



## University student and alumni society resources in Special Collections

Andrew MacGregor, May 2018

QG HCOL038 [<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/documents/guides/qghcol038.pdf>]

### The Wolfson Reading Room

#### Special Collections Centre

The Sir Duncan Rice Library  
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Website: [www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/)

### 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.

There are numerous and varied organisations founded by students and alumni: from sports clubs, academic societies to alumni organisations. There are also records created by the student body such as those of the annual charities campaign and that of the student show.

Regards student sports, there have always been recreational activities at the University itself and a cricket club is recorded at Marischal College in 1849, there was a shinty club at King's College with the official club forming in 1861 and the football club formed in 1872.

As well as the University's own records there are other institutions that have affiliated with the University and transferred their own records; the Aberdeen teacher training colleges, Christ's College, Aberdeen, North of Scotland College of Agriculture and the Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health.

Please note that this factsheet should be used in conjunction with the factsheets [QG HCOL027: Organisations' records in Special Collections](#), [QG HCOL037: University staff resources in Special Collections](#) and [QG HCOL040: University student resources in Special Collections](#).

### Archival collections

Aberdeen Alumnus Association, Athletic Section, correspondence: 1954 ([MS 3110](#)).

Aberdeen University Alumnus Association: 1939 – 1990s ([MS 3915](#)).

Aberdeen Musical Society: 2005 – 2006 ([MSU 1443](#)).

Aberdeen University Club, London: 1884 – 1984 ([MS 3209](#)).

Aberdeen University Edinburgh Association album: 1883 – 2003 ([MS 4016](#)).

Aberdeen Universities' Missionary Association: 1848 – 1880 ([MSU 317](#), [MSU 321](#) and [MSU 1236](#)).

Air Squadron and former members association, University of Aberdeen: 1941 – current ([MS 3871](#)).

Anatomical and Anthropological Society: 19<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century ([MSU 1442](#)).

Boat Club ephemera collected by Robert Brown: 1949 – 2004 ([MS 3791](#)).

Butchart Scottish Country Dance Class formerly called Aberdeen University Ladies Club Scottish Country Dance Group: 1984 – 2001 ([MS 3771/6/3](#)).

Celtic Society and Aberdeen University Irish Society: (1975-1999 & 1989-1993) ([MSU 1338](#)).

Celtic Society: 1854 – 2007 ([MSU 297](#)).

Chemical Society papers: 1949 – 1961 ([MS 3742](#)).

Choral and Orchestral Society: 1876 – 1922 ([MSU 305](#) and [MSU 306](#)).

Classical Society: 1900 – 1949 ([MSU 322](#) – [MSU 323](#)).

Debating Society: 1860 – 1888 ([MSU 281](#), [MSU 282](#), [MSU 283](#)).

Dramatic Society: 1918 – 1928 ([MSU 284](#)).

East Coast Aberdeen University Association: 1969 – 1988 ([MS 3914](#)).

Football Club (Arts) papers: 1870 – 1873 ([MSU 353](#)).

Hellenic Society: 1850 – 1884 ([MSU 286](#)).

The Hilaric, Cachinatory Society of (Greek lettering) boys: 1848 ([MSU 325](#)).

King's College Club: 1855-1877 ([MS 3960](#)) and ([MS 3961](#)).

King's College Debating Society: March 1848 - February 1860 ([MS 3958](#)).

Ladies Club: 1926-2004 ([MS 3771](#)).

Literary Club: 1826 – 1827 ([MS 3959](#)).

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Literary Club: 1892 – 1893 ([MSU 354](#)).

Literary Society: 1870 – 1940 ([MSU 291](#) – [MSU 295](#)).

Officers Training Corps, William Martin McNeill collected papers: 1942 – 1976 ([MS 3830](#)).

Officers Training Corps: personal accounts collected as part of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations: 2012 ([MS 3862](#)).

Peace Society: 1912 – 1914 ([MSU 651](#)).

Peace Group: 1994 ([MS 3451](#)).

Philosophical Club: 1896 – 1909 ([MSU 311](#)).

Rugby Club memorabilia: 1954-1991 ([MS 3492](#)).

Rugby Club memorabilia, collected by Adam Moore: 1957 - 1995 ([MS 3829](#)).

Shinty Club papers: 1861 ([MSU 307](#)).

Theological Society: 1873 -1890 ([MSU 312](#)).

Women's Dramatic Society: 1918 ([MS 2951](#)).

## Oral history collections

University of Aberdeen Oral History Archive comprises nearly 200 interviews with individuals connected with the University, students and alumni ([MS 3620](#)).

## Other relevant collections

The core collection of University photographs also comprises some photographs of various student groups such as student magazine editorial staff and national student bodies: mid 19<sup>th</sup> century – 20<sup>th</sup> century ([MSU 591](#)).

The Students' Representative Council (S.R.C.) and Union Management Committee papers: 1889 - 2000 ([MSU 301](#)).

The Students' Charities Campaign papers (including the Student Show): 1921 - current ([MSU 1073](#)). There are other personal collections relating to the student show, see the main catalogue above for references.

The Sports Union papers record the development of the various sports clubs from their beginnings in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. The papers include some records and many hundred photographs of individual clubs: 1872 - present ([MSU 1452](#)).

## Affiliated institutions

There are also relevant papers relating to student societies and sports clubs from the teaching colleges Northern College of Education (formerly Aberdeen College of Education), Aberdeen Provincial Training Centre, Aberdeen Church of Scotland Training College and Aberdeen Free Church Training College.

Also records of Woolmanhill Emergency Physical Training Centre: 1874 – 2001 ([MSU 1421](#)). (See separate factsheet [QG HCOL031: School and Teacher Training resources in Special Collections](#)). Aberdeen Free Church College: Free Church Theological Society, 1895 – 1910 ([MS 3241/5/1](#)).

## Printed collections

The Local Collection accessible via the Reading Room contains relevant printed material:

### Student guides/handbooks (various types)

Student Guides were issued to students and contain listings and information on societies: 19<sup>th</sup> century – current. (see copies as part of the Local Collection).

### Student & University magazines and newspapers

There have been numerous student and University publications, starting in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the main ones being: Aberdeen University Magazine, Alma Mater, Athletic Alma and Gaudie. These are key resources for researching student life (see copies as part of the Local Collection).

### Departmental & society publications

There have been numerous relevant publications and notable examples include Arbor (Forestry Society), Orb (Geographical Society) and Zodiac (Medical Society) (see copies as part of the Local Collection).

### Aberdeen University Review (including obituaries, from 1913 to current)

An invaluable resource for finding additional information on the activities of student and alumni organisations (see copies as part of the Local Collection).

## 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/index.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/search-catalogues/index.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/>

Collection Highlight – 85 years of the student show  
[www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/85-years-of-student-show-283.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/85-years-of-student-show-283.php)