

Recognizing these formulaic constellations, whereby patterns established in the excerpt repositories are repeated again and again by the pseudopopes, is more than an arcane source-critical exercise best performed by the editor of the False Decretals in private. Studying the formal sources of the forgeries in this way often lays bare the development of Pseudo-Isidore's thought. To illustrate the interest of this approach, we turn to a third example involving Pseudo-Isidore's hatred for accusers. Among other things, Pseudo-Isidore would like to submit accusers to tests of orthodoxy. On twenty-three occasions, his pseudonymous popes demand that the faith of accusers be examined, according to four distinct formulae:

1) *Quorum fides, vita et libertas nescitur, non possint accusare sacerdotes*: So BL 2.359 and 3.112. Both capitula appear to be outright forgeries with no foundation in authentic sources. The Capitula Angilramni, at CA 13, produce the same sentiment with the additional exclusion of those *qui non sunt bonae conversationis* and who are *viles personae*. One decretal forgery echoes BL 2.359/3.112 and three follow the composite statement at CA 13. Two further decretals use the formula too loosely to determine which intermediary collection is guiding them⁵⁴.

2) *Ut testandi licentia denegetur, qui christianae religionis et nominis dignitatem neglexerint*: This sentiment is an unmodified citation from the Epitome Aegidii of Alaric's Breviary. Benedict takes up this declaration verbatim at BL 3.188, and then at Add. 3.12 he repeats the passage, interpolated such that it addresses the *accusandi vel testificandi licentia*. Four decretal forgeries have this final, interpolated iteration⁵⁵.

3) *Primo semper persona, fides, vita et conversatio accusantium inquiratur*: Thus one of several iterations, at BL 2.381h. This provision

503); mix of NS 2 and CA 2. Ps.-Pelagius II, J³ †2056 (ed. HINSCHIUS, Decretales p. 721); NS 2, then BL 2.381b.

54) BL 2.359 and 3.112, ed. SCHMITZ, Book 2 (as n. 1) p. 71 l. 12–14 and Book 3 p. 29 l. 1–3; CA 13 ed. SCHON, Capitula Angilramni (as n. 19) p. 120 l. 1–2. After the model of CA 13 are Ps.-Calixtus, J³ †162; Ps.-Fabian, J³ †191 and Ps.-Sixtus III, J³ †878 (ed. HINSCHIUS, Decretales [as n. 1] p. 141, 167 and 563). Following BL 2.359/3.112 is Ps.-Stephen, J³ †256 (ed. HINSCHIUS, Decretales p. 186). Indeterminate are Ps.-Fabian, J³ †192; and Ps.-Pelagius II, J³ †2044 (ed. HINSCHIUS, Decretales p. 162 and 730).

55) Cf. the Epitome Aegidii of Alaric's Breviary 16, 2 (ed. Gustav HAENEL, Lex Romana Visigothorum [1849] p. 248); BL 3.188 and Add. 3.12 (ed. SCHMITZ, Book 3 [as n. 1] p. 45 l. 6–9; and PERTZ, MGH LL 2, 2 [as n. 1] p. 139); Ps.-Anacletus, J³ †15; Ps.-Stephanus, J³ †257; Ps.-Euticianus, J³ †298; and Ps.-Felix II, J³ †505 (ed. HINSCHIUS, Decretales [as n. 1] p. 68, 182, 212, 486).