

Performing arts resources in Special Collections

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QG HCOL029

The Wolfson Reading Room

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

Introduction

Many individuals and institutions have deposited their papers with the University; 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 also of national and international importance.

Special Collections hold a wealth of material relevant to the study of the performing arts including important collections of ballads, musical compositions (especially for the fiddle), dance manuals and material relating to stage performances. Notable personal papers include those of Gavin Greig and James Scott Skinner.

Archival collections

University institutional papers

Aberdeen University Choral and Orchestral Society: 1876 – 1922 (UNIVERSITY 305)

Student Show (The University of Aberdeen Students' Charities Campaign papers) (UNIVERSITY 1073). There are also several relevant smaller personal collections; these are noted in the above catalogue.

Organisation papers

Butchart Scottish Country Dance Class (to 1983 Aberdeen University Scottish Country Dance Club) records: 1983 – 2001 (MS 3771/6/3).

Clan Hay Dancers papers: 1950s (MS 3671).

'Flying Pig' comedy group papers: 1998 – current (MS 4033).

National Association of Theatrical and Kiné employees: 1938 – 1960 (MS 2642).

North East of Scotland Music Festival records: 1909 – 1913 (MS 3237).

Stonehaven Music Club: scrapbooks: 1950 – 2006 (MS 3866).

Business papers

Account book of theatrical company tour in the north-east: 1811 – 1812 (MS 2850).

British Broadcasting Corporation: Aberdeen programme material, particularly relating to Scottish country dance and folk music: 1930s – 1990s (MS 3628).

Scotland the What?, comedy show papers: 1969 – current (MS 3437).

Personal papers

Argo, Arthur, broadcaster and ballad collector: papers: 1900 – 1965 (MS 3088 & MS 3124).

Barrett-Ayres, Reginald, composer and musician: papers: c.1940 – 1988 (MS 3103).

Brown, Alan, musician and Richard Turbet, musicologist: papers relating to '[William] Byrd Studies': 1985 – 1992 (MS 3469).

Byrd, William, composer: 'Bow Thine Ear, O Lord': 1804 (manuscript copy) (MS 3552).

Christie, William, dancing master, Monquhitter, Aberdeenshire, collection of Scottish folk-songs and ballads with music: 1818 (MS 793).

Clouston, Ranald W.M., campanologist: manuscript survey of old Scottish bells: 1964 – 1965 (MS 2805).

Davidson, John, musician: music book for the Aberdeen Strathspey and Reel Association: c.1920 (MS 2782).

Drewry, John, choreographer: collection of dances: 1972 – 1998 (MS 3566).

Duncan, Rev. James, of Lynturk (1838-1917), ballad-collector: 1796 – 1917 (MS 998).

Forbes, John, 'his musick book', from the Ogilvie-Forbes of Boyndlie library: 1772 (MS 3574/9).

Grant, John, of Buckie collection of Scottish fiddle music: 1807 (MS 3780).

George, Harold C., music teacher, conductor and choirmaster: papers: 1950s (MS 3312).

Gillies, John MacDougall: bagpipe music (copy): 1860 – 1940 (MS 3633).

Greig, Gavin (1856-1914), ballad-collector: 1876 – 1917 (MS 701 – MS 790, MS 3088, MS 3173).

Grubb, William, collection relating to Scottish fiddle music and country dancing: c.1890 - 1990s (MS 3689).

Key, Ethel, accompanist to James Scott Skinner, fiddler: papers: 1910s – 1990s (MS 3833).

Kinloch, George Ritchie, antiquarian: *Airs from Kinloch's Ancient Scottish Ballads – Appendix*: early 19th century (MS 792).

MacGregor collection of Gaelic songs from Braemar, Strathdee and Glengairn (copy): 18th century – 19th century (MS 3106).

Main, John David, violinist and composer: volumes of compositions: 1897 – 1928 (MS 3363).

