



## THE FIRST GOLDEN AGE OF EDINBURGH'S THEATRE ROYAL

The Theatre Royal, from where some of these images come, was extremely important in the revival of Scottish culture during the 19th century, and is often associated with popular stage adaptations of novels by Sir Walter Scott.

It was launched with a performance on 9 December 1769. However, for the first 40 years of its life it made little impact. Two centuries of Kirk opposition to the theatre, in various degrees of severity, coupled with an intrusive government censor imposed major limitations on what could be staged in Edinburgh.

The arrival of Sir Walter Scott transformed the situation. Scott was a patron and outspoken friend (as a young advocate, in 1794, he fought in a riot at the Theatre Royal, sparked when some members of the audience refused to stand for the national anthem). More importantly, his historical novels offered new possibilities for adaptation to the theatre.

A play that was unambiguously about the modern political situation in Scotland would have been heavily censored, but a play based on a novel about the Jacobite risings could escape censorship on the grounds that it was just based on fiction. This allowed for the possibility of a national drama that could reflect on Scotland through the medium of literature.

Scott's work, in particular *Rob Roy*, placed the Theatre Royal in the spotlight, but by 1851 the theatre fell on harder times once again, not helped by the drain of talent to London made possible by the railway network. Scott was not succeeded by a host of keen new Scottish writers, and the theatre had to rely on endless revivals of the *Waverley* novels.

In 1859, the government purchased the old Theatre Royal building to make way for the Post Office. Although several new Theatre Royals were to be built in Edinburgh, its first golden age ended with the closure of the old premises on 25 May 1859.

### MISS GENEVIEVE WARD. MR WH VERNON

12 SEPTEMBER, 1887 ROYAL  
LYCEUM THEATRE

Dame Lucy Geneviève Teresa Ward, Countess de Guerbel, DBE was an American-born soprano and actress, who later in life became a British subject. She was described in one New Zealand newspaper in 1884 as 'without exception the Greatest Tragic Actress of the English-speaking Stage'.

### HELD BY THE ENEMY 3 OCTOBER 1887. ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE

This five-act drama, set during the American Civil War, was written by William Gillette, who was better known as an actor who portrayed Sherlock Holmes and popularised the connection between the great detective and the deerstalker cap. *Held By The Enemy* eschewed a lot of the tropes of melodrama in favour of bringing to the stage a slice of naturalism. Today it is considered a piece that helped to shape modern theatre.





## SHADOWS OF A GREAT CITY

C.1887

Among the collection are playbills highlighting an American production that was written and staged in response to the growth in media interest in the criminal underworld of New York.

*Shadows of A Great City* sprang up alongside other productions such as *The Dark Side of the Great City* and *Sin and Its Shadows*, all of which had similar concerns in exploring the seamy side of American life. *Shadows of the City* would eventually find its way around the English-speaking world, its formulaic construction appealing to audiences. Indeed, when a production was staged in Australia in 1904, one newspaper critic felt moved to write: 'When in the opening scene Tom Cooper, a manly sailor, is arrested for stealing a case of diamonds which were placed in his knapsack by two men anxious for his ruin, it is safe to foretell that his character will be vindicated in the last act.'

## THE BUTLER



10 OCTOBER C.1887. ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE

John Lawrence Toole, the leading man in this production, was a comic actor and theatrical producer who for many years also acted as a toastmaster in London. He reached the heights of his acting fame in 1874. Although a success in the UK,

Toole unfortunately failed to find a similarly appreciative audience across the Atlantic.

In 1879 he established his own company in London, but continued to tour the UK. *The Butler*, a farce written especially for Toole by Herman Charles Merivale, was typical of the type of production in which the leading man excelled.



## SMILE FOR THE CAMERA

In addition to the array of eye-catching playbills in the Weir Collection, there are some fascinating photographs of cast members, taken mainly in the late 1860s. It would appear that most of these actors were dressed up for pantomime productions, but some of the costumes when viewed through 21st century eyes take on a surreal and sometimes sinister context.

Enjoy the collection for yourself at [digital.nls.uk/theatre-posters-1870-1900](http://digital.nls.uk/theatre-posters-1870-1900)





# LEGACIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT NLS

A bequest left to the National Library of Scotland will help showcase some of the riches from our collections

**A**n exhibition is in the planning stages that will put papers relating to the 'founding fathers' of the USA on display at the birthplace of the American nation. It is hoped the exhibition will be held at Independence National Historic Park in Philadelphia, where the Declaration of Independence was signed.

This will further strengthen ties between NLS and libraries in the USA, following on from the Library's loan last year of George Washington's personal copy of his *Official Letters to the Honorable American Congress* to the Fred W Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington.

