

## *Around the Archives*

# The Archives of George Heriot's School

*Fraser Simm*

George Heriot's School has a long and distinguished history. Dating back to 1659, it is one of Scotland's oldest schools, centred on its famous Old Building in the heart of Edinburgh, which has been a place of education for over 350 years. The institution was the bequest and inspiration of George Heriot, who made his name and fortune as goldsmith and banker to Queen Anne and her consort King James VI (and I), both in Edinburgh and from 1603, in London. Dying childless in 1623, Heriot left his fortune of £23,623 (worth several millions today)<sup>1</sup> to found George Heriot's Hospital with the object of educating and bringing up the sons of Edinburgh's poor tradesmen, with the emphasis on 'fatherless bairns',<sup>2</sup> within its walls. The School soon found a place for itself at the heart of education and philanthropy in Edinburgh. Its story takes it from the years of being a 'Hospital School'<sup>3</sup> where the boys led a cloistered life, through gradual change from the mid-nineteenth century to include day-boys, and then from 1886 as a Day School. The Trust's reaching out to the poor of Edinburgh through the main Hospital School; the 22 'Outdoor Schools'<sup>4</sup> which educated as many as 4,700 children each year, and from 1885, when the Governors linked up with the Watt Institution to found the Heriot-Watt College, are high points in the School's history.

With such a long and varied history there has been plenty of scope for the School to develop a valuable archive resource. Two histories of the School

<sup>1</sup> Tables of current worth give various equivalents from £4 million to £700 million depending on whether the calculation is based on RPI or income/economic value.

<sup>2</sup> The term 'fatherless bairns' is translated as 'fatherless children'. From its earliest days, Heriot's charity was geared to help educate boys whose fathers were no longer alive; this also extended to boys without a mother and orphans, and the School has continued to offer this form of beneficence right through to the present day.

<sup>3</sup> The term 'Hospital School' may be likened to an orphanage which provided education, food and clothing to those residing in it – the word 'Hospital' in this sense, does not have any medical connotation.

<sup>4</sup> There were fourteen Juvenile Schools and eight Infant Schools; not all were open over identical years (on average, ten and five of these schools, respectively, operated at the same time).

have been written,<sup>5</sup> but the first step in building up a formal archive was not taken until 1963 when Headmaster, William Dewar (1947–70) identified the School's Old Refectory (now its staff room) as a location to house various exhibits displaying the story of Heriot's. In the School's Development Scheme of 1963 he commented:

in a school with the unique history of Heriot's there is an urgent need for accommodation to establish a school museum ... the Old Refectory will be freed entirely to become the School's museum ... The tercentenary year exhibition brought many interesting relics into the possession of the School: the Refectory will provide a place in which they can be fittingly displayed ... adjacent to those parts of the School – the Quadrangle, the Council Room, the Chapel – which are at all times of the greatest interest to our many visitors.

Dewar was referring back to an exhibition of artefacts that took place in 1959 to mark the School's Tercentenary. The display included several items borrowed from outside sources, including letters of denization of George Heriot in 1611, borrowed from Berkshire County Archives, a print of a fete in the grounds of Heriot's by Paul Sandby, dating from 1748 and loaned by the Queen, and also a considerable number of items held within the School.

The momentum of this initiative was, however, lost, and some of the artefacts which featured in the 1959 exhibition, such as the muskets used by the boys for drill during the days of the Hospital and the Heriot uniform from the early nineteenth century, have unfortunately disappeared in the intervening years. There was no further progress on building up an archive until Headmaster, Keith Pearson (1983–97) began to collate various items such as old correspondence and papers, and newspaper cuttings held within the School into sequential folders. This helped to ensure that thereafter, nothing valuable was lost.

On Keith Pearson's retirement in 1997, Fraser Simm took on the responsibility for the archives and in 2000, in conjunction with Governor Andrew Anderson, submitted a proposal to the Governors of the Trust to undertake a professional and systematic process of recording the archives. It was agreed that the assistance of an experienced archivist was required and the Governors approved the appointment of George Dixon, former archivist of Stirling Council, to assist with the recording of the School's archive material. Employed on a part-time basis, he removed the archive documents from their folders and embarked on the laborious process of recording everything. He

<sup>5</sup> The first history was W. Steven's *Memoir of George Heriot with the history of the hospital founded by him in Edinburgh and an account of the Heriot Foundation Schools* (Edinburgh, 1845). The work was subsequently revised and updated by F. W. Bedford and published under the title of *History of George Heriot's Hospital with a memoir of the founder together with an account of the Heriot foundation schools* (Edinburgh, 1859). A further edition was published in 1872. The most up-to-date history is B. R. W. Lockhart's *Jinglin' Geordie's Legacy: a history of George Heriot's Hospital and School* (East Linton, 2003), with a 350th anniversary edition in 2009.

went well beyond making a simple list, adding descriptive detail to explain the content of interesting documents. For example, in describing a press cutting from *The Scotsman* on 25 March 1970, he provides the following comment on the cutting which:

summarises a report by the Public Schools Commission on Scotland's 29 grant aided schools [which] will face three choices if the Government accept proposals in the ... report – become comprehensive, non-fee-paying schools; go independent; or close. GHS is listed as one of eight such schools in Edinburgh.<sup>6</sup>

George Dixon's work was taken up by Fraser Simm when, after sixteen years, he retired as Treasurer in 2010 and became Archivist for the Trust.

