



TOM KITCHIN EXPLORES  
The culinary gems in our archive

\* FREE \*

# DISCOVER

The magazine of the National Library of Scotland

www.nls.uk | Issue 23 Summer 2013



RETURN TO  
TREASURE  
ISLAND  
WOMEN OF  
SCIENCE

INSIDE

## PICTURING AFRICA

Livingstone's  
expedition into  
the heart of Africa



# Theatre fit for a King's

THE OLD VIC presents  
THE MULTI-AWARD-WINNING BACKSTAGE COMEDY

## NOISES OFF



Tue 4 to Sat 8 June 2013

RSC ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY  
NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND and ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY present

## DUNSLINANE

BY DAVID GREIG  
DIRECTED BY ROXANA SILBERT



Tue 1 to Sat 5 October 2013

LYNDA BELLINGHAM in the glorious comedy

## A PASSIONATE WOMAN




Mon 7 to Sat 12 October 2013

## TO SIR, WITH LOVE

A major new stage adaptation  
by Ayub Khan-Din

Based on the book by  
E.R. Braithwaite



Tue 29 October to Sat 2 November 2013

## MANSFIELD PARK

BY JANE AUSTEN



THEATRE ROYAL  
EDINBURGH

Tue 5 to Sat 9 November 2013

ALLAN STEWART  
ANDY GRAY  
GRANT STOTT  
FEATURING

## PETER PAN

The Swashbuckling Pantomime Adventure!



Sat 30 November 2013 to Sun 19 January 2014

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EDINBURGH

KING'S theatre  
EDINBURGH



**DISCOVER NLS**  
ISSUE 23 SUMMER 2013

**CONTACT US**

We welcome all comments, questions, submissions and subscription enquiries. Please write to us at the National Library of Scotland address below or email [discover@nls.uk](mailto:discover@nls.uk)

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**PUBLISHED BY**

Think Scotland  
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Glasgow G3 7QF  
0141 582 1280  
ISSN 1751-5998 (print)  
ISSN 17516005 (online)

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The National Library of Scotland is a registered Scottish charity, Scottish Charity No. SC011086

# Step into summer at the Library

As the summer months approach many of us will naturally be contemplating warmer climes and exotic shores for fresh perspectives and adventure. That spirit of exploration appropriately takes centre stage in this latest issue of *Discover NLS*, where you will find epic journeys undertaken in the name of science, religious evangelism and pure swashbuckling enterprise.

Within these pages we celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Scotland's greatest explorer, David Livingstone. Through rarely seen archive materials, our latest exhibition looks at how his travels as a missionary across uncharted territory in Africa brilliantly unveiled the continent to Victorian Britain. It is a legacy that has been borne out in stunning period illustrations, paintings and early photographs.

We also feature the work of another notable individual who helped to broaden the horizons of 19th-century audiences. Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* continues to enthral 130 years after its first publication in book form. Andrew Martin, Curator of Modern Scottish Collections, delves into the history of the definitive yarn about buccaneers and buried gold.

Venerable novels are of course only part of the expansive and ever-growing collections of NLS. Non-print items are being recorded for posterity too.

We reveal how new regulations are allowing us the right to preserve electronic publications such as e-books, blogs and the entire UK web domain. As uncharted a frontier as Livingstone's Africa, this digital landscape will provide an invaluable account of our social and cultural heritage for generations of future researchers.

Elsewhere, Science Curator Catherine Booth profiles the achievements of three pioneering Scottish women scientists – Muriel Robertson, Marion Gray and Isabella Gordon. From advances in marine biology to the field of theoretical mathematics, the Library holds many of their studies that further knowledge of the world around us.

With all the regular news and events included as well, I hope there is much in this issue to inspire you to make some important discoveries of your own that will enhance your steps into warmer seasonal climes.



*Martyn Wade*

**MARTYN WADE**  
National Librarian  
and Chief Executive

## THREE NLS LEARNING ZONE RESOURCES

1

**ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES**

Meet the ancestors in this introduction to Charles Darwin's most famous book.

[digital.nls.uk/jma/who/darwin/originswf](http://digital.nls.uk/jma/who/darwin/originswf)



2

**THE IDEAS FACTORY**

Younger writers will enjoy learning how to plan their stories before putting pen to paper in this online workshop.

[digital.nls.uk/ideas-factory](http://digital.nls.uk/ideas-factory)

3

**A HOME AWAY FROM HOME**

Vivid first-hand accounts of emigration from Scotland support students studying the topic at secondary level.

[digital.nls.uk/home-away](http://digital.nls.uk/home-away)



## Rare Books, Maps, Manuscripts & Photographs Auction

MANUSCRIPT GUIDE TO SHIPPING SIGNALS AND FLAGS  
c.1800, 56 manuscript pages including an index, with a  
selection of beautiful hand-drawn and coloured flags  
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We hold dedicated book auctions in Scotland every January, May and September. We are currently accepting entries for our September 2013 Sale.

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For sale details, viewing times and fully illustrated catalogues please visit [www.lyonandturnbull.com](http://www.lyonandturnbull.com)

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The explorer who created an enduring image of Africa

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE INCLUDE



**Martin Conaghan**  
A journalist working for the BBC, Martin is also co-author of the award-winning graphic novel *Burke & Hare*



**Dora Petherbridge**  
Dora is US and Commonwealth Assistant Curator at the Library and writes about a key publication with American origins



**Andrew Martin**  
The Library's Modern Scottish Collections Curator, Andrew is also involved in the Scots Language Centre



**Catherine Booth**  
Catherine is a Science Curator. In this issue she writes about three notable Scottish women scientists



**David McClay**  
A Senior Curator in Manuscripts, David is the curator of this summer's Livingstone exhibition at NLS

# Make the most of your National Library

With a collection of more than 15 million printed items, two million maps, 32,000 films, three miles of manuscripts, plus thousands of photographs, 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 items from the collections, you need to hold a library card. 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](mailto:enquiries@nls.uk)

In addition, if you have a library card, 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](http://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 on 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>

Additionally, recent legislation has given NLS and the other five legal deposit libraries in the UK the legal right to collect, store and preserve the nation's memory in the digital age. There will be a mixture of electronic content available including websites in the UK domain web archive, and articles/chapters from e-books and e-journals. This material can be viewed on Library computers within the reading rooms of NLS if you are a registered user.

## VISITOR CENTRE

The Visitor Centre at the George IV Bridge building 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 Music Collections

Since 1925, NLS has amassed more than 300,000 items of musical material. There is a variety of musical manuscripts and sound recordings in formats ranging from 78s to compact discs.

The collections include extensive British and



Scottish collections, as well as a broad selection of foreign music and special collections.

The music collections also provide access to early printed music and manuscripts, including the early-16th-century Carver choir book. You can also find modern printed music from almost all genres of music published in the British Isles.

Among the items held is the Glen Collection, containing some 900 pieces of printed material from John Glen including

Scottish songs and sheet music from the 18th and early 19th century.

Also of note is the Balfour Handel Collection, formed by collector Julian Marshall, which contains around 500 printed music scores and more than 100 libretti, most of which were published during Handel's lifetime.

For more information go to [www.nls.uk/collections/music](http://www.nls.uk/collections/music)

## Digital resources

With more than 300 million items, of which 85% is 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; SUR Digital Archive and Times Literary Supplement Historical Archive.

### BUSINESS

Online resources for businesses, including BCC Research Reports; COBRA – The Complete Business Reference Adviser; The Economist Historical Archive 1843-2009; Euromonitor Passport Markets; Factiva; FAME; Hoovers; Insider 500; Key Note Market Research Reports; Kompass; Mint Global; Mintel Market Research Reports; OneSource

Global Business Browser; Orbis and ReferenceUSA.

### EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Educational resources include ALPSP

Learned Journals Science Collection; GreenFILE; JSTOR; MLA Directory of Periodicals; MLA International Bibliography; Oxford Journals Online; Science Full Text Select; Standards Infobase and Web of Science.

### GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL

A wealth of political information can be viewed online, including House of Commons Parliamentary Papers

- includes reports of committees and outside 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; The British Newspaper Archive; British Online Archives; InfoTrac Custom Newspapers;

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

John Johnson Collection: an archive of printed ephemera; The Making of the Modern World; Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB); India, Raj & Empire; Sabin Americana, 1500-1926; The Scotsman Digital Archive 1817-1950; Times Digital Archive; Waterloo Directory of English Newspapers and Periodicals 1800-1900 and Who's Who (and Who Was Who).

