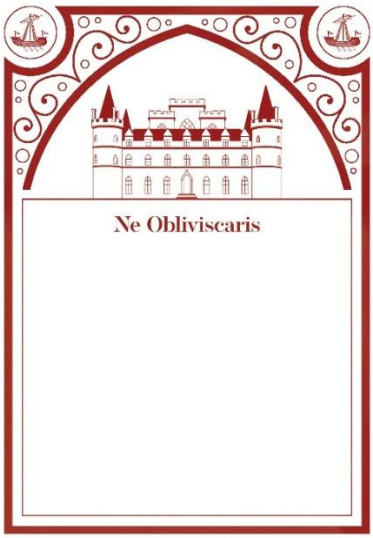
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Adopt an Archive

In the Argyll Estates Archives at Inveraray Castle we care for an archive which contains unique and invaluable historical documents which record the history of the Campbell family, the dukes of Argyll, their lives, businesses and their estates.

The condition of many of these records has deteriorated due to use, fire, flood and old age. We present here a selection of these records which have been prioritised for professional conservation treatment, due to their poor condition or the frequency of their use.

As you will see from this catalogue, conservation is an expensive process, requiring specialist skills and knowledge, equipment and materials. We therefore ask for your support.



Sponsors will receive an 'adoption' certificate, and your generous support will be recorded in the archive catalogue. Most importantly, you will know that you have enabled a unique piece of Scottish history to be preserved.

Descriptions of each piece and of the work which needs to be done are detailed in the catalogue below, with the sponsorship request.

Please note you are welcome to sponsor part of the costs of conserving an item; you don't have to be able to afford the full amount! We will be extremely grateful for whatever you are able to offer.

To adopt an item or to contribute to the costs of conserving it, please select an item from the catalogue and email Alison (archives@inveraray-castle.com) with the item number to check whether it is still available for adoption. If it is available, we will provide details on how to make payment.

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#AA26/01

Deposition of John Campbell of Ardkinglas, 1594



This deposition (witness statement) made by John Campbell, 7th laird of Ardkinglas (1569-1615) admits to his part in the murder of John Campbell of Calder, the tutor and guardian of Archibald, 7th Earl of Argyll. (ref: NRAS1209/46)

This paper document was written in iron gall ink and has been damaged and stained by historic mould. It will be surface cleaned and washed in a bath of calcium phytate to de-acidify the inks & paper and holes filled in with Japanese paper. When work has been completed, it will be packaged in an acid free envelope.

Sponsorship required = £372.50 (GBP)

To adopt an item or to contribute to the costs of conserving it, please select an item from the catalogue and email Alison (archives@inveraray-castle.com) with the item number to check whether it is still available for adoption. If it is available, we will provide details on how to make payment.

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#AA26/02

Letter concerning the pirates of Craignish, 1720



This letter from James Campbell, sheriff depute of Argyll, sets out the events following the arrival of a pirate ship, the Eagle, in Loch Craignish in 1720 and James' actions in securing the ship and apprehending the pirates. (ref. NRAS1209/63)

This paper document is very fragile and has lost some information where it has been folded. The iron gall inks with which it has been written show signs of a "halo" effect around the text. It will be surface cleaned and washed in calcium phytate to de-acidify the inks & paper. Gaps in the original will be infilled with Japanese paper. Finally, it will be packaged in an acid free paper envelope.

Sponsorship required = £192.50 (GBP)

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AA26/03

Letter from James Campbell commenting on ‘the Disaster of the Spanish fleet’, 1719



This letter from James Campbell, dated 4 May 1719 comments on ‘the Disaster of the Spanish fleet’ and reports on naval ships cruising in the Sound of Mull and the activities of the Jacobites. It precedes the landing of Spanish troops and Jacobite exiles and their defeat at Glen Shiel in June. (ref. NRAS1209/494/456)

The paper has been damaged along the centre where the document has been folded and is very fragile. The iron gall inks have left signs of a "halo" around the text. It will be surface cleaned and washed in calcium phytate to de-acidify the inks & paper. Gaps will be infilled with Japanese paper. Finally, it will be packaged in an acid free paper envelope.

