Ominos se opeters Ethe tilng 7 tidelle plente 7 tutins has liteas biling uel audituris Auncanus Domes de karris latin in duo. Hout binufitas biá que cu openador de eschos in annuati tencere ú lo ucione tum opercari duari lato p tra de Bethoc z bui prerva de Aubineture liter in cop carris op netur. Geo caldem tres es arcas plates es onactors ommer re prain zi petui decas clamain p dorag oparcis el HIOMS toon WITI tel QUICKLy trate mea lato p tra mea i libeatem ponenda in pacauerit duare pois z berroes mer z luce lors nor the deca dana com potenti tum

The norm was for scribes to cut their quill to a broad nib. The aim was to produce neat and regular handwriting, with the contrasting width of pen strokes providing an opportunity for scribes to add a stylistic element to their work. This was effective for most purposes, in particular for copying books. If you were a scribe whose main task was writing documents on a single sheet, however, you might need to write quickly. This was easier if the nib was narrower.

In twelfth-century Scotland, the main scribes whose specific job was to write documents were in the king's household. Speed was especially important for communicating the king's wishes and instructions in writing.

Thei filtur Swam. Ommb annus fuis & dris fat. Suant um posten qua plant me confilto & concessi berdum menze dediste & concessis per fature anne mee & anteesso menzes in percuam elemosinam deo & ecetie se anus de Edenetbure & frib, ibidem deo seruentoz, wui illud donations of du udebar babere in ecetia de linuernent in utrist & palcus. & decimis libere & quiete ab ommi stari dominitione & ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus place ecetie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirmo place ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places catie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirmo place ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places catie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirmo place ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places catie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirmo place ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places catie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirmo place ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places catie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirmo place ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places catie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirmo place ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places catie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirmo place ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places catie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirmo place ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places catie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirma conce ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places catie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirma conce ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places catie de linuernent conculerunt. do « concedo. « p presentem cartam confirma conce ecetie duas domos cum duab; tofus places cum duab; tofus concedo de linuernent concelation de concedo. A luce de linuernent concelatie de linuernent concelatione de fa

This charter of Thor, son of Swain, was written sometime between 1153 and 1159. The scribe belonged to the beneficiary (Holyrood Abbey), not Thor. The scribe has used neat and regular handwriting that would be normal to use in a book in this period.

{S GD 45/13/

Der era Bet Scot. Gril. Ablits. Comitority. Darouts. Just inceccone 70 miles, fisteliks fuil. Lat. Sciant ta pasteri g presente me dedille - Concellisse impresenta elemosina des a cectie se opicis & denebure - anomicil des ibi Connecto 9 lature Anoveellor of fuccellor meer ecctiam d'oparinant en omiles Juste ad eam enterits sie Falerann capellan ung mell ea bint sciente. Salina tenus apl? Paleranni Capellani gnoin in connersfactive seculari manserte. valo reagne porcos canonica rectia illa in perperis opiles post faleranni dicella ita libe deces obernitate sie alias sua bino scientes scientes aleranni dicella ita libe ada comensila mare mea bino sciente. Salito cancetto. Kalero fito alan Hicolao derico splo Faleranno plence of postalance ap Cone B& B. O This charter of King Malcolm IV was written by a royal scribe sometime between 1153 and 1159. A simple way to write faster was to make the bodies of letters smaller but to keep the height of tall strokes.



Look at how the tall strokes in this charter are elongated compared to Thor's charter. The word is *dedisse* (Latin for 'to have given').

This charter of King William was written by a royal scribe sometime between 1189 and 1193. He was clearly writing quickly and so was more likely to keep his pen touching the parchment when moving from one stroke to another. This mode of writing eventually led to cursive writing.

No. St grad ber Goott. Amile Jours Bode' sont of a fue than " thing Sate Gada Sentes & fue me greffiffe. " the safed med stymalle so "statue Gee "as Ubenchip". " ilmours bise so fermenale. Sondrosen illt of theber & notif ulld and ferre de und carmelted over in bundy to fierd ens & poos hours all and ferre de und carmelted over in bundy to fierd ens & poos hours to an theoler of there. en comment palfuged fier in say of plath. . . gamet plate pambulant fuer. en commen palfuged fier in say of plath. . . gamet plate in theoler of the same fue of bour fuer fue of the lives of geer. plate is gamet. Tenend this of a geert of period elegisting fier of the lives of geer. plate is somethere. In allas Eds of the present elegisting the theory fier of the plate day of plath 5. cellas false Eds of the mes. Off. bus lancetto meso bolm saylto meso for arts. Beden fit bugons. With & Banefeil aba & sayer ap Elenebig wile I benets Sand. Buden fit bugons. With & Banefeil aba & sayer ap Elenebig Here are two comparisons with Thor's charter.



Compare the letter **r** in the word *carta/cartam* (charter): the first example was made in a single fluid stroke; in the second, the scribe has used two strokes, one for the vertical and one for the horizontal.





Compare the letter **g** in the words *Edeneburg* ('Edinburgh') and *regis* ('of the king'): one is hurried, the other is neat and deliberate.

NRS GD 55/2

A. A Direct ber fore. Annih probio Commils, and an fire at Satue nos conce file atte and confirmate word Ennon illim an p. comes & aniber De confinite pro . An There the fire the - common de aphos De tara eque his of balant in flade Se Luibedy - Ann Fe and Ducente . a undirect for most fels Decilitans for flat a post of the second for his of balant in flade Se Luibedy - Ann Fe and Ducente . a undirect for most fels Decilitans for flat a post of the second for his of balant in flade Se Luibedy - Ann Fe and Ducente . a undirect for most fels Decilitans for flat a flat of the second for his of balant in flade Se Luibedy - Ann Fe and Ducente . a undirect for most fels Decilitans for flat a flat of the Anne concellin - the cost and confirmant concellant - quient dans toers of a combile da to the sheeds for for ession the commences de comment of for the second of the animal a uniter of a felse of the second of the ras of da diess of comment of a comment of the second of the felse of the second of the second of the second of the hus nome too multic formed due allower of the firs for galant of the felse of the second of the se This charter of King Alexander II was written by a royal scribe on 28 November 1247. He writes in a fully developed cursive way that is both quick and elegant. This had become a specialist skill by the mid-thirteenth century.

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Onnes de karris latri in dio. 2 fourt unifitas bia qd ei oponaden de apelios in annuati tenecert in

loutone tun orarari duari lato p tra de bahos 7 vni prerra de Aubneture haro in cop cartis ora netur. Ogo caldem trez oraras plans oromaches omme relavan 77 prenui detas daman p dragora oraris ettingop quas de oromache limul 7 lem 7 magna nerellitate mea lato p tra mea 7 libeatem ponenda in paramerit. Vnice 7 Ogo 7 beredes mea 7 luccellores mei bur deta damacom pdeari turi orarcarii 7 omo boies plan , monacino 7 preni isararizabur. Corret deta damaco fina leo 2 tables solu