

Art and artists resources in Special Collections

September 2021

QG HCOL015

The Wolfson Reading Room

Special Collections Centre

The Sir Duncan Rice Library
University of Aberdeen
Bedford Road
Aberdeen
AB24 3AA

Introduction

Many individuals, families, organisations and businesses have deposited their papers with the University and as a result, it has acquired an unrivalled collection of material, not solely relating to the history and culture of the north-east of Scotland but of national and international importance.

In addition the University owns an important art collection and this is managed by the museums service.

Archival collections

Business papers

There are two important photographic collections:
George Washington Wilson and Co.: 1850 – 1905 (MS 3792)

Aberdeen Harbour Board photographic collection:
1880s - 1930s (MS 3595).

Personal papers

Bednarowski, Dr Wladyslaw, Professor of Logic and artist: c.1950 – c.1980 (MS 3716).

Benzie, A.R.: collection of drawings, etchings and watercolours by local artists: James Giles, George Reid and Andrew Robertson: 19th century (MS 2624).

Bulloch, John, publisher: correspondence relating to George Jamesone, artist: 1886 (MS 876).

Cruikshank, George, caricaturist and illustrator: original illustrations for 'Clement Lorimer': c.1849 (MS 2373).

Davidson, Ian Winsted, artist: drawings and watercolours of 'vanishing Aberdeen': 1949 – 1955 (MS 2317).

Halkett, G.R., cartoonist: caricatures of Prime Minister Gladstone: 19th century (MS 2176).

MacGillivray, James Pittendrigh, sculptor: sketches (MS 2751, MS 3095 & MS 3259).

Morroco, Alberto, artist, sketches of Elizabeth Lockhart: 1947 – 1948 (MS 3270/8/2/8).

Phillip, John, artist: letter: 1863 or 1865 (MS 2589).

Reid, Sir George, artist: drawing of the West Kirk, Aberdeen: late 19th century (MS 2374).

Scott, William Bell, poet and artist: biographical notes: 1892 (MS 2836).

Stott, Edward, artist: letter: 1912 or 1917 (MS 2597).

Watt, James Cromar, artist: drawings: c.1880 (MS 2052 – MS 2054).

Wilson, Dr Robert, surgeon and traveller, portfolio of original paintings, drawings and prints, 19th century (MS 3849).

Watercolour views of the Highlands and other parts of Scotland by an unknown artist: c.1834 (MS 2907).

Printed collections

The Local Collection accessible via the Reading Room contains relevant printed material such as publications by the Aberdeen Artists Society.

There are numerous other printed collections of, or containing material of particular relevance, such as books with illustrations by Hablot Knight Browne ('Phiz' in novels by Charles Dickens), John James Audubon and John Gould.

There are also named collections of relevance:

Glucksman Collection of caricature and satire

Museums

The Art Collections are managed by the Museums service and many are available to view via the catalogues.

Access

Materials are available, upon request, for consultation in the Reading Room. Please search online catalogues to identify individual items.

Further reading

For further reading please also see the studies of a number of manuscripts, printed books and collections in the journals *Aberdeen University Library Bulletin*, *Aberdeen University Review* and *Northern Scotland*.

A number of the above papers were highlighted in: Beavan, Iain; Davidson, Peter; Stevenson, Jane, *Library and archive collections of the University of Aberdeen: an introduction and description*. (Manchester: Manchester University Press with the University of Aberdeen, 2011.)