



**Inventory**

**Acc.11490**

**Alexander Law**

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Literary papers of Dr Alexander Law, OBE (1903-1995), sometime HM Inspector of Schools, mostly relating to his studies in the field of Scottish schools and education, especially in the 18th century and in Edinburgh in particular; to Scottish schoolbooks of this period; and to the life and works of Allan Ramsay. With Professor A M Kinghorn, Law carried on the pioneering editorial work of Burns Martin and J W Oliver (who had produced the first two volumes of the Scottish Text Society edition of The Works of Allan Ramsay), and their collaboration saw the publication of four additional volumes. The edition was completed in 1974. Law continued to gather information on Ramsay, and some of his work was directed towards a possible revision of Burns Martin's Bibliography of the Writings of Allan Ramsay (Glasgow 1931). This work has been continued by Professor G Ross Roy.

*Presented, 1996, by Mrs Elizabeth Law, Edinburgh.*

#### Box 1

- 1-5 Five slip index binders containing notes on the bibliography of Scottish schoolbooks and educational publications.
- 6 Sheaf of index slips containing general notes on history of Scottish education.

#### Box 2

- 7-10 Four slip index binders containing notes on schools in Edinburgh.
- 11-12 Two slip index binders containing notes on education in Edinburgh in the 18th century.

#### Box 3

- 13 File of papers and correspondence on Scottish schoolbooks.
- 14 Typescript of an unpublished work by Alexander Law entitled 'Schoolbooks of Old Scotland (1700-1900)', 1989.
- 15 Copy of Alexander Law, 'Edinburgh Schools of the Nineteenth Century', an incomplete and unpublished work prepared in this form by Ann Hope and Rosemary Wake, 1995.
- 16 Two annotated copies of Alexander Law, 'Teachers in Edinburgh in the Eighteenth Century', Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, XXXII (1966); and other offprints of articles by Alexander Law.

- 17 File of correspondence, 1970-89, relating to the Third Statistical Account of Scotland.
- 18 File containing copies of articles and typescripts by Alexander Law, mostly reminiscences of life and studies at Edinburgh University in the 1920s, but some on literary topics such as Scottish schoolbooks and Edinburgh Clubs of the Eighteenth Century.

#### Box 4

- 19-22 Four binders containing material accumulated by Alexander Law in connection with his work on the Scottish Text Society edition of The Works of Allan Ramsay. 19 and 20 relate to vols I-V of the STS edition; 21 contains bibliographical material; and 22 is entitled 'Ramsay People' but contains other information beyond the purely biographical.

#### Box 5

- 23 File of photostats and copies of Allan Ramsay manuscripts and early printings in various collections.
- 24 File of correspondence (early 1950s) between Burns Martin and J W Oliver relating to their collaboration on the first two volumes of the STS edition of Allan Ramsay's Works.
- 25 File of correspondence and papers, annotated by Alexander Law to the effect that the material had for the most part been incorporated in the STS edition. Letters from Burns Martin (dating from the early days of the projected STS edition) are included, together with material collected by Davidson Cook and some correspondence (1920s) relating to a projected edition of Ramsay: correspondents include Eric Partridge.
- 26 File of correspondence mostly between Alexander Law and A M Kinghorn relating to their mutual Ramsay interests and to their collaboration on the Ramsay chapter in the Aberdeen University Press History of Scottish Literature (1987) and to reviews of that work. Other papers are included, notably a long and detailed review by G Ross Roy of the complete STS Ramsay edition.
- 27 File of material relating to The Easy Club. Contains the transcript of the Easy Club Journal made by Mrs Massie, granddaughter of Andrew Gibson from the original MS, itself now lost; and a typescript of an article on The Easy Club by Alexander Law (1989), together with correspondence about the publication of this.

Box 6

- 28-29 Two copies of Burns Martin, A Bibliography of the Writings of Allan Ramsay (Glasgow 1931), one being a presentation copy from Martin to J W Oliver and the other being Alexander Law's annotated working copy.
- 30 File of correspondence, notes and other papers labelled by Alexander Law as material mostly relating to Ramsay's bibliography.
- 31 Law family(?) copy of Thomas Boston's Sermons (Glasgow 1814).