

Patricia Stoop

Aleydis of Schaarbeek

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hebis.

Aleydis of Schaarbeek († 11 Jun 1250)

1. Names: Aleydis of Brabant, Adelheid of Brussels, A. de Scharembeka, Alice the Leper, Aliz

2. Places: Schaarbeek, La Cambre (Ter Kameren) in Elsene near Brussels

3. Biography: Born as a farmer's daughter, A. was brought to the convent of La Cambre at the age of seven. She became a novice, was professed, and, still very young, became the monastery's prioress. In her early twenties, A. was struck by blindness and leprosy. She was separated from the community and lived as a hermit, initially in a cell in the monastery's garden, then in a cell at the apse of the newly built monastery church, where – cared for by her biological sister Ida – she spent the rest of her life. A. had several mystical experiences.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: –

b. Liturgical commemoration: 11 Jun (OCist since 1870), 12 Jun (OCist and later OCSO, granted by Pope Clement XI in 1702), 15 Jun (Diocese of Mechelen; in 1907 her cult was confirmed by Pope Pius X for all Belgian dioceses).

c. Patronage: Patron saint of the blind and the physically handicapped. The church in Sint-Pieters-Woluwe (1949) and the church in Schaarbeek (1952) were dedicated to Aleydis.

d. Attributes: –

5. Fontes: Vita in seven MSS: 1. Brussels, Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KBR), MS 4459–70, fol 48–57, 2. Brussels, Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KBR), MS 8609–20, fol 139–146v (MS from La Cambre), and 3. Brussels, Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KBR), MS IV 778, 4. The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, MS 71 H 7, fol 1–8v, 5. Paris, Bibliothèque Mazarine, MS 1733, 6. Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Series Nova (Fidei-Komm), MS 12706–7 (MS 12707 produced in Rooklooster) = Johannes Gielemans, *Hagiologium Brabantinorum* 2, 1427–1487, fol 248–252v, 7. Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Series Nova (Fidei-Komm), MS 12814.

6. Literature: De B. Aleyde Scharembekana sanctimoniali ordinis Cisterciensis Camerae iuxta Bruxellam, in: AS Iunii II, Antwerp 1698, 476–483; I. BEAUFAYS, *Alice de Schaerbeek*, Brussel 1945; P.-B. DE MEYER, *Leven van de H. Alice van Schaarbeek*, Mechelen 1942; F. DE RYCKMAN DE BETZ / M. THIBAUT DE MAISIÉRES / G. DANSART, *L'Abbaye cistercienne de La Cambre*, Antwerp 1948, 40–43; Martinus Cawley (trans.), *The Life of Alice the Leper*, Lafayette 1994, 1–31; C. WADDELL, 'Alice de La Cambre. Regards sur sa vie', *CCist* 66 (2004), 83–96; S. MOENS, *Vita Aleydis de Scharembeka*, in: *The Narrative Sources from the Medieval Low Countries. De verhalende bronnen uit de Zuidelijke Nederlanden*, ed. J. DEPLOIGE, Brussels 2009, (https://www.narrative-sources.be/naso_link_nl.php?link=2325).

7. Illustrations: –

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