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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.

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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

and indeed the MGH sponsored its publication by Paul Piper in a special series of *Libri Confraternitatum* in 1884. Yet subsequent scholars have made relatively little use of it due in part to difficulty encountered in using Piper's indexes but mainly to their inability to identify any more than a tiny fraction of the people named in the manuscript. The scribes who made the entries made no effort themselves to identify the great majority of the masses of people whom they named and since most of these latter were not already known from elsewhere there seemed no way to break through the anonymity of the lists. Nor did Piper's brief apparatus criticus offer much help. So his edition was neglected.

But Gerd Tellenbach, who writes a brief forward to the present edition, became convinced that the handful of surviving *Libri Memoriales* held a key *sans pareil* to the penetration of the monastic and aristocratic worlds of the 9th–11th centuries if only the circumstances surrounding their compilation could be better understood. For this the collaboration of specialists in paleography, onomastics, monastic liturgy and thought, and prosopography would be necessary – and these would need to have as accurate reproductions of the originals as possible. Photo-facsimile editions would have to be prepared. The publication of the *Liber Memorialis* of Remiremont by Tellenbach, Karl Schmid, and Eduard Hlawitschka in 1970 in the *Libri Memoriales* series of the MGH marked the first step in this new undertaking and »Die Klostersgemeinschaft von Fulda im früheren Mittelalter« of 1978, which followed the photo-facsimile approach on a limited scale, was the second. With this Reichenau edition the enterprise has reached its latest stage of development. High quality, full-scale black and white photo facsimiles of all but the first 7 pages of the ms (which contain extraneous matter from the later Middle Ages) present the ms in all its detail and sharpness, save, of course, for noting different shades or colors of ink. (The editors call attention to these as well as to indications of erasures or scratched-out passages in an appendix.)

A comparison of this facsimile with Piper's edition brings out graphically the inadequacies of the latter's edition. No matter how diligently he prepared it, a type set edition could not faithfully convey to the reader all the doubtful readings, abbreviated names, or the jumble of different hands involved in the compilation of the complicated ms. Nor could it possibly represent accurately the location of the many group entries made on every folio even though Piper made a valiant effort to do so by arranging the names in columns to correspond as closely as possible to the original. But as the pages filled out with names in the course of time the Reichenau scribes had had to squeeze in groups wherever they could find space, between columns or in the margins, etc. and a printed page fails to reproduce this in the way the facsimile does.

But having an accurate reproduction of the text is not enough. The prospective student of this ms will find himself bewildered not just by the great profusion of different names and people but also by the large number of variant spellings of the same names. If, whether for onomastic or prosopographical purposes, one wanted to look up all the Adalberti in the Piper edition, he had to know in advance all of the possible variant spellings of the name in order to find them in the strictly alphabetical index. This meant knowing that one had to check under Adel, Adil, Edel, Edil, and Hadal as well as under Adal, to mention only the first element variables. Ignorance of these variations meant failure to take account of all the examples in the ms, and in any case a search of this kind was highly time-consuming. To resolve this problem co-editor Dieter Geuenich chose to produce a register of names arranged alphabetically according to the first element of each name. Thus all the Adalberti, regardless of their spellings, are to be found at one place in the register, under Adal, with the variants ranged within that entry in alphabetical order. And each is labelled with its location in the ms. To accomplish this required the services of a specialist in onomastics (Geuenich) since few historians have the knowledge to determine whether elements like Edil can legitimately be regarded as variants of Adal and not as entirely different name elements. In his excellent introductory essay, *Die Namen des Verbrüderungs-*

buches, Geuenich points out that uncertainty on this question occasionally forced him into the realm of conjecture but the number of such cases seems so small that it is unlikely to diminish the value of the register as a whole. That value stands out clearly. Every individual name in the ms has been taken down (use of the computer made this possible) in its entirety just as it stands in the text without emendation or conversion to the nominative case, and is entered in the register under the most common form of its first element as in the case of the Adalberti mentioned above. But then, of course, an additional Alphabetischer Gesamtindex (p. 3–29) had to be created in order to guide the scholar who might not otherwise know this, to look up Edil, for instance, under Adal. To my mind the Namenregister (p. 31–179) is almost as important an element in making this ms accessible to scholars as is the facsimile part of the edition. Prosopographers will find it quick and easy to look up individual names and those interested in onomastics will find in a single place the full display of variations of any given name. In addition to these registers, the editors have included separate sections giving, 1, names with uncertain readings, 2, names distinguished from others by capital letters, different colored ink, or some other means, 3, names accompanied by a title of office or indication of social rank, 4, place names listed in the ms, and 5, transcriptions of all the written passages in the text (there are few of these) other than personal or place names, titles or other indications of rank.

