

= Roger de Pont L 'Évêque =

Roger de Pont L 'Évêque (or Robert of Bishop 's Bridge ; c . 1115 ? 1181) was a contemporary of Thomas Becket and later Archbishop of York . Born in Normandy , he preceded Becket as Archdeacon of Canterbury , and together with Becket served Theobald of Bec while Theobald was Archbishop of Canterbury . While in Theobald 's service , Roger was alleged to have committed a crime which Becket helped to cover up . Roger succeeded William FitzHerbert as archbishop in 1154 , and while at York rebuilt York Minster , which had been damaged by fire .

Roger did not become deeply involved in the dispute between King Henry II of England and Becket until 1170 , when the King had Roger preside at the coronation of the king 's son Henry the Young King , a function that would normally have been performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury . In retaliation Becket excommunicated Roger in late 1170 , and some have seen this excommunication as one reason for King Henry 's anger at Becket which led to Becket 's martyrdom . After being suspended from office by the pope for his supposed role in Becket 's death , Roger was eventually restored to office in late 1171 , and died in 1181 . The see of York remained vacant after his death until 1189 .

= = Early life = =

Roger was probably born around 1115 and was a native of Pont @-@ l 'Évêque in Normandy . His only known relative was a nephew , Geoffrey , to whom Roger gave the offices of provost of Beverley Minster and archdeacon of York . Roger was a clerk of Archbishop Theobald 's before being named Archdeacon of Canterbury , some time after March 1148 . When Becket joined Theobald 's household , their contemporary William FitzStephen recorded that Roger disliked the new clerk , and twice drove Thomas away before the archbishop 's brother Walter arranged Thomas ' return .

According to John of Salisbury , who first reported this story in 1172 after the death of Thomas Becket , as a young clerk Roger was involved in a scandal involving a homosexual relationship with a boy named Walter . After Walter made the relationship public , Roger reacted by embroiling Walter in judicial case that ended with Walter 's eyes being gouged out . When Walter then accused Roger of this crime , Roger persuaded a judge to condemn Walter to death by hanging . Becket supposedly was involved in the cover @-@ up afterwards , by arranging with Hilary of Chichester and John of Coutances for Roger to swear an oath that he was innocent . According to John of Salisbury , Roger then went to Rome in 1152 and was cleared of involvement by Pope Eugene III . John of Salisbury further alleges that it was only after bribery that the pope cleared Roger . Frank Barlow , a medieval historian and Becket 's biographer , points out in his biography of Becket that while Roger was accused of these crimes , and may even have been guilty of some sort of criminal homosexuality , John of Salisbury 's motives for bringing up this story in 1172 were almost certainly to defame Roger . Such a story would naturally have put Roger in the worst possible light .

It was while Roger was Theobald 's clerk that he made lasting friendships with Gilbert Foliot and Hugh de Puiset . Roger attended the Council of Reims in 1148 with Theobald , John of Salisbury , and possibly Thomas Becket . This council condemned some of Gilbert de la Porrée 's teachings , and consecrated Foliot as Bishop of Hereford . While it was later recalled that Roger and Becket did not get along , there is no evidence of hatred between the two before the Becket crisis happened .

= = Archbishop = =

Roger was consecrated Archbishop of York on 10 October 1154 . When he went north to York , the legal scholar Vacarius , who had been part of Theobald 's household , followed Roger and spent the next 50 years in the north . Vacarius was responsible for introducing Roman civil law into England , and did so under the patronage of Roger . He wrote a standard textbook on the civil law , the Liber pauperum , and was an important advisor for Roger .

Roger attended the Council of Tours in 1163 , along with a number of other English bishops . Pope

Alexander III named Roger a papal legate in February 1164 , but his powers did not include the city of Canterbury or anything to do with Archbishop Becket . They did , however , include Scotland .

In late 1164 Roger led a deputation from Henry II that visited the papal court , or curia , to try to persuade Alexander III that any decision on the deposition of Becket should take place in England under a papal legate , rather than in Rome . While Becket was in exile , Roger also managed to secure papal permission for archbishops of York to carry their cross in front of them anywhere in England , a right that had long been a bone of contention between Canterbury and York . Later , the pope rescinded the permission , but consistently refused to give primacy to either Canterbury or York in their struggles .

Roger did not like monks , and William of Newburgh said that he often referred to the foundation of Fountains Abbey as the worst mistake of Archbishop Thurstan 's episcopate . Roger also was accused of avarice , and of making unworthy clerical appointments . However , he also started the rebuilding of York Minster , which had been damaged by fire in 1137 , and helped with the building of a church at Ripon . He also endowed the school at York with an annual income of 100 shillings .

= = Controversy with Becket = =

Roger got drawn into the controversy with Becket because Henry II wanted to have his eldest living son crowned as king during Henry 's lifetime . (Traditionally , the ceremony is performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury) This was a new practice for England , but was a custom of the Capetian kings of France , which Henry decided to imitate . Henry II insisted that his son , Henry be crowned at Westminster Abbey on 14 June 1170 by Archbishop Roger of York . Also present at the coronation were the bishops of London , Salisbury , Exeter , Chester , Rochester , St Asaph , Llandaff , Durham , Bayeux , Évreux and Sées . The only English bishops absent seem to have been Winchester , Norwich , Worcester , and of course Thomas Becket , Archbishop of Canterbury , who was in exile . The remaining English sees were vacant . This overstepped a long tradition which reserved coronations to the Archbishop of Canterbury , a reservation confirmed as recently as 1166 by Pope Alexander III . In 1170 , however , Henry II received papal permission to have Roger crown the younger Henry , a permission which Alexander later revoked .

Before Becket returned to England , on 1 December 1170 , he excommunicated Roger , as well as Gilbert Foliot the Bishop of Lincoln and Josceline de Bohon the Bishop of Salisbury . After Becket landed in England the three excommunicates went to Becket and asked for absolution , but while Becket was willing to absolve Gilbert and Josceline , he insisted that only the pope could absolve an archbishop . Roger persuaded the others that they should stick together , and all three went to King Henry in Normandy , to secure the king 's permission for their appeals to Rome .

Roger 's and his fellow @-@ bishops ' stories to Henry are often cited as the spark that touched off the king 's anger at Becket and led to his martyrdom . However , it was more probably the stories of Becket 's behaviour upon arrival in England that caused Henry 's anger , and which indirectly led to the death of Becket . Roger was suspended by Pope Alexander III because he was implicated in Becket 's death , but was restored to office on 16 December 1171 .

= = Death and afterwards = =

Roger died on 26 November 1181 and was buried at Durham . Other sources give the date of death as 22 November or 20 November . After Roger 's death , the king declared his will invalid and confiscated most of his wealth . Henry 's excuse was that bishops ' wills made after the bishop became ill , that bequeathed most of their property to charity , were invalid .

Roger had one son , named William , at some point in his career . Some verses in hexameter written by Roger to Maurice of Kirkham , the prior of Kirkham Priory , are extant and have been published as part of Maurice 's works . York remained vacant from Roger 's death in 1181 until 1189 .