MS13 Thomson Manuscripts

About the collection:

Collection of scientific papers and notebooks, memoranda, lectures, correspondence etc of James Thomson (1822-1892), Professor of Engineering at Queen's College, Belfast, 1857-1873. Various topics are highlighted in the collection reflecting Professor Thomson's wide range of research interests. These include such areas as fluid motion, the formation of river bars, ventilation, atmospheric circulation, the atmosphere of Jupiter and the freezing and melting of solid, liquid and gaseous states of matter, which he investigated with his Belfast colleague, Thomas Andrews (1813-85). The collection also includes many manuscript drafts of lectures and scientific papers, printed offprints of papers by Thomson and other contemporaries, newspapers and journals, pamphlets and patent specifications. There is also a large quantity of letters to and from Thomson with about 50 correspondents. These include his brother, the eminent physicist Lord Kelvin, Michael Faraday, James Clerk Maxwell, P.G. Tait, J.J. Murphy, Thomas Andrews, Galbraith, G.G. Stokes, Sir R. Ball, W.J.M. Rankine and others. Most of this material is of a technical nature. The collection also contains some manuscripts belonging to Thomson's father, James Thomson, senior (1786-1849).

The following is an inventory of the manuscripts in the Thomson Collection.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MS13</th>
<th>Table of contents</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS13/A</td>
<td>Manuscript Books</td>
<td>p.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/B</td>
<td>Relating to Professorships</td>
<td>p.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/C</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>p.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/D</td>
<td>Fluid Motion</td>
<td>p.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/E</td>
<td>Formation of River-bars</td>
<td>p.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/F</td>
<td>Ventilation</td>
<td>p.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/G</td>
<td>Atmospheric Circulation</td>
<td>p.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/H</td>
<td>Atmosphere of Jupiter</td>
<td>p.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/I</td>
<td>Coagulation and Liquefaction</td>
<td>p.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/J</td>
<td>Solid, Liquid &amp; Gaseous States</td>
<td>p.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/K</td>
<td>Words</td>
<td>p.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/L</td>
<td>Miscellaneous papers</td>
<td>p.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/M</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>p.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/N</td>
<td>Manuscripts of James Thomson, Senior</td>
<td>p.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MS13/A  Manuscript Books

MS13/A/1  07/04/1937  Jacobus Thomson, Bench 3
Book in wrappers of newspaper, on which is a date Apr 7, 1837, containing exercises in geometry, worked by “Jacobus Thomson, Bench 3”, at Glasgow College. (200 x 130 mm).

MS13/A/2  13/05/1837  No. 4, James Thomson, Jr College Glasgow May 13, 1837
With marbled covers, inside cover “Note-book. No. 4, James Thomson, Jr College Glasgow May 13, 1837”, containing exercises in algebra & trigonometry; followed with later notes on the cost of engines. (202 x 128 mm).

MS13/A/3  15/11/1838  Solutions of the Questions proposed to the students of the Senior Mathematical Class in April, 1838, as the subject of a Vacation Exercise. Glasgow College November 15th 1838
Book with stiff marbled covers. “Solutions of the Questions proposed to the students of the Senior mathematical Class in April, 1838, as the subject of a Vacation Exercise. Glasgow College November 15th 1838”. This is followed by a note in the hand of Prof Jas Thomson, Sr. – “This exercise was written by James Thomson Jr, Glasg. Coll. And gained the prize, decided by the Rev. Dr. Forbes, Minister of St Paul’s, Glasgow. J. Thomson, Prof of Math.” Pasted inside the cover, the letter from Dr. Forbes to Prof Thomson conveying the award. (255 x 200 mm).

MS13/A/4  1841  James Thomson. Jr, 1841

MS13/A/5  May 1942  Essay on Overshot Water Wheels, James Thomson May 1842
In paper covers, “Essay on Overshot water wheels, James Thomson May 1942”. (255 x 210 mm)

MS13/A/6  1874  Note-Book. No. 3
Small note-book, marbled covers. Marked inside cover “Note-Book. No. 3”. The Latter part of the book contains notes on hydraulics written “before 1847”, at the end in red ink, is “Postscript, March 1874” in which comments are made on the progress of the writer’s ideas on flow of water. (155 x 98 mm).
MS13/A/7  1847  Natural Philosophy 1847
Small black note-book “Natural Philosophy 1847”, notes of a course of lectures (given by Wm Thomson?). (160 x 100 mm).


MS13/A/9  1849  Note Book, No. 4, intended to contain chiefly Memorandums likely to be useful to me on Practical Subjects and on Scientific Subjects applicable to the Arts. James Thomson, Nov. 1849
Note-book with black covers. (200 x 127 mm).

MS13/A/10  04/03/1852  Calculation Book, No. 2, James Thomson
Book with black covers. Date at beginning, March 4, 1852. Calculations relative to vortex-turbines. (182 x 115 mm).

MS13/A/11  n.d.  Applications of the Principles of States
Note-book with stiff marbled covers. “Applications of the Principles of States”, contains miscellaneous notes, some in shorthand. (184 x 115 mm).

MS13/A/12  01/1875  Note-book. No. 5, intended to contain Notes on Water Works, James Thomson, April 24, 1856. also Notes on House Arrangements begun chiefly in reference to W. Thomson’s intended house at Largs, January 1875
Book with stiff marbled covers. (220 x 180 mm).

MS13/A/13  c. 1872  Untitled
Note-book. (200 x 165 mm). Contains notes on thermodynamics & on ocean currents. Inserted is a pencilled letter from Wm Thomson on the latter subject, dated 22 Oct 1872.

MS13/A/14  09/1848  Motive Power of Heat & Air Engines
Set of three books, marked A B C (255 x 205 mm), “Motive Power of Heat & Air Engines”. On outside of cover of A label inscribed – “This book contains at page 58, under date May 1848, my original manuscript investigation of the amount of the lowering of the Freezing Point of Water by pressure James Thomson, Sept 1863”.

