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Goswin of Boulancourt

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Goswin of Boulancourt († 1203)

1. Name variants: Gossuinus, G. of Cheminon; G. of Clairvaux

2. Places: Clairvaux, Cheminon, Boulancourt

3. Biography: What we know about G. is all in a few lines written by Alberic of Trois Fontaines. In the 'Chronicon Clarevallense', he wrote that G. was a monk at Clairvaux who, after a long stay at Cheminon, died in Boulancourt. Alberic's Chronica provides the year of his death: 1203. He was interred in a sarcophagus in the Boulancourt abbey church, to which the bones of two holy women were added later, Ascelina and Hemelina. Goswin was the author of: 1) a Libellus miraculorum, a collection of exempla, preserved only in part and composed between 1197 and 1201; 2) a Vita Ascelinae, a short biography and miracles of a Cistercian nun, a relative of Saint Bernard's; 3) a Vita Hemelinae, a holy woman living nearby Boulancourt; 4) a Visio Everardi, a holy priest from Cologne who died in 1192.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: The parish church of Cheminon village has an arm in a wooden reliquary, earlier in the now destroyed Boulancourt monastery.

b. Liturgical commemoration: 18 May

c. Patronage: –

d. Attributes: In a lost painting of his sepulcher, described by Claude Guitton and quoted by Bouillevaux, Gossuin was represented as a monk, with the tonsure.

5. Fontes: S. MULA, Il cosiddetto Chronicon Clarevallense. Edizione dal ms. Firenze, Biblioteca Mediceo Laurenziana, Ashburnham 1906, in: Herbertus 5/4 (2005), 5–48, also incomplete in: Patrologia Latina 185, 1247A–1252B; Chronica Albrici monachi Trium Fontium a monacho nouimonasterii Hoiensis interpolata, ed. P. SCHEFFER-BOICHORST (MGH.SS, 23), Hannover 1874, 631–950.

6. Literature: C. E. BOUILLEVAUX, Les saints de Boulancourt. Notice sur le bienheureux Gossuin, la bienheureuse Emeline et sainte Asceline, Langres 1897; G. MÜLLER, Goswin. Mönch von Clairvaux, in: CistC 13 (1901), 353–358; A. DIMIER, Le bienheureux Goswin, in: Mémoires de la société d'Agriculture, Commerce, Sciences et Arts du département de la Marne, 79 (1964), 16–18; A. DIMIER, Goswino di Boulancourt, Bibliotheca Sanctorum 7, 133–134; L. VESSYERE, Le Personnel de l'abbaye de Clairvaux au XII^e siècle, in: Cîteaux 51 (2000), 17–89, at 59; S. MULA, I frammenti di Gossuinus. Edizione dal ms. Firenze, Laurenziana, Ashburnham 1906, in: Herbertus 3 (2002), 7–16; S. MULA, Il cosiddetto Chronicon Clarevallense. Edizione dal ms. Firenze, Bibl. Laurenziana, Ashburnham 1906, in: Herbertus 5 (2005), 5–48; S. MULA, Gossuinus's Vitae of Emelina and Ascelina. Edition of Florence, Biblioteca Mediceo Laurenziana, Ms. Ashburnham 1906, in: Cîteaux 62 (2011), 37–58.

7. Illustrations: –

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