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## “Places of writing” and attractiveness.

Thomas Areal

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Thomas Areal. “Places of writing” and attractiveness.: Study of medieval acts from Auvergne, between Dore and Allier rivers. Presses universitaires Blaise Pascal. Small and Medium Towns. Attractiveness at the beginning of the 21st Century, Collection du CERAMAC (n°33), pp.59-74, 2014. halshs-01099934

**HAL Id: halshs-01099934**

**<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-01099934>**

Submitted on 5 Jan 2015

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Discipline	Sciences de l'Homme et Société/Histoire médiévale
Informations sur le dépôt	
Titre	« “Places of writing” and attractiveness.
Sous-titre du texte	Study of medieval acts from Auvergne, between Dore and Allier rivers”
Texte présenté à l'occasion de	International Conference : <i>The attractiveness of small and medium towns: criteria, issues and strategies</i> , Kraków, 5 – 7 December
le	5 décembre 2012
Publié sous la direction de	A. Kwiatek-Soltys, H. Mainet, K. Wiedermann et J.-C. Edouard
Publié dans	<i>Small and Medium Towns. Attractiveness at the beginning of the 21st Century</i>
Lieu, éditeur, n°, date, pagination	Clermont-Ferrand, Presses Universitaires Blaise Pascal, Collection du CERAMAC n°33, 2014, pp. 59 – 74
Résumé en français	<p>L'étude de la période médiévale est souvent basée sur le traitement et l'analyse des sources manuscrites existant aujourd'hui. Ces sources, diverses et variées, sont le reflet de la vie quotidienne des puissants ou ceux qui ont quelque chose à donner, vendre ou déclarer. Mais au-delà des informations factuelles contenues dans les documents, les autres informations doivent être analysées. Certaines d'entre elles, invisibles ou ignorées en première lecture, s'avèrent d'une importance vitale selon le prisme d'études choisi.</p> <p>Dans le cas de l'attractivité des villes petites et moyennes, un prisme d'étude particulier peut être appliqué aux documents étudiés. En effet, la plupart des manuscrits sont écrits par des écrivains professionnels: notaires, tabellions, clercs, ... Ceux-ci sont le plus souvent situés dans des endroits d'importance comme les cours notariales ou des institutions dans lesquelles ils accueillent les déclarants. Il semble que la demande est forte, et ainsi ces « lieux d'écriture » doivent s'agrandir pour répondre aux besoins. Ainsi, des localités secondaires vont accueillir des cours notariales pour avoir, dans un monde médiéval rural dominé par quelques villes, un lieu d'écriture dédié aux personnes vivant dans ces espaces. Ces localités deviennent attrayantes, la présence des « lieux d'écriture » amenant les déclarants à venir dans ces cours afin de gérer leurs affaires.</p> <p>Le but ici est d'examiner le phénomène de l'attractivité des villes petites et moyennes (dans le concept médiéval de villes petites et moyennes) à travers le corpus documentaire de plusieurs centaines de documents mobilisé pour un sujet de thèse en histoire médiévale, sur une zone rurale d'Auvergne où plusieurs localités secondaires accueillent des « lieux d'écriture » et où d'autres, pourtant candidates à ce rôle, sont totalement ignorées. Des hypothèses seront proposées pour expliquer le choix de ces emplacements, des cartes peuvent être produites et une « mesure » de</p>

	l'attractivité peut être suggérée pour ce critère, avec toute la prudence nécessaire.
Résumé autre langue	<p>The study of the medieval period is often based on the treatment and analysis of manuscript sources extant today. These sources, diverse and varied, are a reflection of everyday life of the powerful or those who have something to give, sell or declare. But beyond the factual information contained in the documents, other information must be analyzed. Some of them, invisible or ignored at first reading, prove of vital importance as the prism of study chosen.</p> <p>In the case of attractiveness for small and medium towns, a particular prism of study can be applied to documents reviewed. Indeed, most manuscripts are written by professional writers : lawyers / notaries, clerks, ... These are most often located in places of importance like courses of notaries or institutions in which they greet reporters. It appears that demand is strong, and so these “places of writing” must increase to meet the needs. Thus secondary localities will host courses of notaries to have, in a medieval rural world dominated by a few towns, a place of writing dedicated to the people living in these spaces. These communities become attractive, the presence of such “places of writing” bringing reporters to visit these courses in order to manage their affairs.</p> <p>The aim here is to examine the phenomenon of attractiveness of small and medium towns (in the medieval concept of small and medium towns) through the documentary corpus mobilized for a thesis topic in medieval history several hundreds of documents, on a rural area of Auvergne in which several secondary localities host “places of writing” and others, promised this fate, are totally ignored. Hypotheses will be proposed to explain the choice of these locations, maps may be produced and a “measure” of attractiveness may be suggested for this criterion, with all due caution.</p>
Mots-clés	Auvergne ; Middle Ages ; attractiveness ; small and medium cities ; notaries ; <i>officialité</i>

# “Places of writing” and attractiveness.

## Study of medieval acts from Auvergne, between Dore and Allier rivers.

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Keywords: Auvergne; Middle Ages; attractiveness; small and medium cities; notaries; *officialité*.

The purpose of this paper is to propose a study of attractiveness of “places of writing” in a given area in the late medieval period. Before initiating this approach, it is necessary to clarify certain points relative to the subject itself.

