

lords of Le Hommet-d'Arthenay near Saint-Lô;¹ but he owed his position within the duchy to the favour of Geoffrey of Anjou and Henry Plantagenet — whose constable he had become even before Henry's coronation² — and an advantageous marriage.³ The constable showed his gratitude to his Angevin master by his leadership of the Norman forces in Brittany in 1164 and at the siege of Verneuil in 1173, shortly after his son William had helped to defeat Ralph de Fougères and the earl of Chester at Dol.⁴ Early in his reign Henry II granted him 50 librates of land at Stamford (Lincs.) and another 15 librates at Duddington (Northants.). During the great rebellion he augmented these grants by conferring the whole town and castle of Stamford upon him, together with the adjacent manor of Keton (Rutland).⁵ These were royal domains, and some of Henry's other domain

¹ Thomas Stapleton (*MRSN*, ii, pp. clxxx–clxxxvii) argued that Richard was descended from Bishop Odo, as the son of a Robert *nepos episcopi* and the heiress of an earlier Hommet family; cf. *Rotuli de Oblatis et Finibus in Turri Londinensi Asservati*, ed. T. D. Hardy (Record Commission 1835), 199–200. K. Major, *The Registrum Antiquissimum of the Cathedral Church of Lincoln VI*, Lincoln Rec. Soc. 41 (Lincoln 1950), 181–6, argued that Robert might have been the *nepos* of another bishop, cast doubt upon the marriage between Robert *nepos episcopi* and the putative heiress of William du Hommet (and indeed upon the very existence of the earlier Hommets), and believed that the constables' lineage could be linked to Le Hommet only from 1142–3 (see next note). However, D. Bates, 'Notes sur l'aristocratie normande', *Annales de Normandie*, 23 (1973), 7–38, at 33–7, accepts Stapleton's theories on the basis of an act — not known to Major — for the Hommet foundation of Saint-Fromond: it expressly refers to Robert as *nepos Odonis episcopi* and shows him making grants near Le Hommet to the priory, and it identifies Richard the constable as a *nepos* of William du Hommet (fl. 1066 × 1083). See L. Musset, 'Les Origines du prieuré de St-Fromond: Un Acte negligé de Richard II', *BSAN*, 53 (1955–56), 475–88, at 484; cf. Bates, *Regesta*, no. 92, for the earlier family of Le Hommet. Robert Curthose had given Le Hommet to Roger fitz Richard (d. after 1130), head of the Clare dynasty in Normandy, in c.1090 (*Jumièges*, ii, 228), presumably after the extinction in the male line of the first Hommet dynasty.

² *Regesta*, iii, p. xxxvii. The earliest mention of Richard du Hommet reveals him despoiling the bishopric of Bayeux (*Papsturkunden in Frankreich*, ns ii: *Normandie*, ed. J. Ramackers (Göttingen 1937), no. 14, dating it to 1138 × 1142; *Antiquus Cartularius Ecclesiae Baiocensis (Livre noir)*, ed. Abbé V. Bourrienne, 2 vols. (Rouen/Paris 1902–3), i, no. cxcv, with the more accurate date of 1142–3). It is tempting to believe that Richard rose to prominence as an agent of Geoffrey of Anjou's subjugation of Lower Normandy and exploited Geoffrey's favour to reconstitute the long-dispersed Hommet inheritance.

³ Richard's marriage, perhaps in the early 1140s, to Agnes, daughter and later coheiress of Jordan *de Saeio* and Lucy de Remilly (or d'Aunay), is mentioned in an act of his grandson William de Semilly (ADC, H 727, ed. in G. Le Hardy, *Étude sur la baronnie et l'abbaye d'Aunay-sur-Odon* (Caen 1897), 272–5, no. 12). As well as a share of the Norman honours of *Sae* (probably Sey, MN, cant. Montmartin-sur-Mer, cne. Quettreville), Aunay and Remilly, Agnes' inheritance included Kirtlington (Oxon.): *VCH Oxon.*, vi, 221–2; *EYC*, vii, 31–5. Two of her brothers, Gilbert and Peter, were still alive in 1151 and 1154 respectively (*Regesta*, iii, nos. 29, 810). The usual identification of William de Say, brother-in-law of Geoffrey de Mandeville, as another of Agnes's brothers poses problems, although he was certainly her kinsman.

⁴ *Torigni*, 223 (ed. Delisle, i, 353); Howden, *Gesta Regis*, i, 51; *Jordan Fantosme*, ll. 164–7, 188–93.

⁵ *PR 2–4 Henry II*, 24, 40–41; *Book of Fees*, i, 195–6; *Actes Henri II*, ii, no. CCCCLXVI: 'cum omnibus