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DISCOVER **nls**

The magazine of the National Library of Scotland

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SCOTLAND AT THE CINEMA

How Scots shaped
the big screen



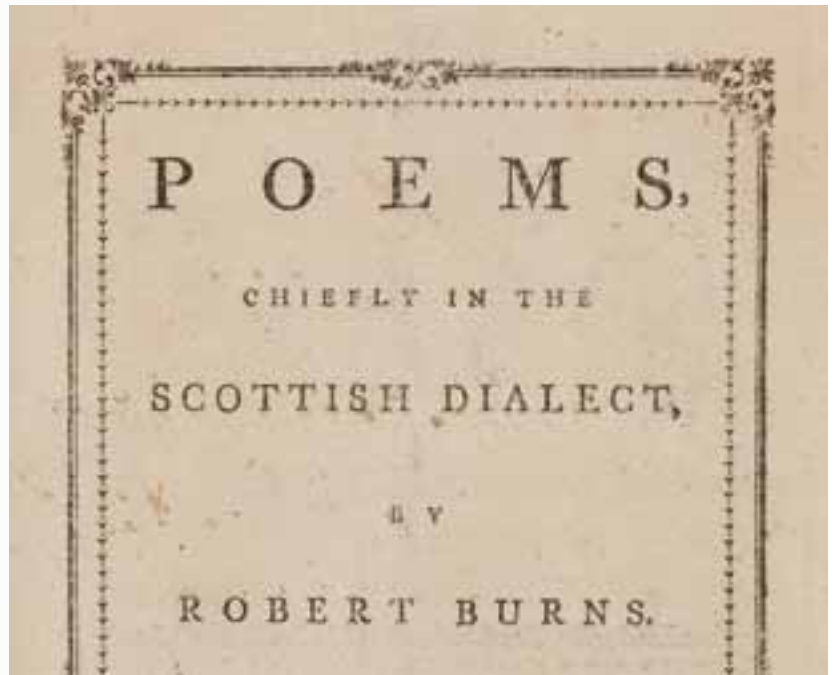
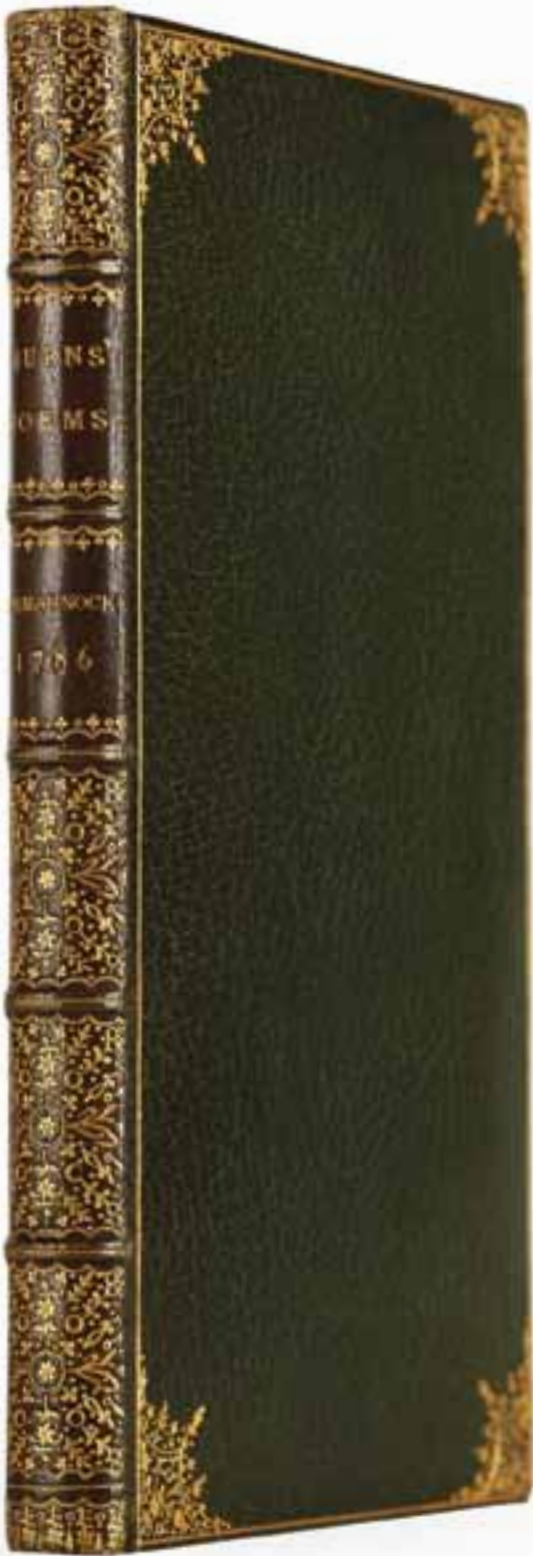
THE DREAMS AND CONFLICTS
THAT FORMED AMERICA

THE TALE OF TRANSLATING
THE NEW TESTAMENT

SCIENCE FICTION CRASHES
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ISSUE 21 SPRING/SUMMER 2012

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Celebrating Scots on celluloid

It's a pleasure to be able to welcome you to this latest issue of *Discover NLS*. As you will see we have quite a geographical, as well as historical, spread within these pages.

Our latest exhibition, *Going to the Pictures: Scotland at the Cinema*, is particularly expansive. It's a fascinating overview of the part the Scots have played in shaping the film industry, and also considers how we as a nation have responded to the medium of cinema. In this issue we speak to the three curators who have put the exhibition together and look back at the myriad representations of our nation on screen, from the shortbread box idylls of *Whisky Galore* and *The Maggie*, to the rather bleaker Scotland as portrayed in films such as *Trainspotting* and *Red Road*.

Of course some of the most famous representations of Scotland are actually American in origin, and in this issue we take a look at the Library's extensive collection of material related to the United States. We have much in our collections on the forging of that great nation (no great surprise, perhaps, when you learn how instrumental men of Scottish descent were in the Declaration of Independence) and we examine the influence that the Scottish Enlightenment had on America's Founding Fathers.

A new version of William Lorimer's *The New Testament in Scots* is set to be published by Canongate. One of the most celebrated works ever written in Scots, it was a monumental undertaking. We are lucky enough to hold some of Lorimer's notebooks at the Library, and – as we reveal in this issue – they tell a remarkable story of dedication to a project that took years to come to fruition.

We also have the latest news from NLS, including upcoming events, what's going to be on display in our Treasures space and the launch of a new travel guide app that details 20 points of interest in and around Moray.

From Scotland to America, from the printed page to the cutting edge of technology, there's a lot to read in this issue of *Discover NLS*.



Darryl Mead

DR DARRYL MEAD
Deputy National Librarian

THREE RECENT NLS VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

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SCOTTISH WITCH-HUNTS

Modern Scottish Collections Curator, Nicola Stratton, provides an insight into Scottish witches and witch-hunts and highlights items in NLS' collections.

<http://tinyurl.com/7h74k6l>



Nicola Stratton

2

AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY

Foreign Collections Curators Chris Taylor and Dora Petherbridge give an overview of NLS material on American political history.

<http://tinyurl.com/6tqgg7e>

3

SCOTT'S LAST EXPEDITION DISPLAY

Paula Williams, Curator of the Mountain and Polar collections, introduces items related to Antarctic explorer Captain Robert F Scott.

<http://tinyurl.com/7sy4hdc>

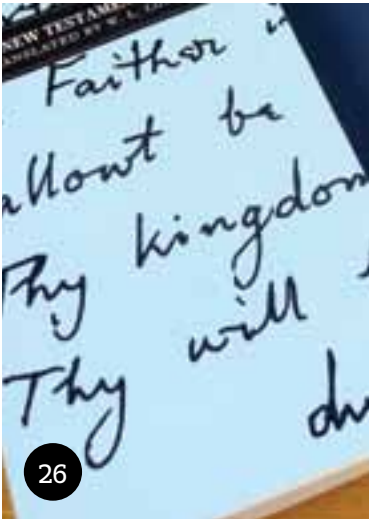


As close as you can get.

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The Library's new exhibition chronicles Scotland on film. We talk to the curators about our nation of cinema-goers

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As part of NLS' American collection goes on display in the Treasures space we look at the Scottish influence on the shaping of a nation

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Ahead of Canongate's new edition, Bryan Christie tracks the rimer family's efforts to complete the acclaimed *The New Testament in Scots*

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Brigadoon turned Scotland into a realm of fantasy

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE INCLUDE



Jackie Cromarty
NLS Programme Manager, Learning and Public Engagement, Jackie talks in this issue about NLS' latest exhibition



Bryan Christie
A former journalist, Bryan is now responsible for media and external affairs work at the Library



Jennifer Giles
A Legal Deposit Curator, Jennifer's work focuses primarily on the Library's Modern British Collections



Andrew Martin
The Library's Modern Scottish Collections Curator, Andrew is also part of the Scots Language Council



Ruth Washbrook
Senior Curator at the NLS' Scottish Screen Archive, Ruth is one of the curators of NLS' exhibition looking at Scotland and cinema

Making the most of your National Library

With a collection of over 15 million printed items, two million maps, 32,000 films, three miles of manuscripts, plus thousands of photos, getting around NLS requires a little navigation

NLS LOCATIONS

Films

Scottish Screen Archive
39-41 Montrose Avenue
Hillington Park
Glasgow G52 4LA
Tel 0845 366 4600
Email ssaenquiries@nls.uk

Maps

Causewayside Building
159 Causewayside
Edinburgh EH9 1PH
Tel 0131 623 3970
Email maps@nls.uk
Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm
(Wed 10am-5pm),
Sat 9.30am-1pm

Other collections

George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1EW
Tel 0131 623 3700
Email enquiries@nls.uk
Mon-Fri 9.30am-8.30pm
(Wed 10am-8.30pm), Sat
9.30am-1pm

HOW TO JOIN

To use NLS' Reading Rooms and order up items from the



The Visitor Centre at NLS

collections, you need to hold a library card number. This can be obtained by completing the online form at <https://auth.nls.uk/> registration. Simply follow the steps on the website.

