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# DISCOVER

The magazine of the National Library of Scotland

www.nls.uk | Issue 25 Spring 2014

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HOW NLS' COLLECTIONS CAN BRING SCOTLAND TO YOUR SCREEN

## **THEATRE IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

TREADING THE 19TH-CENTURY BOARDS

**PLUS SIR TIM BERNERS-LEE,  
IVANHOE SCRIPTWRITER,  
NEWS, EVENTS & MORE**



# PROPELLER

**THE COMEDY  
OF ERRORS**

By William Shakespeare

**A MIDSUMMER  
NIGHT'S DREAM**

By William Shakespeare



Wed 16 to Sat 19 April 2014

KING'S THEATRE



Tue 22 to Sat 26 April 2014

FESTIVAL THEATRE



Tue 29 April to Sat 3 May 2014

KING'S THEATRE

## Uncle Varick

by John Byrne

John Byrne relocates Chekhov's  
masterpiece *Uncle Vanya* to 1960s  
rural Scotland.



Wed 7 to Sat 10 May 2014

KING'S THEATRE

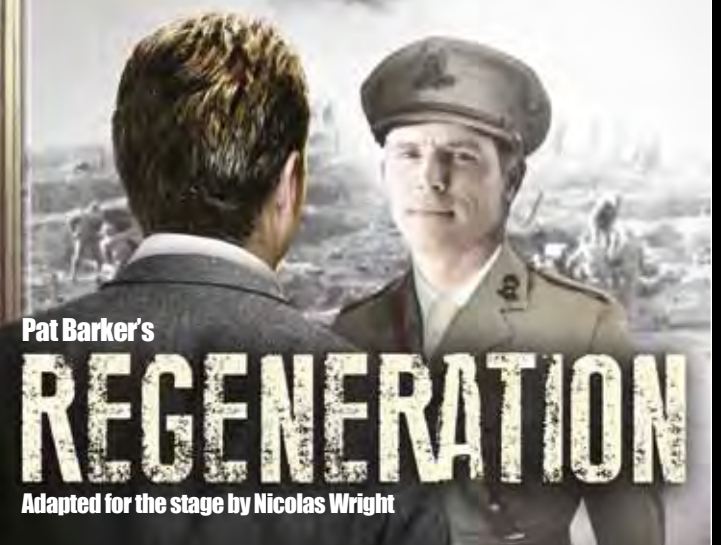
## A SLOW AIR

Written and Directed  
by DAVID HARROWER



Thu 22 to Sat 24 May 2014

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Pat Barker's

## REGENERATION

Adapted for the stage by Nicolas Wright

30 September – 4 October

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**DISCOVER NLS**  
ISSUE 25 SPRING 2014

**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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# Keep in touch with Scotland, wherever you are in the world

It's a pleasure to welcome you to our first *Discover NLS* of 2014 - an issue that heralds a number of changes at the Library.

As you will see in our news pages, after 11 years in the role of National Librarian and Chief Executive, Martyn Wade retired from his post at the beginning of March. Martyn led the Library through a period of great development and expansion, and we wish him well for the future.

Meanwhile, at the beginning of February, the NLS Board gained seven new members. These talented people (profiled on page 7 of this issue) will help lead the future development of one of the country's great cultural institutions.

One of the main purposes of *Discover NLS* is to shine a light on our incredible collections and in this issue we bring you some spectacular examples of our fine collection of 19th-century theatre playbills and paraphernalia.

Elsewhere in this issue we highlight some of the ways in which you can use the Library to keep in touch with all things Scottish, whether your interest be one of a sporting, scientific or literary nature, and no matter where you are in the world.

In recognition of the Referendum, which takes place in September, we also take a look back at similar campaigns, in particular remembering, through items in our collections, the people and organisations that shaped the debates around the future of Scotland.

I hope you will find much to interest you in this issue.



*James Boyle*

**JAMES BOYLE**

Chair of the Board

## THREE RECENT UPLOADS ON THE NLS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

1

**THE FORTH BRIDGE: CELEBRATING SCOTLAND'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE**

Ian Heigh, Network Rail civil engineer responsible for maintaining the Forth Rail Bridge, on one of Scotland's most iconic structures  
[bit.ly/nlsforth](http://bit.ly/nlsforth)



Robert Louis Stevenson and family

2

**ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON DAY 2013**

Curators Sally Harrower and Andrew Martin talk about the enduring popularity of Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson  
[bit.ly/nlsrls](http://bit.ly/nlsrls)

3

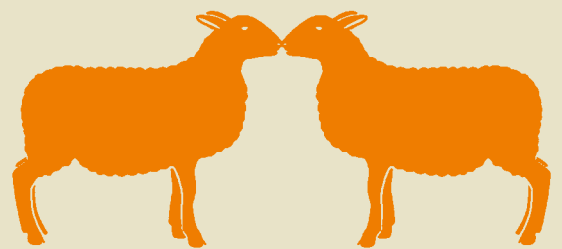
**SCOTLAND AND USA FOUNDING FATHERS**

Curators Dora Petherbridge and Chris Taylor give an introduction to the Scottish connections of two of the USA's 'founding fathers'  
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Invention  
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NLS Curator Dr Maria Castrillo reveals how the campaign for home rule in Scotland has been presented over the years