The term “place of writing” refers to the production centers of manuscripts. Indeed, the texts remain attached throughout the Middle Ages for their genesis and their actions to institutions and cities: ecclesiastical *scriptoria*, princely chancelleries or urban institutions and scribes and notaries attached to a given city. To summarize: any act, original or copy, of any type, is written in a “place” defined and definable in an institution and / or city. The medieval man, if he wants to secure information, a transaction or an action by writing it must therefore use these “places of writing”<sup>1</sup>. The knowledge of these “places” is done by seeking their endorsements in medieval documents, originals or copies, in the protocols of these documents.

Regarding the ranking of “small and medium towns”, the term itself can be a problem for the researcher in the history of the Middle Ages<sup>2</sup>. Indeed, it appears that this formula returns too immediately to the size and demographic criterion. However, it is rare to have demographic data for this period sufficient to classify communities as well, same thing for the size even with help from archaeology.

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<sup>1</sup> About these “places of writing”, the definition is freely inspired by the article of M.-D. GLESSGEN, « Les lieux d’écriture dans les chartes lorraines du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle », *Revue de linguistique romane*, t. 72, n<sup>os</sup> 287 – 288, Strasbourg, Société de Linguistique romane, juillet – décembre 2008, pp. 413 – 540.

<sup>2</sup> This remark on the problem of terminology is an outcome from the discussions that have taken place in the laboratory Centre d’Histoire « Espaces et Cultures » (C.H.E.C.) with members involved in the program ATTRACVIL, program of the MSH of Clermont-Ferrand (presentation: <http://www.msh-clermont.fr/spip.php?article2738> / research blog: <http://attracvil.hypotheses.org/>).

The historian of the Middle Ages rather, like his colleague from Antiquity / archaeologist use the term “secondary towns”, which actually involve a concept hierarchy without referring to size alone. In the case of ancient and medieval periods, the capitals of Gallo-Roman cities / dioceses should be considered as primary cities and other places of importance in the territory concerned on the political, social and / or economic then viewed as secondary towns

The study area for this paper is called “between Dore and Allier”. It corresponds to the study area as part of a doctorate launched in October 2010, for which an extensive data compilation work was conducted<sup>3</sup>. Allier and Dore are two main streams of Auvergne. The study of land between these two rivers is the study of a large part of what might be called the lordship of the bishop of Clermont, in which the supremacy of the bishop, however, is constantly challenged<sup>4</sup>. Corresponding today to thirty-four municipalities this predominantly rural territory is marked by numerous disparities: relief, economy, habitat type, etc.

These points being redefined, it is possible to focus on the theme of the issue that will be discussed now. It should indeed be asked, according to the documents available, how a “place of writing” may have been chosen rather than another, and if attractiveness criteria may affect the choice of a “place”.

## **METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS**

To study this territory, the choice was made to seek out and identify all documents relating to the Middle Ages. The work presented today is based on this corpus<sup>5</sup>. With about a thousand documents, all documentary was reduced to four hundreds thirty references chosen for their nature homages, donations, foundations, sales and deeds of justice, acts intended by a lord or owner, seller or donor claimant which then goes into a “place of writing” for a sure and authentic act.

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<sup>3</sup> T. AREAL, *Entre Allier et Livradois. Dynamiques spatiales et contrôles des populations (XII<sup>e</sup> – XV<sup>e</sup> siècles)*, PhD in progress (2010 – ...), Clermont-Ferrand, Clermont Université (directed by Pr. Jean-Luc Fray).

<sup>4</sup> On this, read R. SÈVE, « La seigneurie épiscopale de Clermont des origines à 1357 », *Revue d’Auvergne*, t. 94, Clermont-Ferrand, 1980 (publication de la thèse soutenue à l’école des Chartres).

<sup>5</sup> Documents are extracts from three archives centers: Departmental Archives of the Puy-de-Dome, Departmental Archives of Haute-Loire and National Archives.

Each of these acts was analyzed as a whole, and all relevant information have been drawn: institution, place of writing (because possibly different), the names of the staff of these places writing. As well three hundreds fifty-six documents mention a “place of writing” or a member of its staff (« *Universis presentes licteras inspecturis (et audituris) XXX tenens sigillum curie XXX [...] dilecto nostri XXX notario dicte curie* ») ; the fifty-eight excluded acts have no indication, are written as « *ego XXX venditor / dominus / etc.* », and therefore cannot be linked to a “place of writing”.

All information extracted was compiled in database, in order to obtain a linking of data. Using research modules / query, it was then possible to highlight several analyzes and results. The passage to the cartography then became evident, to put information highlighted by a spatial representation<sup>6</sup>. And from the data compiled, linked and mapped, it is now possible to propose theories about the attractiveness of “places of writing” for the territory between Dore and Allier.

## **PLACES OF WRITING AND ATTRACTIVENESS: WHAT CRITERIA?**

### ***According to the cartography***

The study of documentary corpus gives eighteen “places of writing” (*Fig. 1*). Some of them can be combined because they are in fact a single institution, relocated for a while. The first lesson is to see that the person living or owning property in the territory between Allier and Dore do not frequent only “places of writing” located in the area or nearby. Some are located more than thirty kilometers outside of the area, which is about the average distance of movement of a person walking at a speed of six kilometers per hour average. The distance criterion does not seem to affect the attractiveness of a court. But is it right to conclude this? It would be good to test other criteria in relation to the available data before making a hasty conclusion.

Let’s focus, once the courts identified, on their representation in the sample of analyzed documents. The numbers will speak for themselves and bring out a huge disparity between the various courts.

