

Library

Special Collections

Robert Riddell Manuscript Collections in the National Museums Scotland Library

Notes by Basil Skinner (1959)

SAS MS 581- 91 (1786-1792)

A set of volumes, incomplete, containing accounts of the history, families, and antiquities of Dumfriesshire and Galloway, with some material relating to the rest of Scotland.

Riddell takes his information largely from printed sources and the MS. collections of Dr. Clapperton, Bishop Percy, John Goldie of Craigmuies, and others (some sources are given in 582, p.100), but many of his descriptions of particular antiquities are from his own observation.

Descriptions of buildings and objects, illustrated with engravings and sketches, are introduced in connection with the various main subjects or are interspersed among them.

Some of the subjects—but not all—in each Volume, are indicated below. Some of the Volumes contain lists of their contents, and there are lists covering all previous Volumes in 587.

For accounts of the history and contents of the Volumes, see *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* vi.451, and below, 582, 591.

581. Vol. II (X.39 A.)

'A collection of Scottish antiquities, selected by R.R. Vol.2d., 1786': accounts of Border and other Scottish families (pp.1, 22, 25).

'Scottish antiquities, historical and genealogical, collected by Capt. Robert Riddell....1786' (p.69): genealogies and antiquities of various parts of Scotland; copies of early documents; account of raids on the Western Border (p.270).

Lists of the contents of preceding sections on pp.67, 184, and 274, and of the whole Volume, p.277.

582. Vol. III (X.39 B.)

'A collection of Scottish antiquities...Vol.3d., 1786': accounts of English families and Cumbrian antiquities (p.2); 'A dissertation on the ancient fortresses and castles in Scotland,' by Riddell (p.58).

'Historical and genealogical collections....1786' (p.173): 'Icolmkill,' by the Earl of Buchan, 1786 (p.187) (not the same as the paper in *Archaeologia Scotica.*, I).

Lists of contents on pp.101, 172, 267.

Inserted at the beginning are letters of R.E. Peach to Adam Sim of Coulter Mains, regarding the MSS., 1866.

583. Vol. IV (X.39.C.)

Copies and facsimiles of charters, with notes.

584. Vol. VI (X.39 D.)

'1788' (title page torn away). 'A catalogue of great and learned men born in Dumfries shire' (p.36); a history of Sweetheart (pp.7, 52), with a satirical poem on William Copland of Colliston, who sold it for demolition (p.55); the ballad, 'The Bedesman on Nithsdale' (p.56); anecdotes of Prince Charles Edward (p.147); English, Welsh, Irish, and Manx antiquities, including runes (p.199); an account of sculptures stones and other primitive antiquities of Scotland (p.235).

List of the contents of preceding pages on p.155.

585. Vol. VII (X.39 E.)

'An account of the ancient Lordship of Galloway To the year 1455' (p.1); 'A tour in Nithsdale, 1787, ' pts.i-iii (pp.59, 94, 203), illustrated with watercolours and engravings; 'An excursion by Dr Clapperton to Lough Urr, 1787' (p.248); list of barons and lairds in Dumfriesshire and Galloway (p.257); and the ballads, 'The Bedesman on Nithsdale' and 'The Death of Lauch' (pp.264, 272).

586. Vol. VIII (X.39 F.)

'A collection on antiquities 1789': the ballad of 'Tom Line' (p.106); 'The Memoirs of Mr William Vetch' (Veitch) (p.111), published from another MS. in 1825; 'A journal of a tour in Scotland in 1789 made by Captain. Grose and Captain. Riddell,' with watercolours and engravings (p.131) (Friars' Carse by Leadhills and Biggar to Edinburgh and home by Lauder, Melrose, Teviotdale, and Annan; another through Ayrshire to Paisley and Hamilton); notes on Macbeth (p.262); 'Journal of an excursion made from Dumfries to Edinburgh along with Francis Grose1790 (p.280) (to Peebles by Dryfesdale and Tweeddale).

List of contents on p.293.

587. Vol. IX (X.39 G.)

'A collection of Scottish antiquities...1789.' Engravings, with remarks: early fortifications (p.1); castles and seats (p.10 a); sculptured stones (p.25 A); religious houses (P.46); picturesque scenes (p.61). Lists of illustrations of these several subjects in previous Volumes are given on pp.8, 44, 57, 83.
Sketches of castles by Grose, 1789, with notes (p.90).

588. Vol. XI (X.39 H.)

Ballads, with notes: Jock o' Milk (p.1); Archie of Capeld (p.14); Lord Maxwell's Good-night (p.18); Sir Andrew Barton (p.20); Fair Helen of Kirkconnel (pp.29, 46); Lads of Wamphray (p.34); Lochmaben Harper (pp.39, 42); Fray of Soupart (p.55); Border Lament of the Union (p.59); Outlaw Murray (p.61); Laidley Worm (p.71); McNaughton (p.78); Young Bechin (p.80); Young Tom Line (p.84); 'Facts relating to Locher River & Moss' (p.123); Robert Edgar's 'Introduction to the history....of Dumfries' (p.140), with addenda by Riddell (p.254) (published from this MS. in 1915); Engravings of buildings, with remarks (p.258).

589. (X.39 I.)

'Additions made to the Scottish part of Mr. Gough's British Topography by Robert Riddell ...1791.' The printed text of Gough, Vol.ii, pp.555-752, interleaved, with MS. notes.

590. (X.39 J.)

Heraldry. Printed works of Sir George Mackenzie and Riddell's 'Various pieces of antiquity communicated to the Society of Antiquaries of London,' 1791 (printed), followed by drawings of heraldic sculptures in Dumfriesshire and Galloway, accounts of the arms of families, etc.

591. Papers found loose in the Volumes.

History of the Volumes and summary of their contents, by H.S. Gladstone.

Letter of A.G. Reid to Sir Herbert Maxwell regarding the MSS., 1895.

Note of two men charged with tirling buildings, 1712.

Engravings of Spedlins Tower, described as 'Castle of the Cumins, Inverness-shire.'

Lists of small engravings etc. pasted into 585-7.