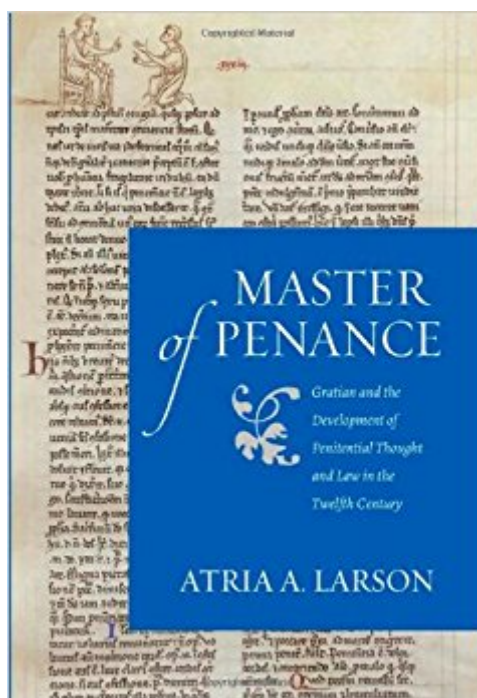


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Master Of Penance: Gratian And The Development Of Penitential Thought And Law In The Twelfth Century (Studies In Medieval And Early Modern Canon Law)



Synopsis

This book presents the first full-scale study of the *Tractatus de penitentia* (C.33 q.3) in Gratian's *Decretum*, which became the textbook for canon law and served as the basis of the church's developing jurisprudence, in theory and in practice. The treatise on penance stands out as a distinct, overtly theological section of Gratian's work and was long suspected of being a later addition to the *Decretum*. As a result, the treatise has not received thorough treatment and has often not been included in scholars' general discussions of Gratian's work, its nature, and its purpose. Manuscript discoveries in the 1990s proved the treatise to be authentic and to be part of Gratian's early drafting of his text. This study examines the treatise in its entirety, providing a commentary on the content of the treatise (which extends beyond questions of penance) and an examination of its relationship to the early twelfth-century schools, positing above all a connection to the school of Anselm of Laon. The study also re-examines the question of the nature and purpose of Gratian's *Decretum* in light of the original inclusion of *De penitentia* and of Gratian's role as a teacher, or master.

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“This substantial, monographic treatment of Gratian's treatise *De penitentia* comes at a propitious moment. . . . Dr. Larson's careful, well-documented, and rigorously critical sifting of the evidence . . . provides an invaluable basis for further scholarly investigations and arguments.

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