

Chapter 5

The surviving portion of the C text – Part II

The C booklets are not a masterpiece of calligraphy. Some of the scribes involved write rather badly; none of them seem to be trying to write very carefully. In different circumstances, most of them could probably have done better work than this; but here they had no reason to make any special effort. These booklets, as I understand it, were not expected to be kept for any length of time. Fairly soon, they would be superseded by the D text; once their usefulness had been exhausted, they would all be thrown away.¹ The scribes had no idea that their work would be seen by outsiders, still less by future critics. Their instructions were, I suppose, to write as rapidly as they could, provided only that what they wrote was legible. Judged by that standard, they seem to have performed well enough. They got the job done, and there is scarcely ever any difficulty in reading what they wrote.

Changes of hand are very frequent in C – much more so than they are in the surviving D booklets (below, p. 134), by a factor of about 15. A large number of scribes contributed, and their contributions are woven together in a way which has more than once been called bewildering. Analysis is certainly laborious, but I do not know that bewilderment need last for long. On the whole, these scribes are experienced workers, with well-developed individual manners. Each of them writes in his own way; they do not appear to be making any attempt to imitate one another. The changes of hand are generally obvious, often glaringly so. By scanning repeatedly through the manuscript (or, as I have done, through a microfilm copy), jumping forwards and backwards from stint to stint, one soon begins to notice the characteristics which distinguish a particular hand. With enough perseverance, one reaches the point where almost every stint can be assigned to a recognized scribe.

An article by Finn (1959) was the first attempt to identify the scribes individually. As far as it went, Finn's analysis seems to me largely correct, but there are no illustrations, and it is sometimes hard to understand what he meant because the references to the manuscript are not sufficiently precise. Finn thought he could distinguish a dozen different scribes – but he lost heart, at around the time when he started coming across the work of a tenth scribe,² and failed

¹ I choose my words carefully here: it was not the intention that the C booklets should be discarded as soon as the D booklets had been finished (below, p. 55).

² The scribe in question is lambda, whose existence Finn doubted simply because he did not seem to have written enough. It was 'not very likely', he thought, that a scribe 'would deal with only some twenty manors' (Finn

to complete the analysis. It seems clear enough why he stopped. He did not expect anyone to believe that a dozen or more scribes had worked on this manuscript; he was not even sure that he could believe it himself. But in fact it is certainly true. Ker (1977) said little about the script beyond commenting that there are 'many rather poor hands of Norman type' (1977, p. 807).³ In a footnote, however, he analyzed one sample booklet (above, p. 42), distinguishing eight different scribes in the stretch of text relating to Devon (376r–9v), where Finn would have seen only five. In the whole manuscript, Webber (1989) recognized at least fifteen scribes; I see twenty or more.

My own results are tabulated in an appendix to this chapter (below, pp. 56–9). As a matter of policy, I worked out the analysis for myself, in a provisional way, before looking in detail at the conclusions reached previously by others; then I checked through the evidence again, wherever some difference of opinion seemed to arise.⁴ A fair number of corrections and improvements followed from that, but no large alterations. Table 12 shows how my identifications match up (or seem to match up) with those of some other investigators; the last column refers back to the list of published reproductions given in chapter 4. Despite its prolixity, the analysis is far from exhaustive: it ignores many short insertions by other hands, as well as all marginal additions.⁵ But there is a limit on how much can usefully be done by any

1959, p. 367).

³ Ker's attention was caught by a point which is, for present purposes, of only incidental interest. One of the scribes represented in the geld accounts for Wiltshire (my sigma) is a scribe whom Ker knew from elsewhere: the same man was also employed, with many others, writing books for Salisbury Cathedral (or, as I would think more likely, for bishop Osmund of Salisbury). Webber (1989, 1992) agreed with the identification made by Ker (1976, 1977); she also suggested that two or three other scribes who worked on Exeter 3500 could be recognized as having worked at Salisbury too. But this evidence does not tend to prove that the Exeter manuscript originated in Salisbury (i.e. in Old Sarum): it does not even raise the possibility. None of the three major scribes is Salisbury-connected; if a few of the minor scribes are, that is scarcely surprising. If I had been given the job of recruiting scribes for the survey, bishop Osmund is one of the first people to whom I would have turned for advice.

⁴ I am greatly obliged to Dr Teresa Webber, who checked a version of this listing against her notes and discovered a number of errors. She allows me to say that my identifications, by and large, agree very closely with hers. A few points of disagreement are mentioned in the footnotes below.

⁵ The text has been more or less heavily corrected throughout. On the whole, the corrections seem to have been made by the same scribe who wrote the original text, or by one of the scribes who is known to have been working with him; but some alterations and marginal notes are certainly by alien hands. This evidence needs to be looked at very closely, but I have not made any serious effort to deal with it.

