

P452 The Alan Mclvor Collection

RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number:	GB1741/P452
Alternative reference number:	-
Title:	The Alan Mclvor Collection
Dates of creation:	1778-2020, n.d.
Level of description:	Fonds
Extent:	5 boxes, 7 oversized items
Format:	Paper, photographs

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators:	Alan Mclvor and various
Administrative history:	<p>Alan Mclvor was born and raised in Thurso and credits his passion for local history stemming from his late father and his encouragement of the interest.</p> <p>His collection started with two photographs that were given to him, when a local photographer was clearing out his shop, and has continued ever since.</p> <p>Alan has served on the board for various historical services; including as chairperson for Thurso Heritage Society, as director for approximately 4 years from November 2008 to January 2013 on the formerly titled Caithness Horizons (now the North Coast Visitors Centre) and as a voluntary custodian for Old St Peter's Kirk, Thurso.</p> <p>His past work achievements include the publishing of 'A Guide to Historic Thurso' and 'Memories of Thurso,' as well as writing a column for the Caithness Courier and the John O'Groat Journal. He has assisted with the development of graphic panels for an historic town walk and in providing information and photographs to the museum in Thurso.</p> <p>Alan is credited with having conducted nearly 100 talks and presentations on</p>

Thurso's history for various civic events, local organisations, charities and schools.

[information taken from:
<http://www.thursointeractive.co.uk/>]

Custodial history:

Material collected by depositor

RECORDS' CONTENT

Description:

Material related primarily to local history, including journal articles, newspaper clippings, books, calendars and transcripts

Appraisal:

-

Accruals:

Expected

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:

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Date of catalogue:

Jun 2025

Ref.	Description	Dates
P452	The Alan Mclvor Collection	1778-2020, n.d.
P452/1	Records collected by Alan Mclvor	1778-2020, n.d.
P452/1/1	Copy of 'Description of the Entailed Property belonging to the Right Honourable Sir John Sinclair Baronet in the County of Caithness', taken from the Crown Charter dated 6 th August 1778 (1 bundle)	1778, c.2020

P452/1/2	Black and white photocopy of licence certificate, regarding the Sutherland Estate, Parish of Kildonan, original issued on 7 th May 1863 (1 item)	1863, n.d.
P452/1/3	Copy of Search Sheets for Thurso Magistrates 1901-24 March 1994 (1 volume) N.B. Since 1876 the government has maintained a series of search sheets for property in Scotland. These identify the volume and page numbers of all the sasines and deeds for a given building or piece of land and can be used as a starting point for searching back in time.	1901-1994, c.2020
P452/1/4	Pulteney Distillery, Wick, to James Henderson & Co., distillers billhead (1 item)	1907
P452/1/5	James Wilson, John O'Groat Aerated Water Factory, Wick & Brora billhead (1 item)	1908
P452/1/6	Copy of Search Sheets for the County of Caithness 1909- 1995 (1 volume) N.B. Since 1876 the government has maintained a series of search sheets for property in Scotland. These identify the volume and page numbers of all the sasines and deeds for a given building or piece of land and can be used as a starting point for searching back in time.	1909-1995, c.2020
P452/1/7	James E. Harper, auctioneer and fish salesman, Wick billhead (1 item)	1923
P452/1/8	Photographs, newspaper clippings and promotional material related to energy production, this includes projects such as Beatrice and wind turbines such as Drum Hollistan Wind Farm and Limekiln Wind Farm (1 bundle)	c.1980-1990s, 2015-2016
P452/1/9	Thurso Academicals Football Club Centenary: programme for Centenary Challenge Match against Inverness Caledonian Thistle at Sir George's Park, Thurso (1 item)	18 Jul 1998
P452/1/10	Timetable schedule for Caithness FM for Monday 26 th February 2001 to Sunday 27 th May 2001 (1 item)	2001
P452/1/11	Information regarding Thurso Christmas Light proposal and design by Blachere Wonderland Illuminations UK Limited and Thurso Gala Week (9 items)	2004
P452/1/12	Nicolas Boyes Stone Conservation: Ulbster & Skinnet Pictish Stones, Thurso Museum Conservation	Jul 2006

