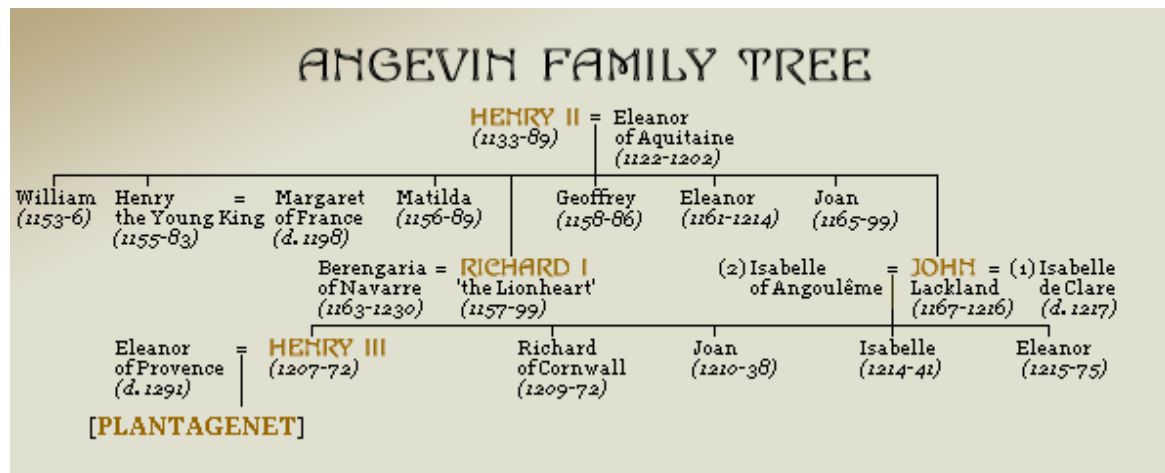
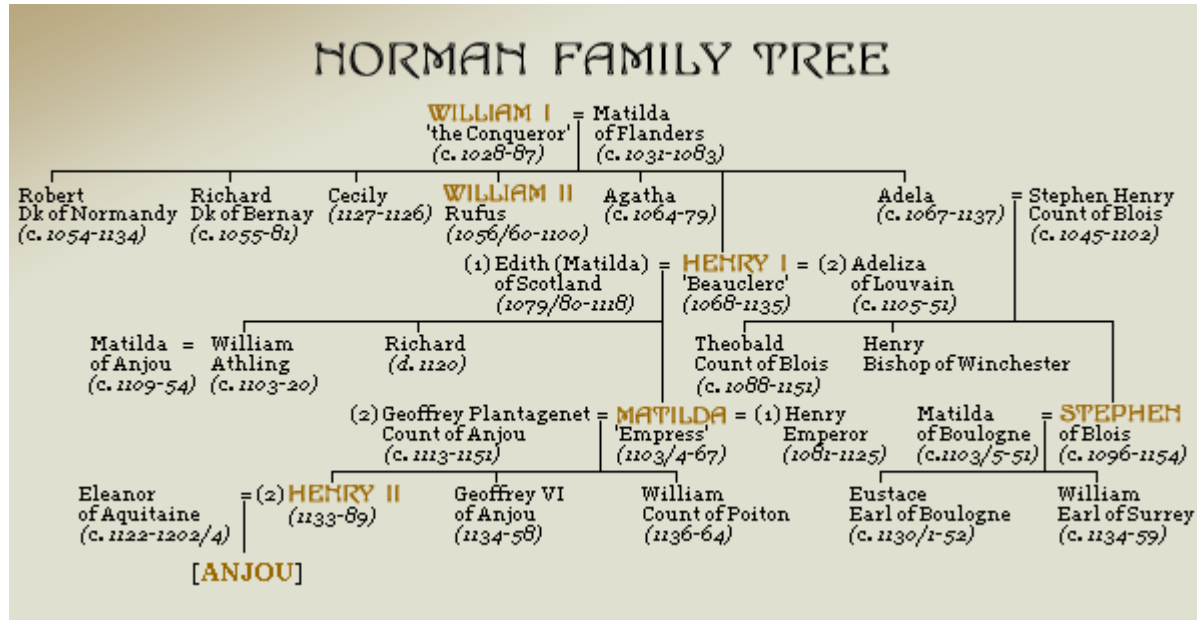
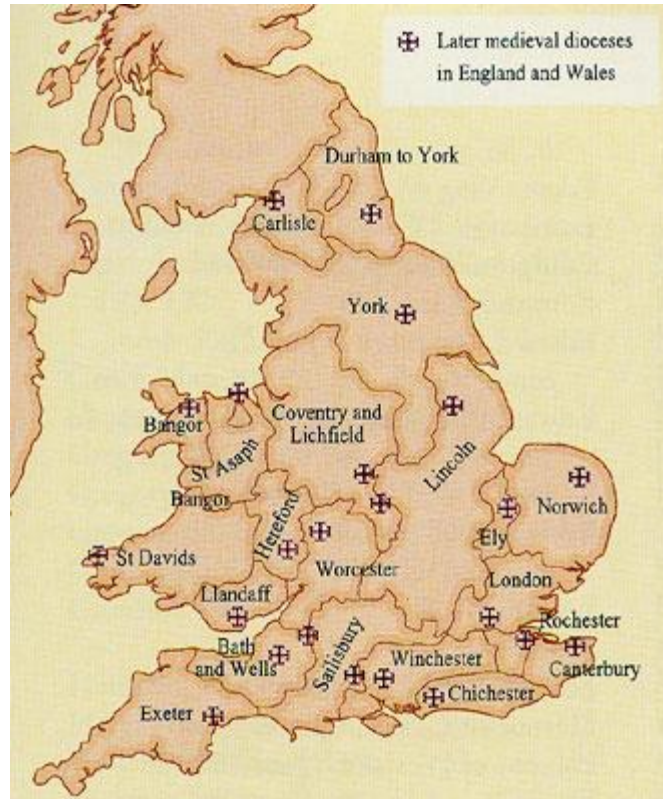


