Cover illustrations:
Chatting at the bus stop in the square, Inverurie, August, 1974. SLA 19/2/37
A Fenton

SLA 53/1/8
D Innes Collection

Tea party, in 1954 at Congalton Gardens, East Lothian.
SLA 54/57/14A
THE SCOTTISH LIFE ARCHIVE

Department of Scottish History and Archaeology
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Introduction

The Scottish Life Archive was established in 1959 to record and preserve documentary and illustrative evidence as context to the collections of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland's Country Life Section.

In recent years documentary and illustrative evidence on the maritime, urban and industrial history of Scotland have also been collected in line with the wider collecting policy of the Department of Social and Technological History in the National Museums of Scotland.

The Archive provides a research tool for both the public and museum staff.

Material Collected

The collections consist of the following classes of material: photographs, slides, other illustrative material (e.g. drawings and prints), manuscripts, letters, diaries, files or loose papers, books, booklets, leaflets, posters, films, oral recordings or transcripts, maps, plans, trade catalogues, extracts from newspapers and journals, printed ephemera, bibliographical references, cross-references to the museum's artefact collections and references to material held elsewhere.

Period Covered

The Archive aims to collect material from about 1700 to the present day; although in practice the bulk of the collection dates from the 1880s onwards.

Organization and Layout

The Archive is arranged by subject. Information from all kinds of sources is gathered together under each heading. Within each subject, the entries are arranged by geographical areas, using the former counties as a basis, and then subdivided into parish order.

All the non-illustrative material is catalogued by subject in loose-leaf cumulative binders, whilst the majority of the photographs and slides are copied into the binders for easy reference. Items should be referred to by their negative/slide numbers, or accession numbers (e.g. C.1111 or 11/1/1 are negative numbers; S.1111 is a slide number; W.M.S.1998.1 is an accession number for a document).

Photographic collection

The photographic collections consist of approximately 100,000 negatives, prints and slides. This is the most extensively used part of the collections and covers all aspects of social history in Scotland from the 1880s to the present day.
Document Collection

The document collections consist of approximately 3000 items. They include drawings, prints, manuscripts, letters, diaries, files or loose papers, books, booklets, leaflets, posters, maps, plans, trade catalogues and printed ephemera.

The bulk of the collection consists of original documents, but there are a small number of photocopies of items held in private collections.

Postcard collection

Approximately 6000 postcards, mainly of topographical views or street scenes.

The 'Scotch Myths' Collection postcards, which concentrate on cards with a distinctively Scottish theme (eg: Burns cards, whisky cards, sentimental 'Scotch Hame' cards etc), are of particular interest.

Audio-visual collection

A small collection of about 100 audio tapes and films.

The tapes are largely the result of interviews conducted by NMS curators during fieldwork, with a few copies of tapes made by private lenders or other institutions.

Although the Scottish Life Archive does not aim to collect film stock, we have on occasion accepted material which the Scottish Film Archive does not wish to collect. The bulk of the collection therefore consists of films made by the East of Scotland College of Agriculture during the 1940s and 1950s.

All films have been copied onto both U-matic and VHS video tapes. There are also a small number of videos; mainly copies of programmes made using Scottish Life Archive material.

'Scrapbook' collection

This is probably the best way of describing much of the material which researchers using the Archive find helpful: extracts from newspapers and journals, bibliographical references, cross-references to the museum's artefact collections and references to material held in other collections.

Finding List

The Finding list for the Scottish Life Archive is held in the Research Library
How to access the archive

The Scottish Life Archive is open to everyone, from students and academics undertaking research to those with an interest to discover more about Scottish life in an historical context. You can access examples of our collections in our collections search and at www.scran.ac.uk, the award-winning website which gives you access to over 336,500 high quality images and multimedia files, all copyright cleared for educational use.

If you are unable to find the material you are looking for online, you can visit the Scottish Life Archive at the National Museum of Scotland Research Library, Chambers Street, Edinburgh. You can also enquire about the collection in person at the Research Library.

Research Library Opening hours

Monday to Friday 1000 - 1700

Research Library, Level 3

National Museums of Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1JF

Telephone: 0131-247 4137

Email: library@nms.ac.uk
## Alphabetical Index to Archive Subjects

**Compiled by Eira Langler**

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E Eriskay and Barra
F W Coast: Islands: Arran to Skye; West Mainland
G Orkney
H Shetland
J East Mainland (ex Fife)
K Fife
L Boat roofed sheds: Boat houses: Boats - Gen: Engines
M England: Isle of Man: Ireland: Wales: Foreign

79 Boot, Shoe and Clog Making: Saddle Making

121B Bothies (see under Farm Servants - 121B)

87A Brewing (See also Drink - 126A)

83 Brick & Tilemaking

92E Bridges (See under Communications & Transport - 92E)

84 Brush Making

130A-Z Buildings (by County & Parish)

AA General
BB General: Foreign
CC Construction - roofing, walling etc: Building materials: Demolition Ironwash
DD Construction, Completion & Plastering, Painting etc: Construction Gen
EE General terminology