4
Untitled
Foolscap engineering notebook. (380 x 250 mm) Worn marbled boards over quarter calf, back strip largely perished and missing. 128pp with c 40 blank pages and miscellaneous jottings, some in the hand of other family members. Throughout the book, Thomson uses a mixture of drawings and graphs combined with text and mathematical calculations, all divided into headed sections. Mainly pen, with some pencil.
MS13/B  

Papers Relating to Professorships

MS13/B/1  1855 – 1858  
Queen’s University Papers Testimonials & Applications for Examinership
Packet inscribed “Queen’s University Papers Testimonials & Applications for Examinership” containing the following:

a.  04/07/1855  
   Letters
   James Thomson to Robert Ball, 4 July 1855

b.  04/07/1856  
   Letters
   James Thomson to Robert Ball, 4 July 1856

c.  03/07/1858  
   Letters
   James Thomson to G. Johnstone Stoney, 3 July 1858

d.  n.d.  
   Testimonials
   Printed copy of testimonials

MS13/B/2  1857-1880  
Envelope
Envelope with list of contents inscribed:

a.  22/12/1857  
   Commission of Her Majesty Queen Victoria appointing me to the Professorship in Belfast

b.  30/12/1857  
   Letter
   J.A. Larcom to James Thomson relating to the above.

c.  24/01/1862  
   Letter
   J.A. Larcom to President, Queen’s College, Galway about pensions. Copy.

d.  [c.12/1857]  
   Note as to my Commission from Her Majesty for Professorship in Glasgow

e.  06/09/1880  
   Letter
   Elizabeth Thomson to James Coutts, relating to amount of pension, and memorandum of dates & income. (Included with these papers, but not included on list in envelope.

MS13/B/3  n.d.  
De Ratione Incolimitatem Periculumre Aestimandi Quod Ad Structurarum Usum Machinarumque Attinet
“Induction dissertation, University of Glasgow”, Prof. Nesbitt put it into Latin for me"
Four books containing notes for college lectures:

**MS13/C1** 1858  *Queen's College Belfast, Civil engineering Class 1858*
Green covers, inside front cover “Queen's College Belfast, Civil engineering Class 1858”. (220 x 185 mm)

**MS13/C2** 1861-1864  *(Surv. & mapping 1858), 2nd Year. Lecture & Practice courses, From 1861-2 forward, 1862-3, 1863-4*
Black covers. (220 x 190 mm).

**MS13/C3** c.1864  *Memoranda of 1st Year Course from 1863-4 forward*
Red mottled covers, on first blank leave “Memoranda of 1st Year Course from 1863-4 forward”. (227 x 178 mm).

**MS13/C4** c.1864  *Memoranda of 3rd Year Lecture & Practice Courses from 1862-3 Forward*
Similar to MS13/3/4

Notes for lectures on elementary mechanics:

**MS13/C5** 1877  *Simplified Proof of the Parallelogram of Forces*
Fasc. pp 15 (3 blank).

**MS13/C6** 27/11/1888  *Untitled*
Fasc. pp 27 (3 blank) 27 Nov 1888

**MS13/C7** 18/12/1888  *Untitled*
Fasc. pp 17 (12 blank) 18 Dec 1888

**MS13/C8** n.d.  *Notes for Introductory Lecture or Advice to Students entering my Practice Classes*
Pp 4 (one blank).
| MS13/C/9 | c.Jun 1870 | Notes for Contemplated Lectures to Working Classes. Perhaps Two, Three or Four Lectures for May or June 1870  
| | | Pp 8 (one blank). |
| MS13/C/10 | 02/10/1873 | Copy made by John Stewart of Lecture-Notes on Architecture as a Fine Art  
| | | Pp 48 (2 blank). |

**MS13/D**

**Papers Relating to Fluid Motion**

| MS13/D/1 | 07/1868 | New proposed pump, July 1868  
| | | Jet pump. pp 19 |
| MS13/D/2/A | 03/1876 | Vena Contacta, W.J. and J.T. in Glasgow Phil Society, Feb and March 1876  
| | | Off print with manuscript notes, attached to fascicle of further notes, pp 9 (3 blank). |
| MS13/D/2/B | 19/09/1878 | Remarks as to Question of Validity of Prof Purser’s Reasoning on the Hydraulic Theorems for Similar Flows  
| | | Letter, John Purser to J.T., 19 Sep 1878, accompanying notes on flow through notches, pp 4 and pp 3 of “Remarks as to Question of Validity of Prof Purser’s Reasoning on the Hydraulic Theorems for Similar Flows” |
| MS13/D/3 | n.d. | Theory of the Flow of Water through Orifices Similar in Form & Similarly Situated Relatively to the Water Surface  
| | | Fasc. (blue paper). Pp 13 |
| MS13/D/4 | 03/1889 | Water Orifice notes  
| | | Separate copy of Brit Ass. Paper "on the Flowing water through orifices", 1876, containing many notes & corrections in manuscript. Attached to this “Lecture notes on flow of water through orifices”, Date March 1889. (pp 12, 6 blank). |
| MS13/D/5 | [1879] | Bundle Connected with Paper by John Perry  
| a. | 15/03/1879 | Letter  
| | | W.E. Ayrton to James Thomson. Sent with John Perry’s manuscript |
| b. | n.d. | Manuscript |
John Perry on “Flow of liquid” pp 21

c. 25/09/1879                  Letter
W.E. Ayrton to James Thomson 25 Sep (1879) enquiring about the MS13/D/5/b

d. n.d.                        Fasc.
“Notes on Mr Perry’s paper on Flow of liquid” pp 7

MS13/D/6 14/02/1885          Flow Through Similar Notches with Other Similarities &
Proportionalities (as usual J.T.)
Pp 7, (one blank).