The archive covers the years from George Heriot's lifetime (1563–1623) to the present day. The earlier items relate to Heriot's life and the foundation of the Hospital through his will. The documents then cover the running of the Hospital (and from 1886, the School), and the affairs of George Heriot's Trust within the City of Edinburgh. The archive documents have been placed in archive sleeves and filed into appropriate numbered box files based on a largely chronological sequence, starting with HF1 1570–1699, HF2 1700–99 and so on. Although many box files tie in well with specific decades, allowance was made for instances where significant volumes of material had been retained from the past. By chance, several volumes of the Treasurer's correspondence from the 1820s and 1830s have survived and these are contained in files HF4, through to HF8. Other highlights include: box files that cover the year 1959 which was the School's Tercentenary; the years 1960–62, featuring the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to the School in 1962; and the year 2009, which has a wide range of material on the exhibition set up to mark the 350th anniversary of the first pupils entering the School. As referred to in the earlier press quote from 1970, the archives also contain copious details of correspondence and meetings around that time relating to the aftermath of the report by the Public Schools Commission on Scotland's 29 grant-aided schools. This culminated in the attempted takeover of the School by the Lothian Labour Party and the decision by Governors to go down the route of Heriot's becoming a fully independent school.

Several original papers and documents relate to the life of George Heriot and his family, including his last testament and will, and an IOU for the loan of £10 Scots from Queen Anne. The 1627 Volume of Statutes, signed by George Heriot's nephew Walter Balcanquhall, lay out the terms of governance of Heriot's Hospital, many of which, such as the status of George Heriot's Trust and the provisions for providing places at the School to Foundainers (children of widows or widowers) remain in force today.

<sup>6</sup> The eight schools mentioned were: Daniel Stewart's College, Mary Erskine School for Girls, George Watson's College, George Watson's Ladies College, George Heriot's School, John Watson's College, Melville College, St Mary's Cathedral Choir School.

Many of the earliest documents have survived by chance, giving tantalising and surprising insights into life in Heriot's Hospital. A detailed account of William Temple, dated October 1660 throws a light onto the challenges facing those responsible for the boys within the first year of the School's existence. His report mentions charges for 'oyles, oyntments and plasters', for 'scabed heads'; for 'curing William Young of ane wound on the head with ane great contusion which did penetrat unto the cranium'; treatments for pains in the limbs and joints; 'erisipilis'; ulcers; tumours; use of 'suppositorie'; 'consorb of roses'; 'gargarison'; bleeding for pleurisy, pains and 'ane flux of blood at the nose' and 'ane unce of marigold flowers to the nine bairns that had the meazels'.<sup>7</sup> As there were only 43 resident boys at the Hospital in 1659/60, this is a formidable list of ailments.

The material contained within the HF box files mainly consists of documents and photographs, but as there were a number of other items such as books, registers and films available which did not lead themselves to be catalogued by date, a separate HB sequence was also set up. A small but interesting collection of cine and other films dating from 1938 to 2012 is included in HB16, and in the past few years most of these have been converted to modern media, i.e. DVD. The films include the visit by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1962, life at the School in 1990 and an acclaimed television documentary made by Serbian TV in 2012, which told the story of the Serbian refugee boys who came to Heriot's during the First World War. A HO file has been started to contain obituaries of Herioters, and to include late acquisitions, the series HX has been set up. Finally, the series HM, HW and HV allow for a small range of miscellaneous material, various reminiscences of the Second World War and some 610 fragile documents, mainly from the eighteenth century, conserved by the National Records of Scotland (NRS).

Although the documents, papers and books contained in the box files provide an illuminating and direct insight into Heriot's past, they are only one item in a wide range of source materials which throw light on the story of the School. A full set of original minutes of Governors' meetings (Plate 1) date back in an unbroken sequence to 1624. These form a prime historical document, although the minutes of many of the earlier meetings often concentrate on financial housekeeping, and those of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries often concentrate on legal matters pertaining to many aspects of the Trust's estate and its feu duties. The minute books are supplemented by detailed indices covering most years. For the years 1886 to 1927, the minutes also include coverage of the meetings of the Governors of the Heriot-Watt College. A significant part of Heriot's archives include bound copies of the Trust's annual accounts, and a vast volume of cartularies and feu duty registers which cover the grant of land over a period of over 300 years of the estate of the Trust. These commence in 1624 and run through to 1940. Other items which may

<sup>7</sup> NRS GD421/10.