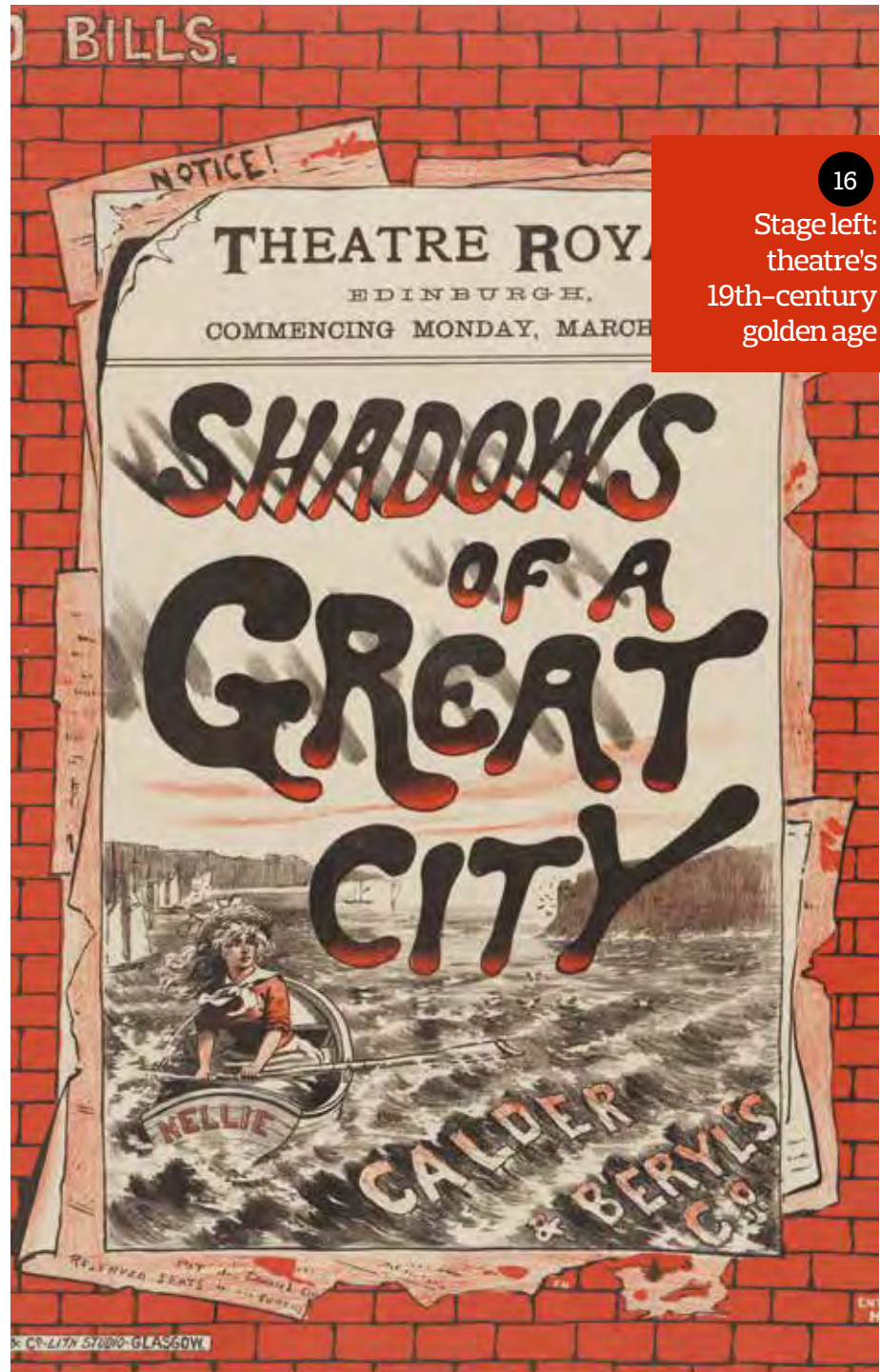
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Stage left: theatre's 19th-century golden age

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE INCLUDE



**Maria Castrillo**  
A Manuscripts Curator, Maria most recently co-curated the Library's What's Like Us? A Nation of Dreams and Ideas exhibition



**Amy Baldwin**  
Amy works at NLS as a Bartholomew Archive Conservator. She writes in this issue about a giant map of Glasgow



**Colin MacDonald**  
A prolific writer for television, film, radio and stage, Colin has used the Library as a resource to write his screenplay based on *Ivanhoe*



**Jennifer Giles**  
A Legal Deposit Curator, Jennifer's work focuses on the Library's Modern British Collections. She is collating material on the referendum



**Chris Fleet**  
Chris is the Senior Map Curator at NLS and has been involved in the Library's digital mapping initiatives

P.B.F.A.

# BOOK FAIRS

in SCOTLAND 2014

- May** **Sat 17 DUMFRIES**  
The Assembly Rooms, George Street, Dumfries, DG1 1EJ  
10am-5pm. £1
- Sat 31 SCOTTISH BORDERS**  
The Corn Exchange, Market Square, Melrose, TD6 9PN  
10am-4.30pm. £1
- June** **Sat 21 EDINBURGH**  
Radisson Blu Hotel, 80 High Street, Royal Mile,  
Edinburgh EH1 1TH  
10am-5pm. £1
- August** **Sat 9 FORFAR**  
Reid Hall, Castle Street, Forfar DD8 3HX  
10am-5pm. £1
- Sun 10 BALLATER**  
Victoria Hall, Station Square, Ballater AB35 5QB  
10am-5pm. £1
- Sat 23 & Sun 24 EDINBURGH FESTIVAL**  
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## FROM THE LINE

Scottish War Poetry  
1914-1945

Edited by David Goldie and Roderick Watson

ISBN 978-1-906841-16-4 £12.50 232 pages March 2014

Many who endured the two catastrophic global conflicts of the twentieth century chose not to speak – or could not speak – of what they saw and suffered. But some could turn to poetry, to try to make sense of what was happening.