The survey of the whole of England

	Finn (1959)	Williams (1968)	Ker (1977)	Webber (1989)	Reproductions (cf. Table 9)
beta	A	C	1–2	A1	108r, 117r, 438r
alpha	G	A	3	A2	103r, 117r, 438r
mu			6	A3	8r
eta	J	B		D2	114v
omicron					—
ksi	= F	D			1v, 47r
epsilon	T		4		313r
gamma	S		5		313r
delta	F		7		313r
kappa					—
zeta	C			C	245r
theta	H			= D1	—
iota	D				—
lambda	?				—
rho					8r
sigma				E	8r, 9r, 14r
tau				D1	8r, 9r, 14r

Table 12. Published identifications of the scribes represented in Exeter Cathedral Library 3500. (Scribe sigma is the ‘Salisbury scribe’ identified by Ker (1976).)

one person, and I think that I have reached it. Several people will need to have looked at the evidence before a fair measure of consensus can emerge. That is why I publish my results in full, despite the amount of space which they take up. I would rather risk wasting space than risk wasting the time of anyone else who may wish to check this analysis, and (if it passes the test) to build upon it.

Three scribes stand out from the crowd, because they contributed to several county texts, not just one or two. Of these three major scribes, two are especially conspicuous, alpha and beta. They each have a highly individual hand; they each wrote a large proportion of the text, much larger than any of the minor scribes who from time to time worked alongside them. Though neither of them wrote the sole surviving Wiltshire entry, it would not seem rash to assume that they wrote large parts of the lost C-WiDo booklets, as they certainly did of the surviving (Do-only) booklets. It was Finn’s (1959, pp. 367–8) suggestion that alpha – his clerk G – had some supervisory role; I am inclined to agree.⁶ The third scribe, mu, wrote very much less than alpha or beta, but I treat him as one of the major scribes because he worked on every county text. In fact, if we allow ourselves to look beyond C for a moment, mu is the only scribe who can be said for certain to have worked on the record for all five counties covered by the Exeter booklets.⁷ Though alpha and beta did most of the actual work,

I suspect that mu may have been the man in command.⁸

The minor scribes, by and large, worked on only one county text each.⁹ A few small exceptions to this rule would not be disconcerting;¹⁰ but some apparent anomalies turn out, when looked at more closely, not to be exceptions after all. (1) One entry occupying a leaf by itself (398r1–7), supposedly part of C-Dn, was written by scribe omicron, whose other stints are confined to C-Do. There is, however, some reason to think that this entry became displaced, in D and therefore in DB, and that it was indeed originally part of omicron’s contribution to C-Do (above, p. 44). (2) One entry in C-Dn (98r15–22) was written by two scribes who otherwise do not occur outside Co. Scribe zeta wrote the first two lines; the rest was written by a very poor scribe whose only other appearance is a seven-page stint of C-Co (259r1–62r9). The placement of this entry allows us to think that

Do, Dn and So. Some additions he made in the margin of 8r are the only published sample of his work (Table 9): here he is writing small, but in his most formal manner. The fancy & is his signature, when it occurs; sometimes he used the 7-shaped sign instead.

⁸ To speak plainly, I suspect that mu was the treasurer – in which case his name was Henric (DB-Ha-49ra). But this suggestion is hardly worth making until it has been agreed that Exeter 3500 originated in Winchester.

⁹ Finn (1959) seems to have approached this conclusion but then backed away from it. Trying to keep the number of scribes as small as he possibly could, he convinced himself that he could recognize contributions by clerk S in Co as well as Dn, by clerk J in Co as well as Do and So, and (more tentatively) by clerk F in Do as well as Dn. None of these identifications seem justified to me.

¹⁰ One such anomaly is the final paragraph in Capp-Dn (506v1–5), written by scribe iota, who is otherwise only represented in C-So. Presumably this paragraph was added as an afterthought.

⁶ The best evidence for the pecking order will come, I expect, from a study of the corrections, about which I cannot speak with any assurance.

⁷ Scribe mu made important additions to the second version of the Wiltshire geld account; as was said above (pp. 41–2), he also wrote the statistical summary (527v–8r) covering the lands of Glastonbury abbey in Wi,

it may have been an addition, and that is almost certainly what it was – an entry inserted here later, in a convenient space, while work was in progress on C-Co.¹¹ (3) The sole surviving entry for Wi (47r1–11) was written by scribe ksi, who also contributed to C-Do.¹² That is odd; but the mere fact that this entry survives marks it as a special case, and one cannot think of arguing anything from it.¹³

There is, as far as I can judge, only one minor scribe who wrote more than one entry in more than one county text. The scribe whom I call eta wrote a good share of the entries in C-Do; he also wrote a good share of the entries in C-So. Here I am gratified to discover a large measure of agreement between my results and those of both Finn (1959) and Webber (1989): my eta is roughly the same as Finn's clerk J, almost exactly the same as Webber's scribe D2.¹⁴ It is not to be thought that there was any prohibition against a minor scribe participating twice, but this seems to me to be the only discoverable instance of a minor scribe actually doing so. For that reason I have looked at the evidence with special care, and (to put the result in a suitably negative form) have failed to find any significant consistent difference between the scribe who worked on C-Do and the scribe who worked on C-So. I am satisfied that they are the same man.

Table 13 gives a summary of the results listed in the appendix, for the C booklets alone (including Capp).¹⁵ Ignoring C-Wi, we do not have to look very hard to see some pattern here. As might be expected, the pattern is most distinct in the two counties – Devon and Somerset – for which the evidence is fullest; but it is discernible elsewhere too, to some extent. Two major scribes, alpha and beta, are jointly represented in all four county texts. In each they are assisted by a different squad of minor scribes, of whom normally there seem to have been three.