Mackenzie, Donald, composer and collector: *Scottish Country Dance music*: 1950s – 1970s (MS 3627).

Marshall, John and James Massie, collection of Scottish folk songs with music: 1777-1835 (MS 795).

McKerlie, Marie M., calendar of ballads from the north-east of Scotland: 1961 (MS 2411).

Milne, Alfred E., manuscript Collection of Music for the Highland Bagpipe: c.1900 – 1933 (MS 2904).

Niven, John, Aberdeen: collection of Scottish music: 1750s – 1760s (MS 2232).

Reid, Eric James, composer and teacher: papers: 1950s – 1960s (MS 3104).

Ross, Edward, manuscript collection of Scots bagpipe music: c.1820 – c.1877 (MS 2428).

Sanderson, Frederick, manuscript volume of music titled '*Pianoforte Compositions*': 1923 – 1926 (MS 3783).

Sinclair, George, stage manager: papers including University Student Show: 1933 – 2000s (MS 3890).

Skinner, James Scott: musician, papers: (MS 2726).

Thomson, William, songwriter and collector: '*Orpheus Caledonius: collection of best Scotch songs*': 1908 (MS 791).

Walker, William, writer and ballad-collector, papers relating to ballads and folk songs: (MS 2212, MS 2306, MS 2732, MS 2733, MS 2774, MS 3396 and MS 3643).

Watson, Bobby, Highland and Scottish country dancing teacher: papers, 1956 – 1997 (MS 3650).

Webster, James and John Murdoch Henderson music collections: 18th century – 20th century (MS 2421 – 2440).

Early sheet music (extracted from Duff House/Montcoffer papers): 1735 – 1785 (MS 2861).

Manuscript collection of ballads from Glenbuchat, Aberdeenshire: c.1818 (MS 2181).

Manuscript collection of piano and vocal music by Mozart, Rossini and others: 1820 (MS 2442).

Manuscript copies of printed books on music by D Quadir, J. G. Vierling, J. A. Hamilton, W. Forde and J. Clarke: c.1840 (MS 2186).

Manuscript fragments of fiddle tunes composed by Peter Milne, Alexander Walker, James Scott Skinner and Alec. Innes: c.1890 – 1937 (MS 3784).

Microfilm copies of a number of collections related to piping held by the National Library of Scotland (MS 3586 – MS 3594 & MS 3723 – MS 3727).

Oral history collections

University of Aberdeen Oral History Archive: comprises nearly 200 interviews with individuals connected with the University (MS 3620). Also written reminiscences of Aberdeen University by Aberdeen University Music Department: 1991 - 1992 (MS 3620/2/41).

Printed collections

The Local Collection, accessible via the Reading Room, contains relevant printed material including publications of the University Department of Music.

There are also named collections of relevance:

J. Murdoch Henderson Collection

Stationers' Hall Music Collection

As a copyright library from 1710 to 1836, the University has acquired significant collections of music which contain a high proportion of first editions. There are nearly 400 volumes in the collection.

Taylor Psalmody Collection

The Bernard Lloyd Walter Scott Collection

Includes play-scripts and scores of musical works inspired by Sir Walter Scott:

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 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).

Cooper, Barry, *Catalogue of Early Printed Music in Aberdeen Libraries: a Complete List of Music and Music Literature Published before 1801 held by*

Aberdeen University and Aberdeen Public Library
(Egham Hill: Royal Musical Association, 1978).

Shuldham-Shaw, Patrick et al, *The Greig-Duncan Folk Song Collection, volumes 1-8* (Mercat Press, 1990s/2000s).

Turbet, Richard & Cooper, Barry, *Catalogue of Early Printed Music in Aberdeen Libraries: Supplement, 1979-1988*, Royal Musical Association Research Chronicle 26 (1990),170-176.

Turbet, Richard, 'Music Deposited by Stationers' Hall in the University and King's College of Aberdeen, 1753-96', Royal Musical Association Research Chronicle 30 (1998),139-162.