

BALDRIC - [Baldrik; Balderich]

*1046-†1131), Archbishop of Dol. Proponent of the use of organs in church (Early Church Organ). He wrote, in a letter to the Abbey of Fécamp dated around 1114-1130:

“I have seen at Fécamp a musical instrument of brazen pipes, which, when blown with smiths’ bellows produces agreeable melody. They call it an organ and it is played at certain times ... I am not, however, unaware that there are many people who, having nothing resembling this in their churches, cast stones at those who have them, and upbraid them. We have no hesitation in describing such men as slanderers and detractors, incapable of explaining what the organ means to us. Perhaps they have not read that the most blessed David calmed the transports of Saul, who was possessed of the devil, with the sound of his lyre ... For myself, I take no great pleasure in the sound of the organ; but it encourages me to reflect that, just as divers pipes, of differing weight and size, sound together in a single melody as a result of the air in them, so men should think the same thoughts, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, unite in a single purpose ... all this I have learned from the organs installed in this church. Are we not the organs of the Holy Spirit? And let any man who banishes them from the church likewise banish all vocal sound, and let him pray, with Moses, through motionless lips ... for ourselves we speak categorically - because organs are a good thing, if we regard them as mysteries and derive from them spiritual harmony; it is this harmony that the Moderator of all things has instilled in us, by putting together elements entirely discordant in themselves and binding them together by a harmonious rhythm ... as we listen to the organs, let us be drawn together in deeper harmony, and be cemented together by a two-fold charity ...”