

# Documentary practices and uses in rural contexts of north-western Iberia

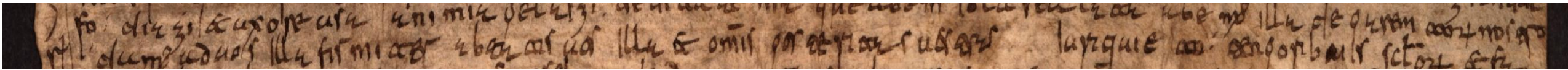
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Encounters in written culture: influence, interchange, transfer, reception?

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# Documentary practices and uses in rural contexts of north-western Iberia

<b>main aim</b>	How laymen created, used, and kept written records of their transactions
<b>case study</b>	Corpus of S. Salvador de Moreira, manuscript production between 1075-1125
<b>approach</b>	Encounters in written culture: manuscript practices connected to parochial vs. to monastic scribes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Form and function:</b> visual and material aspects of charters, their production and content</li><li>○ <b>Scripts and styles of writing:</b> graphic typologies used by professional vs. non-professional scribes</li><li>○ <b>Individual mobility and encounters:</b> scribes as integrating agents of rural groups and their itinerancy</li></ul>

## key aspects

- (1) this paper within the ERC project PeopleAndWriting
- (2) methodology
- (3) preliminary results
- (4) concluding remarks



\* focus on 'peasant' documents \*







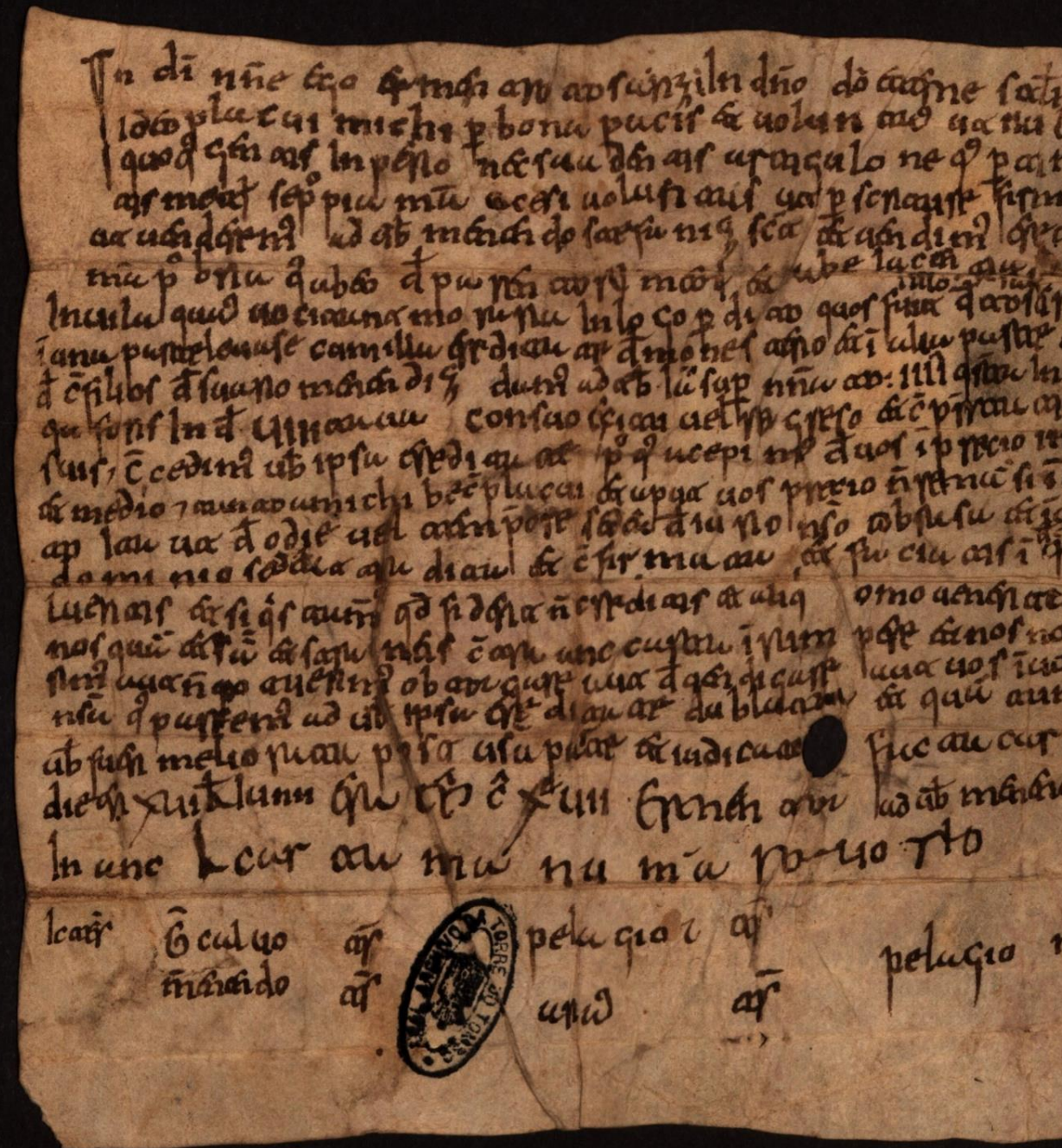


## Method (i): Historical analysis. Building communities

**the individual** names; patronymics; any other labels or titles.

**the goods** type of property; their description; prestigious goods or indicative of social status.

**the territory** elite assembly; territory beyond the local sphere?





## Method (ii): Diplomatic analysis. Life-cycle of the manuscript

**document typology** mostly sales, but other typologies also present (grants/wills, agreements, conflicts, exchanges, ...).

