

INNERPEFFRAY: LIBRARY AND OTHER HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Innerpeffray is located between Crieff and Auchterarder in Perthshire, Scotland. It is home to a complete and very important group of early educational and religious buildings plus a nearby castle all of which were founded, built or rebuilt by the Drummond family of Strathearn (an area covering Crieff, Auchterarder and Perth).

Innerpeffray Library

This was built in 1762 by Bishop Robert Hay Drummond (architect Charles Freebairn, banker Mr. Robertson Barclay) to re-house the book collection of founder David Drummond, 3rd Lord Madertie. The library re-opened in 1763 and it now ranks as Scotland's oldest free public lending library with a continuous borrowing record from 1747 to 1969. Book inspection is still free but an entrance fee is now charged to cover essential maintenance and conservation work.

The book collection dates back to before 1680 and now extends to some 3,800 volumes including such notable publications as:

- *Atlas Novus* (1638) the maps of which contain no record of Australia or Antarctica.
- *The History of Four Footed Beasts* (1607)
- *The History of Scotland* (1577) by Raphael Holinshead which it is believed that Shakespeare used as source material for his play Macbeth.

The wide ranging collection includes books on astrology, demonology, chiromancy, spiritualism, war, politics, law, agriculture, horticulture, natural history, literature, and bibles dating from 1530.

The Schoolhouse

This was rebuilt in 1847 and is now the home of the Keeper of the Books.

The Chapel (Collegiate Chapel of St. Mary)

Built 1508 by John 1st. Lord Drummond. A renaissance triple cube with oblong windows, stately proportions, wall paintings, Drummond family hatchments and medieval stone altar. David Lord Madertie rebuilt the west end pre-1680 over the arch to house his library in an upper room. Free access.

Innerpeffray Castle

This is a romantic ruin located a short distance from the Library. It is an example of a gentleman's fortalice and was built by the 1st Lord Madertie. Must be viewed from a distance.

Roman Connections

Unbeknown to most visitors is the fact that Innerpeffray is adjacent to a Roman road linking with the Gask Ridge and a temporary military camp associated with the Antonine re-occupation by the Romans in the mid- second century AD.

Place Name Origin

Derived from the word *peffer* which is a Celtic word associated with a stream. Innerpeffray is where the Peffray joins the River Earn.

Contact Details

Opening times March to October
Wed to Fri 1000 AM to 1245 PM and 2 PM to 4.45 PM
Sundays 2 PM to 4 PM.
Mon and Tues Closed.

Innerpeffray Library can be contacted on 44-(0) 1764 652819 or e-mail info@innerpeffray.co.uk