

Snippets from the Continent
- discovered by Meister Ulric von der Insel

- “Henry I of Berg (c. 1105 – 1130s) acquired the derogatory nickname Hofekelz, which, it has been suggested, mean` t ‘der am Hofe keifende’ – he who bitches at court.” Widmann, *Gesschichte Salzburgs* as found in Freed, John B. *Noble Bondsmen: Ministerial Marriages in the Archdiocese of Salzburg, 1100-1343*. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1995), p. 221.
- Younger sons in households could make their own names for themselves by founding new towns in the wilderness of the Alps, particularly with income from salt mines there. Freed (above) p. 124.
- In 941 Duke Otto I of Saxony (also Holy Roman Emperor) granted to his godson a fief with a newly-built fortress, slaves and a forest. Leyser, Karl. “Henry I and the Beginnings of the Saxon Empire” *The English Historical Review* 83, No. 326 (Jan., 1968) pp. 26-7.
- “Widukind himself lets us know that in 946 most of Otto's Saxons wore straw hats on their expedition into the West-Frankish kingdom. Helmets were a luxury which only a few magnates could afford.” Leyser, Henry I. p. 29.
- One Slavic king got Hosed: “At the battle by the river Recknitz in 955, Stojgnev, the king of the Slav Obotrites, was run to ground and killed in single combat by a *vir militaris* called Hosed who then presented Otto I with the head and war-gear of his victim.” Leyser, Karl. “Henry I and the Beginnings of the Saxon Empire.” *The English Historical Review* 83, No. 326 (Jan., 1968) p. 14
- Holy Roman dukes held that their duchies were *sonnenlehen*, or sun-fiefs, since they held them solely under the sun, not from any king – in effect, huge *allods*. Later, they called them *fahnlehen*, or banner-fiefs, so-called because investiture was conferred by a vexillum or banner. “At first only the duchies were of this rank, then margraviates, and finally any princely fiefs. Its gift conferred the right to levy military service of vassals.” Thompson, James Westfall. “German Feudalism” *The American Historical Review* 28, No. 3 (Apr., 1923): pp. 441.
- The Holy Roman Empire inherited from Carolingian monarchs the tradition of maintaining several forms of counts (“*grafen*”, sing. “*graf*”, or “*grave*”). The *landgrave* is a ‘landed’ count who administers a county. The *margrave* administers a border area, or ‘march’, as a marquis did in France or a marcher baron in England. A *burgraf* is the lord of a town, or burg, or castellan of an imperial castle. The *pfalzgraf*, or count-palatine, was a ‘count of the palace’, who worked as a high-level administer for the emperor, with income derived from tolls, certain taxes and personal allods (family-owned properties) or individual fiefs here and there.
- In Benjamin Arnold’s *German Knighthood* many forgeries are documented. Usually these are charters founding an abbey, town or institution which delineates what the properties and rights are, as handed to that institution by some ancient king. Some are custumals stating the rights and duties of ministerials, knights or serfs. The 12th century appears to be a great time to be a forger, for many charters were penned then.