*From the Line* brings together the best of Scotland's poetry from the two World Wars: 138 poems, from fifty-six poets, are represented here, from both men and women, from battlefields across the world and from the Home Front, too.

Some reflect on the loss of peace, or mourn the death of friends and comrades. Some tell of traumas that can never be shaken off, others of an intensity that would never be found again – but there is hope, too, and moments of humour, compassion and decency that still survive.

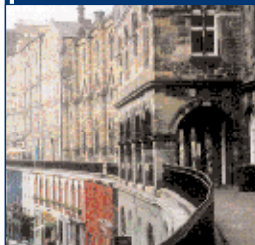


*From the Line* is published by the  
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The visitor centre  
opened in 2009

## National Librarian retires

At the end of March, Martyn Wade stepped down from his post as National Librarian and Chief Executive of the National Library of Scotland

**M**artyn joined NLS in 2002. Highlights of his period in the post include the acquisition of the world-renowned John Murray Archive in 2006, the opening of a public visitor centre in 2009 and the new special collections reading room in 2012. He led the merger of the Scottish Screen Archive (SSA) with NLS, contributed to plans for the SSA's forthcoming new home in the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow and was involved in the formation of Sound Scotland, a national sound archive currently under development.

Online access was expanded in 2010 when more than one million resources previously only available by a visit to NLS in Edinburgh were made accessible at the click of a button. More recently, Martyn played a key part in the introduction of e-legal deposit, which enabled NLS and the five other legal deposit libraries to begin



collecting and storing websites and born-digital material in the same way that printed material has been collected for centuries.

'After 11 years, I feel the time is right to move on and I'm very proud to have been part of the organisation during such a period of development and innovation,' says Martyn.

'Widening access to the public has been the cornerstone of Martyn Wade's contribution to NLS,' says the chair of the Library's board, James Boyle. 'Martyn has ensured that many more people use the collections in person or online, attend events, or simply visit the Library to enjoy exhibitions and use the cafe and shop. Under his leadership, the Library has taken major steps forward and we thank him for all that he has achieved.'

## New to NLS

ON 1 FEBRUARY, THE LIBRARY GAINED THE FOLLOWING NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Ms Noreen Adams** – Head of Metadata at the BBC



**Mrs Dianne Haley** – Change Management Consultant



**Mr Simon Learoyd** – Head of Performance Management at Clydesdale Bank



**Sir Neil McIntosh** – Former Chair of the Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland



**Ms Fiona Robertson** – Head of Cultural & Community Services, Perth & Kinross Council



**Prof Adrienne Scullion** – James Arnott Chair in Drama at the University of Glasgow



**Prof Melissa Terras** – Director of University College London's Centre for Digital Humanities and Professor of Digital Humanities in UCL's Department of Information Studies

# Artist sees the light of day

## RARE BOOKS

Keeping an eye on the weather is a central theme in a rare first-edition book recently purchased by the Library.

A *Practical Illustration of Gilpin's Day*, published in 1811, reproduces the landscape sketches of William Gilpin (1724-1804) in his efforts to represent the effects of light and the weather on the landscape.

This edition, part of the Library's Rare Books collection, includes an introduction and descriptive text for each plate by the Scottish painter and aquatint engraver John Heaviside Clark. He even hand-tinted the plates, adding spectacular dashes of colour and effects such as rainbows and flashes of lightning.

An English writer on art, a schoolteacher and clergyman, Gilpin is now best known for being one of the first people to put forward the idea of the picturesque in art (which he defined as 'that kind of beauty which is agreeable in a picture').

### A quick guide to William Gilpin

- Born at Scaleby Castle, near Carlisle, on 4 June 1724
- Published his popular *Essay on Prints* in 1768 in which he defined the term 'picturesque'
- Not to be confused with William Gilpin, the 19th-century American explorer



## Win a copy of 21 Revolutions

### COMPETITION

Twenty one leading Scottish artists and 21 leading Scottish writers have come together to respond to the archive of Glasgow Women's Library, in a

new publication, *21 Revolutions* (published by Freight Books). We have a copy of this beautiful coffee table book to give away.

For your chance to win, all you need to do is answer the following question correctly:

**Which contributor to *21 Revolutions* titled her first collection of short stories *Night Geometry & the Garscadden Trains*?**

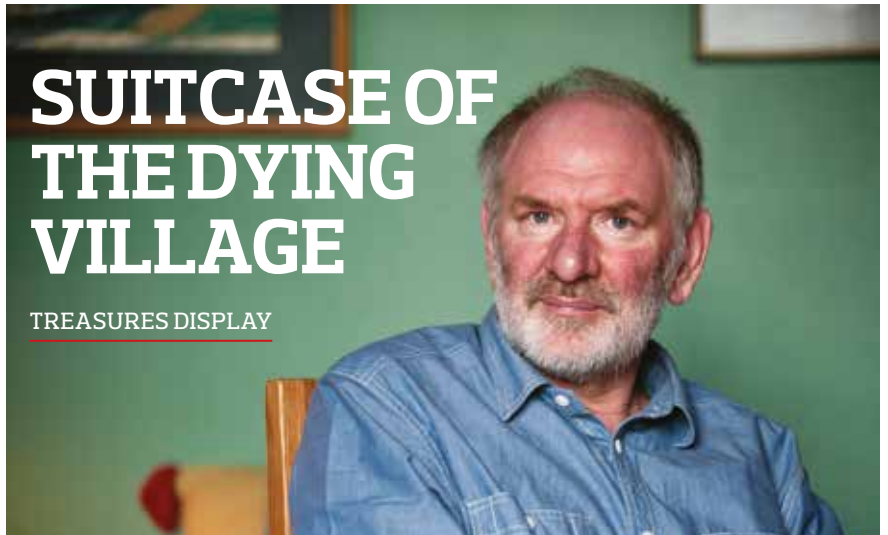
### POST YOUR ENTRY, WITH YOUR ADDRESS, TO:

Discover NLS 21 Revolutions Competition, Think Scotland, 20-23 Woodside Place, Glasgow G3 7QF, or email [discovernls@thinkpublishing.co.uk](mailto:discovernls@thinkpublishing.co.uk) (with '21 Revolutions Competition' in the subject line). Closing date is Friday 25 April.



