

Livingstone Online

Livingstone Materials from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow Released (27 September 2007)

Our latest release sees the publication of two letters from the [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#), along with some images of Livingstone's medical instruments held in the College.

The College was founded by 1599 by Peter Lowe, a Scottish surgeon who had practised for a number of years in France. The Faculty, as it was known until 1962, was

established by petition to King James VI to regulate medical practice in Glasgow and the surrounding area.

The majority of material relating to College dates from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and includes examination registers, papers of College committees and records relating to property including plans of College Hall designed by J. Burnet in 1892. There is a large collection of photographs containing portraits of many nineteenth-century Members and Fellows as well as covering more recent events. Apart from the administrative records of the College there are also deposited collections relating to former (and present) Members and Fellows of the College. These include the papers of Sir William Macewen (1848-1924) and Joseph, Lord Lister (1827-1912). The papers of Sir Ronald Ross (1857-1932) constitute one of the largest collections. There are also several collections relating to Glasgow and West of Scotland medical societies.

The college holds two letters from David Livingstone, who studied medicine in Glasgow 1836-38 and was granted a licence by the Faculty in 1840. The [letter to Alexander Brownlee](#) from David Livingstone (RCPSG1/20/11/28/1) was presented to the College by Alexander Brownlee's grandson, Dr John Douglas Brownlie in 1937. The provenance of the [letter to Haldane](#) is unknown.



*The Georgian dome inside the RCSPG library.
Credit: Gary Li.*



*Surgical Instrument case which belonged to David Livingstone presented to the faculty by Mr J B Hilliard per Dr A Freeland Fergus, 1928.
Credit: Gary Li.*

Many thanks to Carol Parry, the college's archivist for her assistance and special thanks to team Livingstone's researcher and photographer Gary Li.

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