MS13/D/5 n.d.                On the Flow of Water Through Rectangular Gauge-Notches in Vertical
Thin Plates
Fasc. Blue paper, pp 27.
Formation of Bars

Package inscribed in blue pencil, large writing “Package for Collection of Progressive Notes and Allied Papers, River Outfall Bars, Movement of Sands & Shingles et cetera similia.” Containing:

MS13/E/1 07/1885  On Bars, Notes Begun in Lalla Rookh near Cowes, July 1885
Fasc. Enclosed.

a. n.d.  Single sheet of pencilled memoranda
b. n.d.  Note
Note in handwriting of W.T. scribbled on back of envelope addressed to Mrs Jas Thomson.
c. n.d.  Considerations on the Origin & Perpetuation of Bars at the Seaward Limits of Rivers & Tidal Estuaries
3 Pages.

Intimating Appointment of Committee to Examine the Subject, Oct. 1887

MS13/E/3/A 16/07/1889  Notes for New Theory of the Mode of Formation of Bars at the Sea Outlets of Rivers

MS13/E/3/B 25/09/1889  Further notes on Bars

MS13/E/4 07/12/1889  Interim Notes on Hydrodynamic Action in Waves Breaking on a Shelving Beach, and on the Shifting of Gravel, Shingle and Larger Stones by the Waves
Pp 5.
MS13/F Ventilation

MS13/F/1 The New College at Glasgow

a. n.d. Notes of Useful Principles
   Pp 3.
b. 30/09/1864 Letter
   Copy of letter from W.T. With additional page in W.T.'s hand
c. n.d. Reply
   Unsigned, in hand of Mrs E. Thomson
d. c.10/1864 Memo
   Memo of information sent in letter of E. Thomson to Wm. Thomson from
   Dublin about Oct 1864
e. 13/12/1864 Letter
   W.T. to James Thomson
f. 15/12/1864 Notes
   Notes of answer sent to W.T

MS13/F/2 Rosemary Street Church

a. 09/06/1865 Letter
   John Campbell to James Thomson.
b. 28/12/1865 Letter
   Robert Patterson to James Thomson.
c. 06/01/1866 Note of opinion on question of ventilation of meeting-house of 1st
   Congregation, Rosemary Street, to the Sub-committee on that matter
   Pp 6
d. 07/05/1866 Letter
   G.K. Smith to J.T
MS13/F/3  Belfast Museum
a.  15/07/1868  Letter
A.O'D. Taylor to James Thomson.
b.  N.d.  Notes on Dr Templeton's Proposed Ventilation for the Museum Belfast

MS13/F/4  n.d.  R.A. Irish, Mathematical Class-room
Working drawings with notes of "Ventilation constructed … about 1870 or 1871"

MS13/F/5  30/12/1877  Bute Hall, Glasgow University
Copy of letter James Thomson to W.T. describing proposed new system.

MS13/G  Atmospheric Circulation

MS13/G/1  06/04/1859  On the Reason Why the Equatorial Rising Belt Keeps So Close to the Equator at all Seasons of the Year
Single leaflet.

MS13/G/2  n.d.  Atmos. Circ. Notes & Queries
Fasc. pp 12.

MS13/G/3  n.d.  Claim to Priority
Written on the backs of leaflets of the B.N.H.P.S. pp 3

MS13/G/4  03/02/1891  Progressive Fascicle of Notes & Papers, Old & New for Use In Preparation of my Intended Royal Society Paper on Atmospheric Circulation, J.T. Feb 3. 1891
Fasc. pp11.

MS13/G/5  21/10/1891  Primary Date, 21 Oct 1891

MS13/G/6  c.12/1891  Title for a Proposed Essay or Paper Either for Own Consideration or Perhaps for Publication in Some Way or Third Paper – Date about Dec 1891
Fasc. Pp22

**MS13/G/7**  19/12/1891  Notes to be Spoken about to W.T.
Fasc. pp 12

**MS13/G/8**  06/01/1892  Primary Date
Fasc. pp 9

**MS13/G/9**  07/01/1892  From Father’s Dictation
Fasc. pp 8.

**MS13/G/10**  07/01/1892  2nd Form, 7th Jan 1892 & Srd Form 8th Jan 1892
Fasc. pp 26

**MS13/G/11**  05/1892  Primary Date
Fasc. pp 6

**MS13/G/12**  17/04/1892  Date 17 Ap 1892
Fasc. pp 4

**MS13/H**  Atmosphere of Jupiter

In wrapper addressed to Miss Thomson.

**MS13/H/1**  08/09/1891  Letter in pencil
James Thomson to W.T.

a.  21/09/1891  Letter
Large sheet, in pencilled large handwriting. James Thomson to W.T.

b.  03/10/1891  Letter
W.T. to James Thomson

c.  03/10/1891  Letter with Covering Letter
James Thomson to W.T. Pencil. 2 & 3 Oct 1891 with covering letter J.T. Junior to W.T.

**MS13/H/2**  Jupiter, Also Sun
Blue Envelope

a.  n.d.  Notes Out of Ball’s Story of the Heavens
Fasc. pp 5
b. n.d. Sheet of rough paper with pencilled notes in large writing

c. 11/10/1891 Covering Letter
    J.T. Junior to W.T.

MS13/H/3

a. n.d. ‘Speculative Suggestion …’
    Double sheet.

b. n.d. Rough Notes of Calculations
    Double sheet.

MS13/H/4 1860 De la Rue’s Pocket Diary for 1860
    Containing information about Jupiter

MS13/I Coagulation and Liquefaction

MS13/I/1 18/04/1866 On the Effect of Pressure in Lowering the Freezing Point of Water, and
    on the Plasticity of Ice
    Report of paper read to B.N.H.P.S. on the 2 Dec 1857 with historical memorandum
    by James Thomson dated April 1866

MS13/I/2 12/1866 On the freezing of water at temperatures lower than 320 F
    Offprint of paper by A.H. Curtis, in Phil mag, Dec 1866. with criticisms of James
    Thomson.