The details are as follows. For C-Do, only a fragment of the text survives, but there is no reason why the fragment, in this respect, should not be representative. The minor scribes occurring here are three: eta, omicron, ksi.¹⁶ For

C-Dn, the pattern is very clear, and was recognized well enough by Finn. The minor scribes here are three again: epsilon, gamma, delta. For C-Co, the quantity of text is relatively small, and alpha and beta wrote a larger share of it than usual. There is only one minor scribe who occurs here often enough to be given a name, and that is zeta; but two other scribes write one large stint apiece (259r1–62r9, 263r1–4r20).¹⁷ For C-So, again, the same sort of pattern exists, though the number of minor scribes occurring here is (as Finn suspected) four rather than three: theta, iota, eta, lambda.¹⁸ However, there is only one booklet (fos. 456–67) in which the last two scribes appear together – lambda wrote an early stint (463r5–v15), eta wrote two later ones (464r18–22, 465r2–v7) – so it seems quite possible that lambda left the squad, for one reason or another, and that eta (the same scribe who had worked on C-Do previously) was brought in to take his place. On that view, the number of minor scribes at work simultaneously would not have exceeded three.

I am not proposing to press this point very far. I do not suggest that there was any rigid rule that a squad should consist of exactly three scribes, and always exactly the same three. Some flexibility would obviously be desirable, and was no doubt permitted. But it does seem clear, generally speaking, that the minor scribes were organized into three-man squads – that three, by and large, was thought to be a suitable number, and that scribes who were accustomed to working together were, by and large, allowed to continue doing so. Again, I am not suggesting that there was a different squad of three scribes for every single county text. On the contrary, I take it that each squad would have been employed successively on several texts, in whatever sequence was dictated by the flow of the work. In the surviving booklets, we see four of these squads each writing itself out of a job by completing the county text which formed its final assignment.¹⁹

How many squads there were, and how many scribes alto-

were attributed by Webber (1989, p. 12) to a scribe who worked on the Wiltshire geld accounts, the scribe whom I call tau. I do not feel confident that the hand is the same, though it is certainly very similar. The disagreement extends further than that, because the scribe whom I call theta (represented only in C-So) is, in Webber's judgment, the same as scribe tau, not somebody else. For the moment I leave these questions unresolved, intending to come back to them later when I deal with the geld accounts. ((Some further comments will be found in chapter 6 (below, p. 66).))

¹⁷ These stints are the ones attributed by Finn to clerk S and clerk J respectively (above, note 9). (For the latter attribution see Finn 1959, pp. 382–3.) Webber (1989, p. 12) assigned the second stint to her scribe C, who is otherwise the same as my zeta (Finn's clerk C). The hand looks different to me.

¹⁸ The three scribes who worked on C-So alone are not represented in any published reproduction. Perhaps it may save somebody some time if I note that there is just one page (286v) on which all three hands occur together.

¹⁹ A third reservation: I am not suggesting that these squads worked only at headquarters and only on C. I am more than willing to believe that each squad may have spent some of its time working with the commissioners in the field, putting together the B text. ((The role that they would have played is discussed in chapter 10.))

¹¹ The entry relates to Werrington. As Finberg (1944) pointed out, it is clear that this manor was initially surveyed as part of Cornwall but then recorded under Devon. In C we can watch that change taking effect: two of the scribes working on C-Co add this entry to C-Dn, rather than including it in their own text.

¹² He also wrote most of the first Wi geld account (1r–3r), to be discussed in chapter 6.

¹³ What happened, I would guess, is that this entry had to be recopied for some reason (perhaps because it had been included in an omnibus booklet at first), after work had started on C-Do.

¹⁴ Webber (1989, p. 13) gives a list of the stints she assigns to scribe D2. Not counting two marginal additions (which I do not include, though I agree that they are eta's work), there are only two small discrepancies between her listing and mine (36v19–20, 374v14–15). The same hand was identified by Webber (1992, pp. 12–13) in several manuscripts from Salisbury.

¹⁵ It is plain to see that the same teams of scribes who worked on the county texts in C-DnCoSo worked on the corresponding sections of Capp-DnCoSo too.

¹⁶ Two stints in C-Do which I have left unattributed (37v3–8r7, 51r17–v6)

The survey of the whole of England

	Wi	Do	Dn	Co	So	Total
beta		17	93	7	67	184
alpha		12	83	9	70	174
mu		1	6	2	2	11
eta		15			16	31
omicron		9				9
ksi	1	7				8
epsilon			73			73
gamma			71			71
delta			36			36
kappa			3			3
zeta			1	4		5
theta					54	54
iota			1		24	25
lambda					10	10
unattributed		5	5	3	6	19
Total	1	66	372	25	249	713

Table 13. Numbers of stints performed by each scribe in each section of the C text, summed from the listing given in the appendix. (Stint 398r1–7 is counted under Do.)

gether, is hard to decide.²⁰ Four squads are represented in the surviving portions of C, a fifth perhaps in the batch 4 geld accounts, i.e. the accounts for Wiltshire.²¹ There are, besides, several stints in C which I have left unattributed. In some cases, the script resembles that of an identified scribe, and might perhaps be attributed to him if we were willing to stretch the definition slightly.²² Still, there are several stints of which I think it can be said with confidence that they were not written by any of the major or minor scribes mentioned above. There are, so to speak, some occasional scribes who make sporadic appearances in C; and possibly these are members of other squads, lending a hand here when they have no work of their own to keep them busy. At the very least, four occasional scribes occur. One of them writes three short stints in C-Dn, just enough to deserve a name (this is the scribe whom I call kappa); two others write one stint each in C-Co (see above); and the fourth – with a small and rather elegant hand – writes one sizable stint in

C-So (430v2–1v9).²³ In total, therefore, I think I can recognize twenty different hands: three major scribes, thirteen minor scribes (including the three who occur in the batch 4 geld accounts), and four others (including kappa).