This has all been made possible thanks to a significant bequest to the Library by George McElroy



**Top, Jean Leon Gerome Ferris' painting of the founding fathers and, above, a 1797 dinner invitation from the President of the USA**

and his wife Jane Stedman.

The couple lived in Scotland during the 1950s while Jane completed her studies at the University of Edinburgh, and were frequent visitors here after that time.

Their donation has enabled the Library to recruit a member of staff to assist with the preparatory work for the

Philadelphia exhibition and see it to a successful conclusion. The planned exhibition is just one example of how legacies and bequests help NLS fund projects that would not otherwise happen.

## IMPORTANCE OF YOUR SUPPORT

Donations – both big and small – are all put to good use. They allow the Library to enhance its day-to-day work in charting the global and historical influence of Scots at home and abroad, while recording and reflecting the ideas and cultures of the world.

'There are always more ideas on how we can develop and share our world-class collections than there are resources to implement our ambitions,' says Head of Development, Loïs Wolfe. 'That is why support from individuals such as the late Jane Stedman and George McElroy helps us in so many ways. We are greatly indebted to them and to everyone else who supports our work.'

## HOW TO HELP

*If you would like to support the Library's ambitions for the future, either now, or in your will, please contact Loïs Wolfe or Sarah Adwick in the Development Team at the Library either by e-mail, [development@nls.uk](mailto:development@nls.uk), or telephone 0131 623 3733.*

# THE INDEPENDENCE QUESTION

With Scotland's Referendum taking place later this year, NLS Curator in Political Collections, Dr Maria Castrillo, looks back at how previous constitutional debates have played out

Since it was announced in January 2012, grass-roots activists from across Scotland have been mobilising the machinery of the various campaigns that are currently framing the independence referendum debate. New technologies, social media in particular, have opened up new ways to organise, inform and engage with voters. However, as the debate continues, traditional methods of campaigning and propaganda are co-existing with the virtual worlds of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

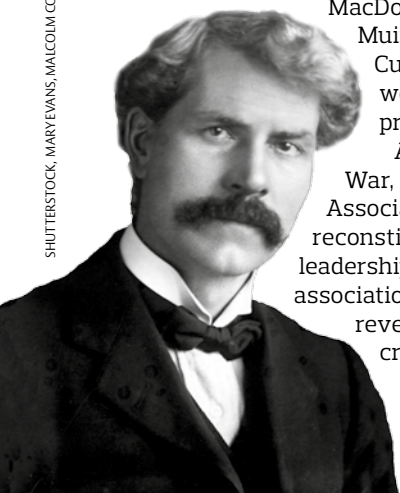
This debate will continue until the polling stations open on 18 September. But this is not the first time in Scotland's history that campaigning groups have come together to shape and deliver constitutional change - or indeed to strive to maintain the status quo. The National Library of Scotland holds an unrivalled documentary record through which these discourses can be revisited.

## A BLUE PRINT FOR SCOTLAND

The late 19th and early 20th centuries were dominated by broad movements with a strong Liberal bias pushing for Scottish home rule. The Scottish Home Rule Association, the Young Scots Society, and the International Scots Home Rule League published pamphlets and petitions, issued appeals to the Scottish diaspora, organised public rallies and canvassed support for pro-home rule candidates at elections. Keir Hardie, Ramsay

MacDonald, Roland Eugene Muirhead and Cunninghame Graham were some of their most prominent supporters.

After the First World War, the Scottish Home Rule Association (SHRA) was reconstituted under the leadership of Muirhead. The association's surviving records reveal a well-structured, cross-party organisation



SHUTTERSTOCK, MARYEVANS, MALCOLM COCHRANE

Ramsay MacDonald, left, and Keir Hardie, right, were among the high-profile supporters of home rule

**Dr Maria Castrillo,**  
**the Library's Curator of**  
**Political Collections**



### **'The association's surviving records reveal a well-structured cross-party organisation focused on making an effective demand for the re-establishment of a Scottish Parliament to deal with Scottish affairs'**

focused on making an effective demand for the re-establishment of a Scottish Parliament to deal with Scottish affairs. The papers also reflect the creation of a national convention widely representative of Scotland's political landscape to determine its constitutional future.

The SHRA produced a draft home rule scheme in 1926 that proposed a joint council for England and Scotland to look after shared functions such as defence and foreign affairs, together with a Scottish Parliament for Scottish matters, with fiscal powers. Westminster's rejection of the proposals meant that the scheme was shelved. Despite its failure to deliver home rule for Scotland, the SHRA was a beacon for later devolution campaigns and became a model for future cross-party pressure groups.

In the 1940s and 1950s the Scottish Convention (SC), founded by John MacCormick, sought consensus around a new devolution scheme through the creation of a representative Scottish National Assembly. It published a *Blue Print for Scotland* in 1948 outlining its proposals, including consideration of how Scottish representation at Westminster would work post-devolution.

