

Queen Isabella Taillefer of England

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Born: 1188 Charente, Poitou-Charentes, France
Married: 24 Aug 1200 King John I of England
Died: Fontevrault, Maine-et-Loire, Pays de la Loire, France
Parents: Aymer Traillefer Count of Angouleme & Alice de Courtney

Isabella of Angouleme (c. 1187 - May 31, 1246) was countess of Angoulême and queen consort of England.

She was the daughter of Aymer Taillefer, Count of Angoulême, and her maternal great-grandfather was King Louis VI of France. She became Countess of Angoulême in her own right in 1202, by which time she was already queen of England. Her marriage to King John took place on August 24, 1200, at Bordeaux, a year after he annulled his first marriage.

It could not be said to have been a successful marriage, as Isabella was much younger than her husband and had a fiery character to match his. Before their marriage, she had been betrothed to Hugh de Lusignan, Count of La March. As a result of John's temerity in taking her as his second wife, King Philip II of France confiscated all his French lands, and armed conflict ensued.

When John died in 1216, Isabella was still in her twenties. She returned to France and proceeded to marry Hugh(X) de Lusignan, the Count de la March, the son of her former fiancé.

Isabella died on May 31, 1246, at Fontevrault Abbey in France, and was buried there.

Issue

With King John: 3 (5?) children, all of whom survived into adulthood, including:

the eldest, who became King Henry III of England on his father's death;

Richard, Earl of Cornwall;

the youngest daughter, Eleanor, who would marry Simon de Montfort.

With Hugh(X) de Lusignan, the Count de la March: 11 children, all of whom survived into adulthood, including:

William de Valence, 1st Earl of Pembroke.

Noted events in her life were: • Acceded: Queen of England, 8 Oct 1200. • Acceded: Countess of Angoulême, 1202.

Isabella married John I Lackland of England, son of Henry II Curtmantle of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine, on 24 Aug 1200 in Bordeaux, France. (John I Lackland of England was born on 24 Dec 1167 in Beaumont Palace, Oxford, England, died on 19 Oct 1216 in Newark Castle, Newark, Nottinghamshire and was buried in Worcester Cathedral.)

Isabella next married Hugh X le Brun de la Marche circa 1219. (Hugh X le Brun de la Marche died in 1249.)

Marriage Notes:

She was betrothed to Hugh before she married John. After John's death she retired to her native city and eventually married Hugh after about 3 years.

