

1. National Library of Scotland

A. College Archive: NLS Acc 12299

The essential resource for the day-to-day activities of the College is the papers of Newbattle Abbey College. Although there are some papers from the pre-war period, these are scattered and sparse. Similarly, the papers from the 1950's are not as full or complete as for the 1960's and 1970's. The 1980's is again less fully covered, and the 1990's not at all (for obvious reasons).

Particularly interesting- although subject to Data Protection- are the records of student applications and interviews. The application forms reveal a wealth of information about student motives for applying and their occupational and educational backgrounds, and from the early 1960's onwards they appear to have been kept much more systematically. Some of the personal statements are very thorough and revealing. Records of the interviews come during the 1960's and early 1970's with specimens of the essay task that the students were set, together with tutor comments. These are very interesting on the process of selection but also in revealing the standard of work expected. Student files contain report cards with tutors' comments on student progress: again, these can be quite revealing, especially as to methods of work and tutor assumptions. They can also provide a glimpse of the future lives of students over several years, requests for references and letters to the Warden.

The files on the Bursar/Warden/ Governors contain drafts and completed versions of the Wardens' Annual report to the Governors. These are extremely useful documents in detailing basic statistics on the number of students attending and completing, and on the number of applications. They usually also encompass visits, activities and some accounts of short courses. Alexander Fraser's reports from 1937- 1939 contain very detailed accounts of the teaching, as well as a blunt appraisal of the College's problems. Edwin Muir's reports are short but pithy, and quite personal. The reports by the Warden Charles Rigg from 1960 are especially illuminating, and also contain vignettes on the progress of individual students. They also contain reports on the progress of the residential block and some discussions on the problem of bursaries. There are also minutes of Committee meetings, such as Executive Committee, Library and Teaching Committee. The Bursar's reports usually consist of accounts of income and expenditure with no commentary, but they do give an insight into the costs of running the College and how they break down in terms of teaching, housekeeping, repairs and upkeep. Bursar's reports are complete from the mid-1950's onwards.

These files also contain miscellaneous letters, notably between the Warden and the members of the Executive Committee of the College such as Lord Greenhill, and with

various external agencies such as the Scottish Universities entrance Board. This gives us a useful insight into the debates concerning short courses, the residential block, the negotiations of a Diploma course with the Universities and staffing decisions. There are some oddities, such as the correspondence with Lord Lucan concerning a student who had been sponsored at Newbattle by Lucan. There are several candid letters from 1954 between Edwin Muir and Professor H.J. Paton on the collapse of relations between the Warden and the Committee.

The files also include a very interesting draft paper on 'Adult Education in Scotland' dated 27.5.1953 by Edwin Muir, which is a personal statement of Muir's philosophy of adult education.

Also of interest is the very detailed report of the Development Strategy Committee (6.3.1979) by Alex G. Robertson of Dundee University, which as well as showing the influence of changing trends in Adult Education on thinking about Newbattle's future also gives an insight into the functioning of the College in the late 1970's.

The College archives include correspondence with other organisations, such as the WEA (revealing some of the tensions between Newbattle and the WEA over educational policy in the 1980's) and the Residential Colleges' Committee, locating Newbattle in the context of the activities of Ruskin and the broader residential movement. Other files of interest are those relating to the correspondence with the Student Representative Committee, focusing mainly on the 1980's, which reveal some of the tensions between the College management and the students; the Friends of Newbattle, particularly for the bulletins which give some insight into the later careers of ex-students; and the files on visits to the College, which demonstrate the great diversity of people and organisations wishing to come to Newbattle for a wide variety of reasons. The file on the royal visit of 1961 is an odd curiosity, revealing more about arcane royal procedure and the social aspirations of the Warden than anything specifically relating to the College. The publicity files show the College's marketing strategies especially in the 1960's, and includes draft advertisements, draft prospectuses and correspondence with organisations to distribute publicity material. It also provides information relating to BBC and STV film footage about the College in the 1960's as well as press interviews.

