John Logie Baird and the University: Information Sheet

How to use this sheet

This information sheet gives a brief description of John Logie Baird’s connection with Glasgow University. Enquiries should be directed to the Duty Archivist, see contact details at the bottom of the page.

John Logie Baird came to the University of Glasgow in October 1914, aged 26. By this time he had already studied for a Diploma at the Royal Technical College. Under an Ordinance of affiliation with the RTC, (Ordinance 23, Section 5) he would have been eligible for entry to the University of Glasgow BSc conversion course but there is no evidence that he came to the University intending to take this degree. Others who took a similar course of study to Baird, applied to proceed to the BSc in the months leading up to matriculation, Baird came to study in 1914 but there is no record of him making such an application.

He received class certificates in Civil Engineering & Mechanics, Senior Engineering Laboratory and Higher Mathematical Class of Natural Philosophy entitling him to sit the examinations if he so wished. Although he enrolled in the Electricity Pure and Applied class, there is no evidence that he received a class ticket. His attendance record in Professor Cormack’s Senior Engineering Laboratory and Professor Gray’s Higher Mathematical Class of Natural Philosophy were perfect. His record in Professor Cormack’s Civil Engineering and Mechanics class was deemed sufficient to be awarded a class ticket. Unlike his colleagues from the RTC, he did not enrol to sit any of the March 1915 examinations towards the BSc.

He appears to have played a full part in University life, joining the University Union on the 21st of October.

Throughout his life he gave notice of his education at the University of Glasgow in publications such as Who’s Who, recognising that his education here had an impact on his successes in later life.