

Jesse Harrington

Odanus 'of Armagh'

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25716/amad-85397>

Lexikonartikel | Article in a reference book, 2022

Empfohlene Zitierweise | Suggested Citation:

Jesse Harrington, Odanus 'of Armagh', in: Dictionary of Cistercian Saints, hrsg. von Mirko Breitenstein, Jörg Sonntag und Alkuin Schachenmayr, Frankfurt am Main: AMAD, 2022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25716/amad-85397>.



Dieses Werk ist lizenziert unter einer [Creative Commons Namensnennung - CC0 1.0 Universal \(CC0 1.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-CC0 1.0 Universal \(CC0 1.0\) Public Domain Dedication](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Gefördert durch

 Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



hebis.

Odanus 'of Armagh' (* 12th c. – † 1206?)

1. Name variants: Felix, Malachias, Malachy (baptismal, uncertain); Odanus, O'Danus, O'Hedanus, Ua hÁeda (family)

2. Places: Down, (Armagh, Clogher, Cork, Lismore, Louth, Waterford)

3. Biography: Philip Seguin, in his 1580 *Catalogus Sanctorum Ordinis Cisterciensis*, says that a certain O. was a Cistercian monk, disciple of Malachy Ua Morgair († 1148) at Down, and a man highly esteemed for his learning, holiness, and knowledge in ecclesiastical affairs, who succeeded Christian, archbishop of Armagh. However, no prelate named Christian or O. is known to have held primatial see of Armagh. Walter Harris († 1761) suggested that Seguin had confused the sees of Armagh and Lismore, where Malachy's disciple Gilla Críst (Christian) Ua Connairche was bishop, papal legate, and preeminent leader of the Irish Church until resigning in c. 1175–79. Lismore had a disputed claim at this time over the short-lived neighbouring see of Ardmore (c. 1152–1210), whose name might also be confused with Armagh. Harris argued that Seguin's 'O.' referred to a bishop in the medieval Annals of Innisfallen surnamed 'Ua hÁeda' ('O'Danus' or 'O'Hedanus'), who might have succeeded Gilla Críst at Lismore. The annals record for 1206 that 'the bishop Ua hAeda died on the roadside on Sliab Cua', in the Comeragh or Knockmealdown mountains of Waterford. Different authorities identify this Ua hÁeda, whose see is not named, as Felix, bishop of Lismore at the Third Lateran Council in 1179; as 'M.' (or Malachias), bishop of Lismore († 1216), consecrated c. 1203–5 and grievously injured in his see's dispute with Robert II, bishop of Waterford; or, more convincingly, as Murchad Ua hÁeda, bishop of Cork († 1206). If anyone of these was a Cistercian under Malachy, he would have died in his seventies or eighties. Seguin's O. is more probably a confusion for Malachy's disciple Áed (Edanus) Ua Cáellaide († 1182), who succeeded another Gilla Críst (Christian) as bishop of Clogher-Louth, a suffragan see of Armagh. Though Áed was not a Cistercian, Bernard of Clairvaux celebrated him in his vita of Malachy. A third, less likely, option is that O. is at least a partial confusion for Donatus Ua Fidabra († 1237), a Cistercian bishop of Clogher and archbishop of Armagh.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: –

b. Liturgical commemoration: –

c. Patronage: –

d. Attributes: –

5. Fontes: The Annals of Inisfallen, ed. S. MAC AIRT, Dublin 1951, 334–335; *Pontificia Hibernica: Medieval Papal Chancery Documents Concerning Ireland, 640–1261*, ed. M. P. SHEEHY, Dublin 1962–1965, 1, 124–125, 155.

6. Literature: J. WARE, *History of the Bishops of Ireland*, ed. W. HARRIS, Dublin 1739, 180, 551; T. WALSH, *History of the Irish Hierarchy*, New York 1854, 241; A. GWYNN / R. N. HADDOCK, *Medieval Religious Houses: Ireland*, Harlow 1970, 62, 66, 91–92; P. J. DUNNING, *Pope Innocent III and the Waterford-Lismore Controversy 1198–1216*, in: *The Irish Theological Quarterly*, 28.3 (1962), 215–232, at 221; *Clergy of Waterford, Lismore, and Ferns*, ed. I. KNOX, Belfast 2008, 3, 347.

7. Illustrations: –

Jesse Harrington