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Inventory

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Nigel Tranter

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Literary papers, c.1958–1997, of Nigel Tranter, including notebooks and many typescript articles. Also included are manuscripts relating to *The Pegasus Book of Scotland* (London, 1964), *Lion Let Loose* (London, 1967), *Portrait of the Border Country* (London: Hale, 1972) and *The Lion's Whelp* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1997).

Nigel Godwin Tranter (1909–2000), writer, was born on 23 November 1909, the only child of Gilbert Tredgold Tranter (1869–1929), insurance agent, and his second wife, Eleanor Annie, (1875–1933). Tranter was educated at George Heriot's school, Edinburgh and his first book, *The Fortalices and Early Mansions of Scotland, 1400–1650*, was published in 1935, when he was twenty-five years old. His first novel, *Trespass*, followed in 1937 and from then on he wrote compulsively, starting the next novel the same day that he finished the last. Most were novels on Scottish subjects and, in the early years, modern adventure stories modelled on Buchan. Tranter's works *The Fortified House in Scotland* (5 vols., 1962–70) and *The Queen's Scotland* (4 vols., 1971–7) provided valuable insights into Scottish history but he turned increasingly to historical novel writing. The Bruce trilogy (*The Steps to the Empty Throne*, *The Path of the Hero King*, and *The Price of the King's Peace*, published 1969–71), two volumes on Montrose (*The Young Montrose* and *Montrose: Captain General*, published 1972 and 1973), and *Wallace* (1975) marked a high point in his career as a novelist and brought him massive sales. At his death on 9th January 2000, he had published over 130 titles and seven more manuscripts were complete and ready for publication.

This collection was bought at auction in Edinburgh by the donor and subsequently given to the National Library of Scotland. The files of articles remain as sorted by the donor.

Presented, 2010.

Extent: 0.32m

The collection is arranged as follows:

1-6	Books
7	Notebooks
8–20	Articles
21	Speeches and accompanying notes
22	Miscellaneous

1-6 Books

1. *The Pegasus Book of Scotland* - Manuscript chapter list, corrected carbon typescript.
2. Original typescript of 'The Lion Let Loose', with 2 alternative front covers, dated 1967.
3. Handwritten notes on novel 'The Riven Realm', all undated.

4. 21 homemade notebooks for notes on 'The Illustrated Portrait of the Border Country', undated.
5. Original typescript of 'The Illustrated Portrait of The Border Country' with accompanying notes/amendments, and handwritten index.
6. Original typescript of 'The Lion's Whelp', with sample printed front cover.

7 **Notebooks**

7. 8 homemade notebooks (literary notes) on various novels and chapters including:
 - 'Lord of the Isles'
 - 'My First Book'
 - 'Chapter 1. John Dalrymple of Stair'
 - 'The Story of Luffness'
 - 'Ferniehirst Castle'
 - Two untitled articles.

8–20 **Articles**

8. General title of 'Author etc': 10 articles, all undated:
 - 'Scott to the Novelist'
 - 'Wizardry of the North – One Scots Novelist's View of Walter Scott'
 - 'The Author's View of "The Bridal Path"'
 - 'Why Books?'
 - 'Author Behind The Film Cameras'
 - 'Epitaph For the Reader'
 - 'Reader and Writer'
 - 'One untitled one-paged article describing the responsibilities of being a historical novelist'
 - 'The Truth About Public Speaking'
 - 'Tales Out of School'
 - 'The Problem of the Novelist'.
9. General title of 'Battles': 2 typescript articles, both undated:
 - 'The Riddle of Otterburn or Chevy Chase'
 - 'Bannockburn'.
10. General title of 'Castles': 14 typescript articles, all undated:
 - 'The Scottish Castle'
 - 'Defend the Walls'
 - 'Innischonnell castle and Its Imprisoned Child'
 - 'Lennoxlove and Brittania'
 - 'Lennoxlove'
 - 'Towers of Strength'

'Towers Embattled, Proper'
'The Scottish Tower House'
'Peel-Towers of the West Border'
'Aldhame Castle', 'Lochleven Castle and A Queen's Tragedy'
'Lochleven Castle'
'Roslin Castle'
'Dalhousie Castle'

11. General title of 'Character': 5 typescript articles, all undated:

'Unscrupulousness'
'Down with Respectability!'
'The Stain of Abstaining'
'Taking the Stain out of Abstaining – The Stigma of the Chronically Sober'
'Total Tea....or The Stigma of the Chronically Sober'

12. General title of 'Ifs' of History Scottish Field: 20 typescript articles, all undated:

'Ifs of History....The Anonymous Letter'
'The Ifs of Scotland – Alexander the Poet'
'Ifs of Scottish History...A Slap in the Face'
'Ifs of Scottish History....The Honours'
'The Ifs of Scottish History...Alexander, Duke of Albany'
'Ifs of Scottish History...Nuptial Hospitality'
'Ifs of Scottish History...An Undone Buckle'
'Ifs of Scottish History...A Sanitary Provision'
'James I A Monarch in a Hole'
'Ifs of History...A Woman's Invention'
'The Ifs of Scottish History...Rathlin Island'
'Ifs of Scottish History'
'Ifs of Scottish History – Divine Right'
'Ifs of Scottish History (- Flodden)'
'Ifs of Scottish History (- Sheriffmuir)'
'Ifs of Scottish History (- Langside)'
'Ifs of Scottish History'
'Ifs of Scottish History'
'Had Charles Edward Won the '45?'
'The Ifs of History or Just Suppose...?'

