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## **Inventory**

**Acc.13546**

## **The Scottish Plebiscite Society**

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1959-1991

0.08 (14 files)

Papers, 1959-1991 and undated, of The Scottish Plebiscite Society. This society was formed by Peter Thomson (c.1914-1991) to press for a plebiscite on the question of a Scottish parliament. In 1949 it conducted its own plebiscite in Kirriemuir and in which 85% of the local electors participated. Thomson's continuing activity for the cause resulted in his dismissal as sheriff of South Strathclyde in 1977.

Following his dismissal, Thomson devoted his time to holding a series of privately-funded plebiscites in Scottish towns such as Stirling, Hawick, St. Andrews and Banff. After the 1979 referendum he campaigned for the independent oversight of government inspired polls to avoid the danger of bias and controlled elections expenditure to ensure parties fought on equal terms.

*Presented, September 2014.*

1. Correspondence, 1959-1967.
2. Papers, 1959, concerning Peebles' poll.
3. Plan of action, 1959-1960, of The Scottish Plebiscite Society.
4. Certificate of incorporation of The Scottish Plebiscite Society, with a memorandum and articles of association, 5 March 1964.
5. Agendas and minutes of meetings, 1964, 1970 and undated.
6. 'Skian Dhu', issue 1 of the newsletter of The Scottish Plebiscite Society, undated.
7. Subscription forms, one is in an unopened envelope, c. 1950s.
8. Draft and specimen ballot papers. One is in an unopened envelope, c. 1950s.
9. Ephemera, c. 1950s-1960s.
10. Poster of the Scottish Plebiscite Society, c. 1950s.
11. Miscellaneous publications, including an annotated edition of 'A Canna Be Bothered: An Imaginary Discussion on Self-Government for Scotland', by Peter Thomson, 1959, first published in 1943.
12. News-cuttings, 1950s-1961.
13. 'Plebiscite News', January 1963.
14. Obituary of Peter Thomson, c. 1991.