

‘Adopt a Red Tape volume’

In the Argyll Papers at Inveraray Castle we care for a series of volumes dating from the 17th century, mostly compiled as part of the management of the Argyll estates, providing invaluable evidence of the lands and how they were used as well as about the people who lived on them.

Many of these volumes are suffering through use, age and damage sustained in the Inveraray Castle fires of 1877 and 1975. Many of these volumes have been temporarily repaired using a red gaffa tape which is now failing. The tape and its sticky residue needs to be removed, the pages cleaned and re-stitched, and bindings repaired to preserve these volumes for the future, and we are asking for your help to pay the costs of this, through ‘adopting’ (sponsoring) the repair of a particular volume.

In return for your sponsorship, you will receive an adoption certificate and your generous support will be recorded in the archive catalogue. Most importantly, you will know that you have enabled a unique piece of Campbell and Scottish history to be preserved.

Descriptions of each volume and of the work which needs to be done are detailed in the catalogue below, with the costs of repair and repackaging required for each volume.

To adopt a volume, please select from the catalogue and email the reference number to Alison (archives@inveraray-castle.com) to check whether it is still available for adoption. If it is available, we will reserve it for you and provide details on how to make payment.

#RT/01

Chamberlain's Accounts, 1678



One of the earliest volumes in the collection, the Chamberlain's Accounts for 1678 detail the rents received by the Chamberlain in Inveraray from all parts of the Argyll estates in 'silver' (cash) and in-kind (crops, hens and eggs, wedders etc). In the 17th century, these rents were collected locally by tacksmen (middle managers), and delivered up to the Chamberlain on an annual basis.

This volume is fully bound in brown leather, with a sheep's skin binding and antique papers with chain lines and laid lines, with entries written in iron gall ink.

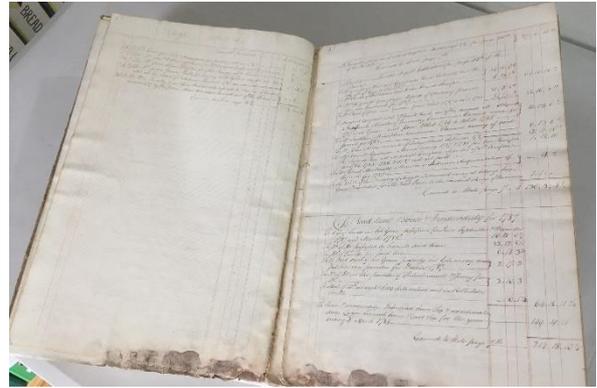
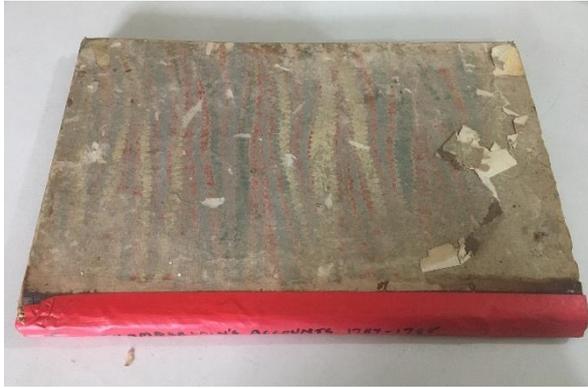
The volume requires cleaning throughout; loose pages at the front and some internal pages need repair; the sewing is loose and the spine is missing. It will be cleaned, the red tape and its residue will be removed, it will be re-sewn and re-backed with leather. The repaired volume will be housed in a bespoke box.

Cost of repair and repackaging = £2300 (GBP) or \$3150 (USD)

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#RT/02

Chamberlain's Accounts, 1787-88



By the 18th century, the Chamberlain's Accounts detail the management of all parts of the estate, with details supplied by the factors of Kintyre, Rosneath, Mull & Tiree and the lordship of Campbell. The accounts include income from rents and farms, and expenses paid out in wages and pensions, on building and improving, and on stock and farming.

