

Before dealing with the actual manuscript evidence, three topics need to be addressed. The first of these is how to deal with library references to annals and the issue of lost copies of the ArF. It exposes the difficulty of identifying specific sets of annals in a rather generic field of titles in contemporary book catalogues and book lists. Second, the recensions of the ArF as distinguished by Kurze must be touched upon, because the reader needs to be familiar with the basic elements of Kurze's system of recensions in order to have an understanding of how the ninth-century witnesses relate to each other. Third, a provisional overview of the ninth-century dissemination and reception of the ArF by means of looking at other works that borrow from it is a necessity to avoid any semblance of reliance on the extant witnesses to provide the full story. There is much more evidence for the transmission and dissemination of the ArF than the manuscript copies of the text itself suggest, but this too will be considered in greater detail elsewhere. Indeed, at the end of this article, it will be clear that the manuscript evidence not only answers questions, but also raises new ones that may be answered, in turn, by looking in closer detail at the dissemination and reception of the ArF.

### The problem of the title

The titles of Carolingian historiographical texts are, as a rule, modern ones, usually invented by the first editor of the work. Attempts made to locate the ArF in ninth-century library catalogues, therefore, do not look for the *Annales regni Francorum* as such, but something else instead. For example, Rosamond McKitterick has suggested that if the ArF are to be identified with the “*Gesta Francorum*” mentioned in ninth-century catalogues we may be able to map the transmission and dissemination better<sup>26</sup>. The only contemporary set of annals I have come across so far with this header is in St Gall, Stiftsarchiv, Zürcher Abteilung X, Nr. 1, fol. 1r, which reads *Ab incarnatione domini gesta Francorum excerpta*. It contains a work commonly known as the *Annales Alamannici*, not the ArF<sup>27</sup>.

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26) Rosamond MCKITTERICK, *Constructing the Past in the Early Middle Ages: The Case of the Royal Frankish Annals*, in: *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, Sixth series 7 (1997) p. 101–129, at p. 126.

27) For the most recent edition, cf. *Annales Alamannici*, ed. Roland ZINGG, *Die St. Galler Annalistik* (2019) p. 54–104, at p. 54.