



**Inventory**

**Acc.7832**

**Adam Bruce Thomson**

National Library of Scotland  
Manuscripts Division  
George IV Bridge  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1EW  
Tel: 0131-466 2812  
Fax: 0131-466 2811  
E-mail: [manuscripts@nls.uk](mailto:manuscripts@nls.uk)

© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland

Sketchbooks, ca. 1920-1976, of Adam Bruce Thomson, OBE, RSA, HRSW (1885-1976). Adam Bruce Thomson graduated from the newly-established Edinburgh College of Art with diplomas in both Architecture and Drawing and Painting in 1909. After some scholarship-funded travel abroad he was appointed to the staff of the College, and apart from war service, remained on the teaching staff until his retirement in 1950. A member of and regular exhibitor with the major Scottish arts societies, he was at various times President of the Society of Scottish Artists, Treasurer of the Royal Scottish Academy and President of the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour. Though probably primarily known as a landscape and townscape artist, the sketchbooks show a range of subjects, to many of which he kept returning throughout his long career.

The sketchbooks are, for the most part, undated, though attempts at approximate dating have been made based on subject-matter, style and other internal evidence.

*Presented, 1981.*

1. Pencil sketches, ?1920s, mainly of children.
2. Mainly pen and ink sketches, ?1920s. Sketchbook lacks front cover. Subjects include Thomson's family, swans, sheep and unidentified locations.
3. Mainly pencil sketches, some pen and ink and ink-wash, ? 1920s. Subjects include Thomson's family, views of Edinburgh, and a signed compositional ink and wash drawing titled 'The Highland Funeral'.
4. Mainly pencil sketches. Possibly started in the 1920s, and used again some years later as there are stylistic differences between the first few sketches and the rest. Subjects include Thomson's family, architecture, trees and unidentified views.
5. Mainly pencil sketches, 1925. Includes sketches of children/family; more finished drawings of views, several of Edinburgh.
6. Sketches in various media, ?1930s. Subjects include Edinburgh, unidentified views and preparatory sketches for 'The Island Burial'.
7. Pen and ink and watercolour sketches, ?1930s. The sketchbook was evidently bought and used in France; subjects include harbour scenes and townscapes.
8. Mainly watercolour and pen and ink sketches, ?1930s-1940s. Subjects include landscapes and coastal views, some probably of North West Scotland and Skye, people at work, horses.
9. Pen and ink and pencil sketches, ? 1940s. Subjects include coastal scenes, yachts, people.

10. Mainly pen and ink, some pencil sketches, ? 1940s. Subjects include people, landscapes and coastal scenes, possibly NW Scotland (?Plockton).
11. Lacks front cover, ?1940s. Mainly pen and ink, some pencil sketches. Subjects include domestic scenes and some compositional sketches of townscapes.
12. Mainly watercolour and pen and ink sketches, ?1940s. Subjects mostly landscapes, including harbour scenes, hay-making and ?Dryburgh Abbey.
13. Watercolour and pen and ink, some pencil sketches, ?1940s-1950s. Subjects include coastal and harbour scenes, probably NW Scotland, and views possibly of the Scottish Borders.
14. Mainly pen and ink, some watercolour and pencil sketches, ?1940s-1950s. Subjects include harbour scenes and coastal views, probably of North West Scotland (?Plockton).
15. Mainly watercolour and pen and ink sketches, ?1940s-1950s. Subjects include harbour scenes and coastal views.
16. Sketches in various media, ?1940s-1950s. Includes watercolour sketches of harbour scenes, pen and ink and ink-wash sketches of Edinburgh.
17. Sketches in various media, ?1950s-1960s. Subjects include landscapes, views of Kelso and other locations.
18. Watercolour and pen and ink sketches, ?1950s-1960s. Subjects include harbour scenes, farm animals, coastal villages (probably west of Scotland) and Edinburgh.
19. Mainly pen and ink, some watercolour and pencil sketches, ca.1960. Subjects include landscapes, trees, views possibly of the Scottish Borders.
20. Sketches in various media, ?1960s. Subjects include landscapes and city-scapes.
21. Sketches in various media, ?1960s. Subjects include ?Melrose Abbey, Edinburgh, ?Plockton and unidentified landscapes.
22. Sketches in various media, ?1960s. Subjects include sea-birds, coastal villages (?St Abbs), Edinburgh.
23. Sketches in various media, ? 1960s. Subjects include coastal scenes, farm animals.
24. Watercolour, pen and ink sketches, ?1960s. Subjects includes cows, coastal scenes.

25. Mainly pen and ink, some watercolour sketches, ?1962. Subjects include coastal villages and harbour scenes, possibly St Abbs and the west/north west of Scotland, cows.
26. Ink and pencil sketches, ?1960s. Subjects include coastal scenes, possibly NW Scotland, and views of the Eildons and Melrose Abbey.
27. Mainly ink, some pencil and watercolour sketches, ?1960s. Subjects include coastal scenes, probably NW Scotland (?Plockton), horses, cows.
28. Watercolour, pen and ink sketches, but sketchbook largely blank, ?1960s. Includes 2 sketches of the view of Arthur's Seat (?from Blackford Hill).
29. Sketches in various media, ?1960s. Subjects mainly unidentified views.
30. Sketches in various media, ?1970s. Subjects include coastal villages (?St Abbs), farm animals, Edinburgh with several different workings of a view of Arthur's Seat (?from Blackford Hill).