The Isbister Building is named in honour of Alexander Kennedy Isbister. Isbister was the university’s first benefactor, leaving a substantial amount of money to be dispersed as scholarships and an extensive library collection to the university following his death. Isbister’s bequest in 1883 totaled an astounding $83,000 in capital, which today would amount to over one million dollars! Although many of the books burned in the McIntyre Block fire of 1898 and some of his monetary contribution was lost in the great defalcation of 1932, the Isbister Scholarship continues to be awarded to this day.