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Inventory

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Gordon Wilson (b.1938), Scottish National Party Politician

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GB 233 Acc.13099
Political correspondence and papers of Dr Gordon Wilson
1964-2000
Fonds
1.64 m (14 boxes)

Dr Gordon Wilson, Scottish Nationalist politician and lawyer, was born in 1938. He was co-founder of Radio Free Scotland and Secretary of the Scottish National Party during the 1960s. Dr Wilson was a Member of Parliament for the Dundee East constituency (1974-1987). He was senior Vice-Chairman of the SNP (1973-1974) and parliamentary energy spokesman. He was Vice-Chairman for Oil (1972-1973), Director of the 'It's Scotland's Oil' Campaign (1972-1976), Senior Vice-Chairman of the SNP (1973-1974), Deputy SNP Parliamentary Leader (1974-1979) and Chairman and National Convener from 1979 to 1990, when he was succeeded by Alex Salmond. Dr Wilson was Rector of the University of Dundee from 1984 to 1986.

The fonds consists of political correspondence and papers documenting Dr Gordon Wilson's long political career and activities in the Scottish National Party from 1964 to 2000. The first two series include his political correspondence from 1964 to 1990. There is also a small series of papers and correspondence concerning the 'Scottish Oil' campaign (1972-1978). The Scottish National Party Groups series includes papers and correspondence relating to 'Siol Nan Gaidheal' and the '79 Group', and the disbandment of these groups in 1982-1983. The Scottish National Party organisation files (1979-1990) complement other organisational records included in Acc.11987. The fonds also contains correspondence, papers and memoranda on electoral matters (1978-1990), publicity campaigns (1983-1988), broadcasting issues (1983-1990), and the SNP's role in the Scottish Constitutional convention (1988-1989). Furthermore, there is a very complete series of papers relating to the SNP Parliamentary Group (1967-1990). This series includes agendas, minutes, correspondence, voting records and a nearly complete run of the Parliamentary group's newsletter from 1975 to 1989. The last series consists of SNP publications and miscellaneous briefing documents (1986-1995).

All the papers donated by Dr Wilson have been retained. Duplicates have been weeded with permission of the donor.

The fonds has been arranged into twelve series which reflect the major political activities of the creator over the years:

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1-14 | Political correspondence, 1964-1990. |
| 15-16 | Chairman's correspondence, 1988-1990. |
| 17-18 | Oil correspondence, 1972-1978. |
| 19-22 | Scottish National Party, Groups, 1979-1983. |
| 23-41 | Scottish National Party, Organisation files, 1979-1990. |
| 42-48 | Scottish National Party, Elections, 1978-1990. |

49-51	Scottish National Party, Publicity campaign, 1983-1988.
52-56	Scottish National Party, Broadcasting, 1983-1990.
57-58	Scottish National Party, Constitutional Convention, 1988-1989.
59-67	Scottish National Party, Miscellaneous files, c. 1944-2000.
68-93	Scottish National Party Parliamentary Group, 1967-1990.
94-109	Publications and miscellaneous briefing documents, 1986-1995.

Data Protection principles apply to some files.

Wilson, Gordon. *SNP: the turbulent years 1960-1990*, Stirling: Scots Independent, 2009.

Presented 2009

1-14 POLITICAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1964–1990.

1. Political correspondence, February 1964 – December 1970.
2. Political correspondence, November 1968 – October 1970.
3. Political correspondence, November 1971 – June 1973.
4. Political correspondence, August 1974 – October 1976.
5. Political correspondence, January 1976 – December 1978.
6. Political correspondence, July 1978 – August 1979.
7. Political correspondence, September 1979 – June 1980.
8. Political correspondence, September 1980 – May 1981.
9. Political correspondence, June 1981 – May 1982.
10. Political correspondence, March 1982 – October 1983.
11. Political correspondence, October 1983 – July 1984.
12. Political correspondence, August 1986 – December 1987.
13. Political correspondence, December 1987 – June 1988 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].

14. Political correspondence, August 1988 – September 1990 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].

15-16 CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE, 1988-1990.

15. Chairman's correspondence, March – September 1988 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].
16. Chairman's correspondence, 1989-1990 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].

