

St Andrews University Library in the eighteenth century : Scottish education and print-culture



View/Open

 [MatthewSimpsonPhDthesis.pdf \(16.30Mb\)](#)

Date

1999

Author

[Simpson, Matthew](#)

Supervisor

[MacLachlan, Christopher](#)

Metadata

[Show full item record](#)

Abstract

The context of this thesis is the growth in size and significance of the St Andrews University Library, made possible by the University's entitlement, under the Copyright Acts between 1709 and 1836, to free copies of new publications. Chapter I shows how the University used its improving Library to present to clients and visitors an image of the University's social and intellectual ideology. Both medium and message in this case told of a migration into the printed book of the University's functions, intellectual, spiritual, and moral, a migration which was going forward likewise in the other Scottish universities and in Scottish culture at large. Chapters II and III chart that migration respectively in religious discourse and in moral education. This growing importance of the book prompted some Scottish professors to devise agencies other than consumer demand to control what was read in their universities and beyond, and indeed what was printed. Chapter IV reviews those devices, one of which was the subject Rhetoric, now being reformed to bring modern literature into its discipline. Chapter V argues that the new Rhetoric tended in fact to confirm the hegemony of print by turning literary study from a general literary apprenticeship into the specialist reading of canonical printed texts. That tendency was not without opposition. Chapter VI analyses the challenge from traditional oral culture as it was expressed in the marginalia added to the Library books at St Andrews University by its students, and argues that this dissident culture helped to form the voice of the poet Robert Fergusson while he was one of those students. Chapter VII goes on to show how Fergusson used that voice to warn his countrymen of the threat which print represented to their culture, and to show how it might be resisted in the interests of both literature and conviviality.

Type

Thesis, PhD Doctor of Philosophy

Collections

[English Theses](#)

URI

<http://hdl.handle.net/10023/1848>

Items in the St Andrews Research Repository are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

Open Access

To find out how you can benefit from open access to research, see our [library web pages](#) and [Open Access blog](#). For open access help contact: openaccess@st-andrews.ac.uk

Accessibility

Read our [Accessibility statement](#).

How to submit research papers

The full text of research papers can be submitted to the repository via [Pure](#), the University's research information system. For help see our guide: [How to deposit in Pure](#).

Electronic thesis deposit

Help with [deposit](#).

Repository help

For repository help contact: Digital-Repository@st-andrews.ac.uk

[Give Feedback](#)

Cookie policy

This site may use cookies. Please see [Terms and Conditions](#).

Usage statistics

COUNTER-compliant statistics on downloads from the repository are available from the [IRUS-UK Service](#). [Contact us](#) for information.

© University of St Andrews Library

University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland, No SC013532.



St Andrews has overtaken Oxford to be ranked second among UK universities. While St Andrews has always been highly ranked, in the latest table it overtakes Oxford by a sliver, helped by outstanding performances in some of its traditional strengths, such as economics. Adding value. Lucy Hunter Blackburn, an independent observer of Scottish higher education based in Edinburgh, says: "Official monitoring only looks at Scottish students, so ignores the relatively advantaged demographic of the fee-paying ones – from the rest of UK and overseas – which may have some impact on the university's ability to attract recruits from a broader background." Education in Scotland. Scots education is highly thought of throughout the world. Scotland, which had five universities at a time when England only had two, has a long history of universal public education. Each town already had a sizable library with religious and secular books. The 18th century brought a golden age of Scottish education, contributing to the intellectual advances and sending professionally-trained or commercially-talented Scots out into the world. In the Scottish Highlands, in addition to problems of distance and physical isolation, most people spoke Gaelic which few teachers could understand. Societies arose to teach the English language and end Roman Catholicism, while through the Gaelic Society, schools taught the Bible in Gaelic. Scotland's education system has been claimed by many to be one of the most successful in the world and its alleged decline in recent decades has generated a great deal of controversy. This book is the first full account of the history of twentieth-century Scottish education, by Lindsay Paterson, a leading specialist in the area. Scottish Education investigates Scotland's re Scotland's education system has been claimed by many to be one of the most successful in the world and its alleged decline in recent decades has generated a great deal of controversy.