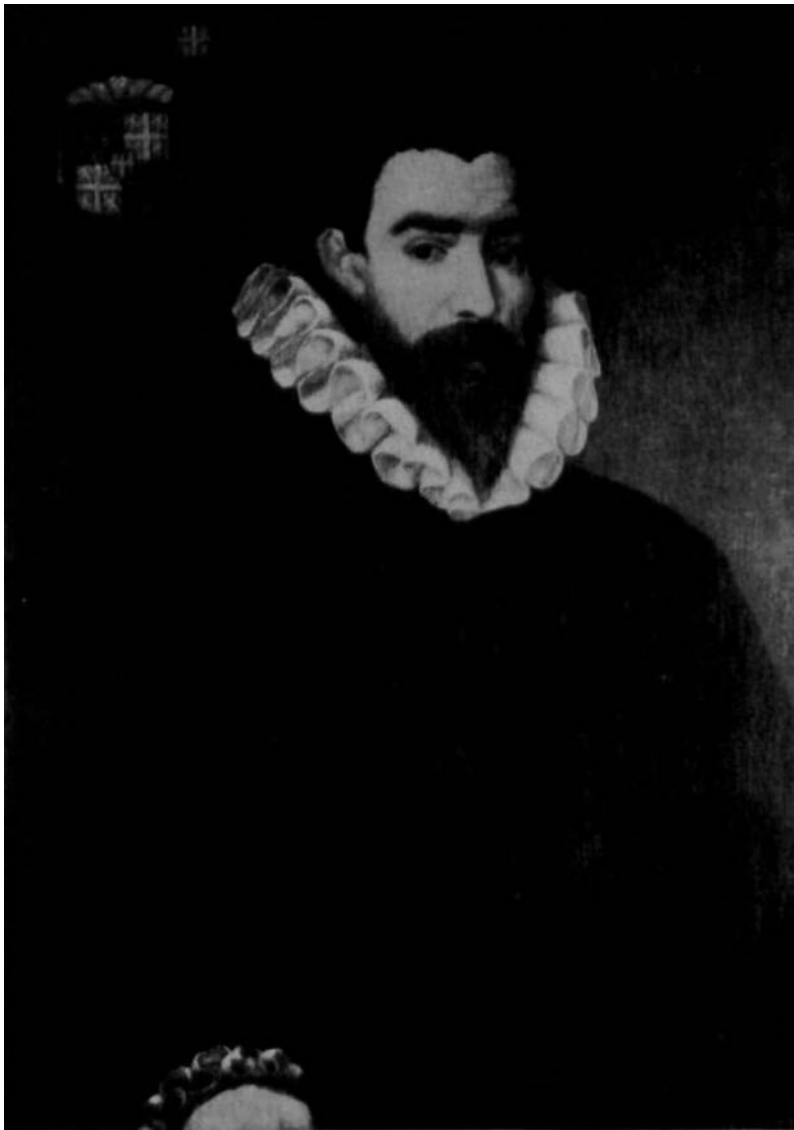# Rough Estimation:
Inheritance, Accounting, and Sibling Rivalry in an Early Modern Merchant Family

Jesse Sadler
Loyola Marymount University

Marten della Faille (1544/5–1620)

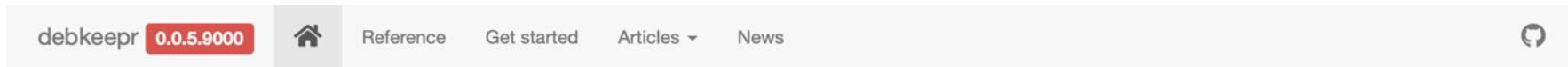Jacques della Faille (1549/50–1615)

Account book of the estate of Jan de Oude

debkeepr: Analysis of Non-Decimal Currencies in R

jessesadler.github.io/debkeepr/

debkeepr 0.0.5.9000 | Reference Get started Articles ▾ News

debkeepr: Analysis of Non-Decimal Currencies

debkeepr integrates non-decimal currencies that use the tripartite system of pounds, shillings, and pence into the methodologies of Digital Humanities and the practices of reproducible research. The package makes it possible for historical non-decimal currencies to behave like decimalized numeric values through the implementation of the deb_lsd and deb_decimal vector classes or types. These types are based on the infrastructure provided by the vctrs package. debkeepr simplifies the process of performing arithmetic calculations with non-decimal currencies — such as adding £3 13s. 4d. sterling to £8 15s. 9d. sterling — and also provides a basis for analyzing account books with thousands of transactions recorded in non-decimal currencies. The name of the debkeepr package derives from this latter capability of analyzing historical account books that often used double-entry bookkeeping.

Installation

You can install debkeepr from GitHub with remotes:

```
# install.packages("remotes")
remotes::install_github("jessesadler/debkeepr")
```

Please open an issue if you have any questions, comments, or requests.

Historical Background

The debkeepr package uses the nomenclature of l, s, and d to represent pounds, shillings, and pence units in non-decimal currencies. The abbreviations derive from the Latin terms libra, solidus, and denarius. The libra was a Roman measurement of weight, while the solidus and denarius were both Roman coins. The denarius was a silver coin from the era of the Republic, in contrast to the golden solidus that was issued in the Late Empire. As the production of silver coins overtook that of gold by the 8th century, a solidus came to represent 12 silver denarii coins, and 240 denarii were — for a time — made from one libra or pound of silver. The custom of

Links

Browse source code at
https://github.com/jessesadler/debkeepr/

Report a bug at
https://github.com/jessesadler/debkeepr/issues

License

Full license

MIT + file LICENSE

Developers

Jesse Sadler
Author, maintainer

Dev status

build | passing
codecov | 99%
lifecycle | experimental

Jan della Faille de Oude

(c. 1515–1582)

Trade network of Jan de Oude
1558–1582

- Executors

  - **Jan** (c. 1542–1618): Eldest but not successor to his father.

  - **Marten** (c. 1544–1620): Chosen by his father as his primary successor.

  - **Jacques** (c. 1549–1615): Rival to Marten. Moved to Haarlem in 1584.

- Troublesome sons

  - **Carlo** (c. 1546–1617): Constant source of trouble for his siblings.

  - **Steven** (c. 1550–1621): Had two marriages to servants annulled.

- Daughters

  - **Anna** (c. 1543–1622): Married Robert van Eeckeren, associate of her father.

  - **Maria** (1555–1578): Married and had three children before her early death.

  - **Hester** (c. 1558–1643): Married Daniel van der Meulen. Left Antwerp in 1584.

