

Resources relating to the Circumpolar regions in Special Collections

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QG HCOL052

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 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.

A significant number of alumni have been explorers, missionaries, migrants, traders or officers of state. Many of them have left manuscripts and material objects reflecting travel and adventure. This is in addition to much rich topographical printed material accumulated over many centuries.

Archival collections

Organisation papers

The Second International Polar Year: auroral observations made at Fort Rae, Canada: 1932 – 1933 (MS 3152).

Personal papers

Buchan, Peter, printer and author, 'Notebook on Voyage from Peterhead to Greenland': 1832 (MS 2303/7).

Cardno, David Hawthorn, whaler, journals of whaling and sealing voyages around the Arctic: 1866 – 1960s (MS 3090).

Henderson, Walter, surgeon, diary of a whaling voyage from Peterhead to Greenland: 1853 (MS 2719).

Kerr, George, surgeon, diary of whaling expedition: 1791 (MS 2238).

Souter, Dr W. Clark, ophthalmologist, H.M. Antarctic Relief Ship 'Terra Nova'. A series of 51 annotated prints illustrate the trip, charting the trip into Antarctica, capture the crew's first glimpses of icebergs and views of Franklyn Island and 'Majestic Erebus', show scenes of the Terra Nova and Morning's slow passage through the pack-ice and the Discovery lying in the frozen water of Winter

Harbour, the efforts of the crews to blast an exit route, the long-awaited exit into open water and lastly the 'farewell' photographs of the snowy landscape that was left behind: 1903 – 1904 (MS 3755/2). The photographs have been digitised and are available on-line.

Souter, Dr W. Clark, ophthalmologist, H.M. Antarctic Relief Ship 'Terra Nova', medical accounts, 1903 – 1904 (MS 2415).

Walker, Dr, ship's surgeon and naturalist, arctic flora specimens collected on board the yacht Fox: 1857 – 1859 (UNIVERSITY 1332/9).

Diary of a whaling voyage from Aberdeen to the David Straits by an unknown author: 1831 (MS 673).

Other relevant collections

Arctic series stereoscopic photographs published by Underwood & Underwood Publishers: 1902 (MS 2407).

Printed collections

An exceptional collection of printed atlases, topographical material and travellers' accounts demonstrate how the perception of these regions developed from the Renaissance period to the 20th century.

The printed collections include some of the most important atlases ever produced from the 16th and 17th centuries as well as early printed volumes in which maps and plans were inserted to inform or to embellish. Special Collections holds around 600 printed maps, atlases and plans. These encompass topographical maps, city and town plans and nautical maps and cover a chronological range from the 15th century to the present day and are representative of the printed cartographic history of Europe and Scotland.

The earliest printed atlas is a 1482 reworking of Ptolemy's *Cosmographia* by Nicholas Germanus and there are several further 16th century examples of maps in the Ptolemaic tradition. Works by some of the most significant map-makers such as Blaeu, Mercator, Ortelius, and Hondius are also held.

The printed collections contain many printed memoirs written by University alumni who travelled and worked as part of the army and civil service and as doctors, ministers, surveyors or explorers.

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).

'North – Aberdeen's Circumpolar Collections' (University of Aberdeen Development Trust, undated).