

Barony M.S. Magazine



Barony MS Magazine, August 1863, [title page] (University of Strathclyde Archives, GB 249 T-MIN/18/1/2)

Overview

A summary of the history of the Barony Mutual Improvement Society is available on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* (see 'Additional Notes' below).

The society was formed in 1863 by young men from the congregation of the Barony Church (Church of Scotland), which was built in 1799 and located near the Glasgow Cathedral. The group later changed its name to the Barony Young Men's Association.

This society produced manuscript magazines by and for their members between 1863 and 1875. There are six volumes housed in the [University of Strathclyde Archives](#) (GB 249 T-MIN/18/1/1-6): July 1863; August 1863; September 1863; August 1864; March 1869; and 1873-1875. The earliest magazine that we have, the July 1863 volume, is actually the third that they issued.

The August 1863 issue of the *Barony M.S. Magazine* is fairly typical of mutual improvement society magazines, which are almost always miscellanies, containing a mixture of prose and poetry, fiction and non-fiction pieces on various topics, along with original artwork and even music. A unique feature of this genre is the readers' 'Criticisms': readers would write their comments about the articles into the back of the magazine after they were done reading it. This society was unusual, however, in that they had a very active critical community of readers. The August 1863 issue, for example (a digitised copy of which is available, see below), contains a remarkable 25 pages of criticisms.

Their [August 1863 issue](#) has been digitised courtesy of the University of Strathclyde Archives and is available on our sister website, [Glasgow's Literary Bonds](#).

Name of Club, Society or Group That Produced the Magazine

Barony Mutual Improvement Society (later became the Barony Young Men's Association) (Glasgow)

Date of Existence

1863-1875?

Date of Magazine

1863-1875

Number of Issues

6

Manuscript/Published Magazine

Manuscript

Contents and Contributions

Advertisements; Art/Illustrations (original); Articles (non-fiction); Club notices; Editorials; Essays; Fiction/Narratives; Poems (original); Readers' Criticisms; Serial articles/stories; Tables of Contents; Title pages

Repository

University of Strathclyde Archives

Reference

GB 249 T-MIN/18/1

Additional Notes

See also entry for [Barony Mutual Improvement Society](#) on our sister website, *Glasgow's Literary Bonds*.

This is not the same as the Barony Free Church Literary Society. For more information about this society, see entry for [Barony Free Church Literary Society](#) on *Glasgow's Literary Bonds* website.

From the [University of Strathclyde Archives online catalogue](#):

'Scope and content

Manuscript magazines issued under the auspices of the Barony Mutual Improvement Society, later the Barony Young Men's Association. Subjects include religion, local history, natural history, travel, natural philosophy, mechanics. The editors were Thomas Martin, Archibald Campbell, John Goldie, Edward Railton Catterns, George Smeaton Rodger, W. Ferrie Anderson and James Meek. The contributions were bound on the premises of Robert Nelson, Princes Court, Buchanan Street. All volumes carry the bookplate of the Barony Association's Library' [accessed 21 January 2018].