

= Arthur , Prince of Wales =

Arthur Tudor (20 September 1486 ? 2 April 1502) was Prince of Wales , Earl of Chester and Duke of Cornwall . As the eldest son and heir apparent of Henry VII of England , Arthur was viewed by contemporaries as the great hope of the newly established House of Tudor . His mother , Elizabeth of York , was the daughter of Edward IV , and his birth cemented the union between the House of Tudor and the House of York .

Plans for Arthur 's marriage began before his third birthday ; he was installed as Prince of Wales two years later . He grew especially close to his siblings Margaret and Henry , Duke of York , with the latter of whom he shared some tutors . At the age of eleven , Arthur was formally betrothed to Catherine of Aragon , a daughter of the powerful Catholic Monarchs in Spain , in an effort to forge an Anglo @-@ Spanish alliance against France . Arthur was well educated and , contrary to modern belief , was in good health for the majority of his life . Soon after his marriage to Catherine in 1501 , the couple took up residence at Ludlow Castle in Shropshire , where Arthur died six months later of an unknown ailment . Catherine would later firmly state that the marriage had not been consummated .

One year after Arthur 's death , Henry VII renewed his efforts of sealing a marital alliance with Spain by arranging for Catherine to marry Arthur 's brother Henry , who had by then become Prince of Wales . Arthur 's untimely death paved the way for Henry 's accession as Henry VIII in 1509 . The potential for a question as to the consummation of Arthur and Catherine 's marriage , was much later (and in a completely different political context) exploited by Henry VIII and his Court to cast doubt on the validity of Catherine 's union with Henry , eventually leading to the separation between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church .

= = Infancy = =

In 1485 , Henry Tudor became King of England upon defeating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth . In an effort to strengthen the Tudor claim to the throne and emphasise his family 's Welsh , that is to say Romano @-@ British , ancestry , Henry had royal genealogists trace his lineage back to the ancient British rulers and decided on naming his firstborn son after the legendary King Arthur . On this occasion , Camelot was identified as present @-@ day Winchester , and his wife , Elizabeth of York , was sent to Saint Swithun 's Priory (today Winchester Cathedral Priory) in order to give birth there . Born at Saint Swithun 's Priory on 20 September 1486 at about 1 am , Arthur was Henry and Elizabeth 's eldest child . Arthur 's birth was anticipated by French and Italian humanists eager for the start of a " Virgilian golden age " . Sir Francis Bacon wrote that although the Prince was born one month premature , he was " strong and able " . Young Arthur was viewed as " a living symbol " of not only the union between the House of Tudor and the House of York , but also of the end of the Wars of the Roses . In the opinion of contemporaries , Arthur was the great hope of the newly established House of Tudor .

Arthur became Duke of Cornwall at birth . Four days after his birth , the baby was baptised at Winchester Cathedral by the Bishop of Worcester , John Alcock , and his baptism was immediately followed by his Confirmation . John de Vere , 13th Earl of Oxford , Thomas Stanley , 1st Earl of Derby , William FitzAlan , 16th Earl of Arundel , Queen Elizabeth Woodville and Cecily of York served as godparents ; the latter two carried the prince during the ceremony . Initially , Arthur 's nursery in Farnham was headed by Elizabeth Darcy , who had served as chief nurse for Edward IV 's children , including Arthur 's own mother . After Arthur was created Prince of Wales in 1490 , he was awarded a household structure at the behest of his father . Over the next thirteen years , Henry VII and Elizabeth would have six more children , of whom only three ? Margaret , Henry and Mary ? would reach adulthood . Arthur was especially close to his sister Margaret (b . 1489) and his brother Henry (b . 1491) , with whom he shared a nursery .

