

= John of Tynemouth ( canon lawyer ) =

John of Tynemouth ( died 1221 ) was a medieval English clergyman and canon lawyer . He was among the first teachers of canon law at what later became Oxford University , where he was by 1188 . By the late 1190s John had joined the household of the Archbishop of Canterbury , Hubert Walter . Besides his position in the household , he also held a number of ecclesiastical positions , which earned him a substantial income . After Walter 's death , John continued to serve as a lawyer as well as hold clerical offices . He died in 1221 and a number of his writings survive .

= = Legal career = =

The first mention of John occurs in 1188 when he was teaching at Oxford . This record notes that he witnessed a legal case decided by delegated judges for the Bishop of Lincoln . Along with a few other instructors , including Simon of Southwell , Honorius of Kent , and possibly Nicholas de Aquila , John was among the first securely attested legal teachers at Oxford . While at Oxford he lectured on the *Decretum Gratiani* and was one of the teachers of Thomas of Marlborough , later writer of the *Chronicon Abbatiae de Evesham* , or *Chronicle of the Abbey of Evesham* . It is not quite clear when John taught Thomas , but Thomas attests in his *Chronicon* that John was one of Thomas ' teachers . Nothing else is known of John 's early life or where he studied law , but presumably like other early English canon lawyers , he studied somewhere on the Continent before returning to England to teach or practice . It is possible that he served as a canon of Lincoln Cathedral during the 1190s , but this is not securely attested . By the late 1190s , John was a member of the household of Hubert Walter , the Archbishop of Canterbury . Besides Walter , another of his patrons was Walter de Coutances , the Archbishop of Rouen .

In 1203 John was employed in pleading at Rome on the Hubert Walter 's behalf in a case against Gerald of Wales . While returning from Rome , John was captured and held for ransom . He informed his captors that Gerald would also be passing by , thus ensuring Gerald 's capture . Gerald 's revenge was to inform the kidnappers that John 's income was over 100 marks a year , which meant that the kidnappers required a large ransom before releasing John . John was eventually rescued by John Bellesmains , a fellow Englishman and former Archbishop of Lyon .

John held the rectorship of Upminster , Essex , by 1204 . By 25 June 1206 , John was holding the prebend of Langford Ecclesia in the Diocese of Lincoln and it is unclear when he relinquished this position . Sometime between 1210 and 1212 he became Archdeacon of Oxford in the Diocese of Lincoln , perhaps during 1211 . His predecessor in office was the chronicler Walter Map .

In 1203 the medieval chronicler Thomas of Marlborough , who was a monk of Evesham Abbey , pleaded a case for Evesham before Hubert Walter and later , in his chronicle , he noted that John , Simon of Southwell , and Honorius of Kent , by now all canon lawyers in the archbishop 's household , sided with the abbey . He also described the three men as *magistri mei in scholis* ( roughly , " my school teachers " ) . Surviving evidence shows that Simon and John frequently found themselves on opposing sides of cases , which suggests a rivalry between the two over their expositions of canon law .

During the papal interdict on England during King John 's reign , John of Tynemouth remained in England . He also served as a papal judge @-@ delegate on several occasions . He died in 1221 , between 25 March and August . This date of death is only recorded in a medieval work , the *Annals of Dunstable* , often felt to be the work of another canonist , Richard de Mores .

= = Writings = =

Some of John 's writings , dealing with canon law , still survive . They show him to have been steeped in canon law and quite knowledgeable . In his writings , he often cited earlier canonists or theologians as well as contemporary writers . A number of the glosses on a late @-@ twelfth @-@ century copy of Gratian 's *Decretum* are ascribed to John . These take the form of notes from his lectures that were later added to the margins of copies of the *Decretum* . This combined work is now

at Gonville and Caius College at Cambridge University , catalogued as manuscript ( MS ) 283 / 676 . Another set of student notes from his lectures , this time entitled Quaestiones , survives as part of British Library MS Royal E.VII. This work includes lectures notes not only from John 's classes , but from Simon and Nicholas ' as well . He also was addressed as magister , testifying to his learning .