## SUITCASE OF THE DYING VILLAGE

### TREASURES DISPLAY



Poet Tom Pow's multimedia response to depopulation in parts of Europe comes to NLS this spring as one of the Treasures displays.

One of the great defining eras in human history is encapsulated in the recently published statistic that today more people around the world live in cities than in rural areas.

Through a series of travel essays, stories, photographs and poems, Tom's book, *In Another World: Among Europe's Dying Villages*, explores what this means for some of the most rapidly depopulating areas of Europe. As he documented these areas in words and photographs, the project began to develop a strong visual element. Tom (pictured above) entered into





The book has hand-coloured illustrations by John Heaviside Clark



Gordon Adam from award sponsor The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Andrew Cattanach, Alex Miller, Jack Kibble-White and awards host Susan Calman

# Discover NLS takes home the trophy

## AWARDS

At the 2013 Scottish Magazine Awards, which took place in Edinburgh in December, *Discover NLS* was named Customer Magazine of the

Year – the third time the title has won the accolade at the awards, which are organised by the Professional Publishers Association.

'We are very grateful to everyone who contributes to make the magazine

the success it is,' said NLS Head of Communications, Alex Miller.

'We regularly receive very positive feedback on the magazine from readers in Scotland and around the world.'

## In Another World: Among Europe's Dying Villages explores what this means for some of the most rapidly depopulating areas of Europe

collaborations with sculptor Elizabeth Waugh, ceramicist Archie McCall, artist Hugh Bryden and craft artist Lizzie Farey. He also worked with embroiderers Busy Bees of Ae, and sound artists Ben Bryden and Steve Burns, as well as producing solo words and images. He has come to think of the resultant body of work as his *Suitcase of the Dying Village*.

The NLS display is an invitation to remember one of the most significant developments affecting Europe today.

*In Another World* is on display from 4 April to 30 June. For more on Tom's talk at the Library about *In Another World*, see page 14



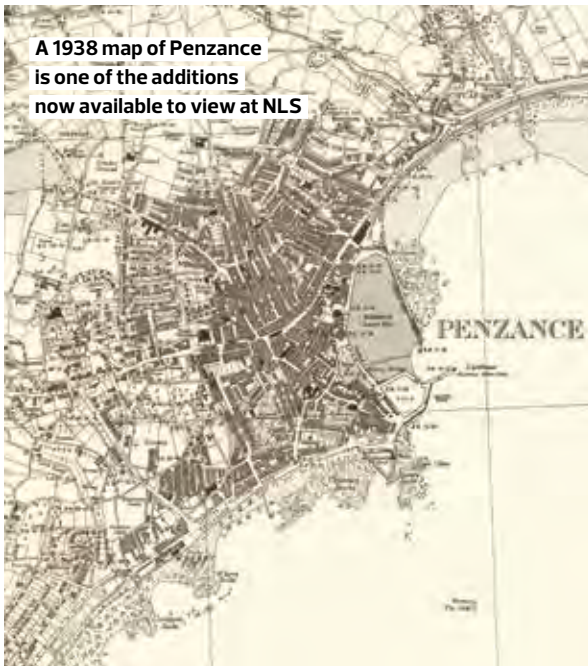
One of the Ordnance Survey maps available

## COLLECTIONS

# New service is mapped out

NLS is able to offer a new service, providing copies of older versions of Ordnance Survey maps that are still in copyright. The Library can now copy whole sheets of detailed mapping covering anywhere in the United Kingdom, published between 1964 and 1995. As a legal deposit library, NLS holds a comprehensive set of all modern maps published by Ordnance Survey. Copies can be supplied as photocopies on paper as well as digital images. **To find out more visit [bit.ly/NLSOS](http://bit.ly/NLSOS)**

A 1938 map of Penzance is one of the additions now available to view at NLS



## Top of the charts



### MAPS

**Notable additions to Scotland's largest map collection**

**A**mong the many thousands of Ordnance Survey maps now available to view in the Library's archives are the *Ordnance Survey six-inch maps of England and Wales, 1840s–1950s*. This is

NLS' largest ever digitisation project to date with 37,000 new sheets online.

The *OS Town Plan of London, 1893–6* is another highlight – the most detailed ever mapping of London undertaken by Ordnance Survey in the late 19th century.

Those looking to map their own finds can use the Library's free historical map application, which allows anyone to include the topography of Great Britain from the 1920s to 1940s in their own websites and research.

You can also order images, print-outs and photocopies of any of the more than 85,000 high-resolution maps of Scotland and beyond.

*To explore the collection online visit [maps.nls.uk](http://maps.nls.uk)*

# 320,000

### BY THE NUMBERS

Roughly the quantity of items that are added to the Library's collections every year



## 'It felt like assembling a very large jigsaw puzzle'

### CURATOR'S CHOICE

**Amy Baldwin, Bartholomew Archive Conservator, on the *Road Map of the County and City of Glasgow and the Vicinity (1894)***

**M**easuring nearly 2 x 2.5 metres, the *Road Map of the County and City of Glasgow and the Vicinity (1894)* posed some unusual challenges for me as a conservator. It was earmarked for conservation in preparation for an exhibition about mapmakers John Bartholomew and Sons, which ran at the Library a year or so ago. Its exact original usage is unclear – the Bartholomew Archive at NLS contains a slightly different later version, but evidence points to the *Road Map* being a one-off proof for a map that was never printed.

