LETTER TO EDITOR

Sir,

Danna Messer has raised a number of interesting questions about the roles of illegitimate royal daughters in her series of essays (see especially her concluding comments in Foundations **2**(4): 239-240) but has failed to answer them by restricting her study to the careers of just three women. It is worth noting that when each of them were married their fathers had either no legitimate daughters (John) or none who were unmarried (John of Gaunt) or none of marriageable age (Henry I, whose legitimate daughter was, in any case, the groom's niece). It would be instructive to know if such girls fared so well in their marriages when there were legitimate female relations available.

Yours sincerely

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