<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title:</strong></th>
<th>James VI of Scotland Letter, 1579</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator:</strong></td>
<td>James VI, King of Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dates of Material:</strong></td>
<td>1579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary of Contents:</strong></td>
<td>1 letter signed by, and under the privy seal of King James VI of Scotland, measures 29 ½ x 20 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Description / Condition:</strong></td>
<td>The edges of the letter are jagged and the paper was folded at one time. The paper is grey with age and there appears to be slight water damaged. The red wax seal is somewhat worn, but still partially intact. Some of the writing is faded and difficult to read. There is writing on both sides of the letter and the outer side has been taped.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Other Notes:** | This letter authorizes William Hamilton of Portmollart to repair to Edinburgh notwithstanding the acts discharging the Hamitlons from being within six miles of the King’s person. James VI and James I (June 19, 1566 – March 27, 1625) was King of Scots as James VI from July 24th, 1567 and King of England and Ireland as James I from the union of the English and Scottish crowns on March 24, 1603 after the passing of Elizabeth I.  
Transcription of the letter: Rex.  
We be the termes hereof with avise of the lordis of secrete counsale gevis and grantis licence to William Hamiltoun of Port Mollart to repaire to our burgh of Edinburgh utherwyse in any uther part within this oure realme to do his lefull erandes and bissyynes at his pleasure and will and grantis that he sall incur na skaith nor danger thairthrow in his persoun landis guidis nor gere. Nor salbe callit accusit or troublit thairsoever be ony maner of way in tyme coming notwithstanding the lait acts and our proclamationis maid thairent inhibiting all personis of the surname of Hamiltoun to repaire within sex myles to oure persoun or residence or any uther actes or proclamationes maid in the contrair
or ony paines contenit thairin anent the quhilkis we dispens with the said
William be this presentis dischairging all and sundrie our judgeis and
officiareis or all calling accusing or unlawing or onywyse proceding againis
the said William poinding troubling or onywyse intrometting with him his
landis guidis or geir for the said causes and of thair offices in that pairt
.... Gevin under our signet and ... subscrivit with oure hand at
oure palace of Halyruedhouse the xxvi Day of November and of our regne in
the threttent yere. 1579.

Location: Brock University Archives

Source Information: Donated by Dr. David H. Caldwell on November 6, 2009

This was a personal gift given to Dr. Caldwell by his history teacher in
Ardrossan, Ayrshire in the 1960s. His understanding is that it came from the
Cunninghame of Auchenharvie papers. It was apparently in the possession of
a lawyer in the neighbouring town of Saltcoats. The letter was saved from the
dump at the last minute by one or more well intentioned individuals.

Described by: Anne Adams | Date: April, 2012