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**Raimond of Fitero**

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## **Raimond of Fitero** († 1163)

1. Name variants: R. Serrat, R. de Calatrava

2. Places: Tarazona, Ciruelos, Abbey Montesión (Toledo)

3. Biography: R. might have been born in Tarazona, where he was canon at the cathedral. He entered the Cistercian abbey of L'Escaledieu, and moved to its daughter convent at Niencebas in Spain in 1140. He was elected abbot and founded the new convent of Santa Maria la Real in Fitero. While at the royal court, in 1158, together with one of his monks, the former knight Diego Velásquez, the latter convinced R. to head the defense of Calatrava against a Muslim attack. He gave the lay brethren of his monastery arms and they managed to hold the city. After R.'s death in 1163, the knights refused to stay under the obedience of an abbot and chose their first master, while the monks threatened to expel them from the order. A compromise was reached: The Knights of Calatrava formed a military order, with a master and rule, but they were to answer to the General Chapter of the Cistercian Order. R. was buried in Ciruelos.

4. Cultus: A cult developed quickly in the 13th c. HENRIQUEZ (1630) tells several miracles that occurred in Ciruelos, even after the removal of the relics.

a. Relics: In 1471, the relics were split between the Calatrava church in Madrid and Montesión. The master of the Order of Calatrava donated a monument. During an epidemic, water that had been touched by the relics cured people in Toledo. Since 1835, relics from Montesión are in the cathedral of Toledo.

b. Liturgical commemoration: 1 Feb (HENRIQUEZ 1731); 6 Feb (DE PASCUAL, 60–62). Translation from Ciruelos to Montesión: 5 Mar (OCist., HENRIQUEZ 1731); 15 Mar: all Spanish territories since 1800, Order of Calatrava; 30 Apr (Diocese of Comminges).

c. Patronage: Fitero

d. Attributes: Shield / banner / breastplate with Calatrava cross, helmet, Cistercian habit, sword and lance; with a Moor in chains.

5. Fontes: G. MASCARENAS, Raymundo, abad de Fitero de la orden del Císter, fundador de la Sagrada Religión y ínclicita Caballería de Santa María de Calatrava, primer capitán general de su espiritual y temporal milicia, Madrid 1653, 60–68; F. DE RADES Y ANDRADA, Crónicon de last res órdenes militares y cavalléras de Santiago, Calatrava y Alcántara, Toledo 1572; C. HENRIQUEZ, Menologium Cistertiense notationibus illustratum, Antwerp 1630, 37–38; C. HENRIQUEZ, Menologium Cisterciense. Oder kurtz begrieffene Lebens-Verfassung derer Heiligen, Prag 1731, 23.

6. Literature: R. F. GRACIA, Iconografía de San Raimundo de Fitero, in: Príncipe de Viana 199 (1993), 283–356; B. SCHWENK, Calatrava. Entstehung und Frühgeschichte eines spanischen Ritterordens zisterziensischer Observanz im 12. Jahrhundert, Münster 1992; Martyrologium Romanum 2004, [https://dli.institute/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Martyrologium-Romanum-deutsch\\_Vorlaeufige-Arbeitsuebersetzung\\_2016\\_Liturgiekommission-DBK-web.pdf](https://dli.institute/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Martyrologium-Romanum-deutsch_Vorlaeufige-Arbeitsuebersetzung_2016_Liturgiekommission-DBK-web.pdf); F. R. DE PASCUAL, Nuevo Menologio Cisterciense, Cóbreces 2019.

7. Illustrations: Cover of HENRIQUEZ 1630; Madrid, church Las Calatras, ca. 1700; Zwettl abbey church, southern transept, statue by Jakob Christoph Schletterer, 18th c.; San Isidro de Duenos and Sta. Maria Real de Fitero, by José Serrano, 1730; Fitero, marketplace, by Fausto Palacios, 1946; painting by Miguel Jacinto Meléndez, in Calahorra, church of San Andrés, 18th c.

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