My main consideration in drawing up a treatment

proposal was how the map would be hung on exhibition. The linen lining, by which the map was attached to its rollers, was badly degraded along the top edge and it seemed unlikely that, even if extensively repaired, it would be able to support the weight of the rest of the map and the bottom roller.

I considered the option of mounting it on a piece of lightweight foam board, but this would have involved the removal of a significant amount of original material, including the rollers and linen lining. Since it was desirable to display the map in a format as close to its original as possible for the purposes of exhibition, I consulted closely with the other conservators to come up with a way of keeping the map on the rollers while avoiding stress to the original materials.

Having removed surface dirt with an eraser and

Amy Baldwin,  
Bartholomew Archive  
Conservator



chemical sponge, the whole map was gently humidified by introducing moisture through a layer of Gore-Tex. It was then flattened by being pressed for two days between sheets of felt and wooden boards. The size of the map meant that two conservators were required to manoeuvre the treatment materials above and below it, and arranging the pressing boards on top of it felt rather like assembling a very large jigsaw puzzle.

Minor paper tears were then repaired, and the top roller was temporarily removed. The paper was gently lifted from the linen backing along the top edge of the map, and strips of new linen were adhered between the two with wheat-starch paste.

Finally, the map was reattached to the roller with the new linen, which was able to bear the weight quite safely. It really is a remarkable item and since it was never seen outside Bartholomew's offices in the late 19th century, I was very pleased that the public were able to see it at last.

# LADIES ON THE MOVE

## MANUSCRIPTS

Olive Geddes, Senior Curator, Manuscript and Archive Collections, explores two recent Library acquisitions. Among the numerous additions to the Library's Manuscript Collections are two fascinating accounts by female travellers, one written en route to America in the 1790s, and the other by an American visitor to Scotland a century later...



### LADY LISTON'S LETTERS 1796-1801

In February 1796, newlywed Henrietta Liston left Glasgow for Washington, where her husband, Sir Robert, was to be British

minister to the fledgling United States of America. Henrietta records her excitement, worries and concerns in a series of lively letters to her uncle, James Jackson.

Writing from Carlisle, she reports her husband's approving comment that 'you (her uncle) have brought me up an excellent Traveller, to take what I can get, & be content'. In London she appoints her staff, sits for her portrait and frets over Martha Washington's 'fine drawing room'. Later letters describe the return journey from Washington and her experiences in Paris and The Hague.

The letters complement the Library's existing collection, the Liston Papers, which include Lady Liston's diaries and other letters by this entrancing correspondent.



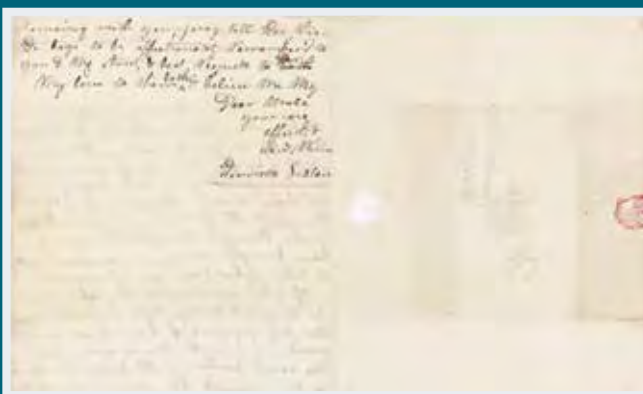
### ELIZABETH CUSTER'S VISIT TO SCOTLAND 1891

Elizabeth Custer, widow of the American general George Armstrong Custer, was visiting London in 1891 when she met steelmaker and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie.

An invitation to Cluny Castle, his Highland home, followed. Elizabeth described the visit in an epic 49-page letter now in the Manuscript Collections.

On the way, Elizabeth visited the Central Library in Edinburgh, an early 'Carnegie Library', and marvelled at the new Forth Bridge. She thought Cluny Castle 'very ancestral' but was grateful for its 'American comforts' of warm rooms and bright lighting.

The 4th of July celebrations, attended by hundreds of schoolchildren, estate tenants and workers, were the highlight of the visit – feasting, games, dancing and singing, rounded off with fireworks. She was enthralled by Scotland and the generosity of her hosts.



Above: This image of Andrew Carnegie's Cluny Castle is from the Ross Drawings in the Library's Manuscript Collections  
Left: Henrietta Liston's letter to her uncle James Jackson