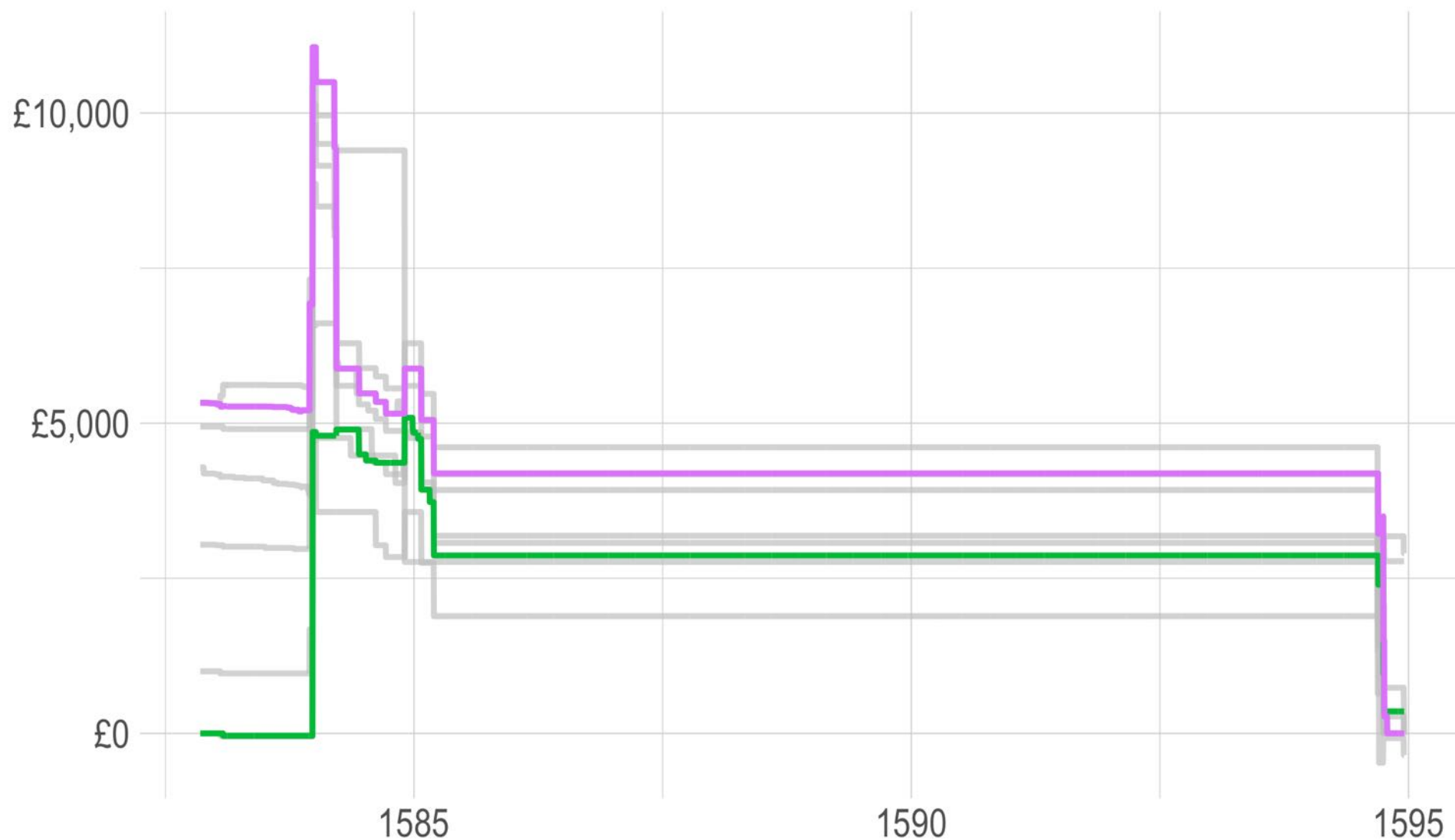 - **Cornelia** (c. 1563–1582): Died shortly after her father in 1582.
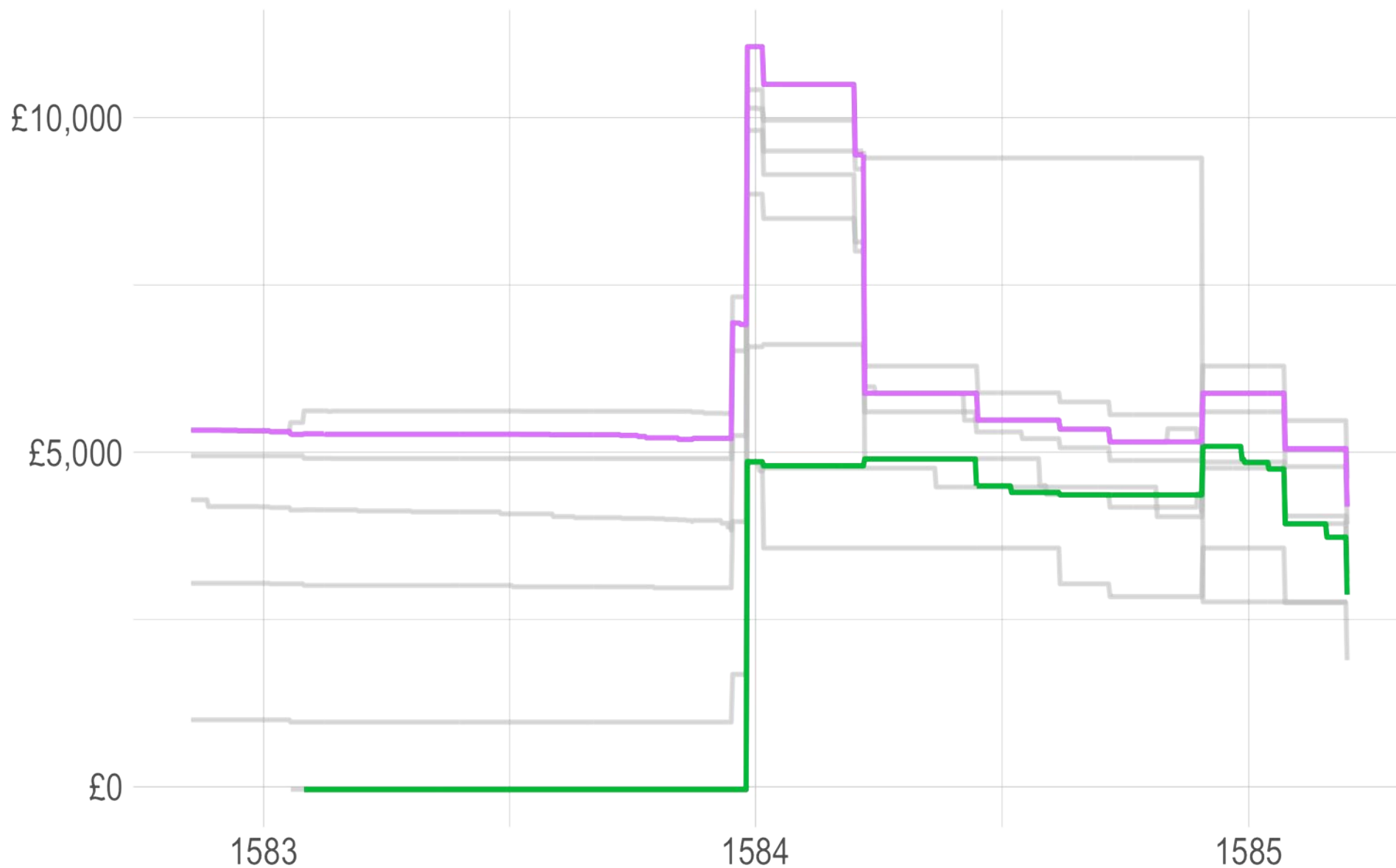
Maternal inheritance, 26 December 1583
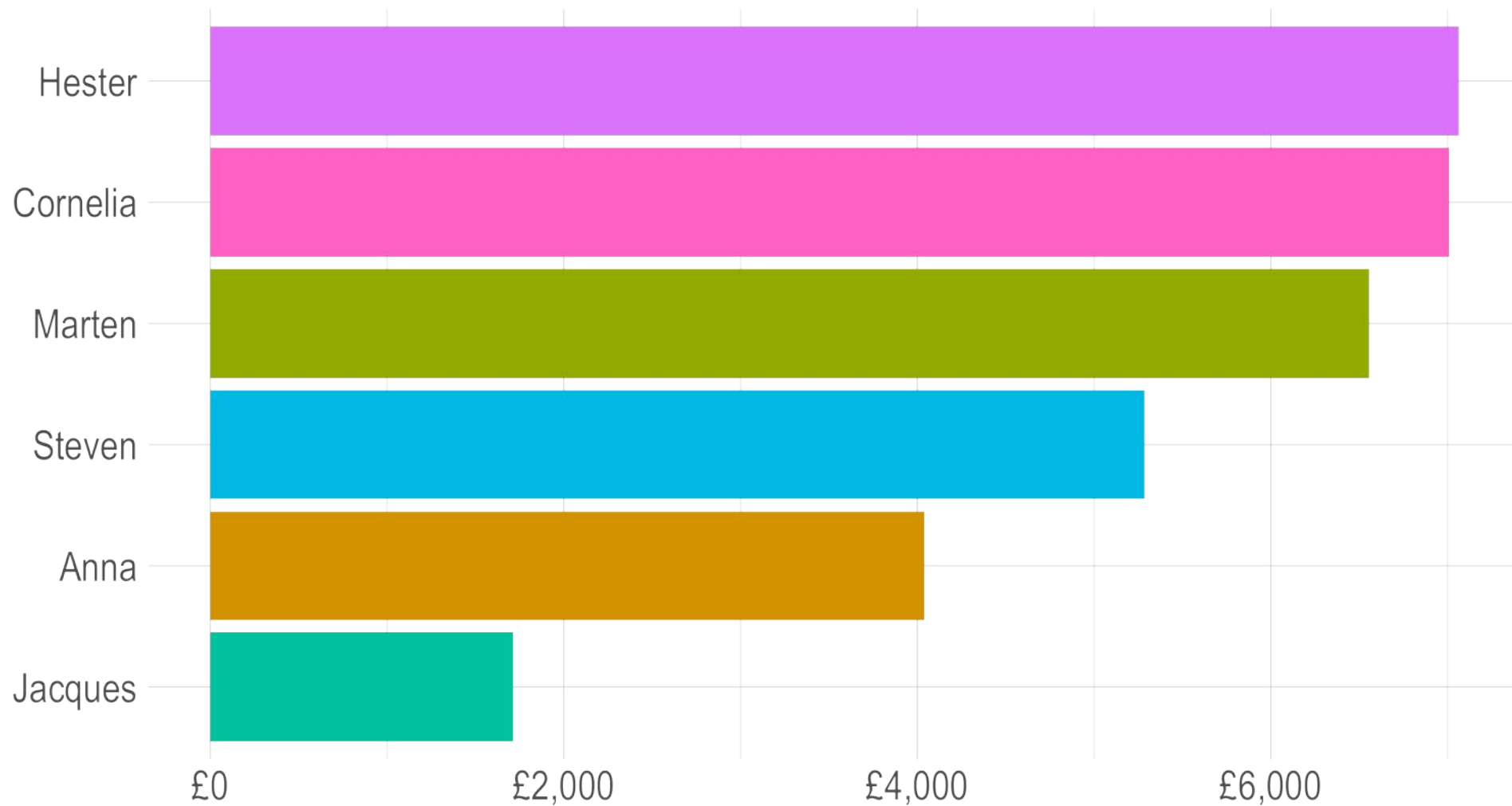
Inheritance of the heirs of Jan de Oude, 1582–1594
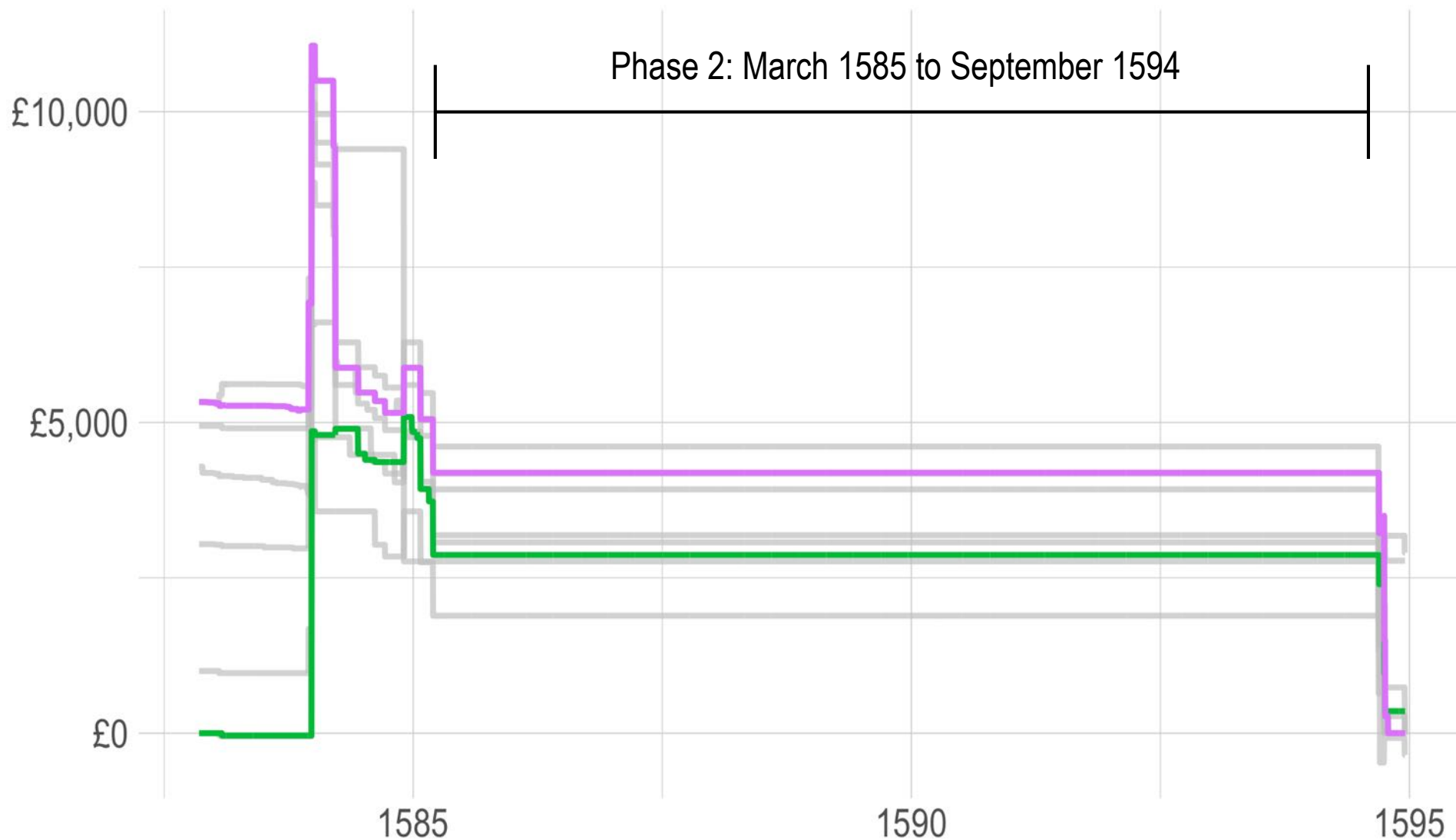
Highlighting the inheritance of Hester and Carlo

