HERALDIC AND GENEALOGICAL HERITAGE OF THE COUNTS OF CILLI

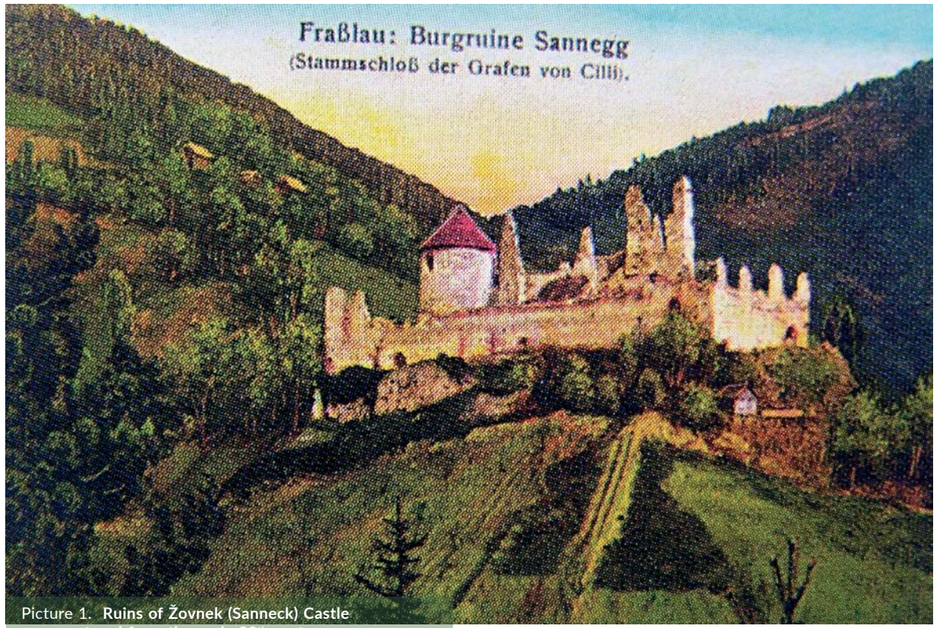
Dr Miha Preinfalk* (Slovenia)

"The Counts of Cilli today and never more." These words accompanied the funeral of Ulrich II, the last Count of Cilli, which took place at the Minorite monastery in Cilli in December 1456, a month following his assassination in Belgrade.[1] The death and funeral of Ulrich II forever changed the history of what is the territory of modern Slovenia and set it on a completely new path.

The Counts of Cilli were a noble family and deemed one of the most important lineages in Slovenian history. Although they became extinct before the end of the Middle Ages, their memory continues to thrive in Slovenia even today. This is especially true for the city of Celje – once Cilli, the seat of their former estate – where, among other things, their medieval castle still stands on the hill above the city and their slightly more recent mansion in the city center.[2]

The Counts of Cilli are also considered to have been one of the most Slovenian noble families. In the mid-nineteenth century, a public discourse developed in the Slovenian milieu and has persisted to this day, according to which all historical nobility in Slovenian territory was of foreign descent and therefore non-Slovenian. "Slovenianhood" was only attributed to very few exceptions, including the Counts of Cilli. So, what makes the Cillis stand out above all others? There are several factors, most notably the following three: first, their lineage originated in the territory of modern Slovenia, likely descending from the ancient Slavic nobility. Second, the Cillis' expansionist policy mainly centered on Slovenian territory as well as regions south and east of modern Slovenia – Croatia, Bosnia, and Hungary. By the mid-fifteenth century, they had managed to accumulate a vast portion of present-day Slovenian territory under their rule. And third, their struggle with the Habsburgs for dominance over the wider region between the Alps and the Adriatic already placed them on the pedestal of Slovenian national heroes during the period of national awakening in the nineteenth century; this sentiment was further reinforced after 1918, when the disintegration of the Habsburg Monarchy sparked aversion among the Slovenians toward all matters concerning the House of Habsburg.

The history of the Counts of Cilli is diverse and turbulent, punctuated by many ups and downs. Their keen and pragmatic, at times downright aggressive and uncompromising policy earned them power and glory; it catapulted them to the very pinnacles of European dynastic policy until their luck ultimately ran out and allotted them a fate that befell all too many other noble families: lack of male issue and inevitable extinction. Because a thorough presentation of the history of the Counts of Cilli would go well beyond the scope of this paper, let us focus on a few essential details about the family and the milestones that marked its history.