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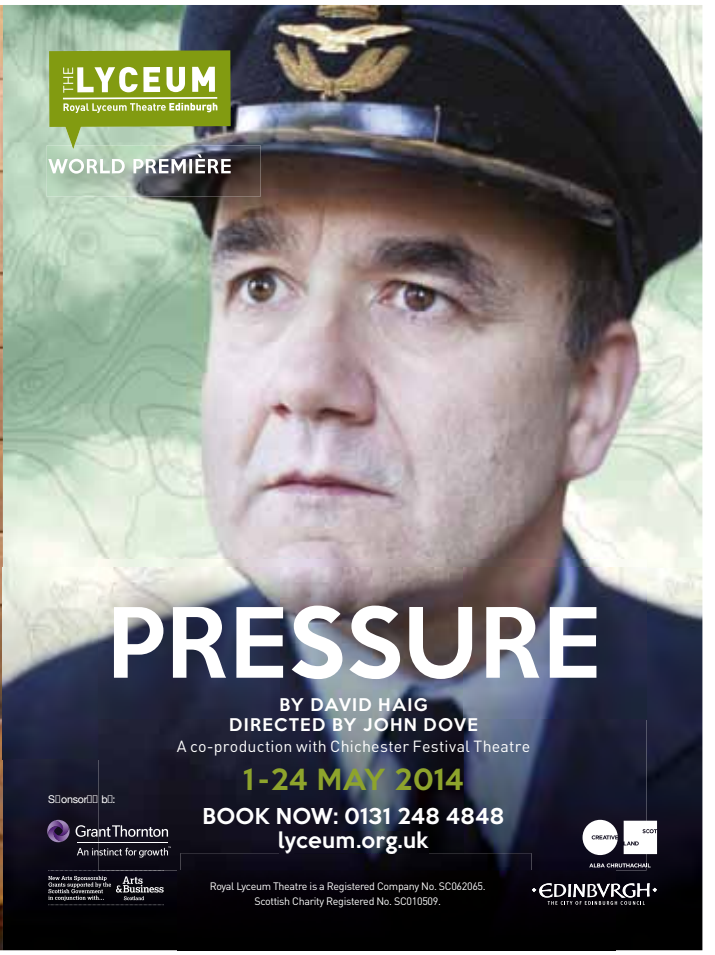
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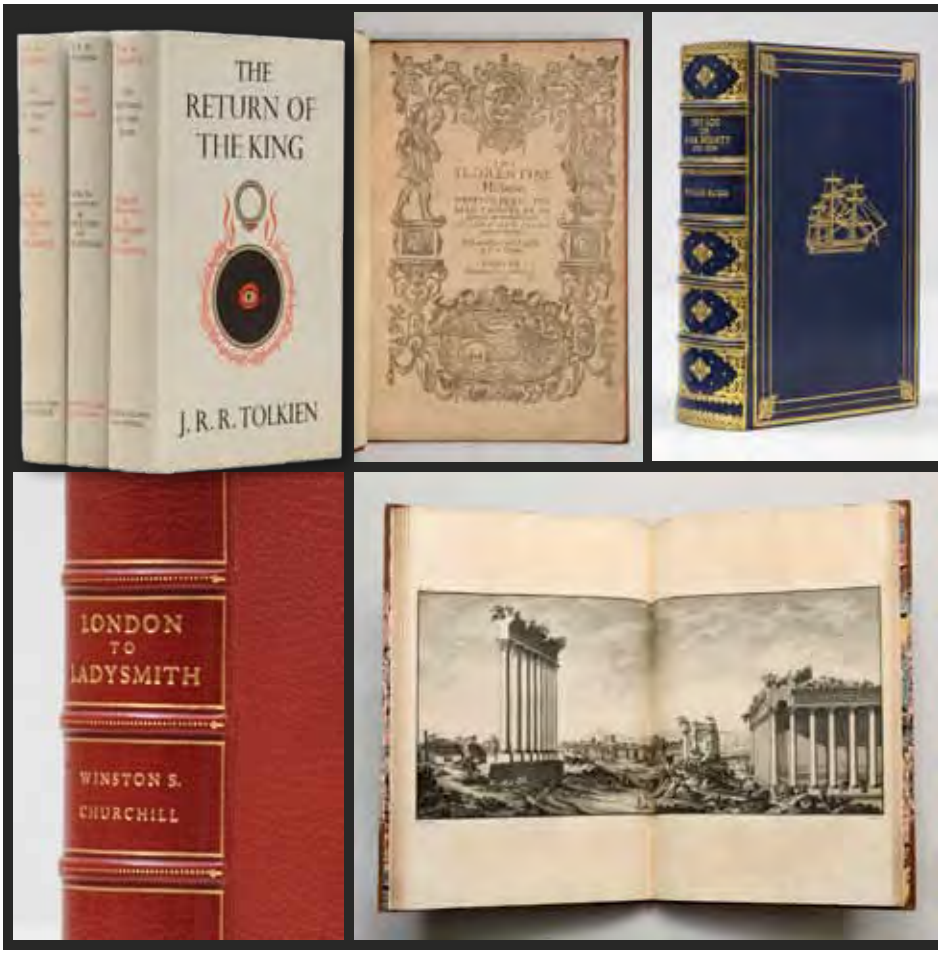
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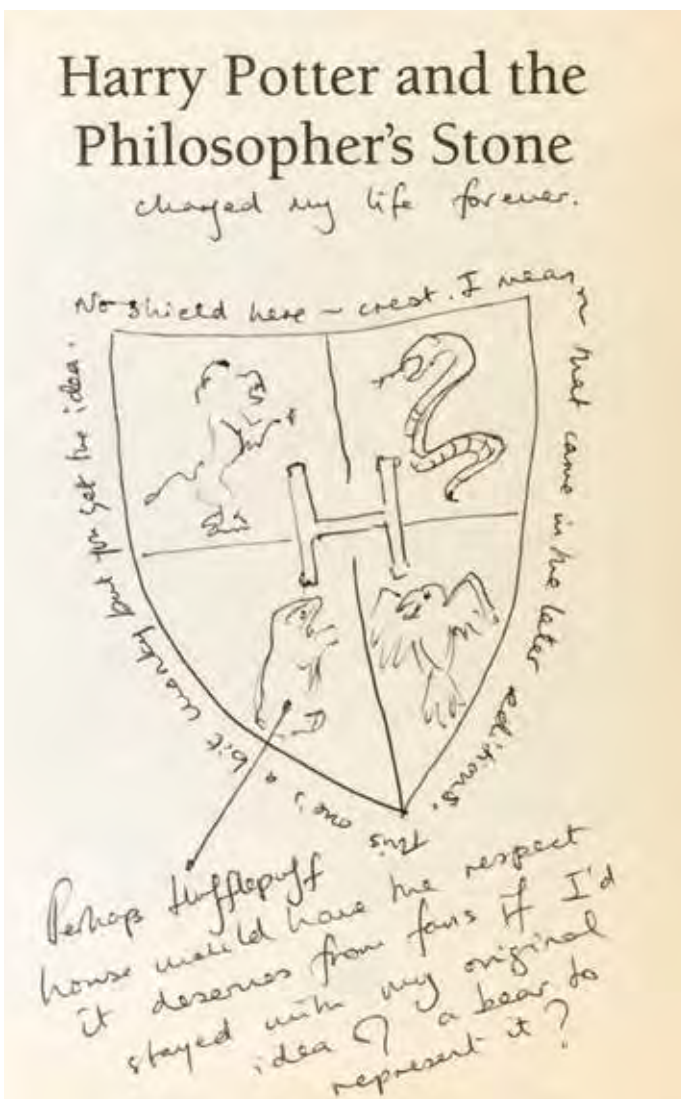
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## Open as usual

