

have acquired rights in and around Ladenburg in the seventh century; but since the Merovingian and Carolingian charters in question were all either forged or reworked in the mid- to later tenth century, it is hard to know how much store to place in these traditions<sup>6</sup>. What we can say is that the town and surrounding Lobdengau were of interest to the bishop at this later juncture. Indeed, D O I 161 stands at the start of a run of diplomas concerning Worms' toll and immunity rights, reflecting the political and commercial ambitions of the well-connected new bishop, Anno (950–78)<sup>7</sup>. The latter had hitherto been abbot of St Maurice in Magdeburg. In this capacity, Anno had not only been responsible for one of the kingdom's wealthiest and most influential monasteries, but had also overseen much of the (extensive) diploma production in its favour, including an early set of forgeries by the draftsman-scribe Bruno C<sup>8</sup>. Certainly at Worms, Anno's efforts to secure episcopal rights against his local rivals, both secular (the counts of Worms) and ecclesiastical (the abbots of Lorsch), would extend to a infamous set of falsifications: the Worms forgeries, which paint an impressive picture of Worms' early history, including its claims to Ladenburg<sup>9</sup>. Any new material from the see therefore promises to enrich (or indeed overhaul) our understanding of these developments.

That is not the only interest of D O I 161. Theodor Sickel and his Vienna-based team, who published the first critical edition of the

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6) As rightly emphasized in *Die Urkunden der Merowinger*, hg. von Theo KÖLZER, 2 pts (MGH DD Merov., 2001) p. 82f. Cf. Andreas BÜTTNER, *Ladenburg am Neckar und das Bistum Worms bis zum Ende des 12. Jahrhunderts*, *Archiv für historische Geschichte und Altertumskunde* N.S. 28 (1963) p. 83–98; Meinrad SCHAAB, *Ladenburg als wormsische Bischofsresidenz*, in: *Südwestdeutsche Bischofsresidenzen außerhalb der Kathedralstädte*, hg. von Volker PRESS (Veröffentlichungen der Kommission für geschichtliche Landeskunde in Baden-Württemberg B 116, 1992) p. 83–97. For the bishopric's claims: D Mer 30, D Kar 257, D L Fr 282, D L D 74b.

7) Thomas KOHL / Franz J. FELTEN, *Worms – Stadt und Region im frühen Mittelalter von 600–1000*, in: *Geschichte der Stadt Worms*, hg. von Gerold BÖNNEN (2005) p. 103–132, at p. 121–126.

8) Karl UHLIRZ, *Geschichte des Erzbistums Magdeburg unter den Kaisern aus sächsischem Hause* (1887) p. 23–26, 77–84; Edmund E. STENGEL, *Die Immunität in Deutschland bis zum Ende des 11. Jahrhunderts. Forschungen zur Diplomatik und Verfassungsgeschichte 1: Diplomatik der deutschen Immunitäts-Privilegien vom 9. bis zum Ende des 11. Jahrhunderts* (1910, ND 1964) p. 145–58, 163–66, 168–70; Helmut BEUMANN / Walter SCHLESINGER, *Urkundenstudien zur deutschen Ostpolitik unter Otto III.*, *AfD* 1 (1955) p. 132–256, at p. 177–187; Levi ROACH, *The „Chancery“ of Otto I Revisited*, *DA* 78 (2022) p. 1–74, at p. 25–33.

9) Levi ROACH, *Forgery and Memory at the End of the First Millennium* (2021) p. 21–60.