On 29 November 1489 , after being made a Knight of the Bath , Arthur was appointed Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester , and was invested as such at the Palace of Westminster on 27 February 1490 . As part of his investiture ceremony , he progressed down the River Thames in the royal

barge and was met at Chelsea by the Lord Mayor of London , John Mathewe , and at Lambeth by Spanish ambassadors . On 8 May 1491 , he was made a Knight of the Garter at Saint George 's Chapel at Windsor Palace . It was around this time that Arthur began his formal education under John Rede , a former headmaster of Winchester College . His education was subsequently taken over by Bernard André , a blind poet , and then by Thomas Linacre , formerly Henry VII 's physician . Arthur 's education covered grammar , poetry , rhetoric and ethics and focused on history . Arthur was a very skilled pupil and André wrote that the Prince of Wales had either memorised or read a selection of Homer , Virgil , Ovid , Terence , a good deal of Cicero and a wide span of historical works , including those of Thucydides , Caesar , Livy and Tacitus . Arthur was also a " superb archer " , and had learned to dance " right pleasant and honourably " by 1501 . { { sfn | Gunn | Monckton | 2009 | p = 9 } 00 }

= = Childhood = =

The popular belief that Arthur was sickly during his lifetime stems from a Victorian misunderstanding of a letter from 1502 ; on the contrary , there are no reports of Arthur being ill during his lifetime . Arthur grew up to be unusually tall for his age , and was considered handsome by the Spanish court : he had reddish hair , small eyes , a high @-@ bridged nose and resembled his brother Henry , who was said to be " extremely handsome " by contemporaries . As described by historians Steven Gunn and Linda Monckton , Arthur had an " amiable and gentle " personality and was , overall , a " delicate lad " .

In May 1490 Arthur was created warden of all the marches towards Scotland and the Earl of Surrey was appointed as the Prince 's deputy . From 1491 , Arthur was named on peace commissions . In October 1492 , when his father travelled to France , he was named Keeper of England and King 's Lieutenant . Following the example of Edward IV , Henry VII set up the Council of Wales and the Marches for Arthur in Wales , in order to enforce royal authority there . Although the council had already been set up in 1490 , it was headed by Jasper Tudor , Duke of Bedford . Arthur was first dispatched to Wales in 1501 , at the age of fifteen . In March 1493 , Arthur was granted the power to appoint justices of oyer and terminer and inquire into franchises , thus strengthening the council 's authority . In November of that year , the Prince also received an extensive land grant in Wales , including the County of March .

Arthur was served by sons of English , Irish and Welsh nobility , such as Gearoid Óg FitzGerald , 9th Earl of Kildare , who had been brought to the English court as a consequence of the involvement of his father , Gerald Fitzgerald , 8th Earl of Kildare , in the crowning of pretender Lambert Simnel in Ireland during Henry VII 's reign . Other servants were Anthony Willoughby , a son of Robert Willoughby , 1st Baron Willoughby de Broke , Robert Radcliffe , the heir of the 9th Baron FitzWalter and Maurice St John , a favourite nephew of Arthur 's grandmother Lady Margaret Beaufort . He was brought up with Gruffydd ap Rhys ap Thomas , the son of powerful Welsh nobleman Thomas ap Rhys , Gruffydd grew quite close to Arthur and was buried in Worcester Cathedral upon his death in 1521 , alongside the Prince 's tomb .

= = Marriage = =

Henry VII planned to marry Arthur to a daughter of the Catholic Monarchs , Isabella I of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon , in order to forge an Anglo @-@ Spanish alliance against France . It was suggested that the choice of marrying Arthur to Ferdinand and Isabella 's youngest daughter , Catherine (b . 1485) , would be appropriate . The Treaty of Medina del Campo (27 March 1489) provided that Arthur and Catherine would be married as soon as they reached canonical age ; it also settled Catherine 's dowry at 200 @,@ 000 crowns (the equivalent of £ 5 million in 2007) . Since Arthur , not yet 14 , was below the age of consent , a papal dispensation (i.e. , waiver) allowing the marriage was issued in February 1497 , and the pair were betrothed by proxy on 25 August 1497 . Two years later , a marriage by proxy took place at Arthur 's Tickenhill Manor in Bewdley , near Worcester ; Arthur said to Roderigo de Puebla , who had acted as proxy for Catherine , that " he

much rejoiced to contract the marriage because of his deep and sincere love for the Princess " .

