People of Medieval Scotland ('PoMS') Database
Tutorial

— Answers —

1. People, Document & Transaction profiles

Activity 1: People profiles

King William

➢ The map at the top relates to William's witnessing. Green dots are the 'place-dates' of documents he witnessed (note that not many contained a place-date in this period); red dots are the lands which are the subject of the documents which William witnessed. What impression does this map give of the geographical spread of his interests?
Concentrated in the east, particularly in the south east, Fife, Angus, Aberdeenshire.

➢ Using the biography, when was William's reign as king of Scots?
24 December 1165 – 4 December 1214

➢ Using the biography, who did he marry?
Ermengarde (d.1233), daughter of Richard, vicomte de Beaumont, son of an illegitimate daughter of Henry I of England

➢ Using the biography, where was he buried?
Arbroath Abbey

➢ The 'Matrix' is the name of the stamp used to make the seal. If you click on the words, you will be able to see more information about the seal. What is William doing on either sides of his seal? How does the 'legend' on the seal (the writing round the edge) identify him?
On one side he is sitting on a throne; on the other he is riding on horse-back. He is identified as 'William, by God's rule king of the Scots'.

➢ Back on William's profile, look at the 'transaction factoids' at the bottom of the page. How many transactions is William involved in?
1005

➢ Look at the 'witnesses factoids' at the bottom of the page. How many times did William witness a document? Was he a witness consistently throughout his long life?
47. Earliest document witnessed datable to 1136 × 24 August 1147; last act of witnessing in 1208 (six years before his death).

Activity 2: Document profiles

➢ Looking at the 'dating notes', what information has been used to find the date-range for this document?
Death of King Alexander I × adoption of title of Earl by Henry

➢ What 'type' of document is it?
Charter

➢ What language is it written in?
Latin

➢ Does the original (i.e., the contemporary piece of parchment that was written on and sealed) survive?
Yes

Activity 3: Transaction profiles

➢ What 'type' of transaction is it?
Gift

➢ Who is the Grantor of the transaction?
King David I

➢ Who is the Beneficiary of the transaction?
Church of St Cuthbert (Edinburgh)

➢ Look at the names of the witnesses to this transaction. Just by looking at their names and titles, what types of people were witnessing this transaction?

Henry, earl of Northumberland and Huntingdon
William de Graham (French name)
Thor of Tranent (possibly Norse name)
Mael Bethad, sheriff Edinburgh (Gaelic name)

This group of witnesses includes the son of the grantor (Earl Henry), the sheriff of Edinburgh, a lord of a local area (Liberton). Notice also that there is French names (Henry, William de Graham), a Gaelic name (Mael Bethad), and a Norse name (Thor); and yet these people are all associated with this grant of land in Edinburgh.

2. Titles & Occupations in PoMS

➢ Look at the list of titles/occupations in the database. Which are the most common? To help you find them, here is a list of numbers which match the most common titles or occupations. (You might want to type these numbers into the 'find…' tool on the webpage.)

2,245 entries: Dominus (Seigneur – Lord – Sir)
826 entries: knight
696 entries: clerk
676 entries: master
698 entries: clerk
500 entries: chaplain
216 entries: brother
107 entries: serviens [a servant]
103 entries: baron
102 entries: chaplain (bishop's)
102 entries: clerk (king's)
98 entries: Domina (Lady)
97 entries: armour-bearer/esquire
93 entries: judge-delegate [people appointed, often by the pope, to investigate an issue]
84 entries: canon
71 entries: earl
63 entries: bishop
63 entries: dean
59 entries: bishop-elect [a bishop who has not yet been consecracted]
57 entries: burgess of Perth
57 entries: messenger
53 entries: burgess
52 entries: canon of Moray
50 entries: burgess of Berwick

➢ There are also a lot of other categories of titles and occupations (e.g. sheriff) which are broken down into their specific titles in the list (e.g. sheriff of Stirling, sheriff of Perth). What are some of the main categories which have been broken down into many specific titles?

Abbot	*Constable*	*Persona*
Archbishop	*Dean*	*Priest*
Archdeacon	*Earl*	*Prior*
Baillie	*Grieve*	*Rector*
Bishop	*Keeper*	*Sheriff*
Burgess	*Lady*	*Steward*
Canon	*Lord*	*Thane*
Chaplain	*Master*	*Treasurer*
Clerk	*Monk*	*Vicar*

3. Types of Document in PoMS

➢ Below is a list of numbers which correspond to the largest categories of documents in the database. Look at the list on the database and find which type of document matches each number.

4,519: Charter
1,146: ERA (English Royal Administration)
715: Papal letter
364: Letter
334: Brieve
271: Agreement
207: Papal privilege: general confirmation

Questions to consider

➢ Where do you think these documents would have been kept, and by whom?
Mainly kept by churches (cathedrals and abbeys) in their archives. Some kept by private individuals/families. Some kept centrally by the king's government (but now all lost). All ERA records survive to this day in England's central government archive (which today is in The National Archives in Kew, near London). Almost all of these relate to the Wars of Independence.

➢ Why did people keep documents?
Charters or papal documents or agreements contained transactions that were expected to endure for a long time ('in perpetuity'), so it was worth keeping hold of the document itself as evidence. Letters and brieves could also be regarded as evidence, but are more ephemeral documents, so were less likely to be kept.

