

Epistle of Thegan, chorbishop of Trier, to Hatto

(ca. 836)

[ed. Ernst Dümmler, *MGH Epistolae* 5 (Berlin, 1899) 337]

Translated by

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To the venerable lord and father in Christ, Hatto, most noble duke and councilor, Thegan, a sinner, although a priest, proclaims greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I had considered for a long time what, from my poverty, I might have offered to your serene
5 presence on account of your immense kindness, which, not because my merits were deserving [of it], you
deigned to show to me constantly, and in order that I might entrust the memory of my name to your
piety, nothing came to mind but that I might send to you some little work of the holy fathers, to which
you could devote your reverend attention. Thereupon, I sent you [a copy of?] that book, which holy
Alcuin, the supreme scholar, compiled from the various books of Saint Augustine into one [volume], a
10 book which he delivered to the most expert and noble emperor Charles (just as the prologue of that
book notes), where can be found, as it is the greatest necessity of human affairs, [works] on the divine
nature and essence, on the eternal growth of God the Father, on the eternal nativity of God the Son, on
the eternal procession of the Holy Spirit, on the incarnation of Jesus Christ, Son of God, how God is a
single trinity and a triple singularity, just as true faith bids [us] to believe, and he who does not believe
15 thus is a stranger from Christ.

May the renowned glory of Christ deign to protect and defend you for a long while in this era,
and after this mortal time lead you to that blessedness, whose end one is unable to approach. Farewell!

20 Hail great father, may you always be happy in eternity,
where God may bestow celestial gifts everywhere to you.
Thus does Thegan pray, thus does he always request,
the Lord [who is] the Hearer and Enthroned on High.