

Pseudo-Isidorus collectione Benedicti Levitae ut fonte usus est

A Defence of the Hinschius Thesis

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Two theories speak to the intellectual processes that gave rise to the notorious forgeries of Pseudo-Isidore, together with the intertextual relationships that bind them together. Each imposes a different chronology upon Pseudo-Isidore's products and draws varying conclusions about the aims of the forgery enterprise. Each is also a by-product of larger ideas about the origins of the forgeries and their historical significance¹.

1) For an introduction to traditional views of the Pseudo-Isidorian forgeries that predates the great upheavals in opinion after 2000, cf. Horst FUHRMANN, *The Pseudo-Isidorian Forgeries*, in: *Papal Letters in the Early Middle Ages*, ed. Wilfried HARTMANN / Kenneth PENNINGTON (*History of Medieval Canon Law*, 2001) p. 135–195. The most substantial component of the forgery complex, the *False Decretals of Isidorus Mercator*, are ed. Paul HINSCHIUS, *Decretales Pseudo-Isidorianae et Capitula Angilramni* (1863). Preparatory work for a new edition is underway at <http://pseudo-isidore.com>; cf. also the manuscript collations and other materials provided by Karl-Georg SCHON at www.pseudoisidor.mgh.de. The other major component of the Pseudo-Isidorian corpus, the *False Capitularies of Benedictus Levita*, are ed. Georg Heinrich PERTZ, *MGH LL 2, 2* (1837) p. 17–158; cf. also the new edition-in-progress by Gerhard SCHMITZ (with Veronika LUKAS and Annette GRABOWSKY), with separate files for each of the three books and four appendices (or Additions), at <http://www.benedictus.mgh.de/edition/edition.htm>. The title of this essay references Hinschius's thesis of the relationship between the *False Decretals* and the *False Capitularies*, as he stated it at *Decretales* p. CXLIII.