On your first visit to the Library, you should go to Registration where staff will take your photo and produce a library card for you. For proof of identity

and confirmation of your address, bring one or more documents that include your name and address, supported by a signature or photograph.

VIEWING MATERIAL

If you know what you are looking for, we recommend making your request for the required material in advance of your visit to the Library. Requests can be made in

person, by telephone on 0131 623 3820 or 3821, or by email: enquiries@nls.uk

In addition, if you have a library card number, books can be ordered in advance via the online catalogue on our website.

More information about pre-ordering is available at www.nls.uk/using-the-library/reading-rooms/general/preorders

ONLINE

NLS has a vast range of electronic resources, including digital versions of reference works, massive full-text facsimiles and business databases (see opposite for a list). Many of these resources are available over the internet to customers resident in Scotland, although additional conditions may apply in line with our licence agreements. Your first port of call to access the Library's licensed digital collections is <https://auth.nls.uk/ldc>

VISITOR CENTRE

The Visitor Centre at George IV Bridge was opened in 2009. It features an exhibition space, a shop selling books, stationery and gift items, a café and PC terminals with access to NLS catalogues and other digital facilities.

FOCUS ON

The Business Collection

The Business Collection at NLS is the largest of its kind in Scotland, offering a wide range of electronic material, including details of 11 million companies worldwide, more than 1,200 printed business directories and over 3,000 market



research reports. The collection is supported by the Library's Scottish Business Information Service (SCOTBIS).

SCOTBIS provides a free enquiry service, as well as offering fee-based research services. You can contact them via email, phone, fax or post, but to make the most of their offering it's recommended you visit the Library. To access the full

business resources you'll need a library card.

The charged service lets you access the accounts of 2.4 million UK and Irish companies from the past decade, search 14,000 news titles on any given topic, and get help with in-depth research on any topic.

For more information go to www.nls.uk/collections/business

Digital resources

With over 300 million items, of which 85% are available remotely, NLS' licensed digital collections are a superb research tool

ART AND LITERATURE

The Library's digital collections relating to art and literature include

- + 19th Century UK Periodicals Part 1. Women's, Children's, Humour and Leisure/Sport; + British Literary Manuscripts Online c.1660-1900; + Naxos Music Library; + Oxford Music Online; + Perdita Manuscripts – Women Writers, 1500-1700; + Scottish Women Poets of the Romantic Period; + SCRAN Digital Materials; + Times Literary Supplement Historical Archive and + SUR Digital Archive.

BUSINESS

Online resources for businesses, including

- + COBRA – The Complete Business Reference Adviser; + Datamonitor 360; + Economist Historical Archive; + Euromonitor Passport Markets; + Factiva; + FAME; + Frost & Sullivan; + Global Reference Solution; + Key Note Market Research Reports; + Kompass Database and + Mintel Market Research Reports.

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Educational resources include + ALPSP Learned Journals Science Collection; + GreenFILE; + JSTOR; + MLA International Bibliography; + Oxford Journals Online; + Science Full Text Select; + Standards Infobase and + Web of Knowledge.

GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL

A wealth of political information can be viewed online, including + 18th Century Official Parliamentary Publications Portal 1688-1834; + House of Commons Parliamentary Papers – Includes reports of committees and official bodies on public affairs; + Public Information Online and + The

Making of Modern Law – Legal Treatises 1800-1926.

HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, GENEALOGY

You can access + 17th & 18th Century Burney Newspaper Collection; + 19th Century British Library Newspapers; + 19th Century UK Periodicals Part 2. Empire: Travel and Anthropology, Economics, Missionary and Colonial; + British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries; + Celtic Culture – A Historical Encyclopedia (via NetLibrary); + InfoTrac Custom Newspapers; + John Johnson Collection: an archive of printed ephemera; + Oxford Dictionary of National

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
<https://auth.nls.uk/lcd>

Biography (ODNB); + India, Raj & Empire; + Sabin Americana, 1500-1926; + The Making of the Modern World; + Times Digital Archive; + Waterloo Directory of English Newspapers and Periodicals 1800-1900 + The Scotsman Digital Archive 1817-1950 and + Who's Who (and Who Was Who).

REFERENCE WORKS AND CATALOGUES

+ Credo Reference gives you access to 400 high-quality reference books from the world's leading publishers. + Early American Imprints, Series 1 – Evans, 1639-1800; + Early English Books Online 1475-1700 (EEBO); and + Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) Parts 1 & 2; Oxford English Dictionary Online and Oxford Reference Online.

ACCESSING MATERIAL

All collections can be accessed within the Library via the electronic resources search service. Collections that are marked with a + can also be accessed outwith the Library by customers resident in Scotland.

To register for remote access visit <https://auth.nls.uk/registration>

Find issues of **Punch in 19th Century UK Periodicals Part 1**



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— *Daily Telegraph*

Scottish science fiction comes to NLS, followed by a display of American independence – just in time for 4th July

SF and the American dream

In recent years, the imaginations of Scots Iain M Banks, Ken MacLeod and Steven Moffat have given us universe-jumping space operas, political extrapolations and prime-time TV blockbusters such as *Doctor Who*.

But they were not the first to 'boldly go' there. For nearly 200 years, 'sentient life forms' (or humans, in other words) in Scotland have been creating science fiction in its many forms. The fruits of their labours will be on show this spring in a display of the National Library of Scotland's selection of science fiction treasures.

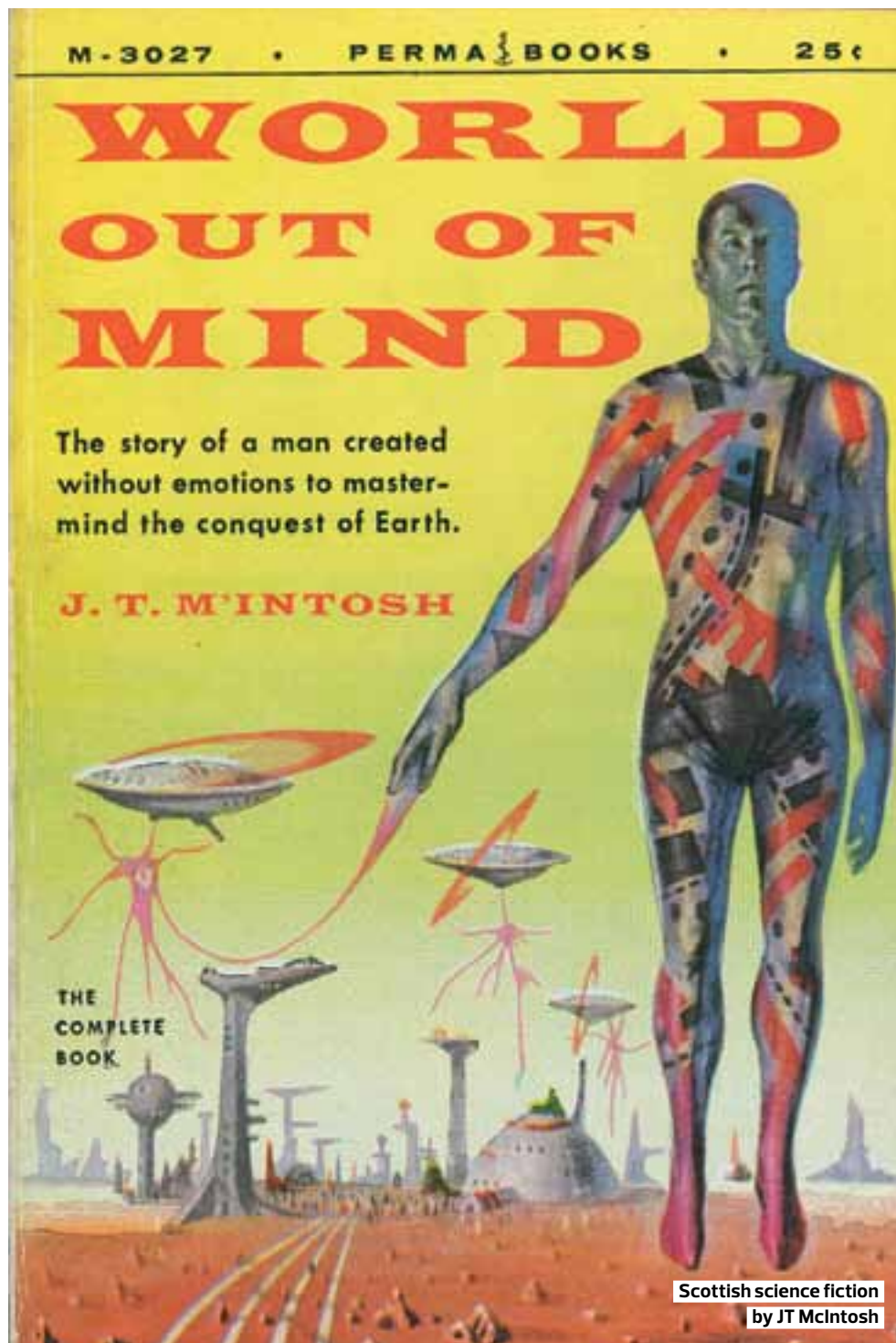
The display will feature Scotland's first science fiction novel, early scientific romances, obscure gems and Scottish television writers. Authors who are better known for other genres, such as Naomi Mitchison, and writers who are relatively little known today, such as Aberdeen-based JT McIntosh, will also be included.

DREAMING AND DECLARING AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

At a time when independence is in the minds of many in Scotland, the Library looks at the pursuit of liberty in revolutionary America.

With manuscripts dating from the War of Independence to the 1830s, and printed material from the 1750s to the present day, the summer Treasures display will afford extraordinary insights into the Founding Fathers and early presidents. Rare material from NLS' collections will illustrate the conflicts, alliances and friendships that influenced the creation of the United States.

