

= Edward of Angoulême =

Edward of Angoulême ( 27 January 1365 ? c . 20 September 1370 ) was second in line to the throne of the Kingdom of England and heir to the Earldom of Kent and the elder brother of Richard of Bordeaux ( later King Richard II ) . Born in Angoulême , he was the eldest child of Edward , Prince of Wales , commonly called " the Black Prince " , and Joan , Countess of Kent , and thus was a member of the House of Plantagenet . Edward 's birth , during the Hundred Years ' War , was celebrated luxuriously by his father and by other monarchs , such as Charles V of France .

Edward died at the age of five , leaving his three @-@ year @-@ old brother , Richard of Bordeaux , as the new second in line . After the Black Prince 's death in 1376 , Richard became heir apparent to Edward III and succeeded the following year . Richard later ordered a monument to be made for his brother 's tomb , which he had re @-@ located ; he also depicted his brother on the Wilton Diptych . In 1399 , after twenty @-@ two years of what has been described as a " turbulent reign " , Richard was overthrown by his cousin , Henry of Bolingbroke , and subsequently imprisoned in Pontefract Castle , where he died in 1400 .

= = Life = =

= = = Birth = = =

Edward was born at the Château d 'Angoulême , in Angoulême , then part of the Duchy of Aquitaine . His name , Edward of Angoulême , is a territorial designation referring to his birthplace ; this was a common naming practice in 14th @-@ century England . Through his father , Edward , the Black Prince , he was a member of the House of Plantagenet and the second , but eldest surviving grandson of the reigning English monarch , Edward III . Edward was related to the reigning French royal House of Valois through his paternal grandmother , Philippa of Hainault . His mother , Joan , was his father 's first cousin once removed , and was suo jure Countess of Kent .

Edward 's date of birth has been a matter of debate . In the Dictionary of National Biography article for his father , Edward 's birth year is given as 1363 , 1364 or 1365 , based on three contemporary chronicles , including that of Jean Froissart . A letter sent by Joan of Kent to Edward III on 4 February 1365 announces Edward 's birth on 27 January ; therefore , this is the date of birth most used . News of Edward 's birth was " so acceptable to his royal grandfather , that the king conferred upon the messenger , John Delves , an annuity of forty pounds per annum for life . "

Edward was baptized at the Château d 'Angoulême , in March 1365 . The Black Prince enjoyed luxury and Edward 's baptism was meant to show the natives of Aquitaine that they had a sovereign in the Black Prince : present were 154 lords and 706 knights and , supposedly , 18000 horses ; over £ 400 were spent on candles alone . Edward 's baptism was also celebrated with " splendid tournaments . " One of his godparents was Bishop Jean de Crois . The name the Black Prince chose for his eldest son had been borne by three English kings and had already become a popular name with political implications by the time Edward and his brother , Richard ( b . 1367 ) , were born . In Yorkist times , these were the most popular names .

= = = Death = = =

After a prolonged suffering , Edward died of the bubonic plague ; although the exact time of his death is not precisely known , the date of January 1371 is commonly used . The Wigmore Chronicle of 1370 states that Edward died " around the feast of Saint Michael [ 29 September ] " ; this is probably the correct date .

The Black Prince found out about Edward 's death after he returned from the Siege of Limoges ; " he was very grieved in his heart , but none can escape death . " Edward 's loss " was a bitter grief to [ the Black Prince and Joan of Kent ] " and only increased the severity of the Black Prince 's illness . Edward had " already won a reputation for a Christ @-@ like character , " and in his infancy , "

historians have been willing to see the seeds of those high qualities which distinguished his father and his grandfather , which were denied to his brother Richard II . " The Black Prince returned to England with Joan and Richard in 1371 , and died there in 1376 of dysentery .

Before the Black Prince and his family left for England , he left his brother , John of Gaunt , in charge of arranging Edward 's funeral , which took place in Bordeaux and was attended by all of the barons of Gascony and Poitou . Edward 's body was exhumed in 1388 / 9 and transported back to England by Robert Waldby , Bishop of Aire , who was acting under Richard II 's orders . It was at this time that Edward was buried at " Chilterne Langley , " also known as Children 's Langley , a priory on the estate of Kings Langley . Between 1540 and 1607 , the church at Kings Langley was ruined ; and Edward had already been re @-@ buried at the Church of the Austin Friars by 1598 .

While Richard could not have remembered Edward well , he still " recalled [ his brother ] with pious affection . " Thus , Edward is featured on the Wilton Diptych , a small diptych which depicts Richard kneeling before the Virgin ( represented by Joan of Kent ) and Child ( represented by Edward ) . The Diptych is held at the National Gallery of London .

= = = Legacy = = =

Edward 's early demise caused great pain to both Richard and his parents : historian Alison Weir states that , from the time the Black Prince returned to England after Edward 's death , " he was a broken man . " Edward 's death also had a substantial impact on English history . Even during Edward 's lifetime , fears that John of Gaunt would claim the throne existed ; Parliament passed the Act of 1368 , which permitted children born in the English domains in France to inherit the Kingdom of England , perhaps fearing that the Act of 1351 , which established Edward and Richard 's citizenship as English , would not be enough to ensure their succession . After Edward III 's death and Richard 's ascension , a regency led by John of Gaunt was avoided . Nonetheless , Gaunt maintained his influential position in the years that followed , and acted as de facto regent until January 1380 .

Although Richard was only ten years old when he began his reign , towards the end of the 1390s , he began what historians consider to be a period of " tyranny . " By the time of Edward 's death , England was in the midst of fighting during the Hundred Years ' War , which had been started by Edward III . Richard made efforts to end the war , but was unsuccessful due to opposition from his magnates and the French refusing to formally acknowledge their territorial losses by transferring land to the English . In 1399 , Richard was imprisoned in the Tower of London and abdicated in favour of his cousin , the Earl of Derby . With Richard 's death on 14 February 1400 , the direct line of the House of Plantagenet was brought to an end .

= = Ancestry = =

= = Endnotes = =