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<sup>6</sup> This personal approach was conducted using MapInfo software and training provided by S. AMAR, former cartographer of UFR LLSH of Clermont Université; she received here expressed my gratitude for her help and kindness.

<b>Court</b>	<b>Number of acts</b>	<b>Temporality</b>
<b>Billom</b>	4	-
<b>Châteauneuf</b>	1	-
<b>Clermont (officialité + causes)</b>	100	1243 - 1372
<b>Langeac</b>	4	-
<b>Mauzun</b>	1	-
<b>Montaigut</b>	1	-
<b>Montboissier</b>	3	-
<b>Montferrand</b>	37	1316 - 1374
<b>Monton</b>	1	-
<b>Nonette</b>	15	1295 - 1370
<b>Palluet</b>	2	-
<b>Pont-du-Château / Cournon</b>	128	1294 - 1377
<b>Riom</b>	50	1279 - 1369
<b>Vauluisant</b>	2	-
<b>Vic</b>	7	-

*Number of acts per notarial courts in the corpus*

The mapping is as much a highlight disparities between the notarial courts mentioned in documents (*Fig. 2*). Two courts seem to be extremely attractive, Pont-du-Château, which is relocated to Cournon around 1320<sup>7</sup>, and the courts of *Officialité* and *Causes*, both installed in the episcopal palace of Clermont<sup>8</sup>. To a lesser degree, Riom, Montferrand and Nonette<sup>9</sup> are also well represented in the sample.

However, it is interesting to note that other courts are marginal in the number of acts written for business relating to the study area. Those located within the territory have only episodic activity.

<sup>7</sup> Pont-du-Château and Cournon (today Cournon d'Auvergne), chefs-lieux of townships, district of Clermont-Ferrand, department of Puy-de-Dôme; This relocation results from the abandonment of the lordship of Pont-du-Château by the royal power in favor of the Dauphin of Viennois John II in 1317, the relocation seems effective in the acts in 1321, the keepers of the seal saying now « *tenens sigillum curie Pontis Castri apud Cornonium* ».

<sup>8</sup> For the *Officialité*, some authors assume it initially installed in Billom; A. BOSSUAT speaks about « *sigillo testimoniali Billomensis curie* » in 1228, november (A. BOSSUAT, « Enquête sur la monnaie de Clermont à la fin du XIII<sup>e</sup> siècle », *Bulletin philologique et historique*, Paris, imprimerie Nationale, 1945), and M. ESTIENNE identifies it as the first *Officialité* relocated to Billom in his thesis *Le pouvoir partagé. La basse Auvergne au Moyen Âge classique (1150 – 1350)*, thèse, édition inédite aux A.D.63 [cote: 7 J 79]; however, no other mention is found in acts for Billom, and many of them locate this court in Clermont.

<sup>9</sup> Riom, chef-lieu of district, department of Puy-de-Dôme ; Montferrand, old medieval city, today district of Clermont-Ferrand, department of Puy-de-Dôme ; Nonette, township of Saint-Germain-Lembron, district of Issoire, department of Puy-de-Dôme .

Attractiveness is clearly marked. The kilometric criterion mentioned earlier finally seems important, since the busiest courts are close to the area (Billom - Pont-du-Château: about ten kilometers; Billom - Clermont / Montferrand: about twenty kilometers; Billom - Riom: about twenty-five kilometers). But proximity is probably not the only important criterion in the choice of a court or another. It is necessary to examine each court to try out other influential elements. It should then look into the history of these institutions, localities hosting or other fields sometimes more subtle.

### *By studying the history of towns*

Let's go back to the history of medieval Auvergne. This region became actually French in the first quarter of the thirteenth century<sup>10</sup>. In the following years, the region became the appanage of a brother of Saint Louis, Count Alphonse of Poitiers. The prince then undertook an action to modernize administration in Auvergne. And even if the region is considered southernmost, it is a “French” system from the North which is implanted. Count power chooses among others to divide the region into bailiwick (old french: *bailie*) for better management. Between 17 and 23, they are distributed in the newly conquered possessions of royal power (*Fig. 3*). It appears that these bailiwicks also become “places of writing”, the writer settling near a power or his representative who may need it. Riom seems to be the first to develop early in the domain, quickly followed by the other bailiwicks.

But all “places of writing” are not located in the centers of royal control. Indeed, the other powers up in Auvergne also equip themselves with places of writing. The bishop has developed two major authorities, the *Officialité*<sup>11</sup> and the court of *Causes*, responsible for managing current affairs in the temporal of the bishopric. Major lineages, like the Counts of Auvergne in their necropolis Vauluisant and the court of Vic, or families as Montboissier in Boissonnelle or Montaigut in their lordship, also have their place of writing (*Fig. 4*).

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<sup>10</sup> About this “conquest” of Auvergne (ongoing lively debate on the subject) read M. ESTIENNE, *op. cit.*, pp. 49 – 96; P.-F. FOURNIER, « La conquête de l’Auvergne sous Philippe Auguste (1211 – 1212). Récit de Guillaume le Breton », *Auvergne littéraire*, n°89, 1937, pp. 79 - 87; P. CHARBONNIER, *Histoire de l’Auvergne des origines à nos jours. Haute et basse-Auvergne, Bourbonnais et Velay*, Clermont-Ferrand, De Borée, 1999, pp. 211 – 218 ; J. TEYSSOT, *Riom, capitale et bonne ville d’Auvergne : 1212 – 1557*, Nonette, Créer, 1999, pp. 44 – 47 ; R. ROQUES, *Noblesse auvergnate et pouvoir royal : De la "conquête" de Philippe Auguste à la fin de l’apanage d’Alphonse de Poitiers (XII<sup>e</sup> – XIII<sup>e</sup> siècles)*, Clermont-Ferrand, Université de Clermont-Ferrand II, 2010.

