

to believe that it could be authentic in the full sense of the term. Sickel was inclined to give the underlying text, a confirmation of tolls within the city of Worms, the benefit of the doubt, but spoke of the surviving single sheet as a „copy in diploma form“ („Abschrift in Diplomform“), a conclusion which is hard to square with the fact that it bears a completed monogram and was once sealed. Lechner therefore went further, arguing that this charter – along with all of HB’s diplomas dated before 978 – was a forgery of the scribe’s later „chancery“ years. According to this interpretation, we are dealing with forgery in the chancery (Lechner spoke of „Kanzleifälschungen“), directed and supported by the imperial chancellor, Hildibald of Worms. As noted, however, Lechner’s judgements have been seriously challenged. Already in the early 1900s, an authentic diploma of HB from 976 was discovered by Peter Albert within the private collection of Marc Rosenberg (where it had been since 1896), the details of which he published in 1908³⁵. And while the diploma itself was lost seven years later when Rosenberg’s Schapbach residence burned down, a photograph taken shortly before survives in the Generallandesarchiv in Karlsruhe, from which it is clear that this was indeed an authentic product of HB³⁶. This, combined with a reassessment of HB’s other early diplomas, has led to the rehabilitation of almost all of these documents. It is now clear that HB was an authentic recipient scribe in the later 960s and earlier 970s, whatever hand he may have had in reworking the see’s Merovingian and Carolingian privileges. The only remaining doubts have attached to D O I 84, which was too early to be a credible work of HB. Yet in content, there is nothing at all suspicious about the diploma: it simply rehearses the terms of an authentic earlier toll charter in the name of Louis the Pious and his eldest son Lothar³⁷. At some point before 970, this latter document had been reworked to include mention of these rights extending to Ladenburg and Wimpfen; however, D O I 84 cites the privilege in its uninterpolated form³⁸. If D O I 84 had been forged to lend weight to HB’s other falsifications, as Lechner suggests, it does a remarkably

35) Peter P. ALBERT, Die ältesten Nachrichten über Stift und Stadt Mosbach, ZGORh 23 (1908) p. 593–639. See also Johann LECHNER, Die Wormser Kaiserurkunde Ottos III. über die Abtei Mosbach, ZGORh 25 (1910) p. 151–157, with the response from Peter P. ALBERT, Noch einmal die Wormser Kaiserurkunde über Mosbach vom 15. November 976, ZGORh 25 (1910) p. 355–357.

36) Karlsruhe, Generallandesarchiv, A 46a, with ROACH, Forgery and Memory (as n. 9) p. 49f.

37) D L Fr 282.

38) The *terminus ante quem* is provided by D O I 392, Darmstadt, Hessisches