

★ FREE ★

PERFORMING SHAKESPEARE
400 years of acting on display

MAPPING THE WORLD
Win a framed print in our competition

DISCOVER


The magazine of the National Library of Scotland • www.nls.uk • Issue 31 Spring 2016

TESTING TIMES

A look back
at exam papers
in Scotland.
Are exams more
difficult now?

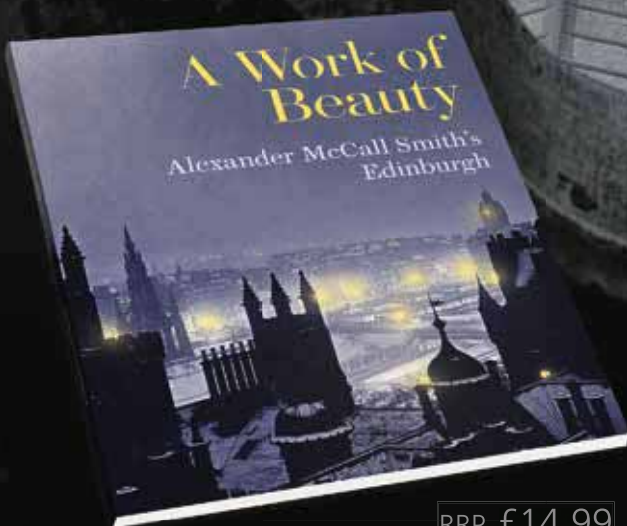
FORGER EXPOSED

Master forger forced to give
up his life of crime after he's
caught and sent to prison

 National Library of Scotland
Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba

A Work of Beauty

Alexander McCall Smith's
Edinburgh



RRP £14.99

**An intimate portrait of a city by one of
Scotland's greatest storytellers**

Best-selling book now out in paperback
Available from all good bookshops, or order
direct from Booksource on 0845 370 0067
Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm



DISCOVER
ISSUE 31 SPRING 2016

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

FOR THE NATIONAL LIBRARY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Alexandra Miller

EDITORIAL ADVISER
Willis Pickard

Contributors: Bryan Christie,
Richard Goslan, Nigel Donaldson

PUBLISHED BY
Connect Publications
www.connectmedia.cc

EDITOR
Lauren Campbell
lauren@connectmedia.cc

DESIGN
Debra Johnson
debra@connectmedia.cc

ADVERTISING
Alison Fraser
alison@connectmedia.cc

ISSN 1751-5998 (print)
ISSN 1751 6005 (online)

NATIONAL LIBRARY
OF SCOTLAND
George IV Bridge,
Edinburgh EH1 1EW
TELEPHONE 0131 623 3700
FAX 0131 623 3701
EMAIL enquiries@nls.uk
The National Library of Scotland
is a registered Scottish charity.
Scottish Charity No. SC011086
www.nls.uk

The Library is full of surprises, from collectable forgeries to famous writers demonstrating their lesser-known talents

A turn up for the books

Handwritten documents by literary giants such as Walter Scott and Robert Burns have always been much sought after. It is not surprising that they have attracted the interest of forgers.

That's the subject of our curator Dr Ralph McLean's fascinating exploration into the murky world of 'Antique' Smith, a full-time forger in the Edinburgh of the late 19th century. Smith made a successful living from his deceit until he was uncovered as a forger in a letter he had written in the hand of Robert Burns.

You can also join in the debate on pages 21 - 23 on whether or not exams are harder now than they were in the past. Stewart McRobert delves into our extensive collection of past papers to see if he can find the answer. Take a look and see if you can answer the selection of questions we've picked out.

And there's a surprise in store at our collaborative exhibition with Abbotsford House, Sir Walter Scott's splendid Borders home. What is surprising is the content, which reveals Sir Walter's role as a prolific reviewer and literary critic. As curator David McClay explains on p.28, the poet and novelist also reviewed works by Mary Shelley, Jane Austen, Lord Byron and many more. He even anonymously reviewed his own work - unsurprisingly, it was both the harshest he wrote as well as the harshest he received.

I hope you enjoy your latest issue of *Discover* and look forward to seeing you at the Library over the spring.

Dr John Scally,
National Librarian



FIND US ONLINE

- www.nls.uk
- [@natlibscot](https://twitter.com/natlibscot)
- www.facebook.com/NationalLibraryOfScotland
- www.flickr.com/photos/nlscotland
- www.youtube.com/user/NLofScotland



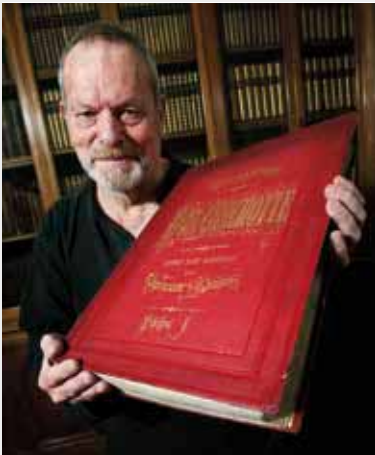
IMAGE: ZAMBESI FALLS AT SUNRISE BY THOMAS BAINES

THE CLUES



THE ANSWER IS IN OUR ARCHIVES

Using the images to the left, can you work out which famous Scottish explorer we are referencing? Let us know if you guess it correctly! Tweet [@natlibscot](https://twitter.com/natlibscot) using hashtag #natlibquizz



6 NEWS

Read the latest on the Kelvin Hall Campaign, find out all about our new land-use viewer and find out what happened when Monty Python star Terry Gilliam paid a visit to the Library

13 MASTER FORGER

When a young man lost his job he turned to forging to earn a living – but it wasn't long before he was found out

21 TAKE THE TEST

We've compared and contrasted exam papers through the years. Can you answer the questions?

24 MASTERPIECE

A personal rivalry and thirst for excellence resulted in one of the world's most remarkable atlases – Blaeu's *Atlas Maior*

28 RAVE REVIEWER

The lesser-known side of Sir Walter Scott will be shown at an exhibition at Abbotsford

34 A LOOK BACK

Join us on a trip down memory lane with some vintage adverts



16

SHAKESPEARE
FEATURES IN
OUR LATEST
TREASURES
DISPLAY

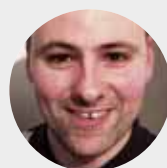
CONTRIBUTORS...



Andrew Martin