague for his bride, the anti-Habsburg party with chancellor Jan Zamoyski guarded the borders to prevent the Archprincess from entering the country. Anna evaded the guards, arrived in Krakow and was crowned in May 1592 by Primas Karnkowski as the Queen of Poland and two years later, in 1594, in Sweden, as the Queen of Sweden.

They had five children, but only Wladislaw lived to become an adult. Anna died on 10 February 1598 and Sigismund III then married her sister Constance Renate of Habsburg.



*Anna of Austria in Spanish dress (saya), portraited by Polish court painter Marcin Kober in the 1590s.*



*Her coffin in the Sigismund's Crypt under the Wawel Cathedral (second from the left).*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constance\\_of\\_Austria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constance_of_Austria)

# Constance of Austria

**Archduchess Constance of Austria** (1588-July 10, 1631) was a Queen consort of Poland.

*Queen consort of Poland*



Constance was a daughter of Charles II of Austria and Maria Anna of Bavaria. Her paternal grandparents were Ferdinand I, Holy Roman Emperor and Anna of Bohemia and Hungary. Anne was the only daughter of King Ladislaus II of Bohemia and Hungary and his wife Anne de Foix.

Constance was also a younger sister of Ferdinand II, Holy Roman Emperor, Margaret of Austria, Leopold V of Austria and Anna of Austria. Her older sister Anna was the first wife of king Sigismund III Vasa. After her death Constance and Sigismund III Vasa were married on December 11, 1605. They had seven children:

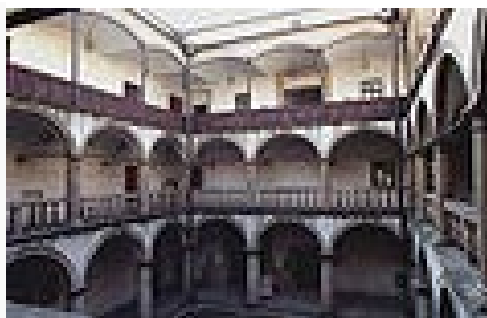
1. John Casimir (25 Dec 1607-14 Jan 1608)
2. John Casimir (1609-1672), (reigned 1648-1668 as John Casimir II Vasa of Poland)
3. John Albert (1612-1634)
4. Charles Ferdinand (1613-1655)
5. Alexander Charles (1614-1634)
6. Anna Constance (26 Jan 1616-24 May 1616)
7. Anna Catherine Constance (1619-1651)

She was a great politician. She built a strong faction which consisted of important noblemen married to her handmaidens. She was very religious, and went to Mass twice a day. She also was a great patron of painters and architects.

## Gallery



*Entry of the Wedding Procession of Constance of Austria into Krakow in 1605.*



*She enhanced and renovated the Castle in Żywiec, where she resided since 1624.*

# Wladyslaw IV Vasa

**Wladyslaw IV** (June 9, 1595 – May 20, 1648) was the son of Sigismund III Vasa and his wife, Anna of Austria (also known as Anna of Habsburg). Wladyslaw IV reigned as King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from November 8, 1632, to his death in 1648.

In 1610, the teenage Wladyslaw was elected Tsar of Russia, but did not assume the Muscovite throne due to his father's opposition and popular uprising in Russia; he used the title of Grand Duke of Muscovy until 1634. The throne during this time was instead held by Michael Romanov.



*Wladyslaw IV on Horseback*, Rubens workshop

Wladyslaw managed to prevent the Commonwealth becoming embroiled in the bloody Thirty Years' War that ravaged western Europe during his reign, and was fairly successful in defending the Commonwealth from invasion. He supported religious tolerance and carried out military reforms. He failed, however, to realize his dreams of fame and conquest, or to reform and strengthen the Commonwealth.

His death marked the end of the Golden Age of the Commonwealth, as conflicts and tensions that Wladyslaw had failed to resolve led in 1648 to the greatest of the Cossack uprisings—the Khmelnytsky Uprising—and to Swedish invasion ("The Deluge").