There is no order for the C booklets which is absolutely right. On the contrary, one advantage of dividing the text into self-contained units of this kind was to make it possible to sort and shuffle the booklets into different arrangements, depending on the task in hand. The scribes assigned to write D-Dn, for instance, would separate out the booklets that they did not need, and impose some appropriate order on the ones that they did; the scribes assigned to write D-Co would resort the booklets and make their own arrangement of the ones which interested them. Given some definite task, one can start deciding which order would be best. Without knowing what the task is, one cannot.

When Ellis set about rearranging the text,²⁴ he seems to have assumed that the preexisting sequence made no sense at all. He changed it without recording it. Nobody working from the printed text could tell how much of the arrangement originated with the editor. If the leaves had not been numbered previously, there would be no way to undo what Ellis did; because they had, we can – virtually – put the quires back into the sequence which existed before 1816. If we do that, as Whale (1905) did, we discover that the

²⁰ If I had been in charge, perhaps I might have thought of employing eight squads and assigning four counties to each. To make up these squads, therefore, I should have had to recruit a total of 24 scribes. Some strategy not very different from that lies behind the division of labour observable in the surviving booklets.

²¹ Not counting mu, three scribes worked on the second version of the Wiltshire account (7r–9v), two of whom also wrote the third version (13r–16r). It is clear, by the way, that the third version is a fair copy of the second version. The order in which the batch 4 booklets were arranged by Ellis (1816) is the right order; Darlington (1955) misread the evidence. (Anyone who doubts this will find the proof at the end of chapter 6.)

²² In doubtful cases like this, I have preferred to err on the side of caution. For example, one unattributed stint (373r3–v12) is very similar to iota’s work, and is indeed cited as a specimen of it by Finn (1959, p. 367). It does not look quite right to me; but perhaps the differences might be explained away. (The light was bad, the scribe was using a borrowed pen – some ad hoc conjecture of that sort might be enough.)

²³ As far as this fourth scribe is concerned, Dr Webber allows me to say that she too thought that this was his only stint.

²⁴ Some of the work seems to have been done by Barnes (above, p. 39), but he was just doing what Ellis wanted done.

arrangement was far from being senseless: the booklets had been put into a task-specific order. This order was not meant to be permanent – it only became permanent when the manuscript was bound – and Ellis was, arguably, entitled to impose a new arrangement which would be generally more convenient. By choosing to do this, however, and then by failing to explain what he had done, he made a significant aspect of the evidence entirely invisible in the printed edition. Once Barnes had imposed the same arrangement on the original manuscript, the same aspect became invisible there as well.²⁵

The task-specific order was, as I have said, rediscovered by Whale (1905). He did not, as far as I can see, have any idea what it meant; but he did realize that there was a pattern in the evidence, obliterated by Ellis's rearrangement, which could be recovered with the help of the old foliation. The pattern is not perfect – but it is perfectly obvious (Table 14). Some time before they were bound, the C booklets had been sorted into four stacks, as follows:

the C-WiDo quires relating to Wi (including those which also related to Do) were put into stack 1;

the C-DnCoSo quires relating to So (including those which also related to Dn or Co or both) were put into stack 2;

the C-WiDo quires not in stack 1 were put into stack 3;

the C-DnCoSo quires not in stack 2 were put into stack 4.

Stack 1 does not survive (in due course I propose to ask why); stacks 2–4 do survive, and in that order, sooner or later, they were bound.

The plan is clear, even though its execution was not altogether perfect.²⁶ A few mistakes were tolerable, so it seems. If one or two unwanted leaves were included in stack 2, say, that would cause no trouble. If a few quires which ought to have been included were overlooked, that did not matter greatly: their absence would be detected, once the task for which this stack was intended was under way, and any missing quire could be found at that stage, just by flipping through stack 4. Similarly, it does not seem to have been thought important for the quires to be kept in the right order: on reaching the end of one quire, it would be easy enough to find the next, just by flipping through the rest of the stack.

One result of the sorting was that some of the larger book-

²⁵ There are two issues here. (Q1) Was Ellis justified in rearranging the text? (Q2) Was Barnes justified in rearranging the original? Briefly put, my answers would be as follows. (A1) Certainly he was; in fact he ought to have rearranged it much more thoroughly than he did. (A2) Probably not.

