

From: *The Earldom of Orkney and Lordship of Shetland: areinterpretation of their pledging in 1468-70* by Barbara Crawford.

APPENDIX

A translation of the charter of Christian I by which he pledged the islands of Shetland to Scotland, 28 May 1469.

Christian, by the grace of God King of Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the Slavs and the Goths, Duke of Sleswig and Count of Holstein, Stormarn, Oldenburgh and Dalmenhorst, to all and sundry who shall see our present letters, greeting and royal good wishes for increasing prosperity.

Since in our other letters given at the town of Havn on the eighth day of the month of September, one thousand four hundred and sixty-eight, to the ambassadors of the most excellent prince James, King of Scots, we promised and undertook that we would fully pay the sum of ten thousand florins of the Rhine, and give effectual satisfaction thereon in counted money before their return to the kingdom of Scotland from our kingdom of Denmark; but because, hindered by the insults of our enemies and rebels and by other unlooked for events, we are unable conveniently to pay from our exchequer the foresaid sum as laid down within the limit agreed with the said spokesmen; therefore, having considered the convenience and advantage of our Norwegian kingdom and with the consent and assent of the prelates, magnates and greater nobles of the foresaid kingdom of Norway, we have **granted, pledged and mortgaged** and under assured security and pledge do **grant, mortgage and pledge** all and sundry our lands of the islands of Shetland with all and sundry rights and their rightful pertinents whatsoever, under the earth as above

⁸⁸ For succeeding attempts to redeem the islands, see *A Source Book of Scottish History*, II (1953), 57; and G. Goudie, *The Celtic and Scandinavian Antiquities of Shetland* (1904), 213-29.

the earth, not named as named, pertaining or that can pertain in any way to us and our predecessors, kings of Norway, **by royal right**; to be held and had all and whole **our lands of the islands of Shetland** foresaid, with all and sundry customs, profits, freedoms, commodities, easements and their other rightful pertinents whatsoever, pertaining or that can rightfully pertain in any way in the future to the foresaid lands of Shetland, by the most excellent prince James, King of Scots, our beloved son and ally and by his successors, kings of Scots whomsoever; until the foresaid sum of eight thousand florins of the Rhine outstanding in the aforementioned letters has been faithfully, fully and completely paid in the Church of St Magnus in Orkney **whensoever in the future**, and satisfaction effectually made by us, our heirs or successors, kings of Norway, concerning the same, to the foresaid most illustrious James, King of Scots, his heirs or successors, kings of Scots; and we, our heirs and successors, kings of Norway, shall warrant and forever defend against all mortals the foresaid lands of Shetland thus as **promised, pledged and mortgaged** to the said James, King of Scots, and to his heirs, kings of Scots whomsoever, firmly binding us and our successors, kings of Norway, to this by the tenor of these presents; and we promise and acknowledge on our word as a king that we will not come against the forementioned concession and **impignoration**, or make it to be contravened directly or indirectly by any designed pretext or scheme in any way.

In testimony of this **impignoration**, our private royal seal is appended; given in our castle of Havn on the twenty-eighth day of the month of May in the year of our Lord, one thousand four hundred and sixty-nine.