

Legal history resources in Special Collections

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QG HCOL023

The Wolfson Reading Room

Special Collections Centre

The University Library
University of Aberdeen
Bedford Road
Aberdeen
AB24 3AA

Introduction

Many individuals, organisations and businesses have deposited their papers with the University and as a result, it has acquired an unrivalled collection of material relating to the north-east of Scotland.

King's College was founded by canon lawyer, Bishop William Elphinstone, and texts in canon and civil law represent one of the oldest deposits of medieval manuscripts and incunabula within the university's collections.

Archival collections

University institutional papers

Faculty of Law papers: 1948 – 1985 (UNIVERSITY 924).

Business papers

Adam, Cochran and Company, advocates, Aberdeen: papers: 1630 – 1919 (MS 3066).

Davidson and Garden, advocates, Aberdeen: 14th century – 20th century (MS 2769 and MS 3744).

Robert Dawson, accountant: legal papers and correspondence: 1866 – 1921 (MS 3515).

T. Falconer, solicitor, Inverness, affairs of the MacKintosh family, Inverness including legal style book: 1833 – 1850 (MS 843 – 847).

Ledingham Chalmers, solicitors: 18th century – 20th century (MS 3257, MS 3277, MS 3394, MS 3521, MS 3662, MS 3665 and MS 3713).

F.A. MacDonald and Partners, engineers and surveyors, Aberdeen (incorporating Walker & Duncan, Aberdeen): 18th century – 20th century (Papers MS 2626; maps and plans MS 3860).

Edward Mortimer, solicitor, Banff: legal and business papers: c.1786 – 1860 (MS 3249).

Inverness Lawyer's account book: 1792 – 1793 (MS 873).

Inverness Writer, ledger containing accounts chiefly concerning Inverness Academy: 1807 – 1838 (MS 874).

Personal papers

Ancharano, Petrus de, teacher of canon law: legal tracts: 1484 (MS 262).

Anderson of Cardacraig, Charles: 'Ane Styll Book': 1726 – 1727 (MS 641).

Boswell, Alexander, Lord Auchinleck, Advocate: 'De Judicibus' and other copied manuscripts: 1733 (MS 2475).

Daube, David, Roman and Biblical Law scholar, papers: 20th century (MS 3878).

Dingwall, William, style book: c.1750 (MS 3066/9).

Duncan, George, advocate, Aberdeen: papers: 1906 – 1916 (MS 3185 – MS 3187).

Duff of Premnay, Patrick: legal style book: Mid 18th century (MS 2905).

Duff, Patrick, N.P., protocol books: 1717 (MS 3175/M/D79).

Elfynton, William, lawyer: collection of lecture notes taken at Louvain: 1433 (MS 195 - MS 197).

Forbes, William, advocate: legal style book: 1714 (MS 2218).

Gordon, Professor John, civilist, King's College: Papers relating to legal teaching: 1701 (MS 132).

Hope, Sir Thomas, Lord Advocate, 'Ane brieff treatise upon severall substantiall heads of the Scottis law': before 1646, copy 1679 (MS 2796).

Horborch, W., and Lexicon Juridicum: legal decisions: mid 15th century (MS 202).

Lindesay of Culsh, William, style book: c.1685 (MS 3066/7).

Ogilvie, George, tutor: Treatise on Scots Law: 1675 (MS 559).

Spotswood, John, advocate: 'The Form of Process before the Lords of Council and Session': 1700 – 1740 (MS 144).

Wallace, Sir Thomas, of Craigie: 'Repertorium juris', book of law practicks: c.1670 (MS 2367).

Wilson, physician and traveller: Volume containing a draft treatise by Robert Wilson on the purpose of Law and Punishment: 1820s (MS 421).

Zulueta, Sir Francis de, legal historian (MS 2785).

'Parainisis ad iudices', Scots law treatise and another incomplete treatise: 1649 (MS 2775).

Notes on Scots Law by an unknown author: 1673 (MS 558).

Justinian I: Institutiones (commentary): 1676 (MS 2169).

Stair's Institutions of the Law of Scotland manuscript copy: c.1681 (MS 592).

'The body of Scots laws' manuscript: 17th century (MS 2097).

Legal style book, Aberdeen: 1722 (MS 3550).

Essays on conveyancing, with forms of legal styles from an unidentified law firm: c.1790 (MS 556).

Records of local administration

Aberdeen Sheriff Court record extracts: 17th century -18th century (MS 3155).

Diet book of Aberdeen Sheriff Court: 1819 – 1822 (MS 3066/10).

Oral history collections

University of Aberdeen Oral History Archive: comprises nearly 200 interviews with individuals connected with the University (MS 3620) - of particular interest is the interview conducted with Michael Meston, Emeritus Professor of Scots Law (MS 3620/1/107).

Printed collections

The Local Collection, accessible via The Wolfson Reading Room, contains relevant printed materials specifically related to the study and teaching of law at the University.

There are also numerous other printed collections of, or containing material of, particular relevance.

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 and 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)

Henderson, J. A., *History of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen* (New Spalding Club, Aberdeen, 1912) and *Supplemental History of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen 1912 – 1938* (Society of Advocates, Aberdeen, 1939)