George Heriot's Trust Finding Aid

Walter Balcanquall, executor of George Heriot's will, created statutes which governed the Hospital for over two and a half centuries. Part of the Hospital Statutes included the formation of George Heriot's Trust and detailed who should be elected as governors. This was to prove contentious on many occasions as town council members and the town treasurer were elected to manage the Hospital's finances.

The Trust purchased land throughout the Edinburgh area as an investment for the future, with feus and rents funding the Hospital. In the early 19th century, the governors used surplus funds to establish the Heriots Foundation Schools (also known as Outdoor Schools). In the days before compulsory education the Heriots Foundation Schools provided free education to "the children of poor burgesses and freemen in Edinburgh." Around 5,000 boys and girls were educated through the scheme before the Education (Scotland) Act 1872 provided compulsory, free education to all children.

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 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 its new form, George Heriot's Trust was now responsible for George Heriot's School. In the 1970s, the UK Government abolished the grant-aided school scheme which culminated in the school becoming fully independent, and co-educational in 1979. The removal of independent schools receiving charity rate relief and the introduction of VAT (valued added tax) onto school fees also impacted the school.

In the 1980s, George Heriot's Trust deposited records with the National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES). The following lists show 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 catalogue Records of George Heriot's Trust, Edinburgh, Scotland

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Reference	GHT
Title	Records of George Heriot's Trust
Dates	1623-present
Access status	1623-1926 open. Check status for 1926-present
Description	This collection is divided into the following series: GHT 1 Administration GHT 2 Legal GHT 3 Correspondence GHT 4 Finance GHT 5 [unlisted] GHT 6 Estates GHT 7 [unlisted] GHT 8 Foundation/Outdoor Schools GHT 9 Heriot-Watt College/University
Level	Fonds
Extent	10 linear metres
Copies	No known copies
Originals	This material is original
Language	Old Scots, Latin and English
Related Material	Original records 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 - Cartularies and feu duty registers of the Hospital and Trust, 1624-1940 available on microfilm RH4/152 - Title deeds and related legal papers, 1474-1893 (GD41/7)

Series & Sub Series information

GHT 1 Administration

GHT 1/1 Minute books, 1623-present [See National Records of Scotland for originals]
GHT 1/2 Standing orders
GHT 1/3 Foundationers and Bursaries, 1886-present
GHT 1/4 Apprentice Records, 1839-1960
GHT 1/5 Independent School, 1975-present

GHT 2 Legal

GHT 2/1 Endowment papers, 1879-1885
GHT 2/2 Acts of parliament/statutory instruments etc., 1836-1927
GHT 2/3 Property, 1623-present
GHT 2/4 The End of the Hospital, 1878-1886
GHT 2/5 Civil actions, 1733-present [incomplete]

GHT 3 Correspondence

GHS 3/1 Treasurer's letters, 1826-1837

GHT 4 Finance

GHT 4/1 Accounts

GHT/5 [unlisted]

GHT/6 Estates/Buildings

GHT 6/1 Artwork
GHT 6/2 Antique Furnishings
GHT 6/3 Building works & plans
GHT 6/4 The Wark & archaeology, 1628-present
GHT 6/5 Chartulary indexes, 1690-1947

GHT/7 [unlisted]

GHT/8 Heriots Foundation Schools (Outdoor Schools)

GHT/9 Heriot-Watt College

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