

The London Times

Evelyn Scott, Aili Bielicki – Ace Reporters

Since 1980

The Murder Of Thomas Becket

From the beginning there were signs of trouble between Henry and Thomas's friendship. Henry had a fierce temper, expecting complete loyalty from his men. In contrast, Thomas was calmer but refused to do anything he disagreed with. For example, five months after becoming archbishop, Thomas gave up chancellorship, believing he could not do both jobs. Henry disagreed and was furious, but Thomas did not change his mind.

Henry and Thomas argued over many things in later years like, who should appoint churchmen, who should have the right to judge criminal clerks and who should sentence excommunication. This destroyed the friendship between the two men.

1170: The year of the murder

On the 24th November 1170, Thomas made the decision that would lead to his murder. He excommunicated the three bishops who had crowned and anointed King Henry II's son, Prince Henry. If the king found out, he would be furious, because the bishops were acting upon his orders.

Thomas was safe in his palace at Canterbury. The bishops had chosen not to tell Henry straight away. Instead, they tried to have Thomas arrested in England for a made-up crime of planning a revolt against Prince Henry. When this plan failed, due to Thomas's popularity with the people of England, the three bishops set sail for France to speak to Henry II directly.

The Murder Of Thomas Becket



Thomas Becket's story began a Christmas 1154. Around this time, King Henry II of England made Thomas his chancellor. The pair quickly became close friends and Thomas (the son of a merchant) enjoyed a lifestyle beyond his wildest dreams. He had six ships kept ready to transport his personal belongings and even had his own travelling zoo. As chancellor, Thomas had an exciting job. He helped manage the king's lands and fought in battle for him.

These actions proved to Henry that Thomas was very talented. Henry decided to use him to take control of the church, which had powers that Henry desperately wanted to limit. When the Archbishop of Canterbury died in 1161, Henry asked Thomas to take the role, but it took him months to provide an answer. In the end, he accepted the job, but made it clear that he would not be Henry's puppet.

R.I.P Our king, Harold Godwinson



Our King, Harold Godwinson, May he rest in peace.

Rest in piece, our king, Harold Godwinson. King Harold died on the fourteenth of October 1066 when he was hit with an arrow in the eye. His thigh was said to have been cut off along with perhaps his head after his death. He made a great king and if only he had been king longer, he could have done great things with our country, may he rest in peace.

Harold was killed by the Norman invaders while fighting for his country, now William shall be king and king he shall stay until the day of his death.