²⁶ Anomalies are few, and perhaps we might think of explaining them away as accidental displacements, occurring while the booklets remained unbound. But that seems facile to me. I think we had better accept that the sorting was not very carefully done in the first place.

lets became split between two stacks.²⁷ The booklet for the bishop of Coutances, cited previously (above, p. 38) as an example of the disruption which Lyttelton tried to undo, can be cited again here. It consists of six quires. Quires 3–6 contain portions of the C-So text, so they belong in stack 2, even though quire 3 (fos. 135–40 in the old foliation) starts with the broken-off end of the C-Dn text. Quires 1–2 relate to Dn alone, so they belong in stack 4.²⁸

Up to a point, it is clear what the stacking means. Some operation was being performed on each county text in turn, and the C booklets were being sorted into stacks for that purpose. As far as these five counties are concerned, the division into stacks suggests that the intended sequence was this: Wi, then So, then Do, then either Dn or Co. There is one weak link here: we cannot feel sure that So was intended to be dealt with sooner than Do. (We could only be sure of that if we had some guarantee that the order of the stacks remained unaltered until it was permanently fixed when the booklets were bound.) It is certain, however, from the way in which the C-WiDo booklets were divided between stacks 1 and 3, that Wi was intended to be dealt with sooner than Do, and equally certain, from the way in which the C-DnCoSo booklets were divided between stacks 2 and 4, that So was intended to be dealt with sooner than Dn and Co.

Suppose that the operation – whatever it was – had continued running smoothly. The sequel would have been this. When work on Wi was finished, the booklets from stack 1 would have been resorted: those which included some section of C-Do would have been added to stack 3 and the rest (relating to Wi alone) discarded (as all the preceding C booklets already had been). When the moment arrived for work to start on Do, stack 3 would now be ready. Similarly, when work on So was finished, the booklets from stack 2 would have been resorted: those which included some section of C-Dn or C-Co would have been added to stack 4 and the rest (relating to So alone) discarded. Eventually it would have had to be decided whether Dn or Co was to be dealt with first, and a fifth stack would then have been formed accordingly – a stack which, when first created, would consist of the booklets relating to Co alone, if Dn was to be dealt with first, or of the booklets relating to Dn alone, in the opposite case. But that decision had not yet been made, or, if it had, had not yet issued in action.

²⁷ The same sort of split has affected Capp-DnCoSo. This booklet consists of four quires. Quires 2–4 relate to So, so they belong in stack 2, even though quire 2 contains the broken-off end of Capp-Dn and the whole of Capp-Co, as well as the beginning of Capp-So. Quire 1 relates to Dn alone, so it belongs in stack 4. Once again, this booklet proves to have had the same history as the other C booklets. (It also turns out that we do not need to think of any special explanation for the disappearance of Capp-WiDo. That booklet would have been put into stack 1; if we can think of some reason for the loss of this stack, that reason will cover the loss of Capp-WiDo too.)

²⁸ This split explains only some of the disruption. In addition, quires 4–5 have got themselves transposed with quire 3, and quire 6 has wandered off by itself.

The survey of the whole of England

	Stack 2		Stack 3		Stack 4			
ix-xii	So	437-40	247-50	Do	25-8	307-10	Dn	117-20
1-7	So	430-6	251-7	Do	29-35	318-21	Dn	121-4
8	So	375	258-60	Do	36-8	322-9	Dn	125-32
9-12	DnSo	371-4	261-8	Do	39-46	* 330-7	DnSo	161-8
* 13	?	398	* 269-71	WiDo	47-9	338	Dn	184
14-16	DnSo	196-8	272-5	Do	50-3	339-40	Dn	194-5
17-24	DnSo	456-63	280-3	Do	54-7	341-5	DnCo	177-81
25	So	154	284-7	Do	58-61	346-7	Dn	182-3
26	So	116				348-55	Dn	210-17
27	So	193				356-65	Co	224-33
28-34	DnSo	468-74				366-73	Co	234-41
35-6	DnSo	286-7				374-7	Dn	220-3
37-40	So	282-5				378-9	Dn	218-19
41-2	So	191-2				380-7	Co	247-54
43-8	DnSo	376-81				388-92	Co	242-6
49-51	So	185-7				393	Co	199
52-4	So	151-3				394-401	Dn	288-95
55-60	DnSo	382-7				402-9	Dn	296-303
61-5	DnSo	366-70				410-17	Dn	304-11
66-85	CoSo	255-74				* 418-21	DnSo	312-15
86-91, 93	So	275-81				422-7	Dn	93-8
94-101	So	422-9				428-9	Co	200-1
102-5	So	[176], 188-90				430-7	Co	202-9
106-12	So	169-75				438-42	DnCo	108-12
113-20	DnSo	83-90				443-50	Dn	495-502
121-2	So	91-2				451-8	Dn	316-23
123-30	So	139-46				459-61	DnCo	332-4
131-4	So	147-50				462-9	Dn	324-31
135-40	DnSo	133-8				470-8	Dn	335-6, 408, 337-42
141-8	CoSo	99-106				* 479-80	DnSo	343-4
149-56	DnCoSo	503-10				481-4	Dn	388-91
157-64	So	511-18				485	Dn	392
165-71	So	519-25				486-9	DnCo	394-7
172-6	So	441-5				490-1	Dn	420-1
177-80	So	446-9				492	Dn	419
181-2	So	450-1				493-4	Dn	409-10
183	So	107				495-8	Dn	399-402
184-6	So	353-5				499	Dn	393
187-9	So	113-15				500-1	Dn	481, 488
190-5	DnSo	475-80				502	Dn	407
196-203	DnSo	356-63				503-6	Dn	411-14
* 204	Do	62				507-12	Dn	482-7
207-12	DnSo	490, 489, 491-4				513-16	Dn	415-18
213-16	So	452-5				517-20	Dn	403-6
217-18	So	364-5						
219-26	DnSo	345-52						
227-30	So	464-7						
231-6	So	155-60						

Table 14. The quires of C restored to the sequence recorded by the foliation of circa 1500. (The old foliation is given on the left, the new foliation on the right; the counties represented are listed in the middle. Anomalies are marked with a star.)