### MAINTENANCE

As reported in the last issue of *Discover NLS*, the Library is currently undergoing a programme of major renovation. The scaffolding is now up at the George IV Bridge building. However, the Library remains open for business. Work is also scheduled to take place at the seven-storey Causewayside building. The maintenance and repairs will result in improved energy efficiency.



## Harry Potter book has visitors spellbound

### EXHIBITIONS

In January, a first edition of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was on display in the National Library of Scotland for one week only. The book was bought last year at auction by an anonymous bidder, raising £150,000 for charity.

Famously written by JK Rowling in cafés around Edinburgh, the first edition includes more than 40 pages of original drawings, annotations and handwritten notes. One note explains how she invented Quidditch, a sport played by characters in the Harry Potter series.

The book was displayed from 30 January to 5 February and visitors were able to look at the title page, which features Rowling's drawing of a coat of arms.

The display formed part of the Library's ongoing exhibition celebrating ideas and inventions that originated in Scotland.

*What's like us? A Nation of Dreams and Ideas* runs at NLS until 18 May

REX FEATURES, MALCOLM COCHRANE



### FOLLOW NLS ON TWITTER

@natlibscot is the Library's official Twitter feed, and is a good way to keep up to date with our latest news.

# Spring events at NLS

All the following events take place at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, unless otherwise stated. At the time of writing, places are available at all of the events listed here.

## JOHN BUCHAN AND THE SCOTTISH SPY STORY

**Tuesday 8 April, 6pm**

What is the place of Scotland in John Buchan's tales? A global writer, his locations include Scotland, Europe, Africa, and Canada. This talk by members of the University of Edinburgh English Department will consider Buchan in his geographical context and discuss Scotland's relation to the British Empire, as part of Edinburgh Spy Week.

## HEALTHY COGNITIVE AGEING

**Tuesday 15 April, 6pm**

There is a long history



of public engagement with science in Edinburgh. This cooperation, through the University of Edinburgh's volunteer panel, is invaluable in aiding research that looks at our ageing population. Join researchers Mark Horne, Stephen Rhodes, and Professor Sergio Della Sala for a discussion of public engagement, as well as the presentation of findings showing a positive outlook

for healthy cognitive ageing.

## IN ANOTHER WORLD: AMONG EUROPE'S DYING VILLAGES

**Tuesday 13 May, 6pm**

More people now live in cities than rural areas. Through essays, stories, photographs and poems, Tom Pow explores in his book, *In Another World* – and at this event – what this means for some of the most rapidly depopulating areas of Europe.

## LOST RAILWAYS OF SCOTLAND

**Thursday 5 June, 6pm**

Bestselling railway author Julian Holland spent his formative years, notebook and camera in hand, trainspotting on draughty station platforms and in grimy engine sheds. His passion for railways has led him in recent years to write several bestselling books on the subject, including *Dr Beeching's Axe 50 Years On*, the award-winning *The Times Mapping the Railways* (with David Spaven) and *The Times Exploring Britain's Lost Railways*. Julian will give an illustrated talk about Scotland's lost railways, their fascinating history and how they can be explored today.



## 'FLYING HIGH' – AVIATION ON FILM

**Wednesday**

**28 May, 6pm**

Discover some

wonderful films recording Scotland's early aviation history and featuring aviation pioneer and pilot Captain EE (Ted) Fresson, the founder of Highland Airways. These films have been rediscovered as part of a project between the Scottish Screen Archive (SSA) and Another Orkney Production (AOP) which has culminated in the creation of a new version of the 1933 film *The Inauguration of the First Highland Air Service*. This and other films will also be available on a new DVD launched at the event. Join Ruth Washbrook from SSA and Moya MacDonald from AOP to take you on this journey of discovery.

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

## HELP US COLLECT HISTORY

### APPEAL

The National Library of Scotland is 'Collecting the Referendum' and needs your help to source local items related to the upcoming vote on independence in September. If you have, or know about, anything produced in your area, please get in touch. It could be leaflets, posters, newsletters or flyers. Nothing is too small to be of interest. And it's not just print material we're looking for.



Information about local blogs, websites, or Facebook pages will be especially useful.

We can only collect and archive what we find out about, so your information now will make a real difference to how good our collection will be. After the referendum much of this material could be thrown out or deleted, making it too late to save.