One curious gap in the files is the lack of academic team meeting minutes except for the 1970's and some of the 1980's. However, what we do have reveals recurring concerns about some key issues: the relative absence of female students, and how to redress this; the maintenance of a language component to Newbattle's curriculum; the attempt to create an STUC bursary; and the status of Scottish literature in a college with a large number of English students. The later files on the Open Learning Unit are also important in showing the problems open learning posed for Newbattle, and the response of the academic team to it. It prompted a rethink of the content of teaching that reveals a great deal about teaching methodologies in the mid-1980's.

Finally, there are detailed files on the Rhodesian students who came to Newbattle in 1974-1975 in political asylum, revealing a snapshot of College life and cultural exchange that is worth studying in its own right.

B. Various Correspondence

Morley Jamieson: letters relating to Newbattle Abbey College, and memories of W.S. Graham's time at Newbattle. Includes also a draft of Jamieson's radio feature on the history of Newbattle of 1951. Recollections of Edwin and Willa Muir contains a reference to Morley's time at Newbattle.

Letters of Edwin Muir to Douglas Young, J.F. Hendry, Eric Linklater (Acc 10282 no.3), Andrew Letters, and Hazel Eardely-Wilmot (Acc 12586) concerning Newbattle. The letters to the last are interesting for revealing that Muir felt very unconfident and lacking in experience when it came to adult education. There are letters also to Tom Scott concerning Scott's translation of *The Divine Comedy* into Scots.

C. Save Newbattle Campaign: Materials NLS

A packet of materials including leaflets, public letters, press briefings, concert fliers, posters, a campaign report, copies of *Battle Lines* newsheet plus badges and other publicity material.

2. National Archives of Scotland

A. The Lothian Muniments: GD40/17/181-195

The personal correspondence of Philip Kerr from 1930 to 1939 relating to Newbattle Abbey College. Highlights of this correspondence include Kerr's initial approach to Tom Jones developing the idea for the College, and Jones' memorandum on Coleg Harlech which formed the basis of Kerr's 'Scheme'. Kerr's correspondence with his two closest allies in the project J.R. Peddie (National Committee for the Training of Teachers) and James Mitchell (Carnegie UK Trust) reveals the development of the scheme at every stage. There is also correspondence with all of the Principals of the Scottish Universities discussing the difficulties and drawbacks of the Scheme. Peddie's Survey of the Scheme of June 1932 is crucial in appreciating the practical obstacles to establishing the College. The whole archive reveals Kerr's skills in networking as well as his persistence.

The latter part of the correspondence focuses on Kerr's developing relationship with the Warden Alexander Garden Fraser. Fraser's reports to Kerr on the workings of the College are very revealing about its early dynamics, Fraser's relationship with his students and staff, and the financial difficulties that faced the College. It also contains Fraser's developing sense of what was most important about the College, and his deteriorating relationship with the Executive Committee. There are some letters between Kerr and the sub-warden John Mack that also cover key issues in the running of the College. The archive also includes reports and other publications relating to both Newbattle and the adult education movement.

B. Scottish Education Department: ED 27/263; ED 26/1917; ED 26/1736; ED26/2110

These files cover the SED engagement with Newbattle from the 1950's to the early 1990's. They particularly focus on financial issues, such as the government grant to Newbattle, but they also involve a variety of other issues from the College's internal government to broader educational policy. Especially revealing are the internal memos reflecting on the College, which reveal an ongoing debate within the SED concerning the College's status and ideals. This helps us in particular to understand the positions that the Executive Committee took, often under pressure from the SED. Noteworthy are the letter of the Scottish Secretary Sir Hector reflecting on the future of Newbattle, the memo of 20.1.54 on the failure of Muir's short courses, and the much later exchange of views on the policy to take in reaction to the Save Newbattle Campaign. The SED files on the crisis that the College underwent in the early 1970's are fascinating, giving us a very detailed, vivid and honest view of the conflicts between the Warden, his staff and students, and the Governors, stage by stage. Other issues covered by the files include the negotiations with the Scottish universities over the Diploma.

The SED files also include detailed reports on the visit of the Alexander Committee to the Newbattle in 1970, which provides us with a snapshot of the College at this uncertain period of time.

