

Local Collection of printed material

September 2021

QG HCOL055

The Wolfson Reading Room Special Collections Centre

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

Introduction

Special Collections hold an extensive collection of printed material that covers the north-east of Scotland (i.e. the former counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Kincardine, Moray and Nairn), with a special emphasis on the University and its history.

The majority of the collection is on open access within the Reading Room and dates from the 18th century to current (predominantly 19th and 20th centuries).

Holdings

Almanacks/year books and postal/trade directories

Antiquarian and local publications, such as those of the Spalding Clubs and Aberdeen University Press.

Autobiographical and biographical publications by and about individuals from the local area.

Educational institution publications from schools and further education colleges/universities.

Genealogical publications including those published by the Aberdeen and North-East Scotland Family History Society (such as the series of Monumental Inscriptions).

Health related publications from hospitals and the Medical Officer of Health.

Histories relating to the local area and the University.

Journals such as Aberdeen Journal, Notes and Queries and The Leopard.

Literary works including poetry and prose relating to the local area.

Local Government material such as council minutes and reports.

Maps and plans including a collection of local reference maps and plans.

Newspapers such as Bon Accord and Northern Figaro are available as part of the Local Collection.

For an extensive list of local newspapers including a complete run of the Press and Journal, please see the separate factsheet HCOL56: Newspaper resources in Special Collections.

Organisation publications including those of churches, clubs, political organisations, societies and trusts.

University and student publications such as Aberdeen University Review, Alma Mater, Athletic Alma and Gaudie. University material such as Court and Senate minutes, Calendars, annual reports and student guides. Departmental publications including Aberdeen Post-Graduate Medical Bulletin, Arbor (Forestry Society), Orb (Geographical Society) and Zodiac (Medical Society). Also, student material such as class albums, student show programmes and society publications.

Related printed collections

There are also named collections of relevance (which contain the older material not on open access):

Lambda Collection which comprises the output of north-east of Scotland authors, whether native or adopted:

Special Books Local Collection (SBL) comprising books, pamphlets and journals printed in Aberdeen from 1622 to 1800 inclusive. The collection largely represents the output of relatively small-scale printing establishments, set up to satisfy the demands of readers in Aberdeen and area for printed material:

Herald, King and Thomson pamphlet collections containing c.14, 000 pamphlets dating from 1715 to the 19th century:

Access

The majority of the materials within the Local Collection are on open access for consultation in the Reading Room. Please search our online catalogues to identify individual items.

Further reading

There are also articles on our printed books and collections in the journals *Aberdeen University Library Bulletin*, *Aberdeen University Review* and *Northern Scotland*, and in the series *Aberdeen University Studies*.

Anderson P. J. (ed.), *Studies in the History and Development of the University* (Aberdeen University Press, 1906). **This contains the most detailed bibliography relating to the universities.**

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)

Johnstone, James, *A concise bibliography of the history, topography and institutions of the shires of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine* (Aberdeen, 1914)

Johnstone, James and Robertson, Alexander, *Bibliographia Aberdonensis: being an account of books relating to or printed in the shires of Aberdeen, Banff, Kincardine or written by natives or residents or by officers, graduates or alumni of the universities of Aberdeen* (Aberdeen, 1929)

Robertson, Alexander, *Handlist of bibliography of the shires of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine* (Aberdeen, 1893)