Items on show will include letters written by George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, Benjamin Rush and Andrew Jackson. As the eyes of the world





Letters to Congress held at NLS

begin to turn to America to follow the presidential elections (which will take place later in 2012), this display will remind us of the political figures that still influence and inspire US politics today.

It's Life Jimmy, But Not As We Know It: Science Fiction in Scotland is open now and runs until 30 June 2012. Dreaming and Declaring American Independence opens on 4 July and runs until 16 September. See page 22 for more on NLS' American collections



Russian research bequeathed to NLS

COLLECTION

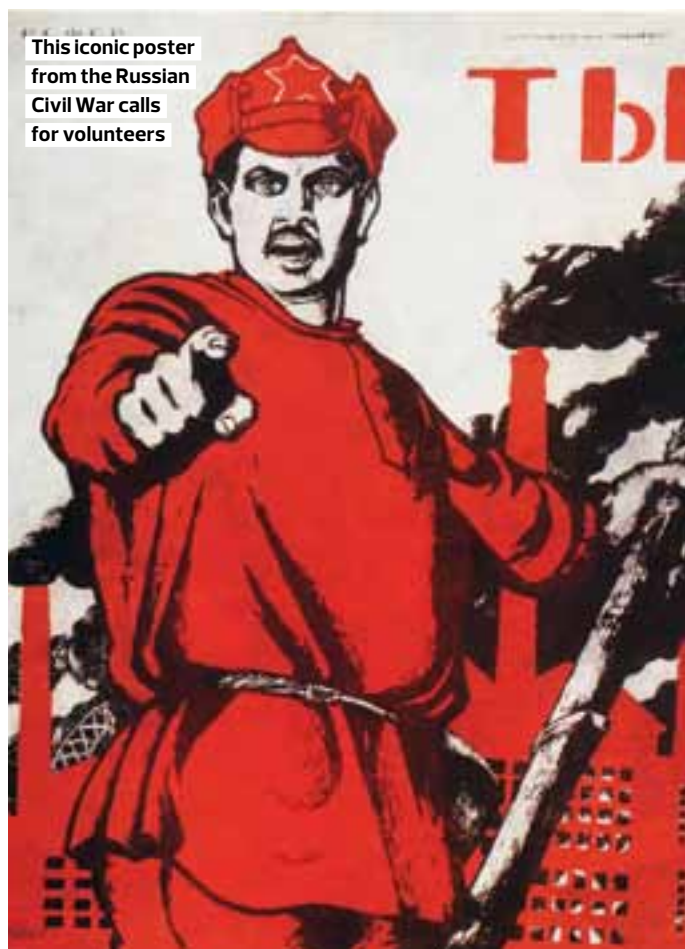
This year marks the 10th anniversary of the death of Professor John Erickson, a leading expert on Soviet and Russian military power and politics. Erickson bequeathed to NLS his vast collection of research material built up over 50 years, one of the largest private donations of its type made to any library in the world.

The primary and secondary source materials in the collection contain some real Red Army gems, ranging from Trotsky's monumental early history of the Red Army, completed shortly after the end of the Civil War, to US

microfilm of captured German General Staff documentation relating to the war on the Eastern Front. One document records the interrogation of Stalin's eldest son, Jacob, who was captured by the Germans in the early months of the Soviet-German War.

The collection also highlights the professor's role in maintaining a channel of communication between East and West at the height of the Cold War in the 1980s – the so-called 'Edinburgh Conversations'. The bequest makes the NLS a major research centre for the study of 20th century Soviet/Russian military history and politics.

This iconic poster from the Russian Civil War calls for volunteers



Dalai Lama to visit NLS

EVENT

His Holiness the Dalai Lama (pictured) will visit NLS during his historic trip to the UK in June. The Nobel Peace Prize Laureate will have a private viewing of archive material held in the NLS collections that relate to Tibet on 22 June. His trip to Scotland will also see him giving talks in Edinburgh, Dundee and Inverness.

Two May festivals

OUTREACH

The weekend of 11 May saw two festivals take place, featuring NLS. The Boswell Book Festival was held at Auchinleck House, Ayrshire, once home to James Boswell, one of Scotland's great literary figures of the 18th century.

The festival celebrates people's life stories, both past and present, and NLS sponsored a talk by the film, television and theatre actor Timothy West. The actor spoke about his autobiography and the famous roles he has played, including Churchill and Edward VII.

Further north, The Ullapool Book Festival, which is partnered by the National Library, featured a number of talks, including author and poet John Burnside reading from his latest horror-mystery novel, *A Summer of Drowning*.



James Boswell painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds

Library powers under review

LEGISLATION

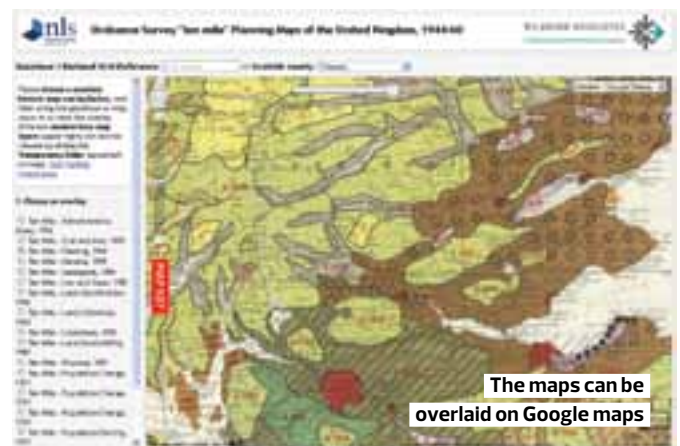
A bill to update NLS' powers and functions is currently being considered by the Scottish Parliament. The bill is intended to replace the 1925 National Library of Scotland Act.

'The Library has changed immeasurably since the previous legislation was passed in 1925,' says Martyn Wade (pictured right), National Librarian and Chief Executive of NLS.



'The bill now recognises and reflects our role in the 21st century and is very welcome.'

Fiona Hyslop, the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, adds that, 'The bill strengthens the Library's role in safeguarding and sharing its world-class collections, and supports its work in bringing the nation's history and culture to life.'



The maps can be overlaid on Google maps

COLLABORATION

NLS is working with Wilbourn Associates, a firm of chartered environmental surveyors to make available sets of historical maps as georeferenced layers. Available online already are Ordnance Survey topographic maps from the 1880s to the 1950s, as well as an important thematic map series from the 1940s. Take a look at <http://geo.nls.uk/partners/wilbourn>

'Many tell of the folklore handed down to them'

CURATOR'S CHOICE

Jennifer Giles, Legal Deposit Curator, on the recent Fèisean nan Gàidheal project that recorded traditional Gaelic culture

Gaelic language and traditional music have enjoyed a resurgence in recent years, due in part to the success of the fèis movement. The fèis, or festival, is a community-led group, established to develop the skills of young people in Gaelic music, dance and song, usually by holding an annual tuition festival. First held on Barra in 1981, there are now around 45 fèisean in Scotland.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal was established in 1991 as an umbrella organisation for the fèisean. It recently undertook an archiving project to encourage fèis participants to collect and record their local heritage, through interviews with local people. This project is interesting because of its focus on traditional culture, and the extent to which Gaelic is used in communities and how this has improved or declined recently.

Five booklets have been published, one devoted to the Battle of Culloden, the others containing interviews with residents in parts of Sutherland, Argyll and Lochaber. The books comprise the unedited transcripts of the interviews, many of which are in Gaelic, with English translations. The result is a fascinating insight into daily life throughout the last 80 years or so.

For example, interviewee Jenny Mackenzie remembers shelling peas for a visit of King Haakon VII of Norway to Culrain when he was in exile



NLS' Scottish Screen Archive is relocating to Glasgow's Kelvin Hall

Moving pictures

SCOTTISH SCREEN ARCHIVE

In March Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, announced a contribution of £250,000 towards the relocation of NLS' Scottish Screen Archive (SSA) from its current location on an industrial estate at Hillington to Kelvin Hall in Glasgow's city centre.

'The Kelvin Hall development will be a fitting home and research centre for a fascinating collection of moving images portraying more than a century of Scotland's rich heritage,' said the Cabinet Secretary.

Once the move is complete, the SSA will be developed to establish a screen and moving image-based research centre,

improving access to its important collections to students, researchers and the general public across Scotland and around the world. The move will also allow the SSA to pursue an ambitious film and video digitisation programme that will conserve important archival footage and will eventually lead to making the collections accessible online.

Scottish county maps go online

RESOURCE

Over the winter, NLS added a further 25,000 detailed Ordnance Survey maps to its Maps of Scotland website. These are the most detailed maps surveyed by Ordnance Survey of Scotland and are valuable for local and family history, allowing most features in the landscape to be shown.

Two main map series are now available – the six-inch



This map from 1931 can be viewed online



Website holds thousands of maps

(1:10,560) and 25-inch (1:2,500) to the mile maps, both dating between 1892 and 1960. The first edition maps at both of these scales (1840s–80s) are already on our website, and so this completes the availability of the OS County Series maps for Scotland. View the maps at <http://geo.nls.uk/search>



RESOURCE

NLS is a partner in a collaborative project to develop a new way of searching for maps held across the world's major map libraries. Old Maps Online uses the latest technology to allow access to over 60,000 maps from a consortium of map libraries in the United States and Europe. Search at www.oldmapsonline.org

Award marks publisher's centenary

OUTREACH

The 2012 Callum Macdonald Memorial Award (supported by the Michael Marks Charitable Trust) takes place at NLS in May. Established in memory of Callum Macdonald MBE, Scottish literary publisher and founder of Macdonald Publishers and Printers, the award was created to recognise and encourage the publication of poetry in pamphlet form.

The award also marks the centenary of Callum's birth. Callum used proceeds from his printing business to publish poetry and was instrumental in advancing the work of Scottish poets such as Hugh MacDiarmid and Norman MacCaig.