#### **A QUESTION OF NUMBERS**

Through the National Covenant Committee, SC launched a landmark petition in 1949 to demonstrate the depth of support for



DEVOLUTION



home rule in Scotland. Within a week 50,000 people had signed it and – allegedly – one million within six months, and double that number by 1952. However, these figures have been challenged. The surviving records of the organisations, including minutes, agendas, correspondence and the signed petitions, were deposited at NLS in the 1970s.

The Scottish National Party's (SNP) electoral blossoming in the late 1960s prompted the two major UK parties to include devolution on the political agenda again. The Kilbrandon Commission (1969-1973) recommended the

establishment of directly elected assemblies for Scotland and Wales. From 1974 until 1979 efforts to legislate for the promised Scottish Assembly dominated and divided UK politics.

Against this political backdrop, activists began to organise campaigning initiatives in favour of and against the proposed assembly. The records of Scotland is British, which

**'CSP was involved in a number of symbolic demonstrations such as the ceremony of the key in front of the Royal High School in 1984 to signify a desire to unlock the gates of Scottish democracy'**

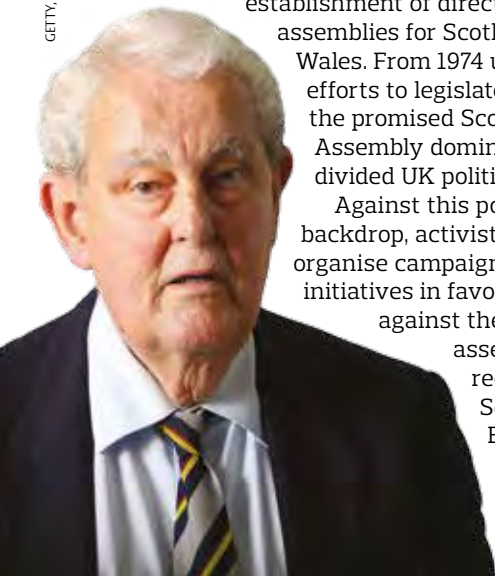
opposed devolution, can be found among the papers of Labour MP George Lawson. However, Lawson's death in July 1978 prompted the organisation's disbandment. Former MP Tam Dalyell's collection of news cuttings, ephemera and papers is another interesting source to chart the development of these pressure groups.

**THE 1979 REFERENDUM**

At around the same time, another Labour MP, John P Mackintosh, launched the short-lived Alliance for a Scottish Assembly, soon replaced by Yes for Scotland, to campaign for a 'yes' vote in the 1979 referendum. Mackintosh's personal papers, which are held at the NLS, chart the rationale behind this campaign. It was chaired by Lord Kilbrandon, and drew support from figures such as Ludovic Kennedy and Sean Connery, a cross-section of civic society and politicians, including Margo Macdonald, Jim Sillars, Alick Buchanan-Smith and Russell Johnston. The

**Above: a variety of campaign material in favour of devolution**  
**Left: Tam Dalyell, former MP for West Lothian and Linlithgow**

GETTY/MALCOLM COCHRANE





# STOP STAMPEDING SCOTLAND INTO DEVOLUTION



**SCOTLAND IS BRITISH**

Scotland is British Campaign | 30 George Square, Glasgow G2 1EQ.



**How the anti-devolution message was communicated from 1977 to 1979**

group's limited financial resources and Mackintosh's death in July 1978 deprived yet another campaign of a strong political leadership.

The 'no' option in the 1979 referendum was represented by the Scotland Says No organisation. Launched towards the end of 1978, its committee included many activists who had been involved in Scotland is British and it received a great deal of support from the Conservative Party.

New campaigning groups emerged to make the case for devolution after the 1979 referendum. Scotland-UN launched a petition that was signed by 350,000 people and took the Scottish case for self-determination to the United Nations and other international bodies. From the beginning, Scotland-UN co-operated closely with other organisations active in promoting a Scottish Parliament.

The Campaign for a Scottish Assembly, later known as the Campaign for a Scottish Parliament (CSP), was officially launched in Edinburgh on 1 March 1980 - the first anniversary of the 1979 referendum. CSP pushed for the 'creation of a directly elected legislative Parliament with such powers as may be desired by the people of Scotland'. The group defined itself as an 'all-party, non-party organisation, independent of all political parties and organisations'.

CSP's records, also in NLS, reveal its instrumental role in harnessing support from the Scottish local government sphere for wider constitutional change and in establishing the 'Scottish Constitutional Convention' in 1987. The convention did a lot of the groundwork upon which the future Labour government under Tony Blair based its proposals for devolution. It published two seminal reports that laid out a scheme for a devolved Scottish Parliament.

