

# THE MILITARY ORDERS AND WOMEN: DONATORS – AFFILIATES – SISTERS – SAINTS

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## Queen Euphrosyne and Princess Elisabeth: Hospitaller *consorores* or *donate* in the 12th century?

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Development and Heritage of the Military  
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# Hospitaller settling down in Hungary

- Second Crusade (1147–1149) – unfounded ideas
- *ante* and *post quem* of the 1st donation: 1157–87, 1176–87
- initiatives: King Géza II (1142–1162), Archbishop Martirius (1151–1157), Queen Euphrosyne (b. c.1130–1193?)

[1193] *Martirius uir honestatis eximie, Strigoniensis ecclesie archiepiscopus primos in prefata **ecclesia lapides posuit**, et eam fere ad medietatem usque perduxit, sed morte preventus, consummare non potuit. Tandem **domina mater nostra** instictu diuine inspirationis accensa, pro remedio anime sue et pro anima mariti sui patris nostri pie memorie regis Geÿssa, et pro salute nostra, prefatum **monasterium** opere desiderato **compleuit**, et uariis possessionibus copiosus dotatum ac ditatum ob religionem et honestatem ipsius domui hospitalis perpetuis temporibus contulit possidendum*

- recent re-consideration (Zsoldos 2019): donation of (the widowed) Euphrosyne: 1162–1172

## Regional context: early donations/support

Strong dynastic support in Central Europe

Hungary (Árpád dynasty)

**1166** – private donation (by Wid, son of Dobica) confirmed by King Stephen III (1162–1172) of Hungary

Donation of Prince Béla in 1169/70

Bohemia (Přemysl dynasty)

Wladislas II (1158–1172) – donation to the Hospitallers around

**1169** (Prague, Manětín) – reference to the Second Crusade

Prince Frederick (1172–73, 1178–89) – **Princess Elisabeth**

Bishop Henry of Prague (1182–1197)

## Internal politics – Cherchez la femme

Stephen III and the influential widow, the Mother Queen –  
under ecclesiastical ban – papal legate Manfred around 1169

Prince Alexios and Emperor Manuel I – a prospective *kaisar*

Premature death of Stephen (1172) – the unexpected succession  
of King Béla (1172–1196) – what to do with Prince Géza?

The ungrateful son – imprisonment of Géza (1174/1177) and  
Euphrosyne (1175/87?) – *Annales Posonienses* (misleading  
chronology)

The re-constructed chronology: Euphrosyne exiled after 1176

# Prince Frederick and Elisabeth

1183 *Dedi ergo ei ecclesiam, **cum consensu et petitione uxoris mee**, quam ipsa inter Pragam et Wisegrad in honore beati Johannis Ewangeliste edificaverat*

1184 *Ecclesiam quoque beati Johannis evangeliste, in loco qui dicitur Boissei a duce Friderico et ejus **uxore ducissa Elisabeth** constructam*

1185 confirmation of the 1183 donation -- *Hujus facti **testes qui erant presentes hii sunt: Elisabeth, ducissa***

1186 *Ego Fridericus, Dei gracia dux Boemorum, [...] Ego autem animo revolvens quam affectuose pater meus [Wladislas II] prefatum Hospitale a principio sui principatus dilexerit, cui et multiplices elemosynas diversis temporibus contulit, simulque non sine cordis dolore retractans oppressionem, quam pagani nuperrime terre Jerosolimitane intulerant, ad subveniendum tante necessitati, **consilio uxoris mee ducisse Elisabeth,***

1186 ***ego Elisabeth, ducis Bohemie Friderici uxor**, sequens vestigia Eufrosine, matris mee, que domum Hospitalis Jerosolimitani **semper dilexit et promovit, in qua et habitum religionis postmodum suscepit**, eandem domum amare et amplificare **pro modulo meo cepi***