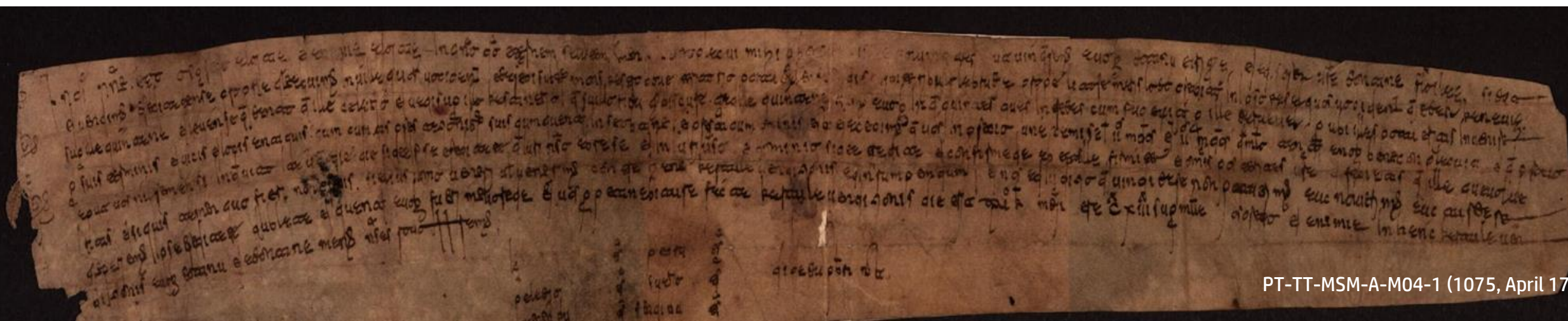
E.g.: increase in the number of grants 'per anima' or wills during the last quarter of the 11<sup>th</sup> c. (the Trutesendes?).

**diplomatic structure** strikingly stable textual components and their order.

E.g.: longer, more intricate proems in protocol —————> non-peasant context of production.

**formulas** use or absence of formulaic structures may hint at scribal training, the nature of the document, regional traditions...  
but, why scribes working on same area, same beneficiary, etc., show formulaic variation?

**document materiality** parchment shape/form; type of parchment; side written on; lay-out/mise-en-page; ruling/pricking...



## Method (iii): Palaeographic analysis. Scripts & scribes

1. Type of script (graphic model)	1.1 type of script		Visigothic, Caroline
	1.2 typological variant		cursive, minuscule/round
	1.3 regional variant		- (all Leonese [either Portuguese or Galician])
	1.4 degree of evolution		initial stage -> set/developed -> evolved (with Caroline influence)
	1.5 accordance to the canon		canonised vs. hybrid (horizontal influence) or mixed (vertical influence) (by pole of attraction: Visigothic or Caroline)
2. How was it written (execution of the graphic model)	2.1. external characteristics	2.1.1. stroke speed	slow vs. fast
		2.1.2. grade	calligraphic, semi calligraphic, semi rudimentary, rudimentary (analysed by graphic sample)
	2.2. internal characteristics	2.2.1. shading	<i>analysed by case studies to differentiate or identify hands as well as generic aspects to study the evolution of basic graphic models</i>
		2.2.2. ductus	
		2.2.3. modulus	
		2.2.4. writing angle	
		2.2.5. angle of inclination	
		2.2.6. morphology graphic signs	
3. Who wrote it (material author)	3.1. graphic training		elementary > usual > professional
	3.2. professional development		prolific, polygraphic
	3.3. context		personal vs. institutional interests

based on Mallon, *Paléographie romaine* (1952); I Colloque International de Paléographie Latine, *Nomenclature des écritures livresques* (1954); Cencetti, *Lineamenti* (1956); id., *Compendio di paleografia latina* (1966); Gilissen, *L'expertise des écritures médiévales* (1973); Cencetti, "Nomenclatura e paradigma" (1978); Petrucci, "Funzione della scrittura e terminologia paleografica" (1979); Millares Carlo, *Tratado de Paleografía Española* (1983); Bartoli Langel, "Storia dell'alfabetismo e metodo quantitativo" (1991); Brown, A palaeographer's view (1993); Cherubini-Pratesi, "Una terminologia specifica" (2010)...

\* Please note that I am still working on this classification using terms in Spanish, not English, and trying to find a more accurate translation of some of them \*

## Preliminary results: Moreira's 'cartório'

- Established in the 9<sup>th</sup> c. at Gontão (Moreira de Cónegos) as church/monastery (double monastery).
- Restored at its actual location (some 37km from Gontão, on the outskirts of Porto) around 1060 sponsored by Trutesendo Gomes and Gontina (patrons, low aristocracy).
- Moreira seems to have had a *scriptorium* already in the 1070s, based on notes associated with the production of codices preserved on the verso of some charters.
- In the early 11<sup>th</sup>-c. belonged to the Canons Regular of St. Augustine, no longer double monastery (archdioceses of Braga).

