

Appendix B

University of Aberdeen Geological Collections

Existing collections, including the subjects or themes for collecting

The collections are a repository for research material of palaeontological, mineralogical and lithological nature. This is particularly true of the Palaeontology collection with an important holding of 'Type and Figured' material.

The collection types are:

- *Palaeontology Collection*
The collection contains over 500 'Type and Figured' specimens for which a published catalogue exists.
- *Mineral Collection*
The collection incorporates the 'Gordon Collection' that was given to the University by the Rev. J.M. Gordon in memory of his father. The mineral collection is of high standard with many 'show' specimens from worldwide localities.
- *Rock Collection*
The collection contains material of worldwide origin, but its strength lies in material from northeast and northern Scotland. Much of the material was collected and added to the collection by Prof. T.C. Phemister. The collection is valuable in that many localities are no longer available for collecting.

The collections have registered status.

Significant objects or individuals:

Much of the material reflects the activity of collectors within the University, such as Professor H.A. Nicholson (fossil collection), the Rev J.W. Gordon (mineral collection), and Professor T.C. Phemister (rock collection)

Strengths of the collection are:

- Fossil corals and bryozoa collected by H.A. Nicholson when Professor of Natural History at Aberdeen; this includes the majority of our type material holding.
- A recent acquisition of the A.G. Lyon Collection of plant material (mainly peels) from the Early Devonian Rhynie chert of northeast Scotland, and newly discovered arthropods from the Windyfield chert; both deposits occur near Rhynie, Aberdeenshire, and are of Early Devonian age.

Criteria governing future collecting policy, including the subjects or themes for collecting

Acting within the framework and guidelines of the University's Acquisitions and Disposals Policy, the Geological Collections' principles and priorities for collecting are:

- Collecting is limited to material of research, display and teaching value
- Most acquisitions are obtained through collecting by staff and students in the course of their professional activities.
- Different policies are adopted for the three collections as follows:

(i) Palaeontology Collection

Acquisitions relate to current palaeontological research and teaching within the University.

(ii) Mineral Collection

The mineral collection provides reference specimens of minerals from worldwide localities. Additions are only made of exceptional specimens, or of mineral species not represented in the collection.

(iii) Rock Collection

The rock collection contains a fine selection of Scottish rocks, together with many of worldwide origin. Priority is given to rocks for which analyses are available, specimens from classic localities, and specimens mentioned in research publications.

- The Geological Collection may decide to acquire scientific instruments and equipment where these objects illustrate the practice of geology at the University of Aberdeen. Scientific instruments may also be accessioned into other of the University of Aberdeen's collections as appropriate.
- The Geological Collections may decide to acquire drawings, paintings, maps, prints, photographs, film and digital media that are of specific relevance to the history of geological research and teaching in the University of Aberdeen. (Otherwise, such material would normally be offered to Marischal Museum as part of the University art collections, to Special Libraries and Archives, or to another of the University of Aberdeen's collections as appropriate).
- The Geological Collections may decide to accession into the permanent museum collections printed and manuscript ephemera – e.g. instruction manuals, trade catalogues, leaflets, advertisements, letters – that relate to objects in the collection or to teaching and research in geology. (Such material might also be preserved as part of a separate collections archive or in object files, or offered to Special Library and Archives with a specification to hold in perpetuity).

(See section 8d of the University of Aberdeen's Acquisitions and Disposal Policy for legal considerations when acquiring geological material).

Period of time for future collecting:

Material from all geological eras may be added to the collections.

Association/geographical area to which collecting relates:

Geology is a world-wide subject, hence material in the collections comes from all continents, but the collecting priorities place an emphasis on Scottish material.