Picture 1. **Ruins of Žovnek (Sanneck) Castle** on a postcard from the early 20th century

The first reliable mentions of the Cillis can be traced back to as early as the twelfth century, when they still bore the name Sanneck after their original castle (modern Žovnek) situated about sixty kilometers east of Ljubljana (Picture 1). The Sannecks were initially free lords, which in the feudal environment signified that they were in vassalage to no one. In other words, they were directly subservient only to the king himself. During that period, several other free noble families lived in Slovenian territory (e.g., the houses of Spanheim, Andechs, Ottokar (Traungau), Eppenstein, etc.), all having become extinct before the end of the Middle Ages. The void that they left behind was filled by the advancing Habsburgs, who, serving as territorial princes, gained dominance over one territory after another: apart from Austria, they also acquired control of Styria, Carinthia, and Carniola.[3] The Sannecks, whose original estate extended within the boundaries of Styria, soon realized that insisting on the status of free lordship would not bring them the desired long-term advantage and pragmatically surrendered to the Habsburgs. In 1308, they thus ceded their entire freehold and received it back in fief,[4] thereby effectively becoming the vassals of the House of Habsburg. Even though they forfeited their rank as free lords, the Sannecks reaped benefits in other ways. The Habsburgs granted them numerous fiefs and integrated them into their territorial administration, where they filled the most influential and lucrative posts: the Sannecks and later Cillis, for example, served as Carniolan territorial governors for almost an entire century.[5]

The Sannecks further expanded their estates by pursuing a shrewd marriage policy. One of the most important kinship ties was established with the Carinthian Lords of Heunburg (Slo. Vovbre), which was especially rewarding after 1322, following the extinction of the Heunburg family. The Sannecks inherited their entire estate, including the market town (and later town) of Cilli, after which they subsequently named themselves.[6]

Once they came into possession of the Heunburg estate, the Sannecks were raised to the rank of counts in 1341 by Louis the Bavarian, Holy Roman Emperor. Thenceforth, they renounced the name Sanneck and

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1 Peter Štih, "Celjski grofje, vprašanje njihove deželnoknežje oblasti in dežele Celjske," in Vincenc Rajšp (ed.), *Grafenauerjev zbornik* (Ljubljana: ZRC SAZU, 1996), 244.

2 There is a very extensive literature on the Counts of Cilli. One of the most up-to-date and concise surveys of their history with a list of the most relevant literature is the entry "Celjski," written by Miha Kosi for *Novi Slovenski biografski leksikon* (Ljubljana: Založba ZRC, 2022), 83–98; also accessible at: www.slovenska-biografija.si/rodbina/sbi1023780/).

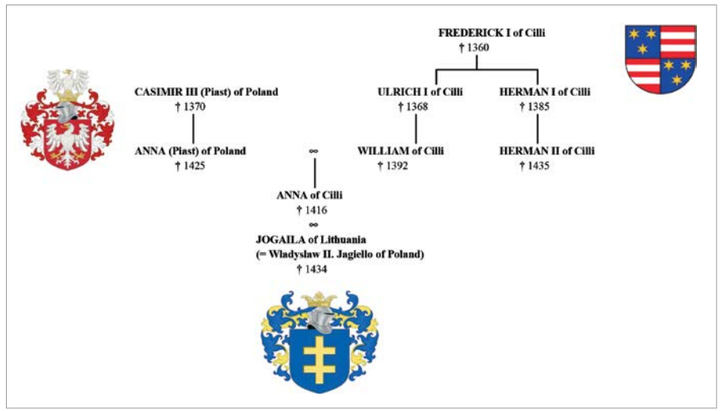
3 Rolanda Fugger Germadnik, *Grofje Celjski med zgodovino in mitom* (Celje: Zgodovinsko društvo Celje, 2013), 7–9.

4 Štih, "Celjski grofje," 230.

5 Franjo Baš, "Celjski grofje in njihova doba," in *Celjski zbornik* (Celje: Kulturna skupnost občine, 1951), 11.

6 Štih, "Celjski grofje," 231–233.