MS13/I/3 31/08/1890 Scribble memo
    Fasc. pp 12.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MS13/J</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS13/J1</td>
<td>10/05/1869</td>
<td>Notes and Queries on Gases, Liquid, Fluids</td>
<td>Fasc. Pp12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/J3</td>
<td>08/07/1871</td>
<td>Notes &amp; Queries on Boiling &amp; Superheating in Liquids, or on Boiling &amp; on Conditions in Liquids Brought Past their Boiling Point Without Gasification</td>
<td>Fasc. pp 10. One blank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/J4</td>
<td>15/07/1871</td>
<td>Notes on Boiling &amp; Allied Phenomena</td>
<td>Fasc. pp 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS13/J5</td>
<td>25/05/1873</td>
<td>Fascicle of Papers Containing Progressive Notes on Solid, Liquid &amp; Gaseous States</td>
<td>Fasc. pp 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MS13/K  Notes on Words

Large envelope marked ‘Notes on Words’ containing:

MS13/K/1  Notes on Nomenclature in Reference to Improvements in Expression

Bundle of manuscripts.

a. 25/03/1875  Letters
    J.D. Everett to James Thomson.

b. 22/08/1875  Letters
    J.D. Everett to James Thomson.

c. 21/06/1875  Letter
    Thomas Harvey to James Thomson.

d. 07/02/1876  Postcard
    In hand of P.S. Tait to James Thomson. Postmark 07/02/1876

e. n.d.  Miscellaneous Notes
    Pp 25.

MS13/K/2  Notes as to new words, and new or modified verbal expressions, either introduced by myself or in which I may have taken special interest. J.T. Manuscripts.

a. 20/06/1889  Letter
    Max Müller to James Thomson.
b. N.d. Miscellaneous notes
   Partly historical. pp 17

MS13/K/3 05/1887 Draft notes or scribbled memorandums for a collection of information regarding new words, chiefly own new words, with a view to the sending of proper information on the subject to editors of dictionaries. This draft is begun in May 1887 in consequence of a suggestion from MHT
   Stuck inside is an examination paper of 5th April 1881, in which "apocentric force" is used. Pp 19,

MS13/K/4 08/1888 Notes & Queries for reference to W.T. Aug 1888
   Double sheet.

MS13/K/5 n.d. Words for Which Deviations Are Wanted
   Pp 3

MS13/K/6 n.d. Long Words, Many Syllables
   Pp 3

MS13/K/7 n.d. In the Imperial Dictionary
   Note beginning ‘In the Imperial dictionary’. Pp 2

MS13/K/8 02/02/1891 New Word. Normate Resultant
   Fasc. in large writing with blue pencil. pp 6

MS13/K/9 02/1886 On the Numerics of the Elements
   Offprint of paper by E.J. ?????. Phil Mag, Feb 1886 with memos by J.T. on wrapper.
MS13/L  Miscellaneous Papers

MS13/L/1  08/1870  On an India-Rubber Value Introduced at the Belfast Water-Works
Single sheet, reprint from Civil Engineer & Architects Journal, Nov. 1855.
With memo at foot dated Aug 1870.

MS13/L/2  14/02/1861  As to the Rigid Suspension Bridge Invented by Me and Worked out in
Models
Double sheet. Letter written 14 Feb 1861 to Editor of Civil Engineer & Architects
Journal, but not sent, dealing with James Thomson’s own work on the matter.

MS13/L/3  08/07/1862  Question as to Strength of Floor over Anatomy Class-room, July 8, 1862
Double sheet.

MS13/L/4  07/05/1864  Notes for Proposed Self-Registering Wind Gauge
Fasc. Attached to this an envelope containing drawings & notes on 4 scraps of paper.
pp 15

MS13/L/5  09/1866  “The Way It Was” & “The Way It Is”
Drawings on two pages of a double sheet, showing the arrangement of connexion
with the sewer at James Thomson’s house at 17 University Square.

MS13/L/6/A  01/07/1867  Proposed Modified Arrangement of Experiment for Exhibiting Influence
of Rotation of the Earth
With small leaf of calculations. pp 3.

**MS13/L/6/B**  
*Notes Towards Hydraulic Gyral/Gyrational Experiment for Manifesting Terrestrial Effects (Written Down) of the Earth's Rotation*  
Rough paper with large writing in blue pencil, from the last years of James Thomson's life. Pp4

**MS13/L/7** n.d.  
*On the Jointed Prismatic Structure of the Giant's Causeway & Other Basaltic Rocks*  

**MS13/L/8** 07/01/1870  
*Notes on Capillarity*  
Fasc. pp 4

**MS13/L/9** n.d.  
*Suggestion for New Lactometer*  
Written on the detached cover of Inventory of the food collection, Bettinal Green branch museum.

**MS13/L/10** 04/1880  
*Notes on Flow Round River Bends*  
Two sheets of notes of observations on the model for flow round river-bend 4 March 1879 and April 1880

**MS13/L/11** 03/1881  
*Father's Theory About the Effect of Porous Sails*  
Single sheeting note paper written on both sides.

**MS13/L/12** n.d.  
*Notes of Various Matters Considered as Perhaps Being Suitable for Being Patented or Copyright*  
Secured double sheet. Without date.

**MS13/L/13**  
*Relative to Examination Systems*  
Collection labelled ‘Relative to Examination Systems containing:

- **a.** n.d.  
  *Form for Examiner’s Report*  
  Printed double sheet of blue foolscap. (Q. K. I.)

- **b.** n.d.  
  *Suggestions & Recommendations as to Modes of Conducting Examinations & Combining Marks of Different Examinations*  
  Blue foolscap. Pp4, one blank.