Two other introductory essays accompany Geuenich's on the names. Johanne Autenrieth gives a brief history and description of the codex, then analyzes paleographically the main section which dates from the early 9th century. In the process she advances the study of the different hands involved in the ms beyond what Piper had done in his edition but stops short of attempting a fullscale paleographical analysis. Thus there is no discussion of the various hands found in the third part of ms which dates largely from the 10th century. Karl Schmid points out that this will not be possible until the Reichenau scriptorium as a whole is better known. In his essay, »Wege zur Erschließung des Verbrüderungsbuches«, Schmid discusses the various approaches which promise to lead to a better comprehension of this text. He argues persuasively that an understanding of the plan and organization of the book, something hitherto neglected, as well as of its intended use in the liturgy, is essential for understanding the text as a whole. As a preliminary to this he probes into the 8th century origins of the Libri Confraternitatum, then turns to a consideration of the date of compilation and original plan of the Reichenau text. He also includes a fine map (p. LXI) of the network of communities linked with Reichenau in the original plan with indication of their order of entry in the book. But the problem of organization becomes more difficult because the 10th century monks progressively departed from the original plan by entering a profusion of new communities and benefactors according to principles which are still obscure. An understanding of these principles will aid greatly in identifying both the communities and individuals names, and this is where interdisciplinary cooperation of paleographers, philologists, and prosopographers is called for.

Thus the editors see this edition above all as an »Arbeitsinstrument«, as a working edition for further research, not as a publication which brings a research project to a successful conclusion. An edition which they hope will succeed in attracting the scholarly collaboration necessary for the resolution of the problems inherent in this text. This explains why elements which one might have expected in an edition of this kind have been omitted here. Reference was made above to the incomplete character of the paleographical analysis of the ms and the reasons therefor. This also explains why the volume contains no separate index of persons or communities as distinct from the index of personal names. Far too many of these latter remain unidentified at present to justify such inclusions. On the other hand, in the interest of facilitating further research, the bibliography of modern works which deal generally with Libri Confraternitatum or specifically with this one, is as complete as possible – nearly 400 works are cited. And a special section on p. LVI which is separated from the main bibliography (in my view, unfortunately, for only the careful reader will find it in the middle of Geuenich's essay) gives a bibliography according to

specific pages of the ms. Thus if one wants to learn whether any scholar has discussed a given name or group on, for instance, p. 79 or p. 118 of the ms, he can ascertain that quickly and not have to lose time poring through the scores of works in the main bibliography which might, but which also might not, treat that specific page or passage. A most useful addition to the bibliography.

This entire edition is prepared with what seems to me exemplary care, precision and intelligence. It may not in the final analysis relieve scholars completely from the need to consult the original but it certainly takes a long step toward bringing an early medieval ms of capital importance directly into scholarly offices. It now remains for the various scholars for whom this volume is intended to respond and aid in the solution of the problems inherent in it.

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Isolde SCHRÖDER, *Die westfränkischen Synoden von 888 bis 987 und ihre Überlieferung*, München (Monumenta Germaniae Historica) 1980, in-8°, LIV-413 p. (Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Hilfsmittel, 3).

Cet ouvrage qui est en fait une thèse, est un registre très complet des conciles et synodes particuliers tenus en France entre la mort de Charles le Gros et l'avènement d'Hugues Capet. Dans l'importante introduction qui présente ces »regesta«, l'auteur cerne fort bien son étude dans l'espace et dans le temps et on ne peut que le louer d'avoir compris que, pour les conciles français du début de l'époque féodale, la mort de Charles le Gros (888) est une date charnière.

Cette exposition, outre quelques généralités sur les synodes, leur modalité, leur terminologie, comporte une étude des sources qui est d'un intérêt de premier plan par la documentation rassemblée sur la période envisagée. Cela représente un travail considérable étant donné la dispersion et la variété des documents. L'auteur apporte également un élément nouveau par rapport aux études déjà faites en examinant le comportement des synodes vis-à-vis des clercs et des laïcs du pouvoir temporel (rois, ducs, comtes), et du pouvoir pontifical.

Les »regesta«, proprement dits consistent en une liste très complète des conciles particuliers et des synodes diocésains, dans l'ordre chronologique avec leurs sources et leur bibliographie propre. Ils sont accompagnés le cas échéant de quelques brefs commentaires et de l'examen des articles critiques auxquels certains ont donné lieu. En appendice on trouve les assemblées sujettes à caution en tant que conciles. Cette liste est si complète qu'on pourrait lui reprocher de pécher par excès plutôt que par omission: des sources différentes ayant poussé parfois Mlle Schröder à démultiplier des conciles qui peut-être ne sont qu'un ou deux, plusieurs sources pouvant avoir trait au même concile (par exemple lettre de convocation d'une part et procès-verbal du concile d'autre part), ou à insérer des conciles à la réalité douteuse, parfois même dont l'inexistence a été démontrée (tel celui de Port 822 dont M. Bautier a démontré qu'il était un faux et qui, de ce fait, tout en étant étudié à juste titre, aurait pu être reporté dans les appendices). Une abondance encore plus grande régnait dans la bibliographie qui aurait gagné à être plus sélective, certains ouvrages cités ne faisant parfois qu'une brève mention du concile concerné ou même une simple allusion, et incitant, de ce fait, le lecteur qui pense y trouver un renseignement complémentaire, à une recherche parfaitement inutile.

Hors ces critiques légères l'ouvrage a des qualités qui l'emportent de loin sur des défauts vraiment mineurs et il comble véritablement une lacune en apportant à tous les historiens et chercheurs intéressés par cette période une concentration de sources et de documents d'un intérêt primordial. Que Mlle Schröder en soit félicitée et remerciée!

Odette PONTAL, Paris