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Wigand of Waldsassen

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hebis.

Wigand of Waldsassen (12th c.)

1. Name variants: –

2. Places: Volkenroda, Waldsassen

3. Biography: There is no evidence of W.'s historicity. The foundational legend of Waldsassen has him arriving there from Volkenroda ca. 1132 with the first monks. W. served as their first prior. There is no documentation of medieval veneration, but in Henriquez' 'Menologium Cisterciense' W. is called „blessed“.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: –

b. Liturgical commemoration: 22 Oct

c. Patronage: The name W. was regularly given to monks of Waldsassen in the 17th and 18th c. as their name in religion; 'Wiganda' appears likewise among the nuns as of 1863.

d. Attributes: –

5. Fontes: "Fundatio latinalis" and "Fundatio teutunicalis" (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, MS Clm 1091, fol. 1–7v and 8–20), in: Fundatio monasterii Waldsassensis, ed. O. HOLDER-EGGER, MGH.SS 15, 2, 1088–1093; F. KEINZ (ed.), Die Gründung des Klosters Waldsassen. Altdeutsches Gedicht zur Tirschenreuther Schmeller-Feier, München 1885; J. A. SCHMELLER (ed.), Die Entstehung des Klosters Waldsassen in deutschen Reimen des XIV. Jahrhunderts, in: Verhandlungen des Historischen Vereins für die Oberpfalz und Regensburg 10 (1846), 76–99.

6. Literature: C. HENRIQUEZ, Menologium Cisterciense notationibus illustratum, Antwerp 1630, 357; C. HENRIQUEZ, Menologium Cisterciense oder Kurtz begrieffene Lebens=Verfassung derer Heiligen und Seligen, wie auch von sonderbarer Andacht und Gottesforcht berühmten Ordens=Personen des Heiligen Cistercienser Ordens, transl. T. ZELBACHER, Prague 1731, 204; E. RITTER, Zeugen des Glaubens. Heilige, Selige und Diener Gottes im Bistum Regensburg, Regensburg 1989; G. SCHROTT, „Ihr Schutzpatrone des Stiftlandes...“ Die fünf Waldsassener Seligen und ihre ungewöhnliche Geschichte, Kallmünz 2017 (with further references); G. SCHROTT, Die Waldsassener Seligen, in: CistC 127 (2020), 53–62.

7. Illustrations: Waldsassen abbey church, fresco on the choir front wall under the organ loft by Johann Jakob Steinfels (shortly before 1700) showing W.'s vision of John the Evangelist consecrating the site; altarpiece of the St. John altar in the middle northern side chapel by Giuseppe Ignazio Appiani (1727); I. BONSCHAB, Pinacotheca Mariana, exhibens per singulos anni dies antiquitatem, sanctitatem, et utilitatem cultus Mariani, Augsburg 1760, not paginated, at 22 Oct: W. before the Virgin Mary and John the Evangelist.

Georg Schrott