As Wladyslaw Zygmunt Waza-Jagiellon, in 1632 he was elected King of Poland. By paternal inheritance, he legally succeeded as King of Sweden.

## Father's legacy

His father Sigismund III Vasa, grandson of Gustav I of Sweden, had succeeded his father to the Swedish throne in 1592, only to be deposed in 1599 by his uncle, subsequently Charles IX of Sweden. This led to a long-standing feud where the Polish kings of the House of Vasa claimed the Swedish throne. The effects of this were the Swedish War (1600-1629) and later, The Deluge of 1655. Sigismund, a devout Catholic, pursued other military conflicts abroad, barely avoiding involving the Commonwealth in the Thirty Year War.



## Childhood



Skarga's Sermon, by Jan Matejko, 1862, oil on canvas, 224 x 397 cm, Royal Castle, Warsaw. Piotr Skarga (standing at right) preaches. King Sigismund III Vasa is seated in the first row, left of center. Just above and to left of King Zygmunt is his son, the future King Wladyslaw IV Vasa.

much influence. Around early 1600s she seems to have lost much of her influence, as Wladyslaw gained new teachers and mentors, such as priests Gabriel Prowancjusz, Andrzej Szoldrski and Marek Lętkowski. Wladyslaw also formed a friendship with Adam Kazanowski and his brother, Stanislaw. It is reported that Wladyslaw was interested in arts; later this would lead to him becoming an important patron of arts. He spoke and wrote in German, Italian and Latin, but only spoke in Polish.



Unknown Princess, daughter of King Wladyslaw IV and (probably) his mistress Jadwiga Luskowska, portraited in Spanish dress (green saya), about 1644, painted by Peter Danckerts de Rij

# John II Casimir Vasa

**John II Casimir** (Lithuanian: *Jonas Kazimieras Vaza*) (22 March 1609 – 16 December 1672) was King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania<sup>[1]</sup> during the era of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Duke of Opole in Upper Silesia, and titular King of Sweden 1648-1660. His parents were Sigismund III Vasa (1566-1632) and Constance of Austria (1588-1631). His older brother, and predecessor on the throne, was Wladyslaw IV Vasa. Related to the Habsburg rulers of the Holy Roman Empire he was the third and last monarch on the Polish throne from the House of Vasa. He was the last ruler of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth bearing a dynastical blood of House of Gediminas and a branch of it, the Jagiellons, although from female line.

## Biography

His father Sigismund, grandson of Gustav I of Sweden, had in 1592 succeeded his own father to the Swedish throne, only to be deposed in 1599 by his uncle, Charles IX of Sweden. This led to a long-standing feud wherein the Polish kings of the House of Vasa claimed the Swedish throne, resulting in the Polish-Swedish War of 1600-1629. Poland and Sweden were also on opposite sides in the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), although in that war Poland for the most part avoided taking part in any major military actions.



*John Casimir (kneeling) takes an oath at Lwow in 1655, during "The Deluge," that he would drive the Swedes from Poland, improve the lot of the peasants, and honor the rights and privileges of the szlachta. Painting by Jan Matejko.*



In 1648 John Casimir was elected to succeed his nephew-by-second-marriage on the Polish throne. The reign of the last of the Vasas in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth would be dominated by the Russo-Polish War (1654–1667), followed by the war with Sweden ("The Deluge"), the scene for which had been set by the Commonwealth's two previous Vasa kings. During the Deluge, nearly all of Poland was captured by the Swedes, who, though unable to retain most of their conquests and forced to retreat, had fairly devastated the entire country.

In 1660 John II Casimir was forced to renounce his claim to the Swedish throne and acknowledge Swedish sovereignty over Livonia and the city of Riga.

On 16 September 1668, John II Casimir abdicated the Polish-Lithuanian throne, He died in 1672.

*The Rape of Europa, Guido Reni, 1630s. It was made for King Wladyslaw IV*



## Legacy

John Casimir left no surviving children. All his brothers and sisters having predeceased him without surviving issue, he was the last of the line of Bona Sforza. With him, all the legitimate issue of Alfonso II of Naples died out. John Casimir was, after his brother, the head of the genealogical line of St. Bridget of Sweden, descending in primogeniture from Bridget's sister. After his death, the headship was inherited by his second cousin, the already-abdicated Christina I of Sweden.