<sup>11</sup> About *Officialité*, read P. Fournier, *Les Officialités au Moyen Âge : étude sur l’organisation, la compétence et la procédure des tribunaux ecclésiastiques en France de 1180 à 1328*, Aalen, 1984.

Localities where “places of writing” are located are known to have important political and administrative functions. And the places of writing located in these cities will benefit from this, which is also part of the process of attractiveness. But the owner of the courtyard or locality must also be important. Let's see some examples.

Riom, royal city, capital of Royal Land of Auvergne, is the oldest court located in Auvergne, and despite some problems of authentication with its seal, is the first truly recognized court when the new system is put in place<sup>12</sup>.

Clermont, the seat of the bishopric, is also the place where land the main lord of Auvergne, bishop of Clermont, who through his lordship episcopal control directly or by way of homage a large number of properties in the study area, which in turn implies that many litigants to bishop turns to his court to perform acts, which should then be without possible dispute about it<sup>13</sup>.

Montferrand also knows a particular story, from capital of county to royal city, with the development of an important commercial activity, which may explain its presence in the busiest courts.

Pont-du-Château / Cournon have not an important administrative rank except for being a notarial court. Its geographical position seems to be the main criterion for attractiveness of this town, situated on the river Allier, at a crossing point on the roads that go to Clermont. This is probably the same for Nonette, located at the south of the study area near another crossing point for roads going to the southbound of Auvergne.

In the case of the five busiest “places of writing” appear therefore already several criteria. Distance, that appeared to be possible to ignore by looking at only the location of courts, appears in fact as a criterion. Similarly, the geographic location of courts, on roads towards the centers of power is important. Take an interest in the history of the town can permit to discover new criteria: the aura of the place created by the implementation of a major holder or by the existence of old and recognized institutions, are other criteria to be taken into account.

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<sup>12</sup> Read J. TEYSSOT, *op. cit.* et M. TREILLE, *Les hommes de loi de la chancellerie de Riom (XIII<sup>e</sup> – XVI<sup>e</sup> siècles)*, Clermont-Ferrand, Université Blaise Pascal, 2010 (mémoire de master).

<sup>13</sup> Read R. SEVE, *op. cit.*

## Other courts: what criteria for them?

But the study of these five major cases should not made us forget the existence of other courts which even if they have not produced a lot of acts, experienced attractiveness at a specific time. Criteria previously seen may not necessarily correspond to them. For each of these courts, it is necessary to try to find out what has influenced their choice at any given time.

The criterion of the obedience of the court seems to be good for six of the minor notarial courts in the document corpus. Billom and Mauzun<sup>14</sup> are two episcopal bailiwicks, and acts mentioning these courts involve possessions of the bishopric. The reason is the same for Boissonnelle and Montaigt<sup>15</sup>, two seigniorial courts where written acts partly concern the lords. Finally Vauluisant and Vic<sup>16</sup> are both courts of counts, the first being an abbey and the necropolis of this lineage, the second capital of the county.

Cases of Palluet, Châteauneuf and Monton are still with no plausible explanation. In contrast, the case of Langeac / Paulhaguet is much more interesting beyond the number of acts. Indeed, the acts concern only one lineage, family Greyzoles, which makes three homages in 1307, 1334 and 1346 for properties in the area between Dore and Allier. But registrants are defined as lord of Chassagne, locality for which the nearest notarial court is Langeac / Paulhaguet. But another data seems to be taken into account. Paulhaguet, which the declaration is done, is owned by an abbey, Lavaudieu, where the prioress is Blanche de Greyzoles, from the same lineage<sup>17</sup>.

Assume a link of attractiveness in relation to this information appears difficult. However, it opens the possibility of studying new data to measure the attractiveness of a place of writing: the staff of “places of writing”. Indeed, the reputation of a court can certainly stand on its location and history, but it can also be done by its staff.

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<sup>14</sup> Mauzun and Billom, both township of Billom, district of Clermont-Ferrand, department of Puy-de-Dôme.

<sup>15</sup> Boissonnelle, city of Saint-Dier d’Auvergne, chef-lieu of township, and Montaigt, city of Glaine-Montaigt, township of Billom, both district of de Clermont-Ferrand, department du Puy-de-Dôme.

<sup>16</sup> Vauluisant or Le Bouchet, city of Yronde-et-Buron, and Vic-le-Comte, both township of Vic-le-Comte, district of Clermont-Ferrand, department du Puy-de-Dôme.

<sup>17</sup> Information provided by C. GLAISE, currently working on the abbey and town as part of her Master degree entitled *De l’analyse d’un fonds d’archives à la réflexion scientifique et historique : l’exemple du monastère de Comps-Lavaudieu*, Clermont-Ferrand, Clermont Université, in progress.

