## Normandy

Wedding 30 Aug'00

May-Jul'01

Apr'02

1 Aug'02 Murder of Arthur 3 Apr'03

Mar-Jun'04

## **Papacy**

13 Jul'05 ie the monks of Christ Church, Canterbury

11 Dec'05 Papal interdict (decree) 23 Mar'08

Excommunication Oct'09 Nov'09-13 May'13

## **Nobility**

27 Jul'14

15 Jun'15 6 main points of 1 Magna Carta 2 63 clauses in all 3

> 4 5

## John 1199-1216

Beside his more nefarious claims, King John collected various names, First Lackland from his father,

and then Softsword from his men:

The first was apt when he was born, And then his sword, untimely drawn, Would lose him so much land

it made him Lackland once again...

He abducted Isabella of Angouleme, Whose fiancé, Hugh, had a prior claim, So turned to Philip, King of France,

who promised him support;

John paid no heed, but seized Poitou, Where barons joined Philip and lovelorn Hugh, And planned to replace John

with his nephew Arthur's Breton court. They put Queen Eleanor under siege,

Where John himself gained some prestige,

By freeing his mother & having Hugh

and Arthur clapped in chains;

But John's red hand in Arthur's death, Would mean he'd no French allies left, And lost not only Normandy,

but both Anjou & Maine...

Lackland, John Lackland, the fifth and last born: Forced to hand back land, once swords had been drawn; And since he lacked tact and yet still soldiered on, The odds 'gainst him stacked and yet more land was gone.

For when Archbishop Hubert Walter died, The monks' choice, Reginald thus defied The Pope's choice Stephen Langton, and the King's man John de Grey; When John invested the priest he'd picked, The Pope put England sub interdict,

By which the clergy would restrict their services each day. But John cast out those striking monks,

And seized their cash and land in chunks, So Innocent pronounced John's

excommunication ban;

The King in spite, refused to yield, Till Pope and Philip combined to wield The double threat of deposition

and French invasion plan...

Lackland, John Lackland, the fifth and last born: Forced to hand back land, once swords had been drawn; The pope roused to act, banned the king & his court, Who had to retract and to heel thus be brought.

But John, who thought he'd seen a chance To win back land he'd lost in France, Was shattered by his ally Otto's

rout on Bouvines field;

For barons and bishops much incensed By absolute royal incompetence, Stood over him to witness Magna Carta

scribed and sealed:

No aid or scutage sans consent; No arbitrary imprisonment; From any evil Crown intent,

the Church to gain relief;

The king by 25 compelled; The charters of all towns upheld; And rights defined & limited of

and over tenants in chief...

Lackland, John Lackland, the fifth and last born: Forced to hand back land, once swords had been drawn; By aristocrats and his archbishop warned, At Runnymede trapped and the Great Charter spawned. References: English Historical Documents Vol III Poole: Domesday to Magna Carta Purser: Medieval England 1042-1228

- His father, Henry II called him John Lackland, when he was born the fifth & last of Henry's surviving sons (William the eldest died in infancy), and there was no land left for him to inherit. His elder brothers: Henry, Richard & Geoffrey were all still alive; but Henry the Younger (the one crowned by Roger of York) died in 1183 & Geoffrey died in 1186, leaving Richard & John
- She was 9 years of age & though Hugh le Brun naturally complained, Isabella's father, gave John his consent
- Philip saw an opportunity once again to drive the English from France
- However, when John took control of Poitou, he provoked a coalition of irritated French against him, with a plot to replace the Angevin dynasty with Arthur of Brittany.
- Arthur put Eleanor, Queen Mother, under siege and John enjoyed his most successful period, lifting the siege and capturing both Arthur & Hugh le Brun
- At this point, John lost what support he had in Normandy by almost certainly having Arthur murdered
- He did keep Guienne & Bordeaux & restored some authority in Ireland in 1510 (Purser).
- On the death of Hubert Walter, there was a three way dispute over his successor involving John, Pope Innocent III and the Christ Church Canterbury monks
- John was determined to have his own candidate at Canterbury and after over 2 years of stalemate, Innocent place England under papal interdict, which effectively stopped all church services throughout the country.
- John drove the priests from their livings & proceeded to rob the churches on a grand scale £400 in 1209 £3700 in 1210 & £24,000 in 1211
- Meanwhile, Innocent had excommunicated John & those close to him and began negotiations with Philip of France to prepare an invasion of England to depose John
- After nearly four years, the pressure was too great to withstand & John finally surrendered and restored the clergy to their parishes and accepted Stephen Langton as Archbishop.

ie the land he'd taken from the church during the interdict.

- John was nothing if not persistent and once the threat of deposition had been lifted, he looked for revenge on Philip
- This was a disastrous course cut short by the total defeat of his ally the Emperor Otto
- John was accused of authoritarianism & tyranny, but it was his catastrophic failure which cost him most, when the aristocrats of state & church forced him to agree to Magna Carta at Runnymede:
- No feudal levies without Great Council consent
- No imprisonment with out "...judgments of his peers"
- The king pledged "...the English church shall be free" ie from interference in elections of bishops & illegal tax.
- 25 barons would see the terms enforced
- Liberties of towns cities & boroughs confirmed
- Royal feudal rights & of all tenants in chief over vassals are stated & limited.

His archbishop was Stephen Langton ("the pope's choice") ...Innocent annulled the Charter, but when John died the regency of his young son Henry re-instated it.