

ination of the thirty-five or so originals of Otto I for lay recipients is instructive here. Of these, thirty were ascribed by Sickel and his team to figures we might consider court notaries of some description<sup>202</sup>. Of the remaining five, two were produced by individuals who later entered imperial service (Hildibald B and Folkmar A); one was written by Abraham of Freising in favour of his own vassal (D O I 279); one is of questionable status; and one defies further definition<sup>203</sup>. How much more centralized Ottonian diploma production would look had the lay archives of the period survived more fully is, therefore, one of those Rumsfeldian known unknowns<sup>204</sup>.

There are wider implications here for our understanding of Ottonian kingship. Though few medieval rulers interested themselves in the day-to-day business of charter production, there can be little doubt that more centralized regimes tend to control the issuing of sovereign *acta* more tightly<sup>205</sup>. In this respect, Huschner originally framed his arguments as part of wider efforts to deconstruct Ottonian rulership in the 1990s and early 2000s. Just as Gerd Althoff, Hagen Keller and Johannes Fried had questioned the power and administrative reach of the Liudolfings, so Huschner queried the sophistication (indeed, the very existence) of the imperial chancery. Where Karl Leyser had seen this and the chapel as among the few truly impressive institutions of Ottonian government<sup>206</sup>, in Huschner's hands, it starts to look decidedly pedestrian. More recently, a number of American scholars, led by

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202) DD O I 17, 33, 40, 49, 52, 56, 57, 59, 60, 65, 69, 71, 78, 87, 113, 114, 129, 152, 160, 193, 197, 198, 204, 207, 311, 327, 352, 370.

203) DD O I 101, 220, 223, 279, 330. Of these, the first is of uncertain status, the second is in Folkmar A's hand, the fourth can be ascribed to Abraham and the fifth belongs to Hildibald B.

204) For comparative perspectives: Documentary Culture and the Laity in the Early Middle Ages, ed. by Warren BROWN / Marios COSTAMBEYS / Matthew INNES / Adam KOSTO (2012).

205) See, e.g., RUSTOW, *The Lost Archive* (as n. 200); Graham A. LOUD, *The Chancery and Charters of the Kings of Sicily (1130–1212)*, in: *English Historical Review* 124 (2009) p. 779–810; Nicholas VINCENT, *Royal Diplomatic and the Shape of the Medieval English State, 1066–1300*, in: *Identifying Governmental Forms in Europe, c. 1100–c. 1300*, ed. by Alice TAYLOR (forthcoming). Cf. Hartmut HOFFMANN, *Eigendiktat in den Urkunden Ottos III. und Heinrichs II.*, in: *DA* 44 (1988) p. 390–423.

206) Karl J. LEYSER, *Ottonian Government*, in: *English Historical Review* 96 (1981) p. 721–753, at p. 725. See similarly Laura WANGERIN, *Kingship and Justice in the Ottonian Empire* (2019) p. 17; and cf. Henry MAYR-HARTING, Karl Josef Leyser (1920–1992), in: *Proceedings of the British Academy* 94 (1996) p. 599–624, at p. 615.