

Johannes Luther

Garin of Sion

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Garin of Sion (* c. 1065 – † 28 Aug 1150)

1. Name variants: Guarinus of Aulps

2. Places: Molesme, Aulps, Sion

3. Biography: Perhaps born in Pont-à-Mousson in Lorraine, G. entered the monastery of Molesme around 1085 and participated in the foundation of Notre-Dame d'Aulps in 1093/94, where he became abbot in the early 1110s. Influenced by Bernard of Clairvaux, he transferred his abbey into the Cistercian movement in 1136. He became bishop of Sion at a high age. On 25 May 1148, he attended Pope Eugene III's consecration of the cathedral of Saint-Maurice. G. maintained close ties with his monastery in Aulps until his death. He died while travelling to Aulps. G. was never officially canonized, but his grave in Aulps has been a destination for pilgrims since the second half of the 12th c.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: G.'s relics are in the abbey church of Aulps.

b. Liturgical commemoration: 14 Jan (for the Cistercians), 28 Aug (in Aulps) and 30 Aug (in the Diocese of Sion)

c. Patronage: In Savoy, Lorraine, Burgundy, Franche-Comté, and Valais, G. is considered the patron saint of livestock. According to DEVOS / JOISTEN, he is also invoked against rabies, fever, rheumatism, skin diseases, and fires. In the regions mentioned, many chapels are named after him, as well as a parish in Sion.

d. Attributes: G. is traditionally portrayed with miter, key, and crosier, sometimes flanked by cattle and sheep.

5. Fontes: Documents relatifs à l'histoire du Vallais 1, ed. J. GREMAUD, Lausanne 1875–1898, 82–86; Sancti Bernardi Opera, ed. J. LECLERCQ / H. ROCHAS / C. H. TALBOT, vol. 7, Roma 1974, ep. 142, vol. 8, Roma 1977, ep. 264.

6. Literature: Bibliotheca Sanctorum VII, 457; DHGE 22, 681–683; Helvetia sacra 1/5, Bern 1972–2007, 153–154; G. ZEHNHÄUSERN, Garin, in: Historisches Lexikon der Schweiz, 2013 (<https://hls-dhs-dss.ch/de/articles/018494/2013-12-09/>); A. ZIMMERMANN, Kalendarium Benedictinum 1, Metten 1933, 82–83, 84–85; J. RUFFIN, Vie de Saint Guérin, abbé d'Aulps, évêque de Sion (Vallais). Son culte et ses reliques, Geneva 1872; J.-F. GONTHIER, Vie de saint Guérin, évêque de Sion (1065–1150), Annecy 1896; G. MÜLLER, Der heilige Garinus, in: CistC 22 (1910), 161–165, 193–200, 228–232; J. E. TAMINI, S. Guérin et le Valais. A l'occasion du VIII^e centenaire de sa consécration épiscopale, in: Annales valaisannes, 2/3 (1939), 523–531; C. LUGON, Saint Guérin, abbé d'Aulps, évêque de Sion. Un homme et une province. Romandie-Savoie au XII^e siècle, Geneva 1970; J. SIEGEN, Der heilige Garinus und die Synode, in: Walliser Jahrbuch (1973), 8–10; M.-A. DIMIER, Saint Guérin. Abbé d'Aulps et évêque de Sion, in: Benoît Chauvin (ed.), Mélanges à la mémoire du Père Anselme Dimier 2, Arbois 1987, 689–692; M. G. NEWMAN, The Boundaries of Charity. Cistercian Culture and Ecclesiastical Reform, 1098–1180, Stanford 1996, 248; A. DELERCE, Une abbaye de montagne. Sainte-Marie d'Aulps: Son histoire et son domaine par ses archives, Thonon-les-Bains 2011, 188–189; J. LUTHER, Reformer und Vermittler. Bischöfliche Gruppenbildungen und Vernetzungen im burgundischen Raum, 1032–1156 (forthcoming).

7. Illustrations (selection): Ceiling painting by Hans Viktor Wegmann, Münster (Switzerland), St.-Peterskirche, 1642–45 (J. SIEGEN, 10); Statue, Musée lorrain, Nancy, 18th c. ([https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gu%C3%A9rin_\(%C3%A9v%C3%AAtue_de_Sion\)#/media/Fichier:Mus](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gu%C3%A9rin_(%C3%A9v%C3%AAtue_de_Sion)#/media/Fichier:Mus)

%C3%A9e_lorrain_-_Saint_Gu%C3%A9rin.JPG); Statue on high altar, Reckingen (Switzerland), parish church Maria Geburt, 1743/45 (G. CARLEN, Die Pfarrkirche Maria Geburt, in: Reckingen. Dorf und Pfarrei, ed. Gemeinde und Pfarrei Reckingen, Visp 1995, 82); Retable (with S. Joseph), Maffrey (France), chapelle-école, 1835 (<http://www.histoire-passy-montblanc.fr/patrimoine-de-passy/patrimoine-religieux/les-chapelles-de-passy/chapelles-des-hameaux/le-retable-baroque-de-la-chapelle-de-maffrey-a-passy/>); Stained glass window, Sion (Switzerland), Cathédrale Notre-Dame, 1974 (LUGON, between p. 176 and p. 177).

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