

International Academic Conference

Memory of the first coronations of European royal rulers

Lublin, 4 December 2025



Anne and Richard's coronation in the *Liber Regalis* of Westminster Abbey
public domain <http://www.history.ac.uk/richardII/images/liber6.jpg>

One of the most momentous events in the history of each country was undoubtedly the first royal coronation of its ruler. This statement is not surprising if we take into account the symbolism of the royal crown. It is identified with the highest secular authority, sovereignty, independence, strength, power, but also wealth, wisdom, and immortality. Thus, from the perspective of those in power, the crown embodies all the values desired by them. At the same time, it can be an important component of ideology and political theology, maintaining tradition, or creating the identity of larger local communities. The significance of the first royal coronations is even more important because in some cases the moment of their performance was identified with the establishment of statehood in a given area. Therefore, the memory of this event can be treated as the memory of origins, beginning, birth. The reason for examining the above-mentioned issues is the jubilee of the 1000th anniversary of the coronation of Bolesław Chrobry (Bolesław the Brave), celebrated this year. This ruler was the first man to reach for the royal crown in Poland.

The aim of the conference is to determine the significance of the memory of the European rulers' first royal coronations in subsequent, sometimes very distant centuries. The following issues will be of particular interest:

- reasons and circumstances of recalling and ways of updating the memory of the first royal coronations;**
 - the significance of the first coronations in constructing and promoting a specific vision of history;**
 - the role of the first coronations in later nation- and state-building processes;**
 - ways of using the memory of coronations in the coronation ceremonies of later periods;**
 - the memory of the first coronations in art, literature, and film;**
 - the memory of the first crowned rulers;**
 - spaces of memory – the significance of the places where the first coronations took place for subsequent identity-building processes;**
 - memory of the lack of a coronation – whether/how the fact of the lack of a royal coronation in a given country was remembered and reinterpreted in later times.**
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The conference is addressed to the representatives of various academic disciplines, primarily to historians, art historians, anthropologists, literary scholars, sociologists, political scientists, etc.

Details of the conference organisers: Institute of History, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS), pl. M. Curie-Skłodowskiej 4a, 20-031 Lublin, Poland.

Conference language: English.

Schedule:

31 October 2025- deadline for the abstracts. Please fill in the application form added below. PhD candidates are requested to send a scanned document that their paper topic has been accepted by their supervisors. The abstracts should be sent to:
rememberingthepast1@gmail.com

or

anna.obara-pawlowska@mail.umcs.pl

5 November 2025 – the speakers will be informed of their papers' approval.

4 December 2025 – conference.

31 March 2026 – deadline for submitting postconference articles.

The organisers will select the papers, based on the submitted abstracts. The organisers reserves the right to decline a conference submission/proposal.

The presented papers will later be published in a peer-reviewed academic journal “Res Historica” issued by the Institute of History of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin.

The conference is planned to take place online.

The presentation duration is 20 minutes.

Organisers:

Dr Anna Obara (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin)

Dr hab. Mariusz Bartnicki (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin)
