

of some standing within the royal chapel (and sometimes a prominent abbot), who often later rose to episcopal dignity, but rarely if ever a bishop in office<sup>190</sup>. In Italy, by contrast, scribes saw a similar elevation in standing to chancellors north of the Alps; and by the later ninth and early tenth centuries, at least some bishops can be identified amongst their ranks (and many appear as recognitioners). Nevertheless, only in a small number of cases did this notarial activity continue uninterrupted after appointment to the episcopate (save in a recipient capacity), the main exception being a few chancellor bishops<sup>191</sup>. In England, we know little certain about the identities of the draftsmen and scribes responsible for royal *acta* before 1066. There is reason to believe that bishops might be involved; nevertheless, they are unlikely to have shouldered the majority of such work.<sup>192</sup> The situation becomes clearer under the later Anglo-Norman and Angevin kings, when a small but significant group of notaries can indeed be identified and sometimes even associated with a known hand. From this sample, it is clear that scribal service was often a route to promotion, including to the episcopate; nevertheless, no bishop in office is known to have regularly produced royal charters and many notaries were of more humble status,

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190) Robert-Henri BAUTIER, *La chancellerie et les actes royaux dans les royaumes carolingiens*, in: BECh 142 (1984) p. 5–80, at p. 27–30.

191) Die Urkunden Ludwigs II., hg. von Konrad WANNER (MGH DD Karol. 4, 1994) p. 1–26; Luigi SCHIAPARELLI, *I diplomi dei re d'Italia. Ricerche storico-diplomatiche I: I diplomi di Berengario I*, in: *Bullettino dell'Istituto storico italiano* 23 (1902) p. 1–167, at p. 7–18, 24–34; IDEM, *I diplomi dei re d'Italia. Ricerche storico-diplomatiche II: I diplomi di Guido e di Lamberto*, in: *Bullettino dell'Istituto storico italiano* 26 (1905) p. 7–104, at p. 12–29; IDEM, *I diplomi dei re d'Italia. Ricerche storico-diplomatiche III: I diplomi di Ludovico III*, in: *Bullettino dell'Istituto storico italiano* 29 (1908) p. 105–207, at p. 107–112; IDEM, *I diplomi di Ugo e di Lotario* (as n. 34) p. 57–75.

192) Simon KEYNES, *Church Councils, Royal Assemblies, and Anglo-Saxon Royal Diplomas*, in: *Kingship, Legislation and Power in Anglo-Saxon England*, ed. by Gale R. OWEN-CROCKER / Brian W. SCHNEIDER (2013) p. 17–182; Tom LICENCE, *Edward the Confessor: Last of the Royal Blood* (2020) p. 263–281; Robert GALLAGHER, *Asser and the Writing of West Saxon Charters*, in: *English Historical Review* 136 (2021) p. 773–808. It has been argued that Æthelwold of Winchester (d. 983) was Edgar A, a highly influential draftsman-scribe of the late 950s and early 960s; but if so, he ceased operating upon promotion to the episcopate: *Charters of Abingdon Abbey*, ed. by Susan KELLY, 2 pts (Anglo-Saxon Charters 7–8, 2001–2002) p. CXV–CXXI; Simon KEYNES, *Edgar, rex admirabilis*, in: *Edgar, King of the English, 959–975: New Interpretations*, ed. by Donald G. SCRAGG (2008) p. 3–59, at p. 14–20.