- **c.** n.d.  
  *Principles for Assignment of Values to Examination Questions*  
  Fasc. Pp6, 3 blank.
Correspondence

Note: Other letters, not listed below, will be found among the manuscripts, as follows:

Robert Ball, (1802-1857)
- B1a
- B1b

John Campbell
- F2a

J.D. Everett
- K1a
- K1b

Thos. Harvey
- K1c

J.A. Larcom, (1801-1879)
- B2b
- B2c

Max Müller, (1823-1900)
- K2a

Robt. Patterson, (1802-1872)
- F2b

John Purser
- D2b
G.K. Smith  
G. Johnstone Stoney, (1826-1911)  
P.G. Tait  
A.O'D. Taylor  
Elizabeth Thomson  
Jas. Thomson, Junior*  
Wm. Thomson

* Son of Prof. Jas. Thomson (1822-1892)  
   Grandson of 1st Prof. Jas. Thomson (1786-1849)
Papers of James Thomson (1822-1892) (M)

Letters

MS13/M/1  Correspondence with John Aitken, (1839-1919)
About Aitken’s theories of ocean temperatures and the structure of ice-bergs.

a. 27/01/1875  Aitken to Thomson
b. 19/02/1875  Aitken to Thomson
c. 23/12/1876  Aitken to Thomson
d. 01/01/1877  Aitken to Thomson
e. 15/01/1877  Aitken to Thomson

MS13/M/2  Thomas Andrews (1813-1885)

a. 11/10/1873  Thomson to Andrews
In reply to suggestion about presidency of Section A at BA, Belfast meeting, 1874
b. 05/02/1874  Andrews to Thomson
Papers, p.lxxi.
c. 15/04/1874  Andrews to Thomson
Papers, p. lxxii.

d. 16/04/1874 Andrews to Thomson

Papers, p. lxxiii

e. 13/07/1874 Andrews to Thomson

f. 06/01/1875 Andrews to Thomson

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**MS13/M/3**

**W. H. Barlow (1812-1902)**

a. 19/10/1885 Barlow to Thomson

b. 27/10/1885 Barlow to Thomson

Enclosing letter of F. Stevenson, engineer, L & NWR to B, 24 Oct 1885

c. 11/11/1885 Thomson to Barlow

Copy

d. 14/11/1885 Barlow to Thomson

e. 05/08/1887 Thomson to Barlow

f. 08/08/1887 Barlow to Thomson

g. 19/08/1887 Barlow to Thomson

Dealing with safety of metal structures, see Papers p. 404.

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**MS13/M/4**

**Archibald Barr (1855-1931)**

a. 11/10/1885 Barr to Thomson

Sending references to work on reported stress.

b. 10/11/1885 Barr to Thomson

c. 12/11/1885 Thomson to Barr

About T’s work on ice.

d. 06/1886 Barr to Thomson

Experiments on Stresses

e. 25/09/1886 Barr to Thomson

Equipment of new engineering laby.

f. 05/10/1886 Barr to Thomson

Equipment of new engineering laby.

g. 20/07/1888 Barr to Thomson

Early work on the Range-finder

h. 10/02/1889 Barr to Thomson

i. 05/03/1889 Barr to Thomson

j. 10/03/1889 Mrs Barr to Thomson

Mrs Barr on behalf of B.

k. 19/03/1889 Barr to Thomson

Trial of Range-Finder
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22/03/1889</td>
<td>Barr</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/03/1889</td>
<td>Barr</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/04/1889</td>
<td>Barr</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MS13/M/5: J.T. Bottomley (1845-1926)**

- **30 Dec 1879**  
  Bottomley to Thomson  
  Report of work done with a class in T’s absence and statement of a problem set, attached is a manuscript in pencil, in T’s hand, containing his solution.

**MS13/M/6: J.D. Everett, (1831-1904)**

- **31/12/1873**  
  Everett to William Thomson  
  About underground temperature research, and units; contains a list of words suggested by Prof Mc Douall as names for the new units
- **15/12/1874**  
  Everett to William Thomson  
  Mainly concerned with questions of nomenclature.
- **21/12/1874**  
  Everett to William Thomson  
  Mainly concerned with questions of nomenclature. With enclosure from E’s treatise on units.
- **18/09/1876**  
  Everett to William Thomson  
  Mainly concerned with questions of nomenclature.
- **28/09/1876**  
  Thomson to Everett  
  Copy. Mainly concerned with questions of nomenclature.
- **06/10/1876**  
  Memo on Metric Units of Force by James Thomson  
  Mainly concerned with questions of nomenclature.
- **24/07/1878**  
  Everett to William Thomson  
  Mainly concerned with questions of nomenclature.
- **28/04/1880**  
  Everett to William Thomson  
  About T’s theory of effect of stress on melting & solution.

**MS13/M/7: Michael Faraday (1791-1867)**

- **30/07/1858**  
  Thomson to Faraday  
  Papers p212. Copy.
- **04/09/1858**  
  Faraday to Thomson  
  Papers p212.
- **09/11/1858**  
  Thomson to Faraday  
  Papers p214. Copy.
- **15/11/1858**  
  Faraday to Thomson  
  Papers p216.
e. 24/11/1858 Thomson to Faraday

Papers p217. Copy.

MS13/M/8 Thomas Claxton Fiddler (1841-1917)

a. 22/07/1881 Fiddler to William Thomson

Papers p212. Copy.

b. 23/08/1881 Thomson to Fiddler

In Reply to MS18/M/8/A

c. 09/11/1858 Fiddler to Thomson

About suspension bridges.

MS13/M/9 W.M. Froude (1810-1879)

MS13/M/9 30/06/1877 W.M. Froude to R.D. Napier

On an envelope attached to this a note in T’s hand “Mr Froude’s letter to Napier Esq. lent to me by Mr Brownlee in Sept or Oct 1877.” A description of experiment with a model of the “Russian round ship.”

