

= Boniface of Savoy ( bishop ) =

Boniface of Savoy ( c . 1217 ? 18 July 1270 ) was a medieval Bishop of Belley in France and Archbishop of Canterbury in England . He was the son of Thomas , Count of Savoy , and owed his initial ecclesiastical posts to his father . Other members of his family were also clergymen , and a brother succeeded his father as count . One niece was married to King Henry III of England and another was married to King Louis IX of France . It was Henry who secured Boniface 's election as Archbishop , and throughout his tenure of that office he spent much time on the continent . He clashed with his bishops , with his nephew @-@ by @-@ marriage , and with the papacy , but managed to eliminate the archiepiscopal debt which he had inherited on taking office . During Simon de Montfort 's struggle with King Henry , Boniface initially helped Montfort 's cause , but later supported the king . After his death in Savoy , his tomb became the object of a cult , and he was eventually beatified in 1839 .

= = Early life = =

Boniface and his elder brother Amadeus IV , Count of Savoy , were sons of Thomas I , Count of Savoy , and Margaret of Geneva . He is thus not to be confused with his nephew , and fellow member of the House of Savoy , Count Boniface of Savoy , the son of Amadeus IV . The elder Boniface was born about 1207 in Savoy . He was the eleventh child of his parents . Some sources state that at a young age he joined the Carthusian Order . However , there is no evidence of this , and it would have been very unusual for a nobleman to enter that order with its very strict discipline . He also had a brother Peter of Savoy who was named Earl of Richmond in 1240 and yet another brother William of Savoy , who was Bishop of Valence and a candidate to be Bishop of Winchester in England .

= = Ecclesiastical career = =

Boniface was the Prior of Nantua in 1232 along with the bishopric of Belley in Burgundy . When his father died , he received the castle of Ugine as his inheritance , and he surrendered any entitlement to any other inheritance in 1238 . After the marriage of his niece , Eleanor of Provence to King Henry III of England , Henry attempted to have Boniface elected Bishop of Winchester , but was unable to get the cathedral chapter to elect Boniface . On 1 February 1241 he was nominated to the see of Canterbury . Pope Innocent IV confirmed the appointment on 16 September 1243 , as an attempt to placate Henry . Boniface did not , however , come to England until 1244 and was present , in the following year 1245 , at the First Council of Lyon . There , he was consecrated by Innocent IV on 15 January at Lyons , but it was only in 1249 that he returned to England and was enthroned at Canterbury Cathedral on 1 November 1249 . Before he returned in 1249 , he helped arrange the marriage another of his nieces , Beatrice of Provence , the sister of Queen Eleanor , to Charles of Anjou , the brother of King Louis IX of France .

The medieval chronicler Matthew Paris said that Boniface was " noted more for his birth than for his brains . " He showed little concern for the spiritual duties of his office . His exactions and his overbearing behaviour , combined with the fact that he was a foreigner , offended the English . He was heavily involved in advancing the fortunes of his family on the continent , and spent fourteen of the twenty @-@ nine years he was archbishop outside England . He made strenuous efforts to free his office from debt , as he had inherited a see that was in debt over 22 @,@ 000 marks , but managed to clear the debt before his death . He did this by securing the right to tax his clergy , for seven years , from the papacy . When a number of bishops refused to pay , they were suspended from office . He also worked for the canonisation of Edmund Rich while he was at the papal court @-@ in @-@ exile at Lyon from 1244 to 1249 .

In 1244 , Boniface rejected Robert Passelewe , who had been selected as Bishop of Chichester , on the grounds that Passelewe was illiterate . Boniface then nominated his own candidate , Richard of Chichester , and although the king objected , Pope Innocent IV confirmed Richard 's election . In

1258 , Boniface objected to the selection of Hugh de Balsham as Bishop of Ely , and tried to elevate Adam Marsh instead , but Hugh appealed to Rome , which upheld Hugh 's election . Boniface held church councils to reform the clergy , in 1257 at London , in 1258 at Merton , and in 1261 at Lambeth .

During his archiepiscopate , a provincial court was established in the archdiocese of Canterbury , with a presiding Officialis appointed by Boniface .