Of the things which would have started happening as soon as Wi had been dealt with, none actually happened. Hence it is clear that the operation was interrupted, and that the interruption occurred while work was in progress on Wi.²⁹ The four counties last in the queue were left untouched. We can be sure of that; we can also be sure that no other operation ensued which required a rearrangement of the C booklets. The untouched stacks remained untouched, and this task-specific arrangement – expected to be temporary, and not very carefully worked out – became permanent by default (till Ellis decided to change it).

The C booklets existed, in the first instance, so that the text could be copied from them into the D booklets. But that was not the operation for which these stacks were set up. If the writing of D had been interrupted as this operation was, D-Wi would have been the last D booklet to be written; and in that case DB-Do, DB-So and DB-DnCo would not exist. Since they do exist, the operation in question has to be different from the writing of D – different from and subsequent to it. Thus it is clear that the C booklets were not discarded as soon as they had served their primary purpose. They needed to be kept, at least a little longer, because they were going to be used again, for some secondary purpose; and the division into stacks was made with this purpose in view. There are two possibilities, not mutually exclusive. The C booklets may have been kept because they were going to be used when D was checked; alternatively or in addition to that, they may have been kept because they were going to be used when DB was checked.³⁰ We cannot hope to decide between these possibilities until we have developed some theory as to how the checking process might have worked.

Before the interruption, stack 1 had been removed – taken from the shelf (so to speak) and carried off to some other part of the office, wherever the work was being done for which these booklets were needed. After the interruption, stack 1 was not returned; sooner or later, all these booklets dropped out of existence. Stacks 2–4, still on the shelf, had a marginally better chance of survival, and did indeed survive – long enough for someone to rescue them and carry them away, on a journey which ended, sooner or later, in Exeter. Once there, they became part of a library: they entered an environment in which it was taken for granted that loose quires should be bound and that books should be kept for ever. The collection of booklets became a book, with

the same chance of long-term survival as any other book in the Exeter cathedral library.

I do not know that we shall ever be able to say who the man was who retrieved these booklets from the Treasury shelves and found a safe home for them elsewhere. If we want to try guessing, there is something to be said for preferring the earliest possibility. The sooner we can extract these booklets from a milieu where their chances of survival are almost nil, the sooner we can insert them into a milieu where their chances are fairly good, the less utterly unlikely it will seem that they still exist. In that abstract sense, an early date for the transfer is more probable than a late one. For what it is worth, my own guess would be that the mystery might cease to be a mystery if we knew just a little more about the early career of Willelm de Warelwast, the king's clerk rewarded for his services by being made bishop of Exeter in 1107.

Appendix **Booklets and scribal stints** **in Exeter Cathedral 3500**

If it is read alongside Ker's (1977) description, the list which follows ought to be self-explanatory; but it may be helpful to clarify a few points first. (i) In numbering the lines, I have followed the ruling; in other words, I have counted blank and erased lines, not just written lines. (ii) I have ignored some of the headings, wherever I am not certain that the heading was written by the same hand that wrote the following entry. (iii) I have ignored all insertions made into the text, into spaces or over erasures, as well as all marginal additions and annotations.

The attributions made here all seem secure to me. There are no question marks. Wherever I feel any doubt, I have chosen to err on the side of caution by leaving the stint unattributed.

²⁹ I risk speaking loosely here. To describe it more carefully, the situation is this. The last sort which did happen was the sort which had to be done before work on Wi could start. Because Wi was the first county in the next collection of C booklets to be dealt with, the sort could have been done some time in advance (in the same way that stack 2 has already been separated from stack 4). The first sort which did not happen was the sort which would have had to be done before work on Do could start. The operation was interrupted before that moment arrived. (It is possible, however, that the work did not cease altogether: it may have been continued on some simplified plan – if such a plan is conceivable – which meant that it was no longer necessary for the C booklets to be consulted.)

³⁰ Perhaps we should not neglect a third possibility: that they were going to be used for checking the geld accounts. ((It seems to me now that this is the likeliest explanation (below, pp.131–2).))

