

David, by the grace of God King of Scots, to all good men of his whole land, greeting. Since it has come to our ears by a trustworthy report that the merchants of England, and those of Berwick and Roxburgh who are ~~the~~ <sup>at the</sup> peace of the King of England, purchase and take away from our kingdom wool, hides and other goods and merchandise for which customs are due to us but on which they pay no customs to us, by reason that our burgh of Haddington and the customars thereof happen to be further from the borders of our kingdom than is expedient in those times: We, therefore, wishing to provide a remedy herefor, and out of consideration for our beloved cousin George, Earl of March, have granted and at present grant that the said earl and his heirs, Earls of March, may have a free burgh at Dunbar and free burgesses dwelling in the said burgh enjoying the full freedom of burgesses, buying hides, skins, wool and any other merchandise whatsoever accustomed to be bought and sold in the other burghs of our kingdom, and that they may have a public mercat cross and cause it to be erected and hold a market there every Monday for wool, skins and hides and the other merchandise aforesaid, and that our customars should be appointed in our said burgh by the authority of us and of heirs and successors, and that they have a tron for weighing wool and a cocket and free harbour at Belhaven, with free entry and exit of ships and merchandise as are known to be had in other harbours of our kingdom, will all other freedoms, commodities, easements and rightful pertinents which can or ought of right to pertain to a free burgh and harbour: in such wise that our customars thus to be appointed in the said burgh of Dunbar are to receive custom of the goods and merchandise nought and loaded at the said harbour at Belhaven, as well of wool, skins and woollfells as others, to the use of us and our heirs and successors, and shall be held to make account and reckoning therefor in our exchequer each year, and shall cause to be made to each merchant a cocket of the goods thus loaded and sold, which cocket we will and command to be allowed in our exchequer. We will moreover that the said burgh of Dunbar shall have for its bounds the whole earldom of March, in such wise that the burgesses of our burgh of Haddington may buy wool, skins, hides and other merchandise as above within the said earldom, making payment therefor of custom and other duties to our customars to be appointed as above in the said burgh of Dunbar, taking their cocket at Dunbar: and in like manner the burgesses of Dunbar may buy within the bounds of the said burgh of Haddington wool, skins and hides and others aforesaid, paying likewise custom and other duties accustomed in such cases at the same burgh of Haddington and taking their cocket there. In witness whereof etc. Witnesses etc. [At Edinburgh <sup>on the</sup> 8 February in the fortieth year of our reign] (1370).

(Cocket - the seal of a custom-house, or a document sealed with it and delivered to a merchant)

The Charter is an interesting document, clearly showing the difficulties arising from the continued occupation of Berwick and Roxburgh by the English, and showing also that one of the more important functions of a burgh was to serve as a point for the collection of customs.