The collection of the Polish Vasas was looted by Swedes and Germans of Brandenburg who brutally sacked Warsaw in 1650s, during the Deluge. Though some of works survived hidden in Opole like *The Rape of Europa* by Guido Reni.

# Augustus II the Strong

**Frederick Augustus I** or **Augustus II the Strong** (12 May 1670 – 1 February 1733) was Elector of Saxony (as Frederick Augustus I) and King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania.

*Augustus II the Strong, by Louis de Silvestre*



Augustus's great physical strength earned him the nicknames "the Strong," "the Saxon Hercules" and "Iron-Hand." He liked to show that he lived up to his name by breaking horseshoes with his bare hands and engaging in fox tossing with a single finger.

As a politician, he is nowadays held in low esteem in Poland, in particular for his role in embroiling the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the Great Northern War. His attempts at internal reforms and at bolstering the royal power are considered failures, while his policies are thought to have allowed the Russian Empire to strengthen its influence over the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

## Biography

Augustus was born in Dresden, the second and youngest son of the Elector Johann Georg III and Anne Sophie of Denmark.

Augustus married Christiane Eberhardine of Brandenburg-Bayreuth in Bayreuth on 20 January 1693. They had a son, Frederick Augustus II (1696 - 1763), who succeeded his father as Elector of Saxony and King of Poland as Augustus III.

## King of Poland for the first time

Following the death of Polish King John III Sobieski and having successfully converted to Catholicism, Augustus was elected King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1697 with the backing of Imperial Russia and Austria.

An ambitious ruler, Augustus hoped to make the Polish throne hereditary within his family, and to use his resources as Elector of Saxony to impose some order on the chaotic Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. He formed an alliance with Denmark's Frederick IV and Russia's Peter I to strip Sweden's young King Charles XII of his possessions. Poland's reward for participation in this Great Northern War was to have been the Swedish territory of Livonia. Charles proved an able military commander, however, quickly forcing the Danes out of the war and then driving back

the Russians at Narva, thereby allowing him to focus on the struggle with Augustus. Charles's decision ultimately proved as disastrous for Sweden as for Poland.

Charles defeated Augustus at Riga on 17 June 1701, forcing the Polish-Saxon army to withdraw from Livonia, and followed this up with an invasion of Poland. He captured Warsaw on 14 May 1702, defeated the Polish-Saxon army again at the Battle of Kliszow, and took Krakow. He defeated another of Augustus's armies at the Battle of Pultusk in spring 1703.



*Saxon retreat during the Battle of Pultusk*

By this time, Augustus was certainly ready for peace, but Charles felt that he would be more secure if he could establish someone more pliable on the Polish throne. In 1704 the Swedes installed Stanislaw Leszczynski, which compelled Augustus to initiate military operations in Poland alongside Russia. On 1 September 1706, Charles invaded Saxony, forcing Augustus to yield the Polish throne to Leszczynski.



*Battle of Kliszow July 19, 1702*

Meanwhile Russia's Tsar Peter the Great had reformed his army, and dealt a crippling defeat to the Swedes at the Battle of Poltava. This spelled the end of the Swedish Empire and the rise of the Russian Empire.

## King of Poland for the second time



*Equestrian statue of August the Strong at Dresden*

The weakened Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth soon came to be regarded almost a protectorate of Russia. In 1709 Augustus II returned to the Polish throne under Russian auspices. Augustus died at Warsaw in 1733. Frederick Augustus II of Saxony, succeeded him to the Polish throne as Augustus III of Poland — although he had to be installed there by a Russian army in the War of the Polish Succession.

Augustus II was called "the Strong" for his bear-like physical strength and for his numerous offspring (only one of them his legitimate child and heir). August II's body was interred in Poland — all but his heart, which rests at Dresden's Katholische Hofkirche.



