

Brian Patrick McGuire

Martyrs of Nydala

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Martyrs of Nydala († 2 Feb 1521)

1. Name variants: The name of the abbot is Arvid, but the names of the six monks are not known.

2. Places: Nydala Abbey in Småland, Sweden

3. Biography: The Danish King Christian II was returning to Copenhagen after what is known as the Stockholm Bloodbath, where he was responsible for the execution of approximately eighty nobles and churchmen. It is not apparent whether the king was present at Nydala when the abbot and monks were murdered. The monastery's copy book blames him for the deed. One chronicler, Arild Huitfeldt, indicates that the monks had participated in resistance to the king. The monastery was closed soon after, and so the graves of the monks, considered in the Copy Book to be martyrs, were lost.

4. Cultus:

a. Relics: –

b. Liturgical commemoration: –

c. Patronage: –

d. Attributes: –

5. Fontes: A. HUITFELDT, *Danmarks rigis kronicke 1595–1603*, vol. 9; R. ERIKSSON, *Nydala Klosters Kopiebok*, in: *Nordisk Tidskrift för Bok- och Biblioteksväsen* 24 (1937), 221; H. RÖRDAM, *Monumenta Historiae Danicae. Historiske Kildeskrifter*, Copenhagen 1873, 42, 45–46, 290, 348, 414, 534.

6. Literature: J. France, *The Cistercians in Scandinavia* 1992, 429.

7. Illustrations: Copper engraving of the (Stockholm) Bloodbath from ca. 1520 depicting the murders at Nydala abbey, de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Blodbadsplanschen.jpg.

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