

Acc.11373
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Inventory

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Scottish Plebiscite Appeal Fund

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Manuscripts Division
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1EW
Tel: 0131-466 2812
Fax: 0131-466 2811
E-mail: manuscripts@nls.uk

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Correspondence, minutes of the Sponsors and Committees, and other papers of the Scottish Plebiscite Appeal Fund, 1961-4. The Appeal Fund was launched in by means of a public letter dated St. Andrew's Day, 1961, and signed by fifteen Scots distinguished in various areas of public life. It pointed to an increasing public debate on the constitutional future of Scotland difficult to settle at periodical general elections in which United Kingdom issues predominated, but capable of clarification through the means of arranging for a non-party, independent body to conduct a national plebiscite by postal vote to establish clearly Scottish opinion on the constitutional issue. To this end the Appeal Sponsors estimated that £100,000 would have to be raised by public subscription and they proposed that such a fund, if raised, might be handed over to the pre-existing Scottish Plebiscite Society who would organize a national plebiscite. Despite considerable initial public and media interest, the results of a public subscription proved to be very disappointing, and by 1964 the Appeal Fund had, effectively, ceased to be active.

Presented, 1996, by Michael Starforth Esq., Oban, Hon. Secretary to the Appeal Fund, with David Rollo Esq, Kirkintilloch, and Lt. col. [Retd.] Muriel Gibson, Edinburgh.

1. Minutes and related papers of the Sponsors' Meetings and the Appeal Business Committee, 1962-3.
2. Secretary's file of copies of out-letters and circulars, 1962.
3. Signed support sheets, 1962.
- 4-6. Correspondence from Appeal Sponsors, 1961-4.
 4. Earl of Airlie; John M. Bannerman, later Lord Bannerman of Kildonan; Michael Byrne, General Secretary, Scottish Transport and General Workers' Union; William Hope Collins, publisher; Lawrence Daly, General Secretary, National Union of Mineworkers; Countess of Erroll; Dr Leonard Gray; Thomas Johnston; Sir Gordon Letham; and Sir Iain Moncrieffe of that Ilk, 1961-2.
 5. Lord Boyd Orr of Brechin; Sir John Ure Primrose, Chairman of the Fund; John Rankin MP; and Principal Sir Thomas Taylor, Aberdeen University, 1961-2.
 6. John M. Rollo, 1961-4, and David Rollo.
7. Correspondence with Sheriff Peter Thomson, Chairman of the Scottish Plebiscite Society, and with his brother, Lewis Thomson.
8. Responses from Town Councils and trade unions, July-August, 1962; the former refer mostly to requests for flag days.
9. Letters of application for field organisers posts, June-July, 1962.
10. Correspondence with organisers: F.A.C. Boothby, Central/South Scotland, 1962-3; John M. Mackay, Northern Scotland, 1962.

11. Letters from or to overseas supporters or potential supporters, and lists of expatriate organisations to be approached, 1962.
12. General correspondence, mostly to the secretary, 1961-4.
13. Financial correspondence and papers, 1961-3, mostly with the Fund's banker, D. Sutherland of the British Linen Bank, Forfar.
14. Press cuttings file, 1961-2.
15. Fund receipt books and badges.