## PETITIONS AND RALLIES

CSP was involved in a number of symbolic demonstrations, such as the ceremony of the key in front of the Royal High School in Edinburgh in 1984 to signify a desire to unlock the gates of Scottish democracy. It also ran opinion polls and organised media activity outside Scotland to raise awareness among London politicians. In the 1990s, CSP co-operated with other pressure groups and joined in the call for a multi-option referendum. One of its main contributions was the *Blue Print*, which complemented the Commission's reports. CSP dissolved in 1999, almost 20 years after its foundation.

The campaigning groups that emerged after the 1992 UK general election encouraged citizens' active participation in the constitutional debate.

## DEVOLUTION

The group, Common Cause, advocated the establishment of civic forums across Scotland (following the example of the 'velvet revolutions' in Eastern Europe) to consolidate existing support for constitutional change. Commentator Joyce MacMillan was one of its leading lights. Scotland United (SU) also emerged after the 1992 election to campaign for a referendum on Scotland's place in the union. It organised rallies in Glasgow to promote unity and to espouse its belief in the need to give Scottish people a voice in the debate. SU was instrumental in enabling SNP supporters to participate in cross-party activity.

The Campaign for Scottish Democracy was established to bring this plethora of groups under the same umbrella. It organised a key demonstration in Edinburgh on 12 December 1992 to coincide with a European summit. Between 25,000 and 40,000 people attended the march, which culminated with the reading of a declaration demanding democracy for Scotland, as well as the recall of the Scottish Parliament.

### THE 1997 REFERENDUM

Labour's landslide victory in the May 1997 general election was another milestone in the journey towards devolution. Under Tony Blair's leadership in opposition Labour had committed to a two-question referendum which would ask the Scots whether they wanted their own parliament and whether it should have tax-raising powers. This time a simple majority would suffice to secure a 'Yes' vote.

Before Labour's victory, activists had started to make preparations for a future Yes campaign at a time when public opinion revealed Scots were in favour of taking responsibility for their own affairs through a directly elected parliament. These efforts were fronted by leading businessman Nigel Smith who, on 15 May 1997, launched Scotland Forward (SF). Records donated to NLS provide an insight into the media strategy of this umbrella group that harnessed the support of Labour, the Scottish Liberal Democrats and the SNP. Unlike the fragmented approach taken by campaigning groups during the 1979 referendum, SF attempted



THE SCOTSMAN



Up to 40,000 people take to the streets of Edinburgh in December 1992 to make their case

to foster political co-operation and facilitate the campaigning initiatives of grass-roots activists.

Think Twice was the campaign behind the 'No' vote. Tactically it stressed the risks of devolution and, for the most part, failed to attract major support among the business community – but it did secure a late and dramatic entry into the campaign from former Conservative leader and prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

Although the outcome of the 1997 referendum was a resounding victory for the 'Yes' campaign, it was not the end of the journey. The current debate on independence has dominated Scottish politics for nearly two years and has led to the formation of campaigning groups that combine traditional methods with a strong presence in the digital world. NLS has a role to play in capturing the documentary evidence of these organisations and their activities as comprehensively and inclusively as possible. This will ensure that, after 18 September 2014, a legacy of this historical event is preserved and made accessible to future generations interested in understanding the historical and cultural significance of this key event in Scottish contemporary history.

## THE FIVE-YEAR VIGIL

One of the most prominent organisations in the devolution debate in the early 1990s was Democracy for Scotland. The day after the 1992 general election a vigil, entirely staffed by volunteers from the organisation, began outside the Royal High School building in Edinburgh (at that time suggested as the venue for a parliament in Scotland) to campaign for the recall of a Scottish Parliament. The vigil ended the day after the 1997 referendum. Several volumes of journals recording the volunteers' experiences and other records provide a fascinating insight into the common goals, views and expectations held by those involved.





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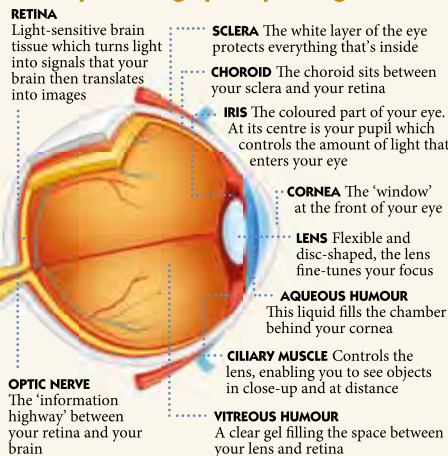
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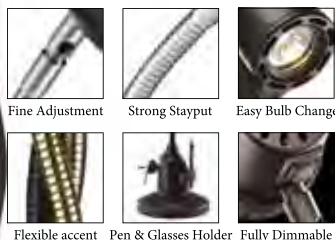
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# SCOTLAND ON YOUR SCREEN

In the year of Homecoming Scotland 2014 the Library's digital gallery brings you a taste of home, just a click of the button away

**T**he spotlight is assuredly on Scotland this year, as the country gears up to welcome some truly major events, including the Commonwealth Games, the Ryder Cup and the MTV Europe Awards.

