



School and teacher training resources in Special Collections

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QG HCOL031 [<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/documents/guides/qghcol031.pdf>]

The Wolfson Reading Room

Special Collections Centre

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Introduction

Many individuals and organisations have deposited their papers with the University and 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 of national and international importance.

These include records of 19th century schools, some prior to the introduction of the 1872 Education Act. The main school records held are those of the Practising/Demonstration Schools which were established by the teacher training colleges.

The core teaching collection is the 'Aberdeen Colleges of Education' which is a colloquial term for the many different institutions that provided teacher training between 1874 and 2001: Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College (1874 - 1907), Aberdeen Free Church of Scotland Training College (1875 - 1907), Aberdeen Provincial Training Centre (1907 - 1959), Aberdeen College of Education (1959 - 1987) and Northern College of Education (1987 - 2001), following the merger with Dundee College of Education. Also, Woolmanhill Emergency Physical Training Centre (formerly the Dunfermline College of Hygiene and Physical Education) (1946 - 1950). In 2001 the College merged with the University of Aberdeen to become the Faculty (now School) of Education.

The 'Colleges of Education' archives are very rich and include administrative records including minutes, papers of staff, financial records, estate records and architectural plans. Also, student records including enrolment registers, assessment records, yearbooks and photographs ([MSU 1421](#)).

Please note that this factsheet should be consulted in conjunction with the factsheets [QG HCOL037: University staff resources in Special Collections](#) and [QG HCOL040: University student resources in Special Collections](#).

Practising/demonstration schools

School Admission Registers: 1909 – 1968

Daily Attendance Registers: 1952 – 1970

School Log Books: 1888 – 1970

Register of Lefts: 1925 – 1970 ([MSU 1421/3](#)).

Other schools

Aberdeen Grammar School, foundation correspondence between Theodore Watt, publisher and John Malcolm Bulloch, journalist: 1925 ([MS 2443](#)).

Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen High School for Girls, closure of Primary Departments papers: 1963 – 1964 ([MS 2491](#)).

Aberdeen Grammar School, documents collected relating to 650th anniversary: 1906 ([MS 1090](#)).

Auchindoir school registers: 1835 – 1841 ([MS 3518/4/1/7](#)).

Castle Fraser School records: 1870 – 1888 ([MS 3470/18](#)).

Chanonry School, Old Aberdeen, various administrative records: 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, log book: 1863-1874 ([MS 3812](#)).

Grammar School, Old Aberdeen, register of pupils: 1870-1885 ([MS 648](#)).

Inverness Academy, historical notes: c.1900 ([MS 2386](#)).

Dr Tulloch's Academy, Aberdeen: includes a School Admissions Register, August 1852 - January 1873, and a list of pupils from 1843 ([MS 561](#)).

W.G. Walker's Academy, Aberdeen, register: 1873 - 1886 ([MS 562](#)).

Locating student teacher records

Church of Scotland Training College

Student registration

Class registers have been published (details below) and are indexed. As a result there is little need to consult the original student registers.

Aberdeen Church of Scotland, records of the classes from 1874-75 to 1894-95 (Elizabeth Cleland, ed., Aberdeen: Privately printed at the Adelphi Press, 1896).

Appendix to records of classes from 1874-75 to 1894-95 (Aberdeen: Privately printed at the Albany Press, 1907; Includes photo groups of staff and students).

Aberdeen Church of Scotland, records of the classes from 1895-96 to 1905-07 (Elizabeth Cleland, ed., Aberdeen: Privately printed at the Adelphi Press, 1907; Includes photo groups of staff and students).

See also [MSU 1421/4/2/2/8](#), an (A-Z) of students who attended the Church of Scotland & Free Church colleges 1874-1908. This record was created in c.1940s/50s and is a useful index if unsure which College a student attended.

Assessment/comments on progress

There will also be information on assessment marking in the Records of Assessment ([MSU 1421/1/1/2](#)).

Photographs

See the published volumes as listed above.

Class photos are in section ([MSU 1421/1/3/1](#)).

Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College staff and student photographs, 1881-1893 ([MS 3793](#)).

Aberdeen Free Church Training College

Student registration

See ([MSU 1421/4/2/2/8](#)), an (A-Z) of students who attended the Church of Scotland & Free Church colleges from 1874-1908. This index created in c.1940s/50s is needed to find Free Church students and is a useful index if unsure which College a student attended. The index will provide the enrolment date for the student allowing the Enrolment Registers to be consulted ([MSU 1421/2/1/1/1](#)).

Assessment/comments on progress

Using the A-Z index above the Records of Practical Teaching Assessments can be consulted ([MSU 1421/2/1/2/1](#)).