11130N(4) Edinburgh

130V2 Kirkcudbright

131 Buildings - Thatch

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40A(3) ORK - WLO
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<td>122B</td>
<td>Ornaments</td>
<td>(See under Personal Belongings – 122B)</td>
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<td>99B</td>
<td>Outings</td>
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<td>130DD</td>
<td>Painting &amp; decorating</td>
<td>(See under Building Completion – 130DD)</td>
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<td>30</td>
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**Museums**
A Museum
B,C&D NMAS & NMS

1Q Pearl fishing: (See under Sea Fishing - 1Q)
61 Peas, Beans, Cabbage, Kale, Beet, Oilseed rape
31 Peat (See under Fuel - 31)
122 People & Dress - Named People
122 People and Dress
A Ness History Survey
B Personal Belongings and Weapons
C Carloway Historical Society
122B Personal Belongings (See under People & Dress - 122B)
122(B2)(1) Named People AYR – VTE
122(B2)(2) BWK – DUND
129 Pest Control (See under Hygiene amenities - 129)
74 Pesticides (See under Chemical Industries - 74 and Food - 125B)
30 Petrol (See under Power - 30)
56 Pets (See under Cats, Dogs etc - 56)
111A Photography
ARG – INV
111(1) KCB - WLO
111B Photography & Recording: Wireless, radio, TV, Tapes
99B Picnics & Outings (See under Entertainment - 99 and Religion - 96))
99A Picture Houses (See under Entertainment - 99A)
52 Pigs
90G Piracy (see under Trade - Drovers etc - 90G)
10 Place Names
130DD Plastering (See under Building completion -
36 Ploughs
A Prehistoric: Medieval
B Swing ploughs
C Makers and Makes
D Ae-Wye: Chain: Disc coulter: Double & four furrow
E Cas chrom: Ristle: Cran nan gadd
F Hoe cultivation: Plantie-crues: Ploughing techniques (rigs etc)
G General: Terminology and technique:
   Feering and marking: Making and repairing (local):
   Transport: Customs and Beliefs
H Distribution and change - 18th and early 19th centuries
J Sub-soil: Paring: Hoeing: Drill: Potato:
   Beet: Trailing
K Steam: Tractor: Motor: Cultivator: Electric
L Ploughing Matches and Medals
M Highland & Island: Thrapple: Orkney: Shetland
N Old Scotch Plough
P NMS Collection

130DD Plumbing (See under Building completion - 130DD)

68C Poaching (See under Hunting - 68)

116B Printing (See under Newspapers & News etc -112)

117B Public Services (See under Law & Law Enforcement - 117)

112B Protitute (See under Women's Studies - 115B)

116 Politics
A Labour Movement - People (alphabetically)
B Labour Movement – Strikes and Demonstrations
B(1) ABER – DNE
B(2) DUND – EDIN
B(3) FIF – GEN - ENG
C Labour Movement - Meetings,
   Banners & Posters
   Liberal Party, Russian Revolution,
   Gen (inc Unemployment)
D Spanish Civil War: Suffragettes
   Trade Unions: Gen
E Scottish Independence Movement

6A Pollution (See under Conservation - 6A)

117C Popula Disturbances (See under Law etc - 117C)

9 Population and Settlement: Clearances:
   Emigration: Genealogy: Immigration:
   Migration: Land Raiders: Colonialism

92N Post Office: Mail: Telephone: Telegraph:

130DD}

84 Plastic (See under Brush Making etc - 84)

99B Plays (See under Entertainment - 99B)

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   Happing/earthing up: Gen
B Ploughs: Storage
C Lifting

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58 Poultry inc. Commercial Distribution:
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30 Power: Charcoal: Electricity: Gas: Nuclear:
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80B Precious Metals (See under Metals - 80B)

80D Precious Stones (See under Minerals - 80D)

112B Publishing (See under Newspapers & News - 112)

81 Quarrying and Stonebreaking: Millstones:
   quarries and makers

68A Rabbits (See under Hunting & Trapping - 68A)

111B Radio (See under Photography gen etc - 111B)

92P Railways: Railway Viaducts: Bridges: Stations:
   Locomotive Manufacture: Railway Accidents:
   (See under Communications & Transport - 92P)

37 Rakes (See under Rollers etc - 37)

68G Rare Breeds (See under Hunting etc - 68G)

48G Reapers
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22 Reclamation

111B Recording (See under Photography gen etc -
Postcards (See under Communications & Transport - 92N)

119 Refuse/Sewage (See under Water Supply - 129)

96 Religion: Church Socials & Outings: Religious Organisations inc. Orange Order, Templars

119 Reservoirs (See under Water Supply - 129)

124 Rhymes & Jingles (See under Children - 124)

23 Rigs: Lazy Beds

92G River Navigation (See under Communications & Transport - 92G)

92B Roads: Routes: Tracks: Toll Houses & Turnpikes (See under Communications & Transport - 92B)