	Assessment Report & Installation Proposal (12 items)	
P452/1/13	Letter from David Owen addressed to members regarding Highland Opportunity Limited and the Former Caithness Fund (2 items)	16 Nov 2007
P452/1/14	Youth Facilities in Thurso Feasibility Study: Interim Report to Thurso Community Council, The Highland Council and HIE Caithness and Sutherland (12 items)	Jan 2008
P452/1/15	Youth Facilities in Thurso Feasibility Study: Draft Report to Thurso Community Council, The Highland Council and HIE Caithness and Sutherland (24 items)	May 2008
P452/1/16	Youth Facilities in Thurso Feasibility Study: Draft Final Report to Thurso Community Council, The Highland Council and HIE Caithness and Sutherland (1 bundle) [handwritten notes on cover]	Jul 2008
P452/1/17	Laminated A3 illustrations, plans and proposals for Caithness Horizons (6 items)	c.2008-2012
P452/1/18	Thurso Town Improvements Association Gala programmes and information sheets (3 items)	2009, 2013
P452/1/19	Advisory Report and Cover Letter from Historic Scotland to Thurso Heritage Society on Old St. Peter's Church, Thurso (10 items)	10 Jun 2011
P452/1/20	Two A3 colour posters for Thurso Town Improvements Associations, Family Bingo night at the Royal British Legion (2 items)	11 Nov 2011
P452/1/21	A4 colour poster for The Santa Sesh: Santa's Grotto by Thurso Town Improvements Association (1 item)	Dec 2012
P452/1/22	The Caithness Broch Project: Annual Report 2017 (13 items)	2017
P452/1/23	Photograph of Thurso Communion Tokens showing front and back views of tokens (2 items)	n.d.
P452/1/24	Thurso Heritage Society membership cards (10 items)	n.d.
P452/1/25	Caithness Strongman Event advertisement poster, hosted by Thurso Town Improvements Association (2 items)	n.d.
P452/2	Articles, transcriptions and research by Alan McIvor	2003-2020, n.d.

P452/2/1	Liberties of the Town of Thurso, transcribed by Alan Mclvor (4 items)	2003
P452/2/2	Brief History of Thurso's Brewery by Alan Mclvor (3 items)	2007
P452/2/3	A Market Day in Thurso by Alan Mclvor (1 item)	2007
P452/2/4	150 th Anniversary of Laying of the Foundation Stone for Thurso Town Hall by Thirsa Loon [Alan Mclvor] (2 items)	2007
P452/2/5	'Memories of Thurso Volume One,' compiled and published by Alan Mclvor; transcript of anonymous series of articles originally published weekly in 1911, recounting Thurso and its people as it was in the 1870s and onwards (1 volume)	2011
P452/2/6	Scrapbook containing various newspaper articles, some concerning Caithness directly, and others as 'interest' pieces (1 volume)	c.2019
P452/2/7	A basic timeline for the Sherifffdom of Caithness 1150- 1975, created by Alan Mclvor (2 items)	c.2020
P452/2/8	'The story of the 'John o' Groat Journal' by John Mowat, F.S.A., Scot. Transcribed by Alan Mclvor (1 volume)	n.d.
P452/2/9	Alan's Archives Part One: On Visiting the Castle of 'Girnigo' poem by James Traill Calder, by Alan R. Mclvor, written for the 'Caithness Family History Journal' (3 items)	n.d.
P452/2/10	Alan's Archives Part Two: Ancient History of Orkney, Caithness, & the North by Thormodus Torfaeus, by Alan R. Mclvor, written for the 'Caithness Family History Journal' (1 item)	n.d.
P452/2/11	Alan's Archives Part Three: Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary of Scotland 1886, by Alan R. Mclvor, written for the 'Caithness Family History Journal' (3 items)	n.d.
P452/2/12	Alan's Archives Part Four: William Bremner Funeral Letter, By Alan R. Mclvor, written for the 'Caithness Family History Journal' (4 items)	n.d.
P452/2/13	Alan's Archives Part Five: Deed of Nomination of Magistrates & Disposition in favour of the Inhabitants of Thurso 1866, by Alan R. Mclvor, written for the 'Caithness Family History Journal' (3 items)	n.d.