Sponsorship required = £312.50 (GBP)

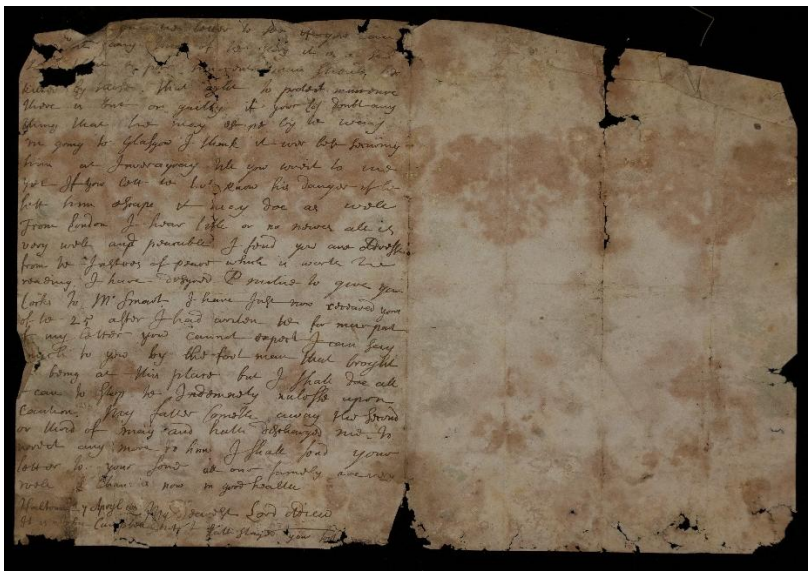
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#AA26/04

Letter concerning the MacLeans indemnity, [c.1719]



A letter dated 7 April [c.1719] concerning the indemnity for the MacLeans following the 1717 Act of Indemnity for Jacobites. The writer mentions a prisoner to be sent to Glasgow - a tenant's servant who has been in the Earl of Mar's Company and has been mortally wounded. (ref. NRAS1209/494/457)

This paper document is particularly fragile. It will be surface cleaned but is too fragile to wash. It will be supported with Japanese paper. Finally, it will be packaged in an acid free paper envelope.

Sponsorship required = £192.50 (GBP)

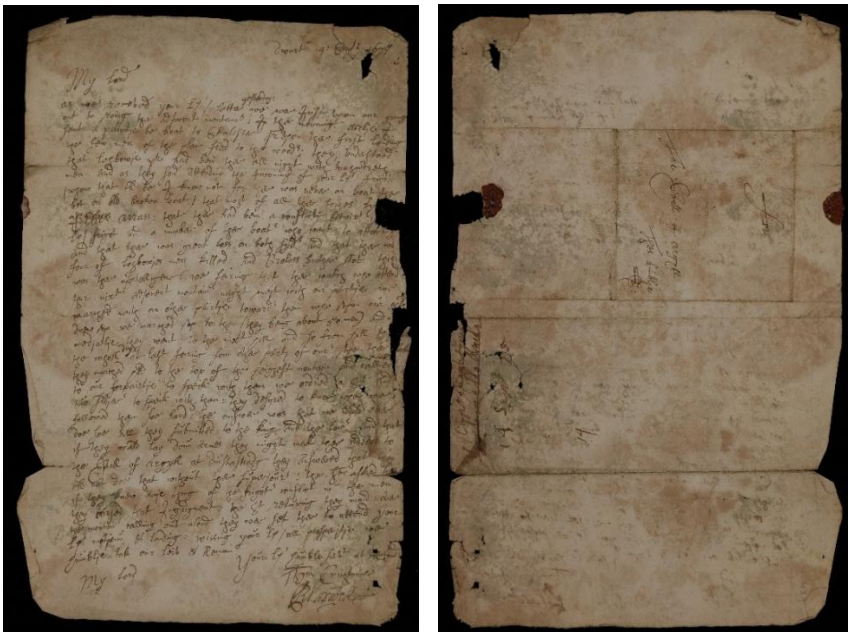
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#AA26/05

A letter to the Earl of Argyll concerning the battle against the MacLeans on Mull, 1675



A letter to the Earl of Argyll, dated 14 Sep 1675, concerning the pursuit of the MacLeans on Mull and a battle between the Earl's frigate and the MacLeans' boats. (ref. NRAS1209/494/459)

This paper document is particularly fragile. It will be surface cleaned but is too fragile to wash. It will be supported with Japanese paper and packaged in an acid free paper envelope.

