

= leader , " head " [of state] . Mòr =

pre @-@ eminent , great , " big " .) Malcolm 's long reign , lasting 35 years , preceded the beginning of the Scoto @-@ Norman age . He is the historical equivalent of the character of the same name in Shakespeare 's Macbeth .

Malcolm 's kingdom did not extend over the full territory of modern Scotland : the north and west of Scotland remained in Scandinavian , Norse @-@ Gael and Gaelic control , and the areas under the control of the Kings of Scots did not advance much beyond the limits set by Malcolm II until the 12th century . Malcolm III fought a succession of wars against the Kingdom of England , which may have had as their goal the conquest of the English earldom of Northumbria . These wars did not result in any significant advances southwards . Malcolm 's main achievement is to have continued a line which would rule Scotland for many years , although his role as " founder of a dynasty " has more to do with the propaganda of his youngest son David , and his descendants , than with any historical reality .

Malcolm 's second wife , Margaret of Wessex , was eventually canonized and is Scotland 's only royal saint . Malcolm himself gained no reputation for piety ; with the notable exception of Dunfermline Abbey , he is not definitely associated with major religious establishments or ecclesiastical reforms .

= = Background = =

Malcolm 's father Duncan I became king in late 1034 , on the death of Malcolm II , Duncan 's maternal grandfather and Malcolm 's great @-@ grandfather . According to John of Fordun , whose account is the original source of part at least of William Shakespeare 's Macbeth , Malcolm 's mother was a niece of Siward , Earl of Northumbria , but an earlier king @-@ list gives her the Gaelic name Suthen . Other sources claim that either a daughter or niece would have been too young to fit the timeline , thus the likely relative would have been Siward 's own sister Sybil , which may have translated into Gaelic as Suthen .

Duncan 's reign was not successful and he was killed by Macbeth on 15 August 1040 . Although Shakespeare 's Macbeth presents Malcolm as a grown man and his father as an old one , it appears that Duncan was still young in 1040 , and Malcolm and his brother Donalbane were children . Malcolm 's family did attempt to overthrow Macbeth in 1045 , but Malcolm 's grandfather Crínán of Dunkeld was killed in the attempt .

Soon after the death of Duncan his two young sons were sent away for greater safety ? exactly where is the subject of debate . According to one version , Malcolm (then aged about nine) was sent to England , and his younger brother Donalbane was sent to the Isles . Based on Fordun 's account , it was assumed that Malcolm passed most of Macbeth 's seventeen @-@ year reign in the Kingdom of England at the court of Edward the Confessor .

According to an alternative version , Malcolm 's mother took both sons into exile at the court of Thorfinn Sigurdsson , Earl of Orkney , an enemy of Macbeth 's family , and perhaps Duncan 's kinsman by marriage .

An English invasion in 1054 , with Siward , Earl of Northumbria in command , had as its goal the installation of one " Máel Coluim , son of the King of the Cumbrians " . This Máel Coluim has traditionally been identified with the later Malcolm III . This interpretation derives from the Chronicle attributed to the 14th @-@ century chronicler of Scotland , John of Fordun , as well as from earlier sources such as William of Malmesbury . The latter reported that Macbeth was killed in the battle by Siward , but it is known that Macbeth outlived Siward by two years . A. A. M. Duncan argued in 2002 that , using the Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle entry as their source , later writers innocently misidentified " Máel Coluim " with the later Scottish king of the same name . Duncan 's argument has been supported by several subsequent historians specialising in the era , such as Richard Oram , Dauvit Broun and Alex Woolf . It has also been suggested that Máel Coluim may have been a son of Owen the Bald , British king of Strathclyde perhaps by a daughter of Malcolm II , King of Scotland .

In 1057 various chroniclers report the death of Macbeth at Malcolm 's hand , on 15 August 1057 at

Lumphanan in Aberdeenshire . Macbeth was succeeded by his stepson Lulach , who was crowned at Scone , probably on 8 September 1057 . Lulach was killed by Malcolm , " by treachery " , near Huntly on 23 April 1058 . After this , Malcolm became king , perhaps being inaugurated on 25 April 1058 , although only John of Fordun reports this .

