

Dictionary of Cistercian Saints

Marion Feise

Hugh of Tennenbach

DOI: 10.25716/amad-85255

Lexikonartikel | Article in a reference book, 2021

Empfohlene Zitierweise | Suggested Citation:

Marion Feise, Hugh of Tennenbach, in: Dictionary of Cistercian Saints, hrsg. von Mirko Breitenstein, Jörg Sonntag und Pater Alkuin Schachenmayr, Frankfurt am Main: AMAD, 2021. DOI: <u>10.25716/amad-85255</u>.



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Hugh of Tennenbach (* ca. 1180 – † ca. 1270)

1. Name variants: H. of Himmelpfort (Porta Coeli)

2. Places: Wöpplinsberg, Himmelpfort, Tennenbach

3. Biography: H. served as assistant to the chaplain of Berthold V. of Zähringen, but allegedly could not stand the duke's tyranny. He fled to a relative, who served as a secular priest at Wöpplinsberg. There, while assisting his relative, possibly as subdeacon, he became gravely ill, received his first vision about humility and temptation, and eventually entered Tennenbach monastery (1207/ 1209). While there, H. received further visions about a rise in the number of observant monks soon to enter the abbey, as well as the effective use of herbs and medicine. Marian devotion and fasting were important to him. He was ordained a priest and served as subcellerar and master of the bakery. H. died at Tennenbach and was buried there at an unknown site.

4. Cultus

a. Relics: -

b. Liturgical commemoration: There was a continuous local tradition until the 30 Years' War.

c. Patronage: -

d. Attributes: -

5. Fontes: Vita in six MSS: 1. Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg, MS Salemitanus IX, 24, fol. 173–180v, 2. Universitätsbibliothek Basel, MS B VIII 18, fol. 266–276v, 3. Nürnberg, Germanisches Nationalmuseum, MS 86409, pag. 65–66, 4. Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Preußischer Kulturbesitz, MS lat. theol. 95, fol. 291–300, 5. Karlsruhe, Badische Landesbibliothek, MS Thennenbach 7, fol. 34–39v, 6. Karlsruhe, Generallandesarchiv, MS 106/106; Necrology: MGH N. 1, 341

6. Literature: DHGE 25, 297; Т. ZELBACHER, Menologium Cisterciense, 1731, 252; S. LENSSEN, Hagiologium Cisterciense, 1948, 331; A. M. ZIMMERMANN Kalendarium Benedictinum 3, 1937; 484, K. GÜNTHER / C. STAHMANN, Der Mönch Hugo von Tennenbach. Auf den Spuren eines fast vergessenen Zisterziensers des nördlichen Breisgaus, in: s´Eige zeige, Jahrbuch des Landkreises Emmendingen (25/2011) 2010, 17–72.

7. Illustrations: Fresco by Cosmas Damian Asam in Klosterkirche Fürstenfeld, first half 18th c., 4th side chapel, above the altar of St. Sebastian – the reading monk at the lectern; copper engraving by Peter Mayer, ca. 1760, in: s'Eige zeige, Jahrbuch des Landkreises Emmendingen (25/2011) 2010, 67, and https://www.sueddeutscher-barock.ch/Bilder_jpg/grafik/t/Tennenbach_MayerGr.jpg [1 Sep 2021]

Marion Feise