

Addressed to: Mr Joshua Johnston in Stromness

From: Rob^t Laing Esq^r, Kirkw^{ll} 22nd Dec^r 1770 & for purchasing estate of Coubister

Kirkwall 22nd Dec^r 1770

Sir,

I have your favour of the 19th last this day. Your brother wrote me on the subject you mention but untill I had heard from you cared not give him a satisfactory reply. I look upon all lands in this country to be in value according to the sup^r duty it pays. Will you therefore be pleased to make me out a rent roll of the crops rent & also what is payable out of that crops rent to the sup^r so that I may see what is free to the master. Will you also be pleased to let me know if M^r Halcrow is (???) heir to his predecessors in those lands & if he is in feft & whether his papers is in London or Orkney. If the latter should wish to have the perusall of them or if with him should direct my attorney to look into them. You know all of this is necessary before one can advance money upon an heritable subject. You may depend that nothing shall transpire with me & you may have the affair, for was burried in oblivion if the transaction does not take place. I am told M^r Halcro has married your daughter, if so I wish you joy of your son in law. My kind respects to M^{rs} Johnston & I am with respect

Sir

Your obd^t hble serv^t

Robert Laing