Phase 1: Novemeber 1582 to March 1585
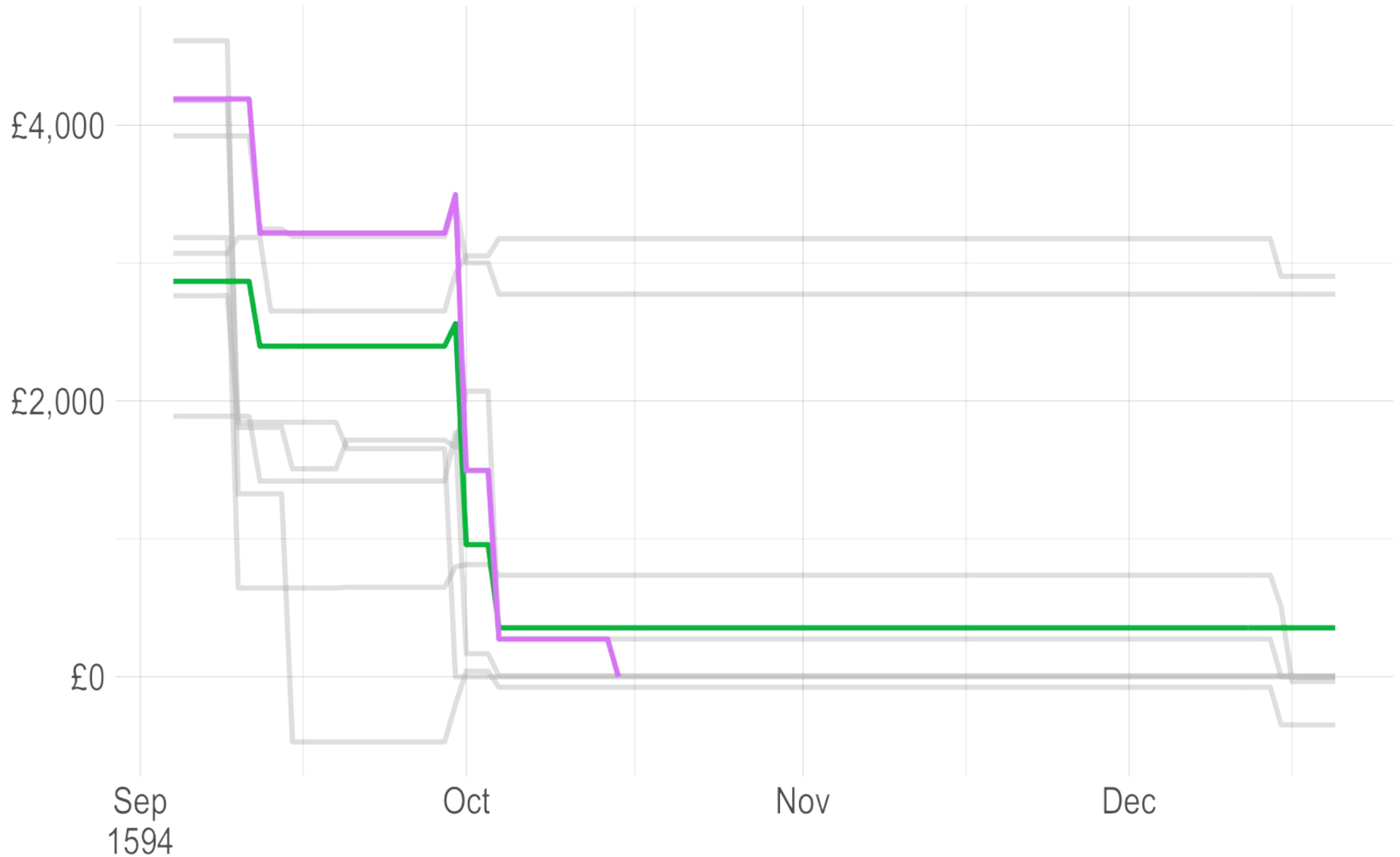
Highlighting the inheritance of Hester and Carlo

Inheritance of the heirs of Jan de Oude, 1582–1594

Highlighting the inheritance of Hester and Carlo
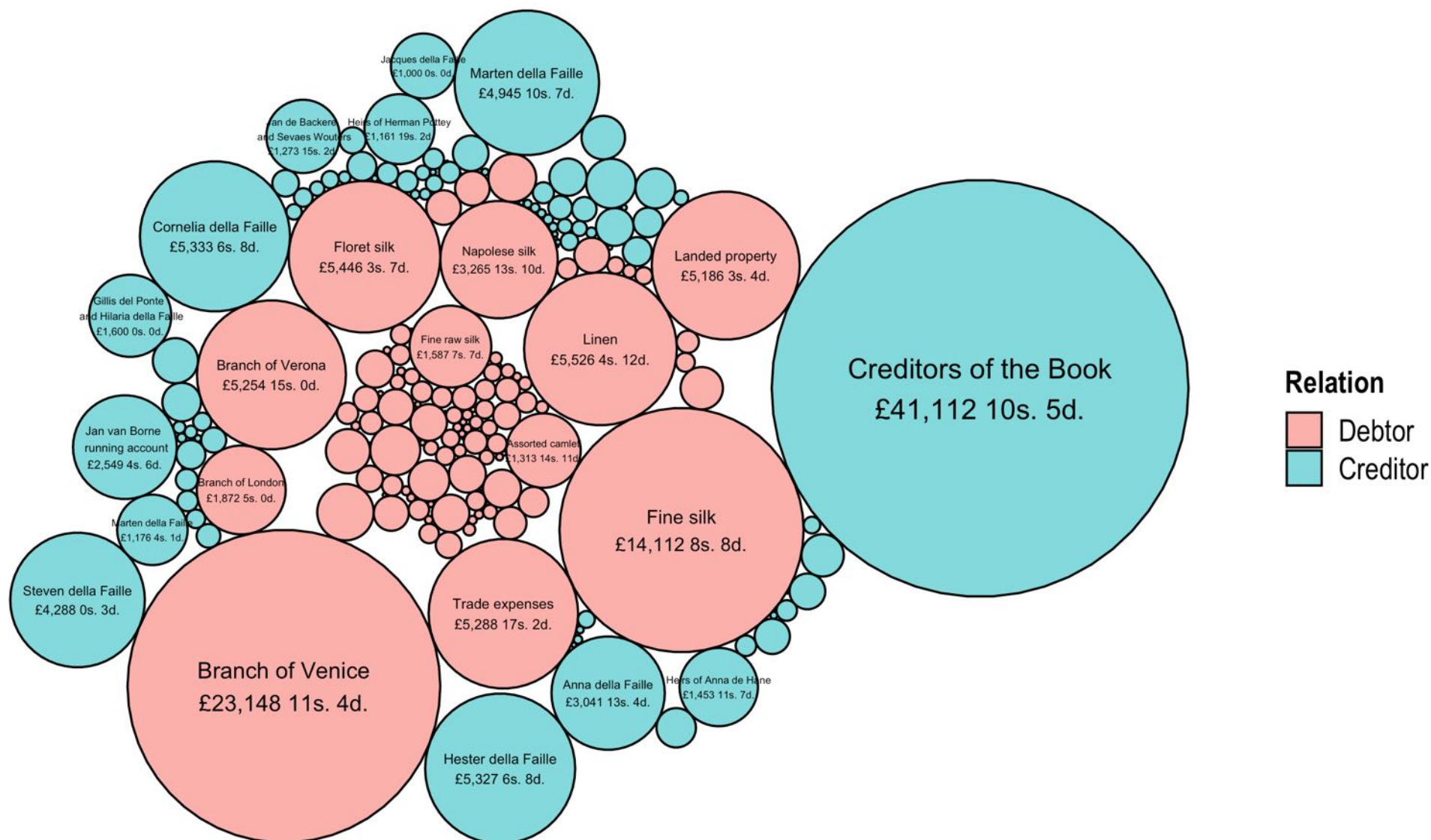
Phase 3: September to December 1594
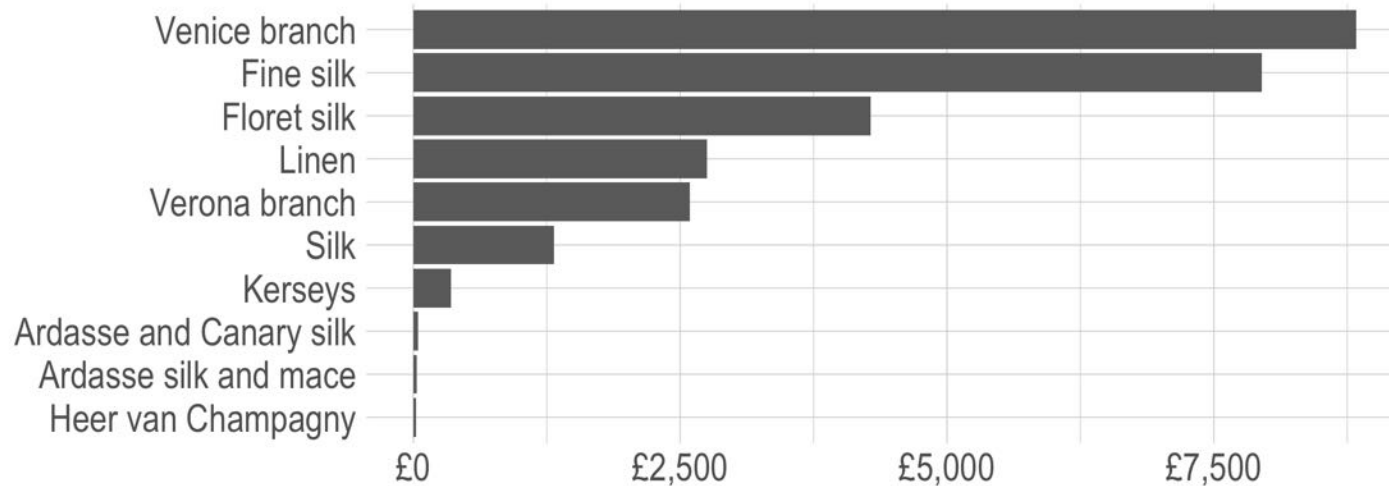
Highlighting the inheritance of Hester and Carlo

Value of accounts in the estate of Jan della Faille de Oude, 8 December 1582

Opening value of the estate: £82,813 5s. 8d.

Jacques della Faille
£1,000 0s. 0d.

Marten della Faille
£4,945 10s. 7d.

Jan de Backere
and Sevaes Wouters
£1,273 15s. 2d.

Heirs of Herman Pottey
£1,161 19s. 2d.

Cornelia della Faille
£5,333 6s. 8d.

Floret silk
£5,446 3s. 7d.

Napolese silk
£3,265 13s. 10d.

Landed property
£5,186 3s. 4d.

