Lord Kelvin and the University: Information Sheet

How to use this list

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

As a student, 1834-41

Published sources

W. Innes Addison, ed., *The matriculation albums of the University of Glasgow from 1728 to 1858*, (Maclehose: Glasgow, 1913).

W. I. Addison, *A roll of the graduates of the University of Glasgow, 1727-1897*, (Glasgow, 1898).

Registry records

| R9/1/1-2 | Class catalogues | 1834-41 |
| R9/2/1-2 | Indexes         |        |

As a University administrator and lecturer, 1846-1899

Faculty

| GUA 26700 | Minutes | 1839-48 |
| GUA 26701 | Minutes | 1848-52 |
| GUA 26702 | Minutes | 1852-57 |
| GUA 26703 | Minutes | 1857-59 |

Court

| C 1       | Minutes | 1859-1907 |

Senate

| SEN 1     | Minutes | 1845-1907 |

Faculty of Arts (Natural Philosophy was taught in the Faculty of Arts until 1893)

| ART 1     | Minutes, agendas and papers | 1862-93 |

Faculty of Science

| SCI 1     | Minutes, agendas and papers | 1893-1907 |

Department of Natural Philosophy

| NP 4/1    | Student entrance books      | 1846-1915 |
| NP 4/2    | Class catalogues            | 1864-1910 |

Correspondence relating to University administration, 1846-1900

| GUA 2090  | Report of the committee appointed to arrange a joint meeting of Court and Senate about deficit. Meeting to propose that a memorial to the Treasury be prepared and a deputation arranged with Sir William Thomson as convener. | 10th April 1873 |
Correspondence relating to University administration, 1846-1900 (continued)

GUA 4740 Copy letter from Sir William Thomson to Mr Scott expressing doubts as to the ‘stability and durability’ of ‘three great lengths of slender stone columns or mullions’ and of the appearance of the open structure above the solid tower (incomplete). 10th March 1887

GUA 15745 Letter from Lord Kelvin to William Houldsworth suggesting that potential students should have been at Glasgow for two years. 13th February 1898

Academic and related correspondence

GUA 48000 Correspondence between Lord Kelvin and Mr Reid of Largs concerning experiments for modifying his liquid compass. 1904-05

GUA 72799 Correspondence from Lord Kelvin with apology for absence and concerning Physics for medical students. 17th March 1892

GUA 73937 Publications Board papers consisting of a handwritten copy of Lord Kelvin’s diary while at Cambridge. 1843

As Chancellor of the University 1904-07

See Records of General Council, University of Glasgow (GUAS Ref. DC 183).

Honours

Papers relating to Lord Kelvin’s Jubilee and honorary degrees, May-September 1896:

GUA 2132 Invitation to a Conversazione to be held in the Bute Hall on the evening of Monday 15th June 1896 as part of the celebrations of Lord Kelvin’s Jubilee.

GUA 73384 Letters to Principal MacAlister concerning accommodation for guests at Lord Kelvin’s Jubilee.

GUA 2081 a & b Letter to Professor Bottomley, from Hill & Hoggan annexing communication from Imperial Fire Insurance Co, concerning temporary electric lighting of University for celebration of Lord Kelvin’s Jubilee, with covering note.

GUA 2133 Programme of Conversazione of the University and Corporation of Glasgow, held as part of the celebrations of Lord Kelvin’s Jubilee.

GUA 23569 List of guests invited to the celebration of the Jubilee of Professorship of the Right Honourable Lord Kelvin.

GUA 23570 Pamphlet giving details of the events and guests invited to the celebration of the Jubilee of Lord Kelvin.

GUA 58601 Correspondence in reply to invitation from the Senate to Clyde excursion on the occasion of Lord Kelvin’s Jubilee celebrations.

GUA 58602 Correspondence from visitors to Lord Kelvin’s Jubilee celebrations concerning accommodation.

GUA 58604 Acceptance of invitation to Lord Kelvin’s Jubilee.

GUA 58605 Correspondence concerning invitations to Lord Kelvin’s Jubilee.
Honours

Papers relating to Lord Kelvin’s Jubilee and honorary degrees, May-September 1896:
(continued)

GUA 58611 Correspondence relating to Lord Kelvin’s jubilee – request for an invitation and responses to invitations.

GUA 66026 Correspondence to Senate in reply to invitation to join the excursion on the Clyde to celebrate Lord Kelvin’s Jubilee.

GUA 74079 Senate meeting papers: correspondence regarding Lord Kelvin Jubilee celebrations.

GUA 4081 Letter (written in French) from Professor N Oumov acknowledging the receipt of the diploma of his honorary degree from Glasgow University and promising to despatch an honorary degree from Moscow to Lord Kelvin.

Other honours

GUA 1434 Lord Kelvin’s acceptance of an invitation to be present at the University’s Ninth Jubilee celebrations. 1901

GUA 55437 List of decorations and medals conferred upon the late Lord Kelvin and deposited in the Hunterian Museum.

GUA 42986 Opening Service for the centenary of Lord Kelvin. June 1924