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 (MSU 305 and MSU 306).

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

Organisation papers


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


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


Business papers


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


Personal papers

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


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).


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


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


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

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

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).

Kinchloch, 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): 1877 – 1908 (MS 3689).

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


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).

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


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).


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).


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**

www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/special/collections/cld/20/.

**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:

www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/special/collections/cld/36/.

**Taylor Psalmody Collection**

www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/special/collections/cld/37/.

**The Bernard Lloyd Walter Scott Collection**

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

www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/special/collections/cld/45/.
Access

Materials are available upon request for consultation in the Reading Room. Please search online catalogues to identify individual items: www.abdn.ac.uk/library/about/special/search-catalogues/

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).


Links

National Register of Archives http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/


Elphinstone Institute www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone/