

are clearly East Saxon and his career closely tracks that of Poppo, who after almost a decade as chancellor was appointed to the vacant see of Würzburg in early 941, shortly after Bruno of Cologne had taken over as chancellor. The only time PA's hand appears thereafter is in a diploma of April 941, in which Poppo himself reappears as chancellor. The charter in question was produced in three distinct stages, with the eschatocol clearly added before the main text and the recognition sign then produced some time later. Sickel saw this complex gestation as evidence that the privilege was initially enacted and partially copied under Poppo's chancellorship, then completed under that of Bruno, for which reason the outgoing chancellor's favoured amanuensis oversaw its authentication. While we must be wary of dogmatism here – Sickel was keen to place the diploma earlier, so as to avoid having two „chancellors“ active at the same time – there is much to be said for the proposal¹⁰⁹. What matters from our perspective, however, is the close connection this reveals between Poppo and Poppo A, which raises the possibility that these figures were one and the same. The fact that Poppo often appears in PA's earliest recognition clauses as „notary“ (*notarius*) rather than „chancellor“ (*cancellarius*) reinforces the case. For though these terms are often synonymous in the later ninth and early tenth centuries, only *notarius* carries unambiguous implications of scribal service¹¹⁰. These associations were not lost on Sickel and Kehr; and while they simply saw PA as Poppo's favoured scribe, there is much to be said for following Huschner in identifying him directly with the bishop¹¹¹. If so, PA is a reminder that episcopal office and routine scribal service were often incompatible: PA is only active once after Poppo's promotion to the episcopate, in an act initiated some months earlier. The main potential objection to the identification is that Poppo is thought to hail from Franconia, a region with which

Marburg, Hessisches Staatsarchiv, Urk. 56, 2273) was PA's work is open to question, but this does little to affect the overall distribution.

109) D O I 37, Magdeburg, Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt, U 1, I 4, with SICKEL, Beiträge VII (as n. 2) p. 718–720; HUSCHNER, Transalpine Kommunikation (as n. 10) p. 149 f. For a facsimile: KUA I, 29.

110) BRESSLAU, Handbuch (as n. 2) 1, p. 423; KEHR, Kanzlei Karls III. (as n. 5) p. 9 f.; IDEM, Kanzlei Arnolfs (as n. 5) p. 8; Wilhelm ERBEN, Die Kaiser- und Königsurkunden des Mittelalters in Deutschland, Frankreich und Italien, in: Hb. der mittelalterlichen und neueren Geschichte 4: Urkundenlehre 1 (1907) p. 37–369, at p. 67 f.

111) Cf. SICKEL, Programm (as n. 2) p. 457–459, who was tempted to identify Poppo C as Poppo.