

Huschner's book represents the most important contribution to Ottonian diplomatic since Sickel. His assault on the chancery sat well with other efforts to cut the Ottonian rulers down to size in the 1990s and early 2000s, be it in the form of Gerd Althoff and Hagen Keller's work on dispute settlement and symbolic communication, or Johannes Fried's writings on literacy, memory and orality¹¹. Not surprisingly, therefore, Huschner's conclusions were warmly received in many circles. In his review, Hubertus Seibert praised the volume as a „kaum hoch genug einzuschätzenden Ertrag für die Diplomatie“ („a contribution to diplomatic which can scarcely be overestimated“), while Jochen Johrendt similarly noted that this was a publication with which all serious students of the period would need to engage. At the same time, there was some hesitation regarding Huschner's boldest conclusions, and most reviewers emphasized that his identifications of individual draftsman-scribes with bishops and archbishops would need to be tested before they could be adopted more widely¹². Other readers were more sceptical. In an extended review in the *Mitteilungen des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung*, Brigitte Merta praised Huschner's willingness to challenge received wisdom, but expressed severe reservations about his findings. In particular, she noted that the palaeographical basis for Huschner's identifications of leading

IDEM, L'idea della 'cancellaria imperiale' nella ricerca diplomatica. Diplomi ottoniani per destinatari in Toscana, in: *La Toscana nell'alto e pieno medioevo: fonti e temi storiografici 'territoriali' e 'generalì'*, a cura di Mario MARROCCHI / Carlo PREZZOLINI (2007) p. 183–198.

11) Gerd ALTHOFF, *Spielregeln der Politik im Mittelalter. Kommunikation in Frieden und Fehde* (1997); Hagen KELLER, *Ottonische Königsherrschaft. Organisation und Legitimation königlicher Macht* (2002); Johannes FRIED, *Die Königserhebung Heinrichs I. Erinnerung, Mündlichkeit und Traditionsbildung im 10. Jahrhundert*, in: *Mittelalterforschung nach der Wende 1989*, hg. von Michael BORGOLTE (HZ: Beiheft N. F. 20, 1995) p. 267–318. See also FRIED, *Weg in die Geschichte* (as n. 7), p. 632–736.

12) Hubertus SEIBERT, Rezension von HUSCHNER, *Transalpine Kommunikation*, in: *H-Soz-Kult* (25.06.2004) at <https://www.hsozkult.de/publicationreview/id/reb-5709> (last viewed 14.2.2021); Jochen JOHRENDT: Rezension von HUSCHNER, *Transalpine Kommunikation*, in: *sehepunkte* 4.11 (15.11.2004), at <http://www.sehepunkte.de/2004/11/5355.html> (last viewed 14.2.2021). See similarly David WARNER, Review of HUSCHNER, *Transalpine Kommunikation*, in: *Speculum* 81 (2006) p. 205 f.; Sophie GLANSDORFF, *Compte rendue de HUSCHNER, Transalpine Kommunikation*, in: *Revue belge de Philologie et d'Histoire* 85 (2007) p. 915–919; and Albrecht CLASSEN, Review of HUSCHNER, *Transalpine Kommunikation*, in: *The Medieval Review* (07.05.2006), at <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/tmr/article/view/15965/22083> (last viewed 9.12.2021).