Sponsorship required = £192.50 (GBP)

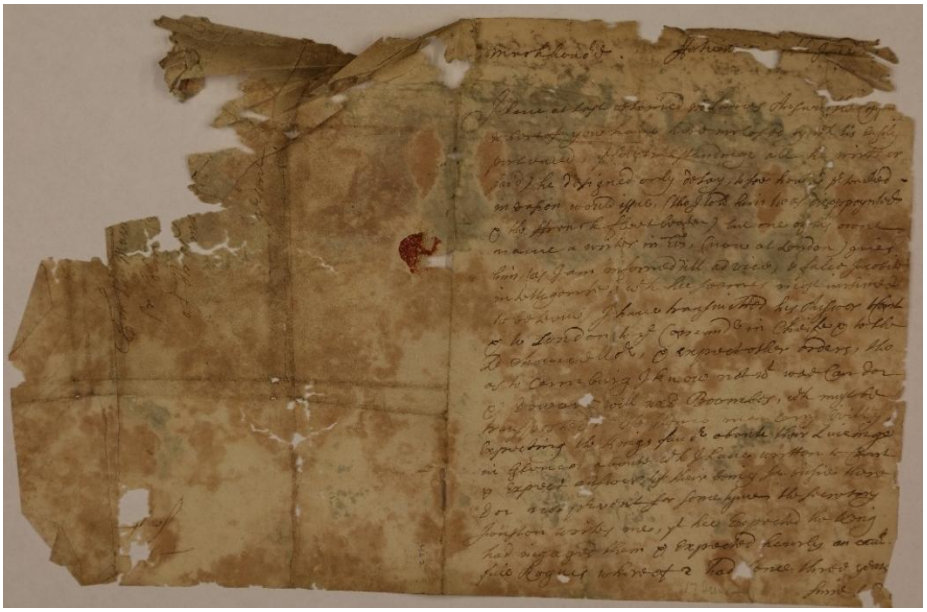
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#AA26/06

A letter to Sir Colin Campbell of Ardkinglas about the MacLeans and the Jacobites



A letter from John Hill to Sir Colin Campbell of Ardkinglas from around 1719 claiming that MacLean has been given bad advice and false Jacobite intelligence. He also comments on the Glencoe men. (ref. NRAS1209/494/462)

This paper document is particularly fragile. It will be surface cleaned and treated for historic mould but is too fragile to wash. It will be supported with Japanese paper and packaged in an acid free paper envelope.

Sponsorship required = £192.50 (GBP)

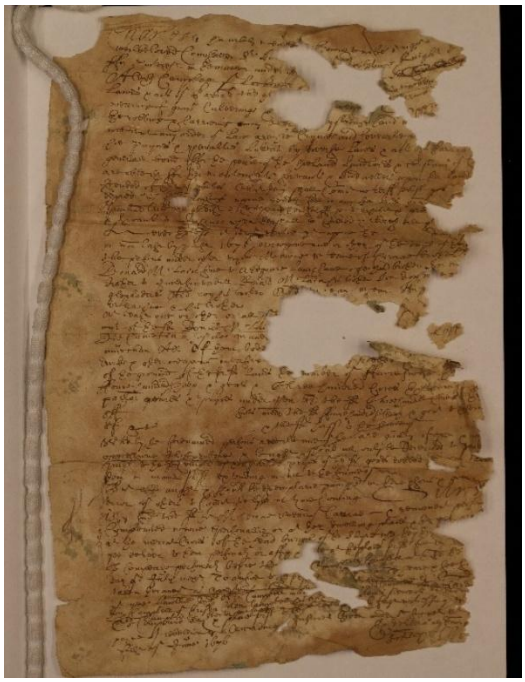
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#AA26/07

Letter from Lochnell about the MacLeans, 1676



Copy letter dated 1 Jun 1676 by Campbell of Lochnell writing about the MacLeans. (ref. NRAS1209/494/463)

This single page paper document has signs of mould staining and damage, and the paper is fragile where the mould has been present. The document will be surface cleaned and treated for historic mould but is too fragile to wash. It will be supported with Japanese paper and packaged in an acid free paper envelope.

