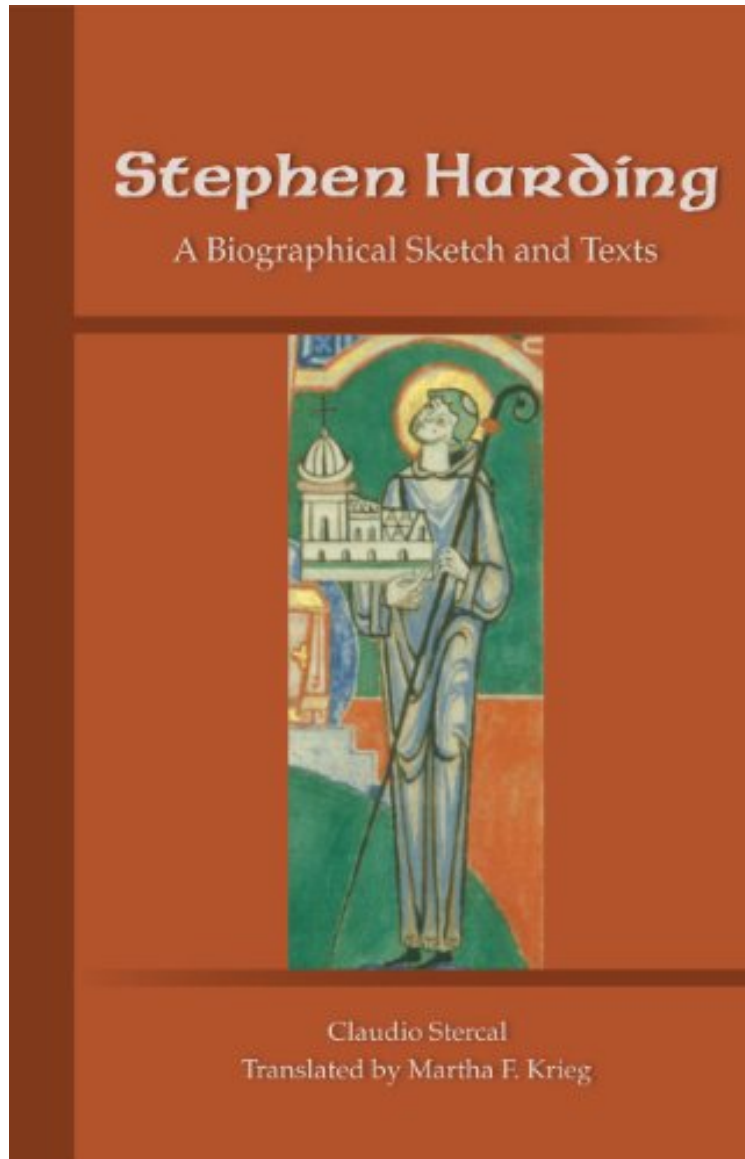


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Claudio Stercal : Stephen Harding: A Biographical Sketch and Texts (Cistercian Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stephen Harding: A Biographical Sketch and Texts (Cistercian Studies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. well doneBy Bjoern GebertThis short book concerning the live of

the third abbot of Citeaux provides a lot of reliable information about Stephen Harding and the early years of the later Ordo Cisterciensis. But Claudio Stercal does even more than sifting all the available sources "that can with certainty be attributed to Stephen Harding" and combining them to a short biography with success - he critically reviews quite a lot of the biographical studies on Stephen Harding published in the last centuries. Besides the "biographical sketch" the author and the translator provide the print of five texts "considered as having been written by Stephen Harding" in latin and english language. At the end of the book the author gives a list of used sources and a detailed bibliography in chronological order and afterwards in alphabetical order. An index of names (mentioned historical persons and cited historians) completes the book. Although it does not count more than 158 pages, it is an useful, substantial and stimulating study.

Gathered together in this volume, in English and Latin, are all the documents that can with certainty be attributed to Stephen Harding, the elusive third abbot of Citeaux. Using them and information gathered elsewhere in twelfth-century works, the author creates a biographical sketch and provides 'working material' for further research and study on the earliest Cistercians. Well known among Cistercian scholars, Claudio Stercal is professor at the Facolta theologica dell'Italia Settentrionale in Milan.

This work is a first-class piece of historical scholarship. . . . [It] is suitable for informative reading by those beginning their Cistercian studies. Seasoned scholars will also profit from it.