

**P209 Letters sent to John Mackie and William Rae of the Northern Ensign  
RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT**

Reference number:	GB1741/P209
Alternative reference number:	-
Title:	Letters sent to John Mackie and William Rae of the Northern Ensign
Dates of creation:	1832-1881
Level of description:	Fonds
Extent:	1 volume
Format:	Paper

**RECORDS' CONTEXT**

Name of creators: Various

Administrative history: William Rae was born in 1811. He served an apprenticeship as a house carpenter in Lower Pulteneytown before moving to Glasgow for work. He was one of the founders of the Glasgow Caithness Association.

He returned to Wick in 1839 and started a business as a bookseller and stationer.

The Northern Ensign newspaper was established in 1850 in Wick by John Mackie, who was both owner and editor. He was originally from Fraserburgh but moved to Wick in 1844 for a job at the John O'Groat Journal. The Ensign ran into financial difficulties and was sold to William Rae in 1853. Mackie stayed on as editor, while Rae ran the business side. He continued as editor until his death in 1878.

William Rae was elected to the Wick's Town Council in 1859 and was Provost from 1874 to 1886.

He was instrumental in transferring the management of Wick Harbour from the British Fisheries Society to Wick Harbour Trust, of which he was chairman for many years.

He was also chairman of the Wick and Pulteneytown Chamber of Commerce,

chairman of the Wick Liberal Association, vice-Convener of the first County Council, Justice of the Peace for Caithness, and a member of Wick Parochial Board.

He died in 1893 at the age of 81.

Custodial history:

Donated to the Caithness Archive Centre from Wick Library, provenance unknown

## **RECORDS' CONTENT**

Description:

Collection of letters sent to the editor and proprietor of the Northern Ensign; John Mackie and William Rae respectively. Bound into a volume.

Appraisal:

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Accruals:

Not expected

## **RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE**

Access:

Open

Closed until:

-

Access conditions:

Copying:

Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids:

Available in Archive searchroom

## **ALLIED MATERIALS**

Related material:

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Publication:

Northern Ensign 1850-1922, available in Archive searchroom

Notes:

Poor condition, loose pages

Date of catalogue:

October 2011

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<b>P209</b>	<b>Letters sent to John Mackie and William Rae of the Northern Ensign</b>	<b>1832-1881</b>

P209/1	Collection of letters on various subjects bound into a volume, sent to John Mackie and William Rae (1 volume)	1832-1881
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