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Title	A proclamation anent passes ... Given under our signet at Edinburgh, the sixth day of March, and of our reign, the twenty-ninth year, 1677
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A PROCLAMATION

Anent Passes.

CHARLES by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, To Our Lyon King at Arms, and his Brethren Heralds, Maces, Purlevants, or Messengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly, and severally, specially constitute, Greeting; Forasmuch as the Lords of Our Privy Council, having, in obedience to Our Commands in Our Letters, and in the several Articles and Instructions therewith sent, relating to the giving of Passes hereafter to all the Ships and Vessels belonging to this Kingdom, I thought fit that all possible Care be taken to prevent the Fraud of Passes, and the covering the Trade of Forraigners: And that therefore, the Granting of Passes be intrusted to as few hands as is possible, nor to difficultate the Course of Trade and Commerce; For which cause, they have appointed only three Districts for granting of Passes within this Kingdom, *viz.* The District of *Edinburgh*, which is to comprehend all the Ports, Places, and Creeks from *Edinburgh* to *Port-patrick*, *inclusivè* Westward; all thelike from *Edinburgh* to *Eymouth*, *inclusivè* Southward; all the Ports, Places, and Creeks from *Edinburgh* to *Aberdeen*, *exclusivè* Northward: Therein comprehending all Ports, Places and Creeks upon the River of *Forth*, and others reaching North to the River of *Tay*, and all such like upon the River of *Tay*, and all others such like to the Port of *Aberdeen*, *exclusivè*. The second to be the District of *Aberdeen* for the Port of *Aberdeen*, and all the Ports, Places, and Creeks be North *Aberdeen*. The third to be for the Port of *Kirkwall*, and all other Ports, Places, and Creeks belonging to the Islands of *Orkney* and *Zeland*, and have appointed the Passes within the District of *Edinburgh*, to be given by the Lord Provost of *Edinburgh* for the time being. That the Passes within the District of *Aberdeen*, be given by the Provost of *Aberdeen*, for the time being. And that the Passes within the District of *Orkney*, be given by the Stewart of *Orkney*, or his Deputes. And that the Passes within the District of *Edinburgh*, be Written and Sealed by the Town-Clerk of *Edinburgh*, or his Deputes. That these of *Aberdeen*, be by the Town-Clerk of *Aberdeen*. And these of *Orkney*, by the Stewart-Clerk of *Orkney*. And We, with the Advice of the saids Lords, have discharged, and do hereby discharge, all Skippers, Mariners and Sea-men, to sail forth of any Road, Creek, or Harbour of this Kingdom, in any voyage, without having the Passe aforesaid, as they will be answerable at their peril; And all Magistrates and others concerned, are hereby Ordained to see these presents receive due and punctual Execution: And they, and all other persons whatsoever, are hereby discharged, To take upon them to Grant any Passes, except the Magistrates of the Districts aforesaid, in the particular Terms and Form enjoyned by Our Printed Instructions. And We do hereby Recall, and Declare void, all Passes formerly granted by any Magistrates, or any other particular person whatsoever, preceeding the date hereof. And to the effect the Ships in the several Districts aforesaid may be exactly surveyed, conform to the saids printed Instructions, The Lords of Our Council have thought fit, That there shall be one General Surveyor appointed for the said Districts, who shall be obliged to survey all the Ships and Vessels therein from time to time, and who shall do the same by himself in person, and not by any Deput, except in case of sickness and infirmity, first made known to the Lords of Our Council, or their Committee; Except in the Districts of *Aberdeen* and *Orkney*, which is to be performed by his Deput, for whom he is to be answerable: And upon the Surveys made by him or his Deput aforesaid, they are hereby impowered to grant Certificats (conform to the particular Printed Instructions given by Us) to the several Merchants or Skippers in order to their Receiving Passes. And to the effect all Our Leiges may have notice of the Premises, OUR WILL is herefore, and We charge you straitly, and command, that incontinent these Our Letters seen, ye pass to the Mercat-Crofs of *Edinburgh*, and other Places needful, And thereat, in Our Name and Authority, by open Proclamation, make Publication of the premises, that all persons concerned may have notice thereof, and give punctual obedience thereto, as they will be answerable at their peril: Given under Our Signet at *Edinburgh*, the sixth day of *March*, and of Our Reign, the twenty ninth year, 1677.

Per Alium Dominorum Secreti Consilii.

Al. Gibson. Cl. S^{ci}. Concilii.

GOD Save the King.

Edinburgh, Printed by the Heir of Andrew Anderson, Printer to his most Sacred Majesty, Anno Dom. 1677.