

**VARGA LAURA DANA**

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## PERSONAL AND POLITICAL NEXUS: THE LETTERS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH I TO THE DUKE OF ANJOU

**Kulcsszavak:** I. Erzsébet; Anjou Ferenc herceg; levélelemzés; történelmi háttér; házassági tárgyalások

This paper aims to explore the primary reasons for the failure of marriage negotiations between Elizabeth I and Francis, Duke of Anjou, conducted in the 1570s and 1580s. It focuses on the correspondence authored by Queen Elizabeth to the Duke, her final and one of the most significant marital candidates. The research specifically examines nine letters, analysing them alongside their historical context for a comprehensive understanding. Based on the investigation of Elizabeth's writing style, rhetorical strategies and the expression norms of the era, the paper highlights the specific circumstances and significant reasons behind the prince's rejection.

Thus, the thesis analyses a total of nine letters originally written in French between 1579 and 1584, based on the aforementioned aspects and their historical context. Although a limitation of the research is that the letters written by the duke to the queen are not available, the letters that are accessible still aid in understanding the thesis's ultimate conclusion: that the rejection by Elizabeth was not due to a lack of personal attraction, but rather that the political risks associated with the marriage—related to Elizabeth's independence, financial matters, or religious differences—were too significant.