

**LISTS OF OFFICERS:
UNIVERSITY AND
KING'S COLLEGE,
ABERDEEN, 1495-1860**

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Lists of Officers: University and King's College, Aberdeen, 1495-1860 by Various

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VARIOUS

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OFFICERS
OF THE
UNIVERSITY AND KING'S COLLEGE
ABERDEEN



LISTS OF OFFICERS

UNIVERSITY AND KING'S COLLEGE

ABERDEEN—

1495-1860

P. J. G.
Peter John Anderson

Aberdeen.
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1893

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND KING'S COLLEGE.

CHANCELLORS.

1494. William Elphinstone, Bishop of Aberdeen.
"Statuentes similiter et ordinantes quod venerabilis frater noster Willelmus et pro tempore existens Episcopus Aberdonensis sit studii et Universitatis huiusmodi Cancellarius." Pope Alexander VI.'s Bull of Erection, 10th February, 1494. Died 25th October, 1514. (*Registrum Episc. Aberd.*, II. 249.) Portrait in possession of University, reproduced in *Fasti Aberdonenses* (Spald. Club).
1515. Alexander Gordon, Bishop of Aberdeen.
Died 30th June, 1518. (*Reg. Ep. Ab.*, II. 249.)
1518. Gavin Dunbar, Bishop of Aberdeen.
Died 10th March, 1532. (*Reg. Ep. Ab.*, II. 211.) Portrait in possession of University, reproduced in *Lacunar Basil. S. Marci Aberd.* (New Spald. Club).
1532. William Stewart, Bishop of Aberdeen.
Died April, 1545. (Spotswood.)
1546. William Gordon, Bishop of Aberdeen.
Died August, 1577. (Spotswood.)
1577. David Cunningham, Bishop of Aberdeen.
Died 30th August, 1600. (*Fasti Ecclesiae Scotticae*, III. 884.)
1600. Peter Blackburn, Bishop of Aberdeen.
Died 14th June, 1616. (*Fasti Eccl. Scot.*, III. 884.) Portrait in possession of University.
1617. Alexander Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen.
Died 24th November, 1617. (*Fasti Eccl. Scot.*, III. 884.)
1618. Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen.
Died 28th March, 1635. (*Fasti Eccl. Scot.*, III. 885.) Portrait in possession of University, reproduced in *Wodrow's Biog. Coll.* (New Spald. Club).
1635. Adam Bellenden, Bishop of Aberdeen.
Deposed 1638; died 1647.

1643, January 6. George, second Marquis of Huntly.

Beheaded 22nd March, 1649. Portrait in *Records of Aboyne* (New Spald. Club).
The Minute of Election follows.

"At the Kingis Colledge of Aberdeen the sex day of Januarij 1643 yeiris.

"The said day, the rector, principall, and memberis forsaidis convenit, wnderstanding that, be the fundatioun of the said universitie, the office of chancellor of the said universitie and dignitie therof belongit and consistit in the persones of the pretendit bischopes of Aberdein, and that the name office dignitie and place of the saidis bischopes ar be the lawes of this kingdom abolished and extinct; and considering that it is verie necessar, be the said fundatioun, and for preservatioun of the liberties of the said universitie, comprehending the said kingis colledge of Aberdein and colledge Marschall, that ther be ane honorable and fit persoun elected nominat and choosine: Therfor the rector, principall, and hail members forsaidis convenit, all in on voice, efter dew and matur deliberatioun have nominat clected and chosine, and be thir presentis nominatis electis and chooses, ane noble and mightie marques, George marques of Huntlie, erle Enzie, lord Gordoun and Badzienoche, etc., to be chancellor of the said universitie, callit kyng Charles universitie and colledge theroff forsaidis, and hail appendices of the samen, and electis nominatis and choosis his lordship to the hail dignities honouris liberties and priviledges, that hes concerned or presentlic concernes the said office of chancellorie of the said universitie, conforme to the fundatioun forsaid."

Lord Huntly's four sons studied at King's College. (Entrants of 1630, 1638; *Spalding*, II. 216.)

1660. John, second Earl of Lauderdale.

Scottish Notes and Queries, V. 92. The Minute of Election is not extant. Died 24th August, 1682.

1662. David Mitchell, Bishop of Aberdeen.

Died January, 1663.

1663. Alexander Burnet, Bishop of Aberdeen.

Translated to Glasgow 1664, to St. Andrews 1679. Died 24th August, 1684.

1664. Patrick Scougal, Bishop of Aberdeen.

Died 16th February, 1682. Portrait in possession of University.

1682. George Haliburton, Bishop of Aberdeen.

Deposed 1688. Died 29th September, 1715.