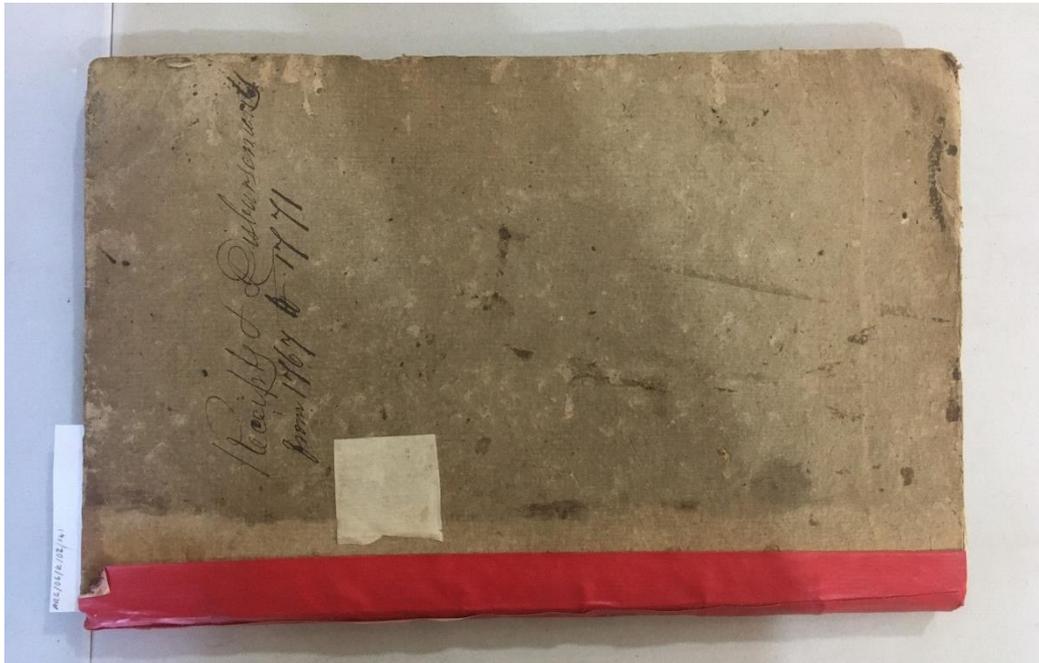
This volume has a half bound brown leather binding with a marbled paper cover and parchment corners. There is some mould on the bottom pages within the text block and approx 30 pages require repair, as well as cleaning and red tape removal. The sewing is also loose. The volume will be cleaned, the red tape and its residue will be removed, it will be re-sewn and re-backed with leather. The repaired volume will be housed in a bespoke box.

Cost of repair and repackaging = £2000 (GBP) or \$2750 (USD)

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#RT/03

Kintyre Receipts and Disbursements, 1767-71



This volume was compiled by the Factor or Chamberlain for Kintyre between 1767 and 1771, recording income (receipts) and disbursements (expenditure) in managing the Argyll estates in Kintyre.

This volume has a half bound brown leather binding with a marbled paper cover.

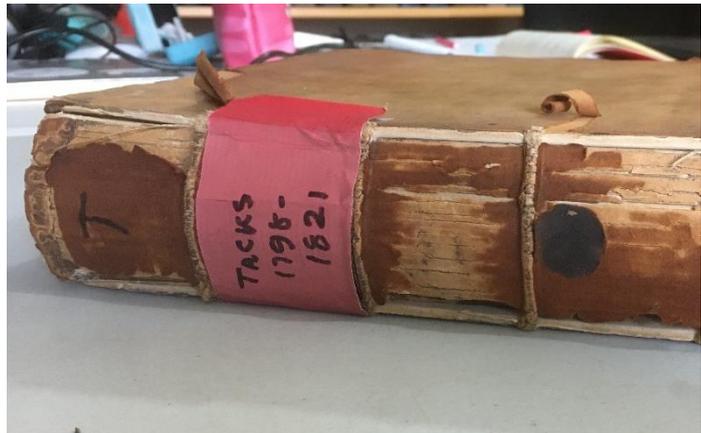
Some of the pages and the boards require cleaning, and the red tape needs removing. The endpapers at the front and the back of the volume need to be repaired and the front marbled paper cover is missing. The volume will be cleaned with a latex sponge, the red tape will be removed and the volume will be re-backed with leather. The repaired volume will be housed in a bespoke box.

Cost of repair and repackaging = £850 (GBP) or \$1200 (USD)

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#RT/04

Tiree Tacks, 1769-1823



This volume contains some of the earliest surviving tacks or leases for the island of Tiree, including many joint leases for townships dating from 1769 to 1823. [N.B. the dates given on the red tape are wrong!] For a detailed list of the content of this volume, please visit <https://www.argyll-papers.com/tiree-tacks>.