13. General title of 'Local': 15 typescript articles, all undated:

'Saint Baldred's Land'
'Where Lammermuir Meets the Sea'
'The Craig of Bass'
'Story of the River Forth – Port Seton & Cockenzie To North Berwick'
'Story of the River Forth – North Berwick to Dunbar'
'Gullane, Gillan or Goolan?'
'East Lothian'

'St. Andrew's Well, North Berwick'
'I'm All Right Jack...!'
'Aberlady', 'Tyne and Time'
'County Pantheon (or East Lothian Galaxy)'
'North Berwick – The Law'
'The Stevenson Coast'.

14. General title of 'Miscellaneous': 24 typescript articles, all undated:

'Excerpt Two – The Celtic Church'
'Some Highly Dramatic Events'
'A Historical Review of the Scottish Landscape'
'The Opera'
'The Conquerors – From Odin to George Washington'
'Foreword'
'Edinburgh University – Chair of Scottish History'
'Are You Happy In Your Work?'
'Don't Pester Nestor'
'Chivalry In Order'
'The Royal Company of Archers: The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland'
'Getting Off the Beaten Track'
'Highly Commended'
'The Salmon War'
'Don't Hate the English!'
'This Nature Business'
'The Hazards of Wild-Fowling'
'The Wildfowler'
'Scotland's Stone'
'Honours Uneven'
'Honours Uneven'
'Where Honour is Due'
A copy of a series of questions put to Nigel Tranter 'Castle Ghosts – Fri. Oct. 31.'

15. General title of 'Overseas': 5 articles, all undated:

'The Incredible Principality'
'Rolling Down to Rio'
'The Long Way Round'
'An Eye-Opener'
'Are You A French Citizen'

16. General title of 'People': 14 typescript articles, all undated:

'--- Herzot'
'George Heriot'
'A very Stickit Minister'
'The Lost Lordship of Boyd'
'William Wallace and Dunipace'

'The Bruce and The Land'
'The Wallace'
'William Wallace - and Scotland Today'
'The Colquhouns'
2 copies of 'The Lost Earldom'
'The Lost Lordship of Duffus'
'A Home! A Home!'
'The Homes on The March'

17. General title of 'Places': 36 undated typescript articles, all undated:

'The Lothians'
'Heart of Lothian'
'Article for hexham Abbey Brochure'
'Introduction – Then City of Edinburgh'
'Lanark and William Wallace'
'Breadalbane'
'Doune Castle and the Bonnie Earl'
'The Common Riding Re-Visited'
'The Historical Background – The Establishing of George Heriot's Hospital and School 1624 – 1659'
'Paxton House'
'Athelestane Ford'
'The Border Common Riding Tradition'
'My Home Town Series'
'Gowrie'
'Echo of Royal Treachery'
'Ardnamurchan Holiday'
'Sailing the Western Sea'
'Argyll and Bute'
Article on the 'Border Towns'
'Peebles'
'Cumbernauld'
'The West March'
'Berwickshire'
'Berwick-on-Tweed'
'Stands Berwick Where She Did – Or Could?'
'Kilmahog'
'West Lothian – An Introduction to the Tourist Handbook'
'County Cameo....Berwickshire'
'Angus'
'The Carse of Stirling'
'Coldinghamshire'
'Kirkintilloch'
'Condorrat, Croy and Dullatur'
'The Lennox and the Lennox Hills'
'Monteith, The Lost Province'
'Lenzie'.

18. General title of 'Roads etc': 5 typescript articles, all undated:
- 'A Survey of Scottish Roads'
 - 'Shaggy Bridge Story'
 - 'Modified Rapture on Roads'
 - 'Our Broad Highways; A Survey of Scottish Roads'
 - 'A Survey of Scottish Roads – Article 2'
19. General title of 'Scots and Scotland': 18 typescript articles, all undated:

- 'Scotland Today'
- 'As I See It'
- 'Putting the Question; The Wording of the Scottish Plebiscite'
- 'Devolution – The Historical Dimension'
- 'Whither Scotland?'
- 'Talk on Need for a National Plebiscite'
- 'I See Scotland...'
- 'Has Scotland Forgotten Wallace?'
- 'Canny Scots', 'Living in Scotland...'
- 'Here's Tae You!'
- 'Thrawn Scots – Or Just Soft?'
- 'The Clans Today'
- 'The Tartan and All That'
- 'Scots, For Instance'
- 'Dourness'

20. Collection of miscellaneous articles:

- 'How To Be A Scots Writer And Yet Live', typescript, undated
- 'Red Harlaw' one folio of manuscript notes and carbon typescript, undated
- 'The Arts Lead to Scotland' typescript, undated, pencil notes on accompanying envelope.
- 'East Lothian and Berwickshire' carbon typescript, undated
- 'The Wallace', undated typescript
- Undated typescript with notes attached, titled 'Was It A Miracle?'
- 'The Stone of Scone', Carbon typescript, undated.

21 Speeches and accompanying notes

21. 'Historical Evolution of the Scottish Landscape' annotated carbon typescript notes with photocopy of typed-up version; photocopy typescript notes from a talk on the Scottish landscape by Doctor W. J. Eggeling
- 'Fact Behind Fiction', annotated typescript of a talk given to the Edinburgh Rotary Club, 12 January 1951

22 Miscellaneous

22. 'The Path of the Hero King' - Photocopy of typescript German translation.