P452/2/14	Index cards in box with label, 'Placenames, Reay Parish, Caithness' (1 box)	n.d.
P452/2/15	Index cards in box of dates and events; subjects include chapels, fishing, people, animals, folklore etc. (1 box)	n.d.
P452/2/16	Notes on the Coble at Thurso by Alan Mclvor (3 items)	n.d.
P452/2/17	'Thurso's Heritage – Reminiscing with a Thirsa Loon,' written for the Caithness Courier/John O' Groat Journal (9 items)	n.d.
P452/3	Secondary Sources (published and unpublished)	1835-2019, n.d.
P452/3/1	Fourth Report of the Commissioners of Religious Instruction, Scotland (25 items)	20 Jul 1835
P452/3/2	Photocopy of article titled, 'Scotch Divorce Case: Trouble between Sir J.G. Tollemache Sinclair and Lady Sinclair- Alleged Bad Behaviour of the Lady, from the Glasgow Times June 29' and re-published in The New York Times 13 July 1878 (1 item)	1878
P452/3/3	Board of Agriculture for Scotland Report for the Week ending 7 th May 1919 (4 items)	7 May 1919
P452/3/4	Bound volume of typed transcriptions titled 'Thurso Events, as reported in Caithness Courier, period 5/01/1949 to 3/08/1949, compiled by Sandy Gunn, Book 9' (1 volume)	1949
P452/3/5	Bound volume of typed transcriptions titled 'Thurso Events, as reported in Caithness Courier, period 5/01/1949 to 11/01/1950, compiled by Sandy Gunn, Book 9, 10 and 11' (1 volume)	1949-1950
P452/3/6	Bound volume of typed transcriptions titled 'Thurso Events, Books Two, Three and Four, as reported in Caithness Courier, period 12/01/1949 to 28/11/1951, compiled by Sandy Gunn' (1 volume)	1949-1951
P452/3/7	Bound volume of typed transcriptions titled 'Thurso Events, Individuals and Obituaries, as reported in Caithness Courier, from 29/03/1950 to 28/02/1951, Book 3, compiled by Sandy Gunn (1 volume)	1950-1951
P452/3/8	'A Caithness Kist,' by James P Campbell and Donald Omand, a pictorial survey of the county (1 volume)	c.1950
P452/3/9	Bound volume of typed transcriptions titled 'Thurso Events, Books Four and Five, as reported in	1951-1952

