



Tabreez 31<sup>st</sup> May 1837



31 May 1837, Folded letter from Sir Henry Lindsay Bethune in Tabreez (Tabriz) to the Manager of Royal Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh, Scotland, which replied on the same letter on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1837, letter with disinfections punctures and special ink mark.





*Persipha*

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*Certificate of Opinion*

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Date: July 24, 2011

**Iran**

Persipha # \_\_\_\_  
Scott # \_\_\_\_

Condition: **Folded Letter Envelope**

Issue: **Prephilatelic Mail From Iran**

31 May 1837, Folded letter from Sir Henry Lindsay Bethune in Tabreez (Tabriz) to the Manager of Royal Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh, Scotland, which replied on the same letter on 31st July 1837, letter with disinfections punctures and special ink mark is in my opinion genuine. Scanned photo & MS initials for Mehrdad Sadri.

Examined by: **Mehrdad Sadri**

Signature:



**Genuine**

Initials / Handstamp:



*Tabreez 31<sup>st</sup> May 1837*  
*Sir Henry Bethune*

*Tabreez Persia 31<sup>st</sup> May 1837*

*Tabreez Persia 31<sup>st</sup> May 1837*

*Henry Bethune*

*Henry Bethune*

*Manuscript date and Sir Henry Bethune autograph.*



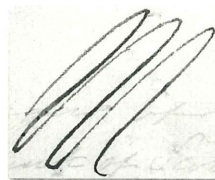
*JY 29/1837*  
*London arriving postmark*



*JUL/31/1837*  
*Edinburgh receiving postmark*



*1/2d handstamp applied in London to be charged as the letter was to be carried by a stagecoach with more than two wheels over a Toll Road in Scotland.*



*Manuscript marking for disinfections*





Tabreez 31<sup>st</sup> May 1837

Sir Henry Bethune

Tabreez Persia 31<sup>st</sup> May 1837

Tabreez Persia 31<sup>st</sup> May 1837

Dear Sir,

I have to advise you that this day I have drawn on you to the sum of Two thousand pounds by Bills in favor of the following individuals and for the sum of

John Ross Esq.	£1000 - - - 34 <sup>th</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup> 44
West. M. Williams Esq.	50 - - - - 2 4 <sup>th</sup>
Do	37 - 10 - - - -
Do	37 - 10 - - - -
Mr. John Phillips	37 - 10 - - - -
John A. B. Hunter Esq.	37 - 10 - - 34 <sup>th</sup> 5 44
Do	37 - 10 - - - -
Mr. John Ferguson	37 - 10 - - - -
Mr. John Bethune	37 - 10 - - 34 <sup>th</sup> 7 44
	£2000 - - - -

and I have to request that you will cash them when you can and please to send me the receipt.

I am, Dear Sir, your obedient servant

Henry Bethune

Letter Manager of the  
Royal Bank of Scotland  
Edinburgh

Edinburgh 31<sup>st</sup> July 1837

Edinburgh 31<sup>st</sup> July 1837

You will please to accept of my bill mentioned the preceding page and send me the receipt of the bank as paid.

Yours

Sir

Your very obedient servant

John Braithwaite & Co. Bankers

John Braithwaite & Co. Bankers

Henry Bethune

To the Manager of  
the Royal Bank  
Edinburgh

Pages of folded letter from Sir Henry Lindsay Bethune with his autograph and the reply of the manager of the Royal Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh, Scotland, with his signature.

Edinburgh 31<sup>st</sup> July 1837

John Braithwaite & Co. Bankers

Edinburgh 31<sup>st</sup> July 1837 reply & signature of the Royal Bank of Scotland manager.

Tabreez 31<sup>st</sup> May 1837  
 Sir Henry Bethune



**Sir Henry Lindsay Bethune** (1792–1851) was an English officer and a member of a diplomatic and military mission led by John Malcolm to the Persian Empire in 1810.

Henry Lindsay was initially an artillery Lieutenant in the Madras Horse Artillery. With a height of 6 feet 8 inches, he is said to have impressed the Persians who compared him to the mythical hero Rustam. His qualities of justice and his knowledge of the world also seem to have greatly impressed the Persians.

Henry Lindsay was first put in charge of modernizing the corps of horse artillery. In 1816, Henry Lindsay Bethune received the Persian decoration of the Order of the Lion and the Sun, specially reserved for meritorious foreigners. After several years, he finally resigned from the Indian service, and retired to Scotland in Kilconquhar.<sup>[2]</sup> According to the 19th century British diplomat Sir Justin Sheil:

"English influence becoming supreme, and the French Mission having quitted Persia, it was determined to accede to the wishes of the Persian Government and continue the same military organization. Sir John Malcolm was accompanied in 1808 by two officers of the Indian army, Major Christie and Lieutenant Lindsay, to whom was confided this duty: they did it well.

Major Christie was a man of considerable military endowments; he undertook the charge of the infantry, and was killed at his post at the battle of Aslandooz in 1812. His able successor was Major Hart, of the Royal Army. Under the auspices and indefatigable cooperation of Abbas Meerza, heir apparent to the throne of Persia, by whom absolute authority was confided to him, he brought the infantry of Azerbaijan to a wonderful state of perfection.

The artillery was placed under Lieutenant Lindsay, afterwards Major-General Sir H. Lindsay. This officer acquired extraordinary influence in the army, and in particular among the artillery. He brought this branch of the forces in Azerbaijan to such a pitch of real working perfection, and introduced so complete a system of esprit de corps, that to this day his name is venerated, and traces of his instruction still survive in the artillery of that province, which even now preserves some degree of efficiency."

—Sir Justin Sheil (1803–1871).

In 1834, he was recalled for service in Persia in anticipation of troubles in the dynastic succession on the Persian throne. Following the death of Fath Ali Shah that same year, he commanded the advanced Divisions of the Persian Army between Tabriz and Teheran. He supported the succession of the Shah's grandson Mohammad Shah Qajar, and eliminated a serious rebellion led by the Prince of Shiraz.

Henry Lindsay returned to England, but was again sent to Persia in 1836 to become Major General in the Persian Army, until his retirement in 1839 following a disagreement with the Persian government over the Persian attacks on Herat in Afghanistan (a territory claimed by Great Britain).

In the wake of the Herat affair, Great Britain would remove its military and diplomatic missions from Persia, and occupy Kharg island and attack Bushehr. Mohammad Shah Qajar would in turn resume diplomatic relations with France, and send a diplomatic mission to Louis-Philippe under Mirza Hossein Khan to obtain military help. In response, a group of French officers was sent to Persia with the returning ambassador.

Henry Lindsay Bethune died in Persia in 1851.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Lindsay\\_Bethune](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Lindsay_Bethune)