



Inventory

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Royal Scottish Society of Arts

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Acc 7619

Royal Scottish Society of Arts

Although for a number of years a body with similar aims had existed under the exhaustive title of the 'Society for the Promotion of the Mechanical and Useful Arts in Scotland, for rewarding Inventions of Public Utility, and disseminating Useful Knowledge among the Industrious Classes of Society', it was not until 1821 that the then 'Society of Arts for Scotland' was formally instituted in Edinburgh. In an early petition to the Government for a grant, the principle aims of the new society were expressed as being, "... to stimulate and reward genius and mechanical industry, and to afford a ready and useful medium of intercourse among men of all ranks, who were engaged either in the pursuit of science or in the various practical departments of the arts and manufactures." All these activities are well represented in the records of the Society, held at the Library as Acc.4534 and Dep.230. The papers comprise two distinct yet related groups, giving in all quite a comprehensive account of the Society's history, and spanning more than a century of rapid scientific and technological achievement.

Nos.1-49 Deposited, December 1979

Nos.50-131 Presented, December 1979

1-6. Billets

1. 1 volume RSSA billets 1841-1857 (bound)
2. 1 volume RSSA billets 1873-1890 (unbound)
3. 1 volume RSSA billets 1890-1915 (unbound)
4. 1 volume RSSA billets 1921-1952 (bound)
5. 1 volume RSSA billets 1951-1974 (unbound)
6. 1 bundle of billets listing 'Industrial Visits' c. 1931-c. 1975 (incomplete).

7-25 'RSSA Edinburgh Journal', 1926-1952.

7. 1926-7
8. 1927-8
9. 1928-9
10. 1929-30
11. 1930-1

12. 1931-2
13. 1932-3
14. 1933-4
15. 1934-5
16. 1935-6
17. 1936-7
18. 1937-8
19. 1938-9
20. 1939-40
21. 1940-1
22. 1941-2
23. 1942-3
24. 1943-8
25. 1948-52

26. 'Lectures not published in the Trans RSSA, Edinburgh Journal or Bulletin', containing:
- 1 handbook of the RSSA (pub 1955)
 - 1 catalogue of the library of the RSSA (published before 1929)
 - 1 pamphlet, 'The Royal Scottish Society of Arts', (published between 1929 & 1956)
 - 1 printed pamphlet by Henry O'Connor, 'Gas Manufacture & Lighting' (published c. 1909).
 - 1 reprint by B Salvage, 'Overhead Lines or underground cables: ...' (post 1975)
27. 'List of Fellows of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts' [from 1822 to c. 1865].
28. Council minutes: from 1st Oct 1937 – 23rd April 1970.
29. Minutes of Society Meetings, 1929-1961.
 Billets for Society Meetings, 1961-1971.
 Minutes of Council Meetings, 1929-1937.
30. 'Audited Accounts [of the RSSA]', 1951-1960.

31-49 '**Transactions of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts**'.

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|-----|-----------|------|------|
| 31. | Vol. I | 1841 | |
| 32. | Vol. II | 1844 | |
| 33. | Vol. III | | 1851 |
| 34. | Vol. IV | 1856 | |
| 35. | Vol. V | 1861 | |
| 36. | Vol. VI | 1864 | |
| 37. | Vol. VII | 1868 | |
| 38. | Vol. VIII | 1873 | |

39.	Vol. IX	1878
40.	Vol. X	1883
41.	Vol. XI	1887
42.	Vol. XII	1891
43.	Vol. XIII	1894
44.	Vol. XIV	1898
45.	Vol. XV	1903
46.	Vol. XVI	1906
47.	Vol. XVII	1907
48.	Vol. XVIII	1914
49.	Vol. XIX	1927

Correspondence

50-75. Correspondence of the RSSA

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|-----|------------|
| 50. | pre 1950 |
| 51. | 1950-1 |
| 52. | 1951-2 |
| 53. | 1952-3 |
| 54. | 1953-4 |
| 55. | 1954-5 |
| 56. | 1955-6 |
| 57. | 1956-7 |
| 58. | 1957-8 |
| 59. | 1958-9 |
| 60. | 1959-60 |
| 61. | 1960-1 |
| 62. | 1961-2 |
| 63. | 1962-3 |
| 64. | 1963-4 |
| 65. | 1964-5 |
| 66. | 1965-6 |
| 67. | 1966-7 |
| 68. | 1967-8 |
| 69. | 1968-9 |
| 70. | 1969-70 |
| 71. | 1970-1 |
| 72. | 1971-2. |
| 73. | 1972-1973. |
| 74. | 1973-1974. |
| 75. | 1974-1975. |
76. RSSA completed correspondence – upkeep of roll of Fellows, 1962-75.
77. Correspondence of D W Kemp and notes relating to prizes offered by the Society, 1886, 1903