### Cartório:

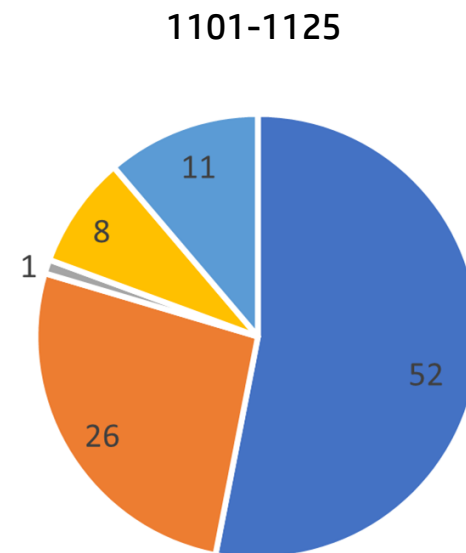
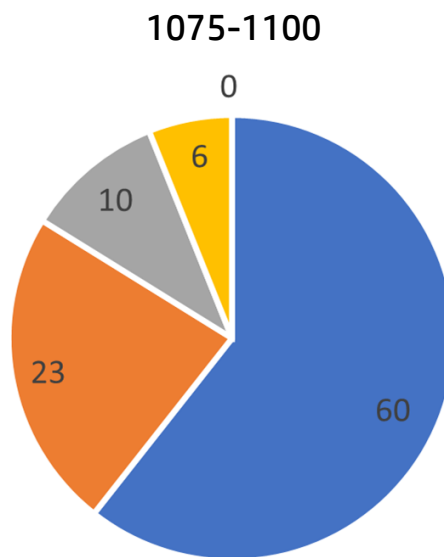
- 350 documents (907-1196), kept at Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo (Lisboa).
- **139 documents** (136 charters, almost all originals) **from between 1075-1125:**
  - 32 ecclesiastic (= more likely produced at/by Moreira)
  - 106 lay** (+1 illegible but more likely lay)
  - of this 106, **8 more likely peasant charters** (= requested by lay-not rural elite)



## Preliminary results: Moreira's 'cartório'. Form and function

### document typology

- Sales
- Donations/Wills
- Agreements
- Exchanges
- Other



PT-TT-MSM-A-M04-49 (1094, January 8)

Indi nre. ego fernando cides. una cum filio mio menendo. In dño dō eterna saluam dñi.  
 Ado placuit nobis p bona pacis & uoluntatis. nōca me xear meaf. nōc suu dñi ois uson  
 culo sed p pria nra uacessia uoluntatis. uafacqñ m ad abt quacñt selo an g. & uxor aua  
 botela partula uandicōnis & firmata ois. sicua & fa cim de qñd auat nñc q abent  
 depante de mīa sogra unis co selo an g. & ipsa qñd auat abet uacñ qua in uilla cauo su p ois  
 mans p eaydus discusñae ribulo leca aem an no porauc uñ se dñm nbi. mōia dñi da

