

The early Apologists: We have fragments of apologetic literature from the early part of the second century. The best known apologists were (at that time): Quadratus

Diognetus

Miltiades

Athenagorus

Their works are not detailed. They were basically appeals to the "whole world" to be fair and tolerant of the Christians and the appeal was based on concepts of kindness to all men and humanitarian issues as well. Not elaborate statements of faith are these apologies but earnest appeals for justice and fairness. The texts as we have them are preserved in Schaaf as above.

Pseudipigraphic works: These are works attributed falsely to some better known author and hence the title pseudipigraphic. Among these are the various testaments of the Apostles and a host of Gospels: Thomas, Nicodemus, James in addition to the infancy narratives about the Lord Jesus and tales of Joseph and Mary, etc. Reading this literature tends to make one appreciate the truthfulness and simplicity of the Gospels and while I am slightly prejudiced in that direction it is something apparent to any literary person.

Beyond this material is a collection of "legal" documents such as the Apostolic Constitutions. These are later in compilation and may reflect some early sources but are more in keeping with the legislative ages after the church was legalized. Forgeries for materials of this age also became common and the most famous of these were the decretals of Fabian of Rome written much later (provable on content analysis) and used to try to strengthen the hand of the bishop of Rome.

In addition there was a romantic body (not love stories but accounts that come out well) of literature and a large amount of "hero" literature. This sort of work is needed for morale and persuasion of correctness. Paul and Thecla is an account in which both types of ideal are seen. In short summary, there is no lacking of literature that purports to deal with the affairs of this age.