

Margaret of L'Aigle

Margaret of L'Aigle (French: *Marguerite de L'Aigle*, Spanish: *Margarita de L'Aigle*) (died 1141) was a Queen consort of Navarre as the first wife to García Ramírez of Navarre.^[1] She was the daughter of Gilbert of L'Aigle and Juliana du Perche, daughter of Geoffrey II, Count of Perche.^[1]

Life

Though daughter of the Anglo-Norman lord of L'Aigle, she had connections with the region where she would marry. Her paternal grandmother, Beatrice of Montdidier, was sister of Felicia, Queen of Navarre and Aragon. Her uncle, Rotrou III, Count of Perche, had fled Normandy in despair after a family tragedy, the loss of his his wife, son, and two nephews, Margaret's brothers Engenulf and Geoffrey of L'Aigle, in the 1120 wreck of the *White Ship*. Leaving Margaret's mother Juliana in charge of his County of Perche, Rotrou returned to Aragon, where he had earlier spent time fighting, and while there this second time he arranged Margaret's marriage.

Margaret was married in 1130 to a royal scion, García Ramírez, lord of Monzón, four years before his accession to the throne of Navarre.^[1] He confirmed the rights and privileges of the church of Pamplona on the advice of "*uxoris mee Margarite regina*" by charter dated 1135. Margaret was to bear García a son and heir, Sancho VI, as well as two daughters who each married kings: the elder, Blanca, born after 1133, married Sancho III of Castile, while the younger, Margaret, named after her mother, married William I of Sicily.

Garcia's relationship with Margaret was, however, unstable. She supposedly took many lovers and showed favouritism to her French relatives.^[2] She bore a second son named Rodrigo, whom her husband refused to recognise as his own.^[3] He was never acknowledged as a son by the Navarrese king, even after Margaret's death, and he was widely considered a bastard, though his sister Margaret did not treat him as such. He certainly never behaved as anything other than the son of a king.^[4]

Margaret died disgraced on 25 May 1141. Her husband later remarried, yet her younger daughter remembered her fondly.^[5]

References

- Thompson 2002, p. 75.
- Hans Houben, "Enrico di Navarra", *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani*
- Chronicle of Hugo Falcandus, *History of the Tyrants of Sicily* (<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/falcandus.html>), is available in its original Latin at [The Latin Library](#). Henry is also mentioned in the chronicle of Romuald Guarna. Both historians are contemporaries.
- John Julius Norwich, 258.

Margaret of L'Aigle	
Queen consort of Navarre	
Tenure	1134–1141
Died	25 May 1141
Spouse	García Ramírez of Navarre
Issue	Sancho VI of Navarre Blanche of Navarre, Queen of Castile Margaret of Navarre Henry, Count of Montescaglioso
House	L'Aigle
Father	Gilbert of L'Aigle
Mother	Juliana du Perche



Sketch of an incompletely preserved seal of Margaret's son Sancho VI, shown on a horse in the Mediterranean style

Sources

- Thompson, Kathleen (2002). *Power and Border Lordship in Medieval France: The County of the Perche, 1000-1226*. The Boydell Press.

Preceded by <u>Urraca of León</u>	<u>Queen consort of Navarre</u> 1134–1141	Succeeded by <u>Urraca of Castile</u>
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