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Gerard

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## **Gerard** († 1193)

1. Name variants: G. of Clairvaux, G. of Alvastra

2. Places: Clairvaux, Alvastra

3. Biography: G. was from Utrecht and entered Clairvaux while Bernard was abbot. He was sent to Alvastra in Sweden with other Clairvaux monks in 1143. In 1153, he became Alvastra's second abbot. He is said to have begged Bernard to be allowed to remain at Clairvaux but was assured that one day he would be able to return there to die. This he did in 1193, fifty years after first departing. He represents the early generations of Cistercian monks who were sent to the fringes of Europe to make foundations, often longing for Clairvaux.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: None known. Buried near the tomb of the monk Benedict at Clairvaux, but like all burials here it was desecrated in the French Revolution. According to the *Exordium Magnum* 4,29, a Swedish king asserted that his kingdom was not worthy to harbor the "sacred bones of so great a man".

b. Liturgical commemoration: –

c. Patronage: –

d. Attributes: –

5. Fontes: Conradus Eberbacensis, *Exordium Magnum*, 4,28 and 4,29.

6. Literature: J. FRANCE, *The Cistercians in Scandinavia*, Kalamazoo 1992, 109–115; B. P. MCGUIRE, *The Cistercians in Denmark*, Kalamazoo 1982, 41, 43–44.

7. Illustrations: –

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