

= Robert Foliot =

Robert Foliot ( died 1186 ) was a medieval Bishop of Hereford in England . He was a relative of a number of English ecclesiastics , including Gilbert Foliot , one of his predecessors at Hereford . After serving Alexander , Bishop of Lincoln as a clerk , he became a clerk of Henry of Blois , the Bishop of Winchester and brother of King Stephen of England . He attended the Council of Reims in 1148 , where another relative , Robert de Chesney , was elected as Bishop of Hereford . Chesney then secured the office of Archdeacon of Oxford for Foliot .

During the early 1160s , Foliot also served as a clerk for Thomas Becket , the Archbishop of Canterbury , but left the archbishop 's service as Becket 's dispute with the king began to intensify . He was elected to Hereford in 1173 , and served as a royal and papal judge while bishop . Archeological evidence links the building of the Bishop 's Palace at Hereford to his episcopate . After his death , Foliot was buried in Hereford Cathedral .

= = Early life = =

Robert Foliot was a relative of both Gilbert Foliot , Bishop of Hereford and Bishop of London , and of Robert de Chesney , Bishop of Lincoln . Another relative was Ralph Foliot , a royal justice . Robert Foliot 's family appears to have been the branch of the Foliot family that owned the manor of Warpsgrove in Oxfordshire . This is made likely by Foliot 's confirmation of a gift of land from Ralph Foliot of Warpsgrove to Ralph 's son , and it is possible that Foliot was the brother or uncle of Ralph Foliot .

There is no evidence of Foliot 's education , but he likely received an education to fit him for his career in the church . Bibliographers have frequently confused him with his predecessor as bishop , Robert of Melun , so he has mistakenly been given as the author of a number of documents .

= = Clerical career = =

Foliot was a canon of Lincoln Cathedral by 1147 , and an official of Alexander of Lincoln , the Bishop of Lincoln , who secured Foliot 's early promotions in the church . Foliot was sent to the Council of Reims in 1148 by the Lincoln cathedral chapter to learn Pope Eugene III 's wishes regarding the vacant bishopric , as Alexander had died in February 1148 . Henry of Blois , the Bishop of Winchester , was attempting to secure Lincoln for one of his nephews , but the pope agreed with the chapter and appointed Robert de Chesney as bishop instead . After his consecration , Chesney continued to employ Foliot as a clerk .

Foliot was later named Archdeacon of Oxford in the Lincoln diocese , sometime before 1 October 1151 , owing the appointment to Chesney . He was also a canon of Hereford Cathedral , appearing in that capacity in 1173 , but it is unclear when exactly he acquired the position . It is also unclear whether he owed this position to his relative Gilbert Foliot , who was bishop of Hereford from 1148 to 1163 , or if he received the canonry after 1163 through royal influence . Foliot served as a clerk for Thomas Becket , the Archbishop of Canterbury , witnessing three documents for Becket during the period 1162 ? 1164 .

During early days of Becket 's dispute with the king , Foliot helped mediate between Becket and Gilbert Foliot , who was supporting the king . Robert Foliot was one of the first of Becket 's clerks to leave the archbishop 's service , asking permission to leave Becket 's household shortly after the council at Clarendon in January 1164 , which ratified the Constitutions of Clarendon .

= = Bishop of Hereford = =

Foliot was elected to the see of Hereford in late April 1173 and consecrated on 6 October 1174 at Canterbury by Archbishop Richard of Dover . Hereford had been vacant since the death of Robert of Melun in 1167 , due to the Becket 's exile and then death . Foliot was either elected by the cathedral chapter without guidance from the king , or was nominated to the cathedral chapter by King Henry at

the urging of his relative Gilbert Foliot . Robert Foliot later attended the Third Lateran Council in 1179 . While bishop , he became involved in a dispute with Hugh Parvus , a local baron , over the power of appointment to two churches . He also served as a judge @-@ delegate for the papacy , serving with Roger , the Bishop of Worcester on cases including one between a Norman monastery and an English priory . He judged a number of other cases for the papacy during his time as bishop . He received over 40 surviving papal commissions and communications , some of which dealt with the problems of married clergy in his diocese . From his ecclesiastical documents , almost 40 survive .

While bishop , Foliot gave books , altar furnishings , and land to his cathedral chapter , as well as a purple and gold cape to Wigmore Abbey . Although no documentary evidence links him to the timbered hall in the bishop 's palace at Hereford , tree @-@ ring dating of the timbers has dated its construction to 1179 , during his time as bishop . He also gave money to the Bishop 's Chapel in Hereford Cathedral .

= = Death and legacy = =

Foliot died on 9 May 1186 , and was buried in Hereford Cathedral . Copies of his correspondence survive at the Bodleian Library at Oxford University .

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