Gillis del Ponte
and Hilaria della Faille
£1,600 0s. 0d.

Branch of Verona
£5,254 15s. 0d.

Fine raw silk
£1,587 7s. 7d.

Linen
£5,526 4s. 12d.

Creditors of the Book
£41,112 10s. 5d.

Jan van Borne
running account
£2,549 4s. 6d.

Branch of London
£1,872 5s. 0d.

Assorted camlet
£1,313 14s. 11d.

Marten della Faille
£1,176 4s. 1d.

Fine silk
£14,112 8s. 8d.

Steven della Faille
£4,288 0s. 3d.

Trade expenses
£5,288 17s. 2d.

Branch of Venice
£23,148 11s. 4d.

Anna della Faille
£3,041 13s. 4d.

Heirs of Anna de Hane
£1,453 11s. 7d.

Hester della Faille
£5,327 6s. 8d.
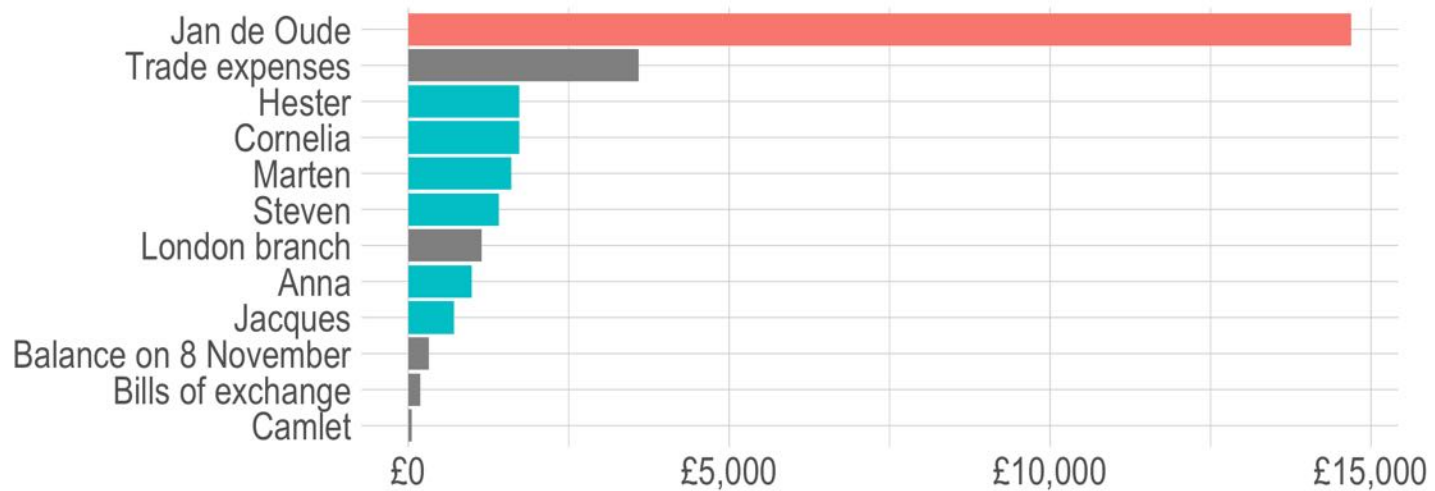
Relation

Debtor
Creditor

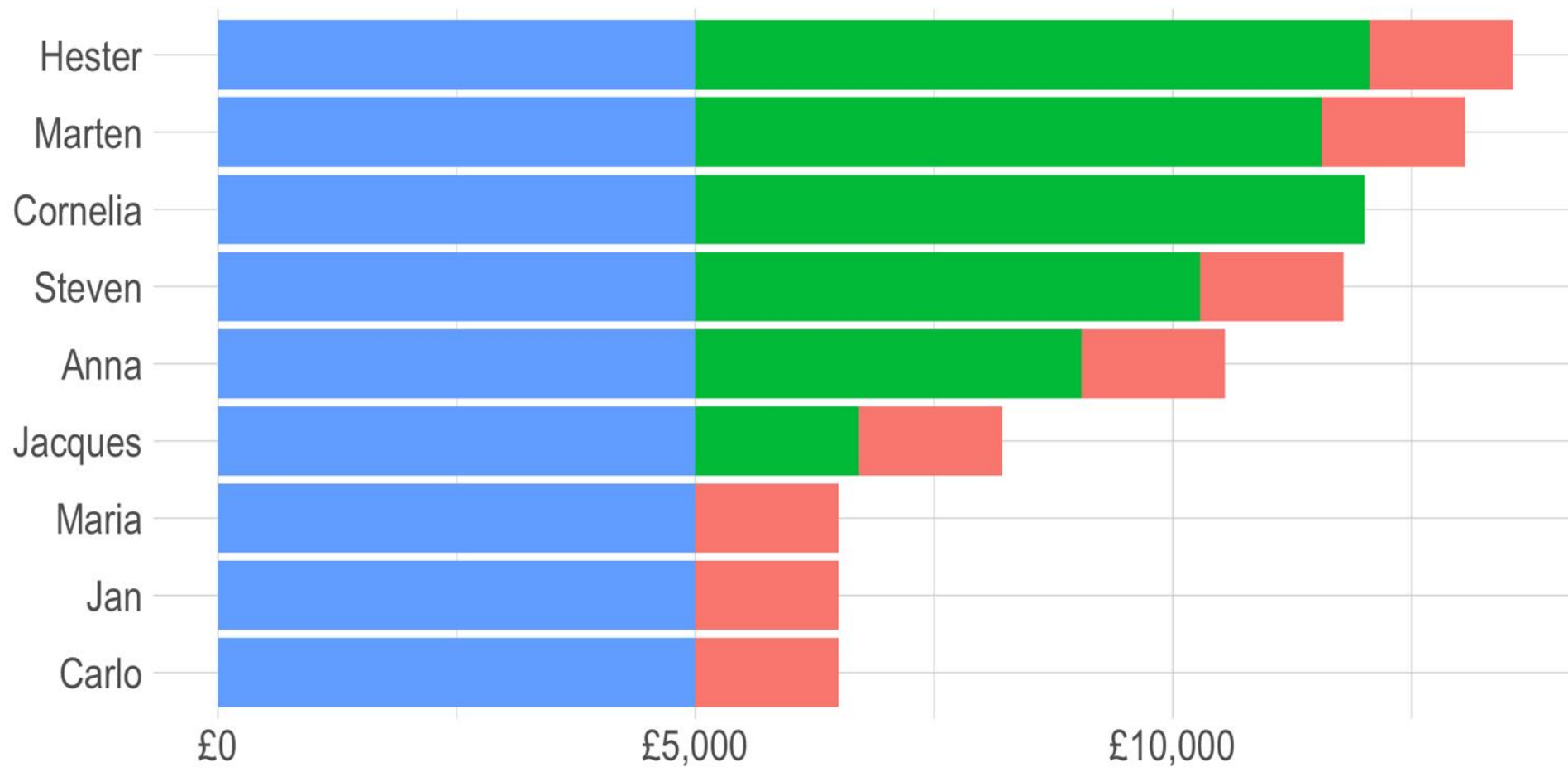## Sources of profits, 1579 to 15 Dec 1583

Distribution of Paternal and Maternal profits

With some expenses/losses

# **Paternal**, **Maternal**, and **Sororal** inheritance on 26 Dec 1583

To Jan della Faille de Jonge's account of his paternal inheritance for his one-ninth part in the goods left by his deceased father, Jan della Faille, which is assigned to him through rough estimation. The inheritance will be paid as it is received and recovered. The capital remains in trade, debts, and other forms of outstanding capital. It is spread in London, Italy, as well as in transportation by sea, and coming and going by land. If in the end it is found that Jan della Faille is owed more for his inheritance, this will be added. If it is determined that there is less than he is here made creditor through misfortune of bad debts, loss of goods, or other inconveniences, which may happen to the outstanding debts and goods, his portion in the estate will be placed in debit for a proportional amount.
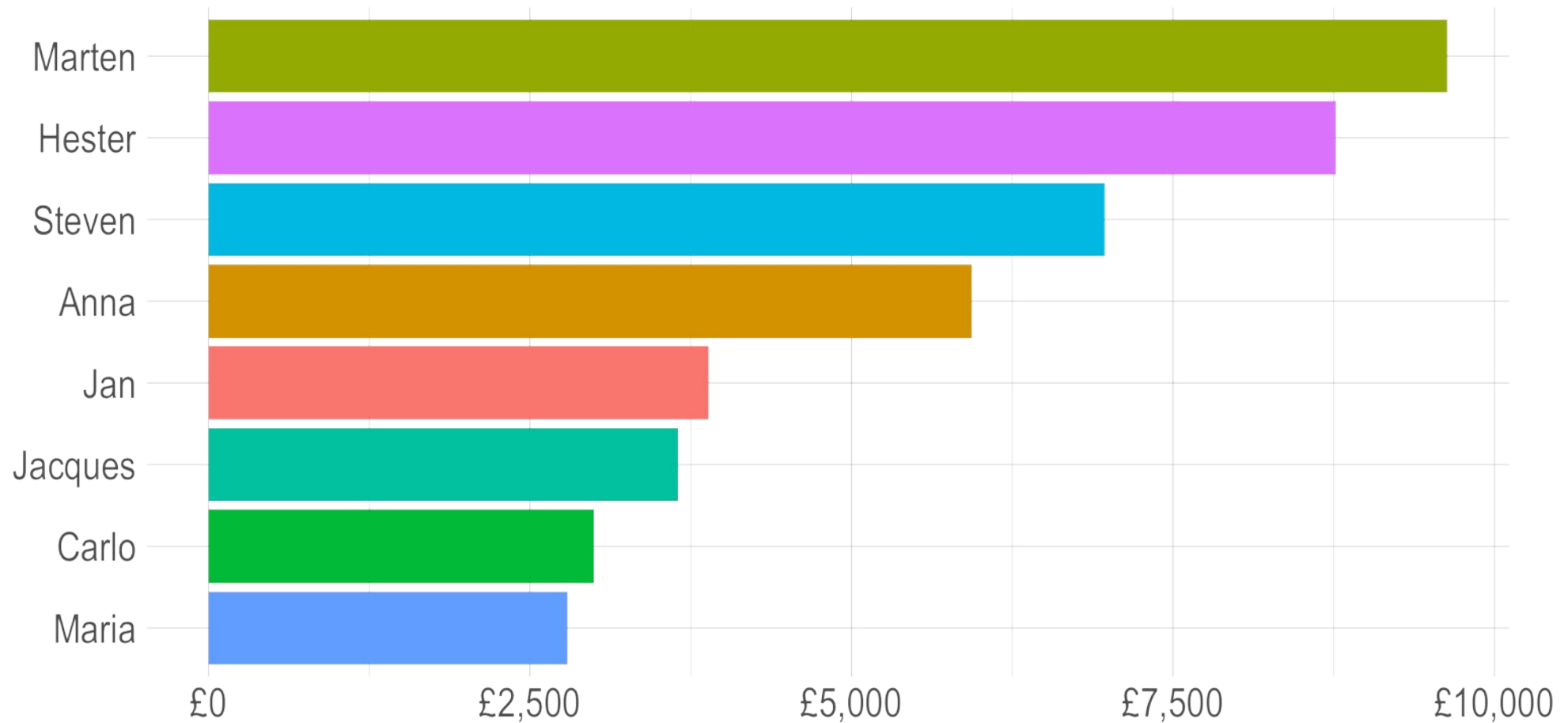
Phase 1: Novemeber 1582 to March 1585