Jennifer Giles with one of the booklets

during the war. She also remembers the handsome Norwegians in his entourage! Many of those interviewed tell of local musicians, of ceilidhs that took place, and of the folklore that has been handed down to them.

I particularly enjoyed the interview with the acclaimed fiddler Angus Grant in which he recounts the fortunes of some of his ancestors who fought in the Battle of Culloden, and of the origins of some of the songs associated with the campaign.

IN OUR COLLECTIONS

■ *Fèis a' Chaolais : ar daoine is ar dùthchas = Our people and places. PB6.210.625/7*

■ *Fèis Air An Oir : Dùthaich MhicAoidh = Mackay Country. PB6.209.513/3*

■ *Fèis Cheann Loch Goibhle : Gàidhlig Earra-Ghàidheal = Argyll Gaelic. PB6.210.343/13*

■ *Fèis Lochabair agus Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan : ar daoine is ar dùthchas = Our people and places. PB6.212.42/14*

■ *Fèis na h-Òige agus Fèis a' Bhaile : Blàr Chùil Lodair = Battle of Culloden. PB6.209.796/1*

WANTED: YOUR SCOTTISH AND GAELIC PUBLICATIONS

At NLS we especially want to collect local Scottish and Gaelic publications, no matter how small.

If you have produced an item we don't have in our collections, do please get in touch by emailing nls.uk or telephoning 0131 623 4661.

Events and workshops at NLS

All events take place at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge building, unless otherwise stated

BEYOND GOOGLE: AN INTRODUCTION TO CREDO REFERENCE AND OXFORD REFERENCE ONLINE 22 May, 10am

Learn how to access quality reference books online. This workshop provides a basic introduction to the key features of these two major online resources.

INTRODUCTION TO MAPS AT NLS 29 May, 2pm, Maps Reading Room, 159 Causewayside

NLS is home to one of the largest map collections in the world, from town



plans to star charts. Learn about the range of maps available, and view highlights from the collection. Includes an introduction to the Maps Reading Room.

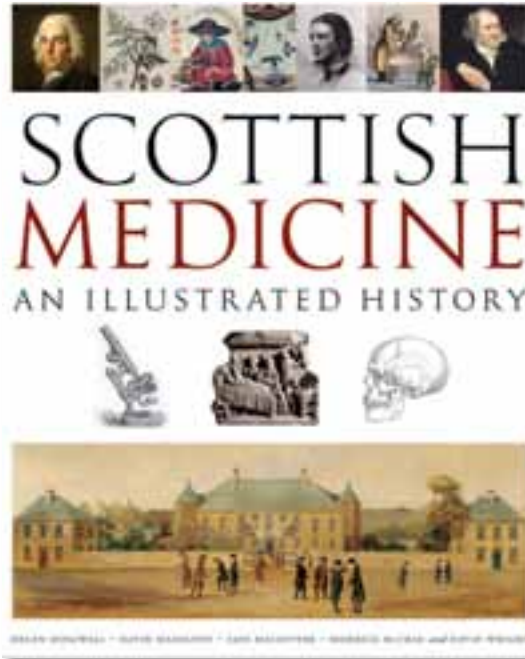
GETTING STARTED AT NLS 8 June, 10.30am

Learn how to register as a reader, find your way round, request materials and discover other services. The workshops will include a short tour of the Reading Room.

If you are planning to register to use the Library, please bring one or more documents that include your name and address, supported by a signature or photograph.

READ ALL ABOUT IT! 13 June, 6pm

An introduction to online newspaper resources available via NLS with demonstrations of a selection of resources and tips on how to search and discover the information you need.



SCOTTISH MEDICINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY 11 June, 6pm

NLS welcomes two of the five authors of the fascinating book *Scottish Medicine: An Illustrated History* for an evening when they will tell the dramatic story of how medicine in Scotland has developed from its origins in prehistory. Join leading Scottish medical historians David Hamilton and Iain Macintyre, as they explain how the early efforts of holy men and folk healers were superseded by the great achievements of the Monros, Robert Liston and James Syme. Hear how men and women like Joseph Lister, Sophie Jex-Blake, David Livingstone and James Young Simpson transformed healthcare, not just in Scotland, but worldwide.

There will be a book signing after the event.



DISCOVERING FAMILY HISTORY 14 June, 10am

Find out what resources the Library has to help you research your family history. The workshop includes practical information on how to become a reader.

MAPS FOR FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY 20 June, 2pm, Maps Reading Room, 159 Causewayside

Find out how maps can help with family or local history research. Learn about the range of historical maps held by the NLS, and the information they provide. Includes an introduction to the Maps Reading Room.

Book events online at www.nls.uk/events/ booking or call 0131 623 3918

Mobile app lists best Moray attractions

TECHNOLOGY

A new mobile app has been launched in an initiative led by NLS. Great Escapes Moray includes a list of 20 of the best things to see in the Moray area, including Elgin Cathedral, Ramsay MacDonald's birthplace and Pluscarden Abbey. Pupils from Lossiemouth High, Elgin Academy and Elgin

High, as well as local people were involved in the creation of the app, which also features text and images from the Library's collections, archive film clips and interviews with local people (including a contribution from the granddaughter of Ramsay MacDonald).

'At NLS we are keen to make the best use of available technology,' says Martyn Wade, National Librarian

and Chief Executive of NLS. 'This is a great way to use our archive material to inspire local people to tell the story of their own area.'

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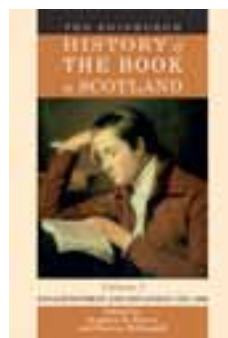


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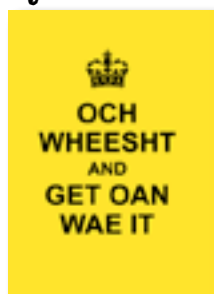
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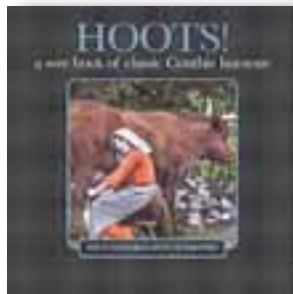
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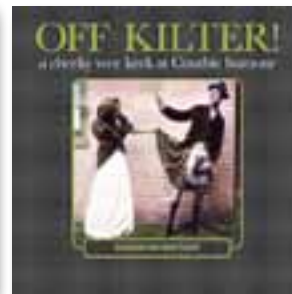
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Screening Scotland

A new exhibition at NLS celebrates the experience of cinema-going in Scotland. Ruth Washbrook, Andrew Martin and Jackie Cromarty tell Andrew Littlefield all about the nation's love affair with the big screen

Going to the Pictures: Scotland at the Cinema, the title of a new exhibition that runs at the National Library of Scotland between 15 June and 28 October, has a dual meaning. Firstly, it refers to the many images of Scotland and its people that have been presented in a wealth of feature films and documentaries, made by or about the Scots, dating back as far as 1895. That was the year when American inventor and scientist Thomas Edison gave us the earliest surviving representation of Scottishness on film – a dramatic reconstruction of the execution of Mary Queen of Scots. (The following year, Edison's patented projection device, the Kinetoscope, was used for the first known public film screening in Scotland, at what is now Edinburgh's Festival Theatre.) Secondly, the exhibition also focuses on the actual experience of cinema-going in Scotland, from the earliest film shows at variety theatres and ad hoc travelling fairgrounds, to the current multi-screen night out, epitomised by a visit to Cineworld in Glasgow, which is apparently the tallest cinema in the world and the busiest, by customer base, in the whole of the UK.

This last fact points to something of larger significance – that the Scottish people are, in the words of Ruth Washbrook, Senior Curator at the Scottish Screen Archive and one of the curators of the *Going to the Pictures: Scotland at the Cinema* exhibition, 'a nation of cinema-goers.' Ruth goes on to add

Brigadoon (1954):
a 'shortbread tin' view of Scotland

that, 'In the 1930s, Glasgow had the biggest audience of cinema-goers per head of population in the whole of Europe, and it had the most cinemas too. And back then, you would have a whole programme, it wouldn't just be the one film like you see nowadays. You had your B Movie, your local topical, your newsreel, a whole range of different things.'

LOCAL FILMS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

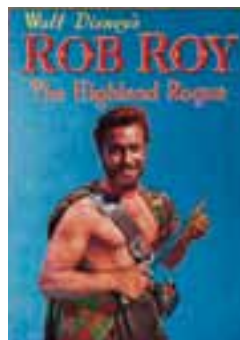
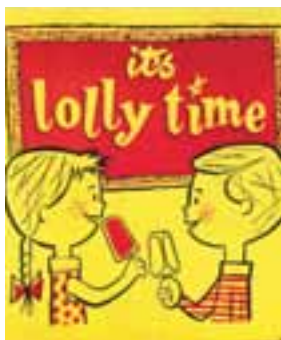
Jackie Cromarty, Programme Manager, Learning and Public Engagement at NLS, clarifies what is meant by the term 'local topical'. 'That's basically local or visiting cameramen heading out with a camera, at the instigation of the local cinema manager, to record on film people going about their business in the area – at church fêtes and fairs and civic openings and so on. It was a key promotional tool by the cinemas to get people in – along with the big Hollywood film, audiences were seeing themselves, friends and family or events that had taken place locally over the previous month or so. As well as telling us a lot about cinema, these local topicals also tell us a lot about Scotland and what was going on in a whole range of different pursuits – sports, leisure and so

on. It's a real boon for local history in general in Scotland, as well as for cinema history and the particular story we're telling with the exhibition.'