The surviving portion of the C text – Part II

Co	180v13–1r13	zeta	214r7–v20	gamma	298r1–9v15	alpha	Walscain de Dowai
	181r13–v10	alpha	215r1–16v3	beta	299v16–301r9	epsilon	Dn 345r1–6
	Abbot of Buckfast		216v4–9	gamma	301r10–v2	gamma	345r7–13
Dn	182r1–14	epsilon	216v9–14	epsilon	301v3–8r11	epsilon	345r14–v6
	182r15–19	alpha	216v15–17r16	delta	308r11–9v4	alpha	345v6–6v8
	182r20–v12	gamma	217r17–v3	beta	309v5–14	epsilon	346v9–7r8
	182v13–3r5	alpha	217v4–19r7	alpha	309v14–20	delta	347r9–18
	183r6–v15	beta	219r7–v18	epsilon	310r3–14	epsilon	347r19–v7
	Abbot of Horton		219v19–22r9	beta	310r15–18	delta	347v8–14
Dn	184r1–v4	alpha	222r10–3r2	delta	310r18–v4	epsilon	347v14–9v5
	St Peter of Bath		Co 224r2–5v7	beta	310v4–11v5	delta	349v6–14
So	185r1–7r5	eta	225v8–33v20	zeta	311v5–12r9	epsilon	So 350r1–v10
	St Peter of Muchelney		234r1–43v20	beta	312r10–15	alpha	350v11–19
So	188r1–7	iota	244r1–5v16	zeta	312r15–v7	gamma	350v20–1r13
	188r8–9r12	theta	247r1–54v20	beta	312v8–13r5	delta	351r14–2r2
	189r13–v3	beta	255r1–8v22	alpha	313r5–10	epsilon	352r2–7
	St Peter of Athelney		259r1–61r20	—	313r11–14v9	gamma	352r8–v2
So	191r1–9	iota	261v1–7	alpha	314v10–15r2	delta	352v2–5v9
	191r10–19	theta	261v8–2r9	—	315r3–7	beta	
	191r20–v12	eta	262r9–v15	beta	So 315r12–v10	beta	Willelm de Moion
	191v13–20	beta	263r1–4r20	—			Dn 356r1–8
	Abbess of St Edward's		264v1–5r2	beta	Juhel		So 356r9–v12
So	193v1–9	alpha	So 265r8–20	alpha	Dn 316r2–12	beta	356v13–7r7
	Saints		265v1–20	theta	316r12–18r4	alpha	357r7–60v5
Dn	194r1–10	alpha	266r1–v7	alpha	318r4–v3	beta	360v5–12
	194r11–v11	beta	266v8–7v20	beta	318v4–19v13	epsilon	360v13–2v10
	194v12–18	alpha	268r1–7	theta	319v14–15	alpha	362v11–3r20
	194v19–5r7	beta	268r7–10	alpha	319v15–20r2	gamma	363v1–5
	195r8–12	gamma	268r13–19	theta	320r3–3v18	beta	363v6–13
	195r12–v6	epsilon	268v1–9v7	alpha	323v18–4v4	delta	363v14–4r18
	195v6–6r1	delta	269v7–9	eta	324v4–9	kappa	364r19–v17
	196r2–3	beta	269v9–71r20	alpha	324v9–6r19	delta	364v18–5r3
So	196r10–14	theta	271v1–2v19	beta	326v1–31r17	epsilon	
	196r15–17	alpha	272v20–3r6	alpha	331r18–v16	delta	Willelm de Faleise
	196r17–v8	beta	273r7–5v6	eta	331v19–2v23	epsilon	Dn 366r1–v18
	196v9–13	alpha	275v6–6v9	theta	333r1–4r17	delta	367r1–20
	196v13–7r3	beta	276v10–19	alpha	334r17–v4	epsilon	367v1–8v19
	197r4–9	theta	277r1–8	iota	334v5–6	beta	368v19–9r6
	197r10–v5	beta	277r9–18	alpha	Co 334v10–16	mu	So 369r6–18
	197v7–20	alpha	277r19–v15	iota			369r18–v5
	198r1–11	theta	277v16–8r20	alpha	Radulf de Pomerei		369v6–20
	198r12–19	alpha	278v1–81r18	beta	Dn 335r1–5	gamma	
	198v1–2	beta			335r6–6r12	alpha	Alvred de Hispania
	fos. 199–201 should follow		Count Eustachius		336r13–17	beta	Dn 371r1–12
	fo. 120		So 282r1–v11	beta	336r18–v17	epsilon	371r13–18
	Saints		282v12–3r7	alpha	337r1–v5	gamma	So 371v1–2r3
Co	202r1–8v9	alpha	283r7–12	theta	337v6–12	alpha	372r4–3r3
	Count of Mortain		283r13–19	alpha	337v13–8r17	gamma	373r3–v12
Dn	210r1–9	epsilon	Earl Hugo		338v1–15	beta	373v13–17
	210r10–12v8	beta	Dn 286r1–13	alpha	338v15–9v17	delta	373v17–4r6
	212v8–12	epsilon	286r14–20	beta	339v18–40r15	beta	374r7–v12
	212v13–13r19	beta	So 286v1–7	lambda	340r15–19	gamma	374v13–14
	213r20–v13	epsilon	286v7–12	iota	340r20–1r7	beta	374v14–15
	213v14–14r1	gamma	286v13–17	alpha	341r8–v2	epsilon	374v17–5r4
	214r2–6	alpha	286v18–7r3	theta	341v3–12	gamma	375r5–11
					341v13–20	beta	
			Baldwin the sheriff		342r1–5	gamma	Odo son of Gamelin
Dn	210r1–9	epsilon	Dn 288r1–90r9	beta	342r6–17	alpha	Dn 376r1–21
	210r10–12v8	beta	290r10–1v11	gamma	342r17–v13	beta	376v1–7
	212v8–12	epsilon	291v11–14	beta	342v13–3v7	delta	376v8–11
	212v13–13r19	beta	291v14–4v16	gamma	343v7–15	kappa	376v12–7r5
	213r20–v13	epsilon	294v17–7r4	epsilon	343v16–4r1	alpha	377r6–16
	213v14–14r1	gamma	297r5–v22	beta	344r2–3	beta	377r17–v20
	214r2–6	alpha			So 344r4–11	beta	378r1–5
					344r12–19	lambda	

