



University student and alumni society resources in Special Collections

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QG HCOL038 [<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/hcol/qghcol038.pdf>]

The Wolfson Reading Room

Special Collections Centre

The Sir Duncan Rice Library
University of Aberdeen
Bedford Road
Aberdeen
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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.

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.

Archival collections

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

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

Aberdeen Graduates Athletic Club papers: 1933 – 1982 (MS 4028).

Aberdeen Musical Society: 2005 – 2006 (UNIVERSITY 1443).

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

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

Aberdeen Universities' Missionary Association: 1837 – 1976 (UNIVERSITY 315)

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

Anatomical and Anthropological Society: 19th century – 20th century (UNIVERSITY 1442).

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

Butchart Scottish Country Dance Club formerly called Aberdeen University Ladies Club Scottish Country Dance Group: 1984 – 2001 (MS 3699).

Celtic Society and Aberdeen University Irish Society: (1975-1999 & 1989-1993) (UNIVERSITY 1338).

Celtic Society: 1854 – 2007 (UNIVERSITY 297).

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

Choral and Orchestral Society: 1876 – 1922 (UNIVERSITY 305).

Classical Society: 1900 – 1949 (UNIVERSITY 322)

Debating Society: 1860 – 1980 (UNIVERSITY 281).

Dramatic Society: 1918 – 1928 (UNIVERSITY 284).

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

Football Club (Arts) papers: 1870 – 1873 (UNIVERSITY 353).

Hellenic Society: 1850 – 1884 (UNIVERSITY 286).

The Hilaric, Cachinatory Society of (Greek lettering) boys: 1848 (UNIVERSITY 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).

Literary Club: 1892 – 1893 (UNIVERSITY 354).

Literary Society: 1870 – 1940 (UNIVERSITY 291).

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

Officers Training Corps: personal accounts collected as part of 100th anniversary celebrations: 2012 (MS 3862).

Peace Society: 1912 – 1914 (UNIVERSITY 651).

Peace Group: 1994 (MS 3451).

Philosophical Club: 1896 – 1909 (UNIVERSITY 311).

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

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

Scottish Universities' Labour Party (Aberdeen branch) minutes: 1938 – 1956 (MS 4029).

Shinty Club papers: 1861 (UNIVERSITY 307).

Theological Society: 1873 -1890 (UNIVERSITY 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 19th century – 20th century (UNIVERSITY 591).

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

The Students' Charities Campaign papers (including the Student Show): 1921 - current (UNIVERSITY 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 19th century to the present day. The papers include some records and many hundred photographs of individual clubs: 1872 - present (UNIVERSITY 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 (UNIVERSITY 1421). 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: 19th 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 19th 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.

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*.