Highlighting the inheritance of Hester and Carlo
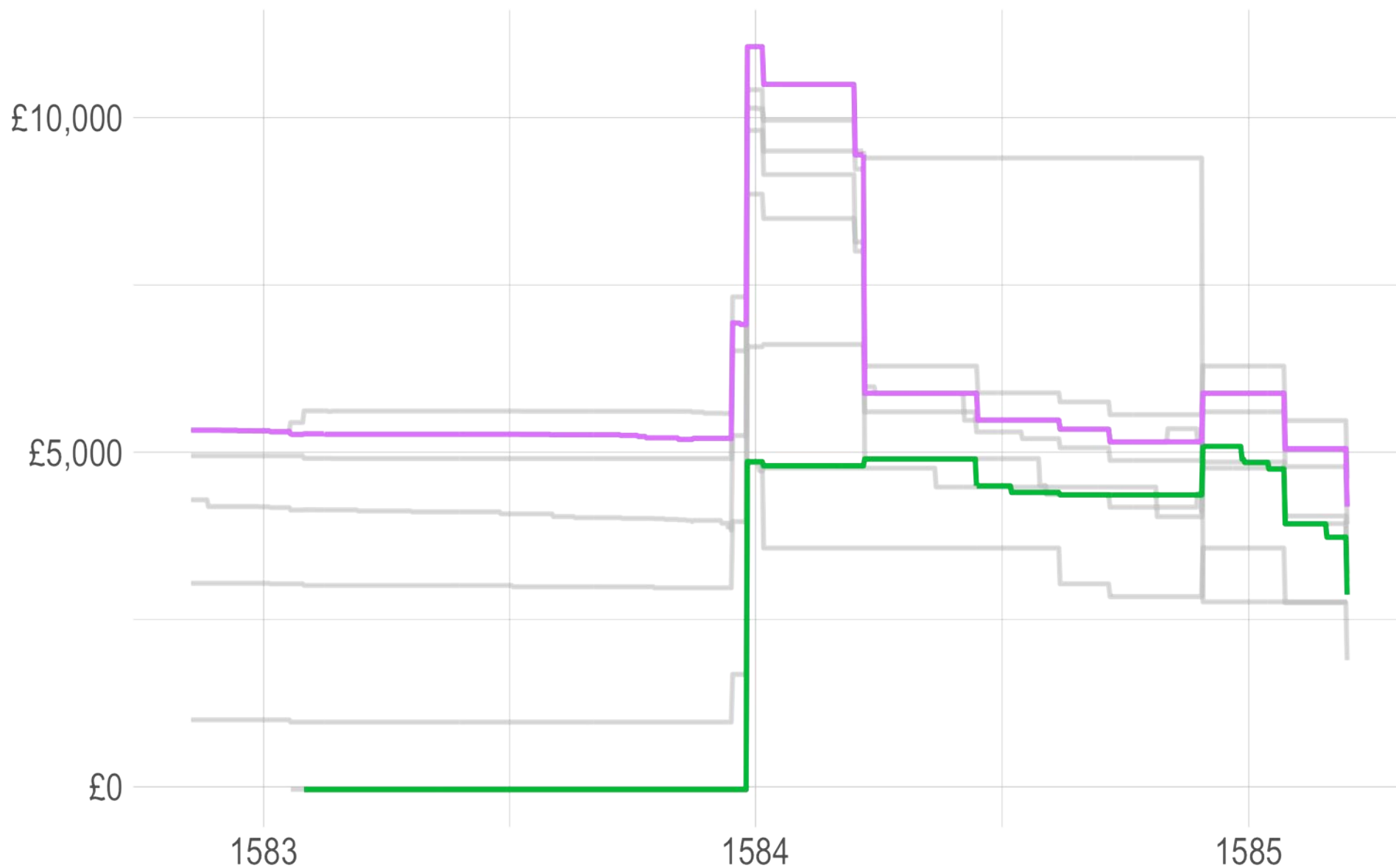
Total disbursement of inheritance

8 November 1582 to 15 March 1585

Subgraph of the branches in the trade of Jan de Oude

8 November 1582 to 15 March 1585

Heirs

- Jan
- Anna
- Marten
- Carlo
- Jacques
- Steven
- Maria
- Hester
- Cornelia
- Other

Total debit

- £0
- £20,000
- £40,000
- £60,000

Transactions

- → £10,000
- → £20,000
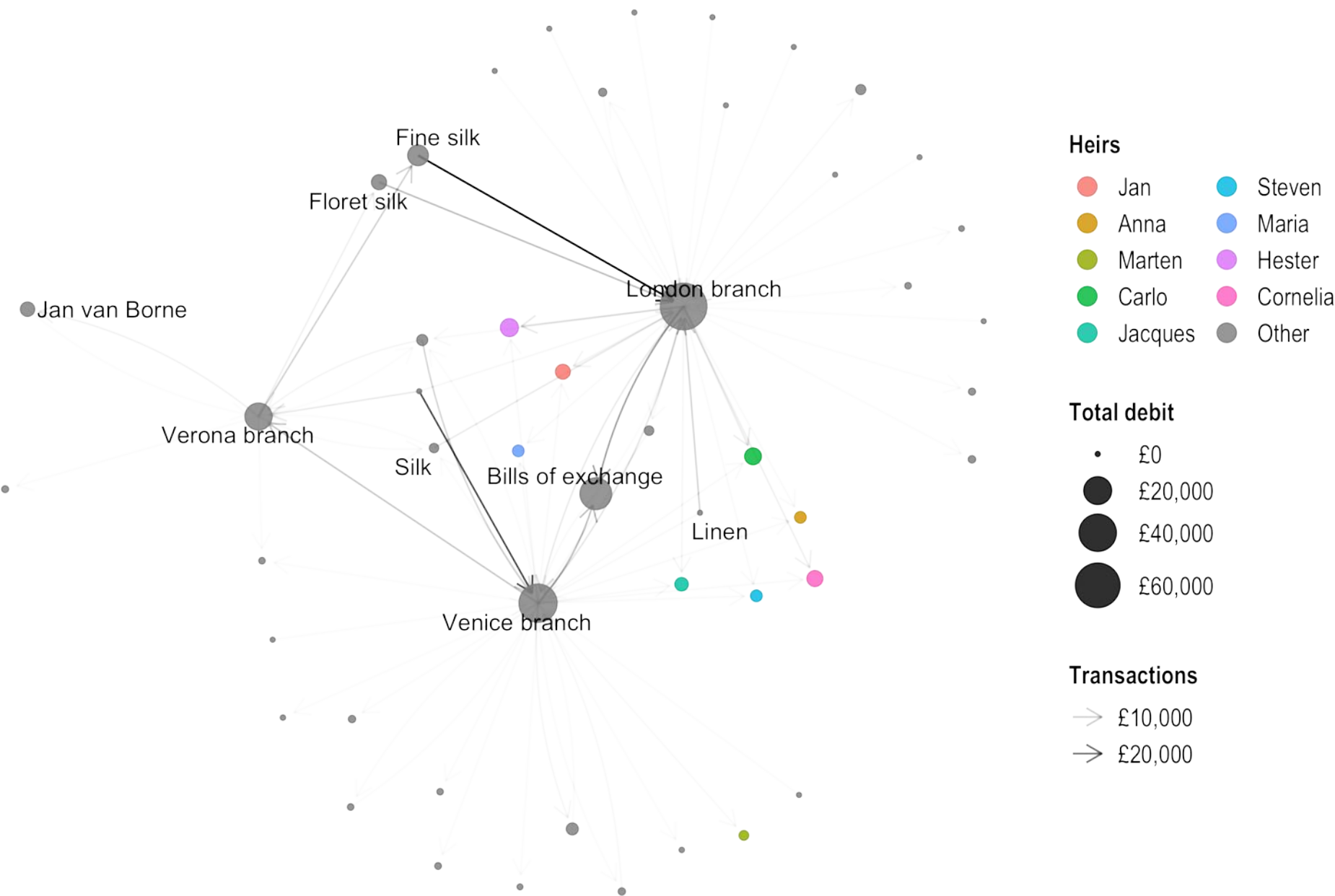
Capital held by the branches of London, Venice, and Verona

8 November 1582 to 15 March 1585
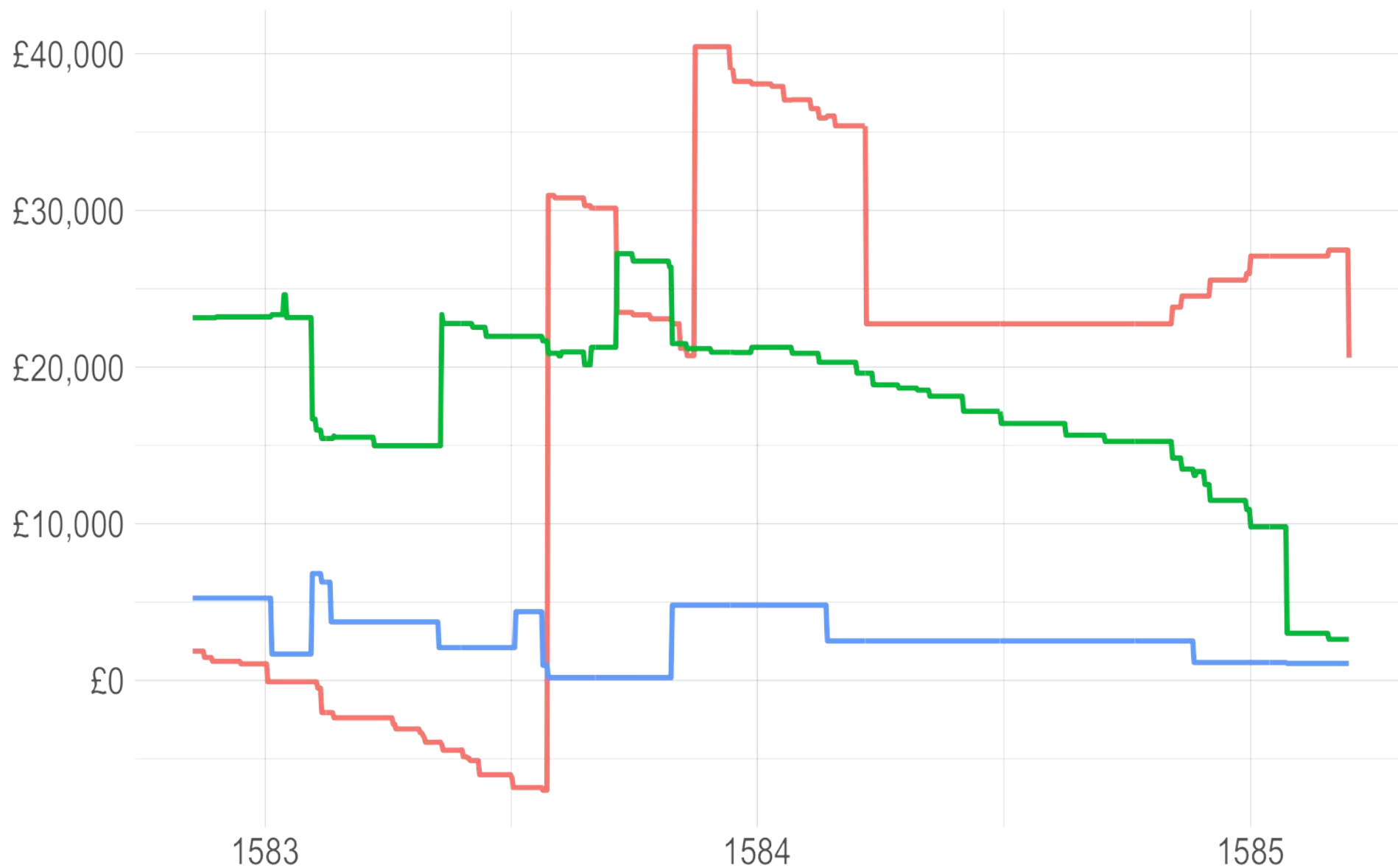
Inheritance of the heirs of Jan de Oude, 1582–1594