	Caithness Courier, period 5/12/1951 to 25/06/1952, compiled by Sandy Gunn' (1 volume)	
P452/3/10	Two bound volumes of typed transcriptions titled 'POEMS in the Caithness Courier, period 25/07/1951 to 18/06/1952, compiled by Sandy Gunn, Book One' (2 volumes)	1951-1952
P452/3/11	Bound volume of typed transcriptions titled 'Thurso Events, as reported in Caithness Courier, period 19/03/1952 to 25/06/1952, compiled by Sandy Gunn, Book 6' (1 volume)	1952
P452/3/12	Bound volume of typed transcriptions titled 'Thurso Events, as reported in Caithness Courier, period 2/07/1952 to 1/10/1952, compiled by Sandy Gunn, Book 7' (1 volume)	1952
P452/3/13	Bound volume of typed transcriptions titled 'Thurso Events, as reported in Caithness Courier, period 1/10/1952 to 31/12/1952, compiled by Sandy Gunn, Book 8' (1 volume)	1952
P452/3/14	Bound volume of typed transcriptions titled 'Thurso Events, as reported in Caithness Courier, period 2/07/1952 to 31/12/1952, compiled by Sandy Gunn, Books 7 and 8' (1 volume)	1952
P452/3/15	'Thurso: Northernmost Town in Scotland, in Caithness, County of Contrasts' (1 volume)	c.1960
P452/3/16	'Thurso Official Guide,' published by Thurso Town Council (1 volume)	c.1960
P452/3/17	Scots magazine articles (2 bundles) [list of articles in Collection file]	1966-2022
P452/3/18	'Jacobite Activities In and Around Inverness 1688-1746,' by Barrie Robertson (1 volume)	c.1970
P452/3/19	'The Burgh of Thurso: Official Street Plan' (1 volume)	c.1970
P452/3/20	'The Wild Flowers of Caithness: A Checklist,' published by the Caithness Field Club (1 volume)	1977
P452/3/21	'More Legends of the Pentland Firth,' by Henrietta Munro, illustrated by Barbara Myatt (1 volume)	1979
P452/3/22	The first Newsletter of the Clan Gunn Society (1 item)	Jan 1986
P452/3/23	'The Chairs of Sutherland and Caithness: A Northern Tradition in Highland Chair-Making?' by R. Ross	1987

	Noble. Reprinted from Regional Furniture, The Journal of the Regional Furniture Society Vol 1. (5 items)	
P452/3/24	'A Guide to the Parish of Durness and North West Sutherland,' published by Sutherland Tourist Board (1 volume)	1988
P452/3/25	'Caithness: The 1988 Caithness Collection' sale catalogue for Caithness Glass (1 item)	1988
P452/3/26	'A Glossary of Scottish Dialect Fish and Trade Names,' by Robert A. Watt, Pamphlet by Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland (26 items)	1989
P452/3/27	Prints taken from a calendar depicting Caithness scenes from the late to middle 1800s to early 1900s, artists include A. Johnston, William Woolard, Dobson, Alfred P. Newton, Tom Scott and P. McLeod (11 items)	c.1990s
P452/3/28	'The Story of the Thurso Lifeboats,' by Jeff Morris (1 volume)	1991
P452/3/29	Photocopied and bound copy of 'Cannesbey Session Records. Mar 1652 / Feb 1666. Transcribed by Morris Pottinger, Isauld House, Reay, March 1993, from a manuscript held by Wick Library' (1 volume)	1993
P452/3/30	1995 Calendar printed by North of Scotland Newspapers depicting William Daniell prints of Caithness (1 item)	1995
P452/3/31	The Sutherland Calendar: 1996 (1 item)	1996
P452/3/32	Torfaeus's History 1846: This edition scanned and printed in May 2002 [transcribed chapters appeared in the John O'Groat Journal] (1 volume)	2002
P452/3/33	'Caithness: Its Former Flagstone Industry and its Fossil Fish,' by Alan Saxon, taken from the Bath Geological Society Journal (16 items)	2003
P452/3/34	Promotional brochure published for Gordon Campbell, Independent candidate for the Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross constituency in the 2007 Scottish Election (1 item)	2007
P452/3/35	Thurso Heritage Society 30 th Anniversary 2012 Calendar (1 item)	2012
P452/3/36	Oversized copy, photocopy and transcription of a newspaper article from the John O'Groat Journal	20 Jun 2014