= = Malcolm and Ingibiorg = =

If Orderic Vitalis is to be relied upon , one of Malcolm 's earliest actions as king may have been to travel south to the court of Edward the Confessor in 1059 to arrange a marriage with Edward 's kinswoman Margaret , who had arrived in England two years before from Hungary . If he did visit the English court , he was the first reigning king of Scots to do so in more than eighty years . If a marriage agreement was made in 1059 , it was not kept , and this may explain the Scots invasion of Northumbria in 1061 when Lindisfarne was plundered . Equally , Malcolm 's raids in Northumbria may have been related to the disputed " Kingdom of the Cumbrians " , reestablished by Earl Siward in 1054 , which was under Malcolm 's control by 1070 .

The Orkneyinga saga reports that Malcolm married the widow of Thorfinn Sigurdsson , Ingibiorg , a daughter of Finn Arnesson . Although Ingibiorg is generally assumed to have died shortly before 1070 , it is possible that she died much earlier , around 1058 . The Orkneyinga Saga records that Malcolm and Ingibiorg had a son , Duncan II (Donnchad mac Maíl Coluim) , who was later king . Some Medieval commentators , following William of Malmesbury , claimed that Duncan was illegitimate , but this claim is propaganda reflecting the need of Malcolm 's descendants by Margaret to undermine the claims of Duncan 's descendants , the Meic Uilleim . Malcolm 's son Domnall , whose death is reported in 1085 , is not mentioned by the author of the Orkneyinga Saga . He is assumed to have been born to Ingibiorg .

Malcolm 's marriage to Ingibiorg secured him peace in the north and west . The Heimskringla tells that her father Finn had been an adviser to Harald Hardraade and , after falling out with Harald , was then made an Earl by Sweyn Estridsson , King of Denmark , which may have been another recommendation for the match . Malcolm enjoyed a peaceful relationship with the Earldom of Orkney , ruled jointly by his stepsons , Paul and Erlend Thorfinnsson . The Orkneyinga Saga reports strife with Norway but this is probably misplaced as it associates this with Magnus Barefoot , who became king of Norway only in 1093 , the year of Malcolm 's death .

= = Malcolm and Margaret = =

Although he had given sanctuary to Tostig Godwinson when the Northumbrians drove him out , Malcolm was not directly involved in the ill @-@ fated invasion of England by Harald Hardraade and Tostig in 1066 , which ended in defeat and death at the battle of Stamford Bridge . In 1068 , he granted asylum to a group of English exiles fleeing from William of Normandy , among them Agatha , widow of Edward the Confessor 's nephew Edward the Exile , and her children : Edgar Ætheling and his sisters Margaret and Cristina . They were accompanied by Gospatric , Earl of Northumbria . The exiles were disappointed , however , if they had expected immediate assistance from the Scots .

In 1069 the exiles returned to England , to join a spreading revolt in the north . Even though Gospatric and Siward 's son Waltheof submitted by the end of the year , the arrival of a Danish army under Sweyn Estridsson seemed to ensure that William 's position remained weak . Malcolm decided on war , and took his army south into Cumbria and across the Pennines , wasting Teesdale and Cleveland then marching north , loaded with loot , to Wearmouth . There Malcolm met Edgar and his family , who were invited to return with him , but did not . As Sweyn had by now been bought off with a large Danegeld , Malcolm took his army home . In reprisal , William sent Gospatric to raid Scotland through Cumbria . In return , the Scots fleet raided the Northumbrian coast where Gospatric 's possessions were concentrated . Late in the year , perhaps shipwrecked on their way to a European exile , Edgar and his family again arrived in Scotland , this time to remain . By the end of 1070 , Malcolm had married Edgar 's sister Margaret of Wessex , the future Saint Margaret of

Scotland .