In a letter from October 1499 , Arthur , referring to Catherine as " my dearest spouse " , had written :

" I cannot tell you what an earnest desire I feel to see your Highness , and how vexatious to me is this procrastination about your coming . Let [it] be hastened , [that] the love conceived between us and the wished @-@ for joys may reap their proper fruit . "

The young couple exchanged letters in Latin until 20 September 1501 , when Arthur , having attained the age of 15 , was deemed old enough to be married . Catherine landed in England about two weeks later , on 2 October 1501 , at Plymouth . The next month , on 4 November 1501 , the couple met each other for the first time at Dogmersfield in Hampshire . Arthur wrote to Catherine 's parents that he would be " a true and loving husband " ; the couple soon discovered that they had mastered different pronunciations of Latin and so were unable to communicate . Five days later , on 9 November 1501 , Catherine arrived in London .

On 14 November 1501 , the marriage ceremony finally took place at Saint Paul 's Cathedral ; both Arthur and Catherine wore white satin . The ceremony was conducted by Henry Deane , Archbishop of Canterbury , who was assisted by William Warham , Bishop of London . Following the ceremony , Arthur and Catherine left the Cathedral and headed for Baynard 's Castle , where they were entertained by " the best voiced children of the King 's chapel , who sang right sweetly with quaint harmony " .

What followed was a ceremony laid down by Arthur 's grandmother Lady Margaret Beaufort : the bed was sprinkled with holy water , after which Catherine was led away from the wedding feast by her ladies @-@ in @-@ waiting . She was undressed , veiled and " reverently " laid in bed , while Arthur , " in his shirt , with a gown cast about him " , was escorted by his gentlemen into the bedchamber , while viols and tabors played . The Bishop of London blessed the bed and prayed for the marriage to be fruitful , after which the couple were left alone . This is the only public bedding of a royal couple recorded in Britain in the 16th century .

= = Death = =

After residing at Tickenhill Manor for a month , Arthur and Catherine headed for the marches in Wales , where they established their household at Ludlow Castle . Arthur had been growing weaker since his wedding , and although Catherine was reluctant to follow him , she was ordered by Henry VII to join her husband . Arthur found it easy to govern Wales , as the border had become quiet after many centuries of warfare . In March 1502 , Arthur and Catherine were afflicted by an unknown illness , " a malign vapour which proceeded from the air " . While Catherine recovered , Arthur died on 2 April 1502 at Ludlow , six months short of his sixteenth birthday .

News of Arthur 's death reached Henry VII 's court late on 4 April . The King was awoken from his sleep by his confessor , who quoted Job by asking Henry " If we receive good things at the hands of God , why may we not endure evil things ? " He then told the king that " [his] dearest son hath departed to God " , and Henry burst into tears . " Grief @-@ stricken and emotional " , he then had his wife brought into his chambers , so that they might " take the painful news together " ; Elizabeth reminded Henry that God had helped him become king and " had ever preserved him " , adding that they had been left with " yet a fair Prince and two fair princesses and that God is where he was , and [they were] both young enough " . Soon after leaving Henry 's bedchamber , Elizabeth collapsed and began to cry , while the ladies sent for the King , who hurriedly came and " relieved her " .

