

late 1970s. As Kruisheer noted (with an eye to the thirteenth-century documents he had been studying), diplomas were not only produced by the issuer and recipient, but also by other parties. What Huschner adds to this picture of „production by third parties“ is a finer awareness of the forms this might take: sometimes we are dealing with regional court scribes, only active when the ruler is within a certain district but then working on behalf of recipients across the realm; at others, we are observing something more like expanded recipient production, with notaries active primarily for recipients from within a specific region²³.

Similarly welcome is Huschner's challenge to traditional teaching on the standing of such figures²⁴. Notaries were long considered to be low-level functionaries, yet there is no particular reason to believe this was so. That scribal work was not always (or necessarily) menial is shown by the case of Thietmar of Merseburg, who annotated the earliest surviving copy of his own *Chronicon* (which was unfortunately damaged following the Allied bombing of Dresden in 1945) and contributed a memorial entry to the Merseburg Sacramentary²⁵. Further evidence for the scribal capabilities of prelates comes from Italian judicial notices and private charters of the period, which reveal that many bishops and abbots south of the Alps had mastered the complex diplomatic minuscule demanded by diplomas²⁶. This was evidently not a world in which the ability to draw up a charter was frowned upon. Indeed, even before Huschner set to work, at least seven bishops of

23) Jaap G. KRUISHEER, Kanzleianfertigung, Empfängeranfertigung und Anfertigung durch Dritte. Methodologische Anmerkungen anlässlich einiger neuerer Untersuchungen, in: AfD 25 (1979) p. 256–300. See also GUYOTJEANNIN, *Écrire en chancellerie* (as n. 1) p. 31; GHIGNOLI, *Istituzioni ecclesiastiche* (as n. 18) p. 644 f.

24) HUSCHNER, *Transalpine Kommunikation* (as n. 10) p. 63–94.

25) Martina GIESE, Thietmars Chronik: Vorlagen, handschriftliche Überlieferung und mittelalterliche Rezeption, in: Thietmars Welt. Ein Merseburger Bischof schreibt Geschichte, hg. von Markus COTTIN / Lisa MERKEL (2018) p. 72–99; Hans Jakob SCHUFFELS / Christian SCHUFFELS, Thietmars Autograph. Zur Eigenhändigkeit des Eintrags im Sakramentar der Merseburger Domkirche, in: *ibid.* p. 100–113. According to Hansjörg WELLMER, *Persönliches Memento im deutschen Mittelalter* (Monographien zur Geschichte des Mittelalters 5, 1973) p. 45–61, Archbishop Tagino was similarly responsible for many of the entries in the Magdeburg necrology. For doubts, however: Die Totenbücher von Merseburg, Magdeburg und Lüneburg, hg. von Gerd ALTHOFF / Joachim WOLLASCH (MGH Libri mem. N.S. 2, 1983) pp. XXXIf.; Hartmut HOFFMANN, Rezension von WELLMER, *Persönliches Memento*, in: *Rheinische Vierteljahrsblätter* 38 (1974) p. 485–488.

26) Armando PETRUCCI / Carlo ROMEO, 'Scriptores in urbibus'. Alfabetismo e cultura scritta nell'Italia altomedievale (1992) p. 195–236.