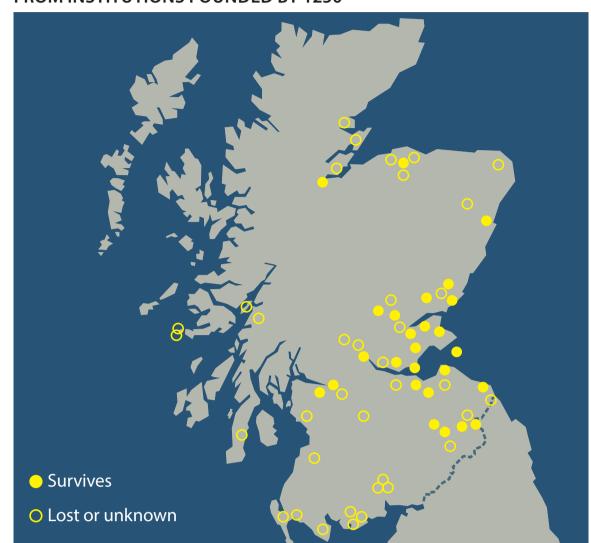
Domes de karre latri in dio. Loute binds plentels stutiers has lucas himns nel anditures of uncamus domes de karre latri in dio. Loute bindsteas bin qo cui osonado de eschos in amnuati tenereno in loute one tum osarcava duanti lato p tra de bethoc q bul pterra de Aubineture lucio in cos cartes on nettir. Con calderi tires co arcas plates conators omine relavant si ponti detas clamani podrago osarcis en Caparters in What Suravives la lato p tra mea substatem ponenda in paraucito. Vide q Eso q beredes men q luciolores men fino deta damactem pocarri tum ponenda in paraucito. Vide q Eso q beredes men q luciolores men fino deta damactem pocarri tum

Charters are our main source for twelfth- and thirteenth-century Scotland. Most surviving charters were written for monasteries, which had many properties and privileges and gained considerable expertise in preserving their charters. However, many collections were lost when monasteries declined after the Reformation (1560) and their lands passed to lay lords. Only 27% of Scottish charters from 1100–1250 survive as original single sheets of parchment; even fewer still have their seal attached. The remaining 73% exist only as later copies.

GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD

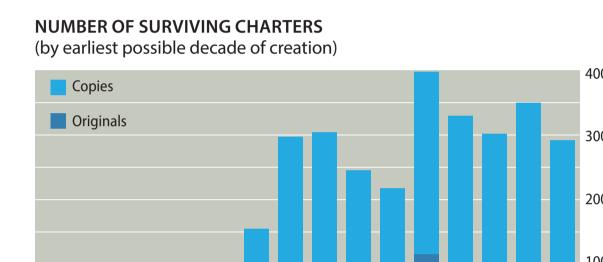
Our picture of documents in this period is geographically distorted. Some regions have no institutions with surviving charter collections, even as copies (like Galloway). Others had few if any monasteries, and so lacked large charter collections in the first place (like Caithness). Others are relatively well represented (like Fife).

SURVIVAL OF CHARTER COLLECTIONS (RELATING TO 1100–1250) FROM INSTITUTIONS FOUNDED BY 1250



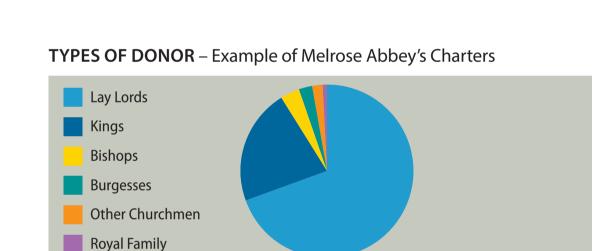
CHRONOLOGICAL SPREAD

Despite losses, the surviving documents point to a gradual increase in their use in the twelfth century.



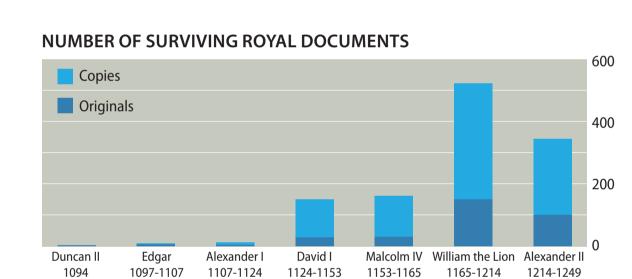
TYPES OF DONOR

It was common for monasteries to seek charters from those in positions of authority in the kingdom: lay lords, kings and bishops.



ROYAL DOCUMENTS

The most common royal documents were written instructions. However, only a tiny proportion of these were kept or copied. Most royal documents that survive are charters in which kings gave and confirmed property and privileges.



A di già rev scourou pou A a cor cuerran evete sei curh berri sat.

O ando 7 precipio uob uo nullo marcieras placicum neo: maliqua diraciocinamone de terra de sumane ance qua ueniar ance me .

Tibi ena done por nocu facio qua de multis reb; multa uob habeo secrete loq qua orus fieri pour .vt.

The earliest surviving example of a royal instruction written in Scotland is a message from King Alexander I (1107–1124) to the prior of Durham Cathedral. Many more one-off documents like this would have been produced, but were not kept by the recipients or have been lost.

Donner de karrie latri un dio 2 foute bindificaç din que di osonador de eschos in amunati tenerent in longone tum osarcavii duarii latte p tra de bethoc q dul prerra de Audineture licuto in cop carris que notur. Ego caldein tres esarcas plans esonatins emmino relavani que mea late p tra mea i librarem ponenda in paranevit. Dive q Ego q heiroes men q lucellores men line que damacióm planti tinni espantario tinni que damación planti tinni espantario tinni de cara damación planti tinni espanti espanti tinni espanti espanti tinni espanti espant