

## Papers relating to Patrick Heron Watson 1



**Reference and contact details:** GB779  
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**Location:** RS O1  
**Title:** Patrick Heron Watson papers  
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**Held at:** The Royal College of Surgeons of  
Edinburgh  
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### Administrative/Biographical History:

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**Presented to the College by Dr R R Bomford, Chelmsford, June 1978**

**Sir Patrick Heron Watson** (1832–1907), surgeon, born at Edinburgh on 5 January 1832, was the third of four surviving sons of Charles Watson DD, minister of Burntisland, Fife, and Isabella Boog, his wife. His three brothers all attained distinction in other fields.

Patrick Watson was educated at Edinburgh Academy and Edinburgh University, graduating MD in 1853. Admitted LRCS (Edinburgh) in 1853, he was elected FRCS in 1855. After a year's residence at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, Watson volunteered for service at the start of the Crimean War.... Watson, who endeared himself to his patients, was as an operator unrivalled in Edinburgh for his speed and skill. He devised and carried out many of the operations which only later became more widely accepted. Before the introduction of Listerian methods he had removed the whole larynx, extirpated the spleen, performed ovariectomy with success, and popularized excision of the joints. As a lecturer he was eloquent, clear, and impressive; as a hospital surgeon and clinical teacher he was effective and popular. His published works included *The Modern Pathology and Treatment of Venereal Disease* (1861), *Excision of the Knee Joint* (1867), and *Excision of the Thyroid Gland* (1873). In 1878 Watson accompanied the third earl of Rosslyn on the special embassy sent to Spain on King Alfonso XII's marriage, and he was decorated caballero of the order of Carlos III of Spain.

At the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, Watson was President in 1878 and again in 1905. From 1882 to 1906 he represented the college on the General Medical Council. He was one of the honorary surgeons in Scotland to Queen Victoria and to Edward VII. He was made honorary LLD of Edinburgh in 1884 and honorary FRCS (Ireland) in 1887. He was knighted in 1903. Throughout life he was a keen volunteer. He joined the Queen's Edinburgh brigade as a surgeon and retired with the rank of brigade surgeon lieutenant-colonel, VD. He died at his home, 16 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, on 21 December 1907. Source: ODNB

### 1      **1853, December 2**

Presidential address delivered by Patrick Heron Watson to the Royal Medical Society. (pp 1-27, p7 wanting)

**2      1854, November**

Draft of Royal Medical Society address [delivered by Patrick Heron Watson?] exhorting members not to allow their eagerness and attendance to diminish as the term progresses, as has happened in former years and paying tribute to a former president of the Society, Richard Mackenzie, who had died in the Crimea, (pp 1-13).

**3      No Date**

MS introductory lecture on the principles and practice of surgery.

**4      No Date**

MS lecture on inflammation.

**5      c 1856**

Book containing a student's notes and drawings from Marshall's art anatomy lectures. [pictured here]

**6      1860**

Passport of Reverend William Ferguson, Manse of Fossoway, Kinross, authorising him and his wife to travel to France.

**7      1877, September 2 - October 27**

Diary of Miss Ferguson, Manse of Fossoway, Kinross, recording the day-to-day life of a minister's daughter, her education, pastimes and visits to friends.

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