

Conan I of Rennes

Conan I († 27 June 992) nicknamed *Le Tort* (The Crooked) was the Duke of Brittany from 990 to his death. He was the son of Judicael Berengar, succeeding his father as Count of Rennes in 970.^[1]

Conan I of Rennes	
Died	27 June 992 <div>Conquereuil</div>
Noble family	Rennes
Spouse(s)	Ermengarde-Gerberga of Anjou
Father	Judicael Berengar

Contents

Life

Family

See also

See also

Notes

References

Bibliography

Life

He assumed the title of Duke of Brittany in the spring of 990 following his attack on Nantes and the subsequent death of Count Alan.^[2] As duke his rule succeeded the Regency that governed Brittany during the life of Drogo and the fractured rule of Brittany after Drogo's death by his illegitimate brothers Hoël and Guerech, and the latter's son Alan.^[3] The fractured rule over Brittany resulted in a short vacancy in the title Duke of Brittany. Conan I had to ally himself with the Odo I, Count of Blois in order to defeat Judicael Berengar before he could assume the title of Duke.^[4]



Mont Saint-Michel, endowed by Conan I, and his final resting place

In a charter dated 28 July 990, Conan gave the lands of Villamée, Lillele and Passille to Mont Saint-Michel, all of which later became part of the seignury of Fougères.^[5]

Conan married Ermengarde-Gerberga of Anjou,^{[a][6]} in 973, daughter of Geoffrey I, Count of Anjou and Adele of Vermandois.^[1]

Conan's alliance with the Odo of Blois ^[3] had helped him defeat Judicael Berengar. However the alliance with Blois became troublesome and he later needed to *"rid himself of influence from Blois, [which he accomplished by signing] a pact with Richard I of Normandy; [this pact] established firm Breton-Norman links for the first time."*^[4] Richard I had married the daughter of Hugh I the Great, and after this marriage had re-asserted his father's claim

as Overlord of the Breton duchy. ^[4] Conan I's pact with Normandy strengthened that assertion but the historical documentation for that Overlordship claim remains doubtful because it largely appears only in the less than authoritative writings of Dudo of Saint-Quentin. ^[4] ^[b]

Conan died fighting his brother-in-law Fulk Nerra, Count of Anjou at the Battle of Conquereuil on 27 June 992.^[7] Conan is buried at Mont Saint-Michel Abbey.^[8]

Family

By his wife Ermengarde-Gerberga he had the following issue:

- [Geoffrey](#) (c.980-1008), the eventual heir.^[1]
- [Judith](#) (982–1017), married [Richard II, Duke of Normandy](#).^[1]
- [Judicael](#), count of [Porhoët](#) (died 1037).^[1]
- [Hernod](#).^[1]
- [Catuallon](#), Abbot of [Redon](#)

See also

- [Counts of Rennes](#)
- [Dukes of Brittany](#)

See also

- [Dukes of Brittany family tree](#)

Notes

- a. [Raoul Glaber](#) in his *Histories* [Bk. II, Ch. 3, para. 4] was openly hostile to Conan and stated that after he married Ermengarde-Gerberga, Fulk Nerra's sister, he was "the most insolent of *principes* (Latin: leader, first among his people)." See: [Bachrach](#), *Fulk Nerra* (1993), p. 42 & n. 99; [Rodulfus Glaber](#), *The Five Books of the Histories*, ed. & trans. John France (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1989), pp. 58-61.
- b. Price also refers us to de la Borderie 1898, page 246-248 for a discussion of the relationship between Conan I and Richard I.

References

1. [Detlev Schwennicke](#), [Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten](#), Neue Folge, Band II (Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, Marburg, Germany, 1984), Tafel 75
2. [Bachrach](#) 1993, p. 38.
3. [Delumeau](#), p. 141.
4. [Price](#), p. 370.
5. [Keats-Rohan](#) 1994, p. 18-19.
6. [Bachrach](#) 1993, p. 42.
7. [Bernard S. Bachrach](#), *Warfare and Military Organization in Pre-Crusade Europe* (Ashgate Publishing, Aldershot, UK and Burlington, Vermont, 2002), IX, p. 66
8. [Alexander](#), p. 8.

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Conan I of Rennes House of Rennes Born: 927 Died: 27 June 992		
Preceded by Judicael Berengar	Count of Rennes 958–992	Succeeded by Geoffrey I
Vacant Title last held by Alan	Duke of Brittany 990–992	

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