

Hull 5th January 1668

S[ir]

I have yo[urs]: 2[n]d: and descerne Contents / am glade of Thomas Wests arrivall / Healey is ready but yett here detained by easterly windes / with him intends to saile Mr Lindall in whome you have 60.p **V**: 20.p **RF**: 20.p **SET**: 20 p +) and 20.p **EA** alsoe William Tomlin in whome you have 50.p **V**: 20.p **EA**: Mr Mould and some others in Ladeing of which you may expect an amount when Ready: / you may assure yo[u]rselfe I will make it my business to gett yo[u]r Loads dispatcht away with all convenient speed that may be, and shall caution the Marsters, as I allwayes doe, not to Lade deepe, this winter season: If any of the Barons of the excheq[uer] come downe ye next assizes care shall be taken for regaineing ye customes of what Lost in Jeffards; / I have not yett accounted with Mr Hayward because wants: 96 piggs yett to come downe, but have maide ye account Ready in my booke and placed [?in] the account ye charges of Lead shipt for Holland; as likewise the firkins to Mr Jenkinsons account but if you will have me to alter my bookes shall doe it: / I wonnder you have not had notice of Hessellwoods arrivall in Holland, he is comed home againe, arrived yesterday here with ye rest of our Holland shippes; Geo: Hill is arrived at Rotterdam w[hi]ch[?] question not but you have notice of; wee have yett noe price to give you noe Lead being yett sould; / when I finde men enclineable to sell and disposesst of their p[re]sent conceipts shall advise you / wee beginn now to thronge our woollhouse againe yett hope If gett but shippes enough on for London shall keep it al[l] under: / the 500 piggs I sould were all of the marke **V** / this with the Tender of dew Respects [&] w[i]sh[e]s of

Yo[ur] Lo[ving] freind
Will. Raikes

The reverse has the address: 'to the wor:[shipful] John Moore in London'.

Note

The 'piggs' are pigs or ingots of lead and each appears to have a different 'marke' or symbol according to quality or manufacturer. The abbreviation 'p' probably represents 'piggs'. I have indicated the symbols in the text as follows (see the manuscript letter): **V** represents an inverted triangle containing a heart, the letters **RF** are boxed in a square, **SET** represents the letters ST with E above and the other two marks +) and **EA** are more or less as written. Information on the meaning of these symbols would be appreciated.

suggested meanings

descerne: understand
Thomas West and Healey: shipmasters
for the **symbols**, see below

ladeing: act of loading ship

Marster: shipmaster, captain of a merchant ship
Barons: tax inspectors
customes: taxes
yett to come down (from the mines?)
booke: account book
firkin: 9 gallon barrel (probably wine)
Hessellwood: shipmaster

George Hill: shipmaster

conceipts: asking prices
thronge: fill or pack with wool
under: under cover
dew respects: due respects

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