

## Resources relating to the Highlands and Islands in Special Collections

September 2021

QG HCOL046

### The Wolfson Reading Room

#### Special Collections Centre

The Sir Duncan Rice Library  
University of Aberdeen  
Bedford Road  
Aberdeen  
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### Introduction

Many individuals, families, organisations and businesses 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.

### Archival collections

#### Family and estate papers

Duff of Braco and Wharton-Duff of Orton: 17<sup>th</sup> century – 19<sup>th</sup> century: (MS 2727).

Duff, Earls of Fife (Duff House): 13<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century (MS 3175).

Fraser of Castle Fraser and Inverallochy: 16<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century. Including papers relating to the Ross-shire militia and the papers of Fraser, Major-General Alexander Mackenzie, commanding officer of the 78<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Regiment (1791 – 1809) (MS 3470).

Fraser Family of Culbockie, Ross-shire: papers: 1601 – 1727 (MS 2022).

Gordon of Cluny, relating to properties in the Highlands: 17<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century (MS 3600).

Grierson family, Lerwick, Shetland: 17<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century (MS 3044).

Rosehall, Creich parish, Sutherland: estate journal: 1821 – 1822 (MS 2240).

Ross of Balnagowan, Ross-shire: 18<sup>th</sup> century – 19<sup>th</sup> century (MS 3300).

Yule family and Napier of Magdala (Tarradale House, Ross-shire): papers: 1838 – 1890 (MS 1162).

#### Organisation papers

Cairngorm Club papers: 1889 – 1990 (MS 3405).

Highland Society of Scotland: 1786 – 1814 (MS 960-MS 963).

Inverness Academy: historical notes: c.1900 (MS 2386).

Inverness-shire militia, muster rolls (Earls of Fife papers): 1805 (MS 3175/2262 and MS 3175/2337).

Inverness Town Council, inventory of the records held by: 1883 (MS 2702).

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney. Although the records of the (pre-1865) Diocese of Orkney and its churches are not included in this collection, there is still relevant material: 1865 – current (MS 3320).

Session records of South Ronaldsay and Isle of Burray, Orkney (copy): 1657 - 1669 (1905 copy) (MS 894 – MS 895).

Wick and District Trades Council: 1944 – 1967 (MS 2677).

#### Business papers

Lewis Chemical Works history (copy): 1855-1874 (MS 2723).

Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway, and the Inverness and Lochend Light Railway papers: 1897 – 1899 (MS 3238).

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

Ledger of an Inverness writer to the Signet containing accounts chiefly concerning Inverness Academy: 1807 – 1838 (MS 874).

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

P & O Scottish Ferries Ltd. incorporating predecessor businesses including North of Scotland and Orkney and Shetland Steam Navigation Co: 1810 – 2002 (MS 3697).

There is much relevant material across collections of solicitors and surveyors. For example:

Davidson and Garden, advocates, Aberdeen: 15<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century. This extensive collection contains records of some 200 families, estates, businesses, trusts and other organisations which

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the firm represented including Sir John Sinclair, Murkle, Caithness (MS 2769 and MS 3744).

Ledingham Chalmers, solicitors: 18<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century. Includes papers from various families and estates including Mackenzie of Kincaig (MS 3257, MS 3277, MS 3394, MS 3662, MS 3665 and MS 3713).

F. A. MacDonald and Partners, engineers and surveyors, Aberdeen (incorporating Walker & Duncan, Aberdeen): 18<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century (papers MS 2626 and maps and plans MS 3860).

### **Personal papers**

For papers relating to individuals see the separate factsheet

Anderson, John, 'History of the Highland clans', 1835. (MS 551).

Carson, William, author, journal and photographs of a Tour Through the Hebrides and the Western Western Isles: 1897 (MS 897 – MS 898).

Clark, Peter Moir, diary of holiday in Shetland: July 1868 - August 1868 (MS 2251).

MacGillivray, William, Professor of Natural History, journal of residence and travel in the Hebrides, including a record of observations of the flora and fauna of the isles, 1817 - 1818. (MS 1033).

McLachlan, Ewan, 1775-1822, Gaelic scholar and Librarian of King's College, Aberdeen 1800-1818. (MS 499).

Ross, Alexander, writer: 'Souterlandiae comitum annales' (annals of the county of Sutherland): 1631 (MS 2049).

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

Simpson, William Douglas, historian and archaeologist, papers including collection of archaeological, monumental and architectural plans, 19<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century (MS 2729, MS 2818 and MS 3759).

Wilkinson, Thomas, Quaker minister, Highlands, transcript: 1785 – 1807 (MS 2394 – MS 2396).

Collection of letters on the state of the Highlands, 1745-1813. (MS 954).

An account of a tour of the Highlands by an unknown author: 1806 (MS 1023).

Papers regarding the administration of Invernessshire and the Western Isles, 1817. (MS 2015).

Papers relating to conditions in and administration of Invernessshire and Western Isles of Scotland: 1817 (MS 2016).

Papers relating to conditions in and administration of Invernessshire and Western Isles of Scotland: 1817 (MS 2023).

Letters on the state of the Highlands after the Jacobite rebellion: 1745 – 1813 (MS 954).

## **Other relevant collections**

### **Scottish Catholic Archives**

There are numerous sources within the records of the Scottish Catholic Church. This extensive collection relates to the Catholic Church from the 12<sup>th</sup> century prior to the restoration of the Scottish Catholic Hierarchy in 1878. The collection contains material of regional, national and international significance and provides evidence of the survival of Catholicism both in Scotland and abroad through the archives of its missions, seminaries and colleges. There are also extensive collections relating to prominent Catholic families many in the north of Scotland. Of particular interest is the series: Oban letters: Highland, Western Vicariate: 1764-1863 (SCA).

### **Printed collections**

The Local Collection of printed material geographically speaking covers the north-east corner of Scotland and is available to consult on open-access in our Reading Room. It contains local area histories, plans and maps and reports of local institutions.

Also in the Local Collection you will find a number of local newspapers.

The printed collections have strength in depth and contain numerous items such as the published Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, Highland Society of Scotland and the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

There are also named collections of relevance:

### **Cairngorm Club Collection**

### **The Brown-Lindsay and Christ's College Pamphlet Collection**

This collection contains many sermons preached to, or under the aegis of, the Society in Scotland for the Propagation of Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands).

### **J. Murdoch Henderson Collection**

### **The Macbean Jacobite and Stuart Collection**

This collection, donated to Aberdeen by the New York businessman William M. MacBean, is a resource of international importance, the finest collection of its kind outside the British Library. It includes both 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century engravings, 19<sup>th</sup> century romantic and retrospective depictions of Jacobite history, and a rich variety of pamphlets and broadsides, with not a few manuscripts. Some 3,500 books and 1,000 pamphlets, as well as numerous engravings cover many aspects of the histories of the Stuarts and the Jacobite risings. Some are held in no other collection in the UK, and some are unique, with the collection also being added to continually.

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Also see Mabel Allardyce, *Aberdeen University Library MacBean Collection* (Aberdeen: Aberdeen University Press, 1949).

Also see *Drawn Sword: Engravings and Woodcuts from the MacBean Jacobite and Stuart Collection*, an online resource providing access to the c.1,300 loose engravings and woodcuts, including portraits, topographical subjects and historical incidents.

## **Access**

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

## **Further reading**

For further reading please also see the studies of a number of our 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).

'Highland Collection: The Scottish holdings' (University of Aberdeen Development Trust, undated).