

= Henry de Lichon =

Henry de Lichon [de Lychtone , Leighton] (died 1440) was a medieval Scottish prelate and diplomat , who , serving as Bishop of Moray (1414 ? 1422) and Bishop of Aberdeen (1422 ? 1440) , became a significant patron of the church , a cathedral builder , and a writer . He also served King James I of Scotland as a diplomat in England , France , and Italy .

= = Early church career = =

Lichon was born in the diocese of Brechin (probably Angus) somewhere between 1369 and 1379 to Henry and Janet Lichon . He was well @-@ educated for his time , attending the University of Orléans and possibly the University of St Andrews , earning licentiates in civil law and canon law , a bachelorate in canon law , and a doctorate in canon law , all achieved between 1394 and 1415 ; he attained an additional doctorate ? in civil law ? by 1436 . Lichon followed an ecclesiastical career simultaneously with his studies . The first notice of this career comes in 1392 , when he was vicar of Markinch in Fife , a vicariate of St Andrews Cathedral Priory . He was a canon of the diocese of Moray by 1394 , and Archdeacon of Aberdeen by 1395 , holding this position into the following year , 1396 .

= = Bishop of Moray = =

After the death of Bishop John de Innes in 1414 , the chapter of Elgin Cathedral met to elect a new bishop , and on 18 May Lichon was elected Bishop of Moray . Lichon travelled to Continental Europe to receive consecration , and was consecrated on 8 March 1415 , at Valencia by Pope Benedict XIII .

Lichon enjoyed an amicable relationship with the most powerful magnate in the area , Alexander Stewart , Lord of Badenoch and Earl of Mar , as Lichon appears to have suffered no harassment , attended the latter 's marriage to Isabella , Countess of Mar back in 1404 and procured for him an annulment of that marriage when Stewart chose to remarry in 1415 . Lichon was probably a kinsman of Stewart , as he is described as a kinsman of Stewart 's uncle , Robert Stewart , Duke of Albany , the man who ruled Scotland as governor until his death in 1420 .

= = Bishop of Aberdeen = =

After the death of Gilbert de Greenlaw , Bishop of Aberdeen , in 1421 , Lichon was chosen as his successor , and was translated to the diocese of Aberdeen in early April 1422 , on the authority of Pope Martin V. Pope Martin delegated authority to Robert de Cardeny , Bishop of Dunkeld , and William Stephen , Bishop of Dunblane , in order to take Lichon 's oath to the Papal see without forcing him to travel to Rome . It is of note that Lichon had already been in possession of the prebend of Kinkell in the Aberdeen diocese , a former possession of the Knights Hospitaller but attached to Aberdeen Cathedral by Lichon 's time .

As Bishop of Aberdeen , Lichon was one of its greatest builders . The Aberdeen Registrum noted that he began to rebuild the cathedral , and Hector Boece gave a description of his rebuilding , noting that although he finished the walls and two belltowers , the third belltower remained unfinished at his death . Lichon also constructed a new chapel dedicated to St John the Evangelist , and donated much of his own money to new service books and vestments , as well as to the reconstruction of the cathedral . He also authored several legal and religious texts , though none have survived .

= = Diplomatic career = =

Henry was frequently used as an ambassador by the king , James I of Scotland . According to the 16th century Bishop of Ross and historian John Lesley , Henry was one of the men sent to England

to arrange the ransom of King James - held in England for most of his youth , not being released until 1424 . On 9 June 1425 , he and other prelates received a safe @-@ conduct from King Henry VI of England enabling them to travel through England on their way to visit Pope Martin V at Rome . In 1428 , Henry was the leader of an embassy sent to King Charles VII of France for a marriage proposal and to renew the Franco @-@ Scottish alliance , and in January 1430 , was sent into England for discussion of various grievances . On 31 March 1434 , Lichon is found in attendance at the Council of Basel , though no more details of his activities there have survived .

= = Death = =

Lichon 's death cannot be precisely dated . It fell between 11 November (Martinmas) 1440 , and 11 January 1441 ; it is probable that he died on either 12 or 14 December , because these were the anniversaries given to him in the 15th century and the 16th century respectively . He was buried in his new chapel , the one dedicated to St John the Evangelist . As a churchman , Lichon could never marry and did not ; he did however father a bastard , a daughter named Janet , who appeared in the records receiving papal dispensation to marry in 1432 .