

Anne of Kiev

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Anne of Kiev (born Kievan Rus', in Russian: Анна Ярославна), **Anna Yaroslavna**, also called **Agnes**; c. 1030 – 1075) was the queen consort of Henry I of France, and regent of France during the minority of her son, Philip I of France, from 1060 until 1065.

Anne founded St. Vincent Abbey in Senlis.

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Life

Early life

Anne was born in Kiev between 1024 and 1032. Her parents were Yaroslav the Wise, Grand Prince of Kiev and Novgorod, and Ingegerd Olofsdotter of Sweden, his second wife.^[1] There is not much information about her childhood, but she was evidently given a careful education, and could read and write (in the Cyrillic alphabet), which was rare even among royal princesses at the time.

In 1043-44, Anne was suggested to marry the German Roman Emperor, but the plan was never brought to fruition. After the death of his first wife, Matilda of Frisia, King Henry searched the courts of Europe for a suitable bride, but could not locate a princess who was not related in blood by the papal laws against consanguinity.^[2] In 1049, the King of France sent an embassy to distant Kiev, which returned with Anne (also called Agnes). Politically, there was not much gain as Kiev was too far away for any territorial gain for France, but the marriage was considered suitable in France because of the rank of Anne, because she was not related to Henry, and because she came from a fertile family and had herself many siblings. But she did bring wealth to the match, including a jacinth which Suger later mounted in the reliquary of St. Denis.^[3]

Queen of France

Anne and Henry were married at the cathedral of Reims on May 19, 1051.^[4] Immediately after the ceremony, she was crowned queen of France, followed by weeks of celebrations. She became the first French queen to be crowned at Reims. Only one year after the marriage, Anne fulfilled her task by giving birth to an heir to the throne, the future Philip I. Anne is often credited with introducing the Greek name "Philip" to royal families of Western Europe, as she bestowed it on her first son; she might have imported this Greek name (*Philippos*, from *philos* and *hippos*, meaning "loves horses") from her Eastern Orthodox culture.^[5]

Anne came to play an important personal role as queen of France. As queen, it was her role to act as the manager of the royal court and household, supervise the upbringing of the royal children and act as the protector of churches as convents. But she also came to play a political role. Queen Anne could ride a horse, was knowledgeable in politics, and actively participated in governing France. She accompanied Henry on his inspection travels around France, and she was appointed a member of the royal council. Many French documents bear her signature, written in old Slavic language ("Ана Рѣина", that is, "*Anna Regina*", "Anna the Queen"). Pope Nicholas II, who was greatly surprised with Anne's great political abilities, wrote her a letter:

"Honorable lady, the fame of your virtues has reached our ears, and, with great joy, we hear that you are performing your royal duties at this very Christian state with commendable zeal and brilliant mind."

Henry respected Anna so much that his many decrees bear the inscription "With the consent of my wife Anna" and "In the presence of Queen Anna". French historians point out that there are no other cases in the French history, when Royal decrees bear such inscriptions.

Regency

On 4 August 1060, Henry I died and was succeeded by her son Philip I, by that time eight years old. During his minority, Anne, as a member of the royal council, acted as Regent of France, with Count Baldwin V of Flanders as her co-regent in accordance with the will of Henry I. She was the first queen of France to serve as regent. Anne was a literate woman, rare for the time, but there was some opposition to her as regent on the grounds that her mastery of French was less than fluent.

Anne of Kiev



Anne of Kiev (Saint Sophia's Cathedral, Kiev)

Queen consort of the Franks

Tenure	1051–1060
Born	between 1024 and 1036 <div>Kievan Rus'</div>
Died	5 September 1075
Burial	Villiers Abbey, Le Ferte Alais, Essonne, France
Spouse	Henry I of France <div>Ralph III of Valois</div>
Issue	Philip I of France <div>Emma</div> <div>Robert</div> <div>Hugh I, Count of Vermandois</div>
Dynasty	Rurik
Father	Yaroslav the Wise
Mother	Ingegerd Olofsdotter of Sweden
Signature	АНА РѢИНА

Her involvement in state affairs is evident: she accompanied Philip in his inspection tours around France, as she did his father, and during the first year of her son's minor rule, she is mentioned in eleven state documents.