= = Controversies = =

Boniface was energetic in defending the liberties of his see , and clashed with King Henry over the election of Henry 's clerk Robert Passelewe to the see of Chichester . Robert Grosseteste , the Bishop of Lincoln , had examined Passelewe , and found him unfit for episcopal office , and Boniface then quashed the election in 1244 . He was also involved in disputes with the king 's half @-@ brothers , especially Aymer de Valence , who was Bishop of Winchester . He also quarrelled with his suffragan bishops , who resented his attempts to supervise their affairs closely . In 1250 Boniface attempted a visitation of his province , and this disturbed his suffragan bishops , who protested that Boniface was taking exorbitant amounts of money during his visits . They appealed to the pope , who reaffirmed the right of Boniface to conduct his visitation , but set a limit on the amount that could be taken from any monastery or church . After the visitation , Boniface left England again , and only returned in 1252 , after the pope had decided the bishops ' appeal in Boniface 's favour . After his return , he continued to assert his rights and settled a number of disputes with his bishops . He secured professions of obedience from all but three of the 37 bishops consecrated during his time as archbishop . He also set up a court at Canterbury that heard appeals from the ecclesiastical courts of his suffragan bishops .

Boniface clashed with Henry 's half @-@ brothers , the Lusignans , who arrived in England in 1247 and competed for lands and promotions with the queens ' Savoy relatives . Boniface 's quarrel with Aymer de Valence over the a hospital in Southwark led to the archbishop 's palace at Lambeth being plundered and one of Boniface 's functionaries being kidnapped . The dispute with Aymer was only settled in early 1253 . Boniface was once more absent from England from October 1254 to November 1256 , and spent most of that time in Savoy where he attempted to help his brothers rescue their eldest brother Thomas who was being held captive at Turin .

In 1258 and 1259 , Boniface was a member of the Council of Fifteen , which conducted business for Henry III under the Provisions of Oxford . This Council consisted of the earls of Leicester , Gloucester , Norfolk , Warwick , Hereford , the Count of Aumale , Peter of Savoy , John fitzGeoffrey , Peter de Montfort , Richard Grey , Roger Mortimer , James Audley , John Maunsell , Walter de Cantilupe , Bishop of Worcester as well as Boniface . One of the actions of this council was to send the Lusignans into exile . In April 1260 , Boniface worked with Richard of Cornwall to broker a peace between King Henry and Prince Edward .

He accompanied the queen and Prince Edward to Burgos for the marriage of Edward to Eleanor of Castile and Edward 's knighting . But in 1261 Boniface held a church council at Lambeth , where a series of ecclesiastical laws were published which denounced any royal limitations on ecclesiastical courts . These decrees were done without royal consent and thus was tantamount to an ecclesiastical revolt against royal authority similar to the baronial opposition movement that had begun in 1258 .

During the Second Barons ' War , Boniface seems to have sided first with the English bishops against King Henry , but later he sided with Henry . In 1262 , he went to France , where he excommunicated the barons opposing the king . He was not summoned to the Parliament at London in January 1265 because he was abroad . On the triumph of the king 's party in 1265 , he returned to England , arriving there in May 1266 .

= = Death and aftermath = =

The Early English Gothic chapel of Lambeth Palace dates from work carried out while Boniface was

archbishop . Boniface left England in November 1268 , and never returned . He died 18 July 1270 , in Savoy . He was buried with his family in the Cistercian abbey of Hautecombe in Savoy . In his will , he left legacies to all the houses of the Franciscans and Dominicans in the diocese of Canterbury . His will had differing provisions for his burial depending on whether he died in England , France , or near the Alps . Oddly enough , his official seal included a head of the pagan god Jupiter Serapis along with the usual depiction of the archbishop in full vestments .

After his death , his tomb was the center of a cult , and when the tomb was opened in 1580 , his body was found to be perfectly preserved . The tomb and effigy was destroyed in the French Revolution , his remains were reburied and a new tomb built in 1839 . He was beatified by Pope Gregory XVI in 1839 , and his feast day is 14 July .

Although Matthew Paris disapproved of him , modern historians have seen him as a responsible archbishop . The historian D. A. Carpenter says that Boniface " became a respected and reforming archbishop " . His episcopal registers do not survive .