### REFERENCE WORKS AND CATALOGUES

Crede Reference gives you access to 400 high-quality reference books from a range of the world's leading publishers.

Early American Imprints, Series 1 – Evans, 1639-1800; Early English Books Online 1475-1700 (EEBO); 18th Century Collections Online (ECCO) Parts 1 & 2; Oxford English Dictionary Online and Oxford Reference Online.

### ACCESSING MATERIAL

All collections can be accessed on the Library premises and more than 80% is available outwith the Library by customers resident in Scotland.

To register to use the licensed digital collections visit <https://auth.nls.uk/registration>



Robert Clive of the East India Company is featured in the India, Raj & Empire collection



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A splendidly illuminated page from the Iona Psalter

## All treasures great and small

Medieval manuscripts, first editions and some of the smallest books in the world all feature in the Library's upcoming programme of treasures to view

### DISPLAY

In May 2013, Iona commemorated the arrival of St Columba 1,450 years ago, and marked the foundation of the Iona Community some 75 years ago. NLS is celebrating the event with a display of items in the

Treasures space in the George IV Bridge building.

The Iona Psalter is the centrepiece of the display, alongside a selection of early manuscripts that highlight the importance of St Columba in Gaelic literature. The display also features material relating to the Iona Community.

Then, in July, one of Jane Austen's best-loved novels takes pride of place, as NLS celebrates the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Pride and Prejudice*. The key focus will be the Library's copy of the first edition in the original publisher's boards (the pasteboard binding, often used by publishers of this period as a first binding). These three volumes are as they would have been when published in 1813.

The display will show how *Pride and Prejudice* became one of the most popular novels in the English language. Publishers have packaged it as nostalgia or hip chick lit, illustrators have drawn Darcy as a Regency buck and Elizabeth as a zombie slayer, and readers have created their own modernisations and alternative versions.

In September, a little-known area of book publishing will be highlighted. Miniature books (publications of less than 7.5cm) go back to the introduction of moveable type, and NLS has a strong collection of these astonishing items. The centrepiece of the display will be a range of books (pictured) produced by the Glasgow publisher David Bryce & Sons, which

was active around the turn of the 19th century. Bryce was interested in the latest advances in photolithography, which allowed larger volumes to be reduced to the smallest possible size. His miniature New Testament measures only 3cm in height, but is perfectly legible with the aid of the magnifying glass inset into the metal locket that accompanies the Bible.

A magnifying glass of your own might be needed to appreciate properly these tiny exhibits!

*The Celebrating Iona display runs until 7 July, Pride and Prejudice will be on display from 10 July to 15 September, and Miniature Books from 18 September to 17 November.*



## Library Act safeguards future

### LEGISLATION

From February the functions and governance of the National Library of Scotland changed.

The National Library of Scotland Act 2012

reinforces the Library's general function as a 'national resource for reference, study and bibliography'. However, it also strengthens the role of NLS in safeguarding and sharing the knowledge in its

collections for future generations.

Under the terms of the Act, the Library will require fewer Trustees. All appointments are made by Scottish Ministers based on merit and selection.



## 'A melancholy and mournful victory'

### CURATOR'S CHOICE

**Dora Petherbridge, US and Commonwealth Assistant Curator, tells the story of *Official Letters to the Honorable American Congress, written during the war between the United Colonies and Great Britain by His Excellency, George Washington***

**A**t the beginning of April, the First Minister, Alex Salmond, travelled to Mount Vernon, George Washington's Virginia estate on the banks of the Potomac River, to present to the library there Washington's own copy of his

two-volume *Official Letters to the Honorable American Congress written during the war between the United Colonies and Great Britain by His Excellency, George Washington*.

This copy of the first edition, published in London in 1795, is unique. It bears its author's signature and contains the manuscript annotations of its editor, John Carey. The First Minister's presentation prefigures a loan of *Official Letters* from NLS to the new Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington.

It was in 1936 that the books last travelled across the Atlantic. Hugh Sharp, a

wealthy Dundee jute manufacturer, purchased the two volumes with the help of renowned American bookseller, Dr Abraham Rosenbach, and they joined Sharp's extensive library in Scotland. Following his death in 1937, Sharp's family made the donation of his entire collection to NLS where it has been treasured ever since.

*Official Letters* comprises documents written by George Washington over the first few years of the War of Independence. It allows readers to trace the conflict through his eyes while he served as Commander in Chief of the Continental Forces. Washington writes of

his soldiers having to 'wade through much blood and slaughter' before they 'can be in possession of a melancholy and mournful victory'.

The significance of this copy of *Official Letters* is in part due to the presence of John Carey's 'manuscript remarks'. As Carey indicates his editorial methods to the President, he reveals the political sensitivities of the young United States and his own fear of exciting 'uneasiness in the bosoms of the persons now living under the Federal government'.

The books that were handed over by the First Minister have a heightened interest at a time when

NLS Curator Dora Petherbridge holds George Washington's Official Letters, recently presented to the USA

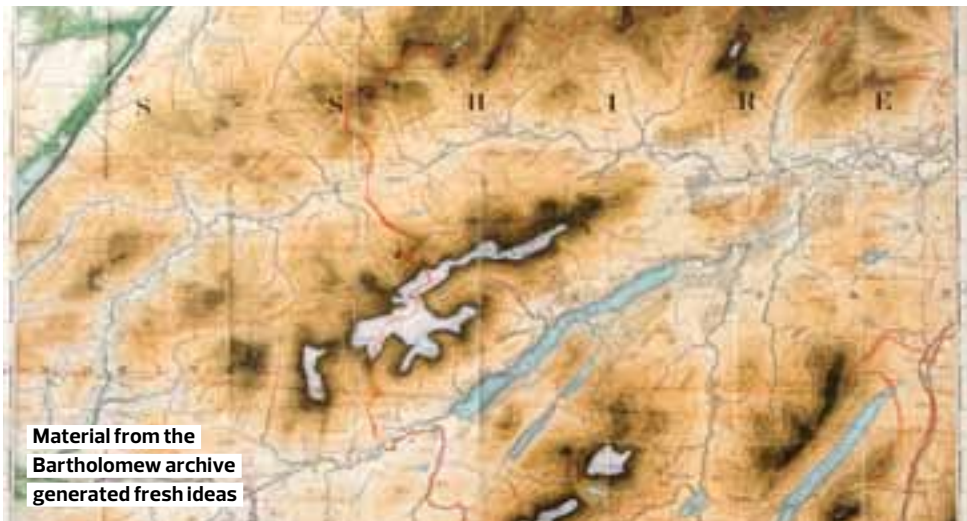


Scotland faces a decision about independence.

Find out more about Official Letters at [www.nls.uk/exhibitions/treasures/american-independence/official-letters](http://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/treasures/american-independence/official-letters)



First Minister, Alex Salmond, presents the volumes to Curtis Viebranz, President of George Washington's Mount Vernon



Material from the Bartholomew archive generated fresh ideas

## Creativity inspired by NLS

### RESIDENCIES

Earlier this year, NLS welcomed award-winning writer Tom Pow and artist Diane Garrick as creative residents for the Library's Bartholomew archive.

The residencies ran from February until the end of April, and Tom and Diane worked closely with curatorial staff to produce a joint piece of work inspired by maps and mapping.

Tom has held a number of writing posts over the years including Scottish/Canadian Writing Fellow at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Diane is a former teacher, who retrained as a textile artist. Sketching, photography and sound recording all contribute to her work.

View some of the outcomes of Diane's NLS residency at [www.dianegarrick.com/category/nls-map-residency](http://www.dianegarrick.com/category/nls-map-residency)

# 6.8

### BY THE NUMBERS

The number, in millions, of pages you can view on The British Newspaper Archive, a digital resource now available at the Library

## WIN A COPY OF WILDLIFE BOOK

### COMPETITION

*Where to See Wildlife in Britain and Ireland*, published by Collins, is packed with essential information on some amazing conservation sites. We have five copies to give away. For your chance to win one, all you need to do is answer the following question correctly:

Where was the first place in the UK to be assigned as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

POST YOUR ENTRY, ALONG WITH YOUR ADDRESS, TO:

Discover NLS Wildlife Competition, Think Scotland, 20-23 Woodside Place, Glasgow G3 7QF, or email [discovernls@thinkpublishing.co.uk](mailto:discovernls@thinkpublishing.co.uk) (with 'Wildlife Competition' in the subject line). Closing date is Friday 26 July 2013.



