

Hilduinus
(fl. 800-840)

**FROM RESCRIPT TO KING LOUIS
ON HIS TRANSLATION OF DIONYSIUS
(c. 840)**

You ask me to lose no time in making a collection of lesser-known works by our Lord and Patron, Dionysius, from both Latin and Greek sources; and I take it as unfitting to set on one side the pious desire of your Lordship, who should command our generous service. Hence, insofar as the short time would allow, I shall dictate to my efficient secretaries whatever, with the help of the Lord, I can quickly recall to mind. I humbly ask that, in your wisdom, you do not seek in this task that I undertake through reverence and love for the sacred martyr and in obedience to your command, impressive diction and the beauties of rhetoric; but that you look for the wholeness of the purest truth, as we have taken it from the ancient writings. Do not cavil at my handling of cases, prepositions and conjunctions, or at the changes made in letters or in punctuation according to the art of grammar. This was not my intention; for I wished to give immediate proof of my zeal for my duty and my respect for your command. You must be particularly aware that, what we have translated from the source language, we have kept in its original order, just as it flowed from the wine-press. Consequently, although the version does not have the same rhetorical savour, it keeps the aroma of his truth and the flavour of his intellect.