78. RSSA Loyal Address [for Silver Jubilee] 1977.
79. RSSA Dinners [Old menus, invitations etc], 1897-1969.
80. 'Correspondence relating to RSSA dinners', 1957-73.
81. 'Roll of Fellows' [miscellaneous dates from 1821-1971].
82. 'Edinburgh Association of Science & Arts': contains newsletters, billets & a notebook, all concerned with the EASA.
83. 'Examples of Printed Stationery'. [contents as title].
84. 'Laws of the Society' [range: 1828-1974].
85. 'Lectures subsequently gathered together in Trans RSSA Vol. 19 (1914-25)': containing 3 pamphlets of lectures read between 1921 and 1924:
 - (i) Fuel Oil by A F Bailie, 28 November 1921
 - (ii) Aviation by Lieut. Col W O Raikes, 1922
 - (iii) The Rubber Industry in Edinburgh by W A Williams, 14 April 1924.
86. 'Publications of the Society describing its activities, (post 1900)', containing various pamphlets and newsheets.
87. 'Additional Material circulated to Fellows', containing circular letters, invitations to Fellows to encourage greater membership, nomination forms. (1937-74).
88. 'General Printed Papers', containing printed briefs dated 1821-1925.
89. 'RSA London – Printed Papers relating to Bicentenary 1954; Photos of RSSA address', containing pamphlets describing the work of the RSA, papers concerning the celebrations of the bicentenary and photographs [+ 2 slides] of the RSSA address.
90. 'Industrial Visits, billets & application forms', containing material as titled plus photographs [6] of a visit by the RSSA to Bruce Peebles plant in June 1964.
91. 'Industrial Visits, background literature' containing pamphlets for various power stations [Hunterston, Longannet, & Calder Hall], the Naval Construction Research Establishment, and cuttings from the Scotsman [Feb 1967], plus a pamphlet from William Younger's Brewery and lists of members who went on the visits.

92. 'Press Cuttings', containing material as title plus a typescript of a lecture on Radio Astronomy by N G Matthew.
93. 'RSSA Industrial Membership', containing letters/circulars etc relating to the various companies involved under the Industrial Membership scheme.
94. 'Printed Financial Accounts', containing material as title. [various from 1914-1974].
95. 'Offprints of Lectures published in Trans RSSA, Edin J & Bulletin', containing 6 printed pamphlets:
- (i) 'The Results Consequent on the Introduction of Tools', by D Bruce Peebles [Nov 1886];
 - (ii) 'Exhibition of Curves produced by the Vibration of Straight Wires', by Edward Sang [Nov 1889];
 - (iii) 'On Brewing', by Dr Emil Westergaald [Feb/March 1908];
 - (iv) 'On Transport' by George Mills [Feb 1941];
 - (v) 'An Investigation of the Phenomena of the Layers of the Atmosphere', by William G Gray [March 1952];
 - (vi) 'The Atomic Patterns of Everyday Materials', by Sir W Lawrence Bragg [April 1952].
96. 'Communications submitted in Sessions 1933/34 & 34/35. Relates to Nos.5106/5107/5114/5115/5116/5117/5124/5126. [Mainly Reports of Committees].
97. 'Printed Lecture Syllabus cards 1931/2 – 1938/9 & 1953/4 – [1977/78]'.
98. 'RSSA? Unidentified Paper found with RSSA papers in C N Kemp's care'. Paper entitled 'Oilwells:- A brief description of how oilwells are drilled and methods of production [post 1827].
99. 'Text of Lectures'. Various Lectures. [1963-1975]
- (i) "Recent Studies of the Ionosphere" by Sir Edward Appleton, 1963
 - (ii) "Despair to Deliverance: The Evolution of Antisepsis" by Sir John Bruce, Regius Professor of Clinical Surgery, Edinburgh University, 1966
 - (iii) "Materials in the Service of Man", 1st Kemp Lecture by Principal Robert A Smith, Heriot-Watt University, 1971
 - (iv) Address by Sir James Taylor, President of RSA, at 150th anniversary dinner of RSSA, 1971
 - (v) "The Computer - Servant or Master?" by I D Craddock, Ferranti Ltd, 1972/3