Thomas Becket: A Martyr for All Seasons
Smithsonian Associates
Jennifer Paxton
Wed., Jan. 8, 2024

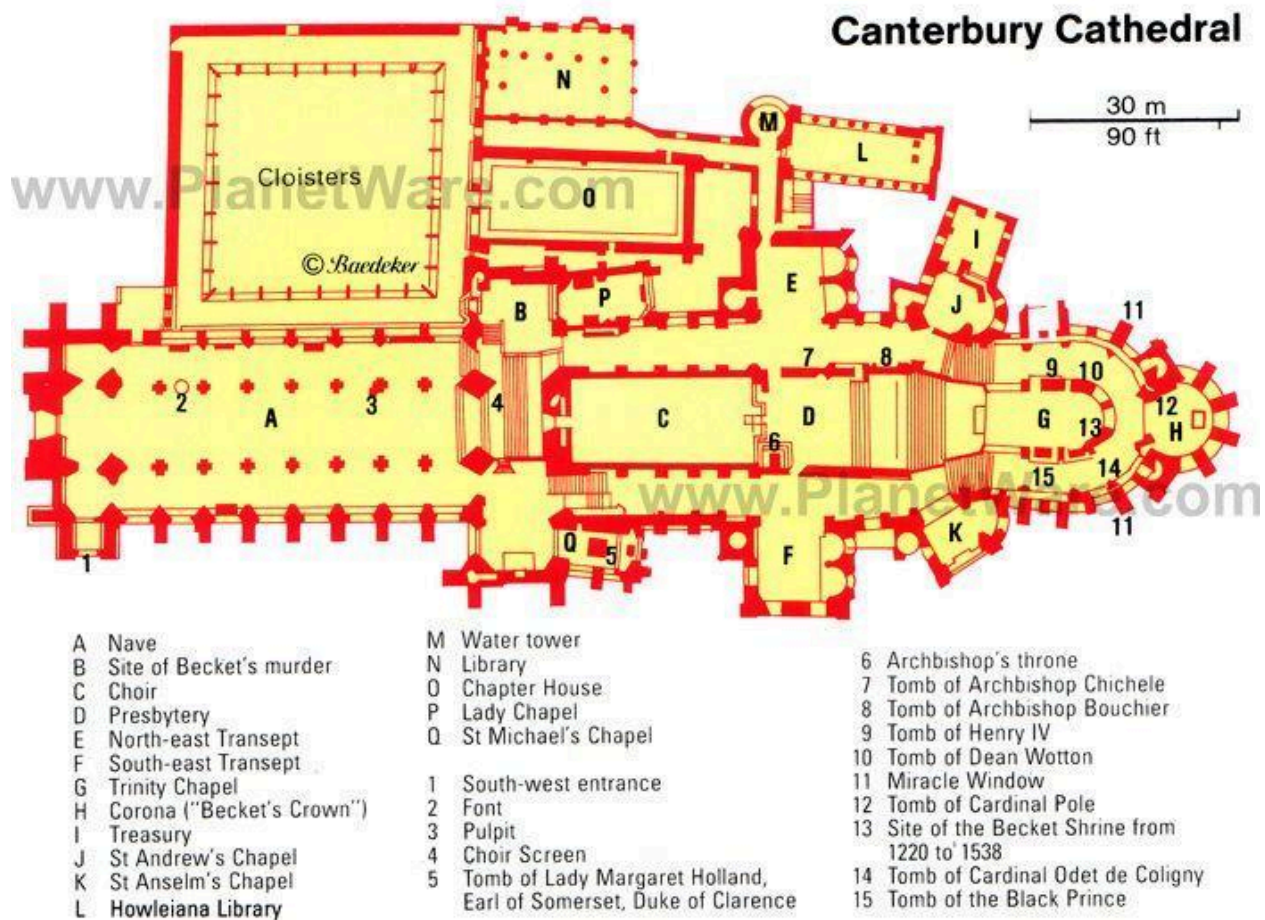




Revisiting The Road To Canterbury



Image Courtesy of The Library of Congress



A Brief Chronology of the St. Thomas Becket and His Cult

1066	Norman Conquest of England
1100-35	Reign of Henry I, youngest son of William the Conqueror
1119	Birth of Thomas Becket in Cheapside, London
1120	Wreck of the White Ship and drowning of the heir to the English throne
1139	Becket studies in Paris
c. 1140	Becket begins a career as a clerk, and eventually joins the household of Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury (1139-61)
1135-54	Reign of King Stephen, nephew of William the Conqueror
1139-53	Civil war between Stephen and Matilda, daughter of Henry I

1154-89	Reign of Henry II, son of Matilda
1154	Archbishop Theobald appoints Becket as archdeacon of Canterbury
1155	Henry II appoints Becket as chancellor of England
1162	Henry II orders the English clergy not to make judicial appeals to Rome
May 23	Henry II appoints Becket archbishop of Canterbury
1163	
July	Council of Woodstock: clash between king and archbishop over payments to sheriffs
October	Council of Westminster: clash between king and archbishop over handing criminal clerks over to royal authority
1164	
Jan. 30	Henry II enacts Constitutions of Clarendon, exerting royal authority over various legal rights of the church
	At an unspecified date, Becket and the bishops defy the king
Oct. 6	Council of Northampton: Becket is convicted of perjury