Highlighting the inheritance of Hester and Carlo

Phase 2: March 1585 to September 1594

Marten della Faille
(1544/5–1620)
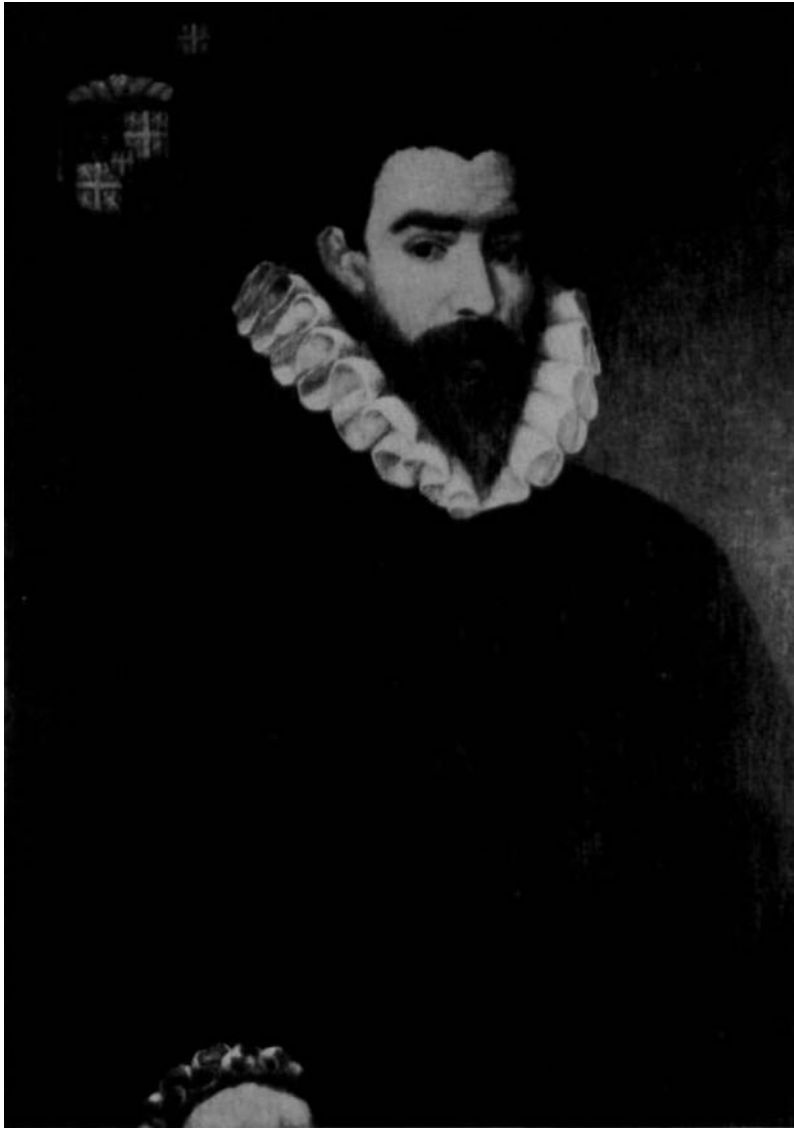
Jacques della Faille
(1549/50–1615)

Subgraph of the inheritance from London, 1594
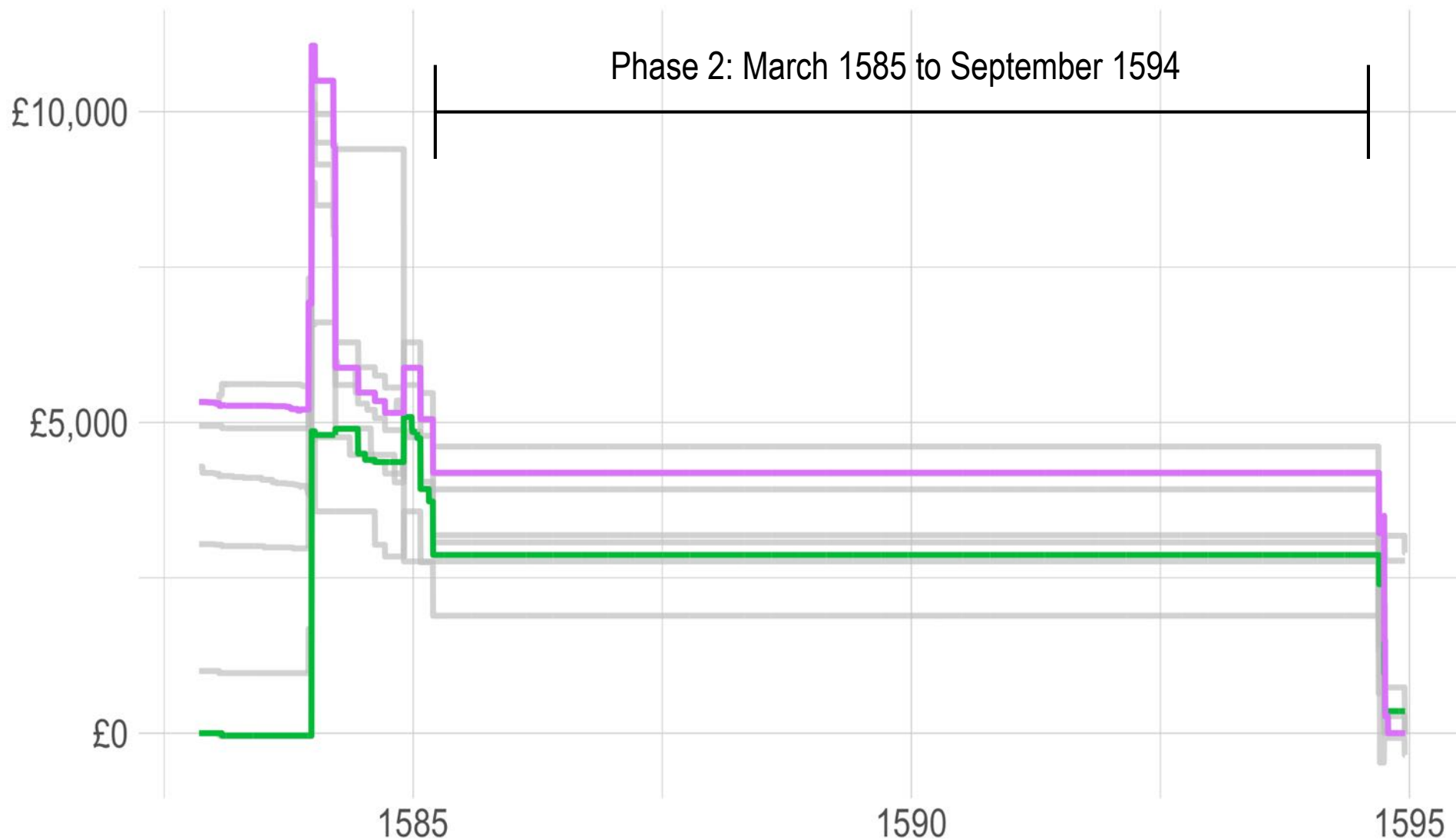

Heirs

- Jan
- Anna
- Marten
- Carlo
- Jacques
- Steven
- Maria
- Hester
- Cornelia
- Other