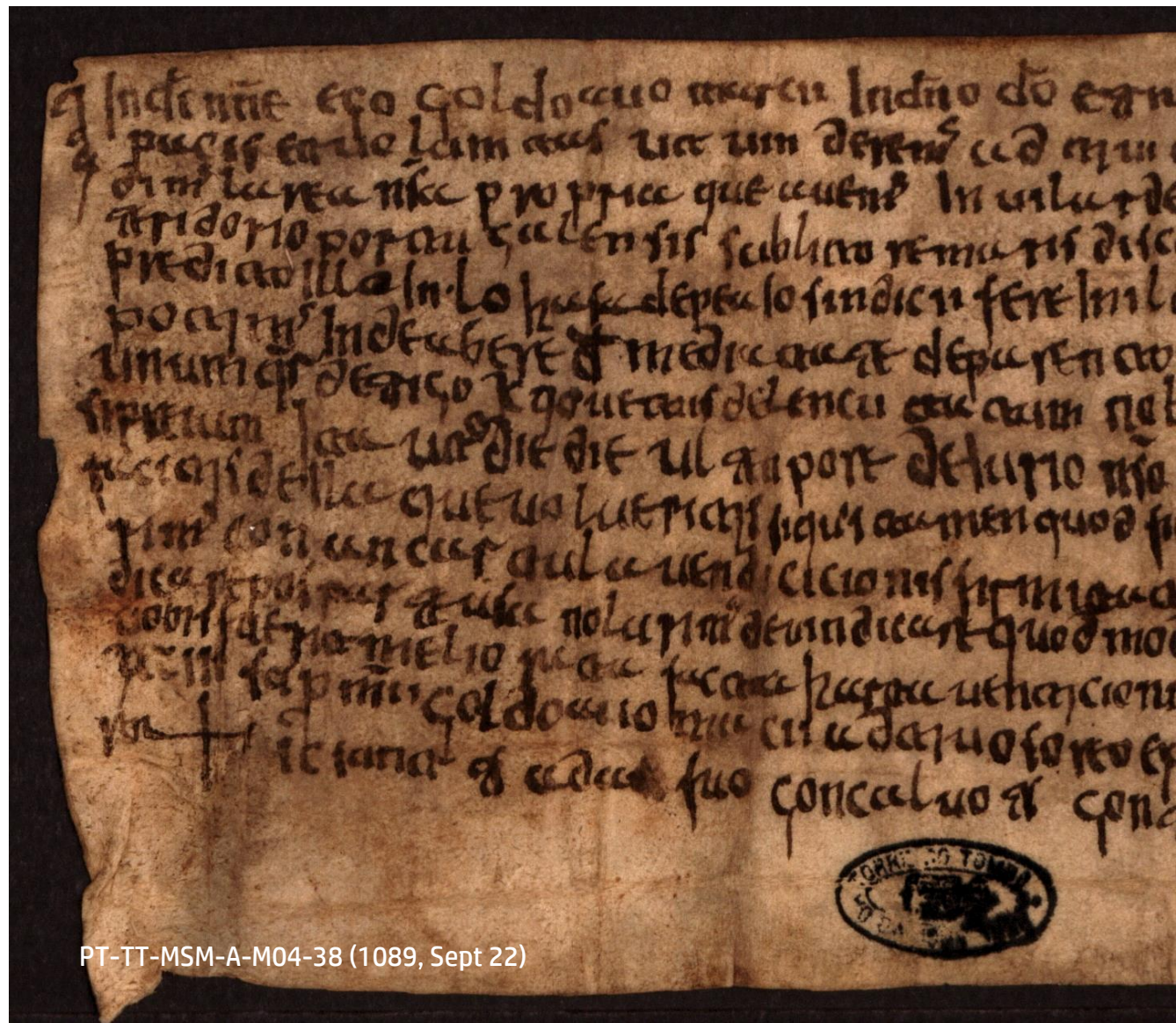


## Preliminary results: Moreira's 'cartório'. Form and function

### diplomatic structure

Moreira's model:

1. invocation, with or without Chrismon
2. address (*salutatio* + preamble + beneficiary's name)
3. disposition
4. sanction
5. dating clause (no geographical reference)
6. attestations