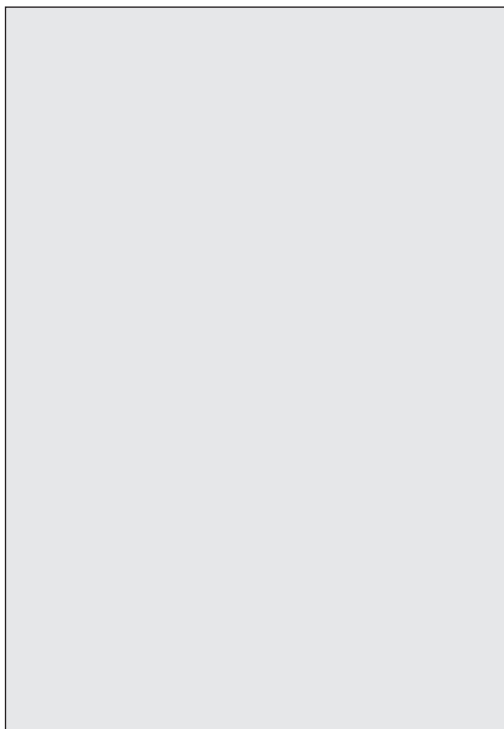


Plate 1 A selection of Heriot's Trust minute books.

be referenced include the School's 'Domesday Book',<sup>8</sup> which is a large register of boys entering the School between 1886 (when it became a Day School) and 1986. The book goes beyond a note of the boys' names, address and parents, and in the years after 1910, often provides an often illuminating comment on each boy's character or potential. For instance, with regard to a boy in 1925, it says: 'A boy of very good disposition, not above average ability, at times did not exert himself' or in a more critical instance: 'Very backward; too frequently absent to get on'. Not all boys received unfavourable comments, for shortly further down the page there is: 'Excellent boy in every way – maintained a good place in a very good class'. It is interesting to relate these comments – which tend to die out after 1950 – to the success or otherwise of the boys in later life.

<sup>8</sup> The word 'Domesday Book' is a colloquial name for the register of pupils which dates from 1886; earlier registers date back to 1857. It is not known where the description 'Domesday Book' originated.

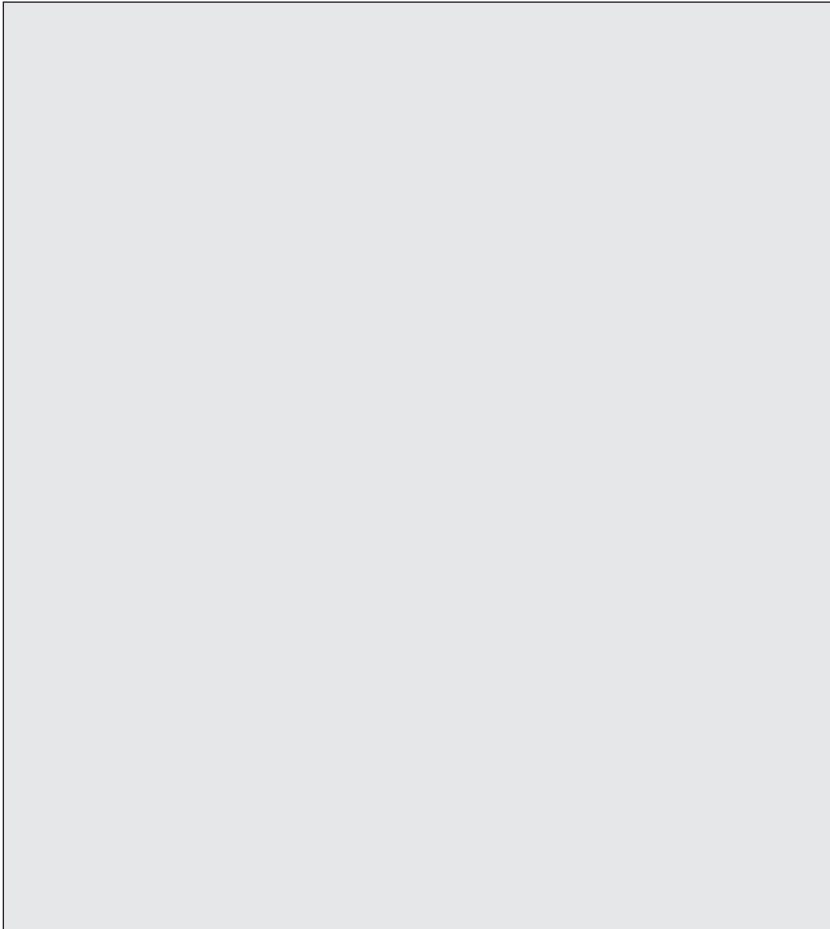


Plate 2 The Rules and Regulations for Heriot's Decorating Club.