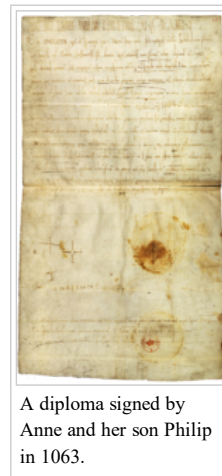
In 1061, the Regent Anne reportedly took a passionate fancy for Count Ralph III of Valois, who repudiated his wife Eleanor de Montdidier for adultery in order to marry Anne in 1062. The traditional story describe how Ralph organized an abduction of Anne when she was hunting in the royal hunting grounds in Senlis and brought her to Crepy-en-Valois, where they were married. Accused of adultery, Ralph's wife Eleanor de Montdidier appealed to Pope Alexander II, who issued an investigation. The Pope's investigation resulted in the marriage between Anne and Ralph to be declared invalid and Ralph to be excommunicated in 1064. There is nothing to indicate that Anne was included in the excommunication. However, Anne's enemies among the courtiers seem to have successfully used the scandal to turn the king against her and her second spouse, and by the beginning of 1065, she was apparently no longer present at court. By this year, Philip I was thirteen, traditionally the age in which a king of France was considered to be able to rule without a regency government, and her rule would therefore have been ended by this year, if not before, regardless of her scandalous second marriage.

Later life

Anne founded the St. Vincent Abbey in Senlis between 1062 and 1069, as well as the Benedictine nunnery Saint-Rémi in the same town, likely to make her second marriage accepted. Apparently, she lived with Ralph despite his excommunication.

The young king Philip forgave his mother, which was just as well, since he was to find himself in a very similar predicament in the 1090s. Anne is confirmed to have been present at court at least during the wedding of Philip I to Bertha of Holland in 1071.

Ralph died in September 1074, at which time Anne likely returned permanently to the French court. She died in 1075, was buried at Villiers Abbey, La Ferte-Alais, Essonne and her obits were celebrated on 5 September. All subsequent French kings were her progeny.



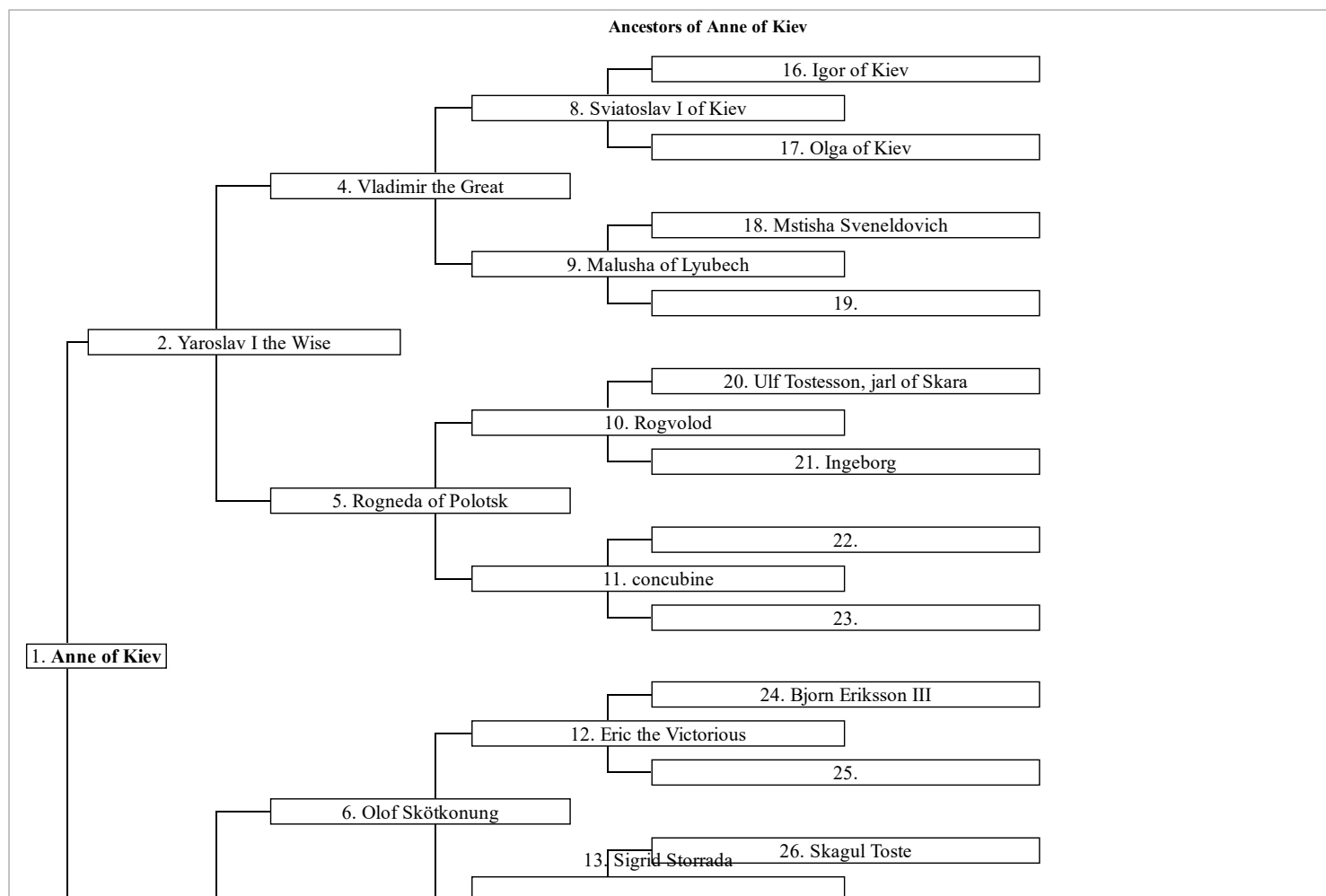
A diploma signed by Anne and her son Philip in 1063.