The example of Jean Masuer, holding the seal in the court of Riom, multi-degree and great lawyer of the fifteenth century, symbolizes this track<sup>18</sup>. The question would be to study if the permanence of staff in a notarial court may influence its attractiveness. This work needs more data than this corpus, and also a better specific knowledge on history of law to study the documents, and has not be possible to do for the realization of this communication, even if the data makes already appears some long careers in the busiest courts:

<b>Custodian of the seal</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>Years of practice</b>
<b>Étienne Bord</b>	Pont-du-Château	1308 – 1336
<b>Robert de Rosseria</b>	Pont-du-Château	1337 – 1346
<b>Durand Bartholomé</b>	Pont-du-Château	1351 – 1359
<b>Guillaume Alamelle</b>	Riom	1279 – 1285
<b>Guillaume de Hala</b>	Riom	1289 – 1294
	Nonette	1295 – 1303
<b>Hugues Grégoire</b>	Riom	1335 – 1345
<b>Olivier Monnier</b>	Montferrand	1333 – 1358

*Some notaries and their careers according to the corpus*

This criterion, imperceptible without a large number of acts, should not be ignored for thinking about the attractiveness of a place of writing. It is the same for few in number mentions, that should not be denigrate.

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<sup>18</sup> See among others his biography in P. ARABEYRE, J.-L. HALPÉRIN, J. KRYNEN (dir.), *Dictionnaire historique des juristes français : XII<sup>e</sup> – XX<sup>e</sup> siècle*, Paris, Quadriga / Presses Universitaires de France, 2007, and the article of J. TEYSSOT, « Hommes de loi et notaires au XV<sup>e</sup> siècle en Basse Auvergne. Autour de Jean Mazuer, précurseur de la Coutume d’Auvergne », *La Coutume d’Auvergne : formation et expression d’un patrimoine juridique*, Clermont-Ferrand, Société des Amis des Universités de Clermont-Ferrand, 2011.

## AND TODAY? THE OLD NOTARIAL COURTS IN AUVERGNE URBAN HIERARCHY

The medievalist does not get stuck in Middle Ages. He must also be able to escape, and analyze traces of the medieval past in today's society. In this study, it is interesting to ask what the rank of these cities is today in the Auvergne urban network. Are they still important decision-making centers, or have they lost their rank? And is the medieval past of the cities used as a new asset of attractiveness in the context of tourism? Let's have a look at the main courts of the corpus.

Clermont, Clermont-Ferrand today after the merger with Montferrand<sup>19</sup>, is the capital of the region. As such, it concentrates within it a number of administrative, economic and political institutions. The two former centers, more or less valorized, attract tourists, among others around the gothic cathedral built in black stone. Restoration work is also underway, as the walls of the old town of Montferrand, proof of a desire to preserve and enhance the heritage of the two ancient medieval towns.

Riom<sup>20</sup>, sub-prefecture, is still one of the judicial place of Auvergne, who retained the appellate court, which had succeeded the old courts installed in the locality. The old center keeps many traces of the rich medieval past of the town and the court itself is installed at the site of the former ducal palace.

Cournon d'Auvergne<sup>21</sup> and Pont-du -Château<sup>22</sup>, today part of the "Grand Clermont"<sup>23</sup>, saw their population exploded with the installation of new residents in logic of suburbanization. Chefs-lieux of townships, cities possess a set of services important to their population. The medieval past has left some traces, well preserved. Billom<sup>24</sup> knows the same development as the two previous cities, but also gets a significant secondary agglomeration rank, in the sense that the city in full suburbanization is also the principal urban center of a nearby rural area, the western Livradois. It is also home to a large community of cities and the center of a territory labellized "Land of Art and History" that preserves and animates an area with many vestiges of the medieval period.

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<sup>19</sup> Population: 140,957 inhabitants (source INSEE, 2011).

<sup>20</sup> Population: 18,291 inhabitants (source INSEE, 2011).

<sup>21</sup> Population: 19,063 inhabitants (source INSEE, 2011).

<sup>22</sup> Population: 10,632 inhabitants (source INSEE, 2011).

<sup>23</sup> Union of more than one hundred municipalities around Clermont-Ferrand to define and support the spatial planning, development and management of their territories

<sup>24</sup> Population: 140,957 inhabitants (source INSEE, 2011).

It appears that the towns which have hosted notarial during the medieval period have kept their place in the Auvergne urban network and has now become important secondary cities. Within them, the medieval past is more or less valorized but serves mostly as a tourist attraction criterion

## **CONCLUSION**

This study leads therefore to propose as a criterion of attractiveness for a city the presence of a “place of writing”, at least during the medieval period. And this criterion is relevant in the case of the study of small and medium towns, the secondary cities should normally complement the primary city offering, as it would be defined today, “a range of services” allowing people to dispose of matters that may need closer.

There are criteria of attractiveness to justify the choice of a particular court or place of writing. The first of these criteria to be taken into account is the one of distance. The person wishing to transcribe its acts must go to a court, and it chooses the nearest likely. But exceptional cases may occur, sometimes without explanation, sometimes with the involvement of other criteria. The second criterion in terms of importance can be the “aura” of the court of notary. This “aura” is defined itself according to several criteria: age of the institution, obedience (royal, lord or ecclesiastical court, etc.).

These criteria are imperceptible by the simple act of reading, which is why it is important not to isolate the “place of writing” from its implementation: “any act, original or copy, of any type, is written in a “place” defined and definable in an institution and / or city” as was pointed out in the introduction.

With these criteria viewed as “normal”, another criterion can be proposed, even if it requires totally different work to be aware of. It is attractiveness linked to staff and its business in a notarial court, and for this the specific terms of study have already been recalled.

This study on the notarial attractiveness also highlighted the importance of using multiple prisms to study the data obtained during the research work. If the database permits to get numbers, statistics and convertible weight representation, mapping allows considering the data spatially. It is nevertheless necessary to self-criticize this work, noting that it applies only to a small sample of only 356 acts, and a large-scale study would refine the criteria of attractiveness or permit to propose new ones. Another lesson learned is that no data should be ignored, so tiny they are. The rarity demonstrates indeed often a particular criterion imperceptible in the mass.