17-18 OIL CORRESPONDENCE, 1972-1978.

17. Oil correspondence, 1972 and 1974.
18. Oil correspondence, 1976-1978.

19-22 SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY GROUPS, 1979-1983.

19. Siol Nan Gaidheal, 1979-1982 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].
20. 79 Group, correspondence, reports and related papers, 1980-1981 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].
21. Disbandment of groups, correspondence and related papers, 1982 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].
22. Disbandment of groups, correspondence and related papers, 1983 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].

23-41 SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY, ORGANISATION FILES, 1979-1990.

23. National Executive Committee and National Council correspondence, 1979-1980.
24. National Executive Committee and National Council correspondence, 1980.
25. National Executive Committee and National Council correspondence, 1980-1981.
26. National Executive Committee and National Council correspondence, 1981-1982.
27. National Executive Committee and National Council correspondence, 1982-1983.

28. National Executive Committee and National Council correspondence, 1983.
29. National Executive Committee correspondence and papers, 1986-1987.
30. National Executive Committee correspondence and papers, 1987-1988.
31. Special National Executive Committee, correspondence and related papers, May–June 1982.
32. National Assembly correspondence and papers, 1979–1980.
33. National Assembly correspondence and papers, 1980–1981.
34. Commission of Inquiry report, 1984.
35. Correspondence, reports, memoranda and clippings relating to SNP strategy, 1980–1981.
36. Correspondence, reports and memoranda relating to SNP's strategy and to relations between the SNP and the SNP Parliamentary group, 1981–1982.
37. Correspondence, reports and papers relating to SNP organisational issues, 1987–1988.
38. Correspondence, reports and papers relating to SNP organisational issues, 1988–1990.
39. Senior office-bearers, correspondence and papers, 1987–1988.
40. Senior office-bearers, correspondence and papers, 1988–1990.
41. Senior office-bearers, correspondence and papers, 1989–1990.
- 42-48 SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY, ELECTIONS, 1978–1990.**
42. General Election 1979, correspondence and papers, 1978–1979.
43. General Election 1979, correspondence and papers, 1979.
44. General Election 1983 review, correspondence and related papers, June–August 1983.
45. General Election 1987, correspondence and related papers, 1987.
46. General Election 1987, analysis, 1987.

47. European Parliament Election correspondence, memoranda and related papers, 1987–1988.
48. General Election campaign, correspondence and papers, 1989–1990.
- 49-51 SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, 1983–1988.**
49. Publicity campaign, correspondence and related literature, 1983.
50. Autumn 1984 campaign, correspondence, memoranda and related literature, 1984.
51. Publicity campaign, correspondence, memoranda, related literature and ephemera, 1987–1988.
- 52-56 SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY BROADCASTING, 1983–1990.**
52. Political parties broadcasting correspondence, memoranda and related papers, 1983–1989.
53. European Parliament Election 1984, broadcasting, 1984.
54. Broadcasting, correspondence and memoranda, 1984–1988.
55. Broadcasting, correspondence and memoranda, 1986–1989.
56. Broadcasting, correspondence and memoranda, 1986–1990.
- 57-58 SCOTTISH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, 1988–1989.**
57. Correspondence, memoranda and related papers, December 1988 – March 1989.
58. Correspondence chiefly from individuals in response to the SNP's position on the Scottish Constitutional Convention, February 1989. [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].
- 59-67 SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY MISCELLANEOUS FILES, c.1944–2000.**
59. Poll-tax correspondence, memoranda and related literature, 1988 – 1989 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].
60. Plaid Cymru correspondence and related papers, October 1986 – May 1987.
61. Plaid Cymru correspondence and related papers, October 1986 – April 1987.