On 8 April , a general procession took place for the salvation of Arthur 's soul . That night , a dirge was sung in St Paul 's Cathedral and every parish church in London . On 23 April , Arthur 's body , which had previously been embalmed , sprinkled with holy water and sheltered with a canopy , was carried out of Ludlow Castle and into the Parish Church of Ludlow by various noblemen and gentlemen . On 25 April , Arthur 's body was taken to Worcester Cathedral via the River Severn , in a " special wagon upholstered in black and drawn by six horses , also caparisoned in black " . As was customary , Catherine did not attend the funeral . The Earl of Surrey acted as chief mourner . At the end of the ceremony , Sir William Uvedale , Sir Richard Croft and Arthur 's household ushers

broke their staves of office and threw them into the Prince 's grave . During the funeral , Arthur 's own arms were shown alongside those of Cadwaladr ap Gruffydd and Brutus of Troy . Two years later , a chantry was erected over Arthur 's grave .

= = Legacy = =

Shortly after Arthur 's death , the idea of betrothing the now @-@ widowed Catherine to the new heir , Henry , had arisen ; both the King and Isabella were keen on moving forward with the betrothal , and the pope granted a dispensation towards that end . After originally rejecting the idea , Henry announced , after his succession on 22 April 1509 , that he would marry Catherine . The wedding took place on 11 June . Catherine bore Henry six children : three sons died before reaching three months of age , a daughter was stillborn and another lived for only a week . The couple 's only surviving child was Mary I (b . 1516) .

In 1526 , after eighteen years of marriage , Henry started to pursue the affections of Anne Boleyn , the sister of his former mistress , Mary Boleyn . At the same time , he became troubled by what became known as the King 's " great matter " , that is , finding an appropriate solution for his lack of male descendants . He found several possible options . He could have attempted to legitimise his illegitimate son Henry FitzRoy , but this would not be easy and would require the Pope 's intervention . He could have married his daughter Mary off and hoped for a grandson ; this was not seen as a real option , because Mary was a sickly child and was unlikely to conceive before Henry 's death . Finally , he could somehow reject Catherine and marry a bride more likely to bear children . Probably seeing the possibility of marrying Anne , the third was ultimately the most viable option to Henry , and it soon became the King 's wish to dissolve his marriage .

Henry believed that his marriage was cursed and found confirmation in the Bible , in Leviticus 20 : 21 . Although in the morning following his wedding , Arthur had claimed that he was thirsty " for I have been in the midst of Spain last night " and that " having a wife is a good pastime " , these claims are generally dismissed by modern historians as mere boasts of a boy who did not want others to know of his failure , and Catherine maintained the claim that she had married Henry while still a virgin until the day she died . After Henry 's constant support of the claim that Catherine 's first marriage had been consummated , an annulment was issued on 23 April 1533 , while the King had already married Anne on 25 January . Anne was beheaded for high treason in 1536 , after which Henry proceeded to marry four more times . At the time of his death in 1547 , Henry only had three living children ; his only son , Edward VI succeeded but died six years later . His successors were Henry 's daughters by Catherine and Anne , Mary I and Elizabeth I. Upon Elizabeth 's death in 1603 , the male line of the House of Tudor came to an end .

In 2002 , following the initiative of canon Ian MacKenzie , Arthur 's funeral was reenacted with a requiem mass at Worcester Cathedral , on occasion of the quincentenary of his death . Despite his role in English history , Arthur has remained largely forgotten since his death .

= = Popular culture = =

Arthur has been featured in several historical fiction novels , such as *The King 's Pleasure* , by Norah Lofts and Katherine , *The Virgin Widow* , by Jean Plaidy . In *The Constant Princess* , by Philippa Gregory , Catherine promises Arthur to marry his brother , thus fulfilling not only her own destiny of becoming Queen of England , but also the couple 's plans for the future of the kingdom . *The Alteration* , by Kingsley Amis , is an alternate history novel centred on the " War of the English Succession " , during which Henry VIII attempts to usurp the throne of his nephew , Stephen II , Arthur and Catherine 's son .

The historical drama *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* was broadcast in 1970 , with Martin Ratcliffe as " Prince Arthur " . In 1972 , BBC2 aired a historical miniseries titled *The Shadow of the Tower* , with " Lord Arthur , Prince of Wales " played by Jason Kemp .

= = Ancestors = =

== Endnotes ==