But as it was said before, the medievalist is also a man of his time. It must also question the permanence of what he studied in his time. It is interesting to note that the localities concerned by the implementation of a major and very active notarial court are still important administrative centers. It should also be noted that the rich history of these communities is highlighted in the context of tourism promotion. Thus, the medieval attractiveness criteria, which allowed development of the locality with other criteria, influences today on another criterion of attractiveness, the tourism and heritage, on which many localities rely to grow.

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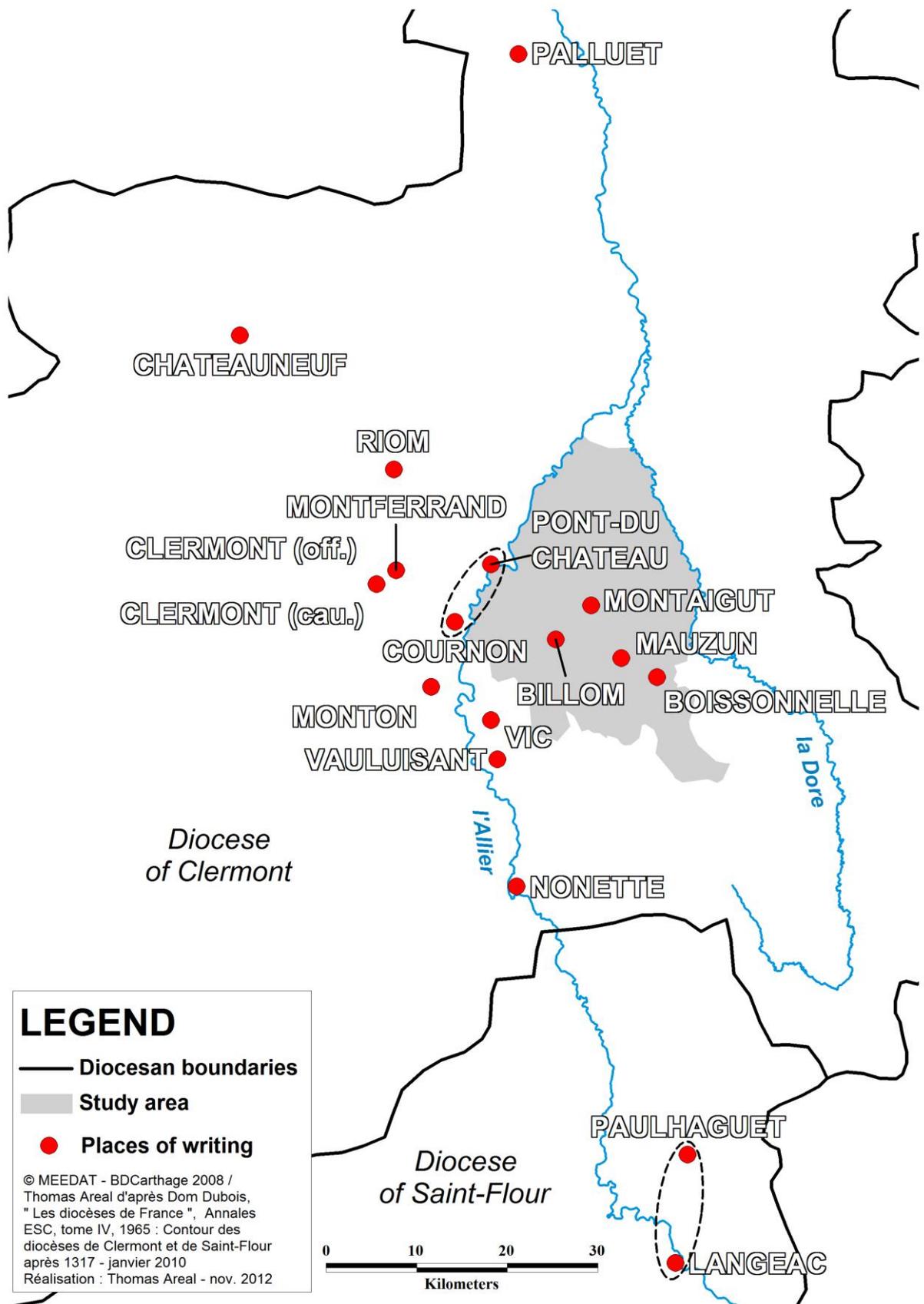


Fig. 1: "Places of writing" mentioned in the corpus of acts concerning the area between Dore and Allier.