Under the banner of Homecoming Scotland 2014, everyone is being encouraged to join in a year-long mix of celebrations and festivals highlighting the best that the country has to offer – from breathtaking scenery, and mouthwatering food and drink, to a rich cultural and creative heritage.

The Library is, of course, no exception and wherever you are in the world it's easy to tap into Scotland's heritage by visiting the NLS digital gallery. With such a promising year ahead, here are just a few online highlights from the collections that tell the story of Scotland's brilliant past.

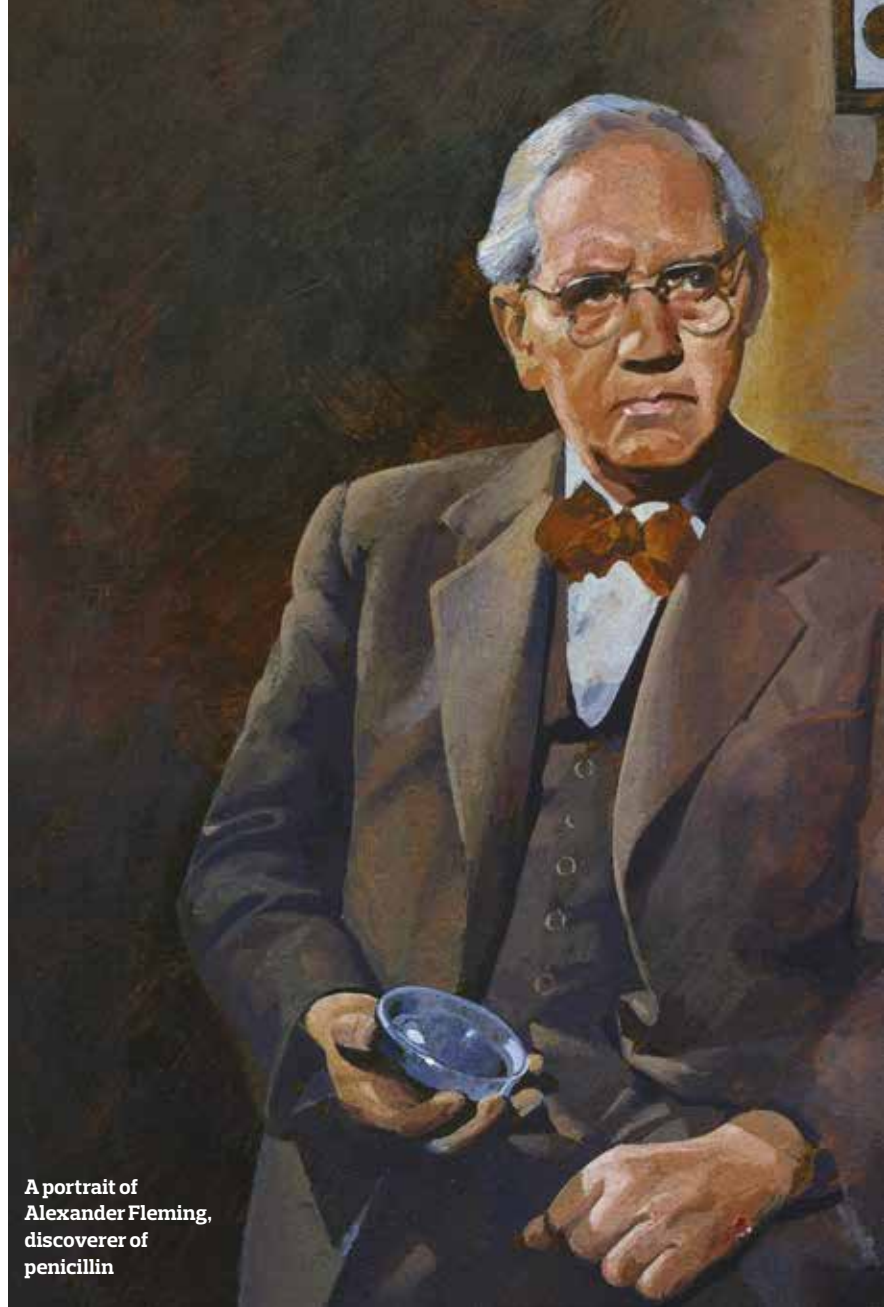


## CONSULT THE CHRONICLES

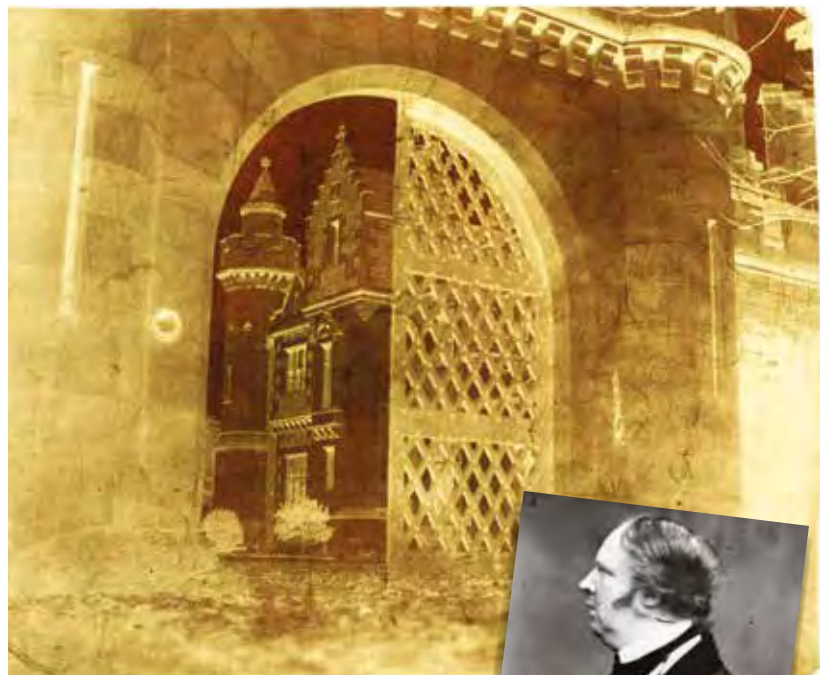
'Scotland's Pages', a digital gallery with an interactive timeline exploring 1,000 years of Scotland's history, is a great starting point for those looking to reconnect with their roots. From the Battle of Killiecrankie to the first publication of

*The Broons*, it's possible to trace events as they happened via first-hand accounts and important documents in the Library's collections.

Beyond the trials and tribulations of kings and queens, delving more deeply into the lives of Scotland's general population is also easy through more than 700 digitised Scottish Post Office directories. With their alphabetical list of a location's inhabitants and information on their profession and address, these provide a valuable basis for researching family, trade, and town history from the late 1700s onwards.



A portrait of Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin



A calotype image of the entrance gate at Abbotsford, and inset, pioneering photographer William Henry Fox Talbot



**‘These enthusiastic amateurs produced portraits and landscapes, and captured a wide variety of subjects, such as the Scottish country houses and castles of places such as Traquair, Balcarres and Cawdor’**

#### PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

A more visual representation of a bygone Scotland can be found in the two albums of the Edinburgh Calotype Club, which was the first photographic society in the world. Accessible through the digital gallery are more than 300 images by a group of groundbreaking Scottish photographers working in Edinburgh and St Andrews in the early 1840s.