The naming of their children represented a break with the traditional Scots regal names such as Malcolm , Cináed and Áed . The point of naming Margaret 's sons ? Edward after her father Edward the Exile , Edmund for her grandfather Edmund Ironside , Ethelred for her great @-@ grandfather Ethelred the Unready and Edgar for her great @-@ great @-@ grandfather Edgar and her brother , briefly the elected king , Edgar Ætheling ? was unlikely to be missed in England , where William of Normandy 's grasp on power was far from secure . Whether the adoption of the classical Alexander for the future Alexander I of Scotland (either for Pope Alexander II or for Alexander the Great) and the biblical David for the future David I of Scotland represented a recognition that William of Normandy would not be easily removed , or was due to the repetition of Anglo @-@ Saxon royal name ? another Edmund had preceded Edgar ? is not known . Margaret also gave Malcolm two daughters , Edith , who married Henry I of England , and Mary , who married Eustace III of Boulogne .

In 1072 , with the Harrying of the North completed and his position again secure , William of Normandy came north with an army and a fleet . Malcolm met William at Abernethy and , in the words of the Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle " became his man " and handed over his eldest son Duncan as a hostage and arranged peace between William and Edgar . Accepting the overlordship of the king of the English was no novelty , as previous kings had done so without result . The same was true of Malcolm ; his agreement with the English king was followed by further raids into Northumbria , which led to further trouble in the earldom and the killing of Bishop William Walcher at Gateshead . In 1080 , William sent his son Robert Curthose north with an army while his brother Odo punished the Northumbrians . Malcolm again made peace , and this time kept it for over a decade .

Malcolm faced little recorded internal opposition , with the exception of Lulach 's son Máel Snechtai . In an unusual entry , for the Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle contains little on Scotland , it says that in 1078 :

Malcholom [Máel Coluim] seized the mother of Mæls læhtan [Máel Snechtai] ... and all his treasures , and his cattle ; and he himself escaped with difficulty .

Whatever provoked this strife , Máel Snechtai survived until 1085 .

= = Malcolm and William Rufus = =

When William Rufus became king of England after his father 's death , Malcolm did not intervene in the rebellions by supporters of Robert Curthose which followed . In 1091 , William Rufus confiscated Edgar Ætheling 's lands in England , and Edgar fled north to Scotland . In May , Malcolm marched south , not to raid and take slaves and plunder , but to besiege Newcastle , built by Robert Curthose in 1080 . This appears to have been an attempt to advance the frontier south from the River Tweed to the River Tees . The threat was enough to bring the English king back from Normandy , where he had been fighting Robert Curthose . In September , learning of William Rufus 's approaching army , Malcolm withdrew north and the English followed . Unlike in 1072 , Malcolm was prepared to fight , but a peace was arranged by Edgar Ætheling and Robert Curthose whereby Malcolm again acknowledged the overlordship of the English king .

In 1092 , the peace began to break down . Based on the idea that the Scots controlled much of modern Cumbria , it had been supposed that William Rufus 's new castle at Carlisle and his settlement of English peasants in the surrounds was the cause . It is unlikely that Malcolm controlled Cumbria , and the dispute instead concerned the estates granted to Malcolm by William Rufus 's father in 1072 for his maintenance when visiting England . Malcolm sent messengers to discuss the question and William Rufus agreed to a meeting . Malcolm travelled south to Gloucester , stopping at Wilton Abbey to visit his daughter Edith and sister @-@ in @-@ law Cristina . Malcolm arrived there on 24 August 1093 to find that William Rufus refused to negotiate , insisting that the dispute be judged by the English barons . This Malcolm refused to accept , and returned immediately to Scotland .

It does not appear that William Rufus intended to provoke a war , but , as the Anglo @-@ Saxon

Chronicle reports , war came :

For this reason therefore they parted with great dissatisfaction , and the King Malcolm returned to Scotland . And soon after he came home , he gathered his army , and came harrowing into England with more hostility than behoved him

Malcolm was accompanied by Edward , his eldest son by Margaret and probable heir @-@ designate (or tánaiste) , and by Edgar . Even by the standards of the time , the ravaging of Northumbria by the Scots was seen as harsh .

