

## Contents

Postscript: Turning History Upside Down	I
1 Methodological Introduction	5
Reception	21
Retrospection	30
Writing the History of Early Christianity	54
2 ‘Abercius’: Pious Fraud, Now and Then?	77
‘Abercius’ Today: The Museo Pio Cristiano and <i>The Life of Abercius</i>	81
Between Fiction and Appropriation	91
Retrieving the Formative Stages	96
A Retrospective Exploration	114
3 Hippolytus of Rome: A Manifold Enigma	162
Current Research on the Statue, Discovered during Renaissance Humanism	168
Classical Iconography and Mythology	173
Hippolytus: Rome, Wisdom, Literature	179
The Statue: A Big Statement	187
4 Aristides of Athens: Apologetics and Narratives	196
Aristides’ <i>Apology</i>	203
An Historical Setting of the <i>Apology</i> : The Aftermath of Bar Kokhba	216
A Retrospective Lesson	257
5 Ignatius of Antioch: A Mysterious Martyr	266
The Nineteenth-Century Anti-Enlightenment Debate about the So-Called Short Recension	275

Earlier Formative Stages	365
‘Spurious Ignatius’	372
Appendix: Ignatius through the Centuries	410
A Short Preface at the End	465
<i>Bible Index</i>	471
<i>Subject Index</i>	474