The Scottish Screen Archive has preserved a large number of local topical films, and excerpts of some of them will be showing in the exhibition (many



MALCOLM COCHRANE



The NLS collections contain a vast amount of film-related ephemera, including books, popular magazines, adverts, movie posters and playbills

more of them can be viewed in full online at the archive's website – <http://ssa.nls.uk/>). When the Scottish Screen Archive joined NLS in 2007, over 32,000 films and videos, together with a paper archive of film and cinema-related items, became part of the Library's collections. This complemented the Library's holdings of Scottish cinema-related materials. Co-curator of the exhibition, Andrew Martin, Curator of Modern Scottish Collections, tells us that it was the very variety of the Library's cinema-related holdings that first set in motion plans for the Going to the Pictures exhibition.

SMALL COUNTRY, BIG SCREEN

'I was looking at our collections of film annuals, fan magazines, and film editions as well as our Scottish film posters, and I suggested that we have an exhibition bringing together our various collections. It was a great opportunity for us to work with our colleagues from the Scottish Screen Archive, and make use of the added dimension of film.

'I'd done some work on this before – I'm the author of *Going to the Pictures: Scottish Memories of Cinema* (2000), which included a section on how Scots have been depicted on the screen. That will feature in the exhibition –

the way that a small country like Scotland has actually been quite well represented on screen, and has been since the birth of the medium. Audiences would have recognised Scotland. All the familiar aspects of Scottishness are on film from very early on – romance, kilts, clans, as well as the comic Highlander, personified by Harry Lauder. For better or worse, it has been a constant ever since.'

HUNTING HUNTINGTOWER

Edinburgh-born entertainer Lauder is a figure of special – though elusive – importance in the history of Scottish cinema. Today, he is best remembered for *Roamin' in the Gloamin'* and other comic songs, but as Andrew points out, 'Lauder was probably the world's best-known Scotsman in his day. He appeared in film shorts but also starred in a few leading roles in feature films, including John Buchan's *Huntingtower* (1928). Other Scots made it big in Hollywood, like the director Frank Lloyd, but many were busy and familiar character actors – people like Mary Gordon, who was Sherlock Holmes' housekeeper, James Finlayson, who appeared in Laurel and Hardy comedies, and Andy Clyde, who was Hopalong Cassidy's longest-running sidekick. Later, leading Scottish roles

tended to go to people like Richard Todd, Bill Travers, and famously Cyd Charisse. Then of course Sean Connery came along, and today there are a remarkable number of bona fide Scottish film stars like Ewan McGregor, Gerard Butler, James McAvoy, Tilda Swinton and Kelly Macdonald – all major players.'

Huntingtower is arguably the most sought-after of all lost Scottish films, although the Scottish Screen Archive does hold footage of Lauder actually attending a showing of the film at the Regent Cinema in Glasgow. 'There could be a print of *Huntingtower* somewhere,' Ruth Washbrook wistfully remarks. 'Never say never. There has been a search for it carried on over the years and nothing's popped up yet. If you think about the amount of films that were made in the early cinema period, and what exists today, not even half survive. Information usually still exists about these films, the playbills from the cinemas and things like that. The Scottish Screen Archive also holds a number of cinema cash books from which you can see film takings in a particular year, how many times a particular film was screened and what was screened together. You can also find information about the accompanying short or documentary,



Scripts and letters

Among the other exhibits in the *Going to the Pictures: Scotland at the Cinema* exhibition will be a number of related items from the Library's collections.

A letter written by Muriel Spark regarding the film version of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1969) is a particular highlight, and there is author James Kennaway's script for the 1960 Highland-

set movie *Tunes of Glory*.

Most intriguingly, Andrew Martin tells us that, 'it has been great to look at John Buchan's personal copy of the script for the Alfred Hitchcock version of *The Thirty-nine Steps* (novel 1915, film 1935). Buchan had no involvement in the film, but there's a letter in the manuscripts collection that notes he had been to

see it, and enjoyed it. So that's quite fun.'

Items on loan to the Library for the exhibition include Bill Douglas' original script for *My Ain Folk* (1973) and a Christmas card from Scottish author Gavin Maxwell to Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna, who both featured in the film version of Maxwell's *Ring of Bright Water* (book 1960, film 1969).



The
laudable
Sir Harry



Lauder at the premiere of *Huntingtower*

'In the 1930s, Glasgow had the biggest audience of cinema-goers per head of population in Europe'

and the features that were screened with them, which were sometimes quite unusual. For example, in the Films of Scotland Collection there's a travelogue entitled *Over the Sea to Skye* from 1961 and that originally screened on general release with *Lolita* (1962) by Stanley Kubrick!

SHORTBREAD CINEMA

If Lauder's international fame and popularity rested on exporting a highly romanticised vision of Scotland, it was a vision shared by a great number of filmmakers and film studios following in Sir Harry's wake, and one welcomed by audiences. Some British-made pictures, such as *I Know Where I'm Going* (1945) *Whisky Galore* (1949), *The Maggie* (1954), made fine use of the stereotypes, others often employed what the curators call a 'shortbread tin', shorthand view of the country. Hollywood extravaganzas, like the 1954 technicolor musical *Brigadoon*, showed Scotland as a mist-shrouded realm of tuneful fantasy and high romance. The darker side of the nation can be found in films such as the Boris Karloff horror vehicle *The Bodysnatcher* (1945), based on a story by Robert Louis Stevenson, and the cult classic *The Wicker Man* (1973). The success of the epic *Braveheart* (1995) showed there was still an international taste for a traditional view of Scotland, and this year's Disney-Pixar animation *Brave* promises to bring us a new and exciting interpretation of Scottish history.

The films of Bill Forsyth, especially *Gregory's Girl* (1981) and *Local Hero* (1983), are clearly a continuation of an earlier whimsical tradition, although their greater social realism also led on to the more modern strain of 'grim and gritty' Scottish filmmaking typified by

Bringing the story of
Scottish cinema up to date:
Disney-Pixar's *Brave* (2012)
premieres at this year's
Edinburgh International
Film Festival



such hard-hitting movies as *Trainspotting* (1996), *Orphans* (1998) and *Red Road* (2006). The latter film was the directorial debut of Andrea Arnold, one of a number of world-renowned auteurs working in Scotland, along with the likes of Lynne Ramsay and Peter Mullan. Jackie Cromarty makes the point that 'In the Year of Creative Scotland, we're very keen to highlight within the exhibition what is happening currently with filmmakers in Scotland. It's not just about looking back in time. We want the exhibition to encourage visitors to find out more about new Scottish filmmakers, because not everybody will know about them.'

FILMS OF SCOTLAND

While modern Scottish filmmakers scrupulously avoid tartan and Tam o' Shanter clichés, their work is nonetheless still informed by earlier cinematic traditions – especially Scotland's notable documentary movement, with its emphasis on social intervention and fidelity to lived experience. The year 1938 is pivotal in this regard. That was when the Films of Scotland Committee was set up to record all aspects of Scottish life. The pioneering documentarian John Grierson (of *Night Mail* fame) was asked by Walter Elliott, Secretary of State for Scotland, to assist with seven films that would be screened at the 1938 Empire Exhibition in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow. The resulting shorts – *Wealth of a Nation*, *The Face of Scotland*, *Sport in Scotland*, *Sea Food*, *They Made the Land*, *Scotland for Fitness* and *The Children's Story* – give us a remarkable picture of Scottish society, health, education, agriculture and sport just prior to the start of the Second World War. In fact, the advent of the war led to the disbanding of the Films of Scotland Committee, but its re-establishment in 1954, under the



Trainspotting (1996): a darker vision of Scotland

ALAMY

'We want to present something that's quite atmospheric and that conjures up a glamorous past'

supervision of the Scottish writer and critic Forsyth Hardy, ushered in a new and prolific era of Scottish documentary production that lasted until the Committee's final demise in 1982.

Excerpts from a number of the best films produced under the Committee's watch will be screened on monitors in the exhibition space, alongside clips and trailers from major fiction films and local topical footage of people engaged in the activity of cinema-going. Andrew Martin suggests that 'The idea is people will view a sort of mini-programme, as they might have seen at the cinema in the past. The collections that we're planning to use in the exhibition include three-dimensional materials, too – rolls of cinema tickets, projectors, film cans, as well as posters and magazines. We want to present something that's quite atmospheric and that conjures up a glamorous past. We're hoping that some of the visitors will recognise

films, people and cinemas significant in their own lives.'

Ruth Washbrook adds to this last point when she says, 'We're hoping people will give us their memories of their cinema-going days – for me, the joy is always getting the collections out there for people to see, and their reactions to that. Sometimes I've presented film shows where people will recognise relatives, and they've never seen that film before, they never knew that film even existed. The emotion that can stir is amazing.'

And Jackie Cromarty concludes that, 'Most people have probably been to the cinema at some point in their lives, as a child and hopefully as an adult as well – it's what lots and lots of people like to do. And we're lucky in that there's currently a lot of interest in the history of the cinema, through Oscar-winning films like *Hugo* (2011) and *The Artist* (2011) which explore aspects of the history of cinema. So it seemed like a good time to explore Scotland's love affair with the movies.'

Going to the Pictures: Scotland at the Cinema runs from 15 June until 28 October at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge building.



Scottish Oscars

In 1961, *Seawards the Great Ships* (1960, pictured left) – produced under the auspices of the Films of Scotland Committee – won Scotland's first ever Academy Award, for Best Production in a Short Subject (live action). The film, a poetic study of shipbuilding on the River

Clyde, was based on a treatment by John Grierson and directed by Hilary Harris. A replica of the Oscar will be on display in the exhibition. More than 30 years later, another short Scottish film won an Oscar for Best Short Film – the surreal flight of fancy *Franz Kafka's It's a Wonderful Life* (1993),

written and directed by Peter Capaldi, one of the stars of *Local Hero* (1983) who is these days perhaps best-known for playing foul-mouthed spin doctor Malcolm Tucker in the acclaimed television series *The Thick Of It*. Capaldi's film also picked up a BAFTA in the same year.

