

April 2023. Alan MacPherson's talk on the Society and Glasgow Branch Archives.



Alan opened his presentation by posing the question 'Why Do We Need An Archive?' Then suggested the reply: *"People must know the past to understand the present and face the future"* He followed it with a quote from Lenin during the first world war: *"Citizens! Protect monuments, buildings, objects and documents from former times. All of these are your history and your pride. Remember that this is the basis upon which our new art shall flourish!"* Vladimir Lenin, November 1917

Lenin's invocation to the Russian people during the Revolution is no less true and valid for the RSCDS and his words can be summarised in one very short statement:

No Archive = No History!

Alan followed with a fascinating introduction to the work of the early archivists, pre and post the formation and development of the RSCDS.

Anita Mackenzie, Glasgow Branch member now living in Alloa accompanied Alan and brought a beautiful period dress and told us about the film "Take Your Partners" which she produced with the Jordanhill College film unit for the RSCD in the 1980s. The dance set travelled to Edinburgh where the costumes were authenticated by Margaret Hunter, authority on Victorian mourning jewellery. The Glasgow Branch dancers were - Anita Mackenzie, Margaret Church, Linda Gaul, Joyce Turkington, John Wilkinson, Billy Adams, John Henderson and Derek MacFarlane, the costume part was filmed at Culzean Castle and the film is on the RSCDS Archive website. Anita's husband Stuart was one of Miss Milligan's boys' when he was a student at Jordanhill College, and gained his Scottish Country Dance Teaching Certificate there, later returning as a lecturer alongside Johan MacLean and Alastair MacFadyen.