MS13/M/10 George Fuller (1840-1917)

a. 21/01/1872 Fuller to Thomson

With discussion of a question on framed structures.

b. 11/01/1873 Fuller to Thomson

Reference to intention to stand for T’s chair at QUB, with account of procedure adopted in regulating flow in a stream.

MS13/M/11 Joseph A. Galbraith (1818-1890) (Fellow of Trinity College Dublin)

a. 15/03/1888 Galbraith to Thomson

b. 26/03/1888 Thomson to Galbraith

Memo of reply sent.

c. 28/03/1888 Galbraith to Thomson

Acknowledgement. Query about T’s work on centrifugal pump.

MS13/M/12 James Geikie (1839-1915)

MS13/M/12/1 19/01/1882 Geikie to Thomson
Question of ice-sheets.

**MS13/M/13**

W. J. Hancock (1799-1852)

22/11/1877 Hancock to Thomson

About patent ‘tell tale clocks’.

**MS13/M/14**

A.S. Herschel (1836-1907)

12/04/1874 Herschel to Thomson

Experiments with centrifugal fan.

**MS13/M/15**

Fleming Jenkin (1833-1885)

11/11/1874 Jenkin to Thomson

16/11/1874 Jenkin to Thomson

26/11/1874 Jenkin to Thomson

07/03/1882 Jenkin to Thomson

17/03/1882 Jenkin to Thomson

Queries about dynamics & hydraulics (Kane) see end of MS13/M.

**MS13/M/16**

*Mrs Elizabeth King*

08/11/1849 ‘Copy of letter from Father to Aunt Elizabeth’

28/09/1852 ‘Copy of letter from Father to Aunt Elizabeth’

25/10/1852 ‘Copy of letter from Father to Aunt Elizabeth’

**MS13/M/17**

George King

16/01/1874 King to Thomson

Accompanying Proof of K’s Paper on Glaciers (second part).

**MS13/M/18**

S.P. Langley (1834-1906)

06/12/1890 Thomson to Langley

Copy
b. n.d. Langley to Thomson

c. n.d. Thomson to Langley
Correspondence about Ferrel’s papers. Copy.

MS13/M/19  
Charles MacDouall (Prof of Greek, QUB 1850-1878)

MS13/M/19 04/12/1882 MacDouall to Thomson
In hand of “E.M.D”. About loan of books from Glasgow library.

MS13/M/20  
Mrs Jane MacDouall

MS13/M/20 03/04/1889 Mrs Jane MacDouall to Mrs Jas. Thomson
Envelope with postmark Ap. 3 1889, inscribed “Mrs MacDouall concerning Prof Purser’s candidature for President, Q’s College”.

MS13/M/21  
Robert Manning (1816 – 1917)

MS13/M/21 12/10/1881 Manning to Hancock
With note of Hancock enclosing this to J.T. It deals with construction of weirs on the Shannon and the theories of James Perry.

MS13/M/22  
James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879)

a. 13/07/1871 Maxwell to Thomson
b. 21/1871 Thomson to Maxwell
Copy.

c. 24/07/1871 Maxwell to Thomson
Correspondence about boiling-point, with a view to Maxwell’s book on heat.
d. 02/09/1871 Maxwell to Thomson

e. 11/01/1873 Maxwell to Thomson
About curved rays of light.
f. 27/03/1875 Maxwell to Thomson

g. 26/06/1875 Maxwell to Thomson
Postcard, signed ‘dp/dt’.
h. 08/07/1875 Maxwell to Thomson
With diagram of lines on Gibb’s Surface

i. n.d. ‘Diagram of Prof J. Willard Gibb’s Thermo-dynamic Surface, Made in Plaster by dp/dt …’
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Papers p. 457.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16/07/1879</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td>Maxwell</td>
<td>In acknowledgement of MS13/M/22/J. Papers p. 458.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**MS13/M/23**  
**C.W. Merrifield (1827-1884)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23/11/1878</td>
<td>Merrifield</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td>Merrifield to Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/11/1878</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td>Merrifield</td>
<td>Thomson to Merrifield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prismatic Structure of Basalt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Referred to in MS13/M/23A and MS13/M/23/B, bearing critical notes by Thomson.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**MS13/M/24**  
**Hugh Robert Mill (1861-1950)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18/01/1892</td>
<td>Mill</td>
<td>W.M. Thomson</td>
<td>Mill to W.M. Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/03/1892</td>
<td>Jas. Thomson</td>
<td>Mill</td>
<td>Jas. Thomson to Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/03/1892</td>
<td>Mill</td>
<td>J. Thomson</td>
<td>Mill to J. Thomson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>About Ferrel’s work on</td>
<td></td>
<td>About Ferrel’s work on Atmospheric Circulation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Atmospheric Circulation</td>
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**MS13/M/25**  
**Joseph John Murphy (1827-1894)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Recipient</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/04/1859</td>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td>Murphy to Thomson</td>
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<tr>
<td>13/01/1875</td>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td>Murphy to Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/07/1875</td>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td>Murphy to Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/12/1875</td>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td>Murphy to Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/03/1892</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td>Thomson to Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Copy, with manuscript notes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Copy, with manuscript notes in pencil about the history of ideas on</td>
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<td></td>
<td>in pencil about the history</td>
<td></td>
<td>atmospheric circulation.</td>
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<td>of ideas on atmospheric</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>circulation.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>05/04/1892</td>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td>Murphy to Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/04/1892</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td>Thomson to Murphy</td>
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<td>Copy</td>
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<td>Copy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/04/1892</td>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td>Thomson</td>
<td>Murphy to Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With off-prints of newspaper</td>
<td></td>
<td>With off-prints of newspaper reports of Joseph John Murphy’s papers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>reports of Joseph John</td>
<td></td>
<td>before B.N.H.P.S:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Murphy’s papers before B.N.H.P.S:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) 06/02/1856 On the</td>
<td></td>
<td>1) 06/02/1856 On the Circulation of the Atmosphere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Circulation of the Atmosphere.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) 21/01/1857 On Tornadoes &amp;</td>
<td></td>
<td>2) 21/01/1857 On Tornadoes &amp; Water Spouts</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water Spouts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MS13/M/26**  
**W. Nesbitt (1824-1881), Prof of Latin, QCB (1864-1881)**
MS13/M/26  15/01/1881  Nesbitt to Thomson

MS13/M/27  John Perry (1850-1920)

MS13/M/27  16/05/1884  Perry to Thomson

MS13/M/28  Edward C. Pickering

MS13/M/28  22/04/1874  Pickering to Thomson
   With graph, about Requault’s observations.