Sponsorship required = £192.50 (GBP)

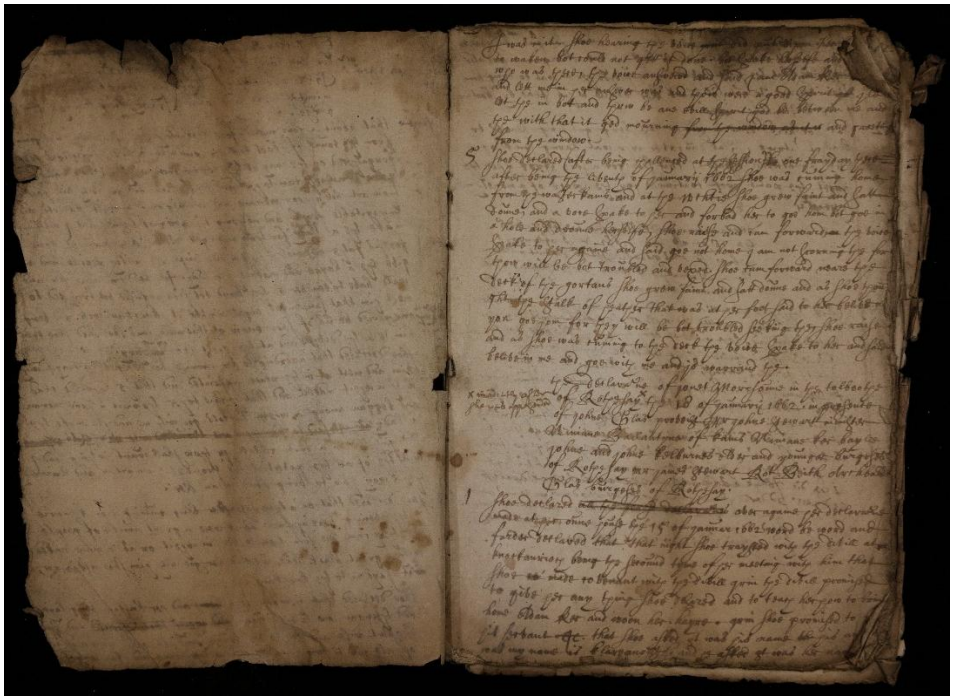
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#AA26/08

Rothesay witchcraft confessions, 1662



The confessions of Jonet Morison, accused of witchcraft, before the Provost of Rothesay in 1662. (ref. ARG/04/03/54/118)

There are seven folios and one loose page in this small volume. The surface dirt on the first page and along the edges has resulted in some lost information along the edges. It will be surface cleaned and bathed in calcium phytate to de-acidify the inks & paper and the pages will be infilled and supported with Japanese paper. Finally, it will be packaged in an acid free paper envelope.

Sponsorship required = £612.50 (GBP)

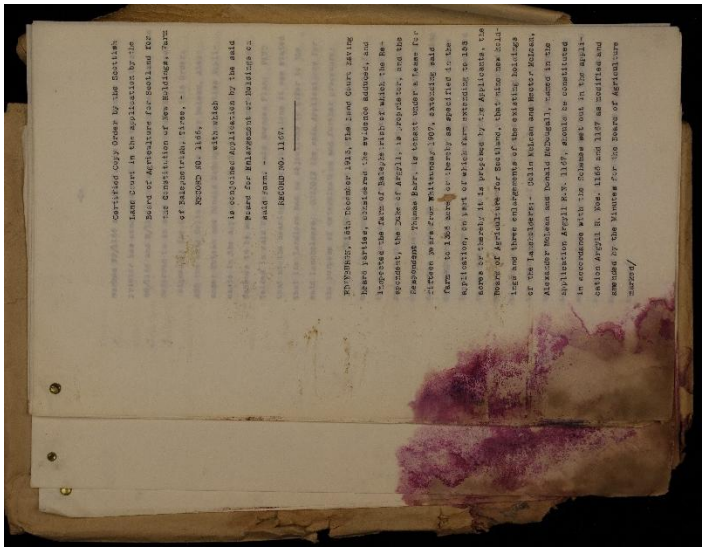
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#AA26/09

Balephetrish Farm, Tiree, land settlement scheme, 1913-14



In the early twentieth century, the Board of Agriculture for Scotland approved six land settlement schemes on Tiree. These papers related to the scheme on Balephetrish which did not go ahead due to the large amount of compensation awarded to the tenant. (ref. ARG/06/T/03/02)

There is purple mould on the document and the paper is fragile. Some information will have been lost where the mould has eaten the document. The mould will be cleaned and the area repaired with Tengucho tissue. A bespoke four flap folder will be made for the repaired documents.

