

= Osbert fitzHervey =

Osbert fitzHervey (died 1206) was an Anglo @-@ Norman royal judge . Brother of Hubert Walter and Theobald Walter , Osbert served three kings of England and may have contributed to the legal treatise attributed to his uncle , Ranulf de Glanvill . Ralph of Coggeshall , a medieval writer , praised Osbert 's knowledge of law , but condemned his acceptance of gifts from plaintiffs and defendants in legal cases . Osbert was one of a group of men who are considered the first signs of a professional judiciary in England .

= = Background and early life = =

Osbert was from East Anglia , where he held lands . He was a younger brother of Hubert Walter , later Archbishop of Canterbury , and thus the son of Hervey Walter and his wife Maud de Valoignes , one of the daughters (and co @-@ heiresses) of Theobald de Valoignes , lord of Parham in Suffolk . Osbert was one of six brothers . The older brothers , Theobald Walter and Hubert , were helped in their careers by their uncle , Ranulf de Glanvill . Glanvill was the chief justiciar for Henry II ; and was married to Maud de Valoignes ' sister , Bertha . The other three brothers ? Roger , Hamo (or Hamon) and Bartholomew ? only appear as witnesses to charters . Although English biographer Edward Foss , citing earlier works , claimed that Osbert was descended from a younger son of Robert , duke of Orleans , who arrived in England with William the Conqueror , this is not accurate .

Osbert 's lands were chiefly in Norfolk and Suffolk , but he also had some lands in Essex and some from the Count of Perche . Other lands were held from two monastic houses in East Anglia : St Benet Holme and Bury St Edmunds .

= = Career = =

Osbert served as a royal judge under three English kings : Henry II , Richard I , and John . He was often sent as an itinerant justice to East Anglia ; the historian Barbara Dodwell said of him that " of all the justices his knowledge of East Anglian disputes was probably the greatest " . It appears that Osbert 's royal service was confined to judicial matters , as no other evidence of any other offices has surfaced .

The treatise *Tractatus of Glanvill* , which is traditionally attributed to Osbert 's uncle Ranulf de Glanvill , and to which Osbert himself may have contributed , names only seven judges , including Osbert . He was one of a group of royal justices that included Simon of Pattishall , Ralph Foliot , Richard Barre , William de Warenne , and Richard Herriard , used by Hubert Walter , the Justiciar of England during Richard 's reign , and chosen for their ability rather than any familial ties . This group replaced the previous system of using mostly local men , and represent the first signs of a professional judiciary . In 1194 Osbert was one of the collectors of the carucage in eastern England , along with Barre and de Warrene .

= = Later life and death = =

In 1198 Osbert married Margaret of Rye , with whom he had at least one son . Osbert paid the king 20 pounds for the right to marry Margaret . Osbert died in 1206 , without having made a will . At his death , his yearly income was more than 240 pounds . Ralph of Coggeshall mentions Osbert , without using his name , as a royal judge who would go to Hell in his " *Vision of Thurkill* " . This work detailed the punishments that awaited sinners , and Osbert was accused of accepting gifts from both sides of lawsuits . Coggeshall did state that Osbert was " most expert in worldly law " and was famous for " his overflowing eloquence and experience in the law " . According to Coggeshall , Osbert 's punishment in Hell would consist of having to swallow hot coins and then being forced to vomit the coins back up . After his death , William of Huntingfield offered King John a fine for the right to the custody of Osbert 's heir and lands , the fine amounting to 200 marks and two palfreys .