Table 1. **Connections between the House of Cilli and the Piast and Jagiellonian dynasties**



branded themselves as Counts of Cilli. Although barely seven years later (1348), Louis's successor, Charles of Luxembourg, revoked their elevation to counts, he personally granted them the title again in 1372.[7]

The emperor's 'capriciousness' was of no major consequence for the Cillis, given that by the second half of the fourteenth century, they had already become one of the most powerful families in the central European region. This was also reflected in their kinship ties extending to the Liechtenstein, Schaunberg, and Walsee families, and as far as the House of Kotromanić, the bans of Bosnia. The latter brought them very close to the Lithuanian and Polish thrones. On his death in 1370, Casimir III the Great, King of Poland and the last member of the Piast dynasty, was succeeded by his nephew, Louis of Anjou, already King of Hungary. To also secure his claim to the Polish throne and rid himself of any possible rivals, Louis decided to marry Casimir's daughters (hence, his cousins) as far away from Poland as possible. He found a groom for his cousin Anna in the extended family of his wife, Elizabeth Kotromanić. Elizabeth's sister, Louis's sister-in-law, Catherine Kotromanić was married into the Cilli family; in 1380, Louis therefore decided on Catherine's nephew, William of Cilli, to become Anna's husband.[8] During the next generation, the Cillis inched their way even closer to the Polish throne. In 1402, Anna of Cilli, the sole daughter of William of Cilli and Anna Piast, became the second wife of Jogaila, Grand Duke of Lithuania, who was crowned King of Poland under the name Władysław II. Through this marriage, Anna of Cilli became Queen of Poland (table 1).[9]

The Cillis remained loyal vassals to the Habsburgs until the end of the fourteenth century, when they gradually began to direct their allegiance toward the Luxembourg dynasty. The shift sparked the first Cilli–Habsburg tensions, which ultimately grew into a full-blown conflict. Particularly consequential was the connection between Hermann II of Cilli and Sigismund of Luxembourg, King of Hungary, Bohemia, and Germany. In the Battle of Nicopolis in 1396, Hermann saved Sigismund's life and later offered him the hand of his daughter Barbara in marriage, thus making himself the king's father-in-law. Sigismund unwaveringly supported the Cillis in attaining their ambitions. He awarded them high positions and vast properties, especially in Croatia and Hungary, which ultimately proved fatal for the House of Cilli.[10]

At the zenith of their power in the first half of the fifteenth century, the Cillis owned more than 125 castles in the wider Danube region, which put them on a par with the Habsburgs themselves.[11] Their next step was to gain independence from Habsburg rule. In 1423, the Cillis gave back to the Habsburgs the fourteen seigniories they held in pledge, and they in turn annulled the charter from 1308 on appointing the Sannecks as Habsburg vassals. Even though this legal maneuver somewhat diminished their land possessions, it allowed them to rid themselves of overlordship and reclaim their personal freedom.[12] Meanwhile, Sigismund became Holy Roman Emperor in 1433[13] and proved of further pivotal assistance to the Cillis by making them Princes of the Holy Roman Empire in 1435.[14] The Cilli estates began to separate from the fully formed territories of Carniola, Carinthia, and Styria, as a new entity was coming into existence: Cilli territory, which gradually obtained the status of imperial immediacy. Due to the Cilli expansionist policy, the southern Habsburg territories found themselves under the threat of complete disintegration.[15]

The Habsburgs, serving as territorial princes in the above-mentioned regions, found such developments unacceptable. After Sigismund's death in 1437, a feud broke out between the Cillis and the Habsburgs that dragged on for years with changing fortunes. In the end, luck sided with the Habsburgs, who emerged victorious from the feud in 1443. This was mainly owed to the fact that Frederick of Habsburg, the Cillis' most formidable opponent, was elected and crowned King of Germany in 1440,[16] which significantly fortified his position in the conflict. The feud was ultimately settled with a mutual inheritance agreement, according to which, in the event that the Habsburgs became extinct, the Cillis would be allowed to retain some of their estates or, in the event of the Cillis' extinction, the Habsburgs would inherit their entire estates.[17] This came to pass a little over a decade later, when Ulrich II, the last Count of Cilli, was assassinated in Belgrade in November 1456 and the Habsburgs took possession of the entire Cilli inheritance over the following years.[18]

In the mid-fifteenth century, the Cilli family became extinct, but their legacy continues to this day, including their coat of arms and (to some extent) genetic material.