Finally, the SED files cover the period 1987-1992, including the decision to withdraw funding, correspondence relating to the Newbattle campaign, internal memos on how to present the decision, and press briefings outlining the government argument. The last sections deal with the correspondence between Alisdair Nicholson, Chair of the Newbattle Board of Governors, and various ministers and officials concerning a rescue package for the College.

C. Carnegie UK Trust GD281/67/63

A collection of documents from the 1930's to the 1950's covering the Carnegie UK trust's involvement with Newbattle, and assembling a great deal of material that would otherwise have been lost. The Circular Letter of April 1940 and the 'War-Time Bulletin' of 5 May 1944 provide a great deal of detail on what had happened to staff and students since the war. The material especially on the late 1940's and the attempt to restart the

College is useful in filling a gap and in revealing some of the ambivalent attitudes towards reviving the College after the war. John Mack's publication 'Newbattle and the Future of Scotland', written by the pre-war Sub-Warden, is a fascinating document on the impact of the war on thinking about adult education and citizenship. There are letters between Mack and the Trust relating to future plans for the College. The files also provide information on the precise of appointment of Edwin Muir as Warden of the College, revealing that it was the suggestion of Professor John Macmurray of Edinburgh University. The files from the 1950's lift the lid on one of Muir's most difficult crises, the removal of two members of staff for Communist proselytism: 'Report by Sub-Committee empowered to consider the staffing of NAC' (26.6.1951), 'Some Observations on Staff and Student Relationships at Newbattle' (13.6.1951) and Muir's confidential report of June 1951 lay out the origin and development of this incident. It also includes letters from Lord Greenhill criticising Muir's handling of the situation. There is also a copy of the Sun Magazine, the student production from 1951 including stories, essays, memoir and poems, including two early poems from George Mackay Brown.

3. Midlothian Local Studies Centre

A. Newbattle Campaign NC1-15

A very extensive archive covering the campaign to save Newbattle from 1987 to 1989. It includes all of the letters sent to public figures, press release papers, briefing notes, pictures of the rallies and demonstrations, copies of the newssheet Battle Lines. Of particular interest is the historical account of the early campaign by the SRC president Andy Samuel, who gives a very candid view of the campaign. There are minutes of discussions concerning campaign policy with Douglas Gifford and other external well-wishers. The papers on the Newbattle Symposium are extremely interesting in connecting the Newbattle campaign with broader issues of educational policy in Scotland at the time. Also there are notes on meetings with the Board of Governors that reveal some of the dissensions within the College itself.

B. Newbattle: General

A collection of miscellaneous material relating to the village of Newbattle that contains some pictures, newspaper cuttings and other pieces relating to the College. Of most interest is a postcard from a student in 1938 that reveals the vibrant social life of Newbattle at the time, and a programme for the inaugural production of Newbattle's 'experimental' theatre, including *Waiting for Lefty* by Clifford Odets and T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, starring W.S. Graham.

4. Edinburgh University Library

Edwin Muir, Letters to George Mackay Brown, 1951-1958. GB 237 Coll-445

George Mackay Brown, 'Edwin Muir and the Labyrinth', typescript of play relating to Edwin Muir's time at Newbattle. GB 237 Coll-50

Tom Scott: letters of Scott after leaving Newbattle. GB 237 Coll-1077

John Macmurray: Some material relating to his time on the executive Committee of Newbattle in the early 1950's. GB 237 Coll-35.

5. Other Archive Collections

Alexander Garden Fraser: Papers at Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House: GB 162 MSS.Brit.Emp.s.283

Ian Cowan (History Lecturer 1959-62): Glasgow University Archives

Willa Muir: St Andrews University Archives

Professor Henry Prais: (French Lecturer, 1963-1966): Heriot-Watt University Archives

6. Newspapers and Periodicals

The references to Newbattle in *The Scotsman*, *The Dalkeith Advertiser* and the *Edinburgh Evening News* are too numerous to enumerate. The following is a selection of noteworthy articles, by no means exhaustive.

