

to spread. On the contrary, they remained confined to the area from where Louis the Pious had ruled the empire. In that region, it may have helped to enhance the legitimacy of the Carolingian dynasty and served as a testimony of their rule. It is in alignment with earlier scholarship that the text appears to have been part of court-orientated history writing<sup>223</sup>. After all, the cultural centres that may have produced textual witnesses did not really function as important *sedes imperii* in themselves, but nearby palaces and *villae* in Compiègne and Quierzy were places which “Louis tended to favour ... as locations for assemblies”<sup>224</sup>. Furthermore, this region is quite similar to the area where Charles the Bald spent most of his reign, and it is a distinct possibility that the “court school”, a culturally vibrant place where not only texts were copied, but also new texts may have been produced as a result of the intellectual exchange at the court, was located in Compiègne<sup>225</sup>. As far as the manuscript evidence suggests, the ArF did not travel far beyond the very core of the Frankish heartlands.

With civil war breaking out after the death of Louis the Pious, there were now other writers who had arguably been commissioned to write an official record, such as Nithard in his *De dissensionibus filiorum Hludowici Pii*<sup>226</sup>. It seems the relevance of the ArF had

223) Cf. MCKITTERICK, Charlemagne (as in n. 13) p. 33 n. 109, who credits Mayke de Jong for the formulation “court-related annals”, with a reference to De Jong’s at the time upcoming work on Louis the Pious, which was published as “The Penitential State”. DE JONG, The Penitential State (as in n. 21) p. 67 n. 32, in turn, refers to Janet L. NELSON, History-writing at the courts of Louis the Pious and Charles the Bald, in: *Historiographie im frühen Mittelalter*, hg. von Anton SCHARER / Georg SCHEIBELREITER (Veröffentlichungen des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung 32, 1994) p. 435–442, at p. 439, where Nelson explains: “History could be court-orientated without being official history.”

224) DE JONG, The Penitential State (as in n. 21) p. 34.

225) MCKITTERICK, The palace school of Charles the Bald (as in n. 177) p. 387f. and p. 394, where she suggests Compiègne as place of the court school under Charles the Bald. McKitterick’s arguments are based, mostly, on the work undertaken by Carlrichard BRÜHL, *Fodrum, Gistum, Servitium regis. Studien zu den wirtschaftlichen Grundlagen des Königtums im Frankenreich und in den fränkischen Nachfolgestaaten Deutschland, Frankreich und Italien vom 6. bis zur Mitte des 14. Jahrhunderts*, 2 vols. (Kölner historische Abhandlungen 14, 1968), here 1 p. 39–48; cf. also Josef FLECKENSTEIN, *Die Hofkapelle der deutschen Könige*, 2 vols. (MGH Schriften 16, 1959–1966), here 1: *Grundlegung. Die karolingische Hofkapelle* (1959) p. 142–155, with particular attention paid to “das räumliche Element” and the importance of Compiègne on p. 151–155.

226) Nithard, *Historiae*, prologue, ed. Philippe LAUER / Sophie GLANSDORFF (Les Classiques de l’histoire au Moyen Âge 51, 2012) p. 2–4, at p. 2: *Cum, ut optime*,