➢ Can these 'types' of documents tell us anything about how dependent the governing of the kingdom was on the written word?
Royal brieves are prominent and many charters would be royal, but there is no sense of a bureaucratic government machinery in this list (mainly because most of the central royal archive for the twelfth and thirteenth centuries has been lost).

➢ What can be said about Scotland's written contact with people outside of the kingdom from this list?
Many people (predominantly cathedrals and abbeys) had written contact with the pope. ERA documents suggest that they communicated regularly with the king of England, however almost all of these relate to the period of the Wars of Independence (from the 1290s–1314).

4. Women in PoMS

Activity 1: Names

➢ What are the **five most common names** for women in the database?
1. *Margaret (71)*
2. *Matilda (55)*
3. *Agnes (47)*
4. *Isabel (44)*
5. *Christina (43)*

Activity 2: Titles/Occupations

➢ What are the **four most common titles/occupations** for women in the database? You should count all those in a general category (e.g. Lady) as well as those with specific titles (e.g. Lady of Gordon).
1. *Lady (115)*[1]
2. *Countess (29)*
3. *Queen (22)*
4. *Prioress (8)*

Activity 3: Roles

➢ What are the **eleven most common roles** that women occupy in the database's documents? (This is all roles with above 100 entries.)
1. *Witness (917) [this means they witnessed a document]*
2. *Title-holder (897) [this means they held the land in their own right]*
3. *Subject (relationship) (614) [this might be, for example, mother of David or wife of Malcolm]*
4. *Object (relationship) (410) [this might be, for example, son of Margaret or father of Alice]*
5. *Named person (transaction) (325) [this means they are named in the text of the charter, but do not have any specific role otherwise in the document]*
6. *Grantor (271) [this means they granted land in their own name to a beneficiary]*
7. *Beneficiary (221) [this means they were the recipient of a charter]*
8. *Holder (possession) (218) [this means they held land]*
9. *Addressee (131) [this means they had a document addressed to them]*
10. *Addressor (117) [this means they sent a document]*
11. *Sealer (102) [this means they had a seal of their own and added it to a document to authenticate it*

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[1] The figure of 115 includes the categories of Lady as well as Domina (Lady): 97 + 15.

5. Renders in PoMS

<table>
<tr><td align="center">**Activity 1: Military Renders**</td></tr>
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➢ What is the most common type(s) of military service to be specified?
Fraction of a knight (68), followed by one knight (53).

➢ Looking at the figures in this list, do you think it was common for military service to be specified in charters during this period? (To find the total number of charters, go to the 'Browse' tab > make sure you are searching for 'Sources' > look in the grey 'Sources' section > find the 'Document Type' heading > look at the number listed for 'Charter').
Very uncommon: 175 statements of military service in 4,519 charters.

➢ Click on the option **'more than one knight'**. Once you see the list of 11 matching factoid records, click on **'show mappable results'** … Where were these lands held for multiple knights' service concentrated? Who are the lords holding these lands for multiple knights' service (i.e. the transaction's beneficiaries)?
Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus, Lothian.
Beneficiaries: William, son of Freskin, lord of Duffus; Thomas Randolph, earl of Moray; David, earl of Huntingdon; David Hay, lord of Errol; William de Vieuxpont (II); Robert Bruce (II).

➢ Repeat the Browse search as before, but this time click on the option **'one knight'**. **Refine** the search: scroll down to the grey 'Sources' section, find the heading 'Document category', and click on the category **'Royal charters'**. **Refine** the search once again: under 'Sources', find the category 'Source date' and click on **'more'**. In which decade(s) did the king give the most lands in exchange for one knight's service? In whose reign was this?
1160s (9 instances), 1170s (5 instances), 1180s (6 instances)

<table>
<tr><td align="center">**Activity 2: Cash Renders**</td></tr>
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➢ This list shows you the number of times money is mentioned as a 'return' in a transaction. It is listed according to the amount of money that is mentioned. Looking at the numbers, how common was it for money to be a return in comparison to military renders? Was there a set amount of money given as a return, or was it very varied? Why do you think this was?

Much more common for money to be a return than military service. There does not seem to be set amounts of cash returns, rather the amounts are very varied. This is because there was no standard rate; the cash returns had to be bespoke to the value of what was being given. Also, prices would perhaps change over time as cash began circulating more widely.

<table>
<tr><td align="center">**Activity 3: Renders in Kind**</td></tr>
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➢ This list shows you what could be given in kind. What types of things could be specified as a 'kind' render?
Food (raw or processed), drink, animals, animal hides, materials (wool, cloth), oil, wood (brushwood), teinds (i.e. a tenth of all produce from a certain place. Note that in this context it is not like ecclesiastical teinds given to churches: tenths could also be given to someone freely by a

lord, e.g. 'I give a tenth of all my cheeses to Arbroath Abbey'), aid (in the Holy land), rents/revenues, a tenth (teind) of all pleas (i.e. the income from the law courts), wax.

➢ How common was it for kind to be a return in comparison to military or cash renders?
About the same as cash renders; much more common than military service.