# Augustus III of Poland

**Augustus III**, known as *the Saxon* Polish: also **Prince-elector Friedrich August II** (Dresden, 17 October 1696 – 5 October 1763 in Dresden) was the Elector of Saxony in 1733-1763, as **Frederick Augustus II**, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania in 1734-1763.

*King of Poland*



Augustus was the only legitimate son of Augustus II the Strong, Imperial Prince-Elector of Saxony and monarch of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, by his wife, Christiane Eberhardine of Brandenburg-Bayreuth. He was groomed to succeed his father as King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, and thus in 1721, converted to Catholicism.

After his father's death, he inherited Saxony and was elected King of Poland, with the support of Russian and Austrian military forces in the War of the Polish Succession (1733-1738). During his 30-year reign, he spent less than a total of three years in Poland, where the struggle between the House of Czartoryski and the Potocki paralysed the Sejm (Liberum Veto), fostering internal political anarchy and further weakening the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. Augustus

III delegated most of his powers and responsibilities to Heinrich von Brühl, who became quasi-dictator of Poland.

The thirty years of Augustus III's reign saw the Seven Years' War (1754 and 1756–1763), and neighboring Prussia, Austria and Russia refining their plans to partition Poland, among them.

His eldest surviving son, Frederick Christian, eventually succeeded his father as Elector of Saxony, but not as King of Poland. It was Stanislaw August Poniatowski, who was elected King of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, after a coup d'état by the House of Czartoryski, supported by Russian troops on 7 September 1764.

## Marriage and children

In Dresden on 20 August 1719, Augustus (15932) married the Archduchess, Maria Josepha of Austria (15931), daughter of Joseph I, the Holy Roman Emperor. They had fifteen children.

- Frederick Christian Leopold Johann Georg Franz Xavier (b. Dresden, 5 September 1722 - d. Dresden, 17 December 1763), successor to his father as Elector of Saxony.
- Maria Josepha Karolina (15930) (b. Dresden, 4 November 1731 - d. Versailles, 13 March 1767); married on 9 February 1747 to Louis, Dauphin of France (15929) (1729–1765), son of Louis XV of France (she was the mother of Kings Louis XVI, Louis XVIII and Charles X) of France.

# Frederick Christian, Elector of Saxony

**Frederick Christian, Elector of Saxony** (b. Dresden, 5 September 1722 – d. Dresden, 17 December 1763) was the Prince-Elector of Saxony for less than three months in 1763. He was a member of the House of Wettin.



He was the third but eldest surviving son of Frederick Augustus II, Prince-Elector of Saxony and King of Poland, by his wife, Maria Josepha of Austria.

## Early life

A weak child since his birth, he suffered some paralysis in one foot and was dependent on wheelchairs early in life. In a well-known portrait, which shows his Wettin and Wittelsbach relatives around him, he appears in his wheelchair. Today, this painting is shown in the Schloss Nymphenburg. His mother tried repeatedly to induce him to take monastic vows and renounce his succession rights in favour of his younger brothers.

*Prince-Elector of Saxony and King of Poland*

The early deaths of his two older brothers, Frederick Augustus (1721), who was stillborn, and Joseph Augustus (1728), made him the heir to the throne. When his father died, on 5 October 1763, Frederick Christian succeeded him as Elector.

Even before then, however, Frederick Christian had written in his diary: "*Princes exist for their subjects, not subjects for their princes. His subjects' wealth, public credit and a well-standing army make up the true happiness of a prince,*" thereby openly declaring himself open to the ideas of the Age of Enlightenment. He was also known for his considerable musical talent.

After a reign of only 74 days, Frederick Christian died of smallpox. He was buried in the Hofkirche of Dresden.

In Munich on 13 June 1747 (by proxy) and again in Dresden on 20 June 1747 (in person), Frederick Christian married with Maria Antonia Walpurgis of Bavaria. Like him, she was exceptionally talented in music. They had nine children among them:

(b. Dresden, 23 December 1750 - d. Dresden, 5 May 1827), King Frederick Augustus I of Saxony (since 11 December 1806).