Sponsorship required = £552.50 (GBP)

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#AA26/10

8th Duchess of Argyll's sketchbook, 1840s



A small sketch book belonging to Lady Elizabeth Leveson-Gower, later 8th Duchess of Argyll, with pencil and chalk drawings made during the 1840s. (ref. ARG/10/03/17)

Despite its age, this small sketch book is in reasonable condition. Although the boards have become loose and detached from the text-block and the spine is missing, the sewing is intact. Surface dirt will be removed with smoke sponge, taking care not to delete any drawings. The spine will be relined, the boards re-attached, and the endpapers and spine repaired.

Sponsorship required = £312.50 (GBP)

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#AA26/11

Journal of Ian, Marquis of Lorne, 1857-1858



This journal was kept by Ian, Marquis of Lorne (later 9th Duke of Argyll) in 1857/58, when a young man. It records his travels and early interests in birds, geology and art. (ref. ARG/05/09D/03/01).

The volume has been wet or damp and, as a result, some of the pages are stuck together, and the content cannot be explored. The outer boards, endpapers and most of the text block is however in relatively good condition. The 72 pages in this volume will be cleaned. The stuck pages will be released gently, using a local poultice to humidify them. New spine linings will be applied and a bespoke box made to preserve the volume for the future.

Sponsorship required = £1,272.50 (GBP)

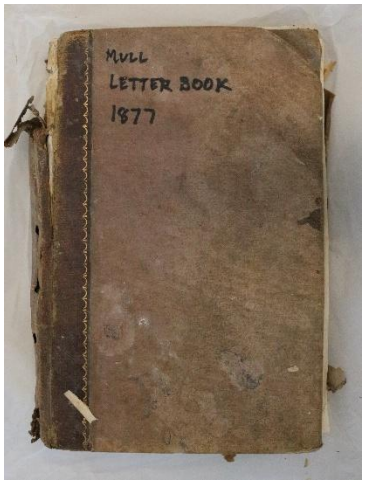
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#AA26/12

Mull Letter Book, 1877





This letter book contains copy correspondence from James Wyllie, chamberlain for Mull and Tiree, 1877. (ref. ARG/06/M/05/01/01/02) As is evident from the photographs above, the volume is in particularly bad condition. It is however one of the earliest letter books for the Mull & Tiree estates, and we are keen to try and rescue it. Sponsorship for this volume will be used to match-fund an application to the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust.

There is mould throughout the volume, the boards are brittle and back pages stuck together. The paper is also extremely fragile. The volume will be cleaned, disbound and some pages washed. 400 pages require consolidation. As many pages from the back of the volume will be salvaged as possible. It will be rebound and a bespoke box constructed.

Sponsorship required = £7,512.50 (GBP)

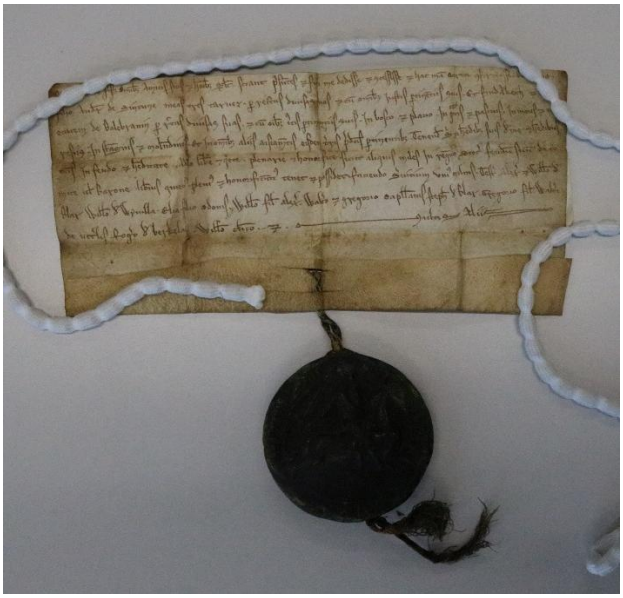
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#AA26/13

