PROJECT MUSE®

*Die Register Innocenz' III. Pontifikatsjahr, 1207/1208:
Texte und Indices* (review)

John W. Baldwin

The Catholic Historical Review, Volume 96, Number 1, January 2010,
pp. 110-111 (Review)

Published by The Catholic University of America Press
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/cat.0.0633>

➔ *For additional information about this article*
<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/369522>

where they are accompanied by two of Abelard's poetic *Planctus*. Bell transcribes the sequences from this manuscript only on pp. 16–23. He acknowledges that not all scholars share his conviction over authorship, and he does not seek to “prove” this (p. xxviii), but he does believe that his book deepens and buttresses the case for their attribution to Abelard. He provides a detailed study of their musical setting and their rhetoric, including their rhymes, cadences, and similarities with those found in Abelard's *Hymns* and *Planctus*, especially the *Planctus*, “*Dolorum solatium*.” His enquiries include explorations of verbal and thematic similarities between the sequences and some other writings by Abelard, including his first and thirteenth sermon. He provides an interesting study, too, of the literary traditions on which they drew; I do not recall, for example, previous commentary on Abelard's use of the unicorn legend. Nonetheless, it does seem best to remain cautious over the question of attribution at a time when debates over the wider “Paraclete corpus” are far from over. Bell succeeds in highlighting important issues, but he has not taken into account the essay by P. Dronke and G. Orlandi, “New Works by Peter Abelard?” (*Filologia mediolatina*, XII [2005], pp. 123–77) nor the earlier studies by G. Iversen and D. Wulstan that are cited there. Finally and sadly, misprints of Latin words are frequent in the text.

University of Sheffield

DAVID LUSCOMBE

Die Register Innocenz' III. Pontifikatsjahr, 1207/1208: Texte und Indices.

Edited by Rainer Murauer and Andrea Sommerlechner. [Publikationen des historischen Instituts beim Österreichischen Kulturforum in Rom, II. Abteilung: Quellen, 1. Reih: Die Register Innocenz' III, Band 10.] (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. 2007. €165,00 paperback. ISBN 978-3-700-13684-2.)

After a slow start in 1964, the edition of the registers of Pope Innocent III (1198–1216) has hit its stride with the appearance of the present volume for the tenth year of the pontiff's reign. The Austrian Historical Institute at Rome has projected a critical edition of these registers to replace the seventeenth-century edition of Etienne Baluze, which has long been widely available in the reprint by the Abbé Migne in the *Patrologia Latina*. Innocent's were the first of the papal registers to survive in their near entirety. The papal chancery made transcripts of a small selection (10–20 percent) of letters that were dispatched in the pope's name, including an occasional letter received. The original manuscripts are preserved in the Vatican Archives and consist of beautifully calligraphic volumes, virtual deluxe copies produced by one scribe for the text and others for the rubrics. By the tenth year the scribes no longer embellished the volumes with illuminations as they had in the opening volumes.

Innocent's tenth regnal year extended from February 1207 to February 1208. The scope of his correspondents ranged from Scotland in the west to Jerusalem in the east with major concentrations in the heartland of Latin

Christendom—principally Italy, the Empire, France, England, and Iberia—but he also wrote to the distant kings of Denmark, Hungary, and Bulgaria. A sizable proportion of the correspondence referred to routine matters such as protecting and confirming the possessions of individual churches, resolving disputed elections, and performing other ecclesiastical formalities. Major issues involved defending Stephen Langton's election to the see of Canterbury against King John's opposition, urging Philip Augustus to receive Queen Ingeborg back as his legitimate spouse, and enacting measures against the spread of the Albigensian heresy in Languedoc. The pope also treated social concerns such as the definition of marriage and legitimacy of birth, the repression of tournaments and usury, and the regulation of the Jews and the nascent university at Paris, but he could also attend to small details such as protecting a poor widow's dowry against the maneuvers of a powerful abbess or reinstating a priest to his sacerdotal functions after he had lost a finger on his left hand.

Rainer Murauer and Andrea Sommerlechner have sought to reproduce as accurate a transcription as possible of the registers' text. In rare cases when a recipient's copy has been located they have collated the two versions. Their introduction does not leave unexplored any analytical tools such as paleography and codicology. The contextual apparatus is truly monumental: all proper names of persons and places have been identified; cross references to other papal letters and to the collections of canon law abound; allusions to theological treatises composed at Paris have been uncovered. The footnotes read like bibliographic and historical monographs on the disparate subjects of each letter. In confirming the properties of individual churches each obscure hamlet or villa is identified in areas as distant from each other as St. Andrews, Scotland; Reading, England; Sens, France; and Geronrod, East Saxony. The modern editors are certainly better informed about the possessions of these churches than the clerics of Innocent's chancery who merely copied documents that were presented to them. Five indices provide comprehensive access to the materials of the volume. Thanks to the meticulous industry of the Austrian Historical Academy in Rome, we shall soon have a complete edition of Innocent's registers that will rival those that have been produced by the *Ecole Française de Rome* for the popes of the thirteenth century. The chief remaining lacuna in this period is Innocent's successor Honorius III (1216–27).

Johns Hopkins University

JOHN W. BALDWIN

Saint Louis. By Jacques Le Goff; translated by Gareth Evan Gollrad. (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press. 2009. Pp. xxxii, 948. \$75.00. ISBN 978-0-268-03381-1.)

Jacques Le Goff has given us a very personal account of St. Louis and has entered intimately into his life. Although he never completely abandons his