# C.O.E.L. Update.

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The Continental Origins of English Landholders Project database will contain data from all the published sources, public and personal, for the period 1066 to 1166. The tables in the database are based upon individual sources. Our key-data are the names of people and places, which are then associated with the different sorts of information provided by each source. Each record contains a code referring to the source [PRa = Pipe Roll 31 Henry I, etc.], the page number of the printed text and a code for the county of each entry. This part of the database can be queried on the basis of individual sources, or a range of sources. When data-entry is complete a cumulative index will be generated. This will contain every occurrence of all personal names in the source tables, together with the source codes that also function as date codes. The cumulative index will provide the opportunity to add material found in French archive sources relating to continental origins to the information found in English sources. It will also contain identification numbers that will allow one person whose name takes several forms in the sources to be traced throughout the database, allowing for differences between possible and certain identifications. The names are organized so as to make family groups evident in an index. All words referring to function, status, age or sex [*miles*, *archidiaconus*, *comes*, *constabularius*, *uidua*, *puer*, etc.] are also attached to names. The finished product – a formidable collection of some 20-25MB of data – will permit a wide range of analyses. The composition of landholding families, their tenants and their social status could be traced over several generations. The careers of individuals could be traced, or composite pictures of groups bearing labels descriptive of office or function obtained. An additional benefit will be the assembly of a great deal of information about names and naming-patterns.

Producing such a database and ensuring maximum flexibility and user-friendliness is not an easy task. At the start of our third year we realize how green we were during the first, when we knew nothing about databases and could not find experts who also understood our sources to help us. These problems are now behind us, but we shall have to re-enter much of our earliest work on data from the Pipe Rolls. Before we do so, we shall enter our remaining sources, the post-1100 Surveys and the private charters, as well as completing data-entry from the charters of William I and II. Thanks to his generosity, we are using the texts of Professor David Bates's still unpublished edition of the charters of William I. David Thornton is to be congratulated on the production of a very fine Domesday database in about eleven months. Katharine Keats-Rohan is working on a Domesday prosopography which will incorporate into the database surnames provided by other sources. The database will contain the Domesday prosopography, which will also be published separately with the necessary commentary. She is also editing the cartulary of Mont-Saint-Michel, which contains much useful information on English landholders 1066-1149 and has been unpublished for far two long. It will be published in France and will be accompanied by an historical commentary written in collaboration with Dr Hubert Guillotel.

The best news of all is that we have a publisher for the database with whom we are now working in close collaboration. It is hoped that the publication will take the form of a set of floppy disks, readable on the average PC and selling for about £50. We could be ready for

publication in October 1996, provided that we can obtain funding for a further year beyond this one.