

= Reginald Fitz Jocelin =

Reginald fitz Jocelin (sometimes Reginald Italus , Richard the Lombard , or Reginald Lombardus ; died 26 December 1191) was a medieval Bishop of Bath and an Archbishop of Canterbury @-@ elect in England . A member of an Anglo @-@ Norman noble family , he was the son of a bishop , and was educated in Italy . He was a household clerk for Thomas Becket , but by 1167 he was serving King Henry II of England . He was also a favourite of King Louis VII of France , who had him appointed abbot of the Abbey of Corbeil . After Reginald angered Becket while attempting to help negotiate a settlement between Becket and the king , Becket called him " that offspring of fornication , that enemy to the peace of the Church , that traitor . " When he was elected as a bishop , the election was challenged by King Henry 's eldest son , Henry the Young King , and Reginald was forced to go to Rome to be confirmed by Pope Alexander III . He attended the Third Lateran Council in 1179 , and spent much of his time administering his diocese . He was elected Archbishop of Canterbury in 1191 , but died before he could be installed .

= = Early life = =

Reginald was the son of Josceline de Bohon , the Bishop of Salisbury , although he was possibly born before his father became a priest . Reginald was a great @-@ great @-@ grandson of Humphrey de Bohun , one of the companions of William the Conqueror . Some sources say that he was born while his father was studying law in Italy . His uncle Richard de Bohon was Bishop of Coutances from 1151 to 1180 . He was also related to Robert , Earl of Gloucester . Savaric FitzGeldewin , Reginald 's successor at Bath , was Reginald 's father 's second cousin . Reginald 's mother may have a member of the family of the counts of Maurienne . He was born and brought up in Italy , which led to him sometimes being referred to as Reginald Italus , Reginald Lombardus or Reginald the Lombard . He was appointed Archdeacon of Wiltshire by his father before 8 December 1161 , when he first signed a document as archdeacon . He served in Thomas Becket 's household after Becket became archbishop , and by June 1164 was serving Becket 's interests in France at both the court of the French King Louis VII and the papal Curia . It was probably in November 1164 that Louis named Reginald abbot of the Abbey of Corbeil .

Reginald probably studied at Paris sometime during 1163 or 1164 , as he had a letter of introduction from Pope Alexander III to Hugues de Champfleury , Bishop of Soissons , the chancellor of Louis VII . Reginald did not complete his studies for the title of master , however , as he was in service with the King of England by 1167 . He served King Henry II as a royal messenger to Rome during the crisis with Becket in 1167 . For the next four years , Reginald would be embroiled in the dispute and with trying to find a diplomatic solution to it . While serving Henry , Reginald incurred Becket 's displeasure enough that Becket called Reginald " that offspring of fornication , that enemy to the peace of the Church , that traitor . " However , John of Salisbury always maintained friendly relations with both Reginald and his father , even though John was a partisan of Becket 's .

Reginald took part in the negotiations in August and September 1169 that attempted to reach a settlement between Henry and Becket . These negotiations included papal nuncios and most of the Norman bishops and prominent abbots , as well as the royal clerks . However , the negotiations came to nothing , and led to Becket 's castigation of Reginald . Reginald was one of the main clerics working for King Henry during the dispute with Becket , along with John of Oxford , Richard of Ilchester , and Geoffrey Ridel . Henry 's plans to reward the four with bishoprics in late 1170 probably precipitated the final crisis that led to Becket 's murder .

= = Bishop of Bath = =

Reginald was elected Bishop of Bath in late April 1173 , and was consecrated 23 June 1174 . However , Henry the Young King challenged the election , on the grounds of illegitimacy and an uncanonical election . Reginald went to Rome in the company of Richard of Dover , who had just

been elected Archbishop of Canterbury and was facing a challenge from the Young King to his election . Reginald was confirmed by Pope Alexander III on 18 April 1174 with Walter Map alleging bribery as the only reason the election was confirmed . Ralph de Diceto , however , states that Reginald swore an oath that he was uninvolved in the death of Becket and that his birth took place before his father became a priest . During the dispute , Reginald 's friend Peter of Blois wrote him a letter , which is still extant , encouraging him to persevere .

As a bishop , Reginald was kept busy attending the king 's councils and the royal court , but also took part in the 1178 mission to Toulouse , led by Cardinal Pierre of San Crisogono , which attempted to deal with the Cathar heretics there . He attended the Third Lateran Council in 1179 . During the 1180s , he was more active in the affairs of his diocese , and appears less often in the secular affairs of the kingdom , but in 1189 he took part in the coronation of King Richard I of England . In April 1191 he was one of the persons selected to arbitrate between the chancellor William Longchamp and Prince John of England . He also attended the trial of William Longchamp on 5 October 1191 at Loddon Bridge between Reading and Windsor that dismissed Longchamp from his offices . He may have been an unsuccessful candidate for the chancellorship of England . He was active as a bishop : some 122 acta from his time as bishop survive . He built the hospital of St. John in Bath , as well as building extensively at Wells Cathedral and starting the construction of the Bishop 's Palace . He also issued a confirmation of the status of the town of Wells .

= = Archbishop of Canterbury = =

Baldwin of Forde , the archbishop of Canterbury , died in 1190 , while on Crusade in Palestine . Early in 1191 , King Richard wrote to the cathedral chapter of Canterbury , which was composed of monks , not regular clergy , to recommend the election of William , who was Archbishop of Monreale , but this idea was not acted upon by the monks . In the autumn , William Longchamp , the chancellor , was driven from the kingdom by Walter de Coutances , who had been sent by the king to deal with the issue of Longchamp 's misgovernment , and Prince John . Walter then turned to the issue of the vacant see of Canterbury , and ordered an election to take place on 2 December , and several bishops as well as Prince John and Walter arrived early at Canterbury . But Reginald was elected to the Archbishopric of Canterbury on 27 November 1191 , by the monks . His election was an attempt by the monks to prevent a candidate unacceptable to them being forced on them , and his election was contested by Walter , who appealed to the papacy , and the monks counterappealed . Reginald 's death on 26 December 1191 stopped the controversy and appeals . Reginald was probably chosen by the monks because he had supported the monks of Canterbury against their archbishop Baldwin of Forde in their dispute over the foundation of a church dedicated to Saint Thomas Becket . He died at Dogmersfield , Hampshire , and was buried at Bath . Before his death , he was admitted as a confrater of Christ Church Priory , Canterbury , and was buried in the habit of a Benedictine monk . According to a monk of Eynsham Abbey , after Reginald 's death " he performed miraculous cures for certain weak and sick people . " The same source claimed Reginald wore a hair shirt under his episcopal vestments .