The volume is fully bound in calf leather. The stitching is loose for the first seven sections and four sections at the back and there are seven pages needing repair. The red tape needs to be removed and the boards need to be cleaned and consolidated. The volume will be cleaned, the red tape will be removed, the entire text block will be re-sewn, the boards will be consolidated and the volume will be re-backed with leather. The repaired volume will be housed in a bespoke box.

Cost of repair and repackaging = £1600 (GBP) or \$2200 (USD)

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#RT/05

Mull tacks, 1762



This volume contains some of the earliest surviving tacks or leases for the island of Mull, and includes an index and a list of tenants.

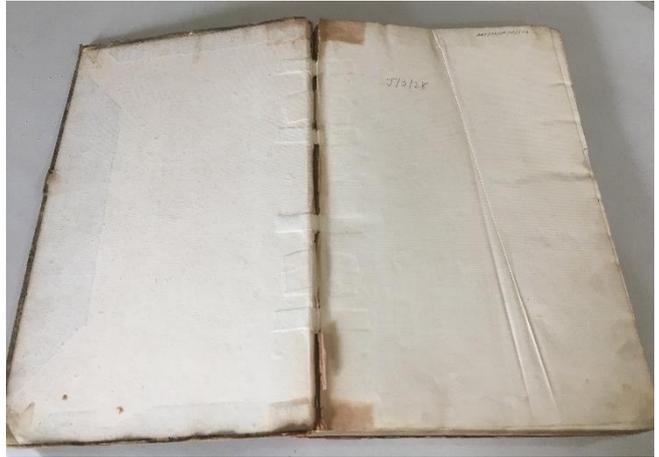
The volume is half bound in fine calf leather, sewn on six cords with a marbled paper cover and parchment board corners. The text-block is loose from the boards; the red tape requires removal; the boards and first couple of pages have some surface dirt and the first folio of each section is damaged from the original sewing. There is no currently no spine present. The volume will be cleaned, the red tape will be removed, the entire text block will be re-sewn and the volume will be re-backed with leather. The repaired volume will be housed in a bespoke box.

Cost of repair and repackaging = £1650 (GBP) or \$2300 (USD)

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#RT/06

Mull and Morvern leases, 1810-1816



This volume contains early 19th century tacks and leases for land on the island of Mull and for property on the mainland in Morvern.

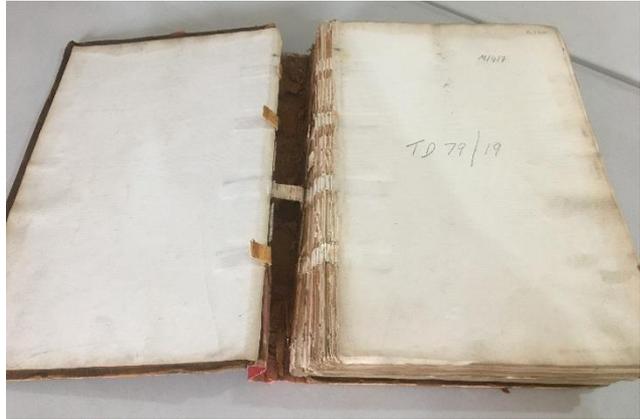
The volume is half bound with brown calf leather with vellum board corners and marbled paper cover. The sewing and text-block is in reasonably good condition, however the first section has become loose and there is some minor damage to first three pages. There is surface dirt on the cover and end papers. The original spine leather is still present in places. This volume requires light cleaning, red-tape removal, some minor repairs to first three pages, relaxing folds and creases, consolidation of the end boards and re-backing. The repaired volume will be housed in a bespoke box.

Cost of repair and repackaging = £700 (GBP) or \$1000 (USD)

To adopt a volume, please select from the catalogue and email the reference number to Alison (archives@inveraray-castle.com) to check whether it is still available for adoption. If it is available, we will reserve it for you and provide details on how to make payment.

