George Heriot's Hospital School Finding Aid

Founded in 1628 at the bequest of royal goldsmith George Heriot, the school was built at a time of political upheaval and civil war. The Wark (the old building) was nearing completion in 1650, when Oliver Cromwell took possession of Edinburgh and commandeered Heriots to house his wounded soldiers. The school governors eventually persuaded General Monk, with money and an alternative property at High School Yards, to move the 'sick sodgers' out of the Hospital.

In 1659, the first thirty boys were elected to the Hospital. Whilst building works continued throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, the number of boys elected to the Hospital increased to 180. Boys were usually elected at age 10 and stayed in the Hospital until age 14 when they entered apprenticeships supported by the Hospital. 'Hopeful Scholars' remained at the Hospital for another year and were educated at The High School of Edinburgh before entering university.

The Hospital found itself at the centre of controversies surrounding Scottish Educational Endowments in the late 19th century. Despite submitting reforms for The Endowed Institutions (Scotland) Act 1878, The (Moncrieff) Commission on Endowed Institutions in Scotland and the 1883 (Balfour) Commission on Educational Endowments. All reforms were rejected and George Heriot's Hospital School ceased to exist in December 1886.

In the 1980s, George Heriot's Trust deposited records with the National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES). The following series information shows which collections are held in George Heriot's School. Information on our collections held at NRS and HES can be found at:

NRS catalogue The records of George Heriot's Trust GD421

HES (Trove) catalogue Records of George Heriot's Trust, Edinburgh, Scotland

George Heriot's School is governed by George Heriot's Trust, Scottish Charity number SC011463

Reference	GHHS
Title	Records of George Heriot's Hospital School
Dates	1659-1886
Access status	Open
Description	This collection is divided into the following series: GHHS 1 Staff and pupil indexes GHHS 2 Governance GHHS 3 Hospital life GHHS 4 Former pupil associations GHHS 5 Photographs (including photogravures etc.) GHHS 6 Newspapers & media
Level	Fonds
Extent	20 linear metres
Copies	No known copies
Originals	This material is original
Language	Old Scots, Latin and English
Physical Description	Mixed media
Publication note	Bedford, F. (1872) History of George Heriot's Hospital. (3rd ed.) Edinburgh; Bell & Bradfute Lockhart, B. (2003) Jinglin Georgie's Legacy: A history of George Heriot's Hospital and School. East Linton: Tuckwell Press
Related Material	Original documents deposited at the National Records of Scotland: - Hospital Minute Books available on microfilm: RH4/152/1-15 - Indexes available on microfilm: RH4/152/20-21 - Chronological register of boys educated at Heriots 1659-1902 (digital GD421/10/7)

George Heriot's School is governed by George Heriot's Trust, Scottish Charity number SC011463

Series & Sub Series information

GHH 1 Staff and pupil indexes

GHH 1/1 Staff records, 1659-1886 [incomplete]
GHH 1/2 Pupil records, 1659-1886

GHH 2 Governance

GHH 2/1 House governor's records, 1842-1885 [incomplete]
GHH 2/2 Surgeon's records, 1853-1886
GHH2/3 Housekeeper's records, 1713-1795 [incomplete]

GHH 3 Hospital life

GHH 3/1 Pupils' work, 1712-1886 [incomplete]
GHH 3/2 Awards, prizes, medals *etc*., 1826-1886
GHH 3/3 School memorabilia, 1800-1886

GHH 4 Former pupil associations

GHH 4/1 Heriot Decoration Club, 1792-1829
GHH 4/2 Auld Callants, 1823-1876
GHH 4/3 Old Herioters' Association, 1848-1856
GHH 4/4 Old Herioters' Mutual Improvement Association, 1848-1857

GHH 5 Photographs (including photogravures etc.)

GHH 6 Newspapers & media

GHH 6/1 Newspaper articles, 1682-1886 [incomplete]

George Heriot's School is governed by George Heriot's Trust, Scottish Charity number SC011463