	relating to Alan's grandfather, titled 'Serving royal family members was all part of the job for James' about James Thomson, the last butler at Sandside House, Reay' (3 items)	
P452/3/37	True Detective: The Scot who hunted Jack the Ripper, Donald Swanson (5 items)	14 Aug 2014
P452/3/38	Large fold out double-sided colour map produced by The Daily Mail of 'The British Isles 1884' and 'Great Britain and Ireland,' copyright stamped 2016 (1 item)	2016
P452/3/39	Caithness Explorer 2017 magazine (1 item)	2017
P452/3/40	Limited Edition 2019 Charity Calendar by Thurso Heritage Society on 'Shades of the Past A Tribute to Hetty Munro' (1 item)	2019
P452/3/41	Thurso Community Magazine, Issue One (1 item)	2019
P452/3/42	Thurso Community Magazine, Special Community Consultation Issue (1 item)	c.2019
P452/3/43	The Flow Country newsletters (3 items)	c.2019
P452/3/44	Photocopied and bound copy of 'Notes on Caithness Bird Life: E.S. Mackay's contributions to the John O'Groat Journal, 1913-1918, on the birds of Caithness' (1 volume)	n.d.
P452/3/45	Photocopied and originally stapled copy of a chapter titled 'Rosal: a Deserted Township in Strath Naver, Sutherland by Horace Fairhurst' (1 bundle)	n.d.
P452/3/46	Photocopied and originally bound copy of 'Wrecks of the Pentland Firth 1830-1981, by William Bremner of Stroma and D.G. Sinclair of Scrabster. Some incidents involving Wick and Ackergill Lifeboats 1839-1981, by A.D. Anderson' (1 bundle)	n.d.
P452/3/47	'An Introduction to the Caithness Flagstone Industry,' by John Porter (15 items)	n.d.
P452/3/48	Black and white photocopy of poem titled 'The Seige of Ducksie' (1 item)	n.d.
P452/3/49	The Herring Girls, author unknown (5 items)	n.d.
P452/3/50	Photocopies of pages from a volume relating to Timothy Pont's map of Caithness (2 items)	n.d.
P452/3/51	Transcription of the Diary of John Bruce Cairnie, 1915. Transcribed and annotated by James Bruce.	n.d.

	[John Bruce Cairnie was born in 1889 in Thurso and enlisted in September 1914. The diary records his experiences during World War One] (1 volume)	
P452/4	Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries Scotland	1901-2020, n.d.
P452/4/1	Notice of a Hoard of Bronze Implements and Ornaments found at Migdale, Skibo, Sutherland by Joseph Anderson (1 item)	Apr 1901
P452/4/2	Excavation of Chambered Cairn at Ham, Caithness and of a hut circle and two earth-houses at Freswick Links, Caithness by Arthur J.H. Edwards (5 items)	Jan 1925
P452/4/3	Excavations of graves at Ackergill and of an earth-house at Freswick Links, Caithness, and a description of the discovery of a viking grave at Reay, Caithness, by Arthur J.H. Edwards (8 items)	Mar 1927
P452/4/4	Excavations at Reay Links and at a Horned Cairn at Lower Dounreay, by Arthur J.H. Edwards (7 items)	Dec 1928
P452/4/5	A Viking Settlement at Freswick, report on excavations carried out in 1937 and 1938 by A. O. Curle (27 items)	1937-1939
P452/4/6	Excavation of three Chambered Cairns at Loch Calder, Caithness, by J. X. W. P. Corcoran (43 items)	1964-1966
P452/4/7	The Medieval Church in the Diocese of Aberdeen by Iain B. Cowan (15 items)	Dec 1972
P452/4/8	Two Bronzes from Caithness by Joanna Close-Brooks (2 items)	1974-1975
P452/4/9	Excavations in the Dairy Park, Dunrobin, Sutherland, 1977 by Joanna Close-Brooks (10 items)	1978-1980
P452/4/10	The Last Century of Pictish Succession by M. Miller (15 items)	1979
P452/4/11	A Disturbed Inhumation from Stain, Keiss, Caithness by Colleen Batey (4 items)	1983
P452/4/12	Funeral Heraldry in Scotland with particular reference to hatchments by Charles J Burnett (1 bundle)	1986
P452/4/13	The Helmsdale Bowls, a re-assessment by R M Spearman with P Wilthew (8 items)	1990
P452/4/14	The Turning of Scotland by J C Mann (1 item)	1990

