

PA displays few affinities. Here we must bear in mind that Poppo was probably part of the Babenberg clan, which had lost out decisively in its struggles with the Conradines in the early tenth century. The decision to seek patronage at the ducal (later royal) court of the Liudolfings in eastern Saxony – who had been the Babenbergs' main allies in these conflicts – would make perfect sense within this context. Indeed, it was under the patronage of Henry I that the Popponid branch of the family was able to survive and thrive in these years¹¹².

The affiliations of Poppo B (PB), another draftsman-scribe of Otto I's early years, are less clear. Like PA, he began his career in the early 930s. Unlike his more prominent associate, however, he was never particularly active: according to Sickel, PB was responsible for three diplomas of 932, then another three of 940. The first set was produced in Eastphalia, Thuringia and at the otherwise unidentified *Reot*, for recipients in Westphalia and northern Franconia; the second was issued from Hessen and Eastphalia for recipients from the Middle Rhine and Bavaria¹¹³. While this might suggest a slight concentration on eastern Saxony and Thuringia, the court was most often present in these regions, so this may simply be a function of the royal itinerary¹¹⁴.

112) On Poppo and the Babenberger-Popponids: Alfred WENDEHORST, *Das Bistum Würzburg 1: Die Bischofsreihe bis 1254* (Germania Sacra N. F. 1, 1962) p. 59–63; Franz-Josef SCHMALE / Wilhelm STÖRMER, *Franken vom Zeitalter der Karolinger bis zum Interregnum I: Die politische Entwicklung*, in: *Hb. der bayerischen Geschichte 3,1: Geschichte Frankens bis zum Ausgang des 18. Jahrhunderts*, hg. von Max SPINDLER, überarb. von Andreas KRAUS (31997) p. 115–208, at p. 138–140; and on the feud: Matthias BECHER, *Rex, Dux und Gens. Untersuchungen zur Entstehung des sächsischen Herzogtums im 9. und 10. Jahrhundert* (Historische Studien 444, 1996) p. 173–179; Thilo OFFERGELD, *Reges pueri. Das Königtum Minderjähriger im frühen Mittelalter* (Schriften der MGH 50, 2001) p. 598–606; Wilhelm STÖRMER, *Die konradinisch-babenbergische Fehde um 900. Ursachen, Anlass, Folgen*, in: *Konrad I. Auf dem Weg zum „Deutschen Reich“?*, hg. von Hans-Werner GOETZ (2006) p. 169–183; Jürgen PETERSOHN, *Franken im Mittelalter. Identität und Profil im Spiegel von Bewußtsein und Vorstellung* (VuF Sb 51, 2008) p. 150–161. Cf. MANGANARO, *Stabilitas regni* (as n. 18) p. 262 n. 148, endorsing Huschner's identification.

113) DD H I 31, 32, 33; DD O I 23, 30, 33. Note that the original of D H I 32 was still available to Kopp, whose notes suggest that at least the closing eschatocol were PB's work, as was already clear to Sickel: Ulrich Friedrich KOPP, *Palaeographia critica*, 4 vols. (1817–1829), 1 (1817) p. 415.

114) Cf. Eckhard MÜLLER-MERTENS, *Reichsstruktur im Spiegel der Herrschaftspraxis Ottos des Großen. Mit historiographischen Prolegomena zur Frage Feudalstaat auf deutschem Boden, seit wann deutscher Feudalstaat?* (Forschungen zur mittelalterlichen Geschichte 25, 1980).