= = Death = =

While marching north again , Malcolm was ambushed by Robert de Mowbray , Earl of Northumbria , whose lands he had devastated , near Alnwick on 13 November 1093 . There he was killed by Arkil Morel , steward of Bamburgh Castle . The conflict became known as the Battle of Alnwick . Edward was mortally wounded in the same fight . Margaret , it is said , died soon after receiving the news of their deaths from Edgar . The Annals of Ulster say :

Mael Coluim son of Donnchad , over @-@ king of Scotland , and Edward his son , were killed by the French [i.e. Normans] in Inber Alda in England . His queen , Margaret , moreover , died of sorrow for him within nine days .

Malcolm 's body was taken to Tynemouth Priory for burial . The king 's body was sent north for reburial , in the reign of his son Alexander , at Dunfermline Abbey , or possibly Iona .

On 19 June 1250 , following the canonisation of Malcolm 's wife Margaret by Pope Innocent IV , Margaret 's remains were disinterred and placed in a reliquary . Tradition has it that as the reliquary was carried to the high altar of Dunfermline Abbey , past Malcolm 's grave , it became too heavy to move . As a result , Malcolm 's remains were also disinterred , and buried next to Margaret beside the altar .

= = Issue = =

Malcolm and Ingibjorg had three sons :

Duncan II of Scotland , succeeded his father as King of Scotland

Donald , died ca.1094

Malcolm , died ca.1085

Malcolm and Margaret had eight children , six sons and two daughters :

Edward , killed 1093

Edmund of Scotland

Ethelred , abbot of Dunkeld

King Edgar of Scotland

King Alexander I of Scotland

King David I of Scotland

Edith of Scotland , also called Matilda , married King Henry I of England

Mary of Scotland , married Eustace III of Boulogne

= = Depictions in fiction = =

Malcolm appears in William Shakespeare 's Macbeth as Malcolm . He is the son of King Duncan and heir to the throne . He first appears in the second scene where he is talking to a sergeant , with Duncan . The sergeant tells them how the battle was won thanks to Macbeth . Then Ross comes and Duncan decides that Macbeth should take the title of Thane of Cawdor . Then he later appears in Act 1 @.@ 4 talking about the execution of the former Thane of Cawdor . Macbeth then enters and they congratulate him on his victory . He later appears in Macbeth 's castle as a guest . When his father is killed he is suspected of the murder so he escapes to England . He later makes an appearance in Act 4 @.@ 3 , where he talks to Macduff about Macbeth and what to do . They both decide to start a war against him . In Act 5 @.@ 4 he is seen in Dunsinane getting ready for war .

He orders the troops to hide behind branches and slowly advance towards the castle . In Act 5 @. @ 8 he watches the battle against Macbeth and Macduff with Siward and Ross . When eventually Macbeth is killed , Malcolm takes over as king .

The married life of Malcolm III and Margaret has been the subject of two historical novels : A Goodly Pearl (1905) by Mary H. Debenham , and Malcolm Canmore 's Pearl (1907) by Agnes Grant Hay . Both focus on court life in Dunfermline , and the Margaret helping introduce Anglo @-@ Saxon culture in Scotland . The latter novel covers events to 1093 , ending with Malcolm 's death .

Canmore appears in the third and fourth episodes of the four @-@ part series " City of Stone " in Disney 's Gargoyles , as an antagonist of Macbeth . After witnessing his father Duncan 's death , the young Canmore swears revenge on both Macbeth and his gargoyle ally , Demona . After reaching adulthood , he overthrows Macbeth with English allies . Canmore is also the ancestor of the Hunters , a family of vigilantes who hunt Demona through the centuries . Canmore was voiced in the series by J.D. Daniels as a boy and Neil Dickson as an adult .

= = Ancestry = =