



Papal Letters in the Early Middle Ages (History of Medieval Canon Law)

Horst Fuhrmann

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This second volume in the History of Medieval Canon Law series discusses the earliest papal decretals, covering the period from the end of the fourth century to the end of the ninth century. In contrast to earlier scholarly works, which usually skim over the beginnings of the papal decretal tradition and the earliest collections containing them, the authors begin with the first papal letters and thoroughly describe their transmission and reception into the canonical tradition up to Gratian's *Decretum* (1140). They examine the letters of twenty-five popes from Siricius (384-399), whose pontificate undoubtedly produced the first known papal decretal in 385, to Stephen V (885-891).

Horst Fuhrmann is president emeritus of Monumenta Germaniae Historica and Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften. Detlev Jasper is collaborator at the Monumenta Germaniae Historica in Munich.

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