In what may be considered an earlier version of the Domesday Book, there is a volume of pamphlets from 1857 to 1885, which contains similar information on boys entering the School, with the addition of detailing the apprenticeships that the Governors supported and, for several years, showing the School's timetable and curriculum. Although bound, the volume does not cover every year, so presumably it was put together from various annual documents which had survived in 1885. It bears the inscription of G. H. Lewis who was Treasurer from 1873 to 1905.

Within the HB-referenced box files, there are volumes which cover the meetings of various former pupils' associations. Former pupils' (or FP) associations are widespread throughout the country, but as Heriot's Hospital or School pre-dates most other similar institutions, it is likely that its former pupils' association can also be traced further back than almost any other. An example of this can be seen in the minutes of the old Heritors' Decorating Club from 1828 which refers to the Club being founded 116 years before; this reference to 1712 takes the creation of a former pupils' association back to a time before the establishment of many existing schools (Plate 2).<sup>9</sup> An interesting reference in the books of the Heritors' Decorating Club comes slightly earlier when trouble on a grand scale came to the fore in 1805. That year, after their annual dinner, there was 'a shameful disturbance when some members got beastly drunk to their disgrace; the club insensibly dispersed, a number having to carry those who could not walk'.<sup>10</sup>

The issues with the former pupils continued. In the minutes for 1807 there is mention of problems arising which culminated in one of the members of the Decorating Club using abusive language against, and threatening to kick, the House-Governor (Headmaster). Later that day, club members persuaded boys to leave their supper, throw their jugs into the air, strip naked and run through the courtyard. In the riot several younger boys were hurt. On the following day (1 June) the crowd in the Hospital became riotous, broke windows and doors, insulted the masters and mistreated the servants.<sup>11</sup> But 30 years later, things were better. In 1834 and in 1848 an Auld Callants' Club and an Old Herioters' Association were formed. The purpose of the latter was to promote the 'Moral

<sup>9</sup> Heriot's Decorating Club was formed for the purpose of decorating Heriot's statue (which stands in the School's Quadrangle) with flowers on the anniversary of the founder's birthday. Members were also involved in decorating the statue of Charles II in Parliament Square for George III's birthday (4 June).

<sup>10</sup> This led to new rules being agreed which stipulated that any member of the club appearing to be tipsy would be expelled from the meeting and any member who wounded or bruised another would be fined 2s. 6d.

<sup>11</sup> The Governors responded to these events by decreeing that in the future, the statue would be decorated solely by gardeners employed for that purpose at the expense of the Hospital. The Decorating Club remained in existence and, although no longer involved in decorating the founder's statue, it met on the anniversary day to toast 'The Immortal Memory of George Heriot'.

and Intellectual Improvement of Young Men' who have been educated at George Heriot's School.

The Auld (as opposed to 'old') Herioters' Association was formed after 1886 to allow the boys who had attended the 22 former Outdoor Schools to keep in touch with each other. Inevitably the numbers declined but in 1923, on the three hundredth anniversary of the Founder's death in 1623, there was a special parade and reunion of the 'Auld's members', the youngest of whom would have left school 37 years beforehand.

The records show the current Heriot Club tracing its existence back to 1891. At least 23 Heriot Clubs have since been established in various countries around the world, but none go so far back as the London Heriot Club, which was formed at a meeting in the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand on 4 June 1821.

The records of the Trust also tell of the largely forgotten story of the 22 'Outdoor Schools' that were run by the Trust from 1835 to 1886 and which educated 4,700 pupils a year. The Governors of the Trust took considerable pains with the building plans, the curriculum and the appointment of teachers for the schools. These infant and juvenile schools were situated in central Edinburgh and the signs of them may still be seen today, from Victoria Street, to Cowgate Port, to High School Yards, to Borthwick's Close.

Material held at the School is supported by documents lodged with the National Records of Scotland (NRS) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). The documents held by the NRS are filed under GB234/GD421: Records of George Heriot's Trust, Edinburgh (1474–1943). The collection is divided into the following series:

- GD421/1 Personal and executry papers of George Heriot, goldsmith, founder of the Trust, 1583–1685
- GD421/2 Other personal papers of George Heriot, 1591–1626
- GD421/3 Executry papers of George Heriot, 1604–28
- GD421/4 Cartularies and feu duty registers of the Hospital and Trust, 1624–1940 (additional material on microfilm at RH4/152)
- GD421/5 Accounts and other Financial Papers of George Heriot's Hospital and Trust, 1626–40
- GD421/6 [Unlisted]
- GD421/7 Title deeds and related legal papers, 1474–1893
- GD421/8 [Unlisted]
- GD421/9 Estate papers, 1582–1789
- GD421/10 Administrative records of Heriot's Hospital and School, statutes, foundationers (children who, because of the death or one or more parent, received free board and education), staff, buildings, housekeeping, 1627–1943

RCAHMS also hold a wide range of photographs and plans owned by the Trust (which generally relate to the School buildings). Within its Canmore database, it holds:



PB (buildings) category: 667 drawings

PL (lands) category: 579 drawings

PP (property) category: 485 drawings

- MS 447 This manuscript comprises four indices of drawings, and a collection of correspondence and other paperwork:
- MS447/1 Inventory of George Heriot plans, 1881
  - MS447/2 George Heriot's Trust Inventory of plans, 1884
  - MS447/3 George Heriot's Trust Inventory of plans in works office
  - MS447/4 Plans etc. in Spare Room 1st flat
  - MS447/5 Correspondence, estimates, etc., from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

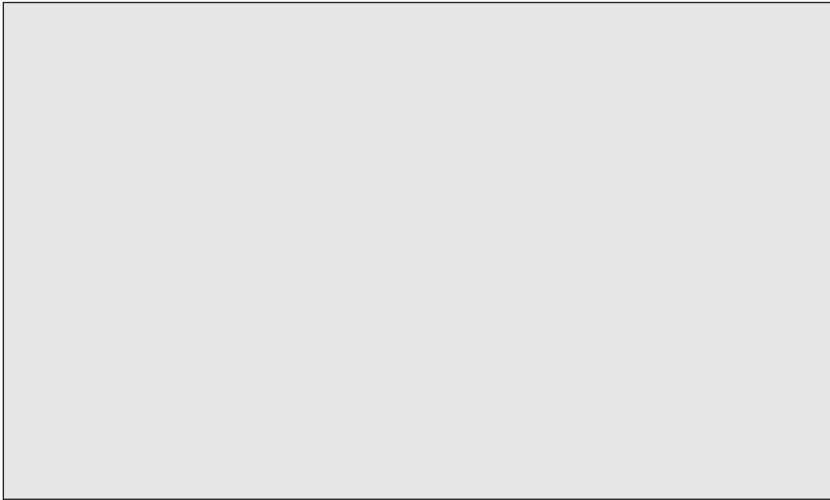
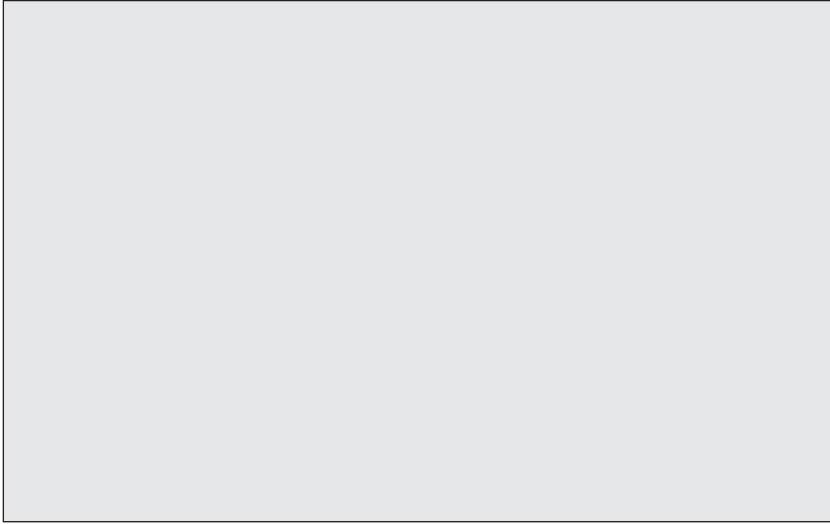
The Trust has liaised with RCAHMS as it combines with Historic Scotland in their new guise as Historic Environment Scotland to discuss their holding of Heriot's material.

The vast volume of written material in Heriot's archives is frequently supported by visual items. Photographs, brochures and magazines exist in profusion and help to throw a light on important episodes in the School's history. Copies of the School's *Herioter* magazine are also a valuable source of material from 1908 up to 2013. Within the pages of the magazine, there are descriptions of one important episode in the School's past: that of the 'Serbian boys', who as refugees, fled their war-ravaged country in 1916. The boys were part of a larger group who crossed the Balkan mountains into Albania and escaped through Italy to France and Britain. Heriot's Governors were among those who opened their hearts and doors to the boys. Twenty-seven of them were provided with lodgings on the south side of Edinburgh and given free education for three years at Heriot's.

The boys performed well academically and their school reports are retained in the School's archives as can be seen in the report card (front and back) of Mihailo Radovanovic<sup>12</sup> (Plates 3 and 4). Several of the boys went on to Edinburgh University and became notable citizens when they returned to their own homeland. They retained a love of Heriot's throughout their lives and met to commemorate the School on its Founder's Day each year on the first Monday in June (Plate 5).<sup>13</sup> Their prowess at rugby union is also noted in the School magazines and, taking home a love of the game, the boys sowed the seeds of the game in Yugoslavia. In 2012, a commemorative rugby tournament – to which Heriot's was invited – was played in Serbia. This followed a Serbian television programme earlier in the year – screened over the New Year – which

<sup>12</sup> Mihailo Radovanovic was one of the 27 'Serbian boys' who were educated at George Heriot's School between 1916 and 1919. In later life he was recognised as one of Yugoslavia's senior geographers.

