Ermengarde of Hesbaye

Ermengarde (or **Irmingard**) of Hesbaye (c. 778 – 3 October 818), probably a member of the Robertian dynasty, was Holy Roman Empress from 813 and Queen of the Franks from 814 until her death as the wife of the Carolingian emperor Louis the Pious.

Life

Ermengarde was the daughter of Count Ingerman of Hesbaye and Rotrude.

About 794 Ermengarde married Louis the Pious,[1] son of Charlemagne, who since 781 ruled as a King of Aquitaine. He had already fathered two children, and Ermengarde may have been his concubine. Ermengarde gave birth to six children:

- Lothair I (795–855),[1] born in Altdorf, Bavaria
- Pepin I of Aquitaine (797–838)[1]
- Adelaide, born ca. 799
- Rotrude, born about 800,[1] married Gerard, Count of Auvergne (c. 800 – d. 25.6.841) Comte de Auvergne and they had Ranulf I of Poitiers.
- Hildegard/Matilda, born c.802,[1] abbess of Notre-Dame in Laon
- Louis the German (c.805–876),[1] King of East Francia

Charlemagne initially intended to divide his Carolingian Empire between Louis and his brothers Pepin and Charles, who nevertheless died in quick succession in 810/11. On 10 September 813, Charlemagne designated Louis his successor and had him proclaimed co-emperor. Ermengarde's husband became sole ruler as Holy Roman Emperor and King of the Franks upon his father's death on 28 January 814. The couple was anointed and crowned Emperor and Empress by Pope Stephen IV on 5 October 816 in Reims Cathedral.[2]

She died at Angers, Neustria (in present-day France) on 3 October 818.[3] A few years after her death, her husband remarried to Judith of Bavaria, who bore him Charles the Bald.[3]

References

1. McKitterick 2008, p. 93.
2. Nelson 1995, p. 111.
3. Wilson 1984, p. 2.

Sources

- McKitterick, Rosamond (2008). *Charlemagne: The Formation of a European Identity*. Cambridge University Press.

Ermengarde of Hesbaye	
Ermengarde. Femme de Louis 1.er	
Holy Roman Empress	
Reign	813–818
Coronation	5 October 816 by Pope Stephen IV Reims Cathedral
Queen of the Franks	
Reign	814–818
Born	c. 778
Died	3 October 818 (aged 40) Angers, Neustria
Spouse	Louis the Pious
Issue	Lothair I Pepin I of Aquitaine Louis the German
House	Counts of Hesbaye
Father	Ingerman, Count of Hesbaye
Mother	Rotrude

- Nelson, Janet L. (1995). "The Frankish Kingdoms 814-898:the West". In McKitterick, Rosamond. *The New Cambridge Medieval History*. Vol. II. Cambridge University Press.
- Wilson, Katharina M., ed. (1984). *Medieval Women Writers*. Manchester University Press.

Preceded by **None**	**Holy Roman Empress** 813–818	Succeeded by **Judith of Bavaria**
Preceded by **Luitgard**	**Queen of the Franks** 814–818	