Charter by Malcolm, Earl of Fife, 13th century



This beautifully written and sealed charter is the oldest document in Argyll Estates Archives – and as such, is brought out for researchers and visitors numerous times a year. Dated by the biography of one of the signatories, it records the grant by Malcolm, Earl of Fife, of the lands of Tarbet in Fife to Richard, son to Andrew of Linton [1217 x 1266].

Both the seal and parchment are in good condition. They will be lightly cleaned with a smoke sponge, the document will be humidified and flattened using magnets and a bespoke box created with a plastazote enclosure for the seal, which will support and preserve the charter for the future.

Sponsorship required = £192.50 (GBP)

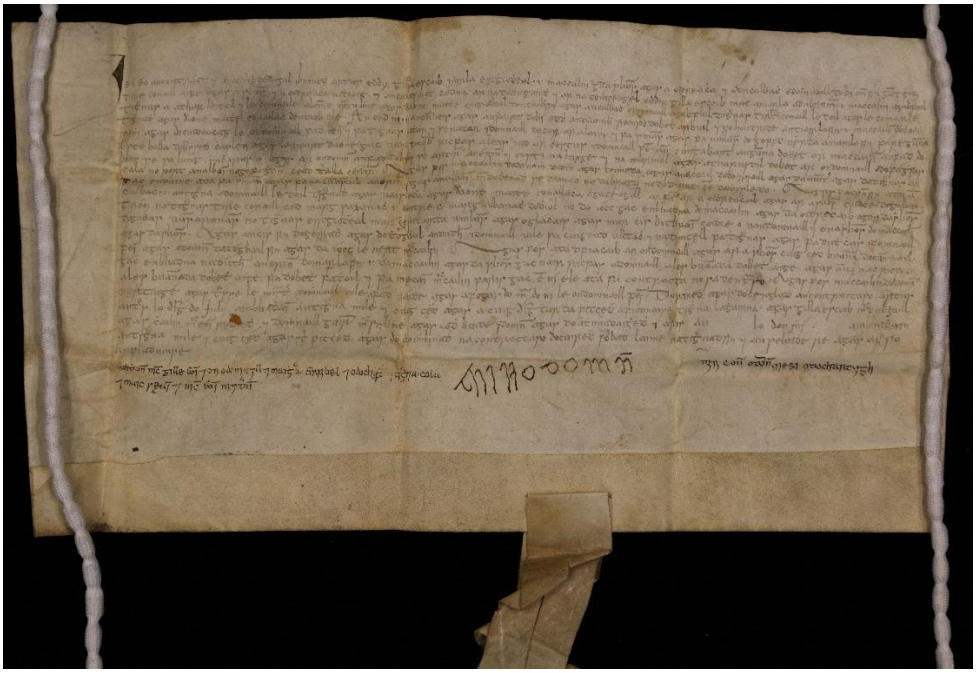
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#AA26/14

Early contract in Gaelic, 1555



A rare contract in Gaelic between Archibald, Earl of Argyll and Calvach O' Donnell, Lord of Tirconnell, 1555. (ref. ARG/02/01/093)

This vellum document is in great condition, although the original seal is missing. However, the closely folded vellum resists being unfolded, making use and display of the document difficult. It will be surface cleaned, humidified and dried flat or under tension using magnets. Both parchment and accompanying paper documents will be stored in an archival envelope.

Sponsorship required = £192.50 (GBP)

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#AA26/15

Royal charter of Kintyre and Jura in favour of the Earl of Argyll, 1607



Charter under the great seal by King James VI to Archibald, Earl of Argyll, of North and South Kintyre and the Island of Jura. By giving South Kintyre to the Earl in 1607, King James was dispossessing the MacDonalds who had held that area for many years, laying the ground for many years of conflict between Campbells and MacDonalds. (ref. ARG/02/01/173)

This very large parchment document is in good condition, but it is difficult to open the historic folds in order to read or display the content. This charter will be surface cleaned with a smoke sponge and humidified so that it can be preserved flat. A bespoke box will be made for it with a plastazote enclosure for what remains of the Great Seal.