Picture 2–4. **The coat of arms of the Counts of Cilli is marshalled from the arms of the Lords of Sanneck and from the arms of the Lords of Heunburg**
Drawings: Aleksander Hribovšek

THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE COUNTS OF CILLI

The original coat of arms of the Counts of Cilli dates to the period when they still went by the name Sanneck. The earliest preserved depiction of the coat of arms used by the House of Sanneck is found on an unspecified seal from 1228, with the heraldic shield featuring a single fess. Before long, the Sanneck seals began to display a heraldic shield with two bars, which was also the image of the Sanneck arms that ultimately established itself.[19] The seals, of course, do not display tinctures, and there are no known direct depictions of the Sanneck coat of arms that might reveal something about their tinctures as well. Based on subsequent descriptions and color depictions, it is now known that the heraldic shield used by the Sannecks was gules two bars argent.

The coat of arms of the Lords of Sanneck underwent significant changes during the fourteenth century. When the House of Heunburg became extinct in 1322, the Sannecks inherited not only their estates but also the Heunburg coat of arms that was azure three mullets or (2:1). After they were raised to the rank of counts for the first time in 1341, they almost entirely abandoned their own coat of arms and opted instead to use that of the Heunburgs. Toward the end of the fourteenth century, however, the Sannecks apparently took to using a marshalled (quartered) coat of arms of the Sanneck and Heunburg families, which also became

7 Ibid.
8 Peter Štih, "Ulrik II. Celjski in Ladislav Posmrtni ali Celjski grofje v ringu velike politike," in Igor Grdina and Peter Štih (eds.), *Spomini Helene Kottaner* (Ljubljana: Nova revija, 1999), 11–13.
9 On the connections between the Cilli and Piast families and especially on Anna of Cilli, see above all: Maja Lukanc and Rolanda Fugger Germadnik, *Ana Celjska: [celjska grofica na poljskem prestolu] = Anna Cylejska: [cylejska hrabianka na polskim tronie]* (Celje: Pokrajinski muzej Celje, 2016). See also: Štih, "Celjski grofje," 235.
10 Štih, "Celjski grofje," 236.
11 Miha Kosi, "Grajska politika – primer grofov Celjskih," *Kronika 60/3, Iz zgodovine slovenskih gradov* (Ljubljana: Zveza zgodovinskih društev Slovenije, 2012), 465–494.
12 Štih, "Celjski grofje," 240–242.
13 Gerhard Hartmann and Karl Schnith (eds.), *Die Kaiser. 1200 Jahre europäische Geschichte* (Wiesbaden: Marix-Verl, 2006), 449–457.
14 Štih: "Celjski grofje," 242–244.
15 On the establishment of the Cilli territorial princely rule, see Štih, "Celjski grofje," 227–254.
16 Hartmann and Schnith (eds.), *Die Kaiser*, 470–476.
17 Štih, "Celjski grofje," 246–250
18 Štih, "Ulrik II. Celjski," 41–45.
19 Katja Mahnič, "Seals of the House of Seuneg and Cilli. A Manifestation of a Noble Family's Political Ambitions," in Maja Lozar Štamcar (ed.), *Objects as Manifestations of Taste, Prestige and Power* (Ljubljana: Narodni muzej Slovenije, 2009), 45. Dušan Kos, "Diplomatični diskurz o vzponu Žovneških gospodov," in Darja Mihelič (ed.), *Gestrinov zbornik* (Ljubljana: Založba ZRC, 1999), 156–157.

the official heraldic emblem of the Counts of Cilli (Picture 2–4).[20]

The oldest known description of the Sanneck–Heunburg (Cilli) coat of arms was given by the medieval poet Peter Suchenwirt in the 1360s. His 16th poem, dedicated to Ulrich I of Cilli, also contains the description of his coat of arms, specifically, of both shields and the mantling: *Der schilt der glestet reicher art / In rechter roet, als ein rubein, Dar inne zwo vasch von perla vein / In parr weys gestrechet / In rechter mazz volrechet. / Der ander schilt ist auserchorn / Von Hewunburch an in geporn, Lasur pla nach himel var, Darin drey stern von golde chlar / Gen yedem ort geyt ayner glitz, / Der dritt gesenchet gen dem spitz: Der schilt erglestet reicher art! / Auf seinem helm er nie gespart / Von h a n n e v e d e r n einen chwast / Nach zobel var, der mynne last / In rurt, wann er in furt zu danch, Dar inn ein strauzzen veder planch / Gar haermel weiz gestekhet: / Die in vrewden reckhet, / Di hat nu laider sich gepogen! / Schilt und helm ist gar versmogen / In chlagender varbe schwue*.[21]



Picture 5. **Imperial Eagle with the Austrian coat of arms and the Cilli coat of arms from 1466 in Celje.** Photo: Aleksander Hribovšek