62. SNP papers and correspondence relating to the Scottish Budget, 1993 – 1994.
63. SNP papers concerning strategy on Independence and Europe, 1998–2000 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].
64. SNP papers relating to strategy matters, 1999.
65. SNP general correspondence, 1999.
66. Memorandum, c. 1944-1945, and miscellaneous papers, 1995, relating to Arthur Donaldson's detention by the police in May 1941 for his stance against conscription.
67. A file containing miscellaneous press-releases, letters to editors of several Scottish newspapers, news clippings and political correspondence with Donald Dewar and George Foulkes, 1988–1993.
- 68-95 SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, 1967–1990.**
68. Agendas and minutes, October 1974 – July 1975.
69. Agendas and minutes, October 1975 – July 1976.
70. Agendas and minutes, October 1976 – July 1977.
71. Agendas and minutes, November 1977 – July 1978.
72. Agendas and minutes, October 1978 – March 1979.
73. Parliamentary correspondence file, November 1967 – June 1968.
74. Parliamentary correspondence file, July – December 1968.
75. Parliamentary correspondence file, January – December 1969.
76. Parliamentary correspondence file, June 1987 – July 1988 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].
77. Parliamentary correspondence file, August 1988 – July 1989.
78. Parliamentary correspondence file, November 1988 – August 1990 [*Access restricted, DPA principles apply*].
79. Papers concerning Gordon Wilson's resignation as Deputy Parliamentary leader, July 1977.

80. Papers and correspondence concerning the Queen's Speech consultations, 1978.
81. Voting record of the Scottish National Party Parliamentary Group, 1974–1978.
82. Contact, Newsletter of the Scottish National Party at Westminster, October 1975 – July/August 1976.
83. Contact, Newsletter of the Scottish National Party at Westminster, October 1976 – July 1977.
84. Contact, Newsletter of the Scottish National Party at Westminster, November 1977 – June/July 1978.
85. Contact, Newsletter of the Scottish National Party at Westminster, November 1978 – March/April 1979.
86. Contact, Newsletter of the Scottish National Party at Westminster, May/June 1979 – December 1980.
87. Contact, Scottish Affairs in the English Parliament, January – December 1981.
88. Contact, Scottish Affairs in the English Parliament, January – December 1982.
89. Contact, Weekly Bulletin of Scottish Affairs, January – December 1983.
90. Contact, Bi-weekly Bulletin of Scottish Affairs, December 1983/January 1984 – December 1984.
91. Contact, Bi-weekly Bulletin of Scottish Affairs, December 1984/January 1985 – December 1985.
92. Contact, Bi-weekly Bulletin of Scottish Affairs, January 1986 – March/May 1987.
93. Contact, 1988 and 1989.

94-109 PUBLICATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BRIEFING DOCUMENTS.

94. Arthur Donaldson Lectures, 1986 – 1995.
 - (i) Inaugural lecture by Neal Ascherson, 'Don't be afraid and don't steal!', Dunoon, September 1986.
 - (ii) Second lecture by William McIlvanney, 'Stand Scotland where it did?', Dundee, September, 1987.

- (iii) Fourth lecture by George Rosie, 'The Englishing of Scotland', Dunoon, September 1989.
 - (iv) Tenth lecture by George Reid, 'Home thoughts from abroad: Oh, to be in Britain? Perth, September 1995.
95. Gordon Wilson 'The Scottish Paradox', Andrew Lang Lecture, University of St. Andrew's, 26 January 1988.
 96. Scotland's Future – Independence in Europe: the case for Scottish independence within the European Community, May 1989.
 97. Scottish National Party research bulletins, 1970–1974.
 98. Scottish National Party Autumn Campaign 1989 briefing paper.
 99. The Scottish National Party's budget proposals, 1987–1988: an assessment of the output and employment effects, April 1987.
 100. A claim of right for Scotland: report of the Constitutional Steering Committee presented to the Campaign for a Scottish Assembly, Edinburgh, July 1988.
 101. Jim Sillars, 'Independence in Europe', June 1989.
 102. Scotland's economic viability as an independent nation, n.d.
 103. A presentation of main findings on a study of Scottish political attitudes, c.1986.
 104. A tabulated report on Scottish political attitudes, October 1986.
 105. A tabulated report on Scottish political attitudes, June 1987.
 106. 'Our changing Scotland: the Scottish National Party 1934–1994', c.1994.
 107. Papers and ephemera relating to the Scottish National Party Autumn Campaign 1984 'Independently we're winners', 1984. Includes promotional stickers and pamphlets.
 108. 'Scotland's future – Independence in Europe', European Election 1989 campaign information.
 109. 'Choose Scotland – The challenge of Independence', Scottish National Party Manifesto, 1983.