

forged single sheet in the name of Henry I for the same abbey (based ultimately on D H I 30)³. Unlike the original of D O I 217, which had been known to Sickel and his editorial team in the late nineteenth century, these represent entirely new discoveries, which promise to enrich our understanding of imperial politics and local documentary culture in the 970s and 980s considerably.

Yet in the excitement generated by such finds, it is easy to forget that they belong to a long line of similar efforts, from Harry Bresslau's uncovering of the original single sheet of D O I 269 for the bishopric of Parma, through to Antonella Ghignoli's fascinating study of the long neglected original of D O I 371, in favour of the Italian layman Ingo⁴. And while the discoveries of 2020 are already well on their way to receiving due scholarly attention (Morelle has made an excellent start with the Crespin single sheets, while Mark Mersiowsky has provided initial thoughts on the Aschaffenburg privilege), the same cannot be said for all such rediscovered originals. The present article concerns one of those which has lingered almost entirely unnoticed (including by the present author) for the better part of a century: D O I 161. The diploma in question is a privilege in favour of the bishopric of Worms, granting the final third on tolls in Ladenburg and confirming the see's possession of the other two thirds, as granted by Otto I's predecessors. Located some 32 km upstream from Worms on the Neckar, Ladenburg had been an important regional centre since antiquity. The town and its market were of natural interest to the bishop, who was actively involved in local trade and commerce⁵. Worms would later claim to

3) Laurent MORELLE, *Les deux diplômes ottoniens pour l'abbaye de Crespin*, in: *Allemagne et France au coeur du Moyen Âge*, éd. par Dominique BARTHÉLEMY / Rolf GROSSE (2020) p. 75–86 (with reproductions at p. 76, 78).

4) Harry BRESSLAU, *Nachträge zu den beiden ersten Bänden der Diplomata-Ausgabe*, NA 23 (1898) p. 113–172, at p. 129–133; Antonella GHIGNOLI, *Tradizione e critica del testo, una variante documentaria: il diploma di Ottone I per il fidele Ingo (D.O.I.371)*, in: *Sit liber gratus, quem servulus est operatus: Studi in onore di Alessandro Pratesi per il suo 90° compleanno*, a cura di Paolo CHERUBINI / Giovanna NICOLAJ (2012) p. 231–247. The latter document had originally been discovered and edited by Sergej Aleksandrovič ANNINSKIJ, *Diplom Ottona I v Kollekcij Akademii nauk SSSR*, in: *Vspomogatel'nye Istoričeskie Diszipliny. Sbornik Statej, Izdatel'stvo Akademii nauk SSSR* (1937) p. 141–160 (with Latin translation of the original Russian remarks at p. 150–158), but lay largely ignored till Ghignoli's efforts.

5) Hertha BORCHERS, *Untersuchungen zur Handels- und Verkehrsgeschichte am Mittel- und Oberrhein bis zum Ende des 12. Jahrhunderts* (Diss., Marburg 1952) p. 34–36; Stéphane LEBECQ, *Marchands et navigateurs frisons du haut Moyen Âge*, 2 vols. (1983) 1, p. 11f., 27f., 230f., 239f.