Apart from estates (e.g., in Croatia and Carinthia), the Cillis also accumulated coats of arms, which were primarily displayed on their seals. The seals of Frederick II of Cilli and his son Ulrich II from the 1440s and 1450s (hence, following their elevation to the rank of princes) display the central Cilli coat of arms along with two others: the coat of arms with the wings of the Lords of Ortenburg, whose estate they inherited in 1418,[22] and the coat of arms with lion heads, which represented all Croatian territories at the time; with respect to the Cillis, it symbolized their Croatian county of Zagorje, which they were granted from King Sigismund in the early fifteenth century.[23] Nonetheless, for the sake of simplification, only a shield azure with three mullets or began to feature in various representations, which was essentially the Heunburg coat of arms as well as heraldically more distinct from the one displaying two bars. Such a coat of arms is also encountered on numerous depictions preserved both from when the Cillis were still alive and from after they had become extinct.

In the second half of the fifteenth century, the arms of the Counts of Cilli were adopted by the Habsburgs as their main heirs. Rather than being based on kinship, this takeover symbolized the newly acquired Cilli estates (Ger. *Erbschaftswappen*). Frederick III, Holy Roman Emperor, had the Cilli arms depicted alongside his own on several occasions soon after taking possession of the counts' inheritance. Having been their fiercest opponent, he went to great lengths to demonstrate his definitive triumph over the Cillis (thus using their coat of arms as a trophy). In 1466, as the carved inscription implies, Frederick thus ordered, a combined Austria–Cilli coat of arms to be displayed on the chest of the double-headed imperial eagle in the town of Cilli/Celje itself. The heraldic emblem has been preserved to date (Picture 5). The Cilli coat of arms is also displayed on the emperor's tomb in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna (Picture 6).

The subsequent generations of the Habsburgs continued to regularly feature the Cilli coat of arms in the symbolic (heraldic) depictions of their territories, and a few even incorporated it into their personal arms, e. g., Archduke Charles II († 1590) as the ruler of Inner Austria (and therefore also of the former Cilli estates) and his son, Emperor Ferdinand II († 1637).[24] Such depictions can be traced back to about the seventeenth century. After that, the memory of the Cillis and their estates began to fade, while other territories gained prominence, which was also reflected in heraldry.

The Cilli three-mullet arms were regularly incorporated in imperial quaternions.[25] These were schematic

[20] Mahnič: "Seals," 54–55; Katja Žvanut, *Pečati grofov Celjskih* (Ljubljana: Narodni muzej Slovenije, 2001), 33; Michael Göbl: *Wappen-Lexikon der habsburgischen Länder* (Schleinbach: Winkler-Hermaden, 2013), 56.
[21] Alois Primisser, *Peter Suchenwirt's Werke aus dem vierzehnten Jahrhunderte: ein Beytrag zur Zeit- und Sittengeschichte* (Vienna 1827), 53, lines 192–213.
[22] Christian Lackner, "Zur Geschichte der Grafen von Ortenburg in Kärnten und Krain," *Carinthia* I 181 (Klagenfurt: Verlag des Geschichtsvereines für Kärnten, 1991), 181–201.
[23] Mahnič, "Seals," 62–63.
[24] Franz Gall, *Österreichische Wappenkunde* (Vienna: Böhlau Verlag, 1996), 128.

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Picture 6. **The tomb of Emperor Frederick III in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna with the coats of arms of Sanneck, Cilli, Ortenburg, Sternberg, and Seger (Zagorje)** Photo: Miha Kosi

depictions of the Holy Roman Empire, presenting the entire society, from the emperor at the top to peasantry at the bottom. Each quaternion contained four (hence the name 'quaternion') representatives of every social rank, from dukes and princes to counts, barons, knights, and, finally, representatives of towns, villages, and peasants. Quaternions were often rendered in the shape of an (imperial) eagle and the categories as its feathers (Picture 7).

Until the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire at the beginning of the nineteenth century, an important part in the quaternion system was also played by the Counts of Cilli, in spite of having already died out (i.e., physically disappeared) in the mid-fifteenth century. In the category of counts, the Cillis always figured as one of the four representatives with their heraldic shield azure and three mullets or. Their symbolic presence was linked to their ties with the Luxembourg dynasty, which occupied the imperial throne from the mid-fourteenth century to the end of the first third of the fifteenth century. The system of quaternions was established by Sigismund of Luxembourg in the early fifteenth century; his close political and family ties with Hermann II of Cilli also explain why the Cillis became a permanent feature in the quaternion iconography.

