Domes de karrie latin in sino. Louit binistras bra de cir osonado de eschos in amuati tenerent in louisone tum osarcarii duarii luto pera de bethoc quil prerra de Aubineture luito in cop carrie que interior. Cor calmin tres coarcas plans asonathis omeno relaminati penui decas clamam padrage osarcis el VVIIO Jarethe Scribe SCIIDES Ilivate mea luto pera mea i libeatem ponenda in paramento. Sino a como a home de carrie de como meno de carrie de carrie de como meno de carrie de como meno de carrie de como meno de carrie de como de carrie de carrie de como de carrie d

## **MEDIEVAL LITERACY**

Writing on parchment using a quill and ink was a specialist skill. To begin with, writing was limited to texts that were intended to be read within churches or by poets and lawmen. These texts were written in books, booklets or on scrolls. When charters were first produced it was by scribes who were familiar with this context of writing.

## WHO ARE THE SCRIBES?

Monasteries often produced their own charters when they were the beneficiary. A draft charter would be presented to the donor who would then, once they were happy with it, attach their seal to it. Occasionally, however, the charter would be produced by a scribe in the donor's household, particularly if the donor was the king.

Only two charter scribes give us their names. How, therefore, can we tell whether a scribe is working for the donor or the beneficiary? The key is to find charters with the same handwriting.

## **EXAMPLE OF A BENEFICIARY SCRIBE**

Here are two charters to Melrose Abbey. They are from different donors but have been written by the same scribe. This shows he was a Melrose scribe.

Donnes de karrie latre un ono Loure de miletas de que de cui osonador de aschos en annuati tenerente ne lo necone ciun osarcarie duare lutte prira de Berroc que prerva de Audoneture luce un cope carres ora netur. Esto calcimi eres osarcas plans osonadores ommos relavant i speriui decas clamani propagica osarcis ellungos quas los osonador limul i lenera i magua nerellitate mea lute prira mea i librarem ponenda in paraneire de promo plans, meneral magua nerellitate mea lute prira mea i librarem ponenda in paraneire de prira menatore i prenti magua nerellitate mea lute prira mea i librarem ponenda in paraneire de prira menatore i prenti magua nerellitate mea lute prira mea i librarem ponenda in paraneire de prira menatore i prenti magua nerellitate mea lute prira mea i librarem ponenda in paraneire de prira printi de como polari de la librare de prira librarem ponenda in paraneire de prira de la librarem ponenda de la librare de la librarem por la librarem por la librarem ponenda e la librarem la librarem por la librarem ponenda e la librarem la librarem la librarem ponenda e la librarem la librarem la librarem por la librarem ponenda e la librarem la lib

Charter of Duncan, Earl of Carrick (1236)

Umult, se matri Schie filus prelente, 7 tuturi lucal ilvas minris nel andrenvis doan de Derune et Delena grove et latin in ono. Houte vinultras cura nol de mera noluntate ura nendialle domni de opero poce libs delingos tra main de Jungeris qui remini in tertorio de golle de Polito de pollebo e plabel grove el ce que premi l'hebere permi l'est polemere que nocate holemede que remini de Diña Schma rhodis ling 7 oñie lul que i elle babuni il babene porturi. Has poras en se ci orbi librario; ranamentes ad calte tral princere de unidant por domni de opeti p dece libi ellingos han proceden el remendal libr proceden de mise ammati de ce lotad plabel file Politi ence ul beredis liul late quas lotos ad pentecolti. 7 quas lot adreliu se anamenta de ce lotad plabel file Politi ence ul beredis liul late quas lotos ad pentecolti. 7 quas lot adreliu se anamentadum. Hol i 7 hedes uir caldem tral ci oriuls ad caldem tral princeret potenti de que lotad trale doce domni de anamentado de la competente nel mon de la competente de domni de anamentado de competente nel mon de potente de competente nel mon de potente de competente de domni de potente nel mon de potente de la competente de domni de potente de competente de domni de potente de la competente de

Charter of Adam of Heiton and his wife Helen (between 1227 and 1238)

## **EXAMPLE OF A DONOR SCRIBE**

In these examples, the same scribe has written charters of King Malcolm IV (1153–1165) for two different beneficiaries. This shows that he was a royal scribe.

H. Rex Scort: Justiens surs. Siecomunds. Prosens. Minists. Cuchisque alus pt houbs took terre sue salure. Mando 11 summer perpro ut in culcing. The sur potestate Abbas de Sea Cruce Tuentre potit Harub houes terre sue dut sugarnos suos. cos inste habeat. Hullusop et aut ser-unent suo gos ex itt Tunste detineat. Sup mon plenaria souffactura. To Con. Coo de Seo Andr. Johe Abbe de Calchou. Galfr Abbe de Bufint. Ap Castellu puellar.

Charter to Holyrood Abbey

H. Bex Score. Justicul. Successively. Eposites. Months. Cuches du llus post houte total terre sue ta such of plenting salut. Societé me geoffisse son géo currentes de Bunelmo y Monaches abit so sermenentes: ut apsi recui sermentes p tota tra mea sur lite y seri ab onn teloneo se pes catall micatis even. Phibeo may, ut nemo que hat literate es tra tra mea in aut muria facuat sup sansfallam mea. Thus Camar. Rie capett. Ret. Rie de See Albano cheo reg. Ap Goldwig.

Charter to Coldingham Priory

Domes de karrie latre in dio 2 soute bruis remains bas livas along nel andieure Dinicanus Comes de karrie latre in dio 2 soute bruis preva de la la manuari tenerere in locucione tum operarii duavi latre p tra de bechoc q vul preva de Aubmeture haro in cop carris oti neture. Eso caldeni tres coarces places eponachis ommino relarant i peruii detas clamatu p diragna oparcis ell'hingop quas le oponachi limul q lemol i magna nerellitate mea latre p tra mea i libratem ponenda in paranevit. Vide q Eso q heredes mea i lucellores mei l'incidera d'amaccem pleatri timi oparcarii to onic boies place, monachis i pecuti waratzaburi. Come l'eta damaccem pleatri timi oparcarii to onic boies place, monachis i pecuti waratzaburi. Come l'eta damaccem pleatri timi