# Sounds like a plan



Look who's talking!  
The sound archive project tells all

## ARCHIVE

### New project will preserve collections of recordings

Earlier this year, the first phase of the Scottish Sound Archive Project began, helped by £100,000 of funding awarded by the Scottish Government in June 2012. The project follows consultation that took place in 2009 into sound archive provision in Scotland. The consultation highlighted key deficiencies in the care of, and access to, sound collections in museums, libraries and

archives and it recommended that NLS, of which the Scottish Screen Archive is now part, was best placed to provide national leadership in the provision for, and care of, sound collections.

The Scottish Sound Archive will be based on a distributed national collection model, where every organisation is supported in caring for, and giving access to, its collections, rather than absorbing them into a single repository.

It is hoped that with a number of different Scottish sound archives working together and sharing best

practice, we can help raise the standard of care and make sound collections accessible to as many people as possible.

As part of this initiative, NLS has been working on an archive pilot with a Skye-based digitisation project. Since 2006, Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o Riches has digitised, catalogued and made available online more than 11,500 oral recordings from all over Scotland. Some recordings date back to the 1930s, while the most recent ones were recorded in 2000.

[tobarandualchais.co.uk](http://tobarandualchais.co.uk)

## TWO NEW FELLOWS FOR THE LIBRARY

### TRUSTEES

The Governance Committee of the Trustees of the Library has awarded Fellowships of the National Library of Scotland to Lady Janet Balfour and Dr William Zachs.

Lady Balfour is a former Trustee and Chair of the Library's Development Committee. Dr Zachs is a scholar and long-term supporter of NLS. He also sits on the Board of the American Patrons of the National Library and National Galleries of Scotland.

The Fellowship awards are given to recognise wide ranging and exceptional contributions made by individuals to NLS.

## Library at the Borders Book Festival

### OUTREACH

NLS will be at the Borders Book Festival, which runs from 13-16 June in Melrose. The Library will be providing special events for schoolchildren and celebrating the 60th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest.

On 14 June, the Library will host a special session on the history of the Second World War. The event will be

presided over by historian Allan Burnett (pictured right), who has written a children's book about the conflict, based on extensive use of the Library's collections.

On 15 June, original material from the Library's collection will be on show at four adult workshops that will focus on recently acquired maps of Everest. These belonged to the late Dr Michael Ward and helped

to establish the foundations for the first successful conquest to 'the top of the world' by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953.

Books, maps and photographs that examine the modern history related to Everest since Hillary and Norgay's triumph will also be on display.



# Spring and summer events at NLS



John Francis Campbell

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

## THE IRISH IN SCOTLAND: ROBERT TANNAHILL

3 June, 6pm

**FULLY BOOKED** This lecture, illustrated with musical examples from complete songs of Robert Tannahill, concentrates on a unique collection of songs – with their Irish melodies and subject matter written in defence of the early 19th-century Irish emigrants to Scotland.

## NLS POETRY NIGHT: HARRY GILES, TICKLE, RACHEL MCCRUM

4 June, 6.30pm

Tricolour is a new monthly series showcasing three different poetry and spoken word talents.

## PICTURING AFRICA: ILLUSTRATING LIVINGSTONE'S EXPLORATIONS

6 June, 6pm

Join Exhibition Curator David McClay for an illustrated talk on the Library's summer exhibition (opens 14 June) which examines how the 19th-century Scottish missionary explorer,

David Livingstone created some of the most interesting and iconic images of Africa.

## JOHN FRANCIS CAMPBELL AND THE MAKING OF THE POPULAR TALES OF THE WEST HIGHLANDS

11 June, 6pm

John Francis Campbell is best known today as editor of the landmark four-volume *Popular Tales of the West Highlands* (1860–62). Using the riches of Campbell's archive, Dr Domhnall Uilleam Stiùbhart will recount the inside story of Iain Òg Ìle (Young John of Islay), his groundbreaking project, and his efforts to bring his vision into print.

## I KNEW A MAN CALLED LIVINGSTONE: TOTO TALES

14 June, 6pm

Through this beautiful and powerful storytelling performance, discover the life of one of Scotland's greatest explorers, David Livingstone. Suitable for children and adults.

## THE IONA PSALTER

20 June, 6pm

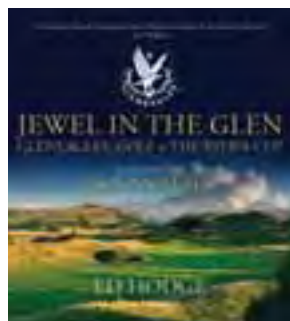
**FULLY BOOKED** Stephen Holmes, a former Benedictine monk and now a priest at Edinburgh's

Old St Paul's Church, gives a fascinating illustrated talk on this manuscript from pre-Reformation Scotland.

## JEWEL IN THE GLEN: GLENEAGLES, GOLF AND THE RYDER CUP

25 June, 6pm

The 40th staging of golf's showpiece event is returning to Gleneagles – where it all began. Ed Hodge traces the history of the Ryder Cup back to the first encounter at Gleneagles in 1921 and examines the impact that the 2014 tournament will have on the local community and its wider Scottish society, culture and economy.



## NEW POEMS IN SCOTS PASS THE SMEDDUM TEST

26 June, 6pm

The continuing vitality of the Scots language is demonstrated in a lively new anthology of 21st-century poems, *The Smeddum Test*. Joint editors Lesley Duncan and Alan Riach introduce the book, and poets Sheila Templeton and Rab Wilson read from their own and others' work.

Book events online at [www.nls.uk/events/](http://www.nls.uk/events/) booking or call 0131 623 3734



## WIN IF HITLER COMES

### COMPETITION

We have three copies of Gordon Barclay's *If Hitler Comes* to give away. To enter, send us the answer to the following question:

Although since disputed, according to his sister-in-law, in which British city did Adolf Hitler reside for several months from November 1912?

**POST YOUR ENTRY ALONG WITH YOUR ADDRESS TO** Discover NLS Barclay Competition, Think Scotland, 20-23 Woodside Place, Glasgow G3 7QF, or email [discovernls@thinkpublishing.co.uk](mailto:discovernls@thinkpublishing.co.uk) (with 'Barclay Competition' in the subject line). The closing date for entries is Friday 26 July 2013.

## BYRON AND POLITICS

### EXHIBITION

A new exhibition, *Byron and politics: 'born for opposition'*, will be held at King's College London from 24 June to 25 September.

On show will be more than 50 manuscripts, printed books and memorabilia from NLS and the Foyle Special Collections Library of King's College London, together with privately loaned objects.

For more information visit [kcl.ac.uk/library/collections/archivespec/exhibitions](http://kcl.ac.uk/library/collections/archivespec/exhibitions)

**THE LIFE & EXPLORATIONS**

**OF**  
**DR. LIVINGSTONE**

BORN AT BURNHAYRE, MARCH 19, 1813

DIED IN CENTRAL AFRICA, MAY 2, 1873

AFRICA

# An expedition into the art of Africa

A new exhibition at the National Library of Scotland explores the enduring appeal of David Livingstone. Curator David McClay tells Bryan Christie of the part illustration and imagery played in creating the legend

Explorers have always held a special place in the public imagination, from Columbus 'discovering' the New World to Captain Cook landing at Botany Bay and Neil Armstrong taking the first step on to the moon.

The Scots missionary David Livingstone fully earned his place in this company by becoming the first European to travel across southern Africa from coast to coast. His exploits made him a national hero and his common humanity, which inspired his crusade against slavery, has ensured his legacy lives on.

What is less well known is that the extent of his popular appeal owed much to the images Livingstone brought back from Africa. They helped Victorian Britain to understand Africa in a way that words alone could never have achieved. Livingstone gave shape, form, colour and substance to a mysterious and often misunderstood continent.

The story of how this happened is told in this summer's main exhibition at NLS, 'Picturing Africa: Illustrating Livingstone's Travels'. It uses original and, in some cases, rarely displayed sketches, paintings, photographs, maps, magic lantern slides and other materials to reveal what parts of Africa looked like to the first Europeans to gaze upon them. Such was the power of these original images that many have endured to this day.