<sup>13</sup> 'June Day' is the colloquial name for the School's honouring of its Founder, George Heriot; it nearly always falls on the first Monday in June. Heriot was born on 4 June 1563.



Plates 3-4 Report card (front and back) of Mihailo Radovanovic, one of the 27 'Serbian boys' who were educated at George Heriot's School between 1916 and 1919.

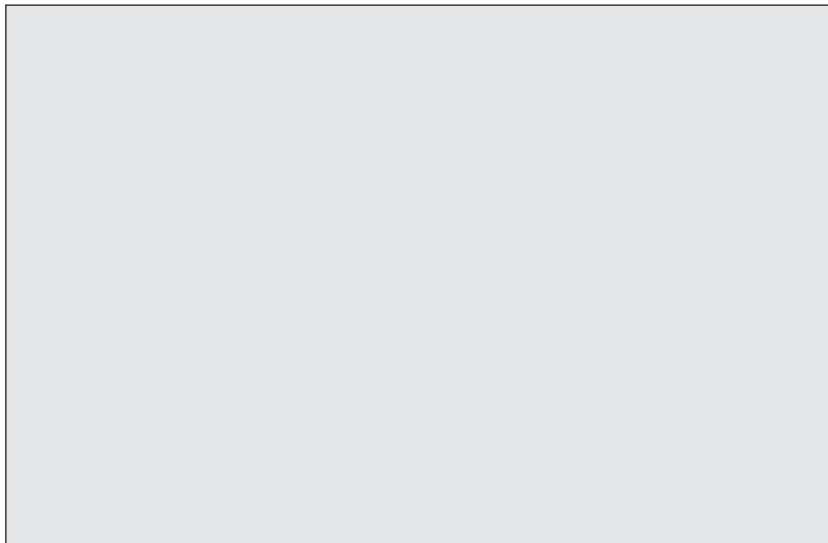


Plate 5 Telegram sent by 'The Serbian Herioters' on June Day, 1967.

told the story of the refugee boys to a home audience who had forgotten about it. The programme included several items from Heriot's archives and interviews with Fraser Simm (Treasurer) and Alistair Hector (Headmaster). The screening brought a very favourable response including comments from some of the descendants of the 'boys'. The use of the School's archive material was an important factor in making the story 'come alive', and was reflected in the many positive comments made to the Serbian press:

A cheerful and cautionary story. George Heriot's School keeps and cares for the common memory of the heavy history of the peoples of Scotland and the Kingdom of Serbia. It was good to recall all those wonderful and good works of individuals and that devoted institution in faraway Scotland.<sup>14</sup>

Dear RTS (TV station), in particular EYE Magazine

I live in New York with my husband and regularly monitor the RTS satellite TV programs. I was surprised and delighted with the show about Serbian children who crossed the mountains of the Albanian Golgotha and then ended up in Edinburgh. My father Demetrius Dulkanovic who kept his George Heriot's school tie to the end of his life, and often in old age talked about Scotland. He liked to speak English. Many years ago I spent four months at his former school friends in

<sup>14</sup> 'Sjajno ali i opominjuce. George Heriot's skola cuva i neguje secanje na zajednicki deo teske istorije naroda Skotske i Kraljevine Srbije. Lepo je bilo podsetiti se na sva ta dobra dela divnih i pozrtvovanih pojedinaca i institucija. Najdublja zahvalnost narodu Skotske.'

Edinburgh. All these stories are well known and even some that probably will not be able to be mentioned. Among other numerous hobbies, dad brought rugby to Serbia and spent his working life, *inter alia*, as a sports doctor. Every first Saturday in JUNE collected his Scottish mates on the day marking GH School – and family were present ... a letter signed by the Director of the school was passed around, and so on. Thank you for this great effort and show how beautiful for our younger generations to learn from our Serbian history.<sup>15</sup>

With an audience of almost one million people, these television programmes took the Heriot's story and its archive material to its greatest audience to date. A few examples of the gems that bring to light the story of George Heriot's School and its connection with the wider world are worthy of highlighting. In the early eighteenth century, part of the Old Building of Heriot's Hospital was let out for use as a printer's workshop and, in 1953, four draft title pages of James Anderson's *Selectus Diplomatum et Numismatum Scotiae Thesaurus* of 1739 were found in an upstairs room (Plate 6).

The addition of new material can never be predicted. One recent acquisition included a foolscap 1958 draft report containing notes of a vermin survey of George Heriot's School Old Building, for example: 'Tuck Shop – Heavily infested with mice', an estimate for removing vermin and maintaining Old Building (OB) vermin free and a six-page typescript letter with detailed vermin survey of OB by the Glasgow branch manager of Insecta Laboratories Ltd to Mr McAdam, George Heriot's Trust Master of Works, 17 January 1958, including the Scholars' Dining Hall. The infestation of mice found in this department was much heavier than that found in any other in the school and the report offered 'a set of extermination proposals by using anti-coagulant baits'.<sup>16</sup>

The existence of an archive at George Heriot's School has enabled former pupils and others to consult it for information on family links and on the history of the School. It has also encouraged the donation of material to augment its growing collection. Two examples of recent donations demonstrate the ability of the archive to reflect the intertwined history of Heriot's and the wider world.

