

Glasgow Addisonian Literary Society

Overview

Alexander Smith (1829-1867) was a well-known working-class Scottish poet, and was one of the founding members and Secretary of this society. (For more information on Smith, see, for example, '[Alexander Smith \(1829 - 1867\)](#)' on the [Scottish Poetry Library](#) website.) Named after Joseph Addison (1672-1719), co-founder of the influential magazine, *The Spectator*, this mutual improvement group consisted of approximately a dozen young men who met on Saturday evenings in a coffee house in Candleriggs (in Merchant City, in the heart of the city centre).

Date of Existence

22 May 1847-1852

Source of Information

1. Glasgow Addisonian Literary Society, Minute Book (Note: currently unknown if this is still housed at Dick Institute, Kilmarnock (20/09/17));
2. Brisbane, T., *The Early Years of Alexander Smith, Poet and Essayist. A Study for Young Men, Chiefly Reminiscences of Ten Years' Companionship* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1869) (ML, Mitchell (GC) 821.8 SMI 9/BRI 31794);
3. Kilpatrick, James A., *Literary Landmarks of Glasgow* (Glasgow: Saint Mungo Press, 1893), p. 248 (MLSC, Mitchell (AL) KIL);
4. Berry, Simon, *Applauding Thunder: Life, Work and Critics of Alexander Smith* (Inverness: FTTR Press, 2013), [passim] (MLSC, Mitchell (AL) 821.8 SMI 9/BER);
5. 'Alexander Smith (poet)', *Wikipedia* <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Smith_\(poet\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Smith_(poet))> [accessed 20/08/17];
6. (Note: several newspaper clippings throughout Young's Scrapbooks (various volumes, e.g. Vol. 12, pp. 4-5; Vol. 14, p. 13-15) on Smith (MLSC))

Repository

Mitchell Library (ML)

Mitchell Library Special Collections (MLSC)

Dick Institute, Kilmarnock

Reference Number

(See Source of Information)

Additional Notes

-