'You don't have to know much about Africa or be particularly interested in David Livingstone to get something from this exhibition,' says NLS Curator David McClay. 'It is a window into a



Livingstone's travels provided insights into an often misunderstood continent



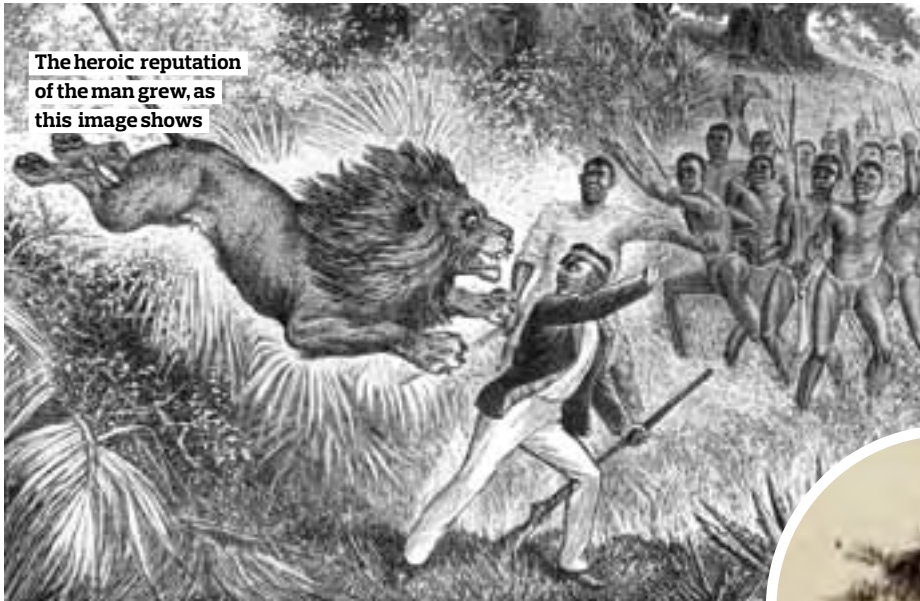
The explorer, stamped in living memory

The challenges were enormous. Kirk had to transport glass plates and heavy camera equipment and he and Baines had to work in inhospitable, hot and humid conditions

world of stunning landscapes, wild nature, yet ever present danger.'

The exhibits include Livingstone's original field diaries, with his own sketches, and the compass and mapping materials he used when crossing the uncharted 'dark continent'. On show, too, are some of the earliest photographs taken of Africa by John Kirk, and watercolours painted by Thomas Baines, who is arguably one of the most important chroniclers of Africa in the 19th century. Both accompanied Livingstone on some of his expeditions.

The challenges were enormous. Kirk had to transport glass plates and heavy camera equipment and he and Baines had to work in inhospitable, hot and humid conditions. Baines later wrote about the problems he encountered in sketching Victoria Falls,



The heroic reputation of the man grew, as this image shows

saying '... though an artist may work in wet shirt or shoes, he cannot work with wet paper'.

**EARLY LIFE**

It was a far cry from Livingstone's life in Blantyre, Lanarkshire. His family was poor and David was working in the cotton mills by the age of 10. He continued to study after a 12-hour working day and eventually saved enough money to go to medical school.

These formative experiences made him the self-made, driven individual he later became. He wrote, subsequently: 'Looking back now, at that life of toil,

I cannot but feel thankful that it formed such a material part of my early education; and, were it possible, I should like to begin life over again in the same lowly style, and to pass through the same hardy training.'

It was that selfless determination (others considered it to be pig-headedness) that seems to have allowed him to be able to withstand the many setbacks he faced throughout his life. That determination is also apparent in his refusal to accept changes to his manuscript, *Missionary*



One of John Kirk's photographs

*Travels and Researches in South Africa* (1857), which went on to become a bestseller and helped cement Livingstone's enduring reputation.

It was released by the renowned publisher, John Murray, but not without some pain. Livingstone was keen to ensure that the key message about the need to end slavery was not diluted. He wrote to Murray to complain about some other suggested changes: 'I must positively resist any attempts to tamper with or emasculate the book.'

'It was a campaigning book and it had a definite agenda,' explains

David McClay. 'Livingstone wanted it to be right and wanted it to have his vision.'

*Missionary Travels* sold 70,000 copies at a time when similar books sold an average of 1,000 to 1,500 copies, and was perhaps the most popular travel book of the era. The images that ran alongside the text were crucial to its success, says David.

'If it had just been text based, it would not have sold so well.'

John Murray employed some of the best artists of the day to produce the engravings that illustrated the text, including the popular image of Livingstone being mauled by a lion. These illustrations were then widely reproduced by the newspapers of the

## Getting to know the man

The Livingstone story will be brought to life at a special family-friendly theatrical production at NLS that will run during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Toto Tales, a theatrical storytelling company, will explore his life from the perspective of some of his African friends. It will examine why he was so loved and so different from other explorers of the time.

It will introduce the audience to a range of characters including Princess Manenko, who stood up to Livingstone; the Arab traders to whom he was often indebted; and Susi and Chuma, his loyal converts who carried his body from the village of Ilala to the coast, where it was sent back to England to be buried in Westminster Abbey.

This was an extraordinary

journey of 1,500 miles that took 80 people eight months to complete. Twelve of them died along the way. It shows the love that native people felt for Livingstone, such that they would go to these extraordinary lengths to ensure his body was returned to his homeland.

The production will show the explorer, warts and all. Livingstone was not an easy man



and was often criticised for his reckless and dangerous attitude to his expeditions. However, he treated people with kindness and respect most of the time and there

was clearly something special about him.

The audience will trace the footsteps of this remarkable man, going, literally, where no white man had ever gone before.

*I Knew a Man Called Livingstone* runs from 7-21 August and starts at 4pm. Tickets are available from the Fringe Box Office and can also be bought on the day at NLS.



You don't have to know much about Africa or be particularly interested in David Livingstone to get something from this exhibition. It is a window into a world of stunning landscapes, wild nature, yet ever present danger



## 'Livingstone's journeys were seen as a great patriotic and geographical feat at a time of an expanding empire'

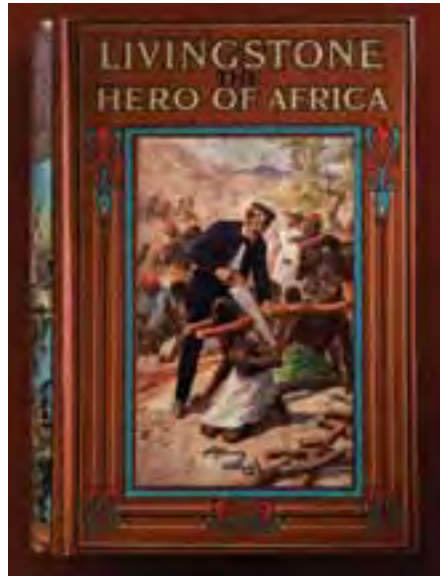
day, such as *The Graphic* and *The Illustrated London News*, ensuring they reached a much wider audience.

They were also copied on to magic lantern slides, which were used to entertain audiences around the country in geographical and missionary societies, working men's clubs and other places of popular entertainment.

'This opened Livingstone's work to a much bigger audience – not just people who could afford to buy expensive books,' says David. 'It helped to make him the star of the day. He had an image as a scientist, missionary and cartographer. His journeys were seen as a great patriotic and geographical feat at a time of an expanding empire and when Britain was achieving many things in many spheres.'

The exhibition will feature Livingstone's own magic lantern used in Africa. Other special items are the original wood blocks, that were used to make the illustrations for his books, which are considered to be some of the finest ever produced.

The exhibition will also include a large map of Africa which will display Livingstone's three main journeys



there. It will feature a comparative map of Scotland to help highlight the distances travelled by Livingstone and his party across difficult and often hostile terrain.

On one of these journeys, Livingstone ran out of ink and writing paper but wanted to continue his diary. He improvised by making ink from berry juice and wrote over the pages of a book and the *London Standard*. Exposed to the African environment, the manuscript deteriorated rapidly and today is badly faded.

It has been digitally restored, using spectral imaging. This involves

illuminating the manuscript with successive wavelengths of light. Livingstone's diary can now be read for the first time in 140 years and offers a new insight into his legacy.

### AN ENDURING PRESENCE

'Livingstone has never really left us as a popular figure,' says David. 'The issues he was concerned about – poverty and human bondage – are still as relevant today as in his time. Two hundred years after Livingstone's birth, this exhibition will give an unique insight into how he lived and worked, what he thought and – crucially – how he helped to create an image of Africa which has endured.'

