

Letter 60a: After 25 October 1520, Mainz, Albert of Brandenburg to Leo X

This letter is printed in Böcking I, 363-64. It has not been included in Millet's list, presumably because the nominal writer is Albert and no draft exists for the letter. However, Gerdesius, who first printed the text (II-2, 12-14) stated that he took it 'ex manuscriptis Capitonis' (from the manuscripts of Capito), i.e. Capito composed this letter on Albert's behalf. Böcking wrongly suggests that the letter was written in July 1520, whereas an internal reference supplies October 25 as the *terminus post quem*.

[*Summary:*] The papal legate Caracciolo has delivered to Albert the pope's gift of a golden rose. Albert thanks Leo for the honour. He assures him of his loyalty. He has taken action against Hutten's libellous pamphlets and dismissed him from his service. Albert has issued commands to have Luther's works suppressed as well. As for publishing the bull against Luther, Albert has incurred a great deal of unpopularity on account of his loyalty to Rome. Further action is not advisable without the support of the secular princes. He will consult with the papal legates in this matter and do his best.