

Bernard and David Bachrach, have challenged these presumptions, arguing (partly on the basis of the charter evidence) that Ottonian kingship depended on a sophisticated bureaucratic apparatus and significant recourse to the written word<sup>207</sup>. The evidence surveyed here suggests that both assessments are somewhat wide of the mark<sup>208</sup>. That so many draftsman-scribes of the period were local or occasional is a clear indication of the informality of Ottonian rulership, at least when it came to diploma production. Improvisation, not bureaucratization, was the order of the day. Nevertheless, the degree of consistency achieved in the resulting documents, at least by tenth-century standards, demonstrates that this remained a fundamentally court-focused system; even recipient scribes sought to mimic the forms of their more active court counterparts. Moreover, the very fact that so many figures were capa-

---

207) Bernard S. BACHRACH, Magyar-Ottonian Warfare: *À propos* a New Minimalist Interpretation, in: *Francia* 27,1 (2000) p. 211–230; David S. BACHRACH, Exercise of Royal Power in Early Medieval Europe: The Case of Otto the Great 936–73, in: *Early Medieval Europe* 17 (2009) p. 389–419; IDEM, The Written Word in Carolingian-Style Fiscal Administration under King Henry I, 919–936, in: *German History* 28 (2010) p. 399–423; Bernard S. BACHRACH and David [S.] BACHRACH, Early Saxon Frontier Warfare: Henry I, Otto I, and Carolingian Military Institutions, in: *The Journal of Medieval Military History* 10 (2012) p. 17–60; David S. BACHRACH, Immunities as Tools of Royal Military Policy under the Carolingian and Ottonian Kings, in: *ZRG: GA* 130 (2013) p. 1–36; IDEM, Inquisitio as a Tool of Royal Governance under the Carolingian and Ottonian Kings, in: *ZRG: GA* 133 (2016) p. 1–80; IDEM, Royal Licensing of Ecclesiastical Property Exchanges in Early Medieval Germany: Ottonian Practice on Carolingian Foundations, in: *Viator* 48,2 (2017) p. 93–114; IDEM, Royal Justice, Freedom, and Comital Courts in Ottonian Germany, in: *ZRG: GA* 137 (2020) p. 1–51; IDEM, The Foundations of Royal Power in Early Medieval Germany: Material Resources and Governmental Administration in a Carolingian Successor State (2022). I am grateful to David Bachrach for making the latter study available to me in advance of publication. See also WANGERIN, Kingship and Justice (as n. 206), to somewhat similar effect; and note, too, the earlier objections of August NITSCHKE, Karolinger und Ottonen. Von der karolingischen „Staatlichkeit“ zur „Königsherrschaft ohne Staat“?, in: *HZ* 273 (2001) p. 1–29; and Hans-Werner GOETZ, Die Wahrnehmung von „Staat“ und „Herrschaft“ im frühen Mittelalter, in: *Staat im frühen Mittelalter*, ed by Stuart AIRLIE / Walter POHL / Helmut REIMITZ (Forschungen zur Geschichte des Mittelalters 11, 2006) p. 39–58, at p. 55–58. Cf. Steffen PATZOLD, Capitularies in the Ottonian Realm, in: *Early Medieval Europe* 27 (2019) p. 112–132, which also has important implications here.

208) Closest to my estimation is that of Roman DEUTINGER, Staatlichkeit im Reich der Ottonen – ein Versuch, in: *Der frühmittelalterliche Staat – europäische Perspektiven*, hg. von Walter POHL / Veronika WIESER (Forschungen zur Geschichte des Mittelalters 16, 2009) p. 133–144.