Nov. 2	Becket departs for exile in France and Henry II confiscates his possessions
1169	
Jan. 6	Becket and Henry II meet at Montmirail in France, Becket does homage to Henry, and Henry agrees that Becket should return to England
1170	
June 14	Henry II's eldest son is crowned by the archbishop of York, abrogating the traditional privilege of the archbishop of Canterbury to crown the king
July 22	Becket and Henry II meet at Freteval in France on cordial terms
After Dec. 1	Henry hears that Becket is planning to excommunicate him
Dec. 29	Becket is murdered in Canterbury Cathedral by four royal knights
1173	Becket is canonized by Pope Alexander III
1378-1400	Composition of <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> by Sir Geoffrey Chaucer
1534	Act of Supremacy makes Henry VIII head of the Church of England
1538	Destruction of the shrine of Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral
1935	Premiere of T. S. Eliot's play <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i> at the Canterbury Festival
1959	Premiere of Jean Anouilh's play <i>Becket, or the Honour of God</i> in Paris
1960	Premiere of Anouilh's <i>Becket</i> on Broadway

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1964 | Release of film adaptation of Anouilh's play starring Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole |
| 2016 | Temporary repatriation of some Becket relics from Hungary to Canterbury Cathedral |

Partially adapted from: <http://www.totallytimelines.com/thomas-becket-1119-1170/>