

Nanthild

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Nanthild (c. 610 – 642), also known as *Nantéchilde*, *Nanthechilde*, *Nanthildis*, *Nanthilde*, or *Nantechildis*, was a Frankish queen consort and regent, the third of many consorts of Dagobert I, king of the Franks (629–639).

She was of Saxon lineage, born about 608 or 610. The *Lexikon des Mittelalters* calls her *ein Mädchen aus dem Dienstpersonal* ("a maiden of the royal [Austrasian] household"). Her elevation to consort may have given importance to her relatives: her brother Lanthegisel was an important landowner in the Limousin and a relation of Aldegisel. Dagobert set aside his wife Gomatrud to marry her, ca. 629; to her was born Clovis II, second eldest of Dagobert's surviving sons and the one who succeeded him in Neustria and Burgundy. After Dagobert's death in January 639, she was initially regent for her son, accompanied by Aega, mayor of the Neustrian palace and an opponent of the powerful contingent of nobles headed by Burgundofaro whose seat was at Meaux.

In the interest of reducing noble Burgundian independence of the Merovingian palace, she married her niece Ragnoberta to the Frank Flaochad and had the magnates and bishops of the realm of Burgundy acclaim him mayor of the palace at Orléans in 642. Soon she died at Landry in what was then Burgundy, where she had long resided; her body was translated to the Saint Denis Basilica. Her untimely death allowed her son to fall under the influence of the nobility, who abhorred a strong royal hand.

References

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