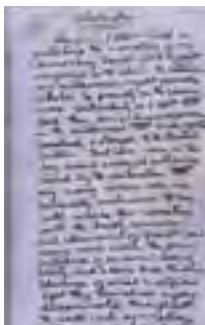
'We hope visitors will find the exhibition both entertaining and informative. It shows how important Livingstone was in his own time but may make people think about why he remains such a prominent figure today.'

*'Picturing Africa: Illustrating Livingstone's travels'* runs from 14 June to 3 November at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge building.

This summer, a series of talks will take place across Scotland to accompany the exhibition. Some are already planned but David McClay may be available to talk about the exhibition to interested groups. To find out more contact [d.mcclay@nls.uk](mailto:d.mcclay@nls.uk)

## Livingstone online

NLS has a number of web resources available for those who want to find out more about David Livingstone. Here are just three.



### 1. NARRATIVE OF AN EXPEDITION

The Library's extensive John Murray Archive holds a wide range of Livingstone-related material. One highlight is the handwritten manuscript of the explorer and

his brother Charles' account of the expedition to the Zambezi. This failed to capture the public's imagination in the way *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa* had. Nonetheless, the original text provides a fascinating insight into the hazardous journey undertaken. [digital.nls.uk/jma/gallery/title.cfm?id=22](http://digital.nls.uk/jma/gallery/title.cfm?id=22)



### 2. DAVID LIVINGSTONE, THE LEARNING ZONE

is a resource that uses the Library's collections to explore educational themes. The section on Livingstone provides a

general introduction to the life and travels of the explorer, and unlocks a number of themes related to his work and expeditions.

[www.nls.uk/learning-zone/geography-and-exploration/themes-in-focus/david-livingstone](http://www.nls.uk/learning-zone/geography-and-exploration/themes-in-focus/david-livingstone)



### 3. THE SPLENDID INSIGHTS OF MR SMILES

In 1859, *Self-Help* by Samuel Smiles (left) was published, also by Murray.

It proved to be a blockbuster and sold millions of copies worldwide. It highlights some of the people, including Livingstone, who Smiles thought had the capacity to become self-help heroes.

[digital.nls.uk/jma/who/smiles/heroes](http://digital.nls.uk/jma/who/smiles/heroes)

# A CULINARY TREASURE TROVE

Fantastic 19th-century recipes are just one example of the Library's amazing collections

**A**mong its collections, a particular item held by NLS has attracted the interest of one of Britain's top chefs.

Tom Kitchin, Scotland's youngest Michelin-starred chef proprietor, has been inspired by the Library's set of recipes from the Victorian era. Katherine Jane Ellice, wife of Edward Ellice of Invergarry, a wealthy businessman and politician, collected the recipes in the mid-19th century and Tom was so taken with them he asked if he could have them reproduced and hung on the walls of his new Edinburgh gastro pub, 'The Scran and Scallie'.

Tom said it was exciting to discover recipes for fish balls, chicken jelly, leg of pork and even simple toasted cheese. 'The recipes are brought together in a book that is kept at the National Library of Scotland,' he explains, 'and I do hope they will continue to inspire cooking for another century or more.'

'We have been delighted to work with Tom to source original material for his new restaurant,' said Olive Geddes, Manuscripts Curator at NLS (pictured inset with Tom Kitchin).

The recipes are just one example of items held by NLS. The Library is a registered charity and relies on support to continue bringing the collections to life and making them available to as wide an audience as possible.

Fundraising for NLS began in 2006 with the campaign to acquire the world-renowned John Murray Archive. This publishing resource is a fund of letters and manuscripts from more than 16,000 leading writers. That campaign achieved its objective and, since then, funds for many other important projects have been raised through donations.



## Securing a bright future for NLS

Whether you are a celebrity chef at the top of your game or a student at the very beginning of your career, you could find inspiration suddenly strikes when delving into NLS' collections.

Working together, we can achieve so much for the Library, so please make your mark on our future and donate today!

If you are feeling inspired on your next visit, then why not make a donation, however small, by popping it into one of our collection boxes located in the Visitor Centre.

Alternatively, you can send us a cheque to the address to the right or join our Patrons and Benefactors

programme. This special membership scheme offers a range of excellent benefits. Not only do you get invitations to special openings, priority booking for 'Inspirations' events and updates on the Library's development, you can also get up close and personal with some of our treasures at exclusive private viewings with expert curators.

*For more information on the Patrons and Benefactors programme and other ways to give, please contact the Development Team at National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EW, email [development@nls.uk](mailto:development@nls.uk) or call 0131 623 3733*



# Celebrating Scottish women of science

The Library recently commemorated International Women's History Month with a display about eminent female scientists. Their achievements were remarkable at a time when it was difficult for women to make progress in academia. Here NLS Science Curator Catherine Booth profiles three of those astonishing scientists

## ISABELLA GORDON

### 1901-1988

Isabella Gordon was born in Keith, Banffshire, to a rural family. A bursary allowed her to remain at school then enter the University of Aberdeen. She gained a PhD from Imperial College, studying echinoderms, and was awarded a DSc in 1928.

Most of Gordon's working life was spent as a crustacea specialist in the British Museum (Natural History), where she was the first woman to be appointed to a full-time, permanent scientific post. During her career she wrote more than 100 articles, reviews and reports, often accompanied by hand-drawn illustrations. She was a Fellow of both the Linnean and the Zoological Societies, and gained recognition from bodies abroad, including a medal from King Leopold III of the Belgians.

The highlight of her working life was an invitation to Japan in 1961 to attend the 60th birthday celebrations of Emperor Hirohito, himself a keen



Isabella Gordon's work on lobsters, as reported in *The Illustrated London News*

marine biologist. Gordon had a personal audience with the Emperor, and was made the first honorary member of the Carcinological Society of Japan. In the same year, she was awarded an OBE.

As well as having an encyclopaedic knowledge of her field of science, Gordon had a keen sense of humour, shown in this interchange with a colleague from Manchester. She had just published a review with the title, *A Thermophilous Shrimp from Tunisia*. It seemed like the first line of a limerick, and he sent her the following:

*A thermophilous shrimp from Tunisia  
Said: when it gets cold I get busier  
I dig a hole  
And fill it with coal;  
Then there's nowhere as warm as  
it is 'ere.*

She replied with:  
*The idea's OK – but Aplysia  
Is the rhyme I should choose for Tunisia  
A purist and Scot,  
I simply could not  
Pronounce it to rhyme with 'it is 'ier-r-ri!'*

Left to right:  
Muriel Robertson,  
Marion Gray and  
Isabella Gordon



## MARION GRAY

1902–1979

Marion Gray was born in Ayr, and went to The University of Edinburgh. In 1922 she graduated as top student in mathematics and natural philosophy. She won a scholarship to attend Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, from where she gained a PhD.

After a spell back in the UK, she was appointed to a post in the Department of Development and Research of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company in New York. It was there that she made the discovery for which she is best remembered – an unusual graph with 54 vertices. Three edges exit each vertex, and the graph is semi-symmetrical. It has now been demonstrated to be the smallest possible graph of this kind.



The 'Gray graph', unusual for its 54 vertices

Thinking it was a theoretical discovery without practical application, Gray did not publish it. Thirty-six years later, another mathematician described the 'Gray graph', and how it could answer questions regarding types of symmetry, and that it came 'at a time when graph theory was almost non-existent'. Today it and similar ones are crucial in network theory.

Gray later joined the technical staff at the prestigious Bell Laboratories, where she spent more than 30 years. During that time she produced original papers, plus several hundred reviews of the work of others. She also served on a committee which prepared a *Handbook of Mathematical Functions*.

She was well known for her support of junior colleagues. One wrote of the time he was working in Bell Laboratories in 1957: 'In [my calculation], I was helped by a little old lady, Marion Gray, one of Bell's finest mathematicians at that time.' (Schulz-DuBois, E. O., *Bell Systems Technical Journal*, 38, 1959.)

After her retirement, Gray moved back to Edinburgh.

