It all began with the personal libraries of many of the Gaelic-speaking Highland Scot clergy and administration of the university. From this beginning, it has grown into what is now considered a fine collection, which has been used extensively by scholars for many years. It is the largest of its kind in Canada, and one of the most significant in North America. Many people contributed their resources, energy and commitment to make this happen. Several important benefactors chose to entrust their precious possessions to our library. Fundraising, including successful grant proposals as well as ongoing library budgetary support, provided for further important acquisitions. This last point is vital as the collection...
supports the ongoing research needs of the faculty and students of the Celtic Studies Department, as well as other related disciplines.

Maintaining a current, vibrant collection, encompassing ongoing scholarship in the field while preserving and protecting the rare and valuable older items, sums up our mandate. The Celtic Department collaborates with us in contributing materials from its acquisitions budget as well.

Sr. M. Connelly was the university librarian when the facility was planned and opened. It is named for Fr. Charles Gordon Brewer who was the university librarian from 1966-91, as a tribute to his unwavering support.

PAST CURATORS OF THE COLLECTION
Sr. Jane MacKenzie
Maureen Williams

HIGHLIGHTS
• ~10,000 items
• Monographs, serials, pamphlets, ephemera, manuscripts, recorded material, newspaper clippings, artifacts
• ~30 current periodical subscriptions
• Local history materials, including letters, manuscripts, genealogy, artifacts, oral history
• Scottish Gaelic, Irish and Welsh language resources
• Celtic literature, poetry, prose anthologies, folklore, music, instructional and lexicographical material
• 18th Century historical and statistical works pertaining to the Jacobite period in Scottish History
• Many monographs published in Scottish Gaelic prior to 1900

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS
• Ais-eiridh na Sean Channotin Alban-naich, Alasdair MacMaighstir Alasdair, 1751, 1st ed. (One of only 12 copies known to exist)
• MacTalla, 1892-1904, Johnathan G. MacKinnon
• Companach an O ganach no an Comhairliche Taitneach , Alastair McGillevray, 1836
• William O ‘Donnell’s translation of the Bible into Irish, with a Scottish Gaelic Glossary, 1690
• Focloir Goidheilge – Shagsonach: an Irishe-English Dictionary, Edward Lhuyd, 1707
• Archaeologia Britannica, Edward Lhuyd, 1707

IMPORTANT BENEFACORS
Dr. P. J. Nicholson
Dr. John Lorne Campbell
Dr. Margaret Fay Shaw Campbell
Mr. Hugh MacPhee
Dr. Donald MacLean Sinclair
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