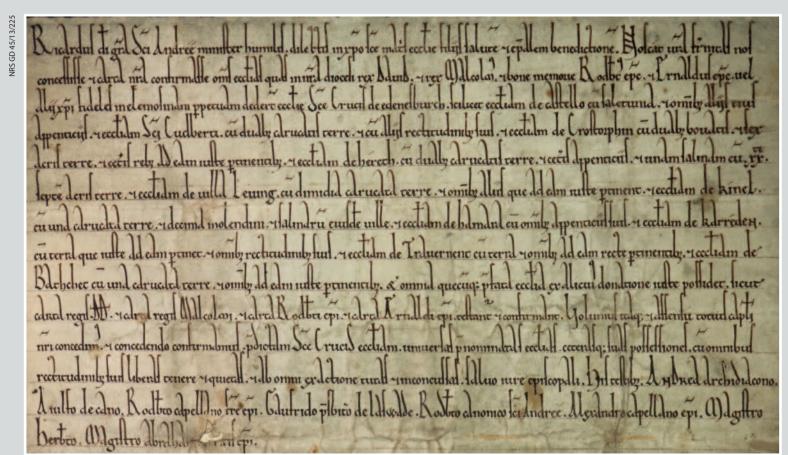
Monks in monasteries only occasionally wrote charters. They preferred to use a broader nib rather than the narrower nib used by royal scribes. Even so, monastic scribes began in the 1150s to imitate the general appearance of documents written by royal scribes. They had complete freedom in how to do this (or whether to do it at all). The examples below are from Holyrood Abbey, Melrose Abbey and St Andrews Cathedral Priory.

In these early examples, the monastic scribes have modified the letter-forms in ways reminiscent of documents written by royal scribes, for instance by stretching or elaborating elements of the letters.



Charter of Richard, Bishop of St Andrews, for Holyrood Abbey (between 1165 and 1167)

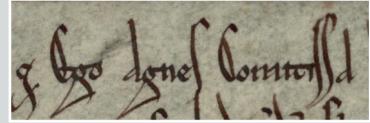
Come Walderen Orinb fideliber amich trance rangel lat. Swam ta hin gin planete me dedille a contre malle hac med carra concelhone heredil mer des rice marre de exelpot. monachil ibidem des leguicus comune partiers by lambamora meen reshoumed malphal dunial lake, de baldgedolfan pal tam una ulquad ellingelok 7 inde deorla hour hallingelok cadit in both kill minde ulquad de Ina wie plalite die mee - dricellor meest + hearton meest in prettia elemetrin realibere requiere + hone vener. Si an dumiler une pattura de finner sone dule con legine pecora lud cu logue hul apranent de plas caulal infra hal provincal dividal line manuals ope 4 mal perul logist de betum. Nanc donacione ego Theredeling wayantizabin paicul monachil com os horel impocuis hil tellib; Adind Coor, Badul to capetto loke capt. Value capt. hugone de dunt. Laido fre coo. Comardo duuncto coo. Culbr fram. Adr. file alden . Alden Cenelcaldo Camello de perhose. Ada de foghou. Gilboro file satta. Scottopapedi. Varmo lemalla. Ada filio eggari, Adam de eduram.

Charter of Waldef, Earl of Dunbar, for Melrose Abbey (between 1166 and 1179)

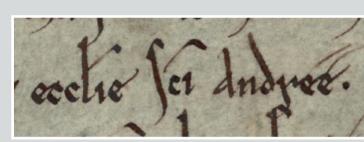
At St Andrews Cathedral Priory, some scribes went the whole way by adopting the narrower nib and hurried appearance of royal documents. They also used innovative forms of words (for instance, a new expression that St Andrews should hold its property 'as any gifts to the church are best, most freely and most quietly held in the kingdom of the Scots').

ed offymdur de y ecelie (et dudget. y canonici i bide de fuierroit; occham les finnis de lle gen in libam portua elemomam ou dibs occlidition pecticulinibs de edite occham inte Spectarrenty. On Hed. you docum plondine dandit wounder in precuir cam libe y fore to nozefice. The dig elemound met? lib? 7 god in pegno Scorest vener. Hac redge elemo Jundan door Jup momordor channel p falure die Mozour Com ponte mon yp fa how die mee. yp didby orum drice for moory y facce for to did low that keg dor do so ogariono. Rob de Capella. Witto giff. Witto capit. put capon. Rot de Houlya. Mangre cog. dan de nimet. es vape. Ville de arde.

Charter of Agnes, Countess of Mar, to St Andrews Cathedral Priory (between 1163 and 1178)



Ego Agnes Comitissa (I, Countess Agnes)



ecclesie sancti Andree (the church of St Andrew)

Above are examples of narrow strokes, stretched elements and hurried writing.

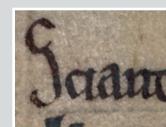
Monastic scribes did not necessarily have to modify their handwriting for charters. In the example below, the scribe from St Andrews has not tried to alter the appearance of his handwriting, except in his stretching of capital letters. However, he has been as innovative in his choice of words as the scribe of Countess Agnes' charter.

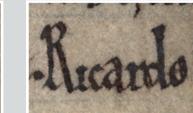
Ja ogars ecthe filus ram suris que plenal; Duncan Comes de fit: sat. Janu ram furi q Plentes me deduse d'oncessisse de hacmea carra confirmante des ce exclie sa ducher apti d'canonalibidem des lermenal; d'intil capellam de charel cu tra d'cu decunif cu obla tromb; cecuoih; recutudmib; edecapette panemb; tenenda ce possidenda libe ce dete cabiq; reclamacione hedu meox ppecuo in elemofina. Juare volo ur pdica canonici p noiata elemolina habeanca possideanc na libe de dece palme die meed paial; dinesso rum de succes of meor. Trans libit de deci venem de possident cetas elemosinas suas inveg no soug. Cetab; Muchaelectico. Sceptio ctio hugone ctico commis heliactico de benna Willo capetto de chilrununt. Odone dap. Willo de holdernette. Ricardo ogallunel. Oh lone hoie commit Rogo de chorp.

Charter of Duncan, Earl of Fife, to St Andrews Cathedral Priory (between 1154 and 1178)









Examples of the scribe stretching capital letters.

louaone tum orarcavil duavil lato p tra de bethoc z vul prerra de Aubneture hare in cop caras qui netur. Ego caldem tres marcas platas monaches ommno relagrant i premit detas damam p deragna ojarris elblingoz quas le ojonacin limul 7 lemol i magna nerellitate mea lato p cra mea i libratem ponenda in parametri. Inice 7 Ego 7 heredes mei 7 luccellores mei hur que d'amaccem pléatri turn oranari , onis boies place, monacing i previous araciaburi. Count i qua damato fina horstablis, polici