Photographs

Class photos in section ([MSU 1421/2/2/1/1](#)).

Aberdeen Provincial Training Centre

Student registration

Card index to Register of Students, 1906-1951 ([MSU 1421/4/2/2/7/1](#)). This is the index to -

- Registers of Students Admitted, 1906-1949 under chapter III ([MSU 1421/4/2/2/1](#)).
- Registers of Students Admitted under chapter V of the Regulations, 1907-1950 ([MSU 1421/4/2/2/2](#)).
- Registers of Students Admitted under chapter VI of the Regulations: 1907-1949 ([MSU 1421/4/2/2/3](#)).

Volume index to register of students, 1950-1954 ([MSU 1421/4/2/2/7/2](#)) and 1955-1961 ([MSU 1421/4/2/2/7/3](#)). This is the index to -

- Register of Students Admitted under chapter III (Teacher's General Certificate), chapter V (Teacher's Special Certificate), chapter VI (Teacher's Technical Certificate) and nursery school training (article 51): 1950-1958 ([MSU 1421/4/2/2/4](#)).

Assessment/comments on progress

For assessment markings and comments on progress see Returns of Scotch Education Department forms 102T 'Reports on student's ability and promise of success as a teacher during training': includes comments on progress and end of year report. ([MSU 1421/4/2/4/1](#)).

For assessment markings check Training Records and Registers of Student Marks ([MSU 1421/4/2/3](#)). See also other returns to Scottish Education Department ([MSU 1421/4/2/4](#)).

Photographs

Student Photographic Albums: 1932-1958 ([MSU 1421/4/2/2/6](#)).

Class photographs ([MSU 1421/4/7/1](#)).

Aberdeen College of Education/ Northern College of Education

The student records from 1959 are still of current use and held by the School of Education and the University Registry.

Woolmanhill Emergency Physical Training Centre

Student registration

Register of Students: 1946-1950 ([MSU 1421/5/1/1](#)).
Student files: 1946-1950 ([MSU 1421/5/1/2](#)).

Photographs

Class photos in section ([MSU 1421/5/2/1](#)).

Oral history collections

University of Aberdeen Oral History Archive: comprises nearly 200 interviews with individuals connected with the University ([MS 3620](#)) - of particular interest are the interviews conducted with John Nisbet, Professor of Education ([MS 3620/1/155](#)).

Other relevant collections

Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College staff and student photographs, 1881-1893 class groups ([MS 3793](#)).

Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College lecture notes and report book, 1900-1904 ([MS 3794](#)).

Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College lecture notes and papers: 1901-1903 ([MS 3826](#)).

Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College lecture notes: 1904-1906 ([MS 3841](#)).

Aberdeen Provincial Training College lecture notes and papers: 1901-1914 ([MS 3820](#)).

Aberdeen Provincial Training Centre lecture notes: 1910 ([MS 3798](#)).

Aberdeen Provincial Training Centre lecture notes: 1912 ([MS 3817](#)).

Educational Institute for Scotland: Aberdeen Local Association: 1917 – 1986 ([MS 3545](#)).

Forbes, Margaret, Aberdeen College of Education student notebooks: 1976 – 1978 ([MS 3908](#)).

Gordon, Charles Harold, schoolteacher: papers: 1924 – 1971 ([MS 3403](#)).

Lyall, Agnes: teaching training lecture notes, 1930-1931 ([MS 3606](#)).

Scotland, James, Principal of Aberdeen College of Education papers (copies) including an unpublished history of the colleges and biographies of teaching staff: 1980s ([MS 3834](#)).

Reports on Scottish schools inspected by John Black, HM Inspector of Schools: 1861 – 1862 ([MS 535](#)).

Scottish Schoolmasters' Association and related organisations: 1935 – 1965 ([MS 2700](#)).

University of Aberdeen Department of Education papers: 1921-2000 ([MSU 1450](#)).

Printed collections

The Local Collection, accessible via the Reading Room, contains relevant printed material, such as publications of the local educational authorities, school boards, Aberdeen Educational Trust, Aberdeen Endowments Trust, Aberdeen Provincial Committee (teacher training) and north-east educational institutions such as Aberdeen Grammar School.

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/

Please note that some records contain personal information of children, students and staff and may be closed for 75 (for adults) and 100 (for children 16 and under) years under the Data Protection Act (1998).

Further reading

Please see catalogue [MSU 1421](#) where relevant printed material held by Special Collections is listed.

McCall, Alison T. *Aberdeen School Board female teachers 1872-1901: a biographical list* (Aberdeen, 2007).

Links

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

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives are the designated archive for local authority school records:
www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/aberdeen-city-and-aberdeenshire-archives