

tale: these are appropriate for BA, but the same could be said of many other notaries of the era. More distinctive is the corroboration clause, which speaks of the *succidentium curricula temporum* – a formula popular in the earlier years of the century, but only once attested in BA's work and more frequently seen in the charters of Bruno E and Otpert<sup>26</sup>. Similarly significant is the dating clause, where the reference to the reign of the pious King Otto (*regnante pio rege Ottone*) – rather than the „most serene“ (*serenissimo*) or „most pious“ (*piissimo*) King Otto – speaks strongly of BA's influence. This formula had been introduced by BA in the 940s and is otherwise only found in the work of BC and Liudolf E – and then rarely<sup>27</sup>. It was probably this, combined with Hoholt's presence, which determined Sickel's attribution of the diploma. But all these demonstrate is that our draftsman was acquainted with BA's forms – a conclusion already suggested by the diploma's script and layout. Certainly they are insufficient to prove that our scribe was working to a draft (Konzept) produced by BA. Indeed, as Hermann Weisert noted back in 1953, the phrasing of the apprecatio (*in dei nomine feliciter amen*), points in a rather different direction. BA consistently prefers *in domino* here; and while Weisert was inclined to ascribe the variation to a later copyist, we now know it to be original<sup>28</sup>.

Where does that leave us with Hildibald B? It is important to note that HB enjoyed a long and varied career – a very long one indeed, if Hoffmann is correct – so we should expect to see changes and developments in his script over time, as indeed we do. Thus in his early years, HB employed a simple loop as his abbreviation sign, but later switched to the ampersand-shaped one favoured by most notaries of the era; we can see similar signs of evolution in the form of his chrism<sup>29</sup>. Still, many of HB's forms, particularly in the execution of individual letters, remained remarkably stable across his career, providing an excellent

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26) D O I 65, Dessau, Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt, Z 1, 3. For Otpert's use of the phrase: D O I 114, Magdeburg, Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt, U 9, A Ia, 7; D O I 156, whose original was burnt with the rest of the Kartenabteilung of the Württembergische Landesbibliothek in September 1944; and for BE's: D O I 105, Brandenburg, Domstiftsarchiv, Urk. 1; D O I 152, Dresden, Sächsisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, 10001 Ältere Urkunden, 00003.

27) e.g. D O I 159, Magdeburg, Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt, U 1, I, 10 (by BC); D O I 163, Chur, Bischöfliches Archiv, 011.0015 (by LE).

28) WEISERT, *Titulatur* (as n. 17) p. 25 n. 113, 115.

29) ROACH, *Forgery and Memory* (as n. 9) p. 39, 48, 49f. Cf. LECHNER, *Königsurkunden* (as n. 21) p. 531–535.