Our letters from America

NLS displays part of its extensive collection of material on the United States this summer in its Treasures space. Bryan Christie looks at how it reflects the dreams, declarations, conflicts and friendships that have shaped the nation

More than 230 years ago the Founding Fathers of the United States put their names to one of the most important documents in human history. It upheld the unalienable right of all to 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness' – a phrase that would echo around the world. The Declaration of Independence signed on 4 July 1776, is the most cherished symbol of liberty in the United States. It also has strong Scottish connections.

It has been estimated that more than a third of its 56 signatories were men of Scottish descent. Dr John Witherspoon, who was born in Gifford, East Lothian, left Scotland only eight years previously. His countryman James Wilson arrived in the United States from Fife two years earlier. Both were to play leading roles in forging the new nation.

Another founding father, Benjamin Rush, born in Pennsylvania, had studied medicine in Edinburgh and described his two years in Scotland as the most 'important in their influence upon my character and conduct of any period of my life'.

Rush and other young Americans were attracted to Edinburgh by the endorsement of Benjamin Franklin who corresponded with leading figures of the Scottish Enlightenment. 'You have great Advantage in going to study at Edinburgh at this Time,' said Franklin, 'Where there happens to be collected a Set of truly great Men, Professors of the several Branches of

'Information on every period in American history from the fight for independence to the Cold War is used regularly in our reading rooms'

Knowledge, as have ever appeared in any Age or any country.'

These links between the leading thinkers, politicians and statesmen on both sides of the Atlantic are found throughout NLS' United States collections, which are the largest foreign collections held by the Library. They include material from or about America from the foundation of the British colonies right up to the present day and are an important resource for anyone interested in American history and culture.

'Information on every period in American history from the fight for independence to the Civil War, the Cold War and Vietnam is being used regularly in our reading rooms,' says Senior Curator Chris Taylor. 'There is a real thirst for knowledge about all things American.'

This summer iconic items relating to early American history and to the War of Independence will be on show in the Library's Treasures space to highlight the richness of the collections. The display will include letters written by Benjamin Rush to friends in Scotland commenting on developments within the newly forged nation following its independence from Britain.

In a letter to the Earl of Buchan in 1801, Rush writes: 'Our late rapid population, our increasing agriculture and manufacture, and our unlimited and productive commerce, all indicate the immense influence of liberty and equal government upon human happiness. The only alloy that we feel in our public blessings is that they are not enjoyed in an equal degree by all the nations in the world.'

Buchan was a political reformer who supported the American colonists during the War of Independence and he was a friend of both Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, again emphasising the links between prominent Scots and the leaders of the



new United States. He sent Washington a snuff box which was said to be carved from a tree in which William Wallace hid after the battle of Falkirk.

Rush was also friends with Sir Robert Liston, born in Kirkcaldy, a diplomat who was appointed British minister to the United States in 1796, only 13 years after the War of Independence ended. Liston remained in the United States for five years and was credited with improving relationships between Britain and America.

He received a letter from Rush in 1809 in which the American comments on the first four US presidents, well known



The American Declaration of Independence is a cherished symbol of liberty



WHAT'S IN THE COLLECTION?

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- ★ American reference works
- ★ First editions of American authors' works
- ★ Published presidential papers and collected works
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- ★ American newspapers and magazines
- ★ Official publications, such as those of the US Senate and Congress
- ★ Digital resources such as 'Sabin Americana' and 'Early American Imprints Series I: Evans, 1639-1800'
- ★ Works of travel and exploration in America
- ★ Special printed collections such as the Henderson Memorial Library of Books on America

THE FOUNDING FATHERS



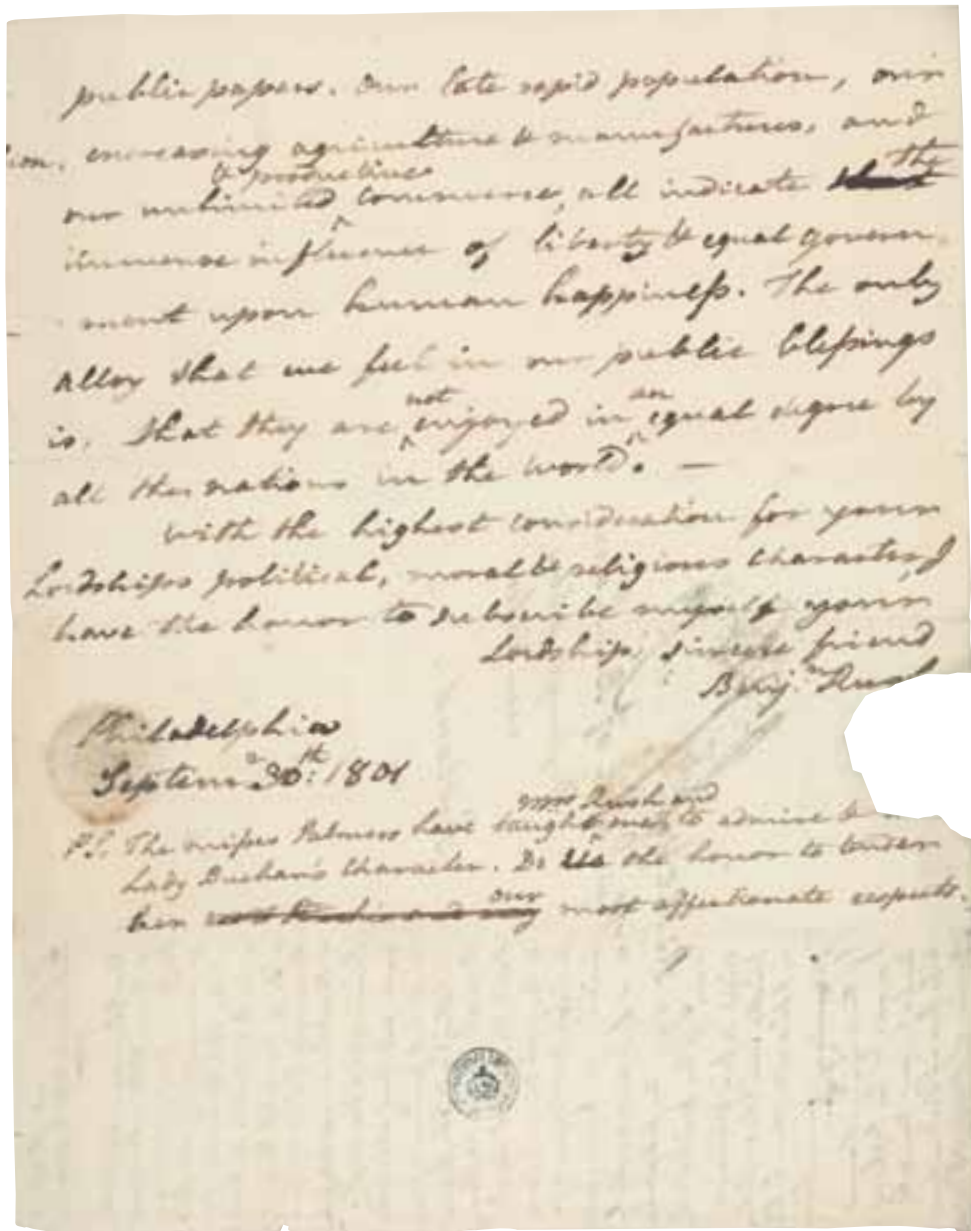
Benjamin Franklin was keen to promote Edinburgh as a place 'of truly great Men'



Benjamin Rush described his time in Edinburgh as the 'most important ... of my life'



George Washington's military secretary for two years was Scot, John Kirkpatrick



to both men. 'Our new President Mr Madison is trying a bold experiment, and that is, whether our people will submit to the administration of our government by a regard to its principles, in extending its honors and offices to men of both the great parties that have long divided our Country.

'Hitherto the experiment has succeeded, for he is alike popular with all classes of our Citizens. With uncommon talents, and attainments, he possesses in an eminent degree the prudence and common sense of one of his predecessors, General Washington, from the want of which Mr A. and Mr J. have retired, without being followed with the affection or attachment of the respective parties to which they were devoted.'

The Mr A referred to in the letter is John Adams, the second president of the United States and Mr J is Thomas Jefferson who succeeded Adams. This

THE LIBRARY'S US PATRONS

The American Associations of NLS and the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) have joined together to form a patrons' organisation to increase awareness of the literary and artistic heritage of Scotland among the people of North America. It will also seek to acquire items of artistic and historic value to Scotland.

Patrons can enjoy a range of benefits in both Scotland and the United States. These include invitations to special exhibits and annual American patrons' donor events in the US; opportunities to join international tours and patrons' events in the UK; and private tours of the NLS and NGS national collections in Scotland.

Letter from Benjamin Rush held at NLS

letter provides a fascinating insight into how the key figures in the birth of the nation were seen by one of the Founding Fathers at a time when the new nation was still being formed.

Rush was also instrumental in persuading John Witherspoon to quit his ministry in Paisley and start a new life in the United States at the age of 44. Witherspoon was offered the presidency of the College of New Jersey in Princeton, later Princeton University. Witherspoon's wife was against the move but relented after Rush spent several days in Paisley extolling the virtues of a new life at Princeton.

As well as being a leading figure in the move towards independence, Witherspoon played a key role in preparing the future leaders of the United States. His students included a future president and vice-president of the United States, nine cabinet officers, 21 senators, 39 congressmen, three justices of the Supreme Court, and 12 state governors.

'We have some fascinating material on the Founding Fathers,' says Dora Petherbridge, Assistant Curator, 'many of whom were clearly influenced by the Scottish Enlightenment. There are also accounts written by Scots who took the British side in the War of Independence and had to leave the US after the British defeat. This rich and important period in American history is well represented in our collection, but it is only one part of the extensive range of US material available at NLS. Other items include maps of the US, letters, recordings of American poets, newspapers and material on Scottish emigration.'