- (vi) "The Work of the Naval Construction Research Establishment" by J F Coates, Superintendent NCRE, 1975
 - (vii) "Overhead lines or underground cables: the problem of electrical power transmission", by B Salvage, 1975
 - (viii) "Crystals and Organisms", 2nd Kemp Lecture by Dr Graham Cairns-Smith, Lecturer in Chemistry, University of Glasgow
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- 100. "The Science of the Organ: Its Origin, History and Development" by C Norman Kemp, Keith Lecture, 1912
 - 101. 'Keith Lectures Syllabi'. Almost complete run from 1911 to 1969, plus a list of Keith lecture titles from 1906 to 1970.
 - 102. Posters for Keith Lectures
 - 103. 'Student Prize Scheme 1931-39'. Posters, correspondence, reports & essays.
 - 104. 1 folder: 'Student Prize Scheme; Posters, Entries, Correspondence and Reports 1949-50 & 1955-56'
 - 105. 'RSSA Student Prize Scheme 1964-65'. Mainly correspondence, includes the paper of the Prizewinner.
 - 106. 'Student Prize Scheme': mostly correspondence concerning distribution of pamphlets, posters, bulletins etc.-, 1954-67 etc.
 - 107. 'Student Prize Scheme'. Posters, correspondence, instructions to candidates etc, 1956-64.
 - 108. 'Essay Competition'. Letters & lists referring the RSSA's school pupils competition, 1962-3.
 - 109. 'RSSA Essay Competition', 1957-63.
 - 110. 'Essay Competition for Schools'. Newspaper cuttings/ correspondence, instructions to candidates and other assorted material concerning the competition, 1957-60.
 - 111. 'Schools Prize Scheme'. Letters/posters/certificates and related material, 1965-70.
 - 112. Prize Essay scheme material, Letters/posters/certificates and related material, 1963-71.

113. 'RSSA (ROSPA) Essay Competition on Safety in the Home'.
Correspondence on above between RSSA & RSA in London, 1961-2
114. 'RSSA Prize schemes and Prize Funds'. A summary of the schemes by CNK; lists of prize subjects [earliest 1890 but very few examples]; Heriot Watt presentation lists of 1963 & 1964.
115. Bookbinding stamps, seals & a die of the RSSA crest, with the 'Old Society Seal'.
116. Framed medal [Makdougall Brisbane Prize].
117. 'The Athenaeum Scheme', circulars, minutes of meetings, reports, letters and a scrapbook with newspapers cuttings [all material] relevant to the scheme, 1880, 1884, 1904.
118. 1 box file: 'RSSA The Athenaeum Scheme'. Reports, minutes, letters, newspaper cuttings relevant to the scheme [circa 1931], 1921-33. Copy of Nature, Feb 1953.
- 119- 3 volumes, 2 of accounts & 1 roll of Fellows. (Thought to be of the Edinburgh
121. Association of Science and Arts, which was absorbed by the RSSA in 1931).
119. Cash book, 1889-1892
120. Cash book, 1896-1901
121. Roll of Fellows
122. 1 volume: 'Miscellaneous', printed with a few MS insertions, containing:
1. Catalogue of the Library of the Manchester Mechanics Institution, 1834.
 2. Lord Brougham's Address to same, 1835.
 3. Report of the Directors of same, 1835
 4. Report of the Directors of the Liverpool Mechanics Institution, with a catalogue of the library, 1836.
 5. Essay on the Economical Manufacture of Tyles & Tyle Soles by John Coulter, 1836.
 6. Report on the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, 1836.
 7. Report on the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, 1837.
 8. Essay on Somerville's Safety Gun, 1935.
 9. Sang's solution of Algebraic Equations of all orders, 1829.
 10. Sang on Friction as affecting time keepers, 1835.
 11. Professor Forbes on the Gothic Pendant, 1836.
 12. Encyclopaedia of Gardening, Specimen Part.
 13. Allison on a Medical Friendly Association, 1826.
123. 'Cash Book, Royal Scottish Society of Arts', [subscriptions 1849-1862].

124- 'Secretary's (C N Kemp's) Cash Books':

- 130
- 124. 1924-;
 - 125. Dec 1936 – Dec 1938;
 - 126. April 1947 – Jan 1951;
 - 127. Feb 1951 – Sept 1955;
 - 128. Oct 1958 – Sept 1960;
 - 129. Oct 1960 – Sept 1963;
 - 130. Oct 1966 – March 1971.

131. MS Catalogues of the Museum of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts.
Draft copy and fair copy of ca. 1850.