

diploma, edited it from an eighteenth-century copy of the Worms Vidimationsbuch, a collection of authenticated copies (*vidimuses* or *inspeximuses*) which the chapter had solicited in 1616 from Johann Valentin Armbruster, the lector of the Imperial Chamber Court (*Reichskammergericht*). Alongside this, they included readings from the two Worms cartularies and Johann Friedrich Schannat's early printing of the text, the latter based at least in part on the Vidimationsbuch. On the basis of formulation, Sickel assigned responsibility for the diploma to Bruno A (BA), one of the most prolific draftsman-scribes of the 940s and early 950s. BA had produced a diploma at the same location (Frankfurt) just twelve days earlier than Sickel was inclined to place our charter (D O I 160, 1 January 953), so was an obvious candidate for author. This latter document is the last original of BA to survive, though Sickel thought he could also detect BA's formulation in a further diploma of 21 April of that year (D O I 164). The discovery of the original D O I 161 therefore has the potential to shed new light on the twilight years of this most influential notary, who probably belonged to the circles around the royal chancellor Bruno of Cologne (Otto I's brother)¹⁰. D O I 161 is also one of just two charters (the other being D O I 160) in which the otherwise obscure Hoholt appears in the recognition clause as „chancellor“ (*cancellarius*), while Bruno is accorded the more elevated position of archchaplain. It was, in fact, this feature which determined Sickel's dating of the diploma. Though the texts of the Vidimationsbuch and older Worms cartulary both suggest a date of 13 January 951 for the document (the younger cartulary has 952 here)¹¹, for Sickel the presence of anyone beyond Bruno in the recognition clause pointed to production between autumn 951 and autumn 953, when a number of otherwise unknown individuals appear as „chancellor“ in Bruno's place, often with Bruno as archchaplain. And since Hoholt had been active at Frankfurt on New Year's day 953, it stood to reason that another diploma issued there and recognized by Hoholt belonged in the same context – particularly since it was only preserved in later copies. The interest of this is not purely academic. For when figures beyond the regular chancellor (in this case, Bruno) appear in recognition clauses, there are often grounds for suspecting that they are the notaries of the acts in question. On this basis, Sickel

10) ROACH, „Chancery“ of Otto I (as n. 8) p. 49–53.

11) As Sickel appreciated, „*idus iunii*“ in the Vidimationsbuch is just a miscopying of the original „*id. ian.*“, as recorded in the cartulary copies and now confirmed by the original. (Schannat follows the Vidimationsbuch here.)