The Friends of St Andrews University Library was founded in 2007 with the aim of:
- promoting the reputation of the Library and encouraging interest in its collections;
- facilitating the learning and research mission of the Library via the organisation of scholarly activities;
- engaging with the local and academic communities in the work and mission of the Library, particularly in the work of the Special Collections Division;
- supporting the Library in its acquisition of rare books, manuscripts and other valuable items which it might not normally afford;
- acting as a channel for gifts of books and manuscripts to enhance the Library’s collections, especially those of the Special Collections Division.

Membership of the Friends brings you:
- the opportunity to participate in an annual programme of events such as lectures, visits, “treasure tours” of Special Collections and an annual reception;
- a newsletter containing details of recent purchases made possible by the Friends, announcements and reports on Friends’ activities, and news about the Library generally;
- the chance to contribute to the Library and its collections;
- half-price Subscription membership of the Library (£15.00 annual membership).

About the Library

The Library also holds one of the largest and most important collections of historic photography in Scotland, reflecting the fact that St Andrews played a key role in the development of the photographic process. Pioneer photographer Sir David Brewster was Principal of the University from 1838 to 1859, and the collection contains many examples of the early work of John and Robert Adamson, David Octavius Hill and Thomas Rodger. Manuscript holdings are similarly rich, ranging from Greek papyri and medieval philosophical treatises to modern business records. There are strong collections of papers relating to individuals or studies connected with the University (the papers, for example, of the eminent nineteenth-century scientist D’Arcy Thompson), and there is a fine range of theological material, particularly relating to the Roman Catholic Modernist Movement. There is also a small but high quality collection of oriental items, mostly in Arabic, Persian or Turkish, containing specimens dating from the middle ages to the nineteenth century.