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Alrad of Eldingen

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Alrad of Eldingen (* ca. 1200 – † before 1259)

1. Name variants: Alradus of Riddagshausen

2. Places: Riddagshausen, Isenhagen, Marienrode, Eldingen

3. Biography: Lay brother A. was first mentioned in an official document from the Augustinian convent Katlenburg in 1231. It is likely that he was a member of the Cistercian monastery Riddagshausen near Braunschweig. In 1243, he probably moved with part of the Riddagshausen convent to the newly founded monastery Isenhagen. A. must have died there. In 1259, the convent moved his remains from Isenhagen to its new foundation Marienrode (formerly called Backenrode). Cistercian nuns re-occupied the abandoned monastery Isenhagen in 1265, apparently without memory of A. The 15th c. chronicles of Marienrode describe A. as a noble knight who turned from a secular soldier into a pious recruit of Christ. It is mentioned that he received visions and revelations, as well as performing miracles. Pilgrims came in large numbers to A.'s burial site at Marienrode. The cult continued until the suppression of the monastery in 1806.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: Tomb slab in the Marienrode church.

b. Liturgical commemoration: 11 Nov (DE PASCUAL, *Menologio*, 369; ZIMMERMANN, *Kalendarium Benedictinum* 3, 287, 289)

c. Patronage: –

d. Attributes: –

5. Fontes: Record from the convent of Katlenburg 1231: Niedersächsisches Landesarchiv, Abt. Wolfenbüttel: WO 24 Urk Nr. 62; *Chronicles of the Cistercian monastery of Marienrode*, ed. Scriptorum Brunsvicensia Illustrantium 2, Hannover 1710, 432–469, German translation: R. KOHLHAAS, *Maria Laach* ca. 2011, (<http://www.kloster-marienrode.de/fix/doc/Chronik-Marienrode.pdf>).

6. Literature: F. R. DE PASCUAL, *Nuevo Menologio Cisterciense* 2019, *Cóbreces* 2019, 369; C. WULF (ed.) *Die Inschriften des Landkreises Hildesheim*, Wiesbaden 2014, positions 25 and 26 (<http://www.inschriften.net/hildesheim-landkreis/inschrift.html>); *GermBen* 12, 391–437; S. LENSSEN *Hagiologium Cisterciense* (Typoscript), Tilburg 1948, 314; A. ZIMMERMANN, *Kalendarium Benedictinum* 3, Metten 1937, 287, 289; A. BERTRAM, *Geschichte des Bistums Hildesheim* 1, Hildesheim 1899, 244; *Vollständiges Heiligen-Lexikon* 5, ed. J. E. STADLER Augsburg 1882; K. B. KRUSE, *Die Baugeschichte des Klosters Marienrode*, in: *Hildesheimer Heimatkalender*, 1989, 43–48.

7. Illustrations: Tomb slab in the church of Marienrode (<http://www.inschriften.net/hildesheim-landkreis/inschrift/nr/di088-0025.html#content>).

Wolfgang Brandis