Ommer de contres Ethe tilus Atidelie plente de des litters has litters bilinng nel audituris Auncanus Domes de karrie latin in duo.2-fourt binufitas bra qd eu oponadu de apelies in ammati tenereno n lo.ucione tum opercaru duari lato p tra de Bethoe z bui prerva de Aubineture litte in cop cartis of netur. On estant tres marcas plates conactins ommino relevan zi prenu getas daman p dorag oparcis en Charters in What Sur Sur de Cartis ommino relevan zi prenu getas daman p dorag

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.

#### NUMBER OF SURVIVING CHARTERS (by earliest possible decade of creation)

Survives

O Lost or unknown



#### **TYPES OF DONOR** – Example of Melrose Abbey's Charters



#### NUMBER OF SURVIVING ROYAL DOCUMENTS



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A. di gin rex footory. post. A. & tot' évenan eete fei cuthberti, sat. Oando 7 precipio uob ut nullo m'intretif plactium neg; maliqua diraciocinatione de terra de sumaine ante qua veniat ante me. Tibi ena done por noti facio que de multif reb; multa uob habeo setter log-qua orti fieri potit. 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.

Unning Ste opering Ethe Hag ridelo plento rhanns bas hitas hanns un audituns Ormeany Domes de karre latin in Suo. 2 four Unificas bin ed ci oponada de aperos in annutt tenerent in loucone tum opercari duari lato p tra de berboc z val prerva de Aubneture luito in cop carris on netur. Ogo caldem tres operas plates oponacios ommo relegram zi perui decas clamam p edragua opercis ettimos quas de oponacio limul z lem di magna nerellitare mea lato p tra mea i libertem ponenda in paramerit. valor z Ego z beredes mei z luccellores mei bine deca damacem pdeari turi oparcarit 7 omes places places in maans i perui perui deca damace pola fina hoz habbis polui