The originating writs of the common law, in their thirteenth century and later forms, have long been available in print. The royal writs of the period 1066-1189 are relatively unknown. This study describes the history of the Norman period with special reference to the development of the courts of law and traces the process of judicialization by which royal writs, dealing with redress of private wrongs in extra-judicial executive ways, gradually became transformed into the original writs of the later common law. The volume contains the text and English translations of 198 writs and photographic facsimiles of seven originals which have survived.

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