The Cilli coat of arms has been preserved in other forms as well. In the mid-fifteenth century, it started to be used by the market town of Cilli as the center of their estate, elevated to the rank of town in 1451, shortly before their extinction. The same coat of arms remains in use today by the modern city of Celje (Picture 8).[26]

The Cilli coat of arms also played a significant part in the evolving Slovenian statehood. The first such occasion came immediately after the First World War, when Austria–Hungary disintegrated, and the Slovenes found themselves in the newly created Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The new state government

[25] On the connection between the quaternaries and the arms of the Counts of Cilli, see: Tomislav Vignjević, *Shema kvaternijev in Celjski grofje: politična ikonografija na prehodu v zgodnji novi vek* (Celje: Pokrajinski muzej Celje, 2024).
[26] Aleksander Hribovšek, *Celjske zvezde Slovenije* (https://grboslovje.si/novice/2023_11_22_0002.php).



Picture 7. **Hans Burgkmaier: Quaternion Eagle with the coat of arms of the Counts of Cilli, abt. 1510** Wikipedia

sought to come up with a design for a coat of arms that would represent all three nations in the kingdom. They decided on a red shield with the double-headed eagle argent of the Karađorđević dynasty as the basis and added a heart-shaped escutcheon divided into three parts to represent the three founding nations of the newly created state. While the solution was readily available for both the Serbs and Croats, who already had their symbols (a cross and a chequerboard gules-argent, respectively), the same was not the case with the Slovenes, who until then had no common symbol. The first possible option was the eagle azure of the former province of Carniola, which was chosen for the kingdom's coat of arms and was ultimately only featured on the royal standard of the king. The second option included a mullet above a crescent argent symbolizing the Illyrian movement. In 1921, the decision was finally made on the three mullets of the Counts of Cilli, who had by then obtained the non-formal status of Slovenian noblemen and drivers of Slovenian territorial unification.[27] The Slovenian part of the Yugoslav coat of arms was represented by the mullets of Cilli arranged in an inverted order as on the Cilli arms, that is, in the ratio of 1:2. This was because beneath the mullets, the coat of arms additionally featured a crescent argent representing the Illyrian movement, making the arrangement in the 1:2 ratio visually more appropriate than the arrangement in the ratio of 2:1 (Picture 9).[28]



Picture 8. **Coat of arms of the city of Celje.** Wikipedia

After the Second World War, socialist Yugoslavia opted for an entirely new iconography, including in heraldry, which left no place for the mullets of Cilli. Their pertinence was reestablished in 1991 with the disintegration of Yugoslavia and the creation of a new independent state of Slovenia. Searching for a new heraldic image, the decision-makers, as seven decades before that, once again resorted to the mullets of Cilli, which were now given a prominent role in the new Slovenian coat of arms. The latter features a three-peaked mountain (Triglav), beneath which is the sea and above it the three mullets (of Cilli) displayed in their original 2:1 arrangement (Picture 10).[29]

THE COUNTS OF CILLI AND THEIR GENEALOGICAL CONNECTIONS WITH THE PRESENT

The Cillis also passed on their genetic heritage. Although, as noted, the family had become extinct in their male line before the end of the Middle Ages, it is possible to trace their lineage through their female line up to the present day. This is, of course, most easily done with the help of the ruling families or dynasties, where the information on ancestry is kept and recorded with the greatest precision. Because at least in the final period of their existence, the Cillis established kinship ties with the highest nobility of the period, even a quick genealogical overview shows that almost all today's European ruling families also descended from the Cillis (the same applies to those families that no longer hold power today because their former countries ceased to be monarchies).

The common ancestor of the ruling houses mentioned above was Barbara of Cilli, one of the last female members of the Cilli dynasty, who also held the title of empress after her husband, Sigismund of Luxembourg. Their turbulent marriage produced one daughter, Elizabeth, who in 1422 married Albert of Habsburg.[30] In 1437, Albert succeeded his father-in-law Sigismund on the German throne but died two years afterward (1439). Albert and Elizabeth had three children, the daughters Anne and Elizabeth and the son Ladislaus, who was dubbed Posthumous, having been born four months after his father's passing. At the age of four months, Ladislaus was crowned King of Hungary and later also became King of Bohemia but died unmarried and childless at the age of seventeen years. His sisters Anne and Elizabeth therefore hold more relevance to this story (table 2).[31]



