

CAPREOLUS OF CARTHAGE: *DECL* pp 116–17; *DHGE* 11.959–61; *DTC* 2.1693–94; *EEC* 1.143; *LTK* 2.931; *RE* 3/2.1548; Schanz 4/2.470–71.

Epistula ad Vitalem et Constantium [CAPREOL.Epist.Vit.Const.]: *CPL* 399; *KVS* CAP 3.
ed: *PL* 53.849–58.

MSS – A-S Vers none.

Quots/Cits Epist.Vit.Const. 12: ALCVIN.Contr.her.Fel. 63.

Refs none.

Capreolus, bishop of Carthage from 430 until his death in about 437, is known principally as the author of three letters: an *Epistula ad Ephesinam synodum* addressed to the Council of Ephesus in 431 (*CPL* 397), an *Epistula ad Vitalem et Constantium (uel potius Tonantium)*, and an *Epistula ad Theodosium Augustum* (*CPL* 400), which reports the death of **AUGUSTINE** of Hippo to the emperor Theodosius, this last letter known only through a partial quotation by the Carthaginian deacon Ferrandus (at *PL* 67.925). The second letter is a reply to two Spanish Christians, Vitalis and Constantius, who had written to Capreolus asking for clarification on the Nestorian doctrine of the nature of Christ, which had been debated and condemned at the Council of Ephesus, where Capreolus had emerged as a respected authority on the subject. Capreolus's letter, written about 432, refutes at length the Nestorian heresy that Christ was born a mere man and only later merited union with the Divinity as a reward for his passion, and asserts instead the orthodox position that Christ was simultaneously and indivisibly human and divine from birth.

As noted by Ogilvy (*BKE* p 105), the letter to Vitalis and Constantius is cited and quoted by **ALCUIN** in his **CONTRA HERESIM FELICIS** 63 (ed. Blumenshine 1980 pp 90–91) in his defense of the antiadoptionist doctrine of the indivisible nature of Christ. A fragmentary copy of this letter in the lower sixth-century script of the palimpsest St Gall, Stiftsbibliothek, 908, a manuscript whose upper script contains several Hiberno-Latin texts with ties to Insular literature, is discussed by Dold (1924 pp 251–52); for the manuscript's ties to Irish and Anglo-Saxon literature, see Wright (1987). The first half of the letter is reedited in *ACO* 2/3/3.vi–x.

Dabney A. Bankert

Bibliography

Acta Conciliorum Oecumenicorum, ed. Eduard Schwartz, Johannes Straub, and Rudolf Schieffer, 4 vols in 15 (Berlin and Leipzig, 1914–82)

Blumenshine, Gary B., ed. 1980. *Liber Alcuini contra haeresim Felicis: Edition with an Introduction*. Studi e testi 285. Vatican City.

Dold, Alban. 1924. "Ein 'Corpus fidei catholicae' im St. Galler Palimpsestkodex 908." *Revue Bénédictine* 36: 248–54.

Wright, Charles D. 1987. "Apocryphal Lore and Insular Tradition in St Gall, Stiftsbibliothek MS 908." *Irland und die Christenheit: Bibelstudien und Mission*, ed. Proinsias Ní Chatháin and Michael Richter, 124–45. Stuttgart.