

Eleanor of Provence

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from Eleanor of provence)

Eleanor of Provence (c. 1223 – 26 June 1291) was Queen Consort of King Henry III of England.


Born in Aix-en-Provence, she was the daughter of Ramon Berenguer IV, Count of Provence (1198-1245) and Beatrice of Savoy (1206–1266), the daughter of Tomasso, Count of Savoy and his second wife Marguerite of Geneva. All four of their daughters became queens. Like her mother, grandmother, and sisters, Eleanor was renowned for her beauty. Eleanor was probably born in 1223; Matthew Paris describes her as being "*jamque duodennem*" (already twelve) when she arrived in the Kingdom of England for her marriage.

Eleanor was married to Henry III, King of England (1207-1272) on January 14, 1236. She had never seen him prior to the wedding at Canterbury Cathedral and had never set foot in his impoverished kingdom. Edmund Rich, Archbishop of Canterbury, officiated. Eleanor and Henry had five children:

1. Edward I (1239-1307)
2. Margaret of England (1240-1275), married King Alexander III of Scotland
3. Beatrice of England (1242 - 1275), married John II, Duke of Brittany
4. Edmund Crouchback, 1st Earl of Lancaster (1245-1296)
5. Katharine (25 November 1253 - 3 May 1257)

Eleanor seems to have been especially devoted to her eldest son, Edward; when he was deathly ill in 1246, she stayed with him at the abbey at Beaulieu for three weeks, long past the time allowed by monastic rules. It was because of her influence that King Henry granted the duchy of Gascony to Edward in 1249. Her youngest child, Katharine, seems to have had a degenerative disease that rendered her deaf. When she died aged three, both her royal parents suffered overwhelming grief.

She was a confident consort to Henry, but she brought in her retinue a large number of cousins, "the Savoyards," and her influence with the King and her unpopularity with the English barons created

Eleanor of Provence	
	
<i>Queen consort of England</i>	
Reign as consort	14 January 1236 – 16 November 1272
Coronation	14 January 1236
Consort	Henry III of Winchester
Issue	Edward I <i>Longshanks</i> Margaret, Queen of Scots Beatrice, Duchess of Burgundy Edmund <i>Crouchback</i> , 1st Earl of Leicester and Lancaster Katherine of England
House	House of Aragon (<i>by birth</i>) House of Plantagenet (<i>by marriage</i>)
Father	Ramon Berenguer IV, Count of Provence
Mother	Beatrice of Savoy
Born	c. 1223 Aix-en-Provence
Died	26 June , 1291 Amesbury
Burial	Abbey of St. Mary and St. Melor in Amesbury

friction during Henry's reign. Eleanor was devoted to her husband's cause, stoutly contested Simon de Montfort, raising troops in France for Henry's cause. On July 13, 1263, she was sailing down the Thames on a barge when her barge was attacked by citizens of London. In fear for her life, Eleanor was rescued by Thomas FitzThomas, the mayor of London, and took refuge at the bishop of London's home.

In 1272 Henry died, and her son Edward, 33 years old, became Edward I, King of England. She stayed on in England as Dowager Queen, and raised several of her grandchildren -- Edward's son Henry and daughter Eleanor, and Beatrice's son John. When her grandson Henry died in her care in 1274, Eleanor mourned him and his heart was buried at the priory at Guildford she founded in his memory. Eleanor retired to a convent but remained in touch with her son and her sister, Marguerite.

Eleanor died in 1291 in Amesbury, England.

References

- Margaret Howell, *Eleanor of Provence: Queenship in Thirteenth-century England*, 1997
- FMG on Eleonore Berenger of Provence

English royalty		
Vacant Title last held by Isabella of Angoulême	Queen consort of England 14 January 1236 - 16 November 1272	Vacant Title next held by Eleanor of Castile
	Queen mother 1272 - 1291	Vacant Title next held by Isabella of France

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleanor_of_Provence"

Categories: English royal consorts | 1122 births | 1202 deaths | People from Aix-en-Provence | Women in Medieval warfare | House of Aragon

Hidden categories: All articles with unsourced statements | Articles with unsourced statements since June 2007

- This page was last modified on 8 March 2009, at 16:57.
- All text is available under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License. (See **Copyrights** for details.)
Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a U.S. registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit charity.