

large, however, the diplomas of the Ottonian rulers suffered a form of benign neglect. The prevailing attitude, as Mark Mersiowsky put it in a similar context, has been one of *carta edita, causa finita*⁹.

This all changed in 2003 with the publication of Wolfgang Huschner's imposing Habilitationsschrift: *Transalpine Kommunikation im Mittelalter*. Despite the general title, this was first and foremost a work of diplomatic, published in the highly-regarded *Schriften* series of the MGH. As the introduction and early chapters made clear, Huschner's aim was to finish what Kehr and Klewitz had begun. Noting the degree to which diplomatics remained wedded to older models of diploma production, Huschner set about deconstructing the entire concept of an Ottonian chancery. In doing so, he developed points made by Fichtenau, arguing that many (perhaps most) draftsman-scribes of the era were leading members of the ecclesiastical hierarchy (typically bishops). On this reading, there was no such thing as a royal or imperial chancery; rather, prelates lent their services to the ruler in an informal manner, some more often (and more readily) than others. Rather than speaking of „chancery“ and „recipient“ production, Huschner therefore suggests we would do better to think in terms of the following categories: trans-regional/imperial court notaries, active throughout the realm for recipients from many different regions; regional court notaries, active only when the court was within a certain region, but then on behalf of recipients from all parts of the realm; regional recipient notaries, active only for recipients from a certain region, but often operating in many different districts; local recipient notaries, active only on behalf of a specific house (or closely related houses); and occasional notaries, who only produce one or two documents, defying further classification¹⁰.

in der Kommunikation des Herrschers mit seinen Getreuen, in: FMSt 32 (1998) p. 400–441; IDEM, Otto der Große urkundet im Bodenseegebiet. Inszenierungen der „Gegenwart des Herrschers“ in einer vom König selten besuchten Landschaft, in: *Mediaevalia Augiensia. Forschungen zur Geschichte des Mittelalters*, hg. von Jürgen PETERSOHN (VuF 54, 2001) p. 205–245; Peter WORM, Ein neues Bild von der Urkunde: Peter Rück und seine Schüler, in: AfD 52 (2006) p. 335–352.

9) Cf. Mark MERSIOWSKY, *Carta edita, causa finita? Zur Diplomatik Kaiser Arnolfs*, in: *Kaiser Arnulf. Das ostfränkische Reich am Ende des 9. Jahrhunderts*, hg. von Franz FUCHS (2002) p. 271–374.

10) Wolfgang HUSCHNER, *Transalpine Kommunikation im Mittelalter. Diplomatische, kulturelle und politische Wechselwirkungen zwischen Italien und dem nordalpinen Reich (9.–11. Jahrhundert)*, 3 pts (*Schriften der MGH* 52, 2003). See also IDEM, *Die ottonische Kanzlei in neuem Licht*, in: AfD 52 (2006) p. 353–370;