

somehow ceded to the political developments in the Frankish realm in the early 830s. With new actors came a wind of change that required a different narrative. Naturally, the ArF were a monument in its own right and served, and still serve, as a testimony of Carolingian rule. The manuscript evidence, however, seems to underscore the suggestion by Reimitz to distinguish between the short history and the long history of the ArF. Four of the discussed witnesses were written in the first half of the ninth century. The Cologne fragment and the Paris codex supposedly date from the first third of the ninth century. Both the Leiden fragment and Reg. lat. 617 are less easily narrowed down when it comes to the date of composition, but both still date from the first half of the ninth century and may have been written before the death of Louis the Pious<sup>227</sup>. Then there is a gap of about 20 to 40 years until the next witnesses surface, namely the Vienna codex and Reg. lat. 213. This temporal gap may be an indicator of the end of the short history and the start of the long history of the ArF as hypothesised by Reimitz<sup>228</sup>.

Taken together, the ninth-century manuscript evidence of the ArF is ambiguous. On the one hand, their success within the Frankish heartlands is inescapably clear, strongly enhancing the possibility of a potential link with the Carolingian family. All textual witnesses from the ninth century seem to have been written in the royal landscape the kings and emperors were mostly operating in. On the other hand, it is just as clear that the ArF did not enjoy particular popularity beyond the royal landscape and there does not seem to have been a centralised attempt to actively disseminate the work throughout the Frankish realms.

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*mi domine, nosti, jam poene annis duobus illatam a fratre vestro persecutionem vos vestrique haudquaquam meriti pateremini, antequam Cadhellenicam introissemus civitatem, precepistis ut res vestris temporibus gestas stili officio memorie traderem.*

227) A closer palaeographical examination will have to provide more certainty.

228) Helmut REIMITZ, *Nomen Francorum obscuratum*. Zur Krise der fränkischen Identität zwischen der kurzen und langen Geschichte der ‘Annales regni Francorum’, in: Völker, Reiche und Namen im frühen Mittelalter, hg. von Matthias BECHER / Stefanie DICK (MAStudien 22, 2010) p. 279–296.