

Mary of Hungary

The Queen and Her Court 1521–1531

Budapest History Museum, 30 September 2005 – 9 January 2006

Slovenská národná galéria, 2 February – 30 April 2006



Budapest, 2005

Contents

Preface

Studies:

ANDRAS KUBINYI	13
The Court of Queen Mary of Hungary and Politics between 1521 and 1526	
GÉZA PALFFY	27
New Dynasty, New Court, New Political Decision-Making: A Decisive Era in Hungary.	
The Decades following the Battle of Mohács 1526	
ISTVÁN FAZEKAS	41
Miklós Oláh, Secretary to Queen Mary of Hungary, 1526–1539	
ZOLTAN CSEPREGI	49
Court Priests in the Entourage of Queen Mary of Hungary	
VACLAV BŮŽEK	63
Strangers in Their Own Country. King Louis II (Jagiello)	
and Mary of Hungary's Stay in Bohemia at the Turn of 1522–1523	
KURT LÖCHER	69
Hans Krell – Court Painter to King Louis II of Hungary and his Consort, Mary of Hungary	
ÁRPAD MIKÓ	81
Illuminated Grants of Arms of King Louis II. Art Historical Questions	
Linked to a Specific Form of Heraldic Representation in the Hungary of the Late Jagiellon Period	
KÁROLY MAGYAR	97
" <i>Et... introivit ad Hungariam sola germanica ancilla nomine Maria...</i> "	
Mary of Hungary and Buda	
ORSOLYA RÉTHELYI	121
" <i>...Maria regina... nuda venerat ad Hungariam...</i> "	
The Queen's Treasures	
ZUZANNA LUDIKOVÁ	129
The Fate of Buda's Ecclesiastical Treasures	
JACQUELINE KERKHOFF	137
The Court of Mary of Hungary, 1531–1558	

Catalogue:

I The Family	153
II The Royal Palace of Buda, the Home of the Queen	169
III Art at the Court	189
IV Humanism, Reformation and Book Publishing in Buda	205
V Court and Politics	219
VI Mohács	239
VII The Years After Mohács	255
VIII Regent of the Low Countries	271
IX Mary of Hungary and Mohács, Nineteenth Century Portrait Replicas and Historical Painting	281
Bibliography and abbreviations	287
Appendix	306

Preface

For almost a decade special attention has been paid to the most illustrious Habsburg rulers in several European musea. The Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna organised two representative exhibitions, first in 2000 dedicated to the 500th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Charles V, then in 2003 to that of Ferdinand I, and splendid catalogues were published on both occasions. Prague commemorated Rudolph II in 1997 with several important exhibitions. The Netherlands honoured Mary of Hungary in 1993 with an exhibition on two sites (Utrecht and 's-Hertogenbosch). This year the Budapest History Museum (Hungary) and the Slovak National Gallery (Slovakia) are organising an international exhibition to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Mary of Hungary (1505–1558), queen consort to the Hungarian–Bohemian King Louis II.

The grandchildren of Emperor Maximilian I, the children of Philip the Fair and Joanna of Castile played an important role in the sixteenth-century history of Europe. Emperor Charles V founded an empire of unique dimensions, a part of which – the „Hereditary Provinces“ of the Habsburgs in Central Europe – he entrusted to his younger brother Ferdinand. In absence of the Emperor Ferdinand acted as deputy for his mighty brother in the Roman Empire as well. Both brothers played a decisive role in the fate of Mary, although she had closer emotional ties with Charles.

Queen Mary, the wife of King Louis II is a controversial personality in Hungarian historiography. It is however undisputable that from 1523 she resolutely aimed to strengthen the royal power in Hungary. After the defeat at Mohács in 1526, she became regent of the Low Countries between 1531 and 1556. Industry and commerce intensively developed under her rule, ensuring high tax incomes, and the prospering of the country. The extraordinary political, financial and military talents of Mary flourished in the Netherlands. She followed the orders of Emperor Charles V, but never forgot the interests of the provinces ruled by her. Her aim to fortify her country was certainly influenced by the experience of the years in Hungary. She was an extraordinary, talented woman, with a vein for strategic thinking and strong physical endurance.

The personality of the Mary of Hungary, her progress in life and political career leading her across geographic and national boundaries, as well as her family network throughout the whole Continent is undoubtedly of great interest for all Europeans and especially for the Hungarian public. Her exceptional fate – as a woman and queen – as well as the role she played in a decisive, dramatic period of the history of the Hungarian Kingdom can count on the interest of both the Visitor of the exhibition and the Reader of this catalogue.

The main subjects touched upon in the exhibition include the themes of royal residence, artists active at the court, court humanism, the queen's relationship with Martin Luther and ideas of the early Reformation, the sacred and secular music of the early 16th century and the historical and artistic reception of Queen Mary and Louis II in later ages. Due to the exhibition site and the nature of the objects the exhibition focuses on the years that Mary of Hungary spent in the Central-European Region (1514–1531). Thus it can be regarded a counterpart to the Mary of Hungary exhibition of 1993 in the Netherlands, which dealt chiefly with the latter part of her life. The countries participating in the organisation are connected by the figure of Queen Mary, which is interpreted and presented in the exhibition as the result of the cooperation.

In Budapest the exhibited objects are presented in their cultural historical context, while in Bratislava an art historical perspective dominates. The material of Hungarian and Slovak institutions was supplemented with artefacts from Austrian, German, English and Czech museums, galleries, ecclesiastic and private collections. We owe special thanks to the Hungarian National Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, the National Széchényi Library and the National Archives, which contributed to the success of our exhibition with a great number of objects and documents.

Dr. Sándor Bodó Director General