

Resources relating to Oceania in Special Collections

September 2021

QG HCOL053

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.

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

Family and estate papers

Earls of Kintore, papers of the 9th Earl, Algernon Keith-Falconer and his family, whilst he was Governor of South Australia. Includes some official papers, non-official papers and scrapbooks of life in Australia compiled by Lady Kintore: 1889 and 1895 (MS 3064).

Kintore, Lady Hilda Keith Falconer, journals of various trips around the world including Australia and New Zealand: 1890s (MS 3064).

Leslie of Warthill, letters to family members in Australia: 19th century (MS 2580).

Scott family, Achath, near Castle Fraser: papers: 17th century – 20th century (MS 3873).

Business papers

George Washington Wilson & Co., photographers: 1850 – 1905. Photographer, Fred Hardie, visited Australia in 1892 – 1893. He travelled through Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

In each colony he visited various locations including in Adelaide, Brisbane, Broken Hill, Melbourne and Sydney. This collection of over 1000 images records the social history of Australia pre-federation, including vivid pictures of the life and work of gold miners, early settlers at work and play, and Aboriginals (MS 3792).

Personal papers

Cargill, Rev. David, missionary, diary on his second journey to Tonga (copy): 1842 - 1843 (1920 copy) (MS 911).

Stewart, James, British government officer, Fiji and British Guiana, correspondence to his parents in Aberdeen: 1880 – 1900 (MS 3385).

Wood, Dr. William, physician in Sydney, Australia, autobiographical papers: early 20th century (MS 3212).

Unidentified traveller from Aberdeen, notes on the first part of a journey to Sydney, New South Wales: 1889 (MS 3645).

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.

There are also named collections of relevance:

London Missionary Society Lending Library,
Edinburgh

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).