

Another regional court notary was Otpert, one of our few named draftsman-scribes of the era. Otpert was active in the late 940s and early 950s and we know his identity because he twice recognizes in his own name, much as Wigfrid does in Italy. Despite signs that Otpert originally hailed from Lotharingia, he was evidently based in eastern Saxony in these years, as five of the six diplomas in which Sickel identified his hand were issued in Eastphalia or neighbouring Thuringia¹⁰⁴. If we add to this the two diplomas ascribed to Otpert on the basis of formulation, then we have one more produced in Thuringia and another from Ingelheim on the Rhine¹⁰⁵. This suggests a strong focus on the Liudolfing heartlands in the east. And it is possible, as Stengel speculated, that Otpert first made his way to the region as a monk of St Maurice, for the original community had been recruited from St Maximin¹⁰⁶. If so, it is striking that he is not very active on behalf of the monastery: only one of his diplomas is for Magdeburg, which was otherwise the main recipient of royal favour in these years¹⁰⁷. Perhaps Otpert had subsequently joined a different house, or perhaps he had entered some form of regular (but clearly local) royal service. Regardless, he is an occasional scribe, whose securely attested diplomas can be grouped around three distinct stints in autumn 949, autumn 952 and autumn 958.

A similar profile is cut by Poppe A (PA), one of the leading notaries of Otto I's earliest years. PA had begun his career under Henry I in the early 930s, first appearing shortly after Poppe had been appointed chancellor. Thereafter, PA is active almost exclusively within Eastphalia (the only exception being a diploma issued at Kassel in neighbouring Hessen), largely for recipients from within the region¹⁰⁸. PA's interests

104) DD O I 114, 156, 157, 158, 197, 198. Of these DD O I 156, 158, are recognized in Otpert's own name. See further SICKEL, Beiträge VI (as n. 2) p. 374 f., suggesting an association between Otpert and Echternach; and cf. HUSCHNER, Transalpine Kommunikation (as n. 10) p. 54 f., pointing instead to St Maximin.

105) DD O I 103, 187. On the former, however, see STENGEL, Immunität (as n. 27) p. 154 n. 4.

106) STENGEL, Immunität (as n. 27) p. 158. See also SCHROEDER / MARGUE, Aspects (as n. 68) p. 82–85.

107) D O I 187. Note that this only survives in copial form and is ascribed to Otpert on grounds of formulation. On the donations in favour of Magdeburg in these years: CLAUDE, Geschichte (as n. 44) 1, p. 43–57.

108) DD O I 4, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 24, 37, with HUSCHNER, Transalpine Kommunikation (as n. 10) p. 54, 148–150. Sickel also assigned him DD O I 16, 27 on grounds of formulation. A similar distribution can be seen in the diplomas he produced for Henry I: DD H I 29, 36, 41. Whether the first of these (D H I 29,