

Appendix C

University of Aberdeen Herbarium

Existing collections, including the subjects or themes for collecting

The Herbarium is the largest plant collection north of Edinburgh. The University has recognised that the collection is a valuable source of reference and, particularly with regard to South-East Asia, is of international standing. The Herbarium contains approximately 120,000 herbarium specimens, with special emphasis on British (Scottish) and South-East Asian (Thai) material.

The main collections are:

Thailand material (approx. 20,000 specimens)

British Material (approx. 55,000 specimens) including fungi, algae, lichen, bryophytes and flowering plants.

European collection (approx. 8,000 specimens), mostly Western Europe. All flowering plants.

North American collection (approx 3,300 specimens) includes a large collection of Canadian plants by Wynne-Edwards, a former Natural History professor of Aberdeen University.

The General Asiatic collection (approx 2,500 specimens) is a small collection mostly from Burma and India (Assam)

The lower plant collection contains bryophytes (approx 2,000 specimens), lichens (approx 2,000) and algae (approx 600), mostly from Scotland.

The Greenland collection (approx 1,000 specimens) contains flowering plants

Arran collection (approx 500 specimens) from the former Keeper (Mrs Sommerville).

Also small collections from Turkey (approx 350 specimens), principal collector PH Davis who wrote the *Flora of Turkey*; Bangladesh (approx 250) from a AU-Chittagong University 3 year Link project; Iceland (approx 150); North Africa (approx 120) and Japan (approx 100 collected by Professor Gimingham).

The Austrian collections (approx 100 specimens) were made by Miss HE Wilson and Mrs AH Sommerville and are currently separate from the main European collection.

The Herbarium has registered status.

Significant objects or individuals:

The Thai collection was principally collected by Arthur Francis George Kerr (who was born in Kinlough, Co. Leitrim, Ireland) while he was in the service of the Government of Siam as Medical Officer of Health from 1902-20, and in charge of the Botanical Section, Ministry of Commerce, from 1921-31. The Herbarium obtained the material through Professor Craib, for whom Kerr collected while he was a Lecturer in Forest Botany at Edinburgh University. Professor Craib came to Aberdeen from Edinburgh as Regius Professor of Botany in 1920 where he remained in the Chair until his death in 1933. The collection is regarded as the second most important collection in the world.

The British collection was formed by several past Professors of the University, particularly Trail (including fungi), Dickie (mainly algae), and William MacGillivray, but also amateur collectors such as McMurtrie, Lewis Gavin, and Stables. All the British plants collected by George

Nicholson, Curator at Kew from 1886-1901, were bequeathed to Professor Trail and, together with Trail's extensive collection, these form the foundations of the British collection. The Herbarium also has substantial Lichen (especially H.E. Wilson and C.R. Prince) and Bryophyte (especially C.H. Gimingham and A.A. Parady) collections.

The Herbarium's oldest specimen, of *Gentiana campestris*, was collected by Dr. Knight in 1772, later Professor of Natural Philosophy at the University, and found in Principal Campbell's herbarium.

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 principles and priorities for adding to the Herbarium's collections are:

- Enhancing the collection's areas of strength by encouraging further acquisitions of material from Scotland and South-East Asia.
- Accepting voucher material from researchers who are either working at the University, studying Aberdeen specimens, where it:
 - (i) relates to taxonomic research i.e. where it necessitates the identification and preservation of type specimens when new species are discovered
 - (ii) relates to DNA analyses
 - (iii) where the material may be used for future reference. As such, the Herbarium will accept voucher material from researchers working at the University, or on Aberdeen specimens.
 - (iv) where they are in support of new distributional records of plants if they are of local interest or related to fields of study of local researchers.
- The Herbarium will accept unsolicited donations of other plant material only when it is accompanied by adequate documentation and following consideration of its value to teaching and research.
- Material without location, date and collector details will not be acquired, unless useful for teaching purposes.
- Most collecting is passive.
- Scientific equipment is not collected; scientific instruments may be offered to other of the University of Aberdeen's collections as appropriate.
- The Herbarium may choose to collect botanical models if they are of historic interest or of value to teaching or research.
- The Herbarium may collect drawings, paintings, maps, prints, photographs, film and digital media that are of relevance to the history of botanical 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 Herbarium 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 botany. (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).

Where there is material that the Herbarium does not wish to acquire this may be offered to other museums within the University, or to other herbaria.
(See section 8d of the University of Aberdeen's collecting policy for legal considerations when acquiring botanical material).

Period of time for future collecting:

The Herbarium may collect both modern and historic specimens and models.

Association/geographical area to which collecting relates:

Acquisition priorities are Scotland and South-East Asia. Material from parts of the world other than Scotland and South-East Asia will be regarded as lower priority and will only be accepted after consideration of its value to teaching and research, and the cost of its curation.