P452/4/15	The Atlantic Scottish Iron Age: Five Levels of Chronology by Ian Armit (17 items)	1991
P452/4/16	Society in Scotland from 700 BC to AD 200 by Richard Hingley (24 items)	1992
P452/4/17	The Long Hundred in Medieval and Early Modern Scotland by Julian Goodare (12 items)	1993
P452/4/18	The Ogham-inscribed whorl from Buckquoy: Evidence for the Irish language in pre-Viking Orkney by Katherine Forsyth (10 items)	1995
P452/4/19	The Excavation of a succession of Prehistoric round-houses at Cnoc Stanger, Reay by Roger J Mercer 1981-2 (17 items)	1996
P452/4/20	The Columban Church in Northern Britain, 666-717: a reassessment by Kenneth Veitch (11 items)	1997
P452/4/21	The Excavation and Restoration of the Camster Long chambered cairn by Lionel Masters, 1967-80 (1 bundle)	1997
P452/4/22	Recreating a possible Flavian map of Roman Britain with a detailed map of Scotland by Alastair Strong (8 items)	1998
P452/4/23	Towards a new understanding of Iron Age Caithness by Andrew Heald & Adam Jackson (10 items)	2001
P452/4/24	Fluctuating settlement patterns in Bronze Age Sutherland: excavation of a roundhouse at Navidale, Helmsdale, by Lindsay Dunbar (16 items)	2007
P452/4/25	Brothies Steading, Dunnet, Caithness: A 19 th -century croft house and earlier settlement mound by Timothy Holden (13 items)	2008
P452/4/26	The Lukis Family of Guernsey and antiquarian pursuits in Scotland by Heather Sebire (22 items)	2009
P452/4/27	Cemeteries of platform cairns and long cists around Sinclair's Bay by Anna Ritchie (10 items)	2011
P452/4/28	Excavations at the early and later medieval Site of Ballachly, Dunbeath 2007-10 by Lloyd Lang, Edward Oakley, Anne E Sassin and Imogen Tompsett (19 items)	2013
P452/4/29	Ava: A Beaker-associated woman from a cist at Achavanich, Highland, and the story of her (re-) discovery and subsequent study by Maya Hoole,	2017

	Alison Sheridan, Angela Boyle, Thomas Booth, Selina Brace, Yoan Diekmann, Inigo Olalde, Mark G Thomas, Ian Barnes, Jane Evans, Carolyn Chenery, Hilary Sloane, Hew Morrison, Sheena Fraser, Scott Timpany and Derek Hamilton (23 items)	
P452/4/30	Scottish silver arm-rings: An analysis of weights by R Warner [incomplete, only one page] (1 item)	n.d.
P452/5	Photographs and Prints	c.1800s-1920, n.d.
P452/5/1	Panoramic black and white print of photograph of Wick harbour during its time as a busy herring port, with hundreds of barrels in foreground (1 item)	c.1800s
P452/5/2	Black and white print of photograph, with label 'Lybster Harbour Caithness possibly around 1860' (1 item)	c.1860s
P452/5/3	Black and white print of photograph, with label 'Thurso Castle, from North-East' (1 item)	c.1890s
P452/5/4	Black and white print of photograph showing steam powered fishing trawlers in Wick harbour (1 item)	c.1920s
P452/5/5	Three colour photographs in various sizes depicting Berriedale, two showing similar angles but from different time periods and one showing the houses and red telephone box (3 items)	n.d.
P452/5/6	Panoramic colour photograph showing Morven to the left hand side (1 item)	n.d.
P452/5/7	Colour print of Thurso looking down the river towards the town, label says 'Thurso and Bay (Panoramic View)' (1 item)	n.d.
P452/5/8	Black and white print of photograph of Thurso beach, with Thurso castle in background and young boy with cane, hat and satchel sitting on a beach whale (1 item)	n.d.
P452/6	Maps and Plans	n.d.
P452/6/1	A4 maps of Stroma (2 items)	n.d.
P452/6/2	County Map and Gazetteer (2 items)	n.d.
P452/6/3	Black and white photocopies of a simple line drawing of Caithness (1 bundle)	n.d.