

# N. N. [Names Unknown] Vladimirovna

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Nothing is really known about this Vladimirovna. The name given her by scholars studying the time period is Premislava, but that is most likely a creation of the modern period as it does not exist in any primary sources.<sup>1</sup> What is recorded is that a Vladimirovna married Ladislaus of Hungary.<sup>2</sup> Ladislaus was the first cousin of King Stephen of Hungary (997–1038, king from 1000), and a direct descendant of Árpád, the semilegendary founder of the Hungarian royal house. The noble birth of both participants ensures that this was a dynastic marriage, even though no records exist to explain the circumstances or agreement. Vladimir did attempt to improve the foreign policy position of Rus' by using dynastic marriage, so it seems likely that this marriage to a member of the Hungarian royal house would have furthered that goal. In fact, at the end of 996 the *PVL* records that Vladimir lived in peace with neighboring princes, including Stephen of Hungary.<sup>3</sup> This record may be a remembrance of the tie made between Rus' and Hungary by the marriage of this Vladimirovna and Ladislaus, a marriage that would have assured closer relations between the two kingdoms.<sup>4</sup>

Ladislaus and Vladimir's daughter were the historical heirs of the Árpád dynasty until its extinction. She bore three sons, Andrew, Béla, and Levente.<sup>5</sup> Andrew played on his familial relations and went to Rus' in search of aid when he was in exile from Hungary. While there he found a bride for himself as well, increasing the closeness of ties between the Riurikids and the Árpáds in the early eleventh century.

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<sup>1</sup> Baumgarten, "Généalogies," 7, table I; and Mór Wertner, *Az Árpádok családi története* (Nagy: 1892), 112–13. Both record the name.

<sup>2</sup> Dezso Dercesnyi, ed., *The Hungarian Illuminated Chronicle - Chronica de gestis Hungarorum*, (Budapest: Corvina Press, 1969), 113. Though there is dispute in the historiography over whether she married him or his brother Vazul, most scholars believe it was Ladislaus as the chronicle records state. See note 171 for an alternate opinion.

<sup>3</sup> *PSRL 1*, 126, where Stephen is lumped in with other "kniazia." The marriage is never dated, but it most likely occurred in the 1010s before Vladimir's death, due to the probable birth dates of their children.

<sup>4</sup> O. M. Rapov also theorizes that relations between Rus' and Hungary were close beginning in the late tenth and early eleventh century. O. M. Rapov, "Vneshniaia politika Vladimira Velikogo posle ofitsial'nogo priniatiia rus'iu khristianstva," in *Vostochnaia Evropa v drevnosti i srednevekov'e*, ed. V. T. Pashuto (Moscow: RAN, 1994), 35.

<sup>5</sup> Dercesnyi, ed., *Chronica de gestis Hungarorum*, 100, 113.