

Intimations of the Architext: Boethius and Others of Cassiodorus' Kind

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In the hundred years from the accession to power of Diocletian in 284, 'Latin literature' (to call it that) brought forth *opuscula* and Lactantius. In the next three and a half centuries, between the Mosellan consulship of Ausonius in 379 and the death of Bede on Tyneside in 735, it proliferated architectonic works on the grand scale. Factors conditioning this monstrous post-Theodosian, pre-Carolingian productivity included (1) the textuality of the codex, (2) the mainstreaming of Christian theology, (3) the separation of the Greek Roman Empire from the Latin 'West.' Taking its cue from the notice on him (minus his *Consolatio*) in the enigmatic document known as the *Ordo generis Cassiodorum*, this talk speculates on the relationship between Boethius' projects as a writer and the collective projection by Latin writers of later late antiquity of a suprageneric literary genus along the lines sketched by a character in Gérard Genette's *Introduction à l'architexte* (1979).