These enthusiastic amateurs produced portraits and landscapes, and captured a wide variety of subjects, such as the Scottish country houses and castles of places such as Traquair, Balcarres and Cawdor.

Biographies of the members and associates can be found alongside the online albums, accompanied by a technical description of the calotype process and links to further reading.

#### ENQUIRING MINDS

Pioneering scientists are also celebrated in the ‘Scottish Science Hall of Fame’, a tribute to 10 of the country’s greatest thinkers as voted for by the public.

Transcripts of letters, papers and published works chart the ideas and inventiveness of individuals such as Alexander Fleming, the biologist, pharmacologist and botanist. The digital gallery presents his findings that led to the accidental discovery of penicillin, the antibiotic derived from mould that was to prove a milestone in the history of medicine.

#### THIS SPORTING LIFE

With the Ryder Cup taking place at Gleneagles this year there’s no better time to explore the origins of Scotland’s greatest sporting export through the Library’s online collection, ‘Golf in Scotland 1457-1744’.

Digitised documents and texts give an insight into the early days of golf and how it developed from an outlawed activity to become an internationally important game.

Discover how golf became organised, with the formation of the world’s first golf club and the formulation in 1744 of the earliest surviving ‘rules of golf’.

**Mary Queen of Scots playing golf on the links at St Andrews as depicted in a 1905 edition of *The Illustrated News***





Clockwise from left: a magazine featuring two nurses who set up a medical post in the basement of a Belgian house in the First World War; the Battle of Passchendaele; and General Douglas Haig, the British commander in chief



### JOINING UP THE JACOBITES

A wide selection of period prints and broadsides paint a vivid picture of the Jacobite Rebellions and their main protagonists in Scotland in 1715 and 1745-1746.