If you can help, please contact Jennifer Giles on 0131 623 4661 or email [j.giles@nls.uk](mailto:j.giles@nls.uk)

## EDINBURGH IN HISTORY AND VERSE

### COMPETITION

Luath Press has kindly given us two copies of its new titles, *Made in Edinburgh* and *Calton Hill*, to give away. *Made in Edinburgh* by Tessa

Ransford is a collection of poems about Holyrood Park, while *Calton Hill* by Stuart McHardy and Donald Smith explores the history and folklore of this famous Edinburgh landmark.

For your chance to win a copy of each book, you need to answer the following question correctly:

**Who designed Edinburgh's City Observatory?**

**POST YOUR ENTRY, ALONG WITH YOUR ADDRESS, TO:**

Discover NLS Edinburgh books competition, Think Scotland, 20-23 Woodside Place, Glasgow G3 7QF, or email [discovernls@thinkpublishing.co.uk](mailto:discovernls@thinkpublishing.co.uk) (with 'Edinburgh books competition' in the subject line). Closing date is Friday 25 April





## Food for (your) thoughts

**Tell us what you think about Discover NLS and you could win a fantastic hamper**

Complete our online survey and your name will be entered for our prize draw. Two runners-up will each receive a £75 book token.

**Go to [www.bit.ly/discovernlsurvey](http://www.bit.ly/discovernlsurvey)**







# PERFORMANCE, PRODUCTION AND PLAYBILLS

With theatre poised to play an important role in Scotland's 2014 programme of cultural events, *Discover NLS* takes a look back at some highlights from the Scottish stage

**T**o celebrate the Commonwealth Games coming to Scotland, a wide-ranging programme of events has been assembled under the banner of 'Culture 2014'. The programme is designed to showcase the best of Scottish culture and includes dance, music, visual arts, comedy, digital media and theatre.

Theatre in Scotland is currently in good shape. Its role has, of course, changed over the centuries as first cinema, then radio, then television and now the internet have provided alternative ways for people to engage in stories, ideas and performance.

Yet theatre in Scotland has always been popular, and today still caters for those who wish to be intellectually challenged, those who are looking for nothing more than a 'right good laugh' – and all points in between.

Take a look back 150 years or so, and the picture is much the same. Theatre in Scotland was vibrant and eclectic, welcoming the biggest productions from around the world. Thanks to a collection of playbills, posters, programmes, photographs and newspaper cuttings – 525 items in all – NLS has outstanding visual proof that this was indeed the case.

The Weir Collection was presented to the Library in 1970 by Kathleen Weir. The collection was assembled by her father, James J Weir, and consists mainly of items from Edinburgh theatres from the period 1870–1900. The eye-catching typography and beautiful illustrations underline the accessibility of the medium at this time, while reminding us that Scottish theatre has always been an integral part of our culture. Here are some of the highlights.



## ROB ROY

**11 MARCH 1829, THEATRE ROYAL**

One of the earliest playbills in the collection advertises a performance of Sir Walter Scott's *Rob Roy* in the Theatre Royal, with Charles Mackay playing Bailie Nicol Jarvie. The production was an astonishing success and made the Theatre Royal a substantial sum of money. When George IV visited Edinburgh in 1822, he ordered that a performance be staged especially for him. It was a triumph and placed the Theatre Royal at the very centre of the early 19th-century Scottish cultural revival.



## CHEVIOT: 40 YEARS ON

On 6 June 1974, the BBC brought to our television screens John McGrath's adaptation of his own 'ceilidh play', *The Cheviot, The Stag, and the Black Black Oil*. The play is a Scottish history

lesson delivered as 'a good night out'. It tells the story of the exploitation of the Highlands from 1746 to 1973, through a mix of quotation from original documents, reportage, Gaelic language, song, music and broad comedy.

It was the first production of the theatre touring company '7:84 Scotland', and was uncompromisingly left wing, attacking the political classes and their unwillingness to offend big business. It proved to be a hugely influential production, vividly remembered by those who saw it. This was in part due to the innovative 'pop-up book' stage set, designed and painted by writer and artist John Byrne, pictured below. That set now belongs to the Library, as does the archive of 7:84 Scotland.





**THE MIKADO**

**20 SEPTEMBER C.1886, ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE**

Richard D'Oyly Carte, the man behind the company that staged this version of *The Mikado* (probably in 1886) was the manager of the Royalty Theatre in Soho. It was there he remembered enjoying the work of theatrical partners WS Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. In 1875 he brought the two together again. They wrote for him the one-act drama *Trial by Jury*, which launched the duo on a course of spectacular successes, including *The Mikado*, which premiered at The Savoy in London in 1885.



**JO**

**C.1885, THEATRE ROYAL**

To our eyes, this poster might seem a little underexplained, but Jennie Lee was a famous actress of the time who was closely tied in the public's mind to the eponymous role in the play *Jo* (written by her husband, John Pringle Burnett). *Jo* was in fact a minor character from Charles Dickens' *Bleak House*, spun out into her own production.



**THE TICKET OF LEAVE MAN**

**C.1868 ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE**

A striking image, which leaves the prospective theatregoer in little doubt as to the type of entertainment that is being staged. *The Ticket of Leave Man* was a melodrama written in 1863 by Sunderland-born Tom Taylor about an ex-convict (from where the play derives its title) trying to find gainful employment. The play was adapted and made into a film in 1937. Meanwhile, Taylor attained a place in theatrical history by being the playwright of *Our American Cousin*, the farce that President Lincoln was watching on that fateful day of his assassination in 1865 at Ford's Theatre.

SUPERSTOCK