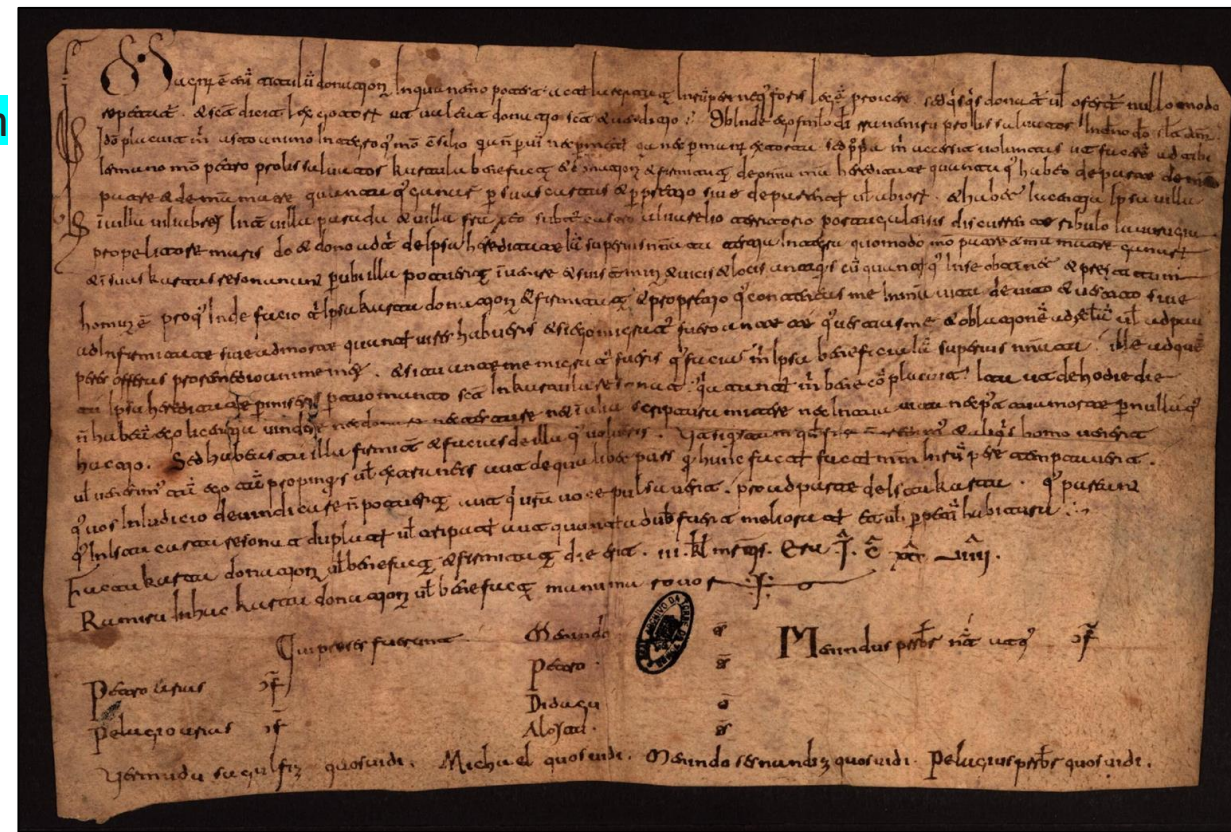


## Preliminary results: Moreira's 'cartório'. Form and function

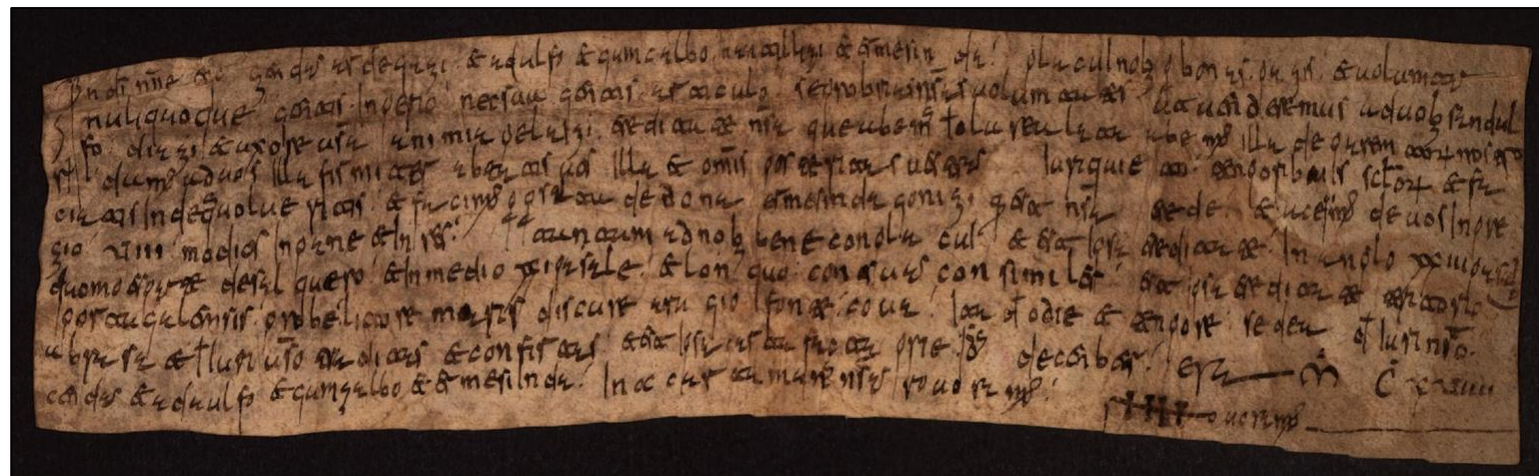
### diplomatic structure

#### The inevitable exceptions:

- PT-TT-MSM-A-M04-21 (1081), sale: lacks both sanction & attestations.
- PT-TT-MSM-A-M05-01 (1101), donation: carefully prepared; includes elements not found in other such grants. (opening preamble, reference to 'lex Gotorum', long list of witnesses).



PT-TT-MSM-A-M05-01 (1101, February 27)

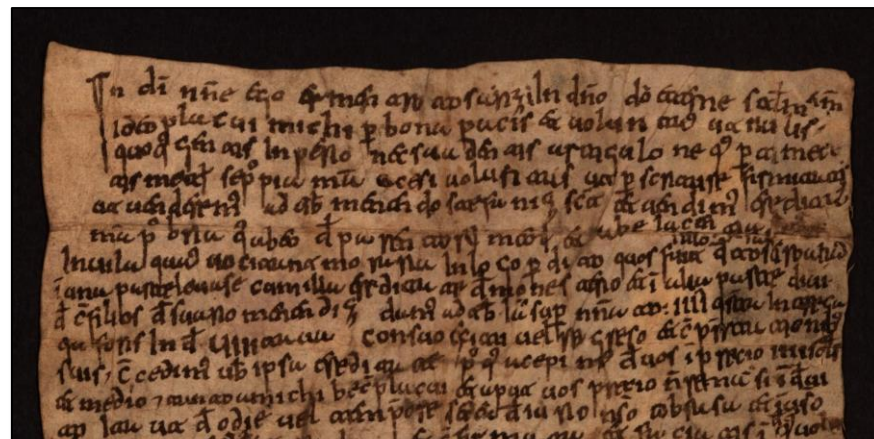


PT-TT-MSM-A-M04-21 (1081, December 13)

