

that monastic written culture was not an exception to this rule. And the second is that authors' claims to authority came in many different forms, most of which were not normative (by which is meant here literally prescriptive and institutionally focussed) in the modern sense of the word¹⁶. Authority of a personal, moral, or other nature was widely invoked, and it would come as no surprise if we were to find traces of these claims in customaries too. Arguably neither the act of anonymizing a text nor that of omitting the reference to a commissioner or even a host institution would have completely erased them.

In order to verify this hypothesis, the present paper will consider the case of Theoderic's customary of Fleury, situating the work in relation to customary production in late tenth- and early eleventh-century Germany, the ideological and institutional settings in which the author moved, and his own trajectory in life. Doing so will help us appreciate his – and the customary's – threefold claim to authority for himself as a witness to contemporary monastic practice, for Fleury's status as a beacon of Benedictine observance, and for the ideas and values he acquired while he was there. Thus, this paper will submit new evidence for the study of how informal connections between religious institutions, personal memories, and the trajectories of individual people are important (if not always easily accessible) aspects to be considered in the interpretation of customaries from the turn of the first millennium. At the same time, it will also contribute to a new understanding of the customary and Theoderic's embedding in a then-culture of reflection and debate on Benedictine best practice and morals, as well as of both the text and its author's diverse claims to authority.

16) The literature on authority in medieval literature is very expansive. Cf. for instance Jan ZIOLKOWSKI, *Cultures of Authority in the Long Twelfth Century*, *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 108 (2009) p. 421–448; *Autorschaft und Autorität in den romanischen Literaturen des Mittelalters*, hg. von Susanne A. FRIEDE / Michael SCHWARZE (*Zs. für romanische Philologie*, Beiheft 390, 2015); Beate BÖCKEM, *Die Frage nach Autorschaft – eine Frage der Autorität? Jacopo de' Barbari und die Konstruktion einer Künstlerpersönlichkeit*, in: *Die Biographie – Mode oder Universalie? Zu Geschichte und Konzept einer Gattung in der Kunstgeschichte*, hg. von ders. / Olaf Peters / Barbara Schellewald (*Schriften zur modernen Kunsthistoriographie* 7, 2016) p. 49–60; *Autorität im Spannungsfeld von Bildung und Religion*, hg. von Peter GEMEINHARDT / Tanja S. SCHEER (*Studies in Education and Religion in Ancient and Pre-Modern History in the Mediterranean and its Environs* 9, 2021).