## MURIEL ROBERTSON

1883–1973

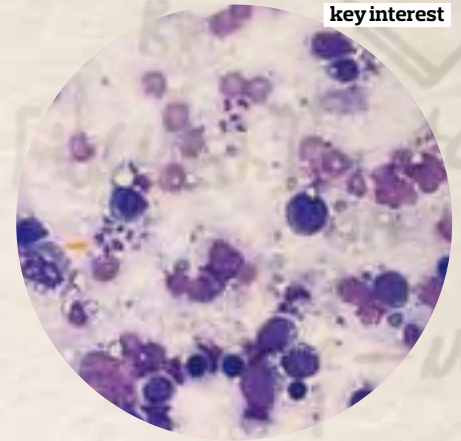
Muriel Robertson was born in Glasgow, the seventh child in a family of 12. The children were educated at home, where there was much to stimulate their imagination, including books and music, and eminent visitors.

Robertson began an arts course at The University of Glasgow, but found she preferred science subjects. Her particular interest became the study of protozoa – single-celled organisms. Some of her research was carried out at the back of a fishmonger's shop in Rothesay, where she studied leeches under a microscope. Many of them were infected by trypanosomes – types of a single-celled parasite.

After graduation, she began work at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine in London, where she spent most of her career. She was appointed by the Colonial Office from 1911 to 1914 to a temporary position in Uganda. Her task was to study the trypanosomes carried by tsetse flies, which caused sleeping sickness. Often travelling alone, Robertson carried out her research, publishing several papers on the subject. Electron microscopy techniques many years later confirmed her observations.

Following the First World War, she investigated gas gangrene, a common cause of death among soldiers. She examined cultures obtained from war wounds, and succeeded in identifying several species of the bacteria. Her expertise contributed significantly to the later production of vaccines.

Other work included the study of protozoa of the genus *Trichomonas*,



The study of protozoa was Muriel Robertson's key interest

She examined cultures obtained from war wounds, and succeeded in identifying several species of the bacteria. Her expertise contributed significantly to the later production of vaccines

which caused serious infections in cattle. Robertson collaborated with a Belfast veterinarian and, after years of research, they managed to find out how these infections could be eradicated.

Robertson was elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1947, only two years after the first women were admitted.

The last months of her life were spent in Limavady, Northern Ireland. Apart from science, she loved embroidery, music and flowers.

## More women pioneers

Other prominent Scottish scientists include:

- + Elizabeth Blackwell c.1700–1758, amateur botanist and artist
- + Elizabeth Fulhame, active between 1780–1794, chemist
- + Mary Somerville 1780–1872, mathematician, astronomer and scientific communicator
- + Williamina Fleming 1857–1911, astronomer

- + Dame Maria Gordon 1864–1939, geologist and palaeontologist
- + Victoria Drummond 1894–1978, marine engineer
- + Charlotte Auerbach 1899–1994, geneticist
- + Marion Ross 1903–1994, physicist

More information on Scottish women who made outstanding achievements in scientific

fields from the 18th century onwards can be found on the Library's Learning Zone at [nls.uk/learning-zone/science-and-technology/women-scientists](http://nls.uk/learning-zone/science-and-technology/women-scientists)

You can also research and read about the work and continuing legacy of all these pioneering women scientists in the Library's science collections.

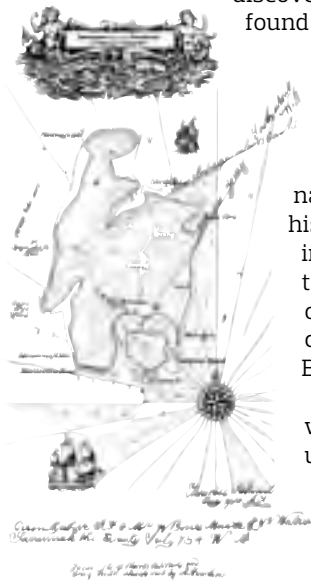
# Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!

In 2013, Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* was selected as one of just 20 titles to be distributed to celebrate World Book Night. Andrew Martin considers the enduring appeal of perhaps the archetypal sea-faring tale

**O**n a chill September morning, by the cheek of a brisk fire, and the rain drumming on the window, I began the *Sea Cook*, for that was the original title.

So wrote Robert Louis Stevenson, remembering the writing of his first great success, *Treasure Island*. One hundred and thirty years after its first publication, World Book Night 2013 chose *Treasure Island* as one of its titles for distribution, alongside works by writers as diverse as Rose Tremain, EH Gombich, Ian Fleming and fellow Scots, Alexander McCall Smith and Jackie Kay. The only 'classic' on the list, *Treasure Island* needs no introduction. It is one of the most famous titles in Scottish – and world – literature, and its characters must be among the most readily recognised, even by those who have dim memories of reading the original book.

Stevenson wrote *Treasure Island* on a wet holiday in Braemar. 'It blew a good deal and rained in proportion,' he said. Queen Victoria was at nearby Balmoral and, apparently, frequently ventured out in her carriage, but the bad weather kept an ill Stevenson indoors in what was known as 'the late Miss McGregor's cottage', entertaining his young stepson, Lloyd Osbourne.



The *Treasure Island* map from the 1883 edition

His writing started with a sketched map of the island, which is a feature of most editions even today – 'The next thing I knew, I had some paper before me, and was writing out a list of chapters.' Stevenson wrote to his friend, WE Henley, that: 'It is all about a map, and a treasure, and a mutiny, and ... a sea cook with one leg' and soon

discovered that the pirate yarn found favour with his family as he wrote a chapter a day and read to them in the evenings. Delighted with his son's work, the elder Mr Stevenson contributed nautical atmosphere from his own memories and imagination – as well as the detail of the contents of Captain Bones' sea chest at the Admiral Benbow inn.

An enthusiastic visitor was eager to take the unfinished manuscript away to a publisher, but '15 days I stuck to it, and turned out 15 chapters, and then, in the early paragraphs of the 16th, ignominiously lost hold. My mouth was empty;

there was not one more word of *Treasure Island* in my bosom; and here were the proofs of the beginning already waiting for me ...'

The first chapters of the serial version of the book were already being published in the periodical, *Young Folks* – under the pseudonym 'Captain George North' – when Stevenson had his attack of writer's block with chapter



Hywel Bennett as Long John Silver in an adaptation of *Treasure Island* at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre



Silver is wily,  
silver-tongued,  
ambiguous and  
dangerous



Stevenson and his wife, Fanny, on the Marquesas Islands

Only Fanny, Stevenson's wife, was less than enthusiastic – 'tedious', she said. Most readers over the years are unlikely to share her opinion, although once it was a success, she claimed she had liked it all the time

16, but in Davos in Switzerland, where he spent the winter, he sat down with the unfinished tale and 'it flowed ... like small talk' again, at the rate of a chapter a day.

Stevenson received 34 pounds for the serial version in 1881 and two years later was offered rather more for the book rights – 'a hundred, jingling, tingling, golden minted quid. Is this not wonderful?' he wrote to his mother.

Only Fanny, Stevenson's wife, was less than enthusiastic – 'tedious', she said. Most readers over the years are unlikely to share her opinion, although once it was a success, she claimed she had liked it all the time, and certainly the World Book Night panel described it as being 'every bit as brilliant as its reputation'.

The hundreds of editions in all languages, the picture books, the stage, film, radio and television adaptations, and the sequels are testimony to its enduring appeal. Once you pick up the slim volume, you will soon be lost in the fast-paced tale of Jim Hawkins, a treasure map, and the various salty and sinister characters he encounters. Just how much vivid action and death did Stevenson pack into the first five chapters alone?

It is a book full of incident and colourful characters – Stevenson grabs your attention from page one with the arrival of Captain Billy Bones at the Admiral Benbow with his sea chest, rum, and his pirate songs, but let's not forget Blind Pew tapping his way down the lane, and later, the marooned Ben Gunn, hankering for cheese.

Central to *Treasure Island*, however, is the character of Long John Silver,

BRIDGEMAN

Long John Silver gets into a monetary dispute in this scene from the book as illustrated by John Cameron





The Sea Cook of the original title, who we find first at the sign of the Spy-glass on the dockside in Bristol: 'His left leg was cut off close by the hip, and under the left shoulder he carried a crutch, which he managed with wonderful dexterity, hopping about upon it like a bird. He was very tall and strong, with a face as big as a ham – plain and pale, but intelligent and smiling.' No mention of the parrot Cap'n Flint and his catchphrase, 'Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!'

Silver, or 'Barbecue' as his mates call him, is wily, silver-tongued, ambiguous and dangerous, yet appealing to the Hispaniola's young cabin boy, Jim Hawkins. He is the most enduring and influential pirate creation of them all, and a very different kettle of fish from the romantic pirate types who feature later in novels and Hollywood films. There are no swashbuckling Errol Flynns or Tyrone Powers, or even Johnny Depps in the 'Boy's Own' adventure that is *Treasure Island*!