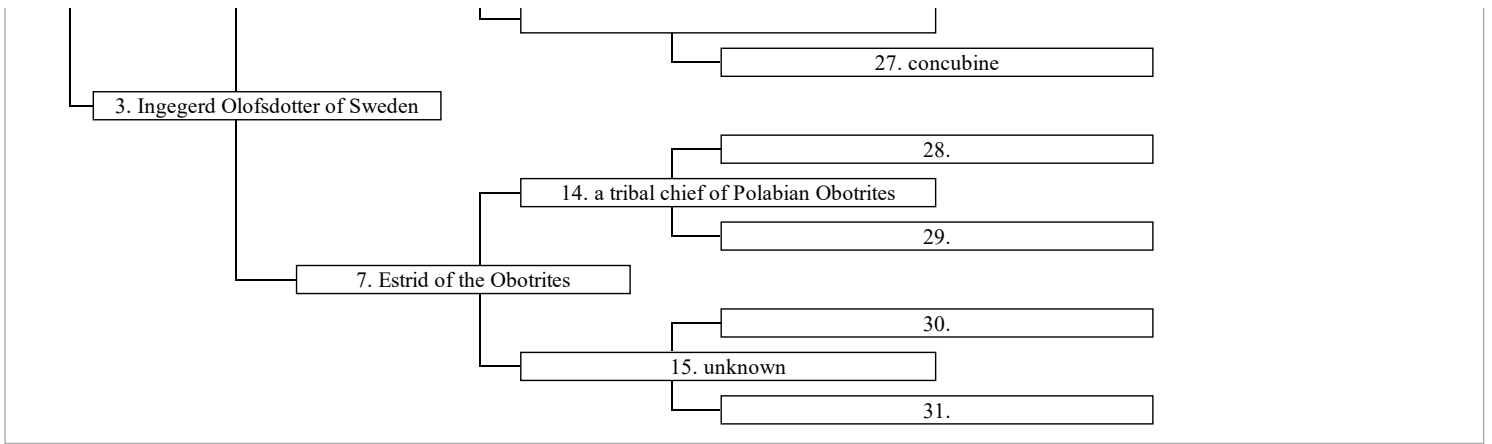
Children

With Henry I of France:

- Philip I of France (23 May 1052 – 30 July 1108)
- Robert (c. 1055 – c. 1060)
- Emma (1055 – c. 1109)
- Hugh I, Count of Vermandois (1057 – 18 October 1102)

Ancestry





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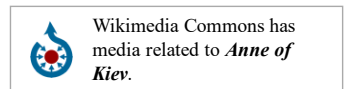
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3. Bauthier, 550; Hallu, 168, citing *Comptes de Suger*
4. Megan McLaughlin, 56.
5. Raffensperger, pp. 94–97.

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External links

- *Women's Biography: Anne of Kiev* (<http://epistolae.ccnmtl.columbia.edu/woman/116.html>)



French royalty		
Preceded by Matilda of Frisia	Queen consort of the Franks 1051–1060	Succeeded by Bertha of Holland

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