

lerweise hochrangige Kirchenmänner, nur eine Stufe unterhalb der Bischöfe und Äbte. Oft handelte es sich um aufstrebende junge Kleriker am Beginn ihrer Karriere.

Since first published in the late nineteenth century, Theodor Sickel's editions of the diplomas of the Ottonian rulers have stood as leading monuments of early diplomatic. With the notable exception of Wolfgang Huschner's pioneering (if controversial) *Habilitationsschrift* of 2003, there has, however, been little further effort to grapple with fundamental questions of how and by whom such documents were produced. Focusing on the reign of Otto I, the present study revisits Sickel's and Huschner's arguments regarding the Ottonian „chancery“, demonstrating that neither can be accepted *in toto*. There is no reason to believe that most prominent notaries of the era were leading bishops, as Huschner would have it; at the same time, it is clear that such figures were far from the low-level functionaries once envisaged by Sickel. Rather, diploma draftsmen and scribes were typically ecclesiastics just below episcopal or abbatial rank, often up-and-coming young churchmen at the start of their careers.