<sup>15</sup> 'Živim u New Yorku i redovno sa suprugom pratimo RTS TV satelitske programe. Iznenadila me je i obradovala emisija o srpskoj deci koja su presla golgotu albanskih planina a evo jedan deo završio u Edinburgu. Moj otac je Dimitrije Dulkanovic koji je do kraja života imao kravatu G H škole, a često je u starijim godinama pričao o Skotskoj. Voleo je da govori engleski. Pre puno godina i ja sam provela 4 meseca kod njegovih nekadasnjih školskih drugova u Edinburgu. Sve ove price su mi dobro poznate a i jos neke koje se verovatno neće moći spomenuti. Pored ostalih brojnih hobija, tata je i doveo ragbi u Srbiju i svoj radni vek proveo, između ostalog, i kao sportski lekar. Svake prve subote u JUN skupljao je svoje škotske drugare na obeležavanje dana G H Škole – i porodice su bile prisutne. Slalo se potom pismo sa potpisima Direktoru škole itd., itd. Hvala Vam na ovom velikom trudu i lepoj emisiji koliko da i mlađe generacije saznaju nešto iz naše srpske istorije.'

<sup>16</sup> The 'Scholars' Dining Hall' is now the staff room.

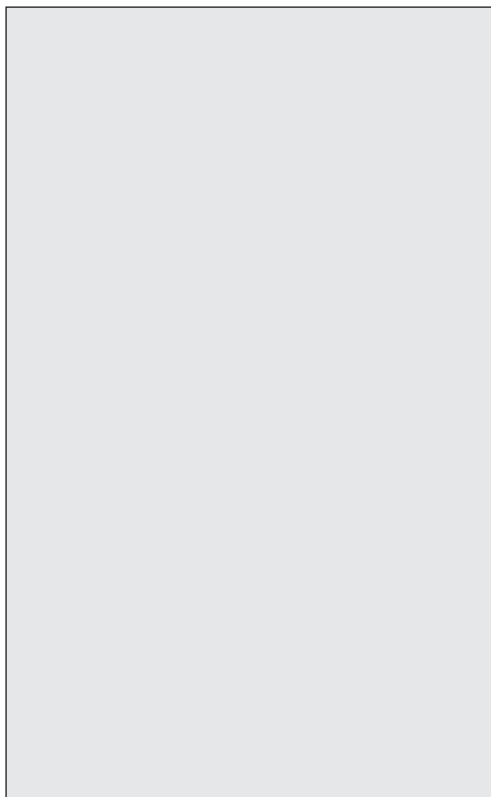


Plate 6 Draft title pages of James Anderson's *Selectus Diplomatum et Numismatum Scotiae Thesaurus* of 1739, found in an upstairs room of the Old Building of Heriot's Hospital.

The first, a file of nearly 300 letters sent by former pupils serving during the Second World War to the School highlights their love for, and pride in, their place of education and their hopes for a better world to return to:

We were lucky, Bill. We were sent to a good (the best) school. We played hard, worked hard and at times lived hard. We found how to give out all we had. How to bring about victory from defeat by the Old Goldenacre finish. We learned to love a tradition and were determined to uphold it at all costs. The odd fifteen hundred lads now in the forces are doing that now in a wider sense. But their tradition is now a National one; their 'finish' is an Allied one. On all fronts the Goldenacre spirit is imbued into the lads as they draw near to the opponents' goal striving to put in the KO before the whistle goes. (Captain Hugh Fraser)

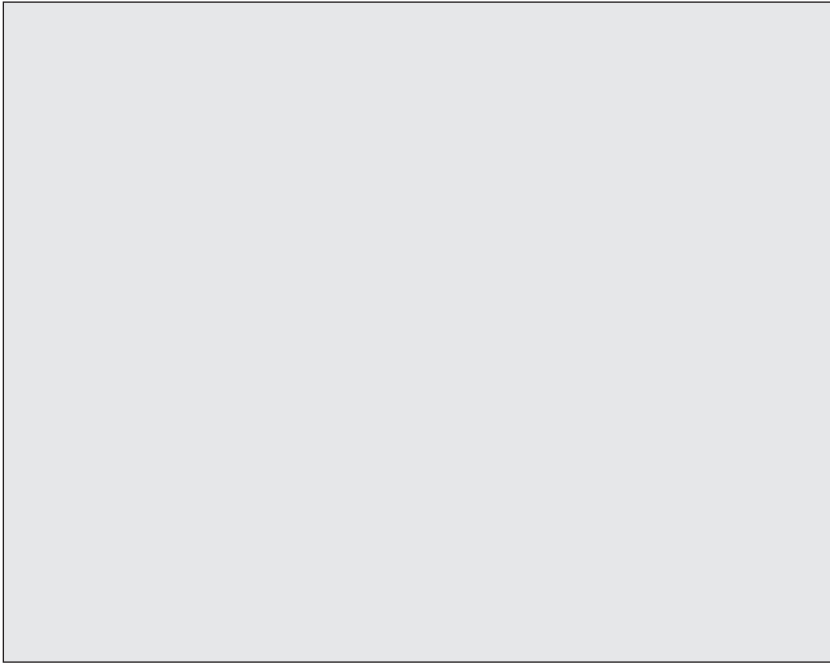


Plate 7 Letter to Bill Laing from Bill Watson, referring to the former's 'literary gem' – the series of Heriot Services Circle letters, 1944.

