Organisations’ records in Special Collections
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QG HCOL027  [www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/documents/guides/qghcol027.pdf]

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Introduction
Many organisations have deposited their papers with the University and as a result, it has acquired an unrivalled collection of material relating to the north-east of Scotland.

The University holds records of numerous types of organisations including clubs/societies/ co-operatives, employer associations, political organisations, statutory bodies and trusts.

Please also note that this factsheet does not include trade unions or student clubs. This factsheet should therefore be consulted in conjunction with the factsheets QG HCOL022: Labour history resources in Special Collections and QG HCOL038: University student and alumni society resources in Special Collections.

Churches
The Historic Archives of the Scottish Catholic Archives predominantly relate to the Catholic Church from the 12th 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.

See main website portal - www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/scottish-catholic-archives-73.php

Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, including many individual churches: 17th century – 20th century (MS 3320).

The records of St Andrew's Cathedral Aberdeen have been catalogued separately: c. 1700 - 1989 (MS 3499).

St Clement's Church, Aberdeen: register of baptisms: 1837 – 1885 (MS 1015).

Collegiate Church of Turriff: register: 1548-1558: Also includes notes made in the 20th century (MS 2255).

There are many other small collections relating to churches such as later transcriptions of earlier registers; see the factsheet QG HCOL017: Ecclesiastical resources in Special Collections.

Clubs, societies and co-operatives
Aberdeen Clerical Association: 1858 – 1907 (MS 3337/16).
Aberdeen Ecclesiological Society: 1894 – 1902 (MS 2452).
Aberdeen Institution for the Deaf and Dumb: 1840 – 1918 (MS 3428).
Aberdeen Literary Debating Society: 1836 – 1837 (MS 518).
Aberdeen Medical Club: 1868 – 1875 (MS 544).
Aberdeen Natural History Association: 1845 – 1851 (MS 3320).
Aberdeen Philosophical Society: 1758 – 1773 (MS 145, MS 539 and MS 3107). See also papers of Ledingham Chalmers, solicitors, below.
Aberdeen Philosophical Society: 1840 – 1939 (MS 597).
Aberdeen Preachers’ Society papers: 1832 – 1834 (MS 1078).
Aberdeen Saturday Whist Club: 1894 – 1912 (MS 2056).
Aberdeen Society of Probationers: 1834 – 1838 (MS 541).
Aberdeen Union Perseverance Society: 1818 – 1852 (MS 543).
Aboyne Circulating Library papers: 1839 – 1855 (MS 3495).
Alford Mutual Improvement Association Library papers: 1912 – 1929 (MS 3438).
American Society for Archaeological Research in Asia Minor: 1901 – 1959 (MS 3286).
Ballater Mutual Improvement Association: 1889 – 1927 (MS 2632).
Banchory Farmer Friendly Society: 1776 – 1866 (MS 3244/7).
Bethany House: volume containing notes on services and the management of the house: mid 19th century (MS 2801).
British Astronomical Association Aurora Section: 1964 – current (MS 3152).
Buchan Coursing Club: 1854 – 1881 (MS3004/351 and MS 3004/V41).
Buchan Medical Society: 1862 – 1990 (MS 3405).
Chanonry Cricket Club: 1858 – 1880 (MS 587).
County Club of Aberdeen: 1718 – 1873 (MS 2188).
Dundee Celtic Club: 1872 – 1875 (MS 2310).
Free Master Gardeners of Fintry: 1818 – 1842 (MS 1024).
Friends of Aberdeen University Library: 1957 – current (MSU 1037).
Gardener Fraternity of Old Aberdeen: 1821 – 1864 (MS 41).
Garioch and Northern Medical Association: 1854 – 1925 (MS 1163/1).
Gordon’s Mill Farming Club, Aberdeen: 1758 – 1764 (MS 49).
Highland Society of Scotland: 1786 – 1814 (MS 960-MS 963).
John Crawford’s Trust, Kelso: 1664 – 1827 (MS 2769/I/3).
Kennethmont, Clatt and Leslie Total Abstinence Society: 1878 – 1886 (MS 3630).
Merchant Society of Old Aberdeen: 1700 – 1901 (MS 42, MS 44 – MS 47).
New Deer Agricultural Association: 1837 – 1845 (MS 3387).
North East of Scotland Music Festival: 1909 – 1913 (MS 3237).
Old Machar Parochial Association: 1864 – 1868 (MS 1020).
Our Club, Aberdeen: 1825 – 1841 (MS 596).
Scottish Ornithologists’ Club, Aberdeen Branch: minutes and related papers: 1947 – 2011 (MS 3835) and (MS 3875).
Spalding Club: 1839 – 1869 (MS 604 – MS 612, MS 848, MS 973, MS 2264).
New Spalding Club: 1886 – 1928 (MS 485 – MS 486, MS 607, MS 613, MS 2257, MS 2264, MS 2529 and MS 3023).
Third Spalding Club: 1928 – 1956 (MS 2256, MS 2258 – MS 2259, MS 2492 & MS 3252).
Union of Women Workers: 1900 – 1926 (MS 2769/I/126).
Woodside Oldgroves Farmers Friendly Society: 1792 – 1832 (MS 2769/I/123).

