

1001³¹. Yet earlier in the century, the equally learned Atto (924–957/8) was far less scribally active. Thanks to the presence of his distinctive monogram in many manuscripts, we know that Atto was just as interested in the episcopal library; nevertheless, his own autograph has yet to be identified with any confidence, barring one possible monogram³². And though Atto's subscription to a private charter of 945 reveals that he was a competent enough scribe when the need arose, it is far from certain that he had fully mastered diplomatic minuscule (the subscription is in what might best be called an adjusted Caroline hand)³³. It is, therefore, unclear whether Atto would have been able to produce a lengthy charter; and it is probably no coincidence that he is not the scribe of the diploma of 945 in favour of the cathedral chapter, which he had in all likelihood drafted³⁴. Even more striking is the later case of Bishop William of Pavia (c. 1066–1102). William hailed from a powerful local family and owed his promotion to these connections. Yet his hand shows few signs of formal training and is symptomatic of what has been dubbed a kind of „functional semi-literacy“. There can be no doubt that diploma production was beyond his ken³⁵. We must, therefore, allow for the possibility that bishops were notaries; to make this a rule of thumb would be to fall into Sickelian dogmatism.

In this respect, it is significant that those notaries who were identified with bishops before Huschner are either responsible for relatively small numbers of documents or ceased operating once they had

31) Ravenna, Archivio Arcivescovile, S. Andrea no. 11371. The document is edited in Raffaello VOLPINI, *Placiti del Regnum Italiae* (sec. IX–XI). *Primi contributi per un nuovo censimento*, in: *Contributi dell'Istituto di storia medioevale* 3 (1975) p. 245–520, at p. 352–356 (no. 17). On Leo's subscription: PETRUCCI / ROMEO, 'Scriptores in urbibus' (as n. 26) p. 218 f.

32) Giacomo VIGNODELLI, *Il filo a piombo. Il *Perpendiculum* di Attone die Vercelli e la storia politica del regno italico* (2011) p. 3–12.

33) Vercelli, Archivio Capitolare, Diplomi, I Cartella, 9.

34) I diplomi di Ugo e di Lotario, di Berengario II e di Adalberto, a cura di Luigi SCHIAPARELLI (Fonti 38, 1924) (henceforth: D(D) HuLo), n. 81, Vercelli, Archivio Capitolare, Diplomi, I Cartella, 8. On the hand: SCHIAPARELLI, I diplomi dei re d'Italia. *Ricerche storico-diplomatiche* V: I diplomi di Ugo e di Lotario, in: *Bullettino dell'Istituto storico italiano* 34 (1914) p. 7–255, at p. 72; and on Atto's probable draftsmanship: Giacomo VIGNODELLI, *Prima di Leone. Originali e copie di diplomi regi e imperiali nell'Archivio Capitolare di Vercelli*, in: *Originale – Fälschungen – Kopien* (as n. 18) p. 53–81, at p. 64 f.

35) ANSANI, *Caritatis negocia e fabbriche di falsi* (as n. 18) p. 55–100 (with the remarks on literacy at p. 82). For a reproduction of William's subscription: *ibid.* fig. 1 (p. 345); and on „semialfabeti funzionali“: Armando PETRUCCI, *Prima lezione di paleografia* (2002) p. 20 f.