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chercheurs travaillaient et publiaient (ou s'apprêtent à le faire) sur le même domaine de recherche (D. Yerkes, T. J. Hamilton, M. J. Swanton, K. P. Witney), ce qui a contraint à un partage des tâches peu propice à la parution d'un ouvrage complet sous une seule signature, ou du moins contenant à lui seul l'essentiel du dossier de s. Mildrith. Le mérite principal du livre de Rollason résidera dans la publication de deux inédits aux Appendices B et C, bien que ces textes ne soient pas présentés en alinéas numérotés de façon à établir un système de référence commode: la *Passio beatorum martyrum Ethelredi atque Ethelbricti* (BHL. 2641–2642) et la *Vita Deo dilectae virginis Mildrethae* par Goscelin de Canterbury (BHL. 5960). Mais il faudra recourir à l'édition de M. L. Colker pour lire deux autres pièces inédites et capitales du même dossier, dans les *Mediaeval Studies* (Toronto) de 1977.

Au point de vue formel, l'ouvrage se présente dans une typographie très soignée et une correction presque parfaite. Il est regrettable que les notes aient été reportées à la fin du volume, surtout pour un auteur qui renvoie fréquemment le lecteur à des passages qui précèdent ou qui suivent. Un tableau généalogique bien nécessaire est présenté à la p. 45; on l'aurait attendu plus tôt, avec un nom important en plus: celui de Hlothhere, roi du Kent (673–685), pourtant souvent nommé dans le texte. De même la carte de la p. 12 aurait avantageusement pu s'étendre jusqu'à inclure les toponymes mentionnés à la p. 44, par exemple. Enfin l'index est un peu trop sélectif (Bède aurait mérité d'y figurer) et surtout incomplet, même pour les vedettes retenues. Au total, il est à craindre que la carrière de cette thèse devenue livre ne souffre de deux handicaps indépendants de la volonté de l'A.: un prix de vente prohibitif (22 livres anglaises) et un concours de circonstances qui a empêché la pensée du chercheur de se développer aussi complètement qu'il aurait été souhaitable.

Joseph-Claude POULIN, Québec

Karl BRUNNER, *Oppositionelle Gruppen im Karolingerreich*, Wien–Köln–Graz (Hermann Böhlaus Nachf.) 1979, 224 p. (Veröffentlichungen des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung, 25).

The objective of this work is to shed new light on the political history of the Carolingian Empire from Charlemagne until the rise of Otto the Great in the mid-10th century by examining the role of the nobility in the policies of successive kings over that period of time. The author contends that the leading families of the empire must be seen as integral parts of the Carolingian political system not merely as objects, sometimes friendly, sometimes hostile, of royal policies. Thus in effect they constituted what would today be called the political opposition. Kings sought to neutralize their potential for obstructing or blocking royal initiatives in a variety of ways ranging from institutional reforms to marriage, playing noble factions against one another, and simple repression. The nobility in turn resisted through the formation of blocks of families which became virtual political parties attempting to use both persuasion and violence to achieve their ends. In the long run the well known tribulations of the 9th century slowly weakened the Carolingian kings and gave the upperhand to the nobles who consolidated their power and wealth while emerging as a new Frankish »Fürstentum« in the early 10th century.

The author approaches his task by first examining several key latin terms used by contemporaries to designate noble opposition and their actions – *coniuratio*, *rebellio*, *consilium*, *socii*, *secundus a rege*, *si quis contra ducem*. This in order to get at political realities by understanding the contemporary meaning of these words, especially in those cases where there had been semantic evolution since classical times. This is a useful part of the book. The heart of the work is a chronological examination of relations between kings and noble families, factions, and groups focussing on royal efforts to govern domestically and on the reactions of nobles to those

policies. The author gives extensive coverage to Charlemagne's attempted reforms, considerable space to Louis the Pious, then moves more rapidly through the reigns of the later 9th and early 10th centuries. For each reign he passes in review royal policies and efforts to implement them, then seeks out signs of noble acquiescence and resistance. With regard to the latter his essential concern is to identify as to family and faction those who resisted and those who supported, and to determine their motivations and goals. In the process he both summarizes the work of previous scholars who have touched on one or another phase of Carolingian political history, and carries out his own original prosopographical research based almost exclusively on personal name similarities. Part of the book, in other words, is broad generalization in the form of a few lines or paragraphs summarizing complicated subjects, part is the most detailed prosopographical research on the participants in a single faction or resistance movement. The best examples of this latter are the 11 page essay on the identification of the 30 witnesses of Charlemagne's testament of 814, or the 12 page biography of a single figure, Charlemagne's biographer Einhard. My comment is not intended as criticism; on the contrary, I suspect that these two sections may be the most original and valuable in the book, but only to point out that the work proceeds at one and the same time on two quite different levels, at one moment on that of summary narrative, at the next on that of exhaustive, minute analysis.

The goal of viewing Carolingian political history from the perspective of the aristocracy of the entire empire over nearly two centuries I find most laudable since it holds out the promise of discerning genuine, long-term trends and avoiding unbalanced judgements on the importance of this or that faction at any given time. However, in my view, the method of presentation tends to obscure the broader picture. In the course of the narrative account first scores, then hundreds, of names of individuals and families come to submerge all but the specialist reader and make it difficult to gain a clear picture of major factions in the opposition at any given time and how their composition evolved over time. A series of chronological charts naming the leading noble families at regular intervals would greatly have facilitated the comprehension of this vital point. Furthermore a map, or, better, a series of maps, would have furnished a territorial dimension which is now lacking. Granted, the author's purpose was not to write a history of the Carolingian nobility but only of their reactions to royal policies, nonetheless a knowledge of their main traits as a class would have helped in comprehending those reactions. To be sure the conclusion of the book furnishes a useful tripartite division of at least the leading elements of the nobility by distinguishing between the »old« Adel and two other groupings, but save for a few earlier references to the first of these, these categories are not applied systematically in the main body of the book.

George T. BEECH, Kalamazoo

Das Verbrüderungsbuch der Abtei Reichenau, hg. von Johanne AUTENRIETH, Dieter GEUENICH, Karl SCHMID, Hannover (Hahnsche Buchhandlung) 1979, in-4°, CXIX-231 p., 164 pl. (Monumenta Germaniae Historia. Libri Memoriales et Necrologia. Nova Series, 1).

This is a splendid critical edition of a 9th and 10th century manuscript which is of great interest for the study of early medieval society in southern Germany. By far the largest part of manuscript Rh. Hist. 20 of the Zentral Bibliothek in Zurich is confraternity book of the abbey of Reichenau which is made up 1, of lists of monks of abbeys which had entered into agreements with Reichenau and 2, of lists of benefactors, of the abbey. With the number of these groups, each containing up to a hundred people and more, rising well into the hundreds this book thus amounts to little more than an enormous compilation of personal names – over 38,000 in all. Its potential value as a source for the identification of people of the time has long been recognized