

Macfarlane Albums



To view material in this archive, or for further information on East Renfrewshire's records, please contact the Senior Information and Improvement Officer, Craig Geddes:

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Fonds Date(s)	1916 - 1974
Extent and medium	Ten large bound albums and 2 frames. 0.6 linear metres
Name of creator	[Sir] Dr. James W. Macfarlane.
Administrative/ biographical history	<p>These albums were created by Dr Macfarlane detailing his professional work and other interests.</p> <p>Dr MacFarlane was chairman of the East Renfrewshire Unionist Association. He represented Netherlee Ward on Renfrew County Council as an independent from 1949, and latterly as a Conservative. He was Vice-Convenor of the County by 1957 and was Convenor until 1973.</p> <p>Dr Macfarlane received a knighthood in 1973 for services to local government.</p>
Archival history	<p>The albums were deposited with the Council presumably at some point after Dr Macfarlane's death in 1974, and by 2007 were held by East Renfrewshire Council's Libraries Section.</p> <p>These volumes were initially considered to be part of the archives of the County but it was decided in 2009 to list them as a separate fonds.</p>
Immediate source of acquisition	The albums were transferred from the Library Section's store at "the Bothy" to ERC Archives as part of A/C 2007/05.. Further deposit from same source A/C 2023/04
Scope and content	<p>Dr. Macfarlane was Convenor of the County of Renfrew and these records detail the work of the Council and also touch on some other interests of Dr. MacFarlane, including his work as an engineer and as Managing Director of Macfarlane Engineering Company</p> <p>The papers also feature vintage cars & motor cycles, his involvement with the sea cadets and his role as Chairman of the Western Area Fire Committee.</p> <p>Dr Macfarlane was also a Commissioner of Income Tax for the Upper Ward of Renfrew</p> <p>The albums mostly comprise newspaper clippings from local and Scottish titles, but also include leaflets, dinner invitations, photographs and correspondence.</p>
Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information	All records which transferred to the archives have been retained
Accruals	No further accruals are expected.
System of arrangement	<p>The albums in the initial deposit were created in chronological order, and this is reflected in their originally being listed 1-5.</p> <p>This numbering was reviewed and retained to incorporate the additional deposit in 2023</p> <p>Each album is listed with a note of some of the main features of interests.</p> <p>The framed items are listed at the end.</p>
Conditions governing access	There are no restrictions on access
Finding aids	An item level list has been prepared and is searchable on the archives database.

<i>Allied materials</i>	ERC Archives holds some material from the County of Renfrew; the bulk of that archive is held by the City of Glasgow
<i>Archivist's note</i>	Description prepared by Craig Geddes, Council Records Manager.
<i>Rules or conventions</i>	This description was based on the General International Standard for Archival Description and East Renfrewshire Council's Manual of Listing and Archival Description.
<i>Dates(s) of descriptions</i>	17/1/12 - 31/1/12, 26/10/23

Reference	Description	Date(s)	No. of pieces
09 01	Scrapbook, mostly of articles on the history of Glasgow	1916-1925	1
09 02	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, photographs and ephemera, mostly on motorcycle racing and the Macfarlane engineering company, Cathcart. Inscribed "from Claire, Oct. 1933"	1928-1937	1
09 03	Cuttings book of published works by James W. Macfarlane. Mostly on electric-arc welding and electric vehicles.	1937-1959	1
09 04	Scrapbook of newspaper clippings of J.W. Macfarlane, mostly re. his social and professional life.	1940c - 1950c	1
09 05	<p>MacFarlane Album. Comprises newspaper clippings, correspondence, photographs, invitations, etc. Mostly re. County business (including planning and housing) and the Scottish Unionist Association, but also including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> brochure for the Eastwood Gymkhana and Fete, 1948; Sea Cadet's exercises on Cumbrae, 1949; results of the election to the County Council 1949; numerous car and motorcycle racing programmes from across Scotland; electrification of the railways 1953-54; County development plans, 1953-54; the Coronation and Royal visits to Renfrewshire, 1953 & 58; the Mill blaze at Netherlee, 1953; article from the "Mercury" on the Pollution of the River Cart, 1954; plans for Houston to become a New Town, 1955; County council house rent protests, 1955; development plans, and opposition thereto, for Eaglesham, 1956-59; "Scotsman" feature on Cartbank Castle, the home of Dr. Macfarlane, focussing on a ground-water heat pump which he designed and built, 1957; Dr. Macfarlane's appointment to the Royal Commission on Police, 1959-60; development of a motor car factory at Linwood, 1960; alcohol licensing hours, 1960. 	1947 - 1960	1

Reference	Description	Date(s)	No. of pieces
09 06	<p>MacFarlane Album. Comprises newspaper clippings, correspondence, photographs, invitations, etc. Mostly re. County business (including planning and housing), but also including information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> development of a motor car factory at Linwood, 1960-62; development of Abbotsinch airport, 1960; development of a "High level bridge over the Clyde [Erskine Bridge]", 1960-67 Royal Commission on Police, 1960-62; development of Civic Centre and Piazza in Paisley, 1961+ opening Ceremony of Kirkhill Primary, Newton Mearns, 1961 press release, photographs, newspaper and magazine articles and a commemorative brochure from Macfarlane Engineering Co., celebrating it's 50th anniversary, 1961 restoration of Eaglesham, 1961; development of new Erskine and Houston "Communities", 1966-67; County Historic Buildings Plan, 1966; development of Civic Centre at Eastwood Toll, 1966; development of Clyde-Muirshiel Regional Park, 1967. 	1960 - 1967	1
09 07	<p>MacFarlane Album. Comprises newspaper clippings, correspondence, and photographs. Mostly re. County business (particularly structural planning), but also with a number of biographical features on Dr MacFarlane. Also including information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the national road development program, 1967 and the opening of the "Renfrew Bypass Motorway", 1968, and subsequent road and motorway building; a proposed oil refinery at Bishopton, 1967-1969; development of the Erskine Bridge, 1968 & 1970; Erskine New Town, 1968-1970; development of the Hunterson industrial site, 1969-1970; plans for local government re-organisation, 1969-1970; the Council's first purchase of a computer, 1969; opening of the Renfrewshire [Clyde Muirshiel] Regional Park, 1970. 	1967 - 1970	1
09 08	<p>MacFarlane Album. Comprises newspaper clippings, correspondence, and photographs. Mostly re. County business, in particular including information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sales of Council houses, 1971; local government reform; the "Erskine New Community", 1970-1973; opening of the Erskine Bridge, and its subsequent under use, 1971-1972; Netherlee Pavilion, 1971; Clarkston gas explosion ["Clarkston Disaster"], 1971; Dr. MacFarlane's work on attracting inward investment; Dr Macfarlane's knighthood, 1972-1973; the opening of Paisley Fire Station, 1973; election defeat of Sir James (Conservative) by George T. Brown (Netherlee and Muirend Residents' Association); 1973. 	1970 - 1973	1

Reference	Description	Date(s)	No. of pieces
09 09	McFarlane's folder of press clippings on the Clarkston Toll disaster	1971-1972	1
09 10	MacFarlane Album. Comprises newspaper clippings, correspondence, and photographs re. Sir James' interests, including the Erskine Bridge and its tolls and the Clarkston Disaster. Includes much loose material not affixed to the album.	1973 - 1974	1
09 11	Framed crest of Renfrew County, commemorating the visit of J.W. Macfarlane	1959/11/25	1
09 12	Framed missive appointing James Wright Macfarlane to the office of Deputy Lieutenant for the Shire of Renfrew.	1962	1