

Kaiser Ludwigs II., die 876 Graf Boso von Vienne heiratete. Drei Jahre später wurde Boso zum Nachfolger Ludwigs des Stammlers gewählt. Als einzigem karolingischen Schwiegersohn gelang ihm der Griff nach der Krone. Seit dem Regierungsantritt der Karolinger wurde Boso der erste König, der nicht dieser Dynastie entstammte.

The stability of Carolingian rule depended in part upon the strict principle of male inheritance. Neither royal daughters nor their sons had any hope of acceding to the throne. This naturally meant that the marriages of Carolingian women had no influence over the future of the dynasty. At most, potential sons-in-law could hope for enhanced prominence at court or greater status among their peers. To avoid the unintended consequences of such unions, the Carolingians often prevented their daughters' marriages. Charlemagne famously kept his daughters at court, where some of them bore the illegitimate children of important courtiers; his successors sent them to convents. Nor did the Carolingians, as a rule, pursue marriage alliances with foreign kings. Sons-in-law were more likely to be kidnappers, whose marriages into the family received only later and reluctant acknowledgment. The exception to these tendencies is Louis the Pious, who married off all four of his daughters. With the decline of the Carolingians in the later ninth century there emerged a series of posthumous sons-in-law, who married Carolingian daughters after their fathers had died. The most prominent example is Irmingard, daughter of Emperor Louis II, who in 876 married Count Boso of Vienne. Three years later, Boso was elected successor to Louis the Stammerer, becoming the only Carolingian son-in-law—and indeed the first non-Carolingian king—to rule in Francia since the foundation of the dynasty.