Sponsorship required = £312.50 (GBP)

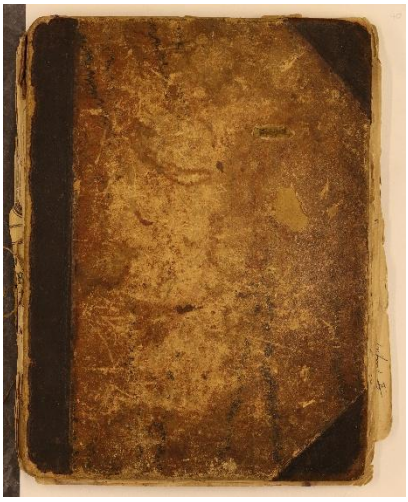
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#AA26/16

Lady Janey Callander's scrapbook, 19th century





Janey Callander married Lord Archibald Campbell, second son of the 8th Duke of Argyll. Archie and Janey were the parents of Niall, 10th Duke of Argyll. Janey was a fascinating character in her own right: an actor, a playwright and author. Recently purchased at auction by the Friends, her scrapbook contains a wealth of information about her, her interests and writings.

Some of the pages are in a very fragile condition, requiring repair, and some of the sewing is loose. The whole volume requires cleaning, inserts secured and newspaper cuttings guarded. The volume will finally be re-sewn and bound and a bespoke box created.

Sponsorship required = £2,532.50 (GBP)

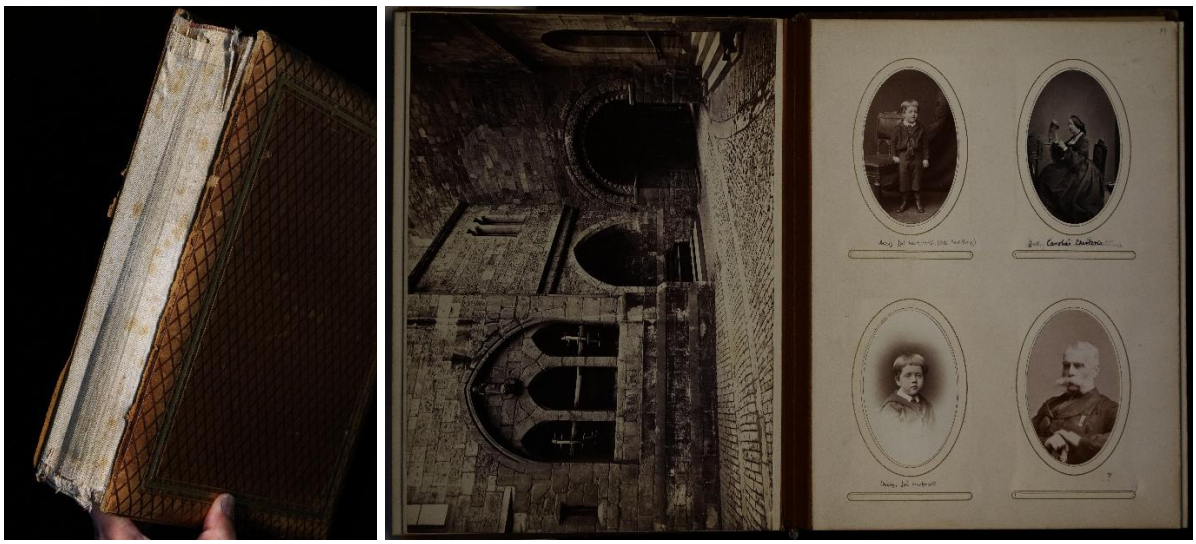
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#AA26/17

Campbell family photograph album



Family photo album from the late 19th century, including larger images as well as carte de visite photographs, most of which are named. (ref. ARG/10/01/16)

The photographs are generally in good condition, but the volume itself has lost its spine and is weak. The entire volume needs to be cleaned, the spine and corners re-constructed. Finally, a bespoke box will be created with a folder for any inserted loose items.

