

## CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY

The constitution of the University has evolved over a period of some five and a half centuries and is not contained in any single document. In part, therefore, it derives its present form from (1) inherited custom and enactments of a very distant age. During the past century, however, (2) a series of Acts of Parliament has been passed profoundly modifying these ancient arrangements. The first of these Acts was the Universities (Scotland) Act of 1858 and this has been followed by similarly entitled Acts of 1889, 1922, 1932 and 1966 and by the University of St Andrews Act of 1953. In the text that follows the Acts are cited by the year of enactment without further elaboration.

The Acts also introduced another element into the constitution of the University in the form of (3) Ordinances passed under the authority of various Acts, namely, (a) from 1859 to 1863 by the Commissioners under the Act of 1858 - for short, the 1858 Commissioners; (b) from 1890 to 1898 by the Commissioners under the Act of 1889 - for short, the 1889 Commissioners; (c) from 1898 to 1953 and again since 1958, by the University Court; (d) from 1953 to 1958 by the Commissioners under the Act of 1953 - for short, the St Andrews Commissioners.

The principal remaining element in the Constitution of the University is derived from (4) Resolutions and Regulations of the University Court, the Senatus Academicus and other governing bodies.

These documents may be viewed in full at The Acts, Ordinances and Resolutions Affecting the University of St Andrews (available from the Court Office).

The University Court is the governing body of the University. Its authority derives from Acts of Parliament which, inter alia, vest in the Court the administration of all property and revenues of the University and give it the power to review the decisions of the Senate. The Court thus has overall responsibility for the governance of the University, including:

- all aspects of strategic planning and
- management of all resources, whether financial, human or physical.