Subtlety was certainly not the aim of many of the documents that are available to view online. One particularly provocative image shows a Highlander, lashed to a tree and being skinned by the Duke of Cumberland, dagger in mouth.

On the other side of the coin, another engraving shows the coffin of that same duke with angels taking his soul up to heaven and the devil, the Pope and the Young Pretender writhing in agony beside it.

Dr Walter Biggar Blaikie (1847-1928) assembled the collection, which encompasses 1,076 printed items in 756 volumes, 42 manuscripts, three charters and c. 400 engravings.

### A TIME TO REMEMBER

With 2014 marking 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War, the Library's online resources can also provide a valuable opportunity to reflect on the contribution of Scots during the conflict.

First-hand experiences are presented through the diaries, letters, and photographs of individuals such as General Douglas Haig, the British Commander in Chief, and nurse Mairi Chisholm, one of the few women to live and work in the front-line trenches. Chisholm and her companion Elsie



**'Subtlety was certainly not the aim of many of the documents that are available to view online. One particularly provocative image shows a Highlander, lashed to tree and being skinned by the Duke of Cumberland, dagger in mouth'**

Knocker were reverently known as the 'Madonnas of Pervyse', after the Belgian town where they established a medical post in the cellar of a house.

Alongside these personal accounts can also be found the British military lists, comprehensively detailing who served in the British Army, Navy and Air Force in the First and Second World Wars.

To begin exploring the Library's digital gallery and to view materials from these outstanding collections and more visit [digital.nls.uk](http://digital.nls.uk)

**The image above left is among the thousands of items the Library holds which were collected by Dr Walter Biggar**

# 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  
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(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 preordering 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 the next page 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 Science and Technology Collection

Covering everything from agriculture to zoology, the Library holds one of the largest collections of scientific publications in Scotland, with more than

5,000 current journals, and extensive historical runs of UK journals.

The wealth of print material is complemented by the Library's electronic resources search service, which allows networked access to online databases, including the ISI Web of Science database, which indexes around 8,500 different journals in the field of science, social science and humanities.



A wide range of dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories and handbooks can also be used to find

detailed information on scientific and related subjects.

As the Library is entitled to claim a copy of most printed material published in the UK, from academic texts to popular science and children's books, there is something in the collection for everyone.

For more information go to [www.nls.uk/collections/science-and-technology](http://www.nls.uk/collections/science-and-technology)

## Digital resources

With more than 300 million items, of which in excess of 80 per cent 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; Kompas; 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; 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% can be accessed outwith the Library by customers resident in Scotland.

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

# The quiet hum of industry

Screenwriter Colin MacDonald on how the Library's Reading Rooms inspire and feed his creativity



I have been a full-time writer for 30 years, and for the last seven of those have been making regular trips to the Reading Rooms of the National Library of Scotland. It's a tremendous place to go for research, but I also use it as a location in which to write.

I have an office at home, but the Library represents a change of space, which gives me a fresh perspective. There are books to hand, but there is also a quiet hum of industry about the place that inspires.

As a habitual early riser I work for a few hours at home before coming to the Library.

I have recently been working on a feature film script for Fairbanks Productions. It's a big-budget version of Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*. NLS' collections have been invaluable. One of the challenges I faced was how to bring a jousting tournament to the big screen. The wealth of information at the Library, from many countries and



## 'I found a wealth of vital information at the Library'

from many different centuries, was critical in getting to grips with the mechanics of a tournament. Similarly, getting a full understanding of the politics of the time and being able to immerse myself fully in the chivalric code was vital.

