



Biography of Her Royal Highness Princess Stéphanie

Her Royal Highness Princess Stéphanie was born on 18 February 1984 in Renaix, Belgium.

Introduction

Countess Stéphanie de Lannoy is the youngest of the eight children of Count de Lannoy († 10.01.2019) and Countess de Lannoy, born Alix della Faille de Leverghem († 26.08.2012). She grew up at the Anvaing family estate in the Belgian Hainaut region, surrounded by her seven brothers and sisters.

On 20 October 2012, she married His Royal Highness the hereditary Grand Duke Guillaume in the *Cathédrale de Notre-Dame* in Luxembourg City. Since then, she bears the title of Her Royal Highness the hereditary Grand Duchess of Luxembourg.

Princess Stéphanie and Prince Guillaume are parents to a boy, Prince Charles Jean Philippe Joseph Marie Guillaume. He was born on May 10, 2020 at the *Maternité Grande-Duchesse Charlotte* in Luxembourg.

Education

The hereditary Grand Duchess studied at the *École Sancta Maria* in Renaix, Belgium. She started her secondary studies at the *Collège Sainte-Odile* in the north of France and continued at the *Institut de la Vierge Fidèle* in Brussels, where she obtained her diploma in 2002. At the age of 18, she spent a year in



MAISON DU GRAND-DUC

Moscow, studying Russian language and literature and practicing the violin assiduously.

In addition to her mother tongue, French, Princess Stéphanie is fluent in Luxembourgish, German and English.

Princess Stéphanie graduated with *grande distinction* in Germanic Philology from the *Université Catholique* of Louvain. She finished her thesis about the influence of German romanticism on Russian romanticism based on the case studies of E.T.A. Hoffmann and Pushkin during her stay at the *Humboldt Universität* in Berlin. She decided to stay in Berlin and subsequently completed an internship at the *Agence wallone à l'Exportation* before working for an investment company.

Later on, during the couple's stay in London in 2018 and 2019, Princess Stéphanie trained in art history at Sotheby's Institute.

Official activities and High Patronages

Princess Stéphanie chooses to carry out most activities together with Prince Guillaume, which shows the close bond that they share. During official activities, such as the National Day celebrations, New Year's Audiences or State visits, Princess Stéphanie fulfils her representation duties with ease and spontaneity. During the countless economic missions chaired by the hereditary Grand Duke and led by the Minister of Economy, Princess Stéphanie is usually at his side, whether they are in Europe, Africa, Asia, or the Americas.

She also attends numerous commemorations with her husband. She often joins Prince Guillaume in his activities on company anniversaries and visits to associations of which he is the Patron.



MAISON DU GRAND-DUC

Since her marriage, Princess Stéphanie has been one of the four members of the board of directors of the *Fondation du Grand-Duc et de la Grande-Duchesse*.

More recently, Her Royal Highness also granted her High Patronage to *Blëtz a.s.b.l.*, a Luxembourgish association that aims to help people who have suffered a stroke. Taking on this High Patronage had a special meaning for her, as both of her parents had been struck by this disease. Her commitment to this association had led her to support its activities launched for World Stroke Day and to attend conferences, such as the Stroke Occupational Therapy Conference in 2018, to learn more about treatment possibilities. Princess Stéphanie takes an interest in the issues of an increase in loneliness in our societies, particularly among the elderly.

Because of her interest in the latest technological advances, she granted her High Patronage to the Scienceteens Lab, founded by the Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine (LSCB), in 2014. This is the first research laboratory that welcomes high school students in order to stimulate their interest in science. Her Royal Highness also closely follows the progress of organic farming. She is particularly interested in improving production systems in order to generate smaller ecological footprints. Thus, together with Prince Guillaume, she regularly visits local organic farmers and participates in academic sessions on the subject.

Her commitment to the arts

The Princess is also passionate about art and supporting artisans. When she arrived in Luxembourg, she discovered an exceptional local savoir-faire, which had hitherto sometimes been underappreciated. She made it her mission to support and help showcase local artists and craftsmen. The Princess enjoys meeting artists and having the opportunity to learn more about their creative ideas and processes. She also promotes Luxembourgish art both nationally and internationally.



MAISON DU GRAND-DUC

She is passionate about arts and crafts, both classical and contemporary. Among the forms of artistic expression, she is particularly fascinated by pictorial and decorative art, photography and handcrafted works of art. Thus, Princess Stéphanie granted her High Patronage to the association *Les Amis des Musées d'art et d'histoire du Luxembourg* in 2013 and regularly participates in the *Midis de l'Art* organised by the association.

In 2016, she became Chair of the Board of Directors of the *Fondation Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean* (MUDAM).

Having noticed a decline in interest and a loss of expertise in craftsmanship in Europe and Luxembourg, Princess Stéphanie and Prince Guillaume organised an exhibition in 2016 highlighting the Luxembourg arts and crafts sector. As it was such a resounding success, they decided to create the association *De Mains de Maîtres Luxembourg* the following year. The association's mission is to support artists and craftsmen: in addition to a biennial exhibition in Luxembourg, it organises exhibitions abroad, distributes scholarships and sets up pop-up shops, etc. The aim is to support people already active in the field as well as to motivate young people to follow their dreams of being an artist.

As part of her commitment to promoting the arts, the Princess has also given her High Patronage to the *Lëtzt'Arles* association, which supports Luxembourgish photographers to exhibit their works at the annual *Rencontres de la photographie* in Arles.

Other interests and hobbies

The hereditary Grand Duchess has always had a keen interest in classical music. She was encouraged from an early age by her parents to study music. She learned to play first the piano and then the violin. As a teenager, she developed



MAISON DU GRAND-DUC

a passion for reading and she studied different foreign languages, which allowed her to discover classical authors in their native language.

Princess Stéphanie has fully embraced motherhood since the birth of Prince Charles. She enjoys making new family memories together while ensuring her son grows up with the values of family and respect that she shares with Prince Guillaume.