Transactions

- £5,000
- £10,000
- £15,000
- £20,000

Total debit

- £0
- £5,000
- £10,000
- £15,000
- £20,000

Marten
Anna
Marten, Steven, and Anna
Cornelia
Steven
Maria
English wool
Marten
Carlo
Maria
Jacques, Jan, Carlo, and Hester
Branch of London
Profits and losses
Hester
Hester
Branch of London
Jacques
Jan
Anna
Steven
Expenses of English wool
Jan de Wale
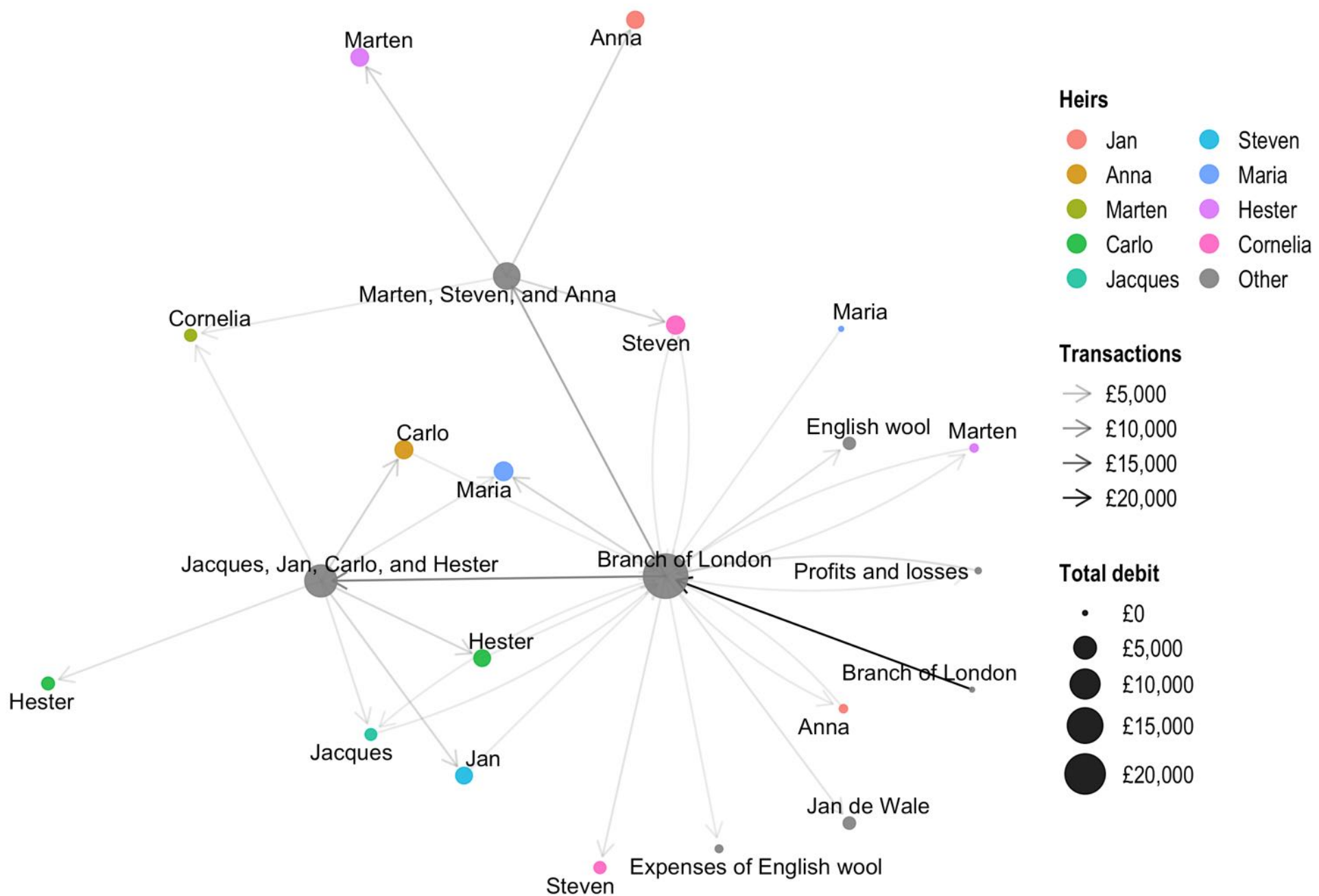
Daniel van der Meulen
(1554–1600)

Hester della Faille
(c. 1558–1643)

DANIEL. VANDER.
MEVLEN.
A.°1583.

HESTER.DELLA
FAILLE.
A.°1583.

Phase 3: September to December 1594

Highlighting the inheritance of Hester and Carlo
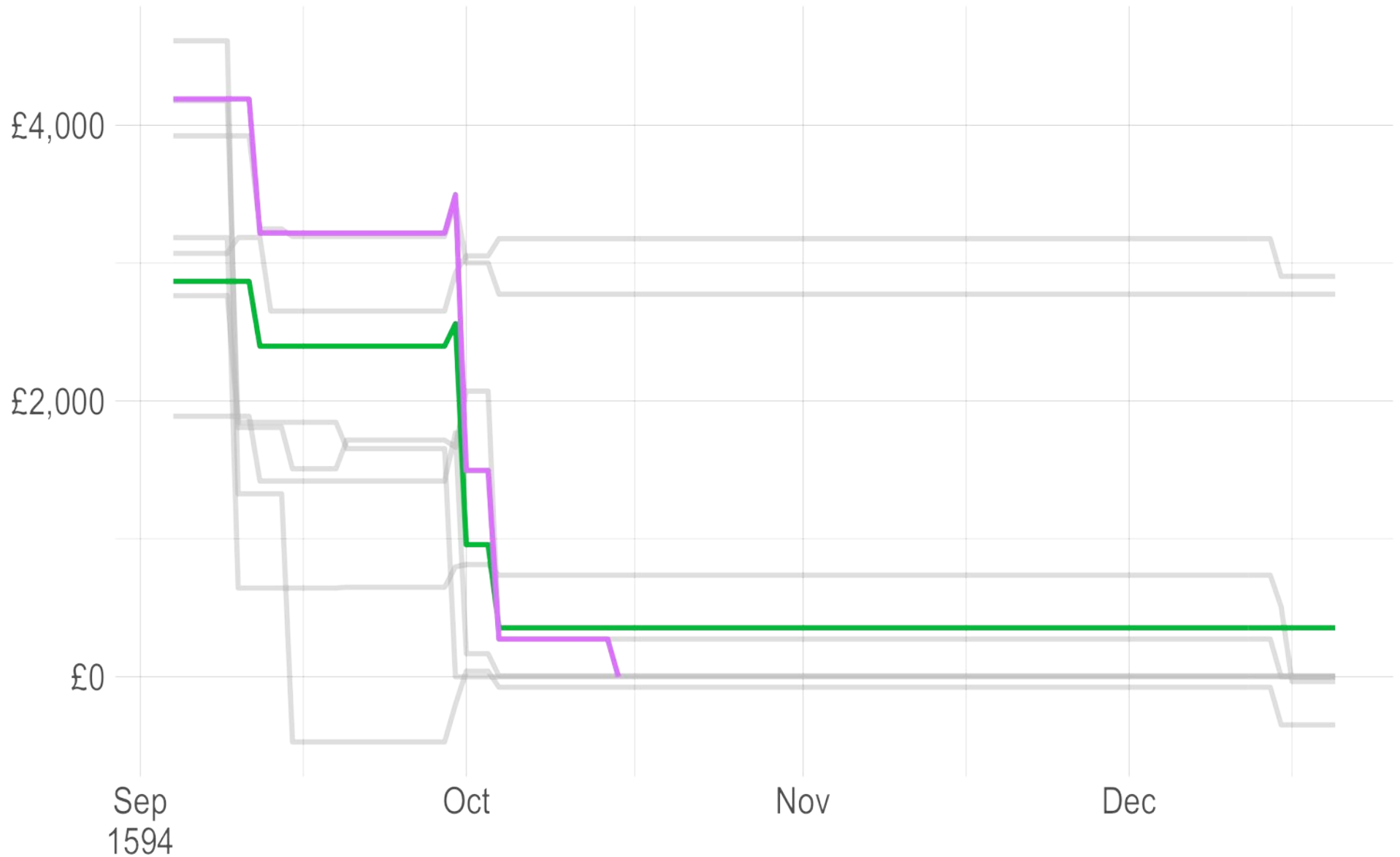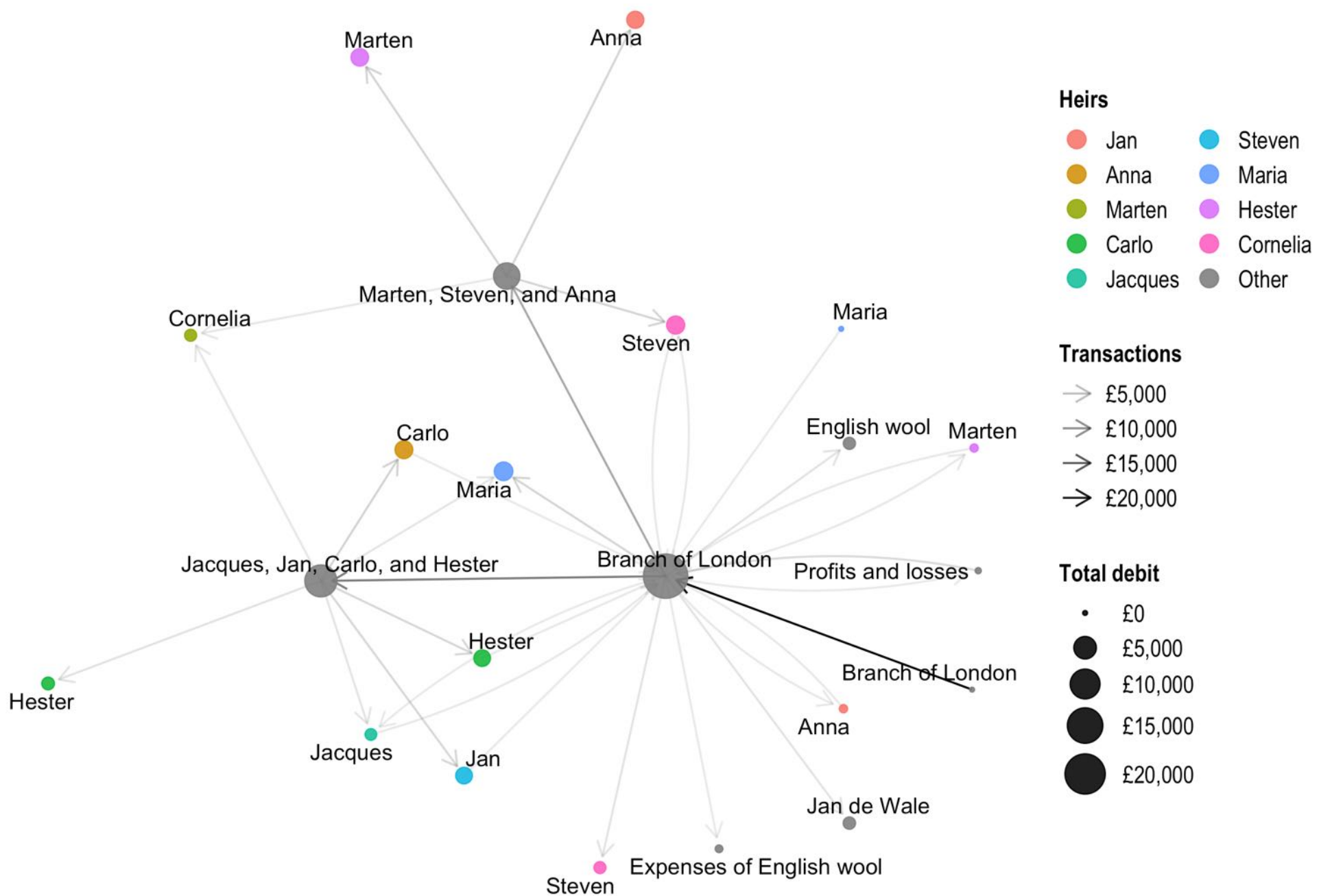
Subgraph of the inheritance from London, 1594

Heirs

- Jan
- Anna
- Marten
- Carlo
- Jacques
- Steven
- Maria
- Hester
- Cornelia
- Other

Transactions

- £5,000
- £10,000
- £15,000
- £20,000

Total debit

- £0
- £5,000
- £10,000
- £15,000
- £20,000

Marten

Anna

Marten, Steven, and Anna

Cornelia

Steven

Maria

English wool   Marten

Carlo

Maria

Jacques, Jan, Carlo, and Hester   Branch of London   Profits and losses

Hester

Branch of London

Hester

Jacques

Jan

Anna

Jan de Wale

Steven   Expenses of English wool
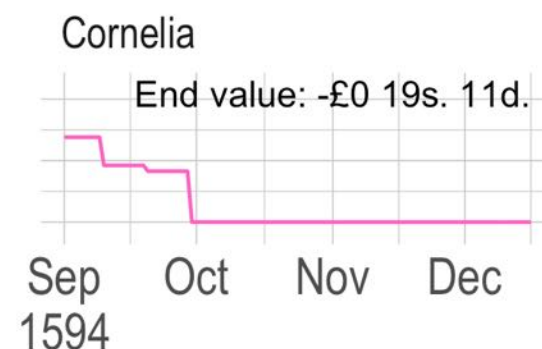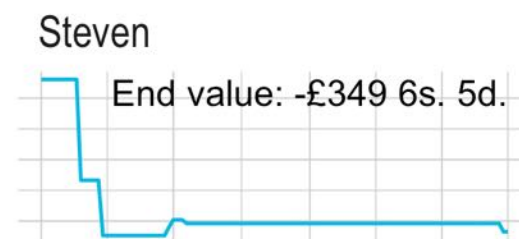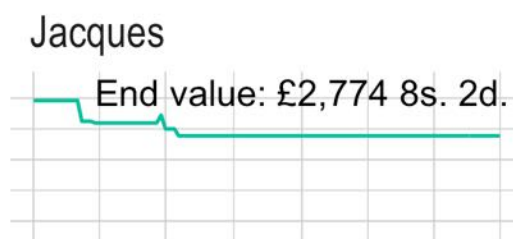
Value of accounts in the estate of Jan della Faille de Oude, 31 December 1594

Capital remaining in the estate at the close of the books: £9,768 1s. 8d.