MS13/M/29  Frederick Purser (1840-1910)

MS13/M/29  21/09/1884  Purser to Thomson
   Along with translation with critical comments, of Heinrich Streintz, (1848-1892) “Die
   physikalischen Grundlagen der Mechanik” (Leipzig, 1883).

MS13/M/30  John Purser (1835-1903)

MS13/M/30  20/09/1884  Purser to Thomson
   Dealing with work of Streintz (see MS13/M/29).

MS13/M/31  William Ramsay (1852-1916)

a.  17/11/1883  Ramsay to Thomson
   Account of R’s experiments on change of state.

b.  19/04/1884  Ramsay to Thomson
   Account of R’s experiments on change of state.

c.  15/09/1886  Ramsay to Thomson
   Account of R’s experiments on change of state.

MS13/M/32  W.J. Macquorn Rankine (1820-1872)

a.  04/07/1870  Rankine to Thomson
   In acknowledgment of loan of T’s paper on strength of materials. With memo of reply
   in T’s hand.

b.  07/07/1870  Rankine to Thomson
   In acknowledgment of loan of T’s paper on strength of materials.

c.  09/07/1870  Rankine to Thomson
   In acknowledgment of loan of T’s paper on strength of materials.
MS13/M/33 Osborne Reynolds (1842-1912)

Reynolds to Thomson

MS13/M/34 W Chandler Roberts (afterwards Roberts-Austen) (1843-1902)

a. 03/11/1874 Roberts to Thomson
b. 02/01/1877 Roberts to Thomson
c. 07/01/1877 Thomson to Roberts
   Draft reply about columnar structure of rocks.

MS13/M/35 Thomas Romney Robinson (1792-1882)

Thomson to Robinson
   Suggesting lower price for Ordnance Survey maps. Copy.

MS13/M/36 Warren de la Rue (1815-1889)

a. 23/05/1877 de la Rue to Thomson
b. 30/05/1877 de la Rue to Thomson
   Suggesting the use of phosphor bronze for integrating machine.

MS13/M/37 H.C. Sorby (1826-1908)

a. 05/02/1862 Sorby to Thomson
   Papers p.252.
b. 14/03/1862 Thomson to Sorby
   Papers p.254.
c. 22/03[1862] Sorby to Thomson
   Papers p.255.
d. 24/03/1862 Thomson to Sorby
   Papers p.256.
e. 20/08/1862 Sorby to Thomson
   Papers p.256.
f. 26/09/1863 Thomson to Sorby
   Copy.
George Gabriel Stokes (1819-1903)

a. 06/06/1871 Stokes to Thomson
b. 20/06/1873 Stokes to Thomson
   With note of reply sent on 4 July 1873.

P.S. Tait (1831-1901)

a. 25/04/1870 Tait to Thomson
   About atmospheric refraction.
b. 14/06/1884 Tait to Thomson
c. 26/06/1884 Tait to Thomson
   With note added on the envelope & pencilled comment by J.T. within, dealing with frames of reference.
d. 05/07/1884 Tait to Thomson
   With note on envelope
e. 30/09/1884 Tait to Thomson
f. 19/01/1885 Tait to Thomson
   About Tait's suggested modification of Thomson's isothermal curve.
g. 24/01/1885 Tait to Thomson
   About Tait's suggested modification of Thomson's isothermal curve.
h. 28/01/1885 Tait to Thomson
   Postcard. About Tait's suggested modification of Thomson's isothermal curve.
i. 29/01/1885 Thomson to Tait
   About Tait's suggested modification of Thomson's isothermal curve. Copy.
j. 29/01/1885 Tait to Thomson
   About Tait's suggested modification of Thomson's isothermal curve. Postcard.
k. 05/02/1885 Tait to Thomson
   About Tait's suggested modification of Thomson's isothermal curve.
l. 09/09/1886 Tait to W. Thomson
   About Tait's suggested modification of Thomson's isothermal curve.

James Thomson, Senior, (1786-1849)

18/07/1844 From a letter to his father, dated July 18, 1844
   Copy. About a plan for consumption of smoke.

William Thomson (Lord Kelvin) (1824-1907)
a. n.d. William Thomson to James Thomson
   A note of invitation to Cambridge.

b. 26/04/??? William Thomson to James Thomson
   With notes by James Thomson about modules of elasticity.

b1. 20/01/1857 William Thomson to James Thomson
   With “receipt for gutta percha & cement” & references to cable-laying.

c. 19/02/1862 William Thomson to James Thomson
   Headed, in J.T.’s hand, “Hydraulics, Friction or viscosity of water”.

d. 04/03/1870 William Thomson to James Thomson
   Copy of end of letter, with reference to size of molecules.

e. 22/10/1873 William Thomson to James Thomson
   About J.T.’s proposed presidency of Section A at B.A. meeting.

f. 19/07/1878 James Thomson to William Thomson
   About units & dimensions.

MS13/M/42 Mrs Elizabeth Thomson (formerly Hancock) wife of James Thomson.

