

most recent edition of 1895 as the *Annales regni Francorum* (ArF)⁹, commonly translated into English as the *Royal Frankish Annals* and only rarely as *Annals of the kingdom of the Franks*¹⁰, in German as the (fränkische) *Reichsannalen*¹¹ and in French as the *Annales du royaume des Francs*¹². It is this work that has been dubbed as “the closest thing to ‘official history’ we have from the early Carolingian period”¹³, which, according to some scholars, was written at the royal court¹⁴. If the ArF, as part of the “veritable explosion of history-writing” of the eighth and ninth centuries¹⁵, truly are a major historiographical enterprise composed at the court, written for the court and subsequently disseminated from the court throughout the Frankish

9) *Annales regni Francorum* inde ab a. 741 usque ad a. 829 qui dicuntur *Annales Laurissenses maiores et Einhardi*, ed. Friedrich KURZE (MGH SS rer. Germ. [6], 1895).

10) *Carolingian Chronicles. Royal Frankish Annals* and Nithard's *Histories*, translated by Bernhard Walter SCHOLZ / Barbara ROGERS (1972) p. 35–125; Paul David KING, *Charlemagne. Translated Sources* (1987) p. 74–107, contains the entries from 768 up to and including 814 and translates the artificial Latin title correctly as *Annals of the kingdom of the Franks*, abbreviating them as AKF.

11) Reinhold RAU, *Quellen zur karolingischen Reichsgeschichte 1: Die Reichsannalen. Einhard Leben Karls des Großen. Zwei “Leben” Ludwigs. Nithard Geschichten (Ausgewählte Quellen zur deutschen Geschichte des MA. Freiherr-vom-Stein-Gedächtnisausgabe 5, 1955) p. 9–155.*

12) *Annales du royaume des Francs. Texte d'après l'édition de Friedrich Kurze. Introduction générale, traduction, notes et index sous la direction de Michel SOT / Christiane VEYRARD-COSME, 2 vols. (Les Classiques de l'histoire au Moyen Âge 58, 2022).* They were formerly also known as the *Annales royales*, as dubbed by the very influential Louis HALPHEN in the articles that appeared in the 1910s as a response to Kurze and were ultimately collected and published in a single volume as *Études critiques sur l'histoire de Charlemagne* (1921).

13) The quotation comes from Rosamond MCKITTERICK, *Charlemagne. The Formation of a European Identity* (2008) p. 31, but the list of literature either explicitly claiming this or implicitly hinting at it is endless. It goes back to Leopold RANKE, *Zur Kritik fränkisch-deutscher Reichsannalisten*, in: *Abh.* Berlin 1854 (1855) p. 415–458.

14) Wilhelm WATTENBACH / Wilhelm LEVISON / Heinz LÖWE, *Deutschlands Geschichtsquellen im Mittelalter. Vorzeit und Karolinger, 6 vols. (1952–1990), here 2: Die Karolinger vom Anfang des 8. Jahrhunderts bis zum Tode Karls des Großen* (1953) p. 248: “Am Hofe müssen die Annalen geschrieben sein.”

15) MCKITTERICK, *Charlemagne* (as in n. 13) p. 36; cf. also Matthew INNES / Rosamond MCKITTERICK, *The writing of history*, in: *Carolingian culture: emulation and innovation*, ed. by EADEM (1994) p. 193–220, at p. 193.