Heirs of
Anna de Hane
£2,137 7s. 5d.

Steven della Faille
£349 6s. 5d.

Marten, Steven,
and Anna
£433 2s. 3d.

Carlo della Faille
£354 10s. 8d.

Jacques, Jan,
Carlo, and Hester
£2,115 8s. 2d.

Heirs of Maria
£1,272 3s. 6d.

Expenses of
English wool
£295 0s. 4d.

Branch of Venice
£893 10s. 1d.

Written off
£200 8s. 3d.

Heirs of Maria
£2,989 3s. 5d.

Lawsuit against
Daniel de Hane
£213 2s. 8d.

Jacques della Faille
£2,774 8s. 2d.

Creditors of
the Book
£230 7s. 8d.

Heirs of
Gilles Hasebaert
£305 6s. 8d.

Heirs of Anna de Hane
£2,137 7s. 5d.

Heirs of
Anna de Hane
£305 6s. 8d.

Heirs of Maria
£1,631 12s. 10d.

Relation

Debtor
Creditor

Inheritance due to the heirs of Jan de Oude

September 1594 to 16 December 1594

Jan — End value: £6 5s. 8d.

Anna — End value: £0 0s. 2d.

Marten — End value: -£35 0s. 2d.

Carlo — End value: £354 10s. 8d.

Jacques — End value: £2,774 8s. 2d.

Steven — End value: -£349 6s. 5d.

Maria — End value: £2,903 16s. 4d.

Hester — End value: £0 0s. 0d.

Cornelia — End value: -£0 19s. 11d.
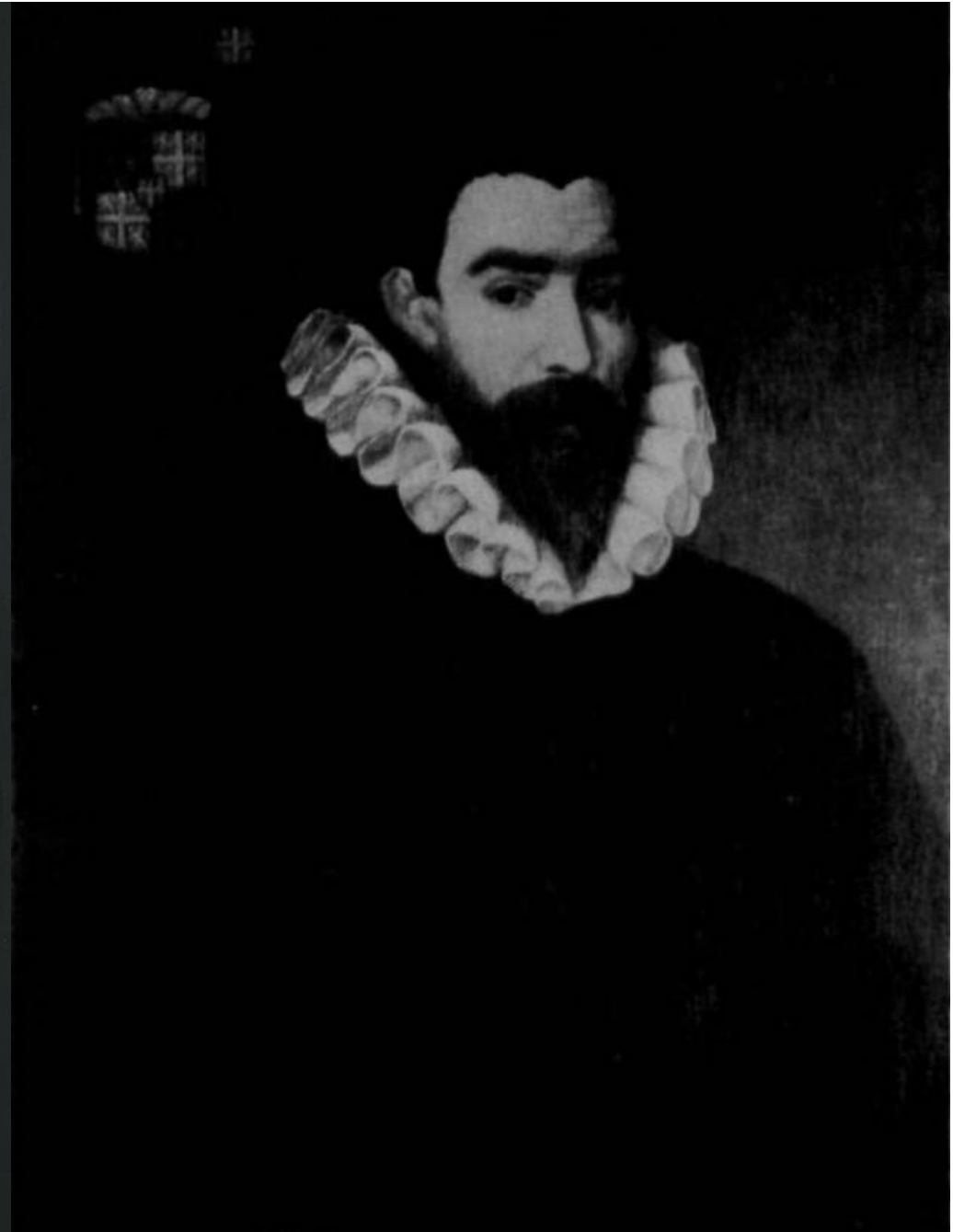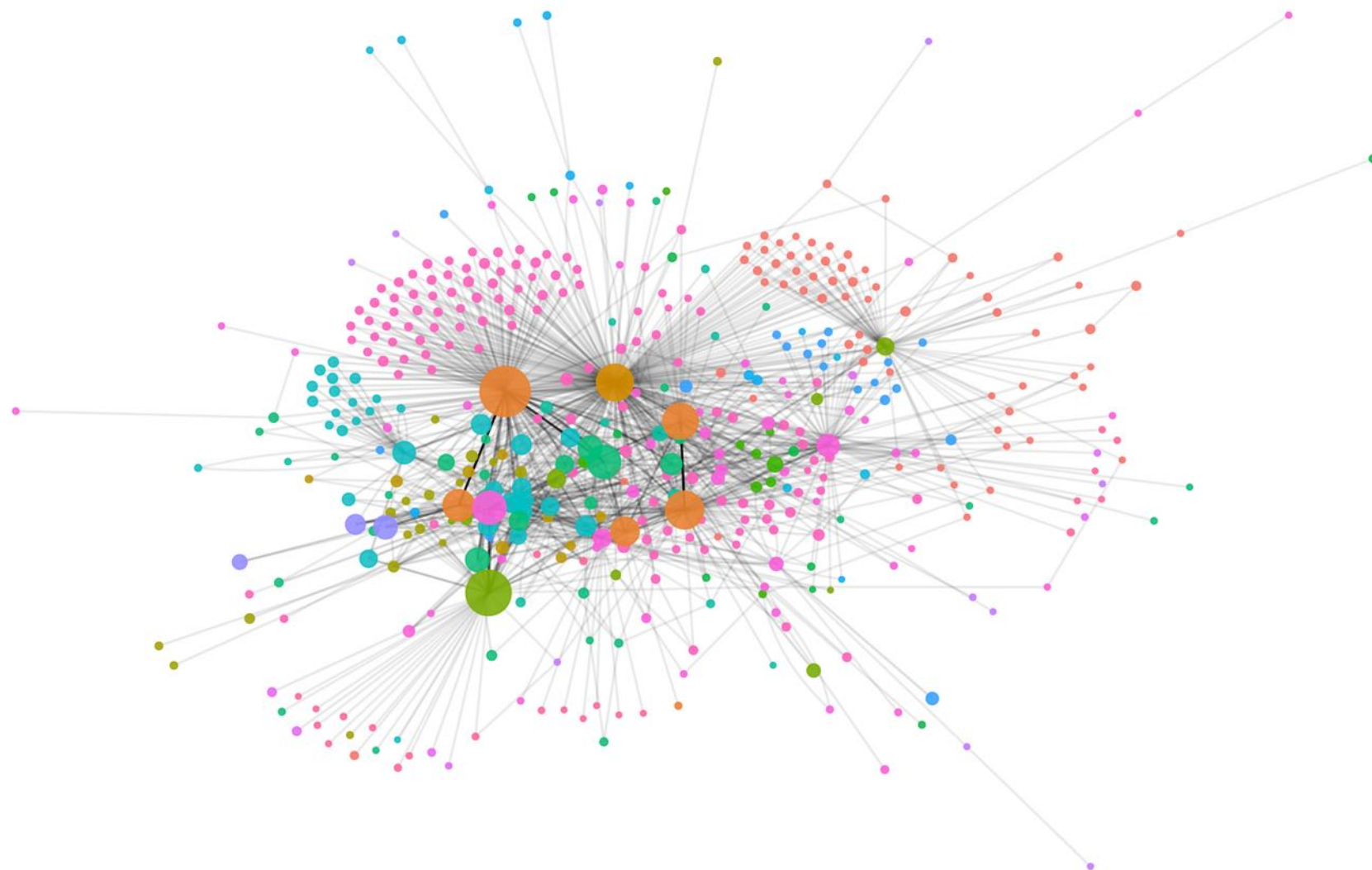
Daniel van der Meulen
(1554–1600)

Marten della Faille
(1544/5–1620)

Estate of Jan della Faille de Oude, 1582–1594

Account types

Bequest Branch Cassa Company Erffgoed Estate Factor Giovane Goods Heir

Inheritance Kin Law Loan London Inheritance Miscellaneous Political Trade Wissel Written off