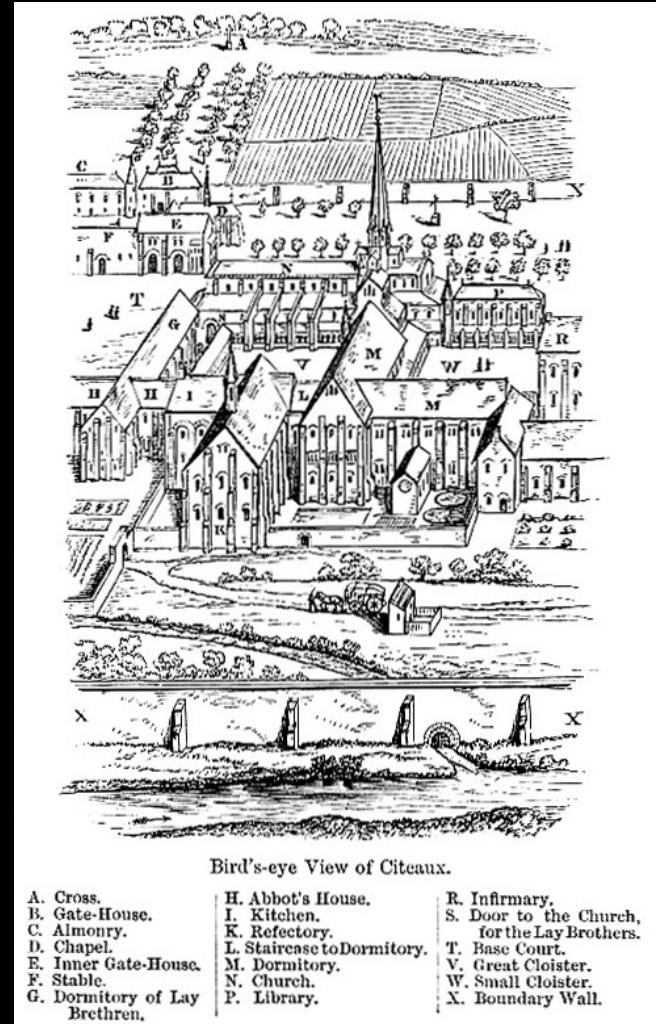


Week 2

- The foundation of Cîteaux and the formation of a Cistercian identity
- The *Exordium Parvum* and the *Exordium Cistercii*



Cîteaux: the library(15C)



Location of Cîteaux



Modern Cîteaux



The Exordium Parvum

- 1 How did the abbey of Cîteaux begin? (see chapters 1, 2, 3, 4)
- 2 What difficulties did it encounter, and why? (see chapters 5–8)
- 3 What indications are there, in the text, that the foundation of Cîteaux sprang from (a) dissatisfaction with existing monastic practice, and/or (b) a new religious outlook?
- 4 What use is made of the notion of the ‘desert’?, or solitude?
- 5 What seems to be the attitude to the *Rule of St Benedict*?

Chapter 1

- The abbot of Molesme, Robert, and certain monks appear before the archbishop of Lyons (also papal legate) at Lyons
- They promise to live according to the RSB and ask for his support
- What questions does this raise?

Chapter 2

- In the form of a letter from the archbishop documenting what happened
 - RSB not followed at Molesme; observance 'poor' and 'neglectful'
 - Reform at Molesme not possible
 - Permission given for Robert, six named monks 'and others' to retire to another place

Chapter 3

- With this permission the abbot and others (21 in all) leave Molesme for the 'solitude' called Cîteaux
- Description of the site
- Construction of a monastery with the help of the local lord and consent of the bishop of Chalon
- Motivation: the failure to adhere to the RSB amounting to 'perjury'
- Support sought from the duke of Burgundy on their behalf by the archbishop

Chapter 4

- The bishop of Chalon blesses Robert as abbot of the new monastery
- He makes the monks vow stability according to the RSB
- The place now an abbey

The difficulties (5-8)

- (5) The monks of Molesme petition the pope for Robert's return
- (6) The pope orders Robert to be returned from the 'solitude' to the monastery
- (7) The archbishop summons a council to decide – Robert is to return to Molesme
- (8) The bishop of Chalon writes to the bishop of Langres releasing Robert from his position as abbot of Cîteaux and the monks from obedience to him

What is this all about

- Why did Molesme want Robert back?
- What issues did this raise?

Questions raised earlier....

- What indications are there, in the text, that the foundation of Cîteaux sprang from (a) dissatisfaction with existing monastic practice, and/or (b) a new religious outlook?
- What use is made of the notion of the 'desert'?, or solitude?
- What seems to be the attitude to the *Rule of St Benedict*?

After Robert....

- (9) Alberic now elected as abbot – what do we know of his previous career
- (10, 11, 12, 13, 14) – letters of support from ecclesiastical authorities
- (15) – the ‘institutes of the Cistercian monks who departed from Molesme’
- (16) The new community nearly falters for lack of recruits – life is too tough!

1109 onwards

- (17) – death of Abbot Alberic, and succession of Stephen Harding



Features of his abbacy

- Lay patrons held at a distance
- Austerity in church furnishings and decoration

On the up.....

- Recruitment picks up
- Clerics and laymen
- None named but one was certainly Bernard



Final chapter

- New foundations in various dioceses
- From the day when monks first went from Cîteaux (? First daughter house of La Ferté, 1113), within 8 years, 12 abbeys were founded
- Calculation????

The Exordium Parvum

Is there any indication in the text of roughly when *EP* might have been written?

Is there any indication of why it might have been written?

Is it likely to be a reliable source?

On the relationship between *EP* and *EC*:

Compare *EP*, sections I–XIV and *EC*, pp. 443–5.

Compare the statutes or institutes in *EP* XV and XVII and Institutes IX–XVI (pp. 448–50)