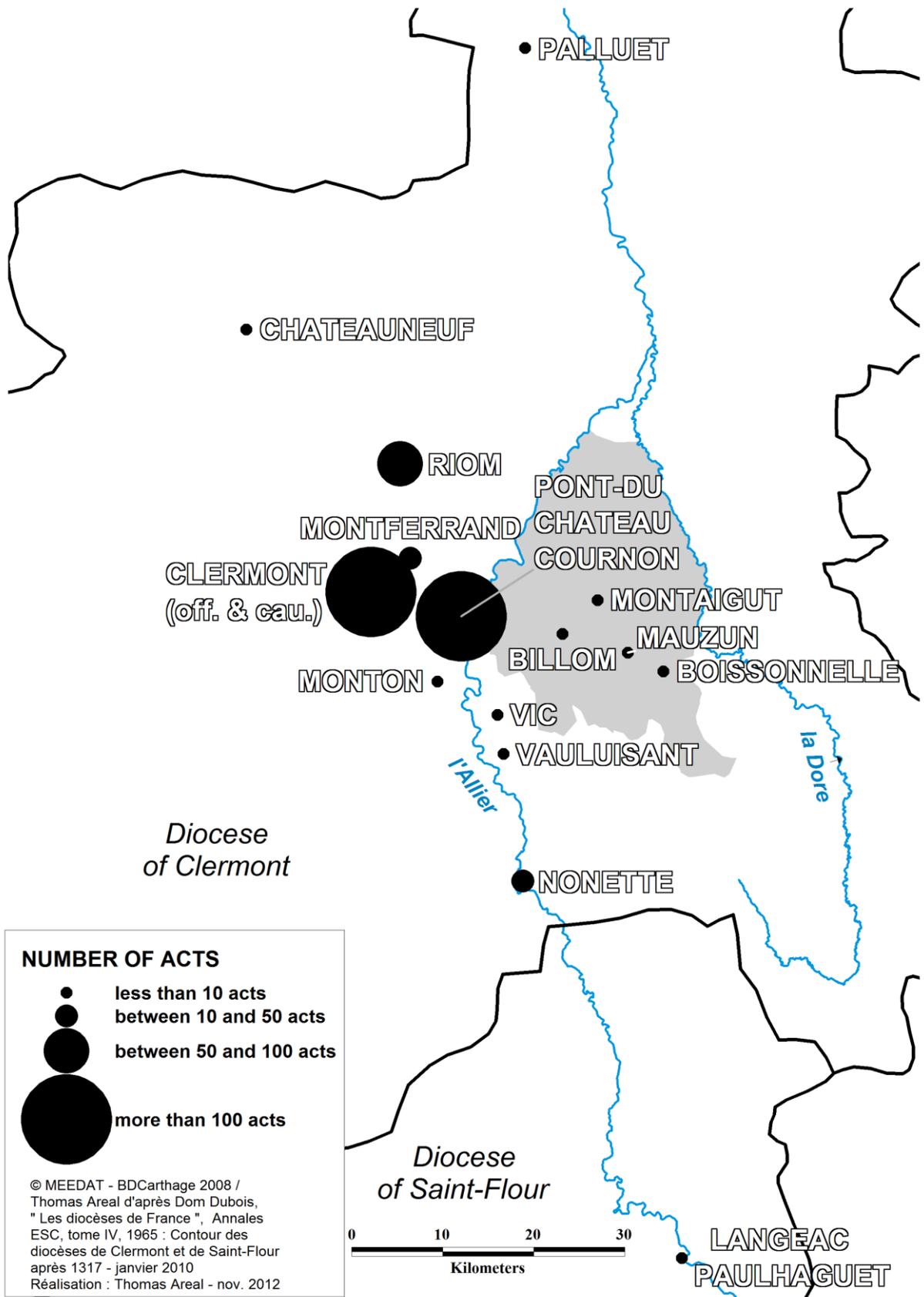


Fig. 2: Numbers of acts per notarial courts mentioned in the corpus.