The survey of the whole of England

	378r5–20	gamma		Tetbald son of Berner	438r13–v1	alpha	460r1–5	alpha
	378v1–14	delta	Dn	407r1–8r2	alpha	438v2–14	460r6–v4	beta
	378v15–18	gamma		408r3–5	epsilon	438v15–9r4	460v5–14	gamma
	378v18–20	delta		408r6–9r1	gamma	439r5–14	460v15–1r9	alpha
	379r1–2	epsilon		409r2–7	epsilon		461r10–v12	gamma
	379r3–14	gamma		409r8–v6	beta		461v13–17	alpha
	379r15–20	beta		409v7–10v4	alpha	So	461v18–2r5	beta
	379v1–16	gamma		410v5–6	beta		462r6–13	gamma
So	380r1–6	lambda					462r14–v6	epsilon
				Ruald Adobed			462v7–8	beta
	Turstin son of Rolf		Dn	411r1–12	beta		462v11–3r4	theta
Dn	382r1–9	beta		411r12–14r8	epsilon		463r5–v15	lambda
So	382v1–3r5	theta		414r9–21	beta		463v15–22	alpha
	383r6–4v3	alpha		414v1–17	alpha		464r1–12	iota
	384v4	beta		414v17–20...	delta		464r13–18	theta
	384v4–12	alpha					464r18–22	eta
	384v13–17	theta		Willelm de Poilli			464v1–8	beta
	Willelm son of Wido		Dn	415r2	alpha		464v8–14	theta
So	386r1–19	iota		415r2–v18	beta		464v15–5r1	iota
	386r20–1	beta		415v19–16v16	gamma		465r2–v7	eta
				416v17–17r2	beta		465v7–11	iota
	Goscelm and Walter			417r2–9	delta		465v12–6r20	alpha
Dn	388r1–9	epsilon		417r10–18r4	alpha		466v1–5	beta
	388r10–16	alpha					466v6–10	alpha
	388r17–v8	epsilon		Rotbert de Albemarle		So	466v11–14	beta
	388v9–9r3	beta	Dn	419r1–v2	beta		466v15–7r3	alpha
	389r4–91r9	gamma		419v3–20r10	alpha	So	467r5–14	theta
	391r10–14	beta		420r10–v14	beta		467r15–19	alpha
	391r15–v11	epsilon		420v15–1r8	alpha			
	391v12–2r10	beta		421r9–14	beta	So		
	392r11–17	alpha		421r14–v8	delta		Walter Gifard	
	392r18–v15	beta		421v9–20...	alpha		447r16–22	beta
	392v16–3r15	alpha				So	Alvred de Merleberge	Dn
	393r16–5v17	delta		Roger de Corcelle		So	447v1–8	alpha
	395v18–6r9	epsilon	So	422r1–4v6	alpha		Radulf de Mortemer	
	396r10–v19	delta		424v6–5v6	beta	So	447v10–18	alpha
	397r1–5	alpha		425v7–6r10	lambda	So	Arnulf de Hesdinc	
	397r5–16	epsilon		426r11–13	beta		448v1–9	alpha
	397r17–20	alpha		426r13–v2	lambda	So	448v10–9r2	iota
Co	397v1–6	beta		426v2–4	beta		Matheu de Moretanie	
				426v5–19	alpha	So	450r1–15	iota
	Goscelm of Exeter			427r1–4	theta		450r16–17	beta
?	398r1–7	omicron		427r5–8v14	alpha		450r18–v3	theta
				428v15–20	theta			
	Willelm Capra			429r1–13	alpha	So	Serlo de Burci	
Dn	399r1–v11	beta		429r14–v24	theta		452r1–16	iota
	399v12–401r7	gamma		430r1–8	lambda		452r17–v20	theta
	401r7–2v17	epsilon		430r8–21	beta		453r1–6	alpha
	402v18–400v4	gamma		430v2–1v9	—		453r7–4r11	iota
	400v5–403r9	beta		431v10–19	theta		454r12–20	theta
	403r10–v2	delta		431v20–2v15	beta			
	403v3–12	gamma		432v15–20	alpha	Dn	French knights	
	403v12–4r2	beta		433r1–9	beta		456r1–19	beta
	404r2–5r8	delta		433r10–v11	alpha		456r20–v3	epsilon
	405r9–14	beta		433v12–4r3	beta		456v4–8	alpha
	405r15–v3	gamma		434r4–5r19	alpha		456v8–19	epsilon
	405v4–11	delta		435r20–v3	theta		457r1–9	gamma
	405v12–17	gamma		435v4–12	beta		457r10–15	beta
	405v18–6r4	delta					457r16–v11	alpha
	406r5–6	beta		Edward the sheriff			457v12–19	gamma
	fo. 400 should follow		So	437r1–18	alpha		458r1–20	alpha
	fo. 402			Willelm de Ou			458v1–14	gamma
			So	438r1–5	alpha		458v15–9r16	alpha
				438r6–12	beta		459r17–v8	gamma
							459v9–18	delta