#RT/07

Kintyre Farm Tacks, 1795-1808



Kintyre farm tacks, with detailed conditions as to how the farms are to be managed, dating from 1795 through to 1808. A detailed list of the contents can be accessed at <https://www.argyll-papers.com/kintyre-farm-tacks-2>

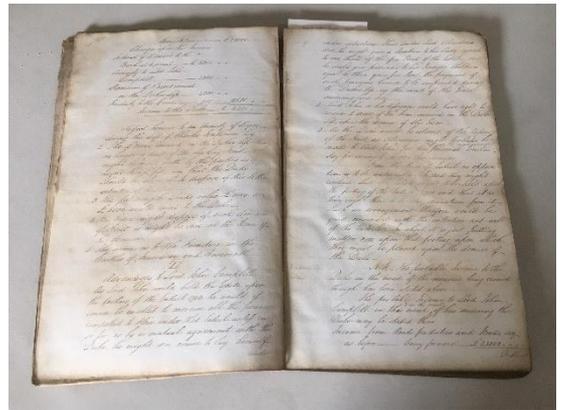
This volume is fully bound in reverse calf leather with vellum tapes. There is damage to the first folio of each section from the original sewing; some of the vellum tapes have snapped from use and some of the pages in the text-block are loose. This volume requires light cleaning, red-tape removal, repairs to 26 folios, re-sewing the text-block and a leather re-back. The repaired volume will be housed in a bespoke box.

Cost of repair and repackaging = £2200 (GBP) or \$3050 (USD)

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#RT/08

Argyll Letter Book, 1836



From 1806, when George Campbell, eldest son of the 5th Duke of Argyll, succeeded as 6th Duke, there were significant financial issues and trustees were appointed to manage the estates. This letter book was kept by the trustees, recording their actions (intromissions).

This volume is quarter bound in red goat's skin leather with a marbled paper cover and the pages are sewn onto vellum tape. The cover has considerable surface dirt, red tape along the spine and the sewing has become loose, although the text block is in good condition. The endpapers require some repair and consolidation. The covers will be lightly cleaned, the red tape removed, the boards consolidated, the endpapers repaired and it will be re-backed in buckram cloth (rather than leather).

The repaired volume will be housed in a bespoke box.

The document will be re-packaged, flat, in an archival folio enclosure.

Cost of repair and repackaging = £1050 (GBP) or \$1450 (USD)

To adopt a volume, please select from the catalogue and email the reference number to Alison (archives@inveraray-castle.com) to check whether it is still available for adoption. If it is available, we will reserve it for you and provide details on how to make payment.

#RT/09

Argyll leases, 1801



List of Leases on the Estates of the Duke of Argyll, 1801, arranged by parish.

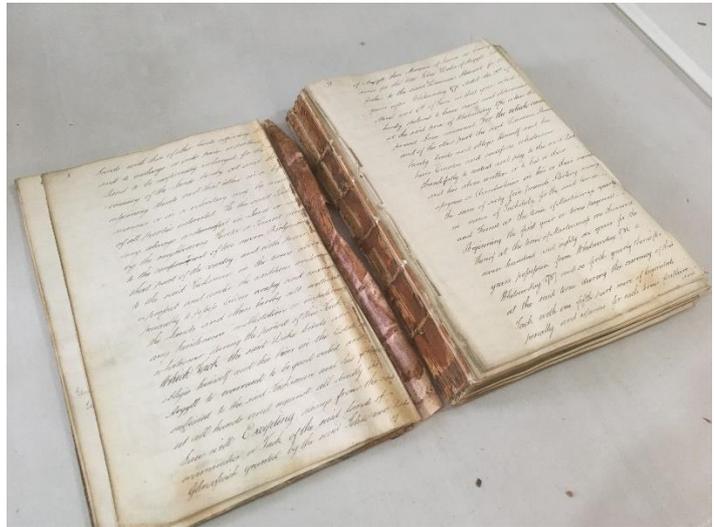
This volume is half bound in brown calf leather with vellum corners and a marbled paper cover. The text block is in good condition. There is some surface dirt on the cover and some red dust on the inside of some the pages. The sewing is loose and the spine has gone. The volume will be cleaned, the red tape removed, the boards consolidated, the pages re-sewn and it will be given a new leather spine. The repaired volume will be housed in a bespoke box.

Cost of repair and repackaging = £950 (GBP) or \$1300 (USD)

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#RT/10

Argyll tacks, 1789-1801



Tacks of farms on the Argyll estates around Inveraray, detailing tenants and conditions imposed on them through their leases from 1789 to 1801.

This volume is half bound in reverse brown calf leather with a marbled paper cover and parchment corner covers. The cover needs light cleaning and consolidation. The text block is in good condition but the sewing is loose and the spine is covered in red tape. The volume will be cleaned, the red tape removed, the boards consolidated, the textblocks re-sewn and it will be given a new leather spine. The repaired volume will be housed in a bespoke box.