'We hope the Treasures display we are working on for the summer will give more people an insight into the high quality of the material in our US collections,' adds Chris Taylor.

Highlights from the US collections are being featured throughout the year in short films on NLS' website. These look at the dreams and declarations that have shaped America. They are available at www.nls.uk/learning-zone/politics-and-society/american-political-history

More information is available from: American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland, 6 West 48th Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10036. Tel: 973 509 9509; Fax: 212 812 4395; Email: egrand@ghspm.com

Just three questions

There is a lot to learn about NLS, but we're getting there – one question at a time

ABSOLUTE FASCINATION

Q Can you tell me about a particular figure from the history of science for whom you have gained a new appreciation thanks to material held in the Library's collections?

A Lord Kelvin (1824-1907), a scientific celebrity in his day, intrigues me. His work is described in various books and journals, as well as in the Manuscript collections, where photographs and letters bring him to life. He was a physicist, an engineer and an inventor. His most important scientific work involved the nature of heat, and he defined the absolute temperature scale where the lowest possible temperature, 0K (zero Kelvin), equals minus 273.15 °C. His ideas allowed the first sub-Atlantic telegraph cable to be successfully installed in 1866. A keen sailor, Kelvin invented many naval instruments, including a mariner's compass, which made navigation safer and more accurate. Investigating how light waves travel, Kelvin imagined space as a foam filled with infinitely repeating structures. The most efficient shape of these was, he decided, a 14-sided figure – a tetrakaidecahedron. No better model was found until scientists marginally improved it in 1993 with the aid of computers, and the design influenced the architect of the Beijing Water Cube for the 2008 Olympics.

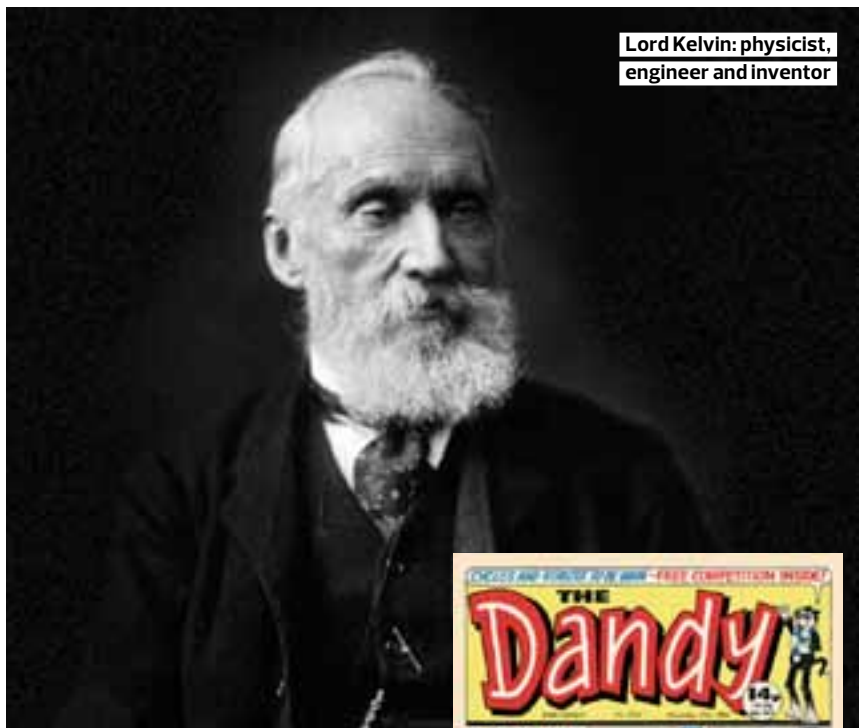
Catherine Booth, Science Curator

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

Q What is the UK Memory of the World Register and why has the John Murray Archive been added to it?

A UNESCO's UK Memory of the World Register is an online catalogue of documentary heritage of global significance and outstanding universal value. It highlights the UK's lesser known items of historical interest and promotes their merits on the world stage.

The 2011 nominations were chosen by an expert committee following a rigorous nomination and review process. Only heritage items deemed to be of exceptional cultural



Lord Kelvin: physicist, engineer and inventor



The John Murray Archive

significance can be nominated, and few meet UNESCO's strict criteria.

On 23 May 2011, NLS' John Murray Archive was among 20 items and collections added to the UK Register. The Archive covers more than 200 years of John Murray publishing and contains letters, manuscripts and business records from over 16,000 people, including some of the greatest writers, politicians, explorers and scientists. The Archive was chosen in recognition of its importance to the understanding of the history of literature and culture.

David McClay, Manuscripts Curator



THE LIBRARY'S TREASURES

Q How do you decide which of the Library's many items to feature in the Treasures space?

A We focus on historically important items, such as Mary Queen of Scots' last letter, but we also highlight the 'everyday' kind of material that has acquired a special level of interest. This would include things like early editions of the *Dandy* comic (which we'll be featuring later this year to celebrate its 75th anniversary).

The aim of the Treasures display programme is to give as full a flavour of the collections as possible. We try to reflect current themes, but also important anniversaries, because this allows us to showcase our treasures in a way that taps into existing levels of public interest in a particular subject.

Jackie Cromarty, Programme Manager

Speak wi the tungs o men

It took William Lorimer eight years to produce the first draft of *The New Testament in Scots*, translating the text from the original Greek. Ahead of Canongate's new edition Bryan Christie explores the Lorimer family's effort to complete the acclaimed work



Many of the words were strange, almost foreign, to the small child but she loved the sound of her grandfather's voice as he spoke them. Little did May Lorimer know then that her grandfather was using her as a sounding board for what would become one of the most celebrated works ever written in Scots. The words and phrases that spilled from William Lorimer's mouth were being tested to see if there was a place for them in his translation of the *New Testament* into Scots.

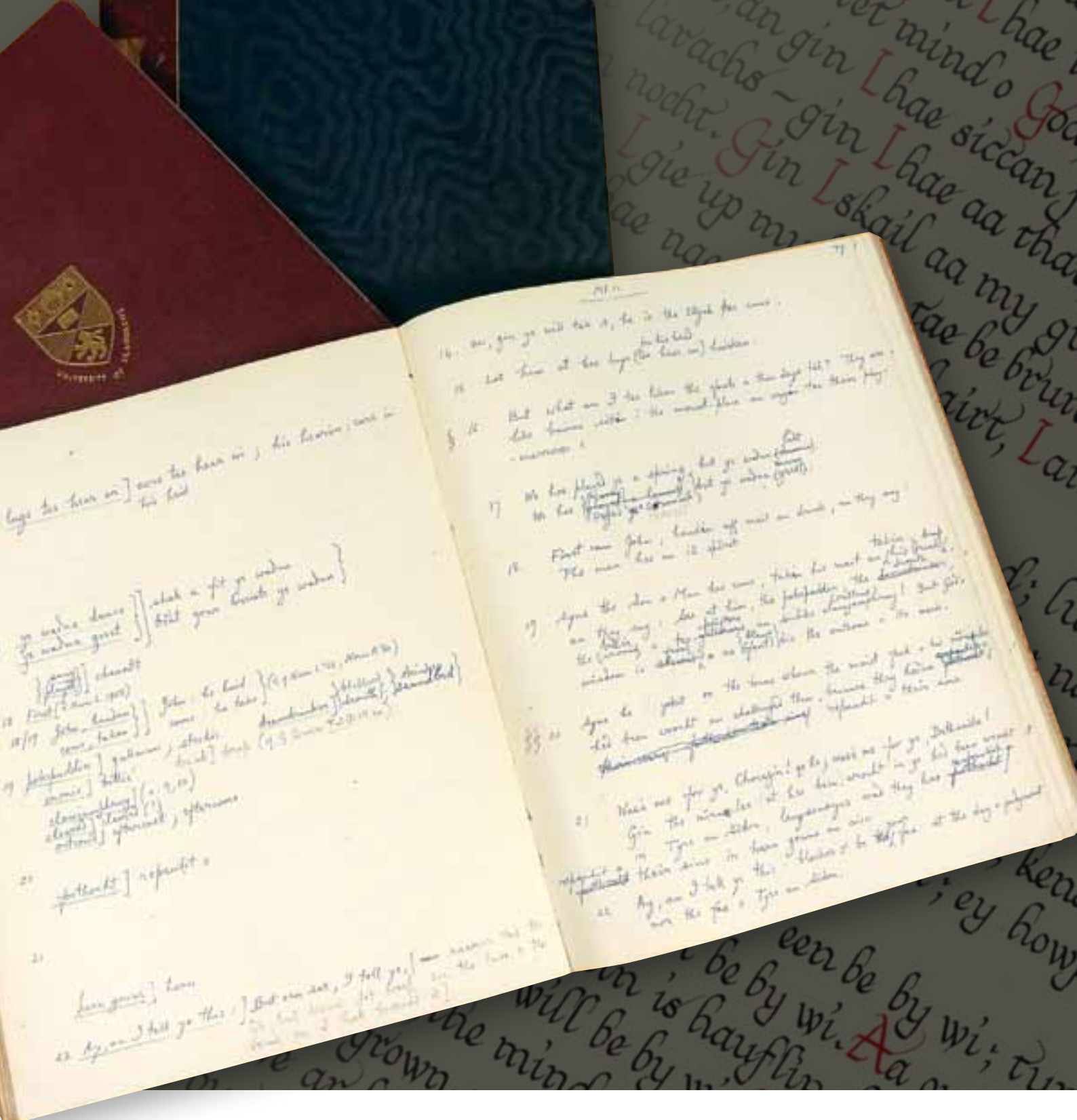
That was in the 1950s, a few years after Lorimer decided to embark on the

translation – almost three decades before it found its way into print. Now Canongate is due to publish a new edition, demonstrating the enduring appeal of a work that combines impeccable scholarship with soaring imagination. In the process it brings the story of the gospels alive in a language that even non-Scots appreciate for its richness, vibrancy and immediacy.