MS13/M/42 22/11/1891 Elizabeth Thomson to Jas Thomson, Junior.

MS13/M/43 Frances Anna Thomson, Lady Kelvin (formerly Blandy)

a. [19/08] Frances Anna Thomson to James Thomson
   Containing message from William Thomson about the effect on metals of “Sunday rest”.

b. 17/05/1889 Frances Anna Thomson to son or daughter of James Thomson.
   About views of Stokes on words, “posture”, orientation and others. The postscript of a letter.

MS13/M/44 Sylvanus P. Thomson (1851-1916)

MS13/M/44 24/07/1909 Sylvanus P. Thomson to Jas Thomson, Junior
   Enquiry for Sylvanus P. Thomson’s life of Lord Kelvin

MS13/M/45 W.C. Unwin (1838-1933)

MS13/M/45 08/02/1866 Unwin to Thomson
   Proposed licence to Fairbarin Coy for manufacture of T’s turbines.
**MS13/M/46**  
**John Warner, (American engineer)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. 30/10/1863</td>
<td>Warner to Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 30/12/1863</td>
<td>Warner to Thomson, With pencilled note about J.T.’s reply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 04/02/1864</td>
<td>Warner to Thomson, Letters describing Warner’s visit to Paris &amp; other places.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MS13/M/47**  
**Walter White**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. 26/07/1871</td>
<td>White to Thomas Andrews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 28/07/1871</td>
<td>J to White, Memo of reply with reference to Thomson’s paper in Pir. Roy. Soc.</td>
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</table>

**MS13/M/48**  
**A.M. Worthington (1852- )**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06/02/1884</td>
<td>Worthington to Thomson, With memorandum of reply with reference to Worthington’s work on capillary action.</td>
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</table>

**MS13/M/49**  
**Robert Young (1822-1917)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. 05/01/1875</td>
<td>Young to Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10/03/1880</td>
<td>Young to Thomson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MS13/M/15.5**  
**Robert John Kane, (Sir) (1809-1890)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/01/1865</td>
<td>Kane to J, With reprint of K’s lecture on “Industry in Ireland” from Jour. Society of Arts, 16 Dec 1864</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MS13/N**  
**Manuscripts of James Thomson, Senior, (1786-1849)**

**MS13/N/1**  
**‘Exercises in Natural Philosophy’, 1811-12 and ‘Matthew Steel & J Gardiner’**

MS book (225 x 180 mm) used at Glasgow during student-period (1809-1814). From one end “Exercises in Natural Philosophy, 1811-12”, answers in essay form to questions, numbered & dated. Some “Voluntary Exercises” written in shorthand. From the other end, on cover, 1 January, 1810, Matthew Steel & J Gardiner. Day-book of
goods exported, etc & money received for the same”, used for notes on mechanics. Some passages in shorthand.

**MS13/N/2 1814-1832**
Public examination of the Junior Mathematical Class, April 26, 1825
MS. book (225 x 180 mm), period of Belfast Professorship (1814-1832). Names of pupils & questions set to each, followed by class register. From the other end, two pages of algebraic examples, followed by 4 pp. notes on quadratic equations.

**MS13/N/3 1827-1832**
Royal Belfast Academical Institution
Long book (395 x 165 mm) containing class-registers & examination records, 1827 to 1832.

**MS13/N/4 1828-1832**
Belfast Institution, College Department, Mathematical Classes 1828-29
Small book (197 x 123 mm), a numbered series of mathematical questions, (1-8 missing) with notes of their having been set at Examinations. From the other end, after a page of similar questions, a record of fees paid by students, with heading “Belfast Institution, College Department, Mathematical Classes 1828-29”, continued till 1831-2.

**MS13/N/5 1832-1836**
Record of Students Attendance, Junior Mathematical Class, 1832-33
MS. book (250 x 205 mm) “Record of Students Attendance, Junior Mathematical Class, 1832-33”, followed by mathematical exercises & record of examination up till 1836. Continued from the other end, a number of loose sheets & printed class-lists interleaved.

**MS13/N/6 [1829]**
(President’s) Address to the Students of the Belfast College
MS. without covers (24 numbered pp. 232 x 190 mm) copy in feminine hand of “(President’s) address to the students of the Belfast College”. Inferred date 1829. Note by Mr Povey, Librarian: “James Thomson became President of the Faculty of Arts, Belfast Academical Institution, in 1829. (R.B.A.I. Centenary volume, page 209). The paper of this MS. is watermarked 1828”.

**MS13/N/7 06/11/1832**
Introductory Lecture, Glasgow College, Nov 6, 1832
MS., sewed in paper wrappers. (230 x 180 mm) “Introductory Lecture, Glasgow College, Nov 6, 1832”, pages numbered 1-37.

Separate fascicle “Nov 1834”, numbered 1° -6°. Inside the first leaf a list of mathematicians & their dates.

**MS13/N/8 n.d.**
Measuration
Two MS books, sewed without wrappers (253 x 205 mm), the first paged 1 – 24, the second 40 – 70, followed by blank pages containing a text-book of measurement.

**MS13/N/9**  n.d.  
**Proposed System of Education for the intended Irish Colleges**  
Double sheet of MS. (253 x 205 mm).

**MS13/N/10**  11/1827  
**Remarks on the Phenomena of the Heavens as they Appear from Different Bodies in the Solar System**  
Reprint from the Belfast News-letter of November 23, 27, 30 – 1827. (6 copies)  
Lecture: “Remarks on the phenomena of the Heavens as they appear from different bodies in the solar system”, delivered to the Belfast Literary society, Nov 5, 1827.

One copy inscribed: “R.J. Martin, Esq., with James Thomson’s compliments November 1910”

**MS13/N/11**  [1836]  
**Time Piece inscription**  
Copy of inscription on “time-piece” presented by students of year 1835-6.