61, 63 Root Crops (See Beets & Kale - 61, Potatoes & 64 - 63: Turnips - 64)

72 Ropes and Straw Work inc Twisters

90D Roup (See under Trade: Marts & roup - 90D)

84 Rubber (See under Brushmaking etc - 84)

116C Russian Revolution (See under Politics - 116C)

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79 Saddlemaking (See under Boot, Shoe & Clog Making - 79)

143 St Kilda

75 Salt Workers (See under Extractive Industries - 75)

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66C Sawmills (See under Forestry - 66C)

109 Sayings and Customs

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114 Schools (See under Education - 114)

37 Scrapers (See under Rollers - 37)

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1 Sea Fishing

A Gen: Klondykers: EC Regulations:
   Quotas: Pollution of Seas:
   B Drying and Curing: Shares and Sales: Ice Houses
   C Fishwives: Fisherman's Societies: Customs:
      Superstition: Language
   D Fisherfolk
   E Fishertowns and Houses

IE(1) ABD – FIF
IE(2) GAL – WLO - Foreign

F Gutting and Packing
G Herring - Gen - inc Net Making, Mending:
   Barking: Drying
H Whales: Whaling: Sharks

Sea Fishing: White

J Nets: Handnets: Spears: Yairs
K Gen: Great and Smaa Lines
L Handlines: Bait and Baiting: Line twisting

Shell Fishing

M Lobsters
N Partans: Mussels: Oysters: Whelks: Prawns, Scallops and Shrimps: Shell fish processing

Fresh Water Fishing

P Angling, Guddling, Nets, Eel fishing
Q Pearl fishing: Fish farming: Fish traps

Salmon Fishing

R Stake, Bag & Haaf nets: Preserving, Storing, Disposing, Regulations, The Salmon Bill
S Pouching, Spears, Gaffs, Hooks, Rod and line, Cruives, Traps, Yairs
T Nets
U General
U(1) ABD – WIG
(2) General & Foreign
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92H Traps (See under Communications & Transport - 92H)

119 Travelling People: Beggars: Cadgers: Chapmen: Tinkers: Vagrants

119 Travelling Salespeople (See under Travelling People - 119)

90F Travelling Shops & Vans (See under Trade - 90F)

92M Trucks (See under Traction Engines etc - 92M)

77 Turners (See under Woodworking - 77)

64 Turnips
A Sowing
B Hoeing: Cutting and lifting: Hashing: Storage
C Gen: Carrots: Onions

117C Turra Coo (See under Law etc - 117C)

72 Twisters (See under Ropes - 72)

90C Unemployment (See under Trade - 90C)

128B Utensils (See under House - 128B)

119 Vagrants (See under Travelling People - 119)

92M Vans (See under Transport etc - 92M)

88 Vegetables (See under Gardening - Market Gardening - 88)

59 Veterinary: Diseases & Cures: Charms & Beliefs

134 Villages (See under Towns etc - 134 and A4)

100 Visitors and Holidaymakers: Tourists & Camping

84 Wafer Making (See under Brushmaking - 84)

121C Wages & Conditions - Gen (See under Farm Workers - 121C and also Trade - 90J)

92J&K Wagonettes/Wagons
(See under Communications & Transport - 92J & K)

Settlements (See under Population - 9)

118 Warfare & Defence: Government forces:
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POWs: Royal Company of Archers: Homing pigeons: Military Hospitals: Munition Factories: Rationing: Women's Land Army:
Women's Timber Corps: Civilian Life

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122B Weapons (See under People & Dress - 122B)

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88 Weeding (See under Gardening - 88)

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129 Wells and Water

1H Whaling (See under Sea Fishing - 1H)

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60 Whins (See under Fodder - 60)

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97 Witchcraft (See under Supernatural - 97)

115 Women's Studies: Discrimination: Prostitution:
Gen Woman workers

77 Woodworking: Carpenters: Joiners: Turners:
Wrights: Furniture manufacturers

69C Wool (See under Textiles - 69C)

121 Workers - Farm (See under Farm Workers - 121)

108B Writers (See under Language etc - 108B)

75 Zinc (See under Extractive Industries - 75)
Standard abbreviations used in the Archive

The abbreviations are listed in the order in which they occur in the files. They refer mainly to the pre-1974 counties.

Island locations are placed under the county.

Many of the extracted sources refer to material common to Wigtown, Kirkcudbright and parts of Dumfries. These will be found under GAL. A similar arrangement applies to HIG and HEB. Some material, eg extracts from the National Dictionary, has no specific application and will be found under GEN.

General and foreign material is filed after Scottish material in the files.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scottish material</th>
<th>Comparative material:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABD Aberdeenshire</td>
<td><strong>other European countries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ANG Angus</td>
<td>usually abbreviated to</td>
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<td>ARG Argyll</td>
<td>first three letters eg:</td>
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<td>AYR Ayrshire</td>
<td>CZE Czechoslovakia</td>
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<td>BNF Banffshire</td>
<td>DEN Denmark</td>
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