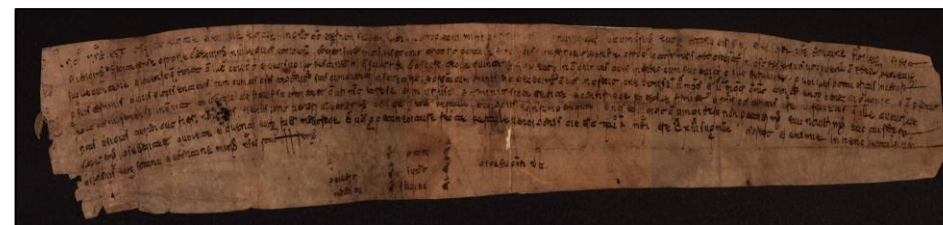


## Preliminary results: Moreira's 'cartório'. Form and function

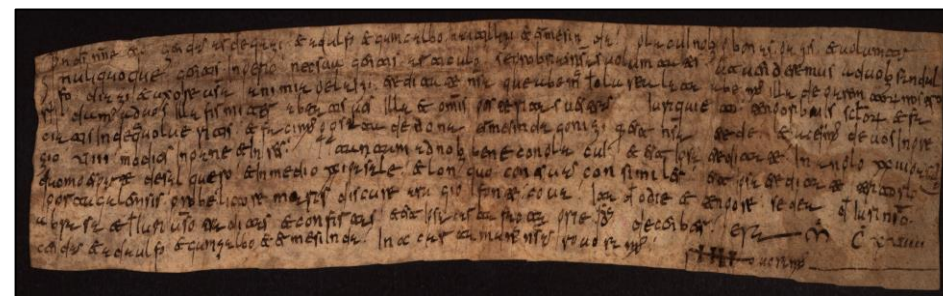
### materiality: shapes



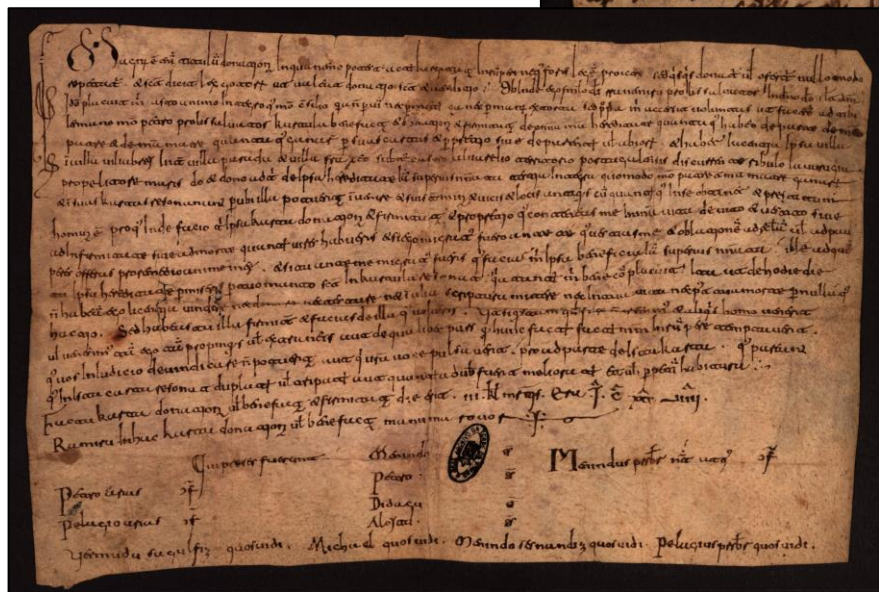
PT-TT-MSM-A-M04-1 (1075, April 17)



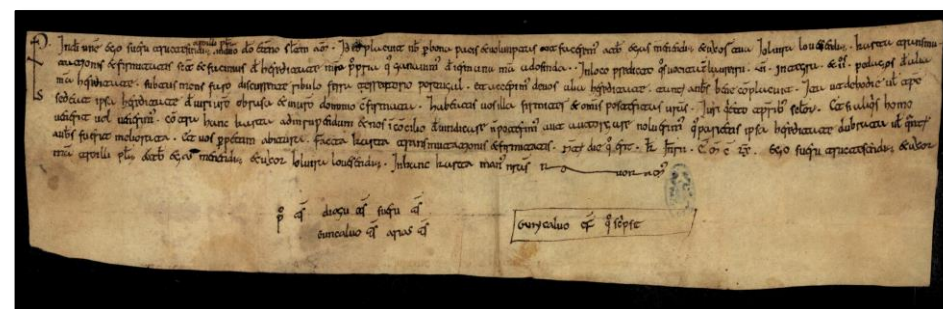
PT-TT-MSM-A-M04-21 (1081, December 13)



PT-TT-MSM-A-M05-21 (1109, May 17)



PT-TT-MSM-A-M05-01 (1101, February 27)



PT-TT-MSM-A-M06-26 (1122, January 1)

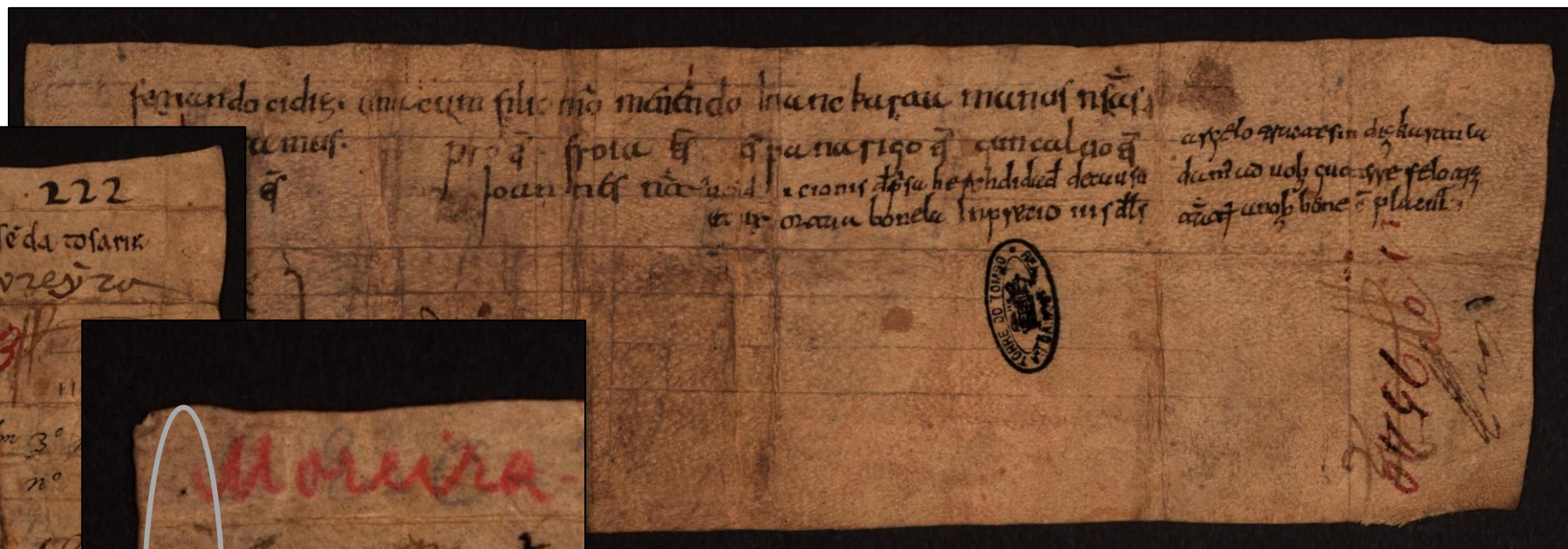
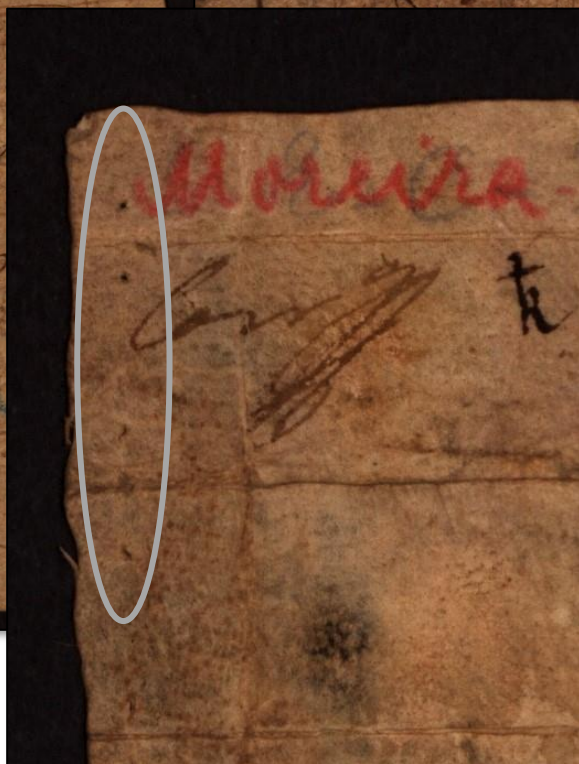