1700, February 5. John, eleventh Earl of Erroll.

"The detriment redounding to the Society for want of a Chancelour having in two former meetings been well weighed and considered." Died 30th December, 1704.

1705, February 12. Charles, twelfth Earl of Erroll.

Resigned office 14th May, 1716. Died 16th October, 1717.

1716, May 14. Archibald, Earl of Hlay.

Third Duke of Argyll, 1743. "Upon weighty motives" did not accept the chancellorship; but the title was often given to him. Died 15th April, 1761.

1718, September 1. John, first Duke of Roxburgh.

Died 24th February, 1741.

1761, May 20. James, Lord Deskford.

Sixth Earl of Findlater, 1764. "The Masters considering the great loss which the University sustains for the want of a Chancellor." Died 3rd November, 1770.

1793, February 20. Alexander, fourth Duke of Gordon.

Voted for by Rector, Principal, Subprincipal, Dr. Thom, Mr. Ogilvie, Mr. Gordon and Dr. Bannerman. Robert Dundas of Arniston, Lord Advocate, voted for by Dr. A. Gerard, Dr. Dunbar and Dr. G. Gerard. "His Grace," the minute runs, "is of all others the most natural choice, several of his predecessors having also held that office, and his father and many of that family and their connexions having been educated here." Dr. Dunbar enters a protest. Died 17th June, 1827.

1827, August 8. George, fourth Earl of Aberdeen.

Unanimously, "feeling confidence in the attachment of his Lordship to the University from the services which he has already rendered, and from the connection of one of the most eminent of his ancestors [see under 'Regents,' 1659] with this Seminary". Joint Chancellor (with Charles, fifth Duke of Richmond) of the University of Aberdeen, 15th September, 1860; sole Chancellor 21st October; died 14th December.

RECTORS.¹

1498. Mr. Andrew Lyell.

"Thesaurarius noster." Elphinstone's Confirmation of the King's grant of the patronage of Slains. (King's Coll. Muniment Room, Old Chest, i. 1.)

1501.² Mr. Andrew Liell.

Elphinstone's publication of two Bulls by Pope Alexander VI. (O. C., xliii. 8.)

¹ No directions as to the method of electing the Rector are to be found in Pope Alexander VI.'s Bull of Erection of 1495, in Bishop Elphinstone's Foundation of 1505, or in Bishop Dunbar's Confirmation of 1531: such being apparently regarded as part of the common law of Universities (v. "Stellung des Rectors innerhalb der Universität" in Denifle, pp. 106-132, 181-192). In Dunbar's Charter four "procuratores nationum" appear among the electors of the principal, canonist, civilist, mediciner, subprincipal and grammarian: but the nations are not defined. The Rector is enjoined to hold an annual Visitation of the College "cum consilio et avisamento quatuor proborum virorum magistrorum dicte Universitatis a dicta Universitate eligendorum"; the origin of the Rector's Assessors.

According to the "Nova Fundatio" (see Appendix II.) "Rector . . . eligatur per omnes Academiae suppositos in quatuor nationes ita ut Aberdoniae dioecesis propter frequentiore numerum in duas nationes secetur, Marrensem et Buchanensem, Marriae Gariocha adjungatur, quod superest a Doverta anni Buchaniae cedat; reliquum regni quod ad septentrionem montis Grampii est, Moraviensis nationis nomine contineatur; ultra montem Grampium ad austrum vergens Angusiensis natio vocatur. Harum nationum singuli sint Procuratores, qui Rectorem ejusque Assessores eligant." In the first extant account of the election of a Rector (30th June, 1634) it will be seen that the Nations are styled Aberdeen (which becomes Mar in 1640), Angus, Moray, Lothian; but the Procurators seem to be elected by the Masters (16th November, 1640). The boundaries of the Nations are given in Middleton's Appendix to Spotswood (1677), which contains the earliest detailed description of the Aberdeen Universities. Aberdeen included the shires of Aberdeen and Banff; Angus, those of Angus and Mearns; Moray, all north of the Spey; Lothian, the rest of Scotland. Cf. election of 1856.

² In the list of Rectors given in *Pastis Aberd.*, p. lxxvi., is found the name of Mr. William Strathachin, under date 1499. The sole authority for this entry seems to be a marginal note ("Mr. Gul. Strathachin 1499 Rector et Vicarius perpetuus B. M. ad Nives") in Professor John Ker's handwriting, on p. 100 of the Parchment Chartulary. (O. C., xli. 22.) The reference is obviously to the first Rector and Vicar of the Church of S. Maria ad Nives, founded by Bishop Elphinstone, under a Bull from Pope Alexander VI. of date 20th February, 1495. (O. C., xvii. 3. 4. 5. 6.)