#### SPIRITED AND FIERY ILLUSTRATIONS

The memorable characters and settings of *Treasure Island* have attracted many distinguished illustrators over the years. The original serial publication in *Young Folks* had the conventional artwork of the time, and the first illustrated book edition followed in 1885, to the delight of the author who described it as being 'so full of fire and spirit'. Walter Paget was the first single illustrator in 1899, and notable artists who followed his success, adding colour and expression, were John Cameron and NC Wyeth. More recently, very different and distinctive interpretations have come from Mervyn Peake and Ralph Steadman. *Treasure Island* has often been adapted as a comic book in the *Classics Illustrated* vein. In Scotland, Dudley D Watkins, the famed creator of *The Broons* and *Oor Wullie*, was called in by DC Thomson to illustrate their adaptation of the famous book in his own inimitable style.

Famously, Stevenson leaves the end of *Treasure Island* open – Jim returns home and Silver is left at large but there is still plenty of Captain Flint's treasure left on the island. A number of writers have subsequently picked up the tale. Most recently, Andrew Motion, the former Poet Laureate, chose this as the subject of his *Silver: Return to Treasure Island*, which brings together Jim Hawkins junior with Natty, daughter of Long John. The tale takes the second generation back to the



**Kermit and co  
with their own  
idiosyncratic take on  
RLS' masterpiece**

## TREASURE ISLAND ON FILM AND TV

It is no surprise that cinema and television have found *Treasure Island* such an attractive proposition, and no doubt many of us had our first taste of Stevenson at the cinema or in our living rooms. Robert Newton has lingered long in the memory with his ripe portrayal of

Long John Silver in Walt Disney's 1950 version – a gift for impersonators. Wallace Beery preceded him in MGM's 1934 adventure, where his loveable rogue screen persona made Silver less sinister, perhaps, than the author intended. Orson Welles, Charlton Heston and more

recently Eddie Izzard have also been among the charismatic performers who have hoisted on the parrot and peg leg, with varying degrees of success. Stevenson would have been excited by the attention his book has received on the screen, presumably, and delighted by the

remarkably faithful *Treasure Planet*, where Jim sails off into space with a cyborg Silver. As a lover of puppet theatre, he also might have found something to admire in *Muppet Treasure Island* with its surprise casting of Miss Piggy as the marooned Benjamina Gunn.

island, via a visit to Mr and Mrs Silver.

#### NLS' TREASURE TROVE

We have hundreds of copies of *Treasure Island* at the Library, from the earliest to the newest editions, including handsome editions for birthdays and Christmas, bookstall paperbacks, adaptations, picture, comic and audio books, books of the film, stage versions, sequels, and translations in many languages of the world, including Scots.

World Book Night has reminded us that a good story told by a great writer never loses its appeal. Stevenson thought he was on to a winner – 'If this



don't fetch the kids, why, they have gone rotten since my day.' And he was right. Readers today, of all ages, can still share the excitement that the author and his family felt on those wet days in Braemar in 1881 as *Treasure Island* took shape.

Fifteen men on the dead man's chest. Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum!

**We have hundreds of copies of *Treasure Island* at the Library, from the earliest to the newest editions, including ... picture, comic and audio books**



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(A person who defends a person or cause)

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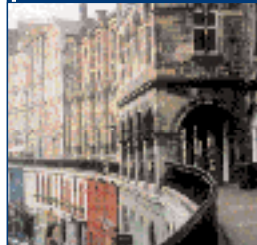
## BOOK FAIRS in SCOTLAND 2013

June	Sat 8	<b>SCOTTISH BORDERS</b> The Corn Exchange, Market Square, Melrose TD6 9PN. 10-5. £1
	Sat 22	<b>EDINBURGH</b> Radisson Blu Hotel, 80 High Street, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 1TH. 10-5. £1
July	Thur 25- Sat 27	<b>SKYE ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FESTIVAL</b> Aros Cultural Centre, Viewfield Road, Portree, Skye IV51 9EU 25th 12-5.30. 26th 9-5.30. 27th 9-4.30. Free
	August	Sat 3
	Sun 4	<b>BALLATER</b> Victoria Hall, Station Square, Forfar AB35 5QB. 10-5. £1
September	Sun 29	<b>ABERDEEN</b> Hilton Treetops Hotel, 161 Springfield Road, Aberdeen AB17 7AQ 10-5. £1
October	Sat 19	<b>EDINBURGH</b> Radisson Blu Hotel, 80 High Street, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 1TH. 10-5. £1



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# The digital deposit

NLS' Bryan Christie on why electronic publications are worth far more than the paper they're not printed on

**A** windswept bus shelter on Shetland seems an unlikely location to excite the interest of future historians.

However, the Unst bus shelter has its very own website which has been included on a list of 100 online destinations that may be studied in the years to come by historians. These digital repositories all help to show how people in Britain lived in the early part of the 21st century.

The bus shelter, which is fitted out with a carpet, couch and drinks dispenser, is an early example of how the internet can project a small local attraction on to the global stage.

The 100 websites list was compiled by NLS and the other five legal deposit libraries in the UK and Ireland to celebrate the passing of regulations which allow these bodies to collect and preserve websites and other electronic publications in the same way that books have been collected for hundreds of years.

The list includes familiar names such as Amazon, eBay, the BBC, TripAdvisor, Gumtree and Mumsnet and was put together as an example of the kind of information that will be stored to help future generations understand how we live today.

## DIGITAL HERITAGE LEGALLY SECURED

These new regulations, which came into effect on 6 April, are a landmark development. They give legal deposit libraries such as NLS the right to receive a copy of every UK electronic publication including blogs, e-books and the entire UK web domain.

They ensure this material can be collected, preserved forever and made available to future generations of researchers, providing the fullest possible record of life and society in the UK in the 21st century for people 50, 100, even 200 or more years in the future.

Only a limited amount of material has so far been made available because it will take some time to build up the collection of e-publications and web content. By the end of this year, the



E-pubs now have a home in the UK copyright libraries

The Library, in a landmark development, is now curating electronic content, from Amazon to Unst



## These new regulations allow us for the first time to archive valuable digital information and save it for future generations

results of the first live archiving trawl of the UK web domain will be available to researchers, along with tens of thousands of e-journal articles, e-books and other materials.

The change has been welcomed by all legal deposit libraries, which have been campaigning for some time to be given the legal right to collect digital content. 'In the UK we have an outstanding written heritage built up in library collections over centuries,' says Scotland's National Librarian, Martyn Wade. 'These new regulations allow us for the first time to archive valuable digital information and save it for future generations. This is an important step forward and something to be celebrated.'

The regulations establish an agreed approach for the libraries to develop an efficient system for archiving digital publications, while avoiding an unreasonable burden for publishers and also protecting the interests of rights holders.

'Ten years ago, there was a very real danger of a black hole opening up and swallowing our digital heritage, with millions of web pages, e-publications and other non-print items falling through the cracks of a system that was devised primarily to capture ink and paper,' explains Roly Keating, Chief Executive of the British Library. 'The regulations ensure that legal deposit libraries are able to evolve – collecting, preserving and providing long-term access to the profusion of cultural and intellectual content appearing online or in other digital formats.'

All the legal deposit libraries have been working together to develop the systems to collect e-publications and harvest website content. Registered readers can access the material from computers in the reading rooms at NLS. However, access is not available from home or from laptops used within the Library. Further information on access and other arrangements is available on the NLS website [www.nls.uk/about-us/what-we-are/legal-deposit/e-legal-deposit-guide](http://www.nls.uk/about-us/what-we-are/legal-deposit/e-legal-deposit-guide)

Access the 100 websites list at [www.bl.uk/100websites](http://www.bl.uk/100websites)



Interior of the  
old Advocates  
Library, 1831

## 300 YEARS OF LEGAL DEPOSIT COLLECTING

NLS' non-print legal deposit collecting comes some 302 years after the Advocates Library (from the foundations of which the National Library was established) received its first set of books.

The Advocates Library was included in a list of institutions entitled to receive books deposited at Stationers' Hall in London under the provision of the Copyright Act 1710. That list also featured the Royal Library (later the British Museum), the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, Sion College, and the four Scottish universities.

The Advocates Library began its

deposit collection in 1711 and in that year John Spottiswood, Joint Keeper of the Library, wrote that the institution was 'already the best in North-Britain, & in process of time may come to be the best in the Isle'.

