



the wighton
residency

Andrew John Wighton (b Cargill, Perthshire 1804; d Broughty Ferry 1866). Merchant, music collector and amateur luthier. The son of a Perthshire farmer, little is known of Wighton's early life before he is recorded trading as a general merchant and dealer in musical instruments in the Hilltown area of Dundee.

The wide scope of Wighton's collecting interests make his music library (now the Wighton Collection, Wighton Heritage Centre, Dundee Central Library) one of the most significant of its kind. Chiefly interested in the publishing centres of Edinburgh, Glasgow, London and Dublin, Wighton gathered printed vocal and instrumental music from the late C17 to early C19, some of which is now unique to the Collection. A copy made by Wighton of a now lost lra-viol ms owned by Paisley engraver, Andrew Blaikie, is also unique.

Wighton's correspondence with the historians David Laing, William Chappell, George Farquhar Graham and the Aberdeen music seller, James Davie, reveal him as a scholar of no little rigour. Highly regarded by his contemporaries, Wighton did much by his bibliographical expertise to inform antiquarian debate. His contribution to Scottish music historiography has not been fully recognised primarily because he left no published works.

Wighton was survived by his wife Agnes Caithness, a Forfarshire shipmaster's daughter, who did much to ensure the safe preservation of her husband's extensive music library until it could be gifted, according to the terms of his mortis causa trust, to the Dundee Free Library in 1869.