# Frederick Augustus I of Saxony

**Frederick Augustus I** (b. Dresden, 23 December 1750 - d. Dresden, 5 May 1827) was King of Saxony (1805-1827) from the House of Wettin. He was also Elector **Frederick Augustus III** of Saxony (1763-1806) and Duke **Frederick Augustus I** of Warsaw (1807-1813). The Augustusplatz in Leipzig is named after him.

*King of Saxony, Duke of Warsaw, King of Poland*



## Elector of Saxony and Designated King of Poland

### Family Background

He was the second (but eldest surviving) son of Frederick Christian, Elector of Saxony, and Maria Antonia Walpurgis of Bavaria, Princess of Bavaria. Because he was underage at the time of the death of his father in 1763, his mother served as Regent until 1768.

### Renunciation of the Polish Throne

In 1765 Prince Franz Xavier ceded the Polish throne to Stanisław August Poniatowski on behalf of the underage Elector. Frederick Augustus was named successor to Stanislaw, however, when a

Polish Constitution was ratified by the lower House (Sejm) of the Polish Parliament. At the same time, the head of the Saxon Royal House was established as heir to the Polish throne (Article VII of the Polish Constitution). Frederick Augustus declined to accept the crown upon Stanislaw's death in 1798, because he feared becoming entangled in disputes with Austria, Prussia and Russia, who had begun to partition Poland in 1772. As a matter of fact, a full partition of Poland among the neighboring powers of Austria, Prussia, and Russia had already taken place by 1795.

### Foreign policy up to the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire

In August of 1791, Frederick Augustus arranged a meeting with Holy Roman Emperor Leopold II and King Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia at Pillnitz Castle that was intended partly to offer support for the French monarchy in the face of revolutionary agitation in France. The Declaration of Pillnitz warned of the possibility of military action against the French revolutionary government, a provocation that provided it with grounds to declare war on Austria in April 1792. Frederick Augustus himself did not sign the Declaration.

## **Settlement of Saxon affairs at the Congress of Vienna**

At the deliberations of the Congress of Vienna in 1814 and 1815, Frederick Augustus' position was doomed by his country's difficult geographic position, the changing fortunes of war, a lack of assistance from Austria, and his own hesitant attitude. The Prussian-Russian alliance had never had an honorable intention in bringing Saxony into the anti-Napoleon alliance in the first place. Even before Prussia declared war on France on 17 March 1813, it had agreed to an alliance with Russia to the detriment of Saxony and Poland at Kalisz on 22 February: the Duchy of Poland would predominantly come under Russian rule, whereas Prussia would be compensated for relinquished Polish territories with the annexation of Saxon territory. Prussia's appetite for the economically and culturally more developed territories of Saxony originated in the old dream of annexation that Frederick II had developed in his political testament of 1752 and had already tried to realize in the Seven Years' War. It did not originate from any necessity to overcome Napoleonic rule in central Europe.

## **Acceptance of the post-war order of the Congress of Vienna**

Frederick Augustus delayed his agreement to the division of his country after he was released from a Prussian prison in February 1815. Since the King had no choice, he finally gave in, and on 18 May consented to the peace treaty laid before him by Prussia and Russia. With the signing of the treaty on 21 May 1815, 57% of Saxon territory and 42% of the Saxon population was turned over to Prussia.

On 22 May 1815 Frederick Augustus abdicated as ruler of the Duchy of Warsaw, whose territory was annexed mainly to Russia, but also partly to Prussia and Austria. In the area assigned to Russia, a Kingdom of Poland was created to join in a hereditary union with the Czars. The old royal city of Cracow no longer belonged to the new kingdom, and became a separate republic. The internal autonomy that it enjoyed at first was abolished in 1831 after the Polish Uprising.

## **Marriage and issue**

In Mannheim on 17 January 1769 (by proxy) and again in Dresden on 29 January 1769 (in person), Frederick Augustus married the Countess Palatine (*Pfalzgräfin*) Maria Amalia Augusta of Zweibrücken-Birkenfeld, sister of King Maximilian I of Bavaria. During their marriage, Amalia gave birth to four children, but only one daughter survived to adulthood.