

Abstract: On the craft of forging charters and its difficulties. The example of bishop Pilgrim's forgeries

Forging formally correct papal bulls in the Early Middle Ages required a certain know-how and specific materials, both of which were not always available. Therefore, the question arises whether the attempt was made at all to produce pseudo-originals resembling genuine papal bulls, when forging them. Regarding the corpus of Bishop Pilgrim of Passau's forgeries, which are transmitted only as copies, it has been considered that there may never have been single-sheet charters. Instead, the forgers might have produced only a dossier of forgeries, i. e. a „codicological forgery“. There are, however, indications which suggest that single-sheet charters really were written. If this holds true, it must be assumed that in spite of their formal shortcomings the forger attributed high persuasive powers to them, which apparently did not depend on their correct appearance.

Keywords: Bishop Pilgrim of Passau; Salzburg; forging charters

Stichworte: Pilgrim von Passau; Salzburg; Urkundenfälschung