## Preliminary results: Moreira's 'cartório'. Form and function

materiality: ruling/pricking



PT-TT-MSM-A-M05-21 (1109, May 17),  
verso



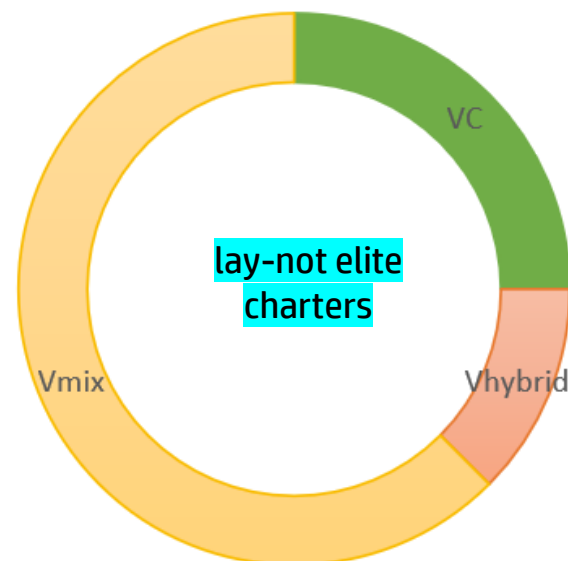
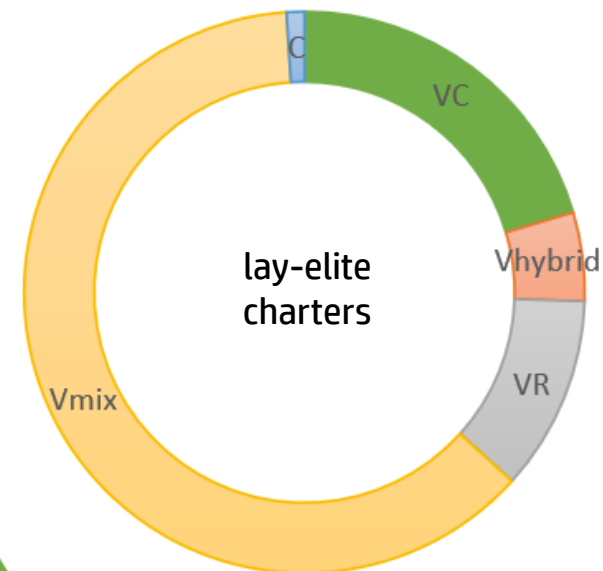
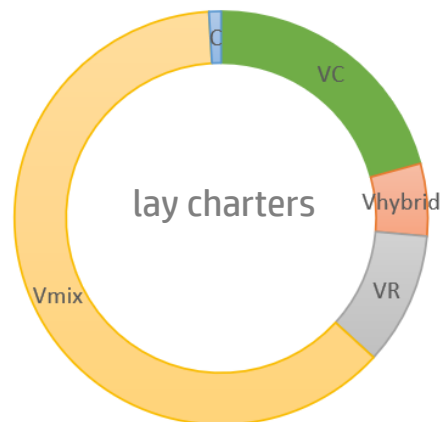
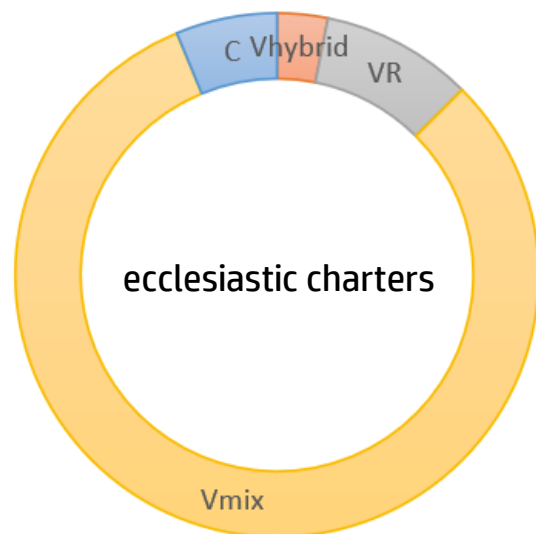
PT-TT-MSM-A-M04-49 (1094, January 08), verso