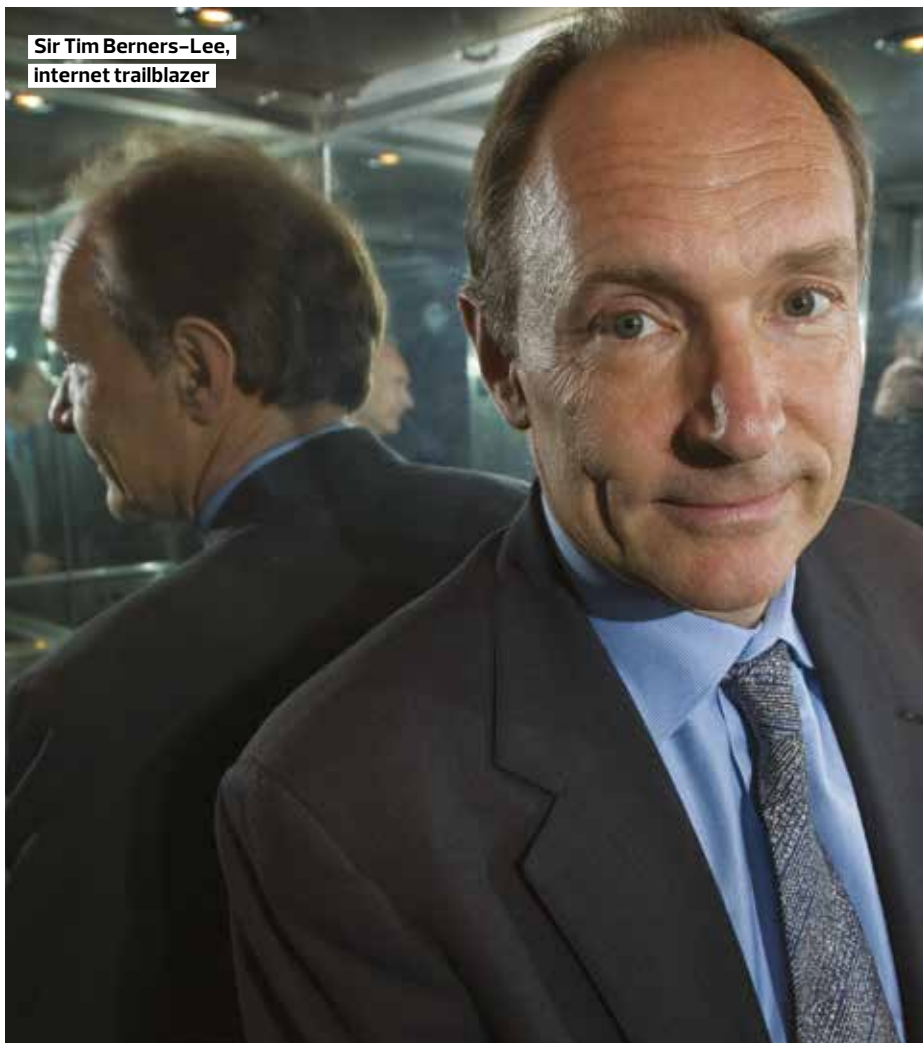
I am sure they are used to odd and specific requests, but the staff at the Library are, without exception, great and unflappable. They are extremely helpful and are able to track down the most obscure publications.

I've written many dramas in the Reading Room. For example, an episode of the ITV crime show *Blue Murder* and two series of my BBC Radio 4 crime drama *The Whole of the Moon*. If I needed to know something specific and accurate about forensic science it was good to know there was reference material to hand.

The one downside, if it is a downside, is that with so much of interest all around, curiosity calls and before long my imagination has been fired by something sitting on a shelf.

The Library contains worlds within worlds. It's a treasure.

*A prolific writer for screen, radio and stage, Colin also tutors and mentors at Scotland's Screen Academy*



Sir Tim Berners-Lee,  
internet trailblazer

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the creation of the world wide web. It was first proposed by **Sir Tim Berners-Lee**, who is one of many thousands of people represented in the Library's collection. Georgina Welsh looks at his remarkable life so far

If anyone can be said to have fathered the 'information age', it is London-born computer scientist Sir Tim Berners-Lee. He is the man who, in 1989, proposed a global hypertext project which we, in time, would come to know as the 'world wide web'.

The web has revolutionised the ways in which we learn and communicate, providing means of instantaneous communication, as well as unlocking a wealth of information for millions of people.

Berners-Lee's father was a mathematician and fellow computer scientist who was partly responsible for the creation of one of the world's first commercially available general-purpose electronic computers. Tim Berners-Lee studied physics at the University of Oxford, graduating with a first-class degree in 1976. He then worked as a software engineer at a telecommunications company and during that time assembled his own working computer.

#### TWEET INSPIRATION

Berners-Lee first went to work at CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research) as a contractor in 1980, and it was there he established the scientific groundwork for what would later evolve into the world wide web. However, it was not until 1989, while completing a fellowship at CERN, that Berners-Lee would officially submit the proposal for which he was to become internationally famous.

In subsequent years Berners-Lee developed his project, based largely on the feedback of internet users themselves.

Five years after its 'birth', he created the World Wide Web Consortium, which focuses on developing new technologies and software with the aim of raising the standard of the network itself and ensuring it is utilised to its full potential.

He has received a plethora of awards and was knighted in 2004 for his pioneering work. In 2012 he performed a key role at the opening ceremony of the London Olympic Games. He tweeted a message – projected around the stadium – which read, simply: 'This is for everyone'.

#### DISCOVER MORE

Read the magazine online at [nls.uk/about-us/publications/discover-nls](http://nls.uk/about-us/publications/discover-nls)





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