

in his letter to Drogo of Metz. That Pseudo-Isidore even knew of Hrabanus's letter defending the chorepiscopate – let alone thought it worthy of an extended attack – is deeply curious, and an important clue to Pseudo-Isidore's identity and his circle of acquaintances. Today the letter survives only in two ninth-century copies from Fulda<sup>78</sup>, and beyond the False Decretals it has no reception to speak of. We are driven in particular to wonder whether Pseudo-Isidore's knowledge reflects the experiences of Ebo of Reims, who had been imprisoned at Fulda following his deposition, and who later became Hrabanus's suffragan at Hildesheim.

The most obvious anti-Hrabanus moment in the decretal forgeries occurs in Ps.-John III, J<sup>3</sup> †2022, the only Pseudo-Isidorian forgery to acknowledge the existence of J<sup>3</sup> †1118 directly. For the decretals forger, of course, the author is Leo I – Leo III, preferred by Benedictus Levita, would be anachronistic among the pseudopopes<sup>79</sup>. Hrabanus had argued to Drogo that the *Liber pontificalis*, which he ascribes to Pope Damasus I on the strength of its epistolary preface in the name of that pope, provided proof that Peter had consecrated the first chorbishops himself. Here Hrabanus alluded to a brief moment in Peter's *Liber pontificalis* biography, which relates that the first pope consecrated two bishops named Linus and Cletus to assist him in his ministry. Neither Linus nor Cletus, however, succeeded Peter, which for Hrabanus makes their chorepiscopal rank clear<sup>80</sup>. This is an argument that occurs nowhere beyond Hrabanus, and so it is striking to find Ps.-John III attacking it directly. He declares that Linus and Cletus were Peter's mere *adiutores*, who did not have the pontiff's power to bind and to loose. They administered external matters, or *exteriora*; Peter reserved the sacrament of confirmation for himself<sup>81</sup>.

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78) Namely, Paris, Bibl. nat., Ms. lat. 2443; and Vatican, Bibl. Apost., Pal. lat. 576.

79) Ps.-John III, J<sup>3</sup> †2022 (ed. HINSCHIUS, *Decretales* [as n. 3] p. 715): *Perlatum est enim ad sedem apostolicam emersisse et denuo revivescere prohibitum et funditus extirpatum tam a sancto Damaso quam a sancto Leone viris apostolicis atque ab universis synodali auctoritate episcopis reprehensibilem atque oppido inolitum usum...*

80) See DÜMMLER, MGH Epp. 5 (as n. 18) p. 432 l. 29–38.

81) *ibid.*, p. 716: *Sic autem Petrus, princeps apostolorum, adiutores sibi ascivit Linum et Cletum: non tamen potestatem pontificii aut ligandi vel solvendi normam eis tradidit, sed successori suo sancto Clementi qui sedem apostolicam post eum et potestatem pontificalem, tradente sibi beato Petro, tenere promeruit. Linus vero et Cletus ministrabant exteriora, princeps autem apostolorum Petrus verbo et orationi insistebat, et quae non incongrue ad traditionem spiritus sancti per manus inpositionem pertinent.*