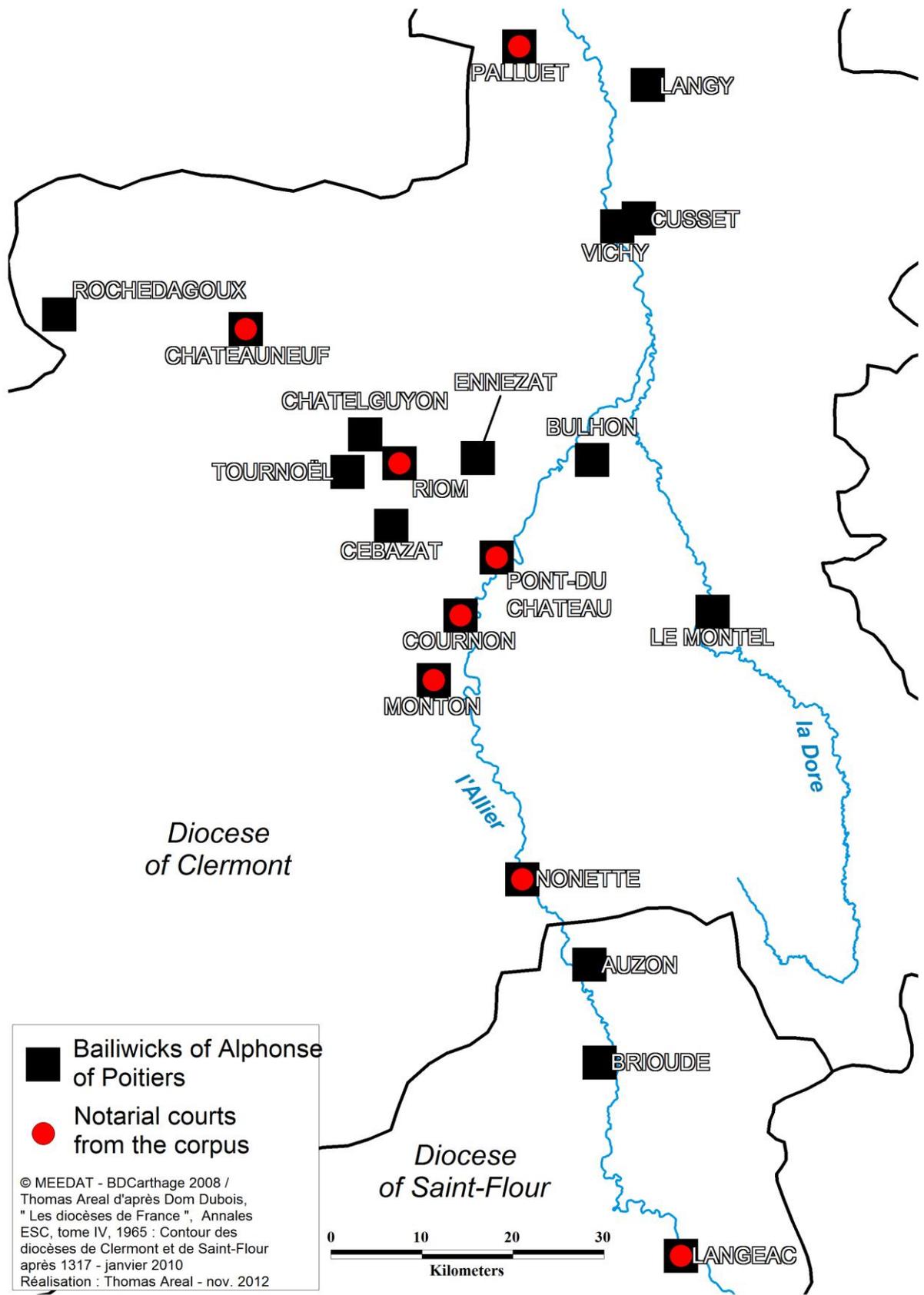


Fig. 3: Bailiwicks of Alphonse of Poitiers.

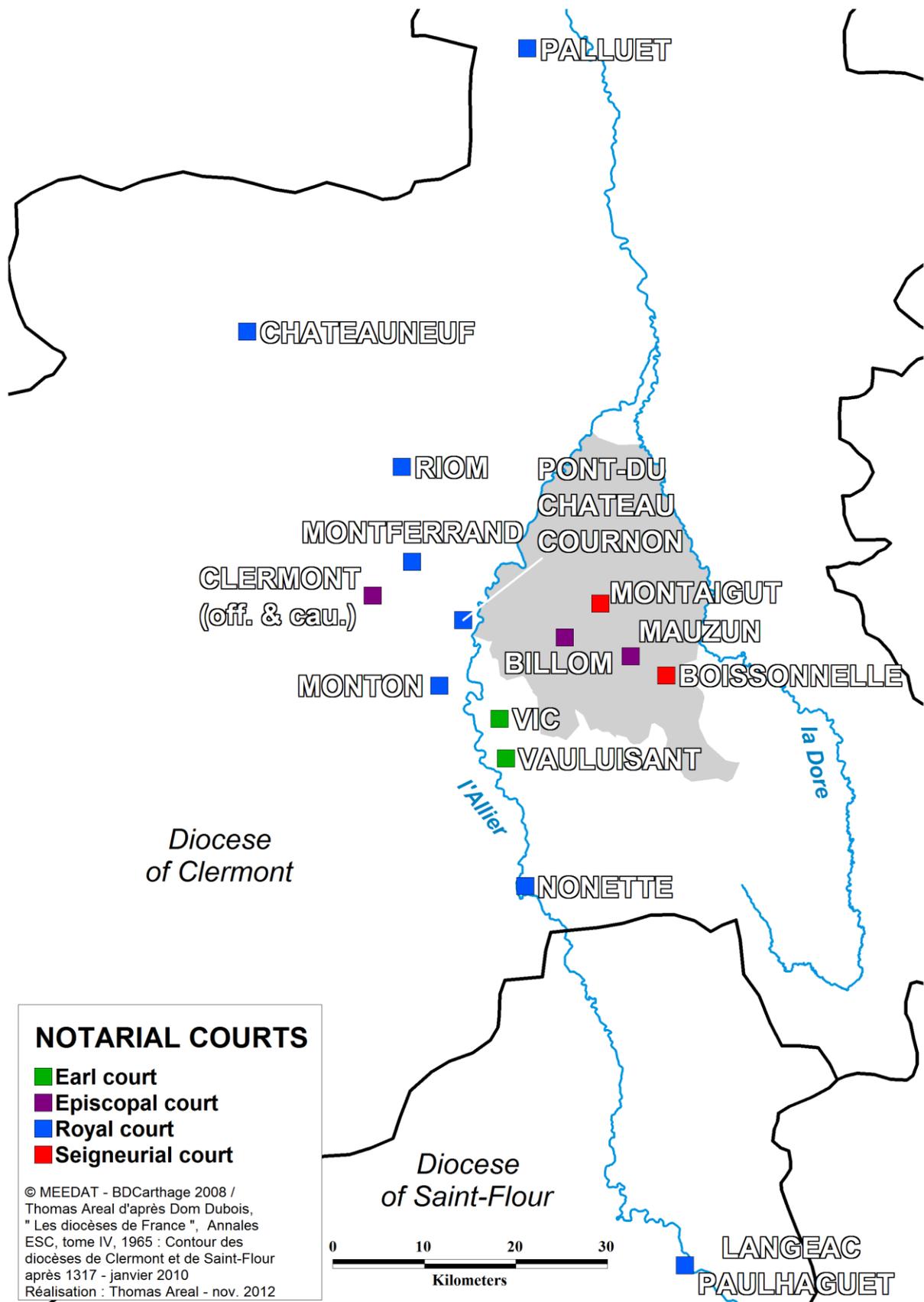


Fig. 4: The different types of notarial courts mentioned in the corpus.