This war will not be the war to end all wars, but it is only a war to prevent domination by the Axis. There will be other wars. But we can possibly do something to reduce the causes of wars, and we can all the time be prepared to fight. Our preparations will be the best deterrent. (L/Cpl Jack Robertson)<sup>17</sup>

Included also is a letter to Bill Laing from Bill Watson, referring to the former's 'literary gem' – the series of Heriot Services Circle letters advising former pupils on the whereabouts and activities of their former colleagues and a Greetings message from 'Fred' from Normandy; both date from 1944 (Plates 7 and 8).<sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> These letters were never written in any expectation they would be read many years later, but they provide a direct and illuminating insight into the views and thoughts of the young men who wrote them.

<sup>18</sup> Frederick S. Fiddes, school captain in 1926, Lieutenant-Colonel Army Medical Corps, awarded the OBE for being responsible for cleaning up the Sandbostel Concentration Camp near Bremen. He was a lecturer in forensic medicine at Edinburgh University.

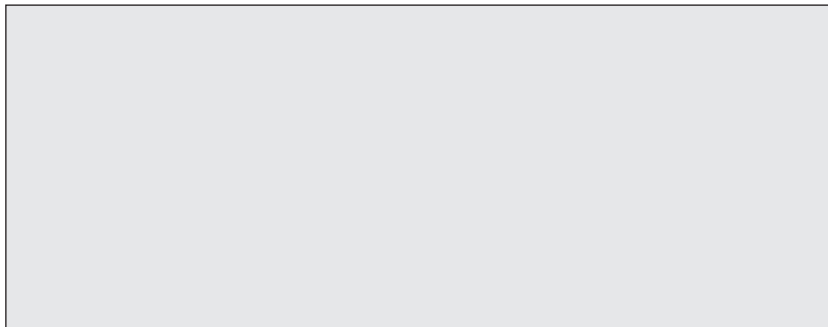


Plate 8 A Christmas greetings card from 'Fred' (Frederick S. Fiddes) sent from Normandy, 1944.

The other donation was a cuttings book<sup>19</sup> made by Lt-Col. Charles Bedford during the years covering the 1880s though to the first decade of the twentieth century when he served as a Surgeon in the Indian Army, becoming Chemical Advisor to the Government of the Punjab and holding other posts of importance in the Indian civil service. The son of Frederick Bedford, who was House-Governor (Headmaster) of Heriot's Hospital from 1854 to 1880, Charles Bedford's cuttings book covers 'Heriot's' events such as a Report on June Day in 1865 and 1885, and social occasions in the life of colonial India (for instance a play at Simla in 1894). The book includes the examination papers for the Army Medical School for January 1890, which ask: 'What is the usual length of marches? Define a forced march' and 'Give a definite summary in sequence of the phenomena of syphilis as distinguished from all other forms of venereal disease.' It also contains letters from the famous leaders of the movement to repeal the Corn Laws in the 1840s, John Bright and Richard Cobden. It is not clear why these historic letters should have been included in Charles Bedford's cutting book – they were probably in the possession of his father – and they are not the sort of item that would be expected to be found in the archive of George Heriot's School. But in linking the activities of Heriot's Hospital and School with social and political events in the wider world, Bedford's file is an excellent example of the way that the School and the greater community have often come together.

As well as a source of material on the Founder, the archives of Heriot's also has useful information for those interested in the careers of former pupils such as Sir Henry Raeburn, Hippolyte Blanc, Clement Gunn, Lord Mackay, Ken Stott and Andy Irvine. A particular course of inquiry comes from the descendants of long-forgotten boys who had been educated in Heriot's Hospital during the

<sup>19</sup> HB18: A file of cuttings and autograph letters from Charles Henry Bedford (son of Frederick W. Bedford, House-Governor of Heriot's Hospital).

nineteenth century, and whose names have been captured for posterity in the old minute books; it is always satisfying to be able to trace a relative and help those trying to make a bridge to their past.

There is clearly a vast range of material in the archive of George Heriot's Trust. In recent months the work in creating and recording an archive has been mirrored by the identification of safe storage space in the School's library and Governors are in the process of agreeing an appropriate access policy to enable the Heriot community and historians to make use of the varied and interesting material contained within the Archives of George Heriot's School.