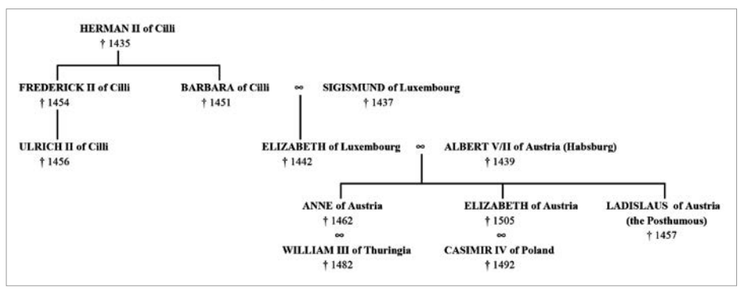
Picture 9. **Coat of arms of The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (Yugoslavia).** Wikipedia



Picture 10. **Coat of arms of the Republic of Slovenia.** Wikipedia

In 1446, the older sister Anne became the wife of William the Brave of Saxony, Landgrave of Thuringia. She bore him two daughters, of which the firstborn, Margaret of Thuringia, married John of Hohenzollern, Elector of Brandenburg.[32] This marriage already points to direct ties to the Hohenzollerns, later kings of Prussia and German emperors. The other interesting connection was through Margaret's daughter Anne of Brandenburg (Hohenzollern), the wife of Frederick, Duke of Schleswig-Holstein, who later (after her death) became Frederick I, King of Denmark and Norway. Their son, Christian III of Denmark, was the forefather of many northern European monarchs; one of his granddaughters was

Table 2. **Connections between the House of Cilli and the Habsburgs**



[27] Zmago Jelinčič, *Slovenska grb in zastava: heraldika in veksilologija* (Tržič: Učila International, 2008), 173.
[28] Aleksander Hribovšek, *Triglav, Plečnik in razvoj slovenskega grba* (www.grboslovje.si/novice/2018_11_19_0003.php).
[29] Aleksander Hribovšek, *Celjske zvezde Slovenije* (www.grboslovje.si/novice/2023_11_22_0002.php).
[30] Štih, "Ulrik II. Celjski," 17.
[31] On the Habsburgs, see, e.g., Brigitte Hamann (ed.), *Die Habsburger: ein biographisches Lexikon* (Vienna: Ueberreuter, 1988), 39–42, 86, 241–243. See also: Hartmann & Schnith (eds.): Die Kaiser, 463–468.
[32] Hamann (ed.): *Die Habsburger*, 52 (It is incorrectly stated here that Anne died childless.).

Table 3. **The House of Cilli as the ancestors of the British Stuart and Hanover dynasties**

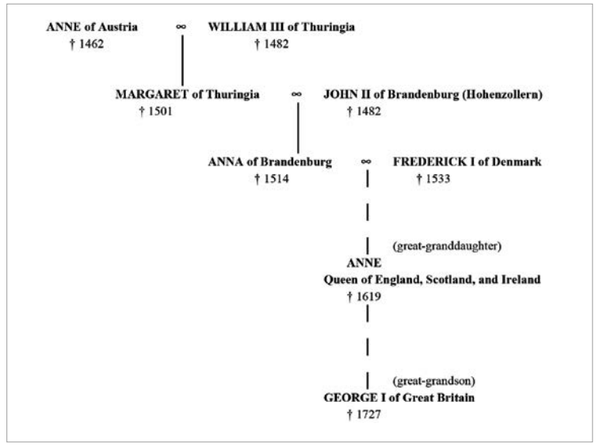


Table 4. **The House of Cilli as the ancestors of the Habsburgs**

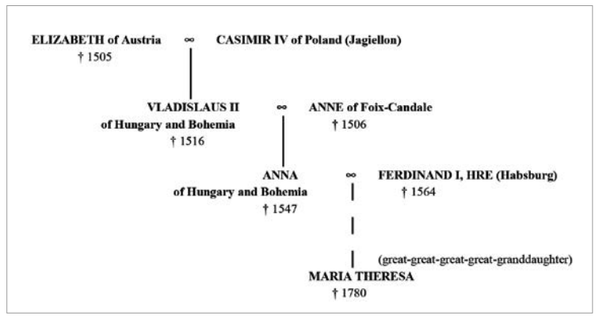
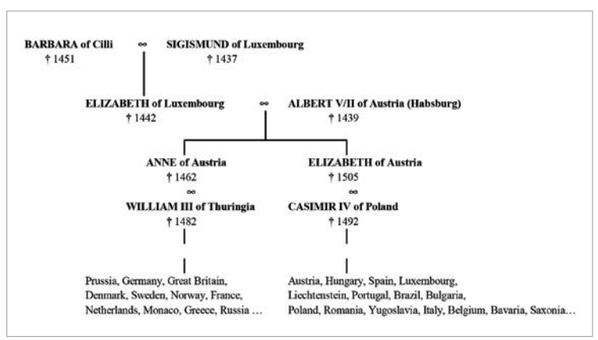


