

P130 Caithness Dialect Articles
RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number: P130

Alternative reference number:

Title: Caithness Dialect Articles

Dates of creation: 1930-1933

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 1 volume

Format: Paper

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators:

Administrative history:

The dialect of Caithness follows that of the North East of Scotland, by and large. In 1735 Aneas Bayne, in his 'A Survey of the County of Caithness', commented that the local dialect was then spoken in five or six parishes, with Gaelic in the other four. He also commented that 'the commons speak it tolerably well where they are not much corrupted by the accents and idioms of the Irish' (by which he meant Gaels).

The compilers of the Old Statistical Account said in 1791 that the speech of Canisbay was "Scotch with a intermixture of Norwegian vocables" while in Wick (1791) the people spoke the "common provincial dialect of the north". The same was said of Canisbay and Wick in 1840-41. In Halkirk in 1840 Gaelic was giving way to Scots and had been doing so for some forty years previously.

The dialect of Caithness shares much in common with the North East of Scotland. For example, the sound f replaces the wh of other regions, as fat (whit) or fan (whan). Th at the start of a word, is elided, giving rise to such forms as e (the), at (that), is (this) and ey (they). It is also common, perhaps even more so than the North East, for the sound ee to replace a number of vowels such as ai, oo and u. For example, soon becomes

seen, moon/mune is meen, bane is been, hair is heer, and made is meed.

There are also a few features which are probably derived from cross over with Gaeilc. The sound ch is softened to an s or sh as in shapel (chapel), and she/her/hers replaces it/its. There were a number of publications in the local dialect, such as E Silkie Man published during the 20th century.

Custodial history:

RECORDS' CONTENT

Description: Volume containing newspaper articles relating to the Caithness Dialect

Appraisal:

Accruals:

RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access: open

Closed until:

Access conditions: Available within the Archive searchroom

Copying: Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids: Available in Archive searchroom

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue: October 2011

Ref.	Description	Dates
P130	Caithness Dialect Articles	1930-1933
P130/1	Volume containing newspaper articles relating to the Caithness Dialect [1 volume]	1930-1933