



BONA SFORZA D'ARGONA

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THE MOST INPORTANT INFORMATION

Bona Sforza was born on 2 February 1494. She died 19 November 1557. She was a member of the powerful Milanese House of Sforza. In 1518, she became the second wife of Sigismund I called the Old, the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, and became the Queen of Poland and Grand Duchess of Lithuania.

Bona was born into the powerful and wealthy Italian Sforza dynasty who ruled Milan since 1447. Although her father belonged to the authority of the Duchy of Milan, he was ousted by his uncle Ludovico Sforza, known to history as "Il Moro". He exercised power on behalf of the young prince, until his death in 1494 at the castle in Pavia. Shortly afterwards, the Princess Isabella, together with her daughters, went to Bari



EARLY YEARS

In her youth, Bona obtained a good education. Her teacher was Crisostomo Colonna, a member of the Academy of Pont, who supervised her education along with Antonio Galateo. She received profound education in history, law, administration and theology. She was gifted, economic, and she also had the ability to influence people. She demonstrated this skill in all her activities.

QUEEN OF POLAND

Almost from the beginning of her life in Poland, Queen Bona tried to gain a strong political position. She began to form her own position and also benefited from the support of the king. She was also supported by Piotr Kmita Sobieński, Andrew Ladislaus and Piotr Gamrat, taking them to her offices and creating the so-called Triumvirate. She also managed to get Pope Leo X to decide on the appointment of fifteen ecclesiastical nominees of very high importance (e.g. in Kraków, Gniezno, Poznań, Włocławek and Frombork).

Bona came out of the belief that one of the most important things needed for the effective implementation of policies and plans for strengthening royal authority is access to appropriate high finance. Therefore she set herself the objective of magnification and the assembly domain of dynastic wealth as much as possible, which would give the Jagiellonian family financial independence. The family gained numerous estates in Lithuania, and finally in 1536-1546 they took over the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. This generated huge profits.

SIGISMUND AUGUST- SON

Sigismund II Augustus was born on 1 August 1520. He died 7 July 1572

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LATER LIFE AND WIDOWHOOD

In 1539 Bona Sforza had presided, reluctantly, over the burning of 80-year old Katarzyna Weiglowa for heresy, but this event ushered in an era of tolerance, and her confessor Francesco Lismanino assisted in the establishment of a Calvinist Academy in Pińczów.

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On the 1 April 1548, Sigismund I the Old died, leaving Bona a widow. Their son succeeded him.

After the death of the King, Bona moved to Masovia and stayed there for eight years. Then she moved back to her native Bari.



THE END

