

Portfolio II: Royal 14 B V: Membrane 4 and 5 Rollo and his descendants

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HPHI6009 Identity and Myth: The Normans and their World

09/03/2025

The image presents the genealogy of Rollo and his Descendants of the region of Normandy. The idea of the image could be interpreted as when they considered themselves as a group, they created an identity. A collective memory within a noble family will help them uphold power over the years¹. It is possible to see that the Manuscript (Royal 14 B V: Membrane 4 and 5 Rollo and his descendants) placed Rollo the progenitor of this dynasty on the top of the genealogy, probably not only to represent that he started the dynasty of rulers but also to show his importance. The texts present in the manuscript are in French and there is also the presence of small drawings from the author of the genealogy line. It all starts with *Hrólfr Ketilsson*², also known as Rollo. He was born in Norway in the second half of the ninth century³. He was a commander of a Vikings fleet, a *Jarl*, which indicated that he had noble blood⁴. However, even though Rollo was the initiator of this dynasty, his descendants had also made their name in history. His son, William Longsword, also known in French as *Guillaume Longue-Épée*, was the second Duke of Normandy during the year of 927 to 942. He is many times called Duke but the term was only put into use during the 11th century⁵. William was assisted in the year of 942 and was then succeeded by Richard I. Next in line for the seat of Normandy was Richard I, he was the ruler who commissioned the *Gesta Normannorum* by Dudo of Saint Quentin, where the story of the Normans was finally told. Richard I was also responsible for introducing the structure of feudalism into his lands in Normandy, and by the end of his ruling years some of the lands owners in Normandy had adapted to this model⁶. He married a woman called Gunnor, who gave Richard many children such as: Richard II, The Good, the next in line on the Norman seat; Robert, Archbishop of Rouen (Count of Evreux); Emma, who later would marry two kings of England, one of them being Cnut; Mauger, Count of Corbeil; Maud of Normandy, wife of Odo II of Blois, Count of Blois, Champagne and Chartres⁷. Richard II also had many mistresses such as Geoffrey, Count of Eu and William, Count of Eu⁸. The sons and daughters were represented in the image and it shows how the Norman dynasty only kept growing throughout the years Richard I became ill in the year of 996 and moved to Bayeux to

¹ Zupka, Dusan. (2019). Medieval Dynasties in Medieval Studies: A Historiographic Contribution. Forum Historiae. P.13.

² Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum, 2002) p.1

³ Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum, 2002) p.1

⁴ Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum, 2002) p.1

⁵ Douglas, David. "The Earliest Norman Counts." *The English Historical Review* 61, no. 240 (1946): 130

⁶ Emily Zack Tabuteau, 'Ownership and Tenure in Eleventh-Century Normandy', *The American Journal of Legal History*, Vol. 21, No. 2, (April 1977), p.99

⁷ Van Houts, E. M. C. (2000). *The Normans in Europe*. Manchester University Press. p.191

⁸ Douglas, David. "The Earliest Norman Counts." *The English Historical Review* 61, no. 240 (1946): 140

Fecamp where he passed away⁹ There were some eyewitness account shared with the author *Dudo of Saint-Quentin* where Richard I half Brother shared the information that some important nobles were gathered where Richard I was resting and there he was able to formally proclaimed his heir¹⁰. The son to succeed Richard I was Richard II who became the ruler of the territory of Normandy in 996. His ruling years were characterized by defining the Norman identity, Richards II wanted the territory of Normandy to be seeing as example of christian virtue and organisation¹¹. It was also during his rule that the agreement between his father, Richard I and the Anglo-Saxon ruler, Æthelred started to crumble since nee Viking attacks started again in England and some of them camped on Richard II' s territory, Normandy¹². Richard II' successor was Richard III, who only had one year of ring before his sudden death, twelve months after his father's death¹³. Many contemporary historians believe that Richard III was assassinated by his own brother, Robert, who immediately assumed the seat as the new Duke of Normandy. Robert I, had a chaotic rule where he first lead an army against his uncle Archbishop Robert of rouen and besiege him in Evreux, where he was count¹⁴. The person to succeed him was William, later known in history as William the conqueror, the one responsible for invading and conquering England, changing the course of English history forever. He is the last picture of a ruler on the manuscript, ending with the most famous figure of the dynasty of the rulers of Normandy. However, before conquering England, William had to faced some difficulties in his own land. The ruler had to suppress a revolt made against his ruling by his younger cousins in alliance with his viscounts¹⁵. During the summer of 1066 Bretons, French, Flemings, Poitevins and Aquitanians offered themselves as force in the campaign of taking over England¹⁶. Non -norman men were a significant portion of William's invading army.¹⁷ So, in October, 1066 William landed in England. William's adversary, Harold, marched very quickly to get William by surprise but it did not matter in the end.¹⁸

The image could be interpreted as just a simple genealogy, but once one starts to research more about its members and their historical importance it becomes clear that this image could

⁹ Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum,2002) p.23

¹⁰ Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum,2002) p.23

¹¹ Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum,2002) p.32

¹²Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum,2002) p. 33

¹³Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum,2002) p. 46

¹⁴Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum,2002) p. 48

¹⁵Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum, 2002) p. 64

¹⁶Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum,2002) p.88

¹⁷Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum,2002) p.88

¹⁸Crouch, Dave. *The Normans: The History of a Dynasty*. (London: Hambledon Continuum,2002) p.92

tell us a lot more. It clearly wanted to establish the idea of not only power, but stability where son after son took the seat as Duke of Normandy. That established their power and influence over not only their own land but over history as well.

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