Scottish Educational Journal, 29.10.37

'Newbattle Abbey: The Working-Man's University', *Scottish Field* (Feb 1937)

Scotsman, 5.6.39 (on the Trade Union attitude towards Newbattle)

Times Education Supplement 28.12.40, Obituary Lord Lothian

Times Education Supplement, 13.2.43, 'Mansion Houses for Adult Education: A Scottish Experiment'

Glasgow Herald, 'Adult Education at Newbattle Abbey: experiment that proved its value', 4.1.50

Scotsman, letter, Edwin Muir, 14.7. 51

Neil McCallum, 'The Newbattle Experiment', *New Statesman*, 11.8. 51

Daily Mail 20.09.51

Scotsman, letter, Edwin Muir, 7.10.52

Glasgow Herald, letter, Lord Greenhill, 7.10.55

Arthur Hopcraft, 'Late but in Earnest', *Guardian*, 6.1.63

Glasgow Herald, 'Newbattle College to be extended', 17.4.64

Times Education Supplement, 16.2.68

Glasgow Herald, 4.7.69

Scotsman, Editorial, 'Newbattle's Fate', 11.12.87

Henry Cowper, 'Why Newbattle Must Leave its Ivory Tower', *Times Education Supplement*, 8.1.88

Nicholas Fairburn, *Daily Express*, 30.1.88

Neal Ascherson, *Observer*, 31.1.88

Scotsman, 10.3.89: editorial on government's final decision to go ahead with funding cut.

Dalkeith Advertiser, 15.4.89: on plans to save the College.

Times Higher Education Supplement, 3.2.95

Raymond Ross: Obituary, Bill Findlay, *Scotsman*, 23 May 2005.

The College contains an extensive selection of newspaper cuttings from the Save Newbattle Campaign 1987-1989. Hansard has debates relating to Newbattle from 1987 and 1988.

6. Books and Journal Articles

Adult Education: The Challenge of Change- The Alexander Report (Scottish Education Department, 1975)

George Mackay Brown, *Akros*, August 1981.

James Ramsay Montagu Butler, Lord Lothian: Philip Kerr, 1882-1940 (London, 1960)

P.H. Butter, 'George Mackay Brown and Edwin Muir', *Yearbook of English Studies* 17 (Cambridge: Modern Humanities Research Association, 1987), pp. 16-30.

P.H. Butter, *Edwin Muir: Man and Poet* (Edinburgh, 1966).

Maggie Fergusson, *George Mackay Brown, the life* (London: John Murray, 2006)

Roger Fieldhouse, *A History of Modern British Adult education* (NIACE, 1996)

Roger Fieldhouse, *Adult Education and the Cold War: Liberal Values under siege* (Leeds: LSACE, 1985)

Norman Garioch, *Newbattle: The Abbey Anthology* (ed. Mary Ross; Newbattle: K. Murray Publications, 1988).

Spike Mays, *No More Soldiering For Me* (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1971)

Edwin Muir, *Autobiography* (London: Faber and Faber, 1954)

Willa Muir, *Belonging* (Hogarth Press, 1968)

Boyce Richardson, *Memoirs of a Media Maverick*

Mary Ross (editor), *Gyff fredome failyhe : Scottish education, ideals and present practice: The Newbattle Symposium* (Newbattle, 1988)

Michael & Margaret Snow (eds.), *The Nightfisherman : Selected Letters of W. S. Graham* (Manchester: Carcanet, 1999)

William Ernest Frank Ward, *Fraser of Trinity and Achimota* (Accra: Ghana Universities Press/Oxford University Press, 1965).

Macmurray

7. Miscellaneous Materials

The project has generated some new material in the shape of interviews with former students and staff. These include notes of telephone interviews with Charlie Barker (1969-1970) and the former lecturer Ron Iphofen (1974-1980), and a personal interview with lecturer Ian MacDougall (1971-1984). In addition Boyce Richardson provided very detailed

I have started to compile a list of alumni and former staff whose lives can be followed through their own publications (or obituaries). Examples could include the following:

- Harry McGurk
- Peter Bain
- Helen Lister
- Bill Findlay
- Clive Soley
- Bernard Bergonzi
- Archie Hind