## Preliminary results: Moreira's 'cartório'. Scripts and styles of writing

### type of script

■ VC ■ Vhybrid ■ VR ■ Vmix ■ C

\* Please note mixed Visigothic (Vmix) always over Visigothic minuscule/round (VR) as a pole of attraction / hybrid Visigothic (Vhybrid) over either VR (more likely) or VC as pole of attraction

















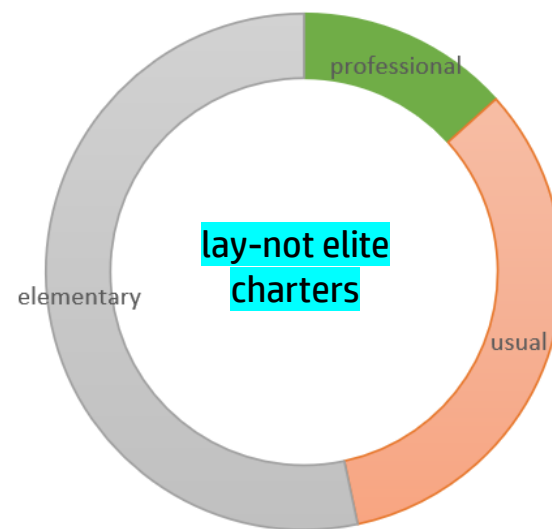
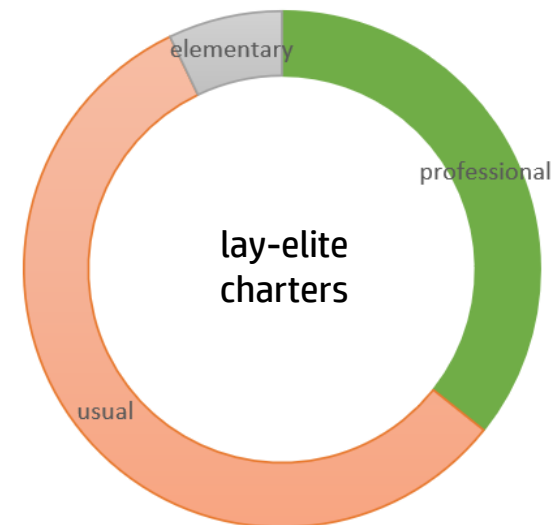
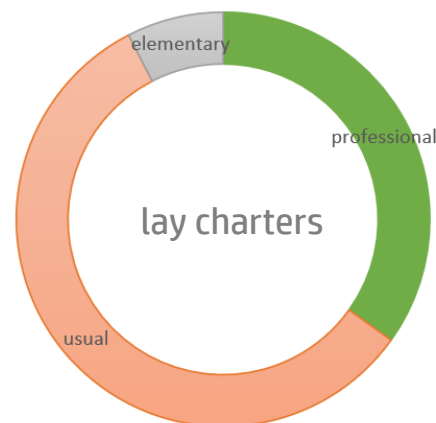
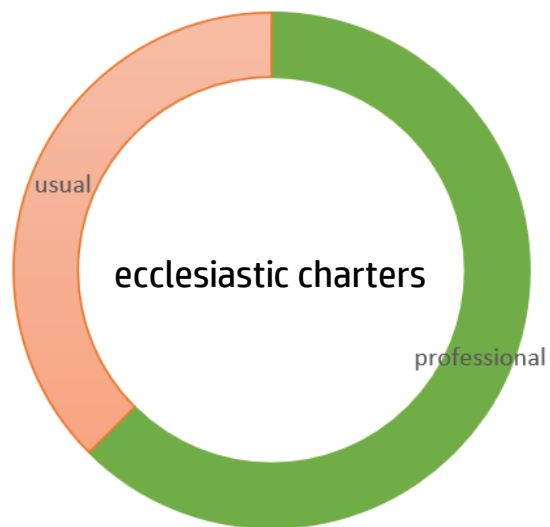


## Preliminary results: Moreira's 'cartório'. Scripts and styles of writing

### graphic training

■ professional ■ usual ■ elementary

\* Please note that better training would allow for a better and more aesthetically pleasing final product = charter (if required – by the typology of the document –, requested – by the commissioner –, or wanted – by the scribe –).









## Concluding remarks & next steps

- Written production in rural contexts: **private-lay archive** of the local elite which builds the *cartório*.
- The corpus is extremely rich...
  - ✓ 139 documents (136 charters, almost all originals) from between 1075-1125, **106 lay**;
  - ✓ **Form & function**: differences in materiality, type & quality of parchment and its use, text disposition, typology & structure, use of formulas;
  - ✓ **Scripts and styles of writing**: differences in script by agents lay/ecclesiastic (cursive and minuscule Visigothic, mixed and hybrid, Caroline) and in styles of writing according to training (elementary-usual-professional aka. rudimentary to calligraphic).... which has its pros and cons.
- We need to expand our corpus of study to the north of the Douro river (next stop: Pendorada & Junqueira!) and further delve into the people who appear in the documents and their scribes, building social networks.



# The Secret Life of Writing: People, Script and Ideas in the Iberian Peninsula (c. 900-1200)

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