Sponsorship required = £432.50 (GBP)

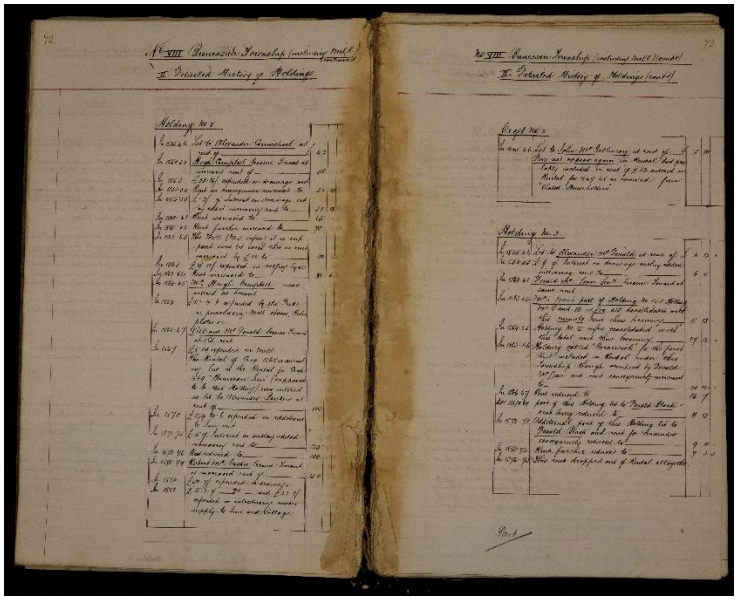
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#AA26/18

A History of the Crofts in Mull, 1880s



This volume was compiled in the late 19th century. It summarises the state of the crofts, tenants and rents in Mull between the 1840s and the 1880s for the government appointed Crofters' Commission. (ref. ARG/6/M/06/01)

The boards on this volume are in good condition, but the inner folios are weak from mould and water damage and the sewing is broken. Each page needs to be individually cleaned and the 90 split folios re-joined using special tissue. The volume will then be re-sewn, the spine re-lined and the boards re-attached. Finally, a bespoke box will be made.

Sponsorship required = £1,872.50 (GBP)

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#AA26/19

A plan of Tobermory Bay, 1730



A plan of the harbour at Tobermory in the Isle of Mull by M. Tiddeman. Ink and colour wash on parchment. (ref. ARG/12/01/237)

This plan has been repaired at some point in the past and annotations in ink have been made over the repairs. There is also writing in iron gall ink and Sellotape repairs on the reverse. After surface cleaning, the plan will be washed and fixed to a new lining. Historic repairs will need to be retained so that the annotations are not lost.

Sponsorship required = £852.50 (GBP)

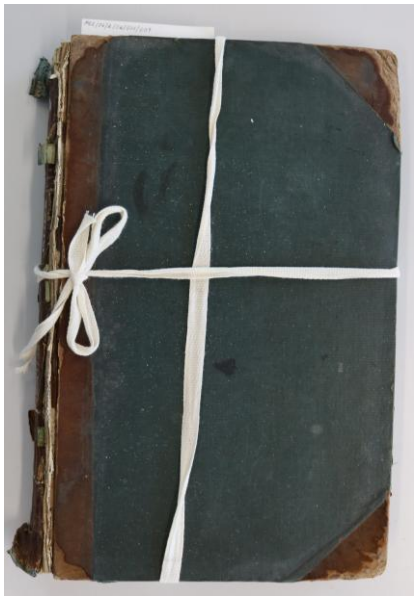
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#AA26/20

Kintyre Letter Book, 1849-1857



A letter book of copy out-going correspondence from the Chamberlain's office in Campbeltown from 1849 to 1857. (ref. ARG/06/K/04/01/07)

The volume has a loose front board, and some of the section sewing is broken. The leather is fragile and showing signs of red rot. Iron gall inks are present although there are no signs of burn through. The volume will be cleaned and outer folios repaired. The front board will be re-attached and corners consolidated using paste. The volume will be rebound in brown calf leather and housed in a bespoke box.

Sponsorship required = £612.50 (GBP)

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