Employee associations
Aberdeen Association of Civil Engineers: 1900 – 1966 (MS 3278).
Aberdeen Fish Curers and Merchants Association: 1888 – 1947 (MS 3054).
Aberdeen Fish Salesmen’s Association: 1896 – 2003 (MS 3874).
Aberdeen Trawlowners and Traders Engineering Company Ltd.: 1900 – 1971 (MS 3248).
Political organisations


Liberal Association, Aberdeen, minutes: 1878 – 1923 (MS 2472 – MS 2473).

Liberal Party, executive committee minutes, circulars, election papers in Aberdeenshire constituencies: 1930s – 1960s (MS 3037).

Local Labour Party branch records 1920s – 1960s (Aberdeen City, Banffshire, Keith) (MS 2663, MS 2891 and MS 2892).


Schools

Castle Fraser School: 1870 – 1888 (MS 3470/18).

Chanonry School, Old Aberdeen: 1879 - 1892 (MS 2633).

Episcopal Church, Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, records relating to schools, such as school reports, administrative and financial records: 19th century – 20th century (MS 3320).

Free East Church School, St Andrew Street, Aberdeen: 1863-1874 (MS 3812).

Grammar School, Old Aberdeen: 1870-1885 (MS 648).


Dr Tulloch’s Academy, Aberdeen: 1843 - 1873 (MS 561).

W.G. Walker’s Academy, Aberdeen: 1873 - 1886 (MS 562).

Statutory bodies

For records created by old administrative units (such as Commissioners of Supply) covering the historic counties of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire please see the factsheet QG HCOL020: Government and political resources in Special Collections.


North Eastern Scotland Local Tribunal for conscientious objectors: 1939 - 1946 (MS 2108).

Trusts

Dr John Anderson Trust papers: 1740 – 1882 (MS 3460).


Bishop Dunbar Hospital Trust papers: 1373 – 20th century (MS 3861).

William Harvey Trust papers: 1834 – 1923 (MS 3039).

Mitchell’s Hospital Trust, Old Aberdeen papers: 1920s (MS 3108).

Dr Robert Wilson’s Trust papers: 1796 – 1986 (MS 3390).

Miscellaneous local trust minute books and one solicitor’s registry index: 19th century – 20th century (MS 3765).

Other relevant collections

Adam, Cochran and Company, advocates, Aberdeen: papers. This collection contains records from families, estates, businesses, trusts and other organisations which the firm represented: 1630 – 1919 (MS 3066).

Davidson and Garden, advocates, Aberdeen: 15th century – 20th century. This extensive collection contains records of some 200 families, estates, businesses, trusts and other organisations which the firm represented (MS 2769 and MS 3744).

Ledingham Chalmers, solicitors: 18th century – 20th century. Includes papers from various organisations such as Aberdeen Philosophical Society. (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): 18th century – 20th century. Includes papers from various organisations and trusts (MS 2626).

Printed collections

The Local Collection accessible via the Reading Room contains relevant printed material including published reports by many organisations noted above such as the Cairngorm Club.

Access

Materials are available, upon request, for consultation in the Reading Room. Please search online catalogues to identify individual items. www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/search-catalogues/catalogues-60.php

Further reading

For further reading please also 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.

Links

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