



Social History

Objects in the social history collections record the experiences of Aberdonians at home and abroad, at work and at leisure. The stories and items collected also reflect the changing face of Aberdeen itself. We continue to collect personal and domestic items, as well as material which represents the many community organisations in the city.



Domestic

Our domestic collections give an insight into daily life in Aberdeen in the past. These are everyday objects that their owners probably wouldn't have thought twice about, and almost certainly would not have thought about them ending up in a museum collection.



This toaster is from the 1950s. There is a flap on each side which would have been pulled down to insert the bread.

The toaster would have been incredibly hot to touch after use as there is no outer protective casing like we find on our toasters today.



Photography



Aberdeen has had a thriving photography scene since the mid-1800s.

George Washington Wilson is the most iconic photographic pioneer to come out of the city. We hold a wide range of images taken by his company, including this very famous image of Queen Victoria and her servant and dear friend John Brown.



Toys and Games

Our toys and games collections have something for everyone, from spinning tops to robots, Godzilla to Gordon the Gopher and playing cards to Play Mobil. These objects show us how Aberdeen has played over the years.

Dating from the late Victorian era, this is the earliest example of a toy theatre in the collection. It is very ornate and delicate and features a variety of backdrops and characters.



Transport

Our transport collections show case the great variety of planes, trains and automobiles that have helped Aberdonians get around over the years.

The Royal Deeside **railway** line was built from Aberdeen to Ballater between 1853 and 1856 and operated until the 1960s.

This artwork was used as the image for promotional posters for the line encouraging tourists to Aberdeen and onwards into Deeside, inspired by public interest in Queen Victoria, Balmoral and the Royal family.





The number 24 **bus** to Scatterburn makes its way down a bustling King Street in the 1960s.

Aerial photograph of Dyce **airport** taken in the 1950s with areas still in progress marked on the image.



Sports and Recreation

This putting stone is one of a pair used by world famous Aberdonian strongman Donald Dinnie. Made from Aberdeen Granite, it weighs a whopping 10 kg or 22 pounds.



James Lowrie suffered from a disability due to the effect of contracting Polio as a child. This bicycle was adapted for his disability so that the controls for the front and rear brakes are worked from a single lever on the righthand side of the handlebars. James was a keen cyclist and cycled the length and breadth of Scotland from the 1920s until the early 1980s.



Societies

Many societies are represented in our collections, from the Oddfellows and the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds, to the Freemasons. These societies represent small, tight knit communities within our city.



Masonic dress Apron

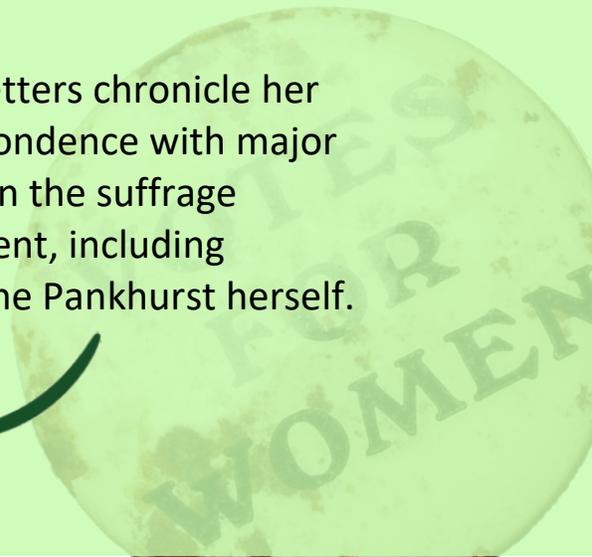


Suffragette letters and badges

Some of the most significant items in this collection are letters sent to Caroline Phillips, a member of the Aberdeen branch of the Women's Social and Political Union.

These letters chronicle her correspondence with major figures in the suffrage movement, including Emmeline Pankhurst herself.

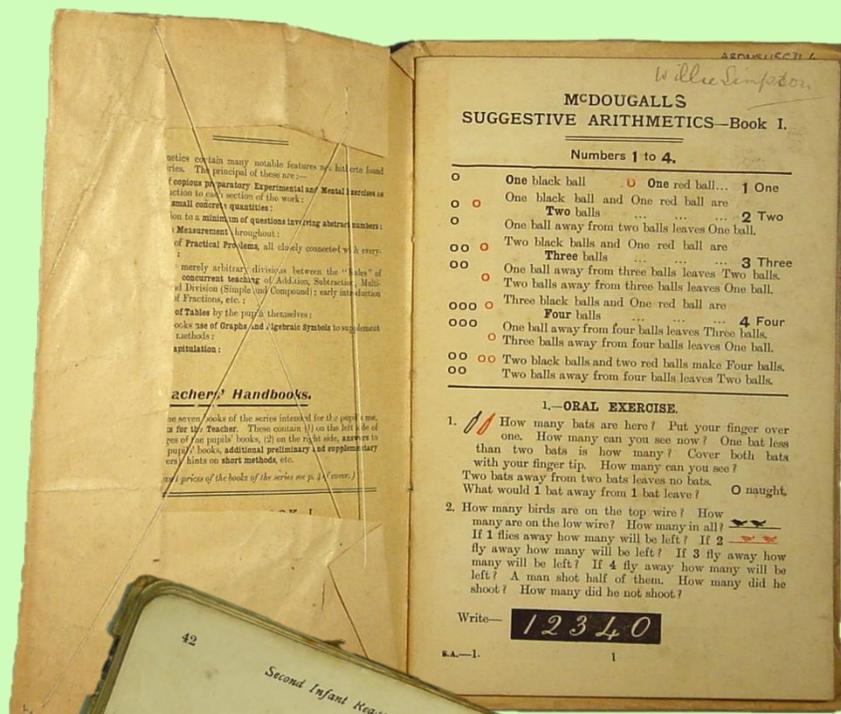
Dear member,
I need hardly say how
much I should like to
meet you again.
Sincerely yours
E. Pankhurst



Education

Our education collection includes items from primary, secondary and higher education institutions from across the city. The items we hold reflect the changing educational methods and values over the last 400

These two **schoolbooks** used to teach infant pupils how to read and do arithmetic belonged to local boy Willie Simpson. He used them as part of his early education around 1910.



This **schoolbag** was given to the donor by the industrialist Andrew Carnegie when he was 12 years old.

Carnegie visited Aberdeen and opened the new library at Dyce School in 1912.

