

King Albert II's love child wins right to be princess

[Bruno Waterfield](#), Brussels

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Delphine Boël will be addressed as Her Royal Highness Princess Delphine of Belgium and has the right to use Albert II's surname

A love child of Belgium's former king, Albert II, has won the right to be called a princess and to use his royal surname, Saxe-Coburg.

Delphine Boël, 52, a wealthy modern painter and sculptor, will be addressed as Her Royal Highness Princess Delphine of Belgium. She will also be entitled to at least one eighth of King Albert's personal fortune, estimated to be worth hundreds of millions, when he dies — although she has denied wanting a property inheritance.

Her daughter, Joséphine, and her son, Oscar, will also gain royal titles and the patronymic Saxe-Coburg name. "She is delighted with this decision, which puts an end to a long and painful procedure for her and her family," Marc Uyttendaele, her lawyer, said.

Princess Delphine, Princess Joséphine and Prince Oscar join 20 other princesses and princes, 15 of whom are the children and grandchildren of Albert II and Queen Paola.

Albert, 86, who abdicated in 2013 partly because of legal battles over the princess's claims, recognised her as his daughter in January after a court-ordered DNA test proved his paternity.

She is the daughter of Baroness Sybille de Selys Longchamps, who had an affair with Albert II while he was crown prince of Belgium in the 1960s. He has referred to the episode as "a crisis" in his marriage but denied vociferously being Ms Boël's father for more than 20 years.

Albert II, who stepped down in favour of his son, King Philippe, 60, seven years ago has called for an "end with honour and dignity to this painful procedure" but the humiliation endured.

Princess Delphine and King Albert were close in the 1970s and even in the 1980s he would send her presents.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/king-albert-iis-love-child-wins-right-to-be-princess-9nnwwkf32>

*Ref.: King Albert II's love child wins right to be princess.docx
Monday, 12 October 2020*

MG

3 OCTOBER

This is more about the mother than the daughter, or even the former king. Delphine is born rich. So money is not her motivation. In Belgium, her now former family name, Boël is worth more than a title. Boël (and Solvay) is a name that opens all the doors in this country. She lost more than she gained by becoming a member of a royal family that frankly no one is really fond of. But for her mother it is a late revenge. And she made pay the price to her daughter. It remains an ugly story without a happy end.

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Brusselsproust

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Being recognised as his child was correct as is receiving part of the inheritance. But Prince and Princess should be limited to the legitimate children of the King and Queen.

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El Pres

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Good for her!

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Roger Fielding

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Well done that lady. Shame her Dad is such a nob though

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Ray Johnson

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Expecting any day now that Meghan Markle will sue to be a 'princess'.

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ledbury09

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Ray Johnson

Nubian Princess, please!

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agathe B

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brilliant

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Avigmont

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I seem to remember many years ago one person in the UK claimed that he was an illegitimate son of princess Margaret and wanted a DNA test but was denied by the royal family. Can anyone throw some light on this story?

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J Gibbs

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Hope it makes her happy. Sorry to raise this, but I recall her saying earlier that she wasn't interested in a title, only in getting her father to acknowledge her as his child, so why the change of tack?

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Bish Ashleigh

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J Gibbs

The money.

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David Roberts

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J Gibbs

Thin end of a very considerable wedge.

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ice-p

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i thought she only wanted recognition but now it looks like she wanted more.

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Robert Walters

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ice-p

Now she has gained recognition, the titles automatically follow. And presumably so does her share of her father's estate when he dies if that is the law in Belgium, but as her mother is a Baroness, I presume that she already will inherit a considerable sum.

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brambbles

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Apparently every living white European is descended from Charlemagne*. Give me that any day over Saxe Coburg. (*And every other man alive in Europe at that time)

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Madeleine Richardson

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About time. She was treated disgracefully. It was never about money as her family are extremely wealthy. It was about her father accepting responsibility for a relationship that lasted many years then pretending his daughter was a liar and chancer.

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Mabelino

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Great news!

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Tough!

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John Atkins

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Enjoy it while you can as in future all countries will inevitably become republics with no silly inherited titles.

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NLR

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Maybe she is working on a Netflix project.

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Stan 2

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NLR

Funded by Netflix as a follow-up series to The Crown: The Princesses.

Episode 1 GB episode 2 BE episode 3 Thailand...

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DaiSpy

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The next family gathering should be interesting.

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Stan 2

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DaiSpy

Filmed by Netflix with a gogglebox special. A certain classic.

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JollyHockeySticks

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Good. This is justice for her and her entails.

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Alex Limpach

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How can a court of law grant titles and styles? Surely, in a Monarchy, that is the Sovereign's prerogative. I understand that children born out of wedlock are now on a par with legitimate children, and are entitled to their father's name and part of the inheritance, but granting titles of nobility should be beyond the court's remit.

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Alex Limpach

i'd think its self evident that a daughter of a King is automatically recognised as a Princess. She can relinquish the title if she desires.

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Fothers
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Alex Limpach

It is all outdated nonsense...
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quinn martin
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She says the money is not important, but I can emagine no other reason for wanting recognition of membership in the family that butchered so many milions in the Congo Basin.

Vive le difference
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Mike Herberts
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quinn martin

not quite.....leopold the king in question, had no direct heir.
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C'mon Martin, you'd do the same thing if you were in her position!
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quinn martin
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Mabelino
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For that kind of money. hell yes, but a month bathing in liquid manure would be preferable to being part of the Belgian royalty. Read up on

Leopold

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Mike Herberts

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quinn martin

Edited

not a nice chap... but all families have black sheep in their line. Leopold had no direct heir. All european royal families are related in some way or other.. even Queen Victoria's husband was sax/ coburg

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Mabelino

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quinn martin

Yes, the Belgians have a lot to answer for, as indeed everywhere else! And as for 'a month bathing in liquid manure' - really? 🤢

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Mike Herberts

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Mabelino

The Belgians don't have anything to answer for. They had a Sax Coburg to keep the french line out of it. This was pushed by the English. The french were not well liked at the time of independence from Holland....shades of the Napoleonic wars

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Mike Herberts



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Edited

Perhaps a bit of hyperbole! And not the Belgians, the Belgian ruling elite, and not just them. The plebians do the heavy lifting, but get no benefits

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