Robert I of France

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Robert I (866–923), King of Western Francia (922–923). Before succeeding his brother Odo as king he was the Count of Poitiers, Marquis of Neustria and Orléans and Count of Paris.

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Life

Robert was born in 866 the posthumous son of Robert the Strong, count of Anjou, and the brother of Odo, who became king of the Western Franks in 888.[1] West Francia evolved over time into France;[2] under Odo, the capital was fixed on Paris, a large step in that direction. His family is known as the Robertians.[3]

He was present at the Siege of Paris in 885.[4] He was appointed by Odo ruler of several counties, including the county of Paris, and abbot *in commendam* of many abbeys. Robert also secured the office of *Dux Francorum*, a military dignity of high importance. He did not claim the crown of West Francia when his brother died in 898; but recognising the supremacy of the Carolingian king, Charles the Simple, he was confirmed in his offices and possessions, after which he continued to defend northern Francia from the attacks of the Norsemen.[5]

The peace between the king and his powerful vassal was not seriously disturbed until about 921. The rule of Charles, and especially his partiality for a certain Hagano, had aroused some irritation; and, supported by many of the clergy and by some of the most powerful of the Frankish nobles, Robert took up arms, drove Charles into Lorraine, and was himself crowned king of the Franks (*rex Francorum*) at Rheims on 29 June 922.[6] Collecting an army, Charles marched against the usurper and, on 15 June 923, in a battle near Soissons, Robert was killed, but his army won the battle, and Charles was captured.[7]

Robert I
King of Western Francia

King of the Franks (*more...*)

Reign	29 June 922 – 15 June 923
Coronation	29 June 922, Rheims
Predecessor	Charles the Simple
Successor	Rudolph of France
Issue	
Emma of France	
Adel of France	
Hugh the Great	
House	Robertian
Father	Robert the Strong
Mother	Adelaide of Tours
Born	15 August 866
Died	15 June 923 (aged 56) Soissons, France

Family

Robert's first wife was Aelis.[8] By her he had two daughters:

- Adele of France (c. 887–aft. March 931) to Herbert II of Vermandois[9][10]

Robert married secondly, c. 890, Béatrice of Vermandois, daughter of Herbert I of Vermandois.[1] Together they had :

- Emma of France (894–935), married to Rudolph, Duke of Burgundy[9]
- Hugh the Great,(898-) who was later *dux Francorum*.[1] Hugh was the father of Hugh Capet, King of the Franks.[11]

References

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3. ^ Jim Bradbury, *The Capetians: kings of France, 987-1328* (London: Hambledon Continuum, 2007), p. 34
4. ^ Robert F. Berkhofer, *Day of Reckoning: Power and Accountability in Medieval France* (Philadelphia, Pa. University of Pennsylvania Press 2004). p. 29
5. ^ Roger Collins, *Early Medieval Europe, 300–1000*, Second Edition (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999), pp. 376-7
6. ^ *The Annals of Flodoard of Reims, 916–966*, eds & trans. Steven Fanning: Bernard S. Bachrach (New York; Ontario, Can: University of Toronto Press, 2011), pp. 6-7
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8. ^ *The Annals of Flodoard of Reims, 916–966, eds & trans. Steven Fanning: Bernard S. Bachrach (New York; Ontario, Can: University of Toronto Press, 2011), p. 92*
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10. ^ *The Annals of Flodoard of Reims, 916–966*, eds & trans. Steven Fanning: Bernard S. Bachrach (New York; Ontario, Can: University of Toronto Press, 2011), pp. 21 n. 77, 92
11. ^ Detlev Schwennicke, *Europäische Stammtafeln: Stammtafeln zur Geschichte der Europäischen Staaten*, Neue Folge, Band II (Marburg, Germany: Verlag von J. A. Stargardt, 1984), Tafel 11

See also

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Preceded by **Charles the Simple**	**King of Western Francia** 922–923	Succeeded by **Rudolph**