Table 5. **The House of Cilli as the ancestors of (former and current) European ruling dynasties**



Anne of Denmark, the wife of James VI and I, King of Scotland and King of England (Stuart). Through their daughter Elizabeth Stuart (Queen of Bohemia, 1596–1662) runs an uninterrupted line that leads to the British Hanoverian dynasty and thus, of course, to Queen Victoria, who was known as the grandmother of Europe (table 3).

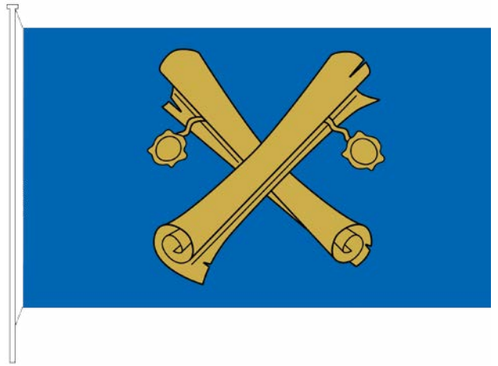
The other granddaughter of Barbara of Cilli was Elizabeth of Habsburg, who in 1454 married Casimir IV Jagiellon, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania.[33] One of their thirteen children was St. Casimir, the patron saint of Lithuania and Poland, but more important for this story is his older brother Ladislaus, who, contrary to expectations, did not take over his father's Polish throne but became the king of Bohemia and Hungary. In 1515, his only daughter, Anna Jagellonica, became the wife of Ferdinand of Habsburg, later Emperor Ferdinand I.[34] All their descendants and all those who have early modern Habsburg forefathers therefore also carry Cilli genes within them (table 4).

Thanks to Anne of Luxembourg, the Counts of Cilli may therefore be deemed the forefathers primarily (but not exclusively) of the monarchs of northern and western Europe (Prussia, Germany, Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, France, the Netherlands, Monaco, Greece, Russia, etc.), and thanks to her sister Elizabeth of Austria, they may be regarded as the ancestors mainly of the monarchs of southern and eastern Europe (Austria, Hungary, Spain, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Brazil, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, Italy, Belgium, Bavaria, Saxony, etc.) (table 5). ■

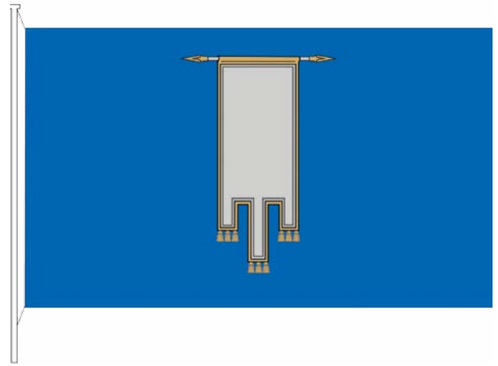
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[33] Hamann (ed.): D*ie Habsburger*, 82; Hartmann and Schnith (eds.): Die Kaiser, 467–468.
[34] Hamann (ed.): *Die Habsburger*, 102–105; Hartmann & Schnith (eds.): Die Kaiser, 511–520.

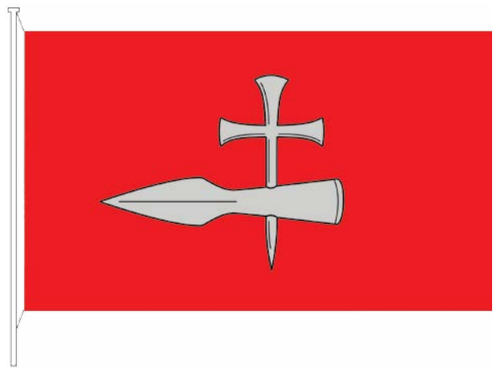
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