Local and Family History
Research Guides

Frank Kidson

Our Research Guides list some of the most useful, interesting and unique items in Local and Family History at Leeds Central Library. Many others are listed in our online and card catalogues.

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10. Information Folder on Frank Kidson. LQ B KID

News Cuttings
3. Leeds Newspaper Cuttings – Volume 4, p.48-49. LF 942.75 N74L
4. Leeds Arts Calendar No.101, 1987, p.31-32. L 705 L51L
5. Yorkshire Newspaper Cuttings – Volume 1, p.187. YF 942.81 NEW
8. Old Leeds Exhibition Handbook 1908, p.48, 51-52. L 942.75 OL1L


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- Saturday 10am-5pm
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Frank Kidson (1855–1926)

Frank Kidson was an English folksong collector and musical scholar. He was also an artist, writer and historian. He was born in Leeds in 1855 in Centenary Street, on the site of what is now Victoria Gardens. He was one of the founders of the Folk Song Society in 1898, and published a number of books on traditional music, song, and dance, and wrote many articles for local newspapers.

Frank Kidson owned a huge collection of items, and the majority of his collection is now at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, although we have a good number of items here at Central Library. He also contributed 365 articles to the Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians (available in the Music Library).

In 1923 Frank Kidson was awarded an Honorary MA Degree from Leeds University in recognition of his work. After his death in 1926, his niece, Ethel Kidson, edited and published two further books from his collections. On 20 May 2003, a Blue Plaque was erected by Leeds Civic Trust at his former address of 5 Hamilton Avenue, Chapeltown, Leeds.

Items from the Local and Family History collection

Art and Potteries
1. Historical Notices of the Old Pottery, 1892 – Kidson, Joseph R, & Kidson, Frank. SRQ 738.3 LEE **
2. Historical Notices of the Old Pottery, 1893 – Kidson, Joseph R, & Kidson, Frank. SRF 738.3 LEE **
4. Lecture – “In the days of my grandfather”, 1914. SRQP 942.07 K541 **
5. Manuscript Notebook, 1880. SR 828.89 K541 **
6. Frank Kidson’s Sketchbooks. SR 741.942 KID **

Tunes and Tunebooks
1. Note on Old Tunes – melodies once popular in Yorkshire. YQ 780.942
2. The New Intelligencer: or a syntax of harmony (with notes by Frank Kidson) L 781.4 FIR
3. Psalm & Hymn Tunes – James Ellis (with notes by Frank Kidson). SR 782 ELL **
4. Traditional Tunes – Frank Kidson. L 784.3 K541
5. British Music Printers and Publishers 190. SR 781.98 K541 **
6. British Music Publishers, Printers & Engravers. 1900 L 781.98 K541
7. English Provincial Music Publishers MIC 781.98 K541
8. Scotch & Irish Music Publishers, 1900. SR 781.98 K541 **

Song and Dance
1. Children’s Songs of Long Ago – Kidson. LQ 784.8 K541
2. Dances of the Olden Time – Kidson. LQ 786.45 K451
3. Dances and Tunes – Kidson. LQ 793.31 K541
4. English Songs of the Georgian Period – Kidson. LQ 784.4942 M72L
5. A Garland of English Folk Songs – Kidson 1926. LQ 784.4942 K541
7. Old Country Dances and Morris Tunes – Kidson. SRQ 793.31 K54L **
8. Old English Country Dance Tunes (with figures) – Kidson. LQP 796.13 K54L
9. Old English Country Dances – Kidson 1890. SRQ 786.45 K54L **
10. 100 Singing Games Old and New – Kidson 1916. LQ 796.13 K54L
11. 75 British Nursery Rhymes – Kidson 1906. LQ 938.9 K54L
12. Songs of Britain (100 English, Welsh Scottish & Irish national songs) – Kidson 1913. LQ 784.71942 K54L
13. The Beggar’s Opera: its predecessors and successors – Kidson, 1922. L 822.56 K54L
14. Catalogue of Old Ballads – Kidson. SR 784.3 K541 **
15. List of song & music books, ballad collections etc. belonging to Frank Kidson. SR 016.78 K541 **
16. Contributions to the Musical Quarterly, 1915-20. SR 780.8 K54L
17. Eighty Singing Games, Old & New. LQ 796.13 L54L
18. English Country Dances Arranged for Children’s Performance, 1914. LQ 793.31 K54L

Collaborations
1. English Folk Song and Dance – Frank Kidson and Mary Neal, 1915. L793.31 K54L
2. Songs taken from Frank Kidson’s Traditional Tunes & arranged by Arthur E. Grimshaw, 1916. LQP 784.3 G88L
3. The Golden Wedding: a Yorkshire Idyll – Kidson & Grimshaw, 1910. SRQ 782.8 G884 & LQ 782.8 K54L
4. The Minstrelsy of Childhood – Kidson & Moffat, 1911. LQ 784.8 K54L

Biography
1. The Roving Artist: Frank Kidson pioneer song collector – John Francmanis. LP B KID
2. The Folk Song Competition – John Francmanis. LP 782.42 FRA
3. The Search for Five Finger Frank – performance of songs & tunes collected by Frank Kidson, by Pete Coe and Alice Jones. LQP 781.61 KID
4. The Life of Frank Kidson – Ethel Kidson. SR 927.93 K54L **
5. Frank Kidson: biography – Ethel Kidson. SRQ B KID **
6. Will of Frank Kidson. LQP 346 KID
8. Frank Kidson, 1855-1927, by some of his friends. LP 927.93 K541