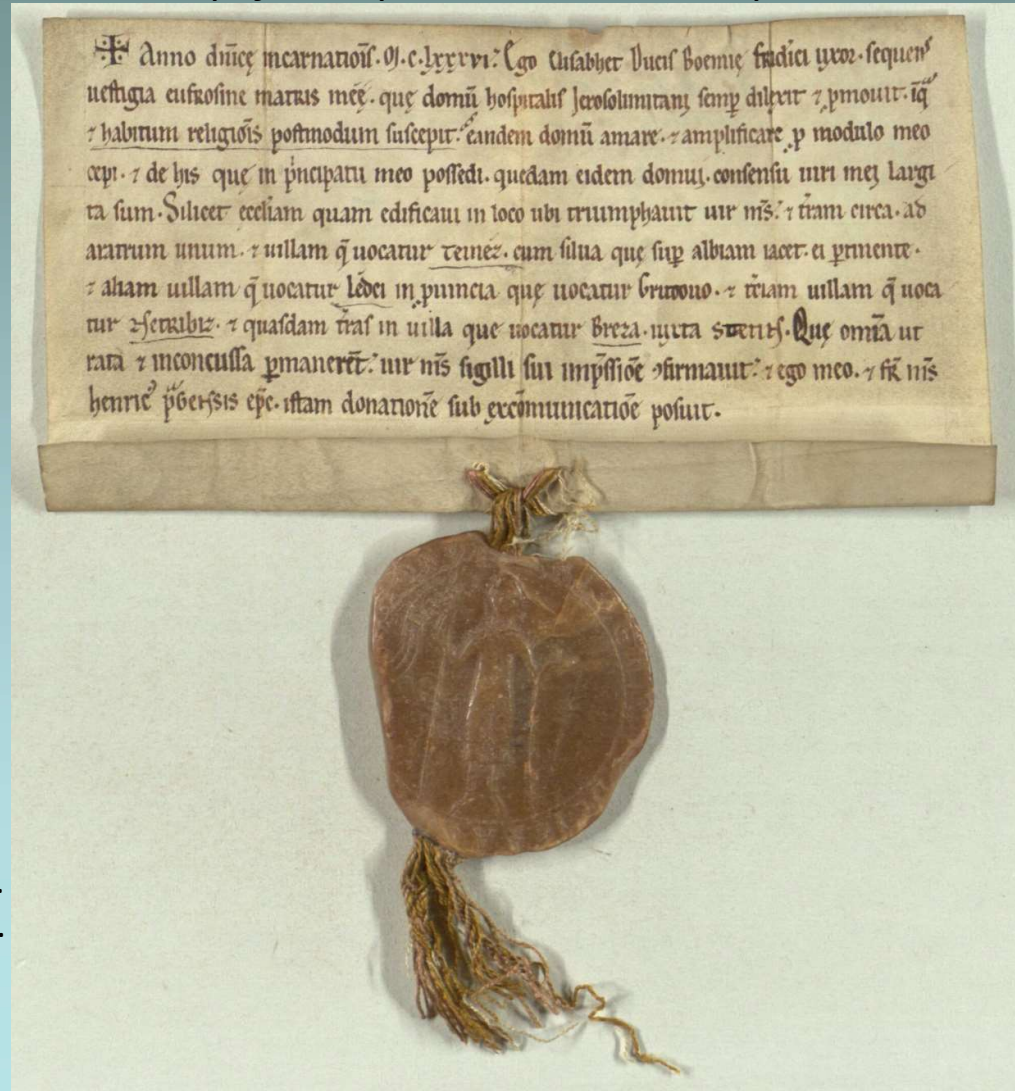
1188 *ego Fridericus, Dei gracia dux Boemorum, rogatu et voluntate domine **Elisabeth ducisse, conjugis mee**, do Hospitali Jherosolimitano sancti Joliannis*

# Mother and daughter

[1186] *sequens vestigia Eufrosine, matris mee, que domum Hospitalis Jerosolimitani semper dilexit et promovit, in qua et habitum religionis postmodum suscepit, eandem domum amare et amplificare pro modulo meo cepi*

Whose (or what sort of)  
traces followed  
Elisabeth?

Prague, Arch. du gr-pr.  
de Bohême, A. XXI. no.



## ***Consortores et donate***

*Confrat/sorores* – donations, gifts on a regular basis – did not enter the Order – were provided the habit of the Order upon their death (and funeral in the cemetery of the Order)

*Donati/e* – one principal donation during lifetime – right to join the Order by the choice of the donor (both the moment and the house)

How rigid the distinction? – from the 12th to the 13th century

Euphrosyne as *donata*? – „*semper dilexit et promovit*” --> (1) ***monasterium opere desiderato complevit, et*** (2) *uariis possessionibus ... contulit possidendum*

# When and where Euphrosyne joined the Order?

The identification of the date of the donation of Euphrosyne as  
as a *post quem*

Post-1149 – several scholars \* 1157–87 – Hunyadi and others  
1176–87 – Hunyadi \* 1162–72 – Zsoldos \* **around 1176**

Where?

Widely accepted story – exile after 1187 → Byzantium →  
Constantinople → Jerusalem (took the habit of the Order) →  
death (c.1193) – *elevatio* and *translatio* of her body to the  
Székesfehérvár (H) Hospitaller commandery (before 1272)

Problem: contamination of the story two Euphrosynes → cf. The  
*vita* of Euphrosyne of Polotsk (c.1110–c.1173)



## Conclusions (further questions)

Re-dating the principal donation of Euphrosyne (to c.1176)

Re-dating the exile of Euphrosyne (c.1176–1182)

Re-examining the status/role of Euphrosyne (*consoror/donata*)

Refuting the Jerusalem „story” – and providing an alternative answer to the question where Euphrosyne entered the Order?

*1272 ecclesiam sancti regis, que est extra muros castri Albensis, in qua corpus regine Euphrosine matris inclyti regis Bele felicis recordationis intumulatum est* – burial at Székesfehérvár

Székesfehérvár Hosp. commandery: French brethren? → in Bohemia locals already joined the Order → Elisabeth's role → female convents in Bohemia