

of diploma production reflect the movements of king and court, but they also map onto the activities of different notaries<sup>199</sup>. All this is a far cry from the formal government bureau envisioned by Sickel.

At the same time, we must be wary of throwing out the baby with the bathwater. A large number of documents were produced by scribes in regular royal employ, even if further study is likely strip them of a few diplomas. And there is no denying a strong centralizing element in charter production of these years, particularly when we compare Otto I's *acta* to those of his French and English counterparts<sup>200</sup>. Even when recipients took the lead, they generally marched to the tune of the court, responding to (and sometimes subverting) the matrix of the imperial diploma developed and maintained there. Indeed, the majority of recipient and regional court notaries come from religious houses which enjoyed close connections to king and court – places such as Magdeburg, Quedlinburg and Chur. We must also reckon with considerable archival losses, particularly among lay recipients. This is an especially salient point. As work towards the recent edition of the charters of Henry II of England has shown, even in the bureaucratic world of the twelfth-century „Angevin Empire“, recipient production remained common (particularly in Henry's earlier years) and the chancery, such as it was, is most visible in documents in favour of laymen<sup>201</sup>. Exam-

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199) MÜLLER-MERTENS, *Reichsstruktur* (as n. 114); IDEM, *Verfassung des Reiches* (as n. 130). See also BERNHARDT, *Itinerant Kingship* (as n. 98); Hagen KELLER, *Reichsstruktur und Herrschaftsauffassung in ottonisch-frühsalischer Zeit*, in: FMSt 16 (1982) p. 74–128; Andreas KRÄNZLE, *Der abwesende König. Überlegungen zur ottonischen Königsherrschaft*, in: FMSt 31 (1997) p. 120–157. It is no coincidence here that Huschner was a student of Müller-Mertens: Wolfgang HUSCHNER, Professor Dr. Eckhard Müller-Mertens als Hochschullehrer an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, in: *Beiträge zum Ehrenkolloquium von Eckhard Müller-Mertens anlässlich seines 90. Geburtstages*, hg. von Michael BORGOLTE (2014) p. 41–46.

200) French: Geoffrey KOZIOL, *The Politics of Memory and Identity in Carolingian Royal Diplomas* (Utrecht Studies in Medieval Literacy 19, 2012); Olivier GUYOTJEANNIN, *Actes royaux français – Les actes des trois premiers Capétiens (987–1060)*, in: *Typologie der Königsurkunden*, hg. von Jan BISTŘICKÝ (1998) p. 43–63; English: KEYNES, *Church Councils* (as n. 192); *Regesta regum Anglo-Normannorum: The acta of William I (1066–1087)*, ed. by David BATES (1998) p. 96–109. The Islamic world was far more precocious in this respect: Marina RUSTOW, *The Lost Archive: Traces of a Caliphate in a Cairo Synagogue* (2020).

201) VINCENT, *Scribes in the Chancery* (as n. 193) p. 159–162; IDEM, *English (and European) Royal Charters: From Reading to Reading*, in: *Reading Medieval Studies* 46 (2020) p. 69–127, at p. 104–106. Cf. *The Letters and Charters of Henry II: King of England 1154–1189*, ed. by Nicholas VINCENT, 7 vols. (2020–2022).