This, for example, is how Lorimer translated the parable of the lost son and the passage where the father speaks to the son who stayed at home: 'Laudie, laudie,' said his faither, 'ye are

ey by me, an aathing I hae is yours. But we buid be mirkie an haud it hairtie: your brither wis died an is in life aince mair; he wis tint an nou hes been fund.'

The notebooks Lorimer worked on in the eight years it took him to produce a first draft are now in the NLS, which also has all the different printed editions of the book. Andrew Martin, Curator of Modern Scottish Collections, says: '*The New Testament in Scots* is a magnificent creative work, familiar to many through the memorable readings by the actor Tom Fleming.'



The notebooks tell a story of devotion to a project that was pursued not for gain or glory but because it was seen as important. Lorimer aimed to resuscitate and rehabilitate the Scots language and to do that he thought two great works were needed – a modern Scots dictionary and a Scots translation of the *New Testament*. He chaired the council that delivered the first, and he worked on the second until his death in 1967.

The project then passed to his son Robin, who at the time was a director of Oliver & Boyd, the great independent Scottish academic publishing house. He edited his father's manuscript and

sought funding to publish the book, which was to take several more years.

Priscilla Lorimer, Robin's widow, recalls how he always knew it would be difficult to find a publisher and that it would need to be financed. To that end the W L Lorimer Memorial Trust was set up to raise the £18,000 needed. Letters were written to prominent people, including all Scotland's MPs, asking for contributions. Only one MP agreed to help and he was not even Scottish. Enoch Powell, himself a Greek scholar, saw merit in the book and gave £4.

Many other supporters rallied to the call and even the paper for the first

edition of the book was donated by Tullis Russell papermakers. A first edition of just a few thousand copies was published in 1983 by Southside, the imprint that Robin Lorimer had set up in 1969 and had been bought over by Canongate. It became an overnight critical and commercial success and was described by *The Times* as 'a majestic work of scholarship ... a notable contribution to our literary and linguistic heritage'. *The Scotsman* called it a 'literary achievement in its own right ... [that] not only restores life to Scots but to the *New Testament* itself.' *The Spectator's* view was that it was

'probably the most considerable accomplishment in Scots prose literature to have been written in hundreds of years'

'Robin was astonished,' says Priscilla. 'He had spent most of his career persuading publishers to publish things of worth and here he had a bestseller on his hands. I remember how pleased he was when Stephanie Wolfe Murray (Canongate's founder) told him just after the book was launched that the interest was so great they would need a second impression.'

There was continued success with Penguin publishing a paperback edition in 1985 – and the family are delighted that Canongate is bringing out a new edition. Robin, who died in 1996, would be thrilled at the continuing interest, says Priscilla.

The success has spread far beyond Scotland. May Lorimer recalls being in New Orleans in the late 1980s and turning on the television in her hotel room to hear her grandfather's words spoken in a strong American accent. 'It was one of the Christian channels and they were reading from *The New Testament in Scots*. It was quite strange.'

The W L Lorimer Trust has continued to champion the Scots language and has recently merged with the Scots Language Centre. Michael Hance, the Centre's Director, gave his assessment of the place of *The New Testament in Scots* in the life of modern Scotland: 'There is no doubt that [it] is one of the great works of 20th century Scots literature. Not only is the translation a masterly work of poetic and literary genius but it brings into Scots many of the Judeo-Christian concepts which inform thinking, philosophy and art in modern Europe.'

'*The New Testament in Scots* demonstrates the capacity of Scots to engage with and express the most difficult and challenging philosophical problems since these are at the core of the gospels. Lorimer's genius was to find in the everyday speech he heard about him the Scots forms which could give

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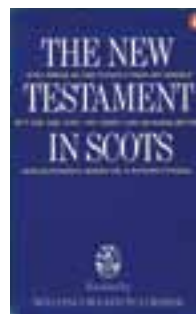
Quotation from the book engraved in the ground outside the Scottish Parliament

GIN I SPEAK WI THE TUNGS
O MEN AN ANGELS
BUT HAE NAE LUVE I MY
HAIRT
I AM NO NANE BETTER
NOR DUNNERIN BRESS
OR A RINGING CYMBAL



expression to these universal and eternal questions.'

Lorimer's interest in Scots started at the age of nine when he kept a notebook to record words and phrases spoken by old people who lived in cottar houses behind his father's manse. He went on to study Classics and became a professor of Greek at St Andrews University. This grounding was crucial as the *New Testament* had to be translated from the original Greek. Lorimer also studied 180 translations of the *New Testament* in 20 languages to inform his own work. As the *New Testament* was written by various apostles and scribes in different forms of Greek, Lorimer sought to match this by using different forms of Scots, reflective of regional dialects, for the various gospels. Consequently there are words that appear in some sections that feature nowhere else in the translation.



Although the translation bears the name of William Lorimer, the role of his son Robin was substantial in completing the work and getting it into print. As well as making a major contribution as a publisher of important works, Robin pursued his own literary interests, producing a Scots

translation of *Macbeth* in 1992. The book was recently on display at NLS' Beyond Macbeth exhibition. The translation has been hailed as a highly original text that offers fresh insights into the dramatic tensions of Shakespeare's only Scottish play. It is due to be performed in its entirety for the first time in May by the Edinburgh Theatre Arts company at the same time that Canongate is planning to publish the new edition of *The New Testament in Scots*. The Lorimer legacy continues to breathe life into the Scots language.

To listen to readings from The New Testament in Scots by Tom Fleming, visit www.scotslanguage.com

Secret lives captured at the Library

Dr Mark Jardine was series historian on the BBC's *A History of Scotland*. He is also a broadcaster and a keen blogger. Here he reflects on how NLS' collections led him to an untold story

When I am not writing for television, there is nothing I enjoy more than using NLS' resources to help me create my history blog, *Jardine's Book of Martyrs*. Without the library's collections and online maps website, it would be impossible to produce.

Recently I stumbled upon a letter written by James Renwick, a preacher of the Society people, or Covenanters, and sent to a Mr John Binning. At first sight, the letter seemed unremarkable, but digging into Binning's background, the secret life of his wife, Hanna Keir, was revealed to me.

Before 1679, Hanna lived on the prosperous estate of her husband at Dalvennan in Ayrshire. However, after the Covenanters' rebellion of that year, her husband was forfeited and fled to Ireland. Hanna quietly settled into a new life in Edinburgh's Fishmarket Close. However, while she was there she met with Renwick and secretly wrote to two exiles in Holland, Robert Hamilton and his sister, Lady Earlstoun.

Hanna and John became committed Society people, and while he started an underground school for the Society people, Hanna kept Hamilton and Renwick abreast of news of their brethren held in Edinburgh's Tolbooth or executed at the Mercat Cross. Her information was not always welcome. An 'intimacie' she confided to Lady Earlstoun, probably about Earlstoun's torture over plots against Charles II, particularly irked Hamilton.

Hanna's activist life came to an end when she was taken in a search for the killers of two soldiers cut down in Renwick's newly declared war on the Society's persecutors. Although probably not involved, Hanna refused to renounce Renwick's war. Martyrdom beckoned, but she was saved from that fate by contracting what she called the 'bloodie flux'. She painted a vivid picture of her life in the Tolbooth. Held



Mark Jardine in Parliament Square, Edinburgh

Digging into Binning's background, the secret life of his wife, Hanna Keir, was revealed to me

in 'a verry uglye roume ... called the women house, amongst a great many theeves and whoores', she could not get a surgeon, nor 'any man come in to the roume, the very servants of the tolbut loathing to come amongst the crew that are with her'.

After a year at death's door, she relented and petitioned for her liberty. She may have failed to win a martyr's crown, but she did recover. However,

unlike other sufferers in the Restoration, John and Hanna were not compensated after the Revolution of 1688. They failed to recover Dalvennan and, judging from appeals to the Church for charity, Hanna never regained her elevated status. Broken lives was the price of their adherence to the Covenanters' cause.

It's quite a story – and one that only became known to me thanks to that seemingly unremarkable letter held at the Library.

Jardine's Book of Martyrs can be found at drmarkjardine.wordpress.com

Surgeon **Joseph Lister** is just one of the many hundreds of thousands of people represented in the Library's collections



Joseph Lister
revolutionised
surgical practice

When Joseph Lister began experimenting with antiseptics while a surgeon at Glasgow Royal Infirmary in the 1860s, going under the knife was a grim prospect. The atrocious conditions at the hospital meant that amputations had a 60% survival rate, while operations to the abdomen and

the cranium, due to gravely high mortality rates, were rarely attempted.

It was during this time that Lister began his groundbreaking research into antiseptics, revolutionising surgical practice forever and heralding new sterile conditions that are now standard in hospitals across the western world and beyond.

Born in Essex in 1827 into a Quaker family, Lister was interested in surgery from an early age. Due to his non-conformist beliefs, he attended the University of London – one of the few institutions that accepted Quakers at the time. In 1853 he moved to Edinburgh where he worked under Edinburgh-born surgeon James Syme, later becoming his son-in-law.

In 1860 Lister took the chair of clinical surgery at the University of Glasgow, where he became heavily involved with antiseptics, developing new antibacterial methods, including a technique using dressings soaked in disinfectant. Experimenting on compound fracture victims – not in short supply in industrial Glasgow – Lister found the risk of postoperative infection, known as ward fever, significantly reduced.

Lister was a pioneer in the principles of cleanliness that these days we take for granted. He introduced the sterilisation of surgical instruments with heat and carbolic acid, as well as the regular cleaning of the surgeon's hands with antiseptic during procedures.

It's difficult to imagine a time before these fundamental disciplines of hygiene were introduced – a quite recent development in the history of medicine. But this was a period when bacteria were little understood and the germ theory of disease was still a controversial doctrine. Joseph Lister was to change all this forever, becoming one of the most important pioneers in surgical method and subsequently revolutionising principles of hygiene in the hospital and the home.

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