In those early days, the impact of the legal deposit was minimal. From an estimated 10,000 books published between 1710 and 1725, only 2,154 were registered at Stationers' Hall and of these only 1,257 were actually made available for distribution to libraries.

By the 19th century, the number of books published rose steeply, and legal deposit accounted for the

greater part of the Library's growing intake. In fact, the volume of new books coming in to the Library was such that the Advocates Library found it increasingly difficult to provide the resources needed to process and manage the legal deposit intake.

And so, in 1925, the largest legal deposit collection in Scotland and the right to receive books through legal deposit were transferred to the newly formed National Library of Scotland (although the Advocates Library kept hold of its existing law books and continued to receive such titles through legal deposit).

# A story begging to be told

Author and journalist Martin Conaghan on a dark journey through the Library's collections



In his 1897 travelogue, *Following the Equator*, Mark Twain coined the immortal phrase 'truth is stranger than fiction', a succinct aphorism offering comfort to the casual observer struggling to make sense of the darker aspects of life. And so it was for me, in the spring of 2009, when I was commissioned to write the script for a graphic novel adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Body Snatcher*, which would be illustrated by my artist friend Will Pickering.

Our story was required to be faithful to the original text, while incorporating research notes and annotations. However, when I read Stevenson's macabre tale of money-grabbing graverobbers, I unearthed a world of myth and misapprehension concerning two of the most prolific serial killers in British criminal history, William Burke and William Hare, the West Port, Edinburgh, murderers.

I soon abandoned Stevenson's supernatural fiction in favour of the facts and embarked on a body of research that would intersect with the

lives of Charles Darwin, Madame Tussaud and the physician-in-senior to Queen Victoria, Sir William Gull.

Burke and Hare never set foot in a graveyard with the intention of stealing a body, despite Stevenson's best efforts to persuade us to that effect. The truth is much simpler; the duo were cold, greedy murderers who sold the bodies of 17 unfortunate people to the anatomist Dr Robert Knox, of the University of Edinburgh.

## The truth is much simpler; the duo were cold, greedy murderers

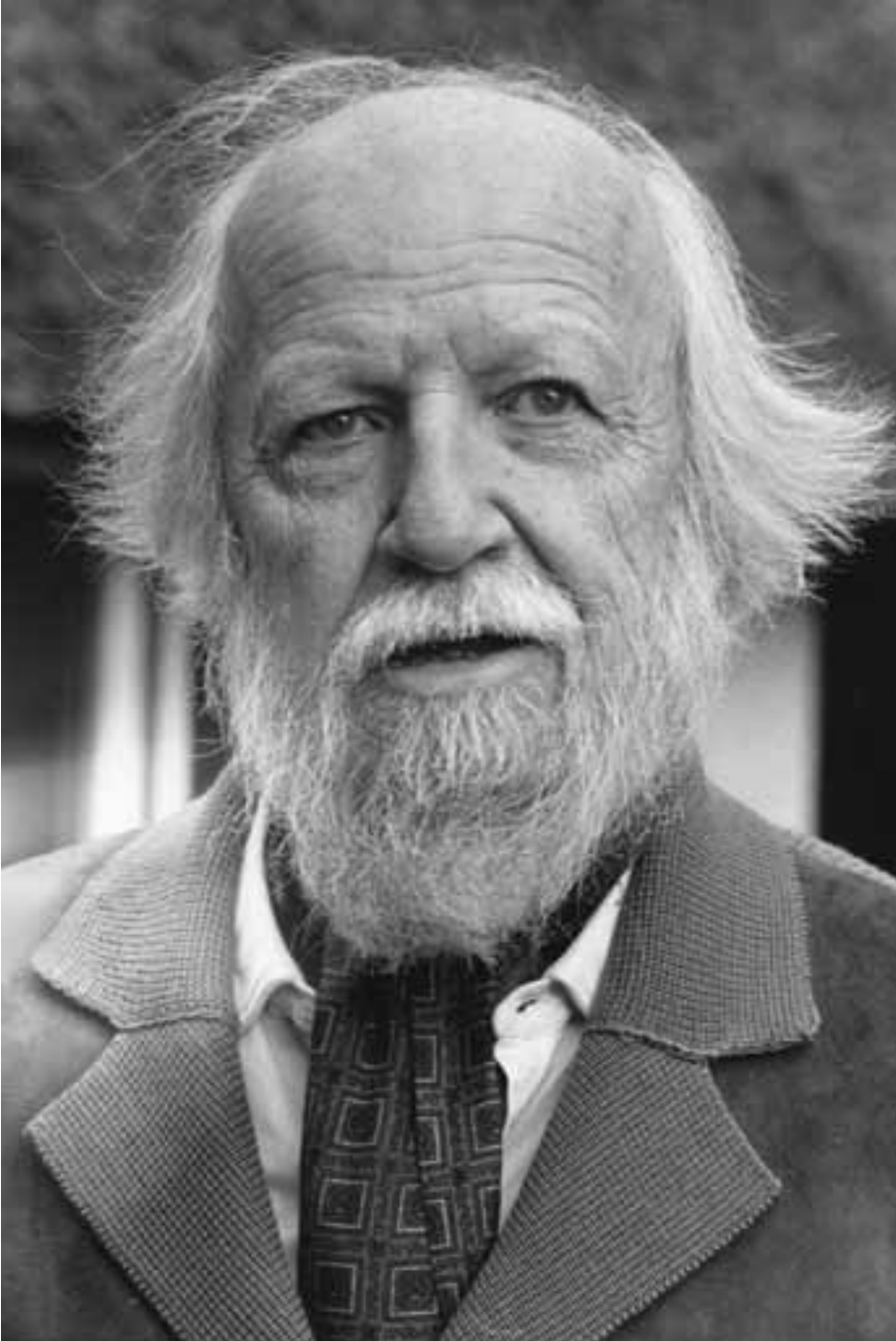
But what do we know of these men. What did they look like? What did they wear? How did they speak?

Many of the answers we sought were found at the National Library of Scotland in the form of broadsides, the tabloids of their day, single-sheet newspapers featuring timeless illustrations of the duo and their victims, with written accounts of their ghastly deeds.

Consumed by the populace in their thousands for a penny a copy, these pamphlets detailed every aspect of the case, from the gossip and rumours about Hare's eventual whereabouts after his release from prison, to court reports from Burke's trial and grisly details of his public execution on Wednesday 28 January 1829. Without them, and their immeasurable insights into this oft-misunderstood case, our story would have undoubtedly followed the well-worn path of fiction trodden by the late, great Stevenson.

In his *Famous Trials of the Century*, another tome we uncovered during our research, JB Atlay asserts that many Londoners of the era had memories from their childhood of the principal attraction on Oxford Street in the 1830s being that of an old, blind beggar 'who, with dog and stick, was wont to solicit alms from passers-by. His story was on the lips of every nursemaid, and he was pointed out to awestruck children as being William Hare, one of the actors in the West Port murders.'

Truth is stranger than fiction, after all!



It is 20 years since the death of **William Golding**, one of many thousands of people represented in the Library's collection. Nicola Marr looks back on his life and work

When William Golding first submitted his manuscript *Strangers from Within* to one of the UK's biggest publishers, few would have predicted it would go on to become one of the most celebrated novels of all time.

Ranked third in *The Times'* 2008 list of the 50 greatest British writers, Golding's literary career spanned five decades and includes works across several genres, including poems and stage plays.

After graduating with a degree in English literature from Brasenose College, Oxford, Golding became a schoolteacher. However, with the onset of the Second World War, he then served for four years in the Royal Navy. He had enjoyed some limited literary success pre-war (his *Poems* collection was published by Macmillan in 1934), but Golding's writing career did not truly flourish until 1954, when *Strangers from Within*, later retitled *Lord of the Flies*, was picked up by Faber and Faber.

He wrote just 12 novels in total and in 1980 was awarded the coveted Man Booker Prize for *Rites of Passage*, the first in his trilogy, *The Ends of the Earth*

Golding received further accolades, including the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1983 and a knighthood in 1988, thus cementing his place in literary history as one of the most celebrated writers of his generation.

Few would dispute Golding's work transcends time and remains relevant to this day. Although not an immediate success when first published, *Lord of The Flies* has become a cult phenomenon and, despite attempts at censorship in several countries, continues to be one of the most widely read books in the world, having been translated into more than 35 languages.

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