

association of sorts is thus clear; the question is merely as to its nature. Since Sickel's day, Armando Petrucci and Carlo Romeo have shown that diplomatic minuscule and *litterae elongatae* were frequently used by Italian bishops in their subscriptions to judicial notices – indeed, these were their preferred forms, employed as signs of distinction. Petrucci and Romeo are therefore happy to accept Hubert's 962 and 967 subscriptions as *bona fide* autographs (alongside that of 964), a conclusion strengthened by consideration of Hubert's subscription to a further document of these years, which was unknown to them (or Sickel). This takes forms very similar to those of the 962 and 967 subscriptions, demonstrating beyond doubt that this is indeed Hubert's hand¹⁴⁰. If any of these subscriptions were to be the work of a private secretary, it is thus the 964 one. There is, in any case, no reason to doubt Hubert's involvement here. As Antonella Ghignoli notes, the unusual form of the 964 subscription is readily explained by the fact that it is squeezed in above those of a number of laymen, who had left Hubert too little space for his usual forms. Forced to improvise, the bishop resorted to his regular bookhand so as to avoid disrupting the composition¹⁴¹.

If the subscriptions are all Hubert's, the question becomes whether this is indeed the hand of It B, as Sickel thought. Hoffmann has expressed doubts here, noting that the distinctive subscription sign employed by Hubert differs in important manners from that of It B. He also observed that the latter's script is more assured than that of Hubert's subscriptions¹⁴². There is no denying the latter point, but we should be wary of making too much of it. Subscriptions are by their nature less stable than other scribal performances, since they are constrained by time, space and existing text on the page; and the letter forms themselves reveal considerable resemblances. More weight

140) *Regesta Chartarum Pistoriensium. Alto Medioevo (493–1000)* (1973) no. 70, Florence, Archivio di Stato, Diplomatico, Pistoia, S. Bartolomeo apostolo detto Badia dei Rocchettini, 937. Contrary to the register entry, the document is to be dated 962 × 972: Paolo TOMEI, Coordinamento e dispersione. L'arcicancelliere Uberto di Parma e la riorganizzazione ottoniana della marca di Tuscia, in: *Europäische Herrscher und die Toskana im Spiegel der urkundlichen Überlieferung*, hg. von François BOUGARD / Antonella GHIGNOLI / Wolfgang HUSCHNER (Italia Regia 1, 2015) p. 77–86, at p. 79–81. See further PETRUCCI / ROMEO, 'Scriptores in urbibus' (as n. 26) p. 218; Antonella GHIGNOLI, Uberto, vescovo di Parma, e la sua scrittura, in: *AfD* 61 (2015) p. 55–96, at p. 69–78.

141) GHIGNOLI, Uberto (as n. 140) p. 73–75.

142) HOFFMANN, Notare (as n. 14) p. 461–463.