Cost of repair and repackaging = £1300 (GBP) or \$1800 (USD)

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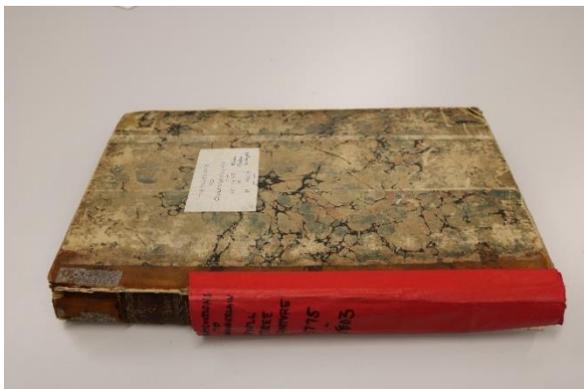
The Story of a Red Tape Volume – An Unique Opportunity to be involved in the Preservation of a Precious Archive.

The Argyll Papers at Inveraray Castle is the family and estate archive of the Duke of Argyll. Dating from the 13th century, the archive records 700 years of the family's participation in Scottish, British and international events, their private lives and interests and the management of their extensive estates.

The Argyll estates covered most of Argyllshire, including the islands of Tiree, Iona and Mull, as well as the Lordship of Campbell in Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Fife.

Most of the people living on the Argyll estates were not Campbells: many other Highland names appear in the records for Argyll and the islands, and Lowland names predominate in the records of the Lordship of Campbell in central Scotland.

This is the story of the repair of one of the most iconic volumes in the collection at Inveraray Castle – the 5th Duke's Instructions to the Chamberlains of Mull, Morvern and Tiree, as transcribed and edited by Eric Cregeen and published as *Argyll Estate Instructions: Mull, Morvern, Tiree. 1771-1805*, by the Scottish History Society, Fourth Series (Edinburgh, 1964).



Images show (left) the Instructions 'held together' with red gaffa tape and (right) the missing back board © High Life Highland

This volume was in a very sad state. It had been 'repaired' in the past, using red gaffa tape to hold the front and back boards onto the volume. The 'repair' had failed: the back board was now missing completely and the front board was held on solely by the red tape. The

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middle of the text block had split into two parts and much of the rest of the sewing was very loose. Most of the original leather spine was missing, although the title label was still evident. The vellum tips to the front board were split and the corners delaminating. There was some good news though: the iron ink remained in good condition. Thankfully help was at hand as the Friends of the Argyll Papers agreed to fund the repair of this volume.

The repairs were carried out in the High Life Highland conservation studio in the archive in Inverness where skilled conservators, Richard and Carrie, work together. Every stage of their work with unique historical documents and volumes is carefully recorded in writing and imagery – providing many of the images used to illustrate this story.



Images show (left) removal of red tape and its sticky residue and (right) re-sewing the paper sections into the text block © High Life Highland

On its arrival in Inverness, the Instructions was photographed and carefully cleaned with latex sponges. The remaining board was separated from the text block. The volume label was carefully removed using a palette knife and the remains of the original leather spine was removed using a poultice. The residue of the adhesive left by the red gaffa tape was cleaned away.

The text block was separated into its sections so that the outer folios of each section could be strengthened with Japanese paper and tissue. They were stuck with wheat starch paste and dried between blotting paper and weighted boards. The individual sections were now strong enough to be sewn back together into a single text block, using a special sewing frame, hemp cords and linen thread.

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The original front board was reattached and a replacement back board was attached to the volume using archival linen. Replacement leather for the spine was pared, soaked and inserted onto the spine, fitted under the old leather and smoothed into shape. Finally the box was made for the volume using archival box board.



Images of the repaired and conserved Instructions © High Life Highland

This 200 year old volume has now been returned to the archive at Cherry Park and is available for consultation by researchers again, and we hope that it will now be fit for action for another 200 years or more. Repairing this single volume took the conservators 40 hours of work and the materials, so the entire process cost £2000 GBP or \$2750 USD.

We have another 75 volumes of various shapes and sizes which have also been 'repaired' with red tape (and another 30 or so which just need some tender loving repair) so there will be more opportunities to 'Adopt a Red Tape Volume'. Not all the volumes will cost as much as the Instructions to repair – some of them have minimal damage from the red tape, others have lost end boards and spines – but they are all unique historical documents, detailing the history of the Duke's family, their lives and works, and those of the people who lived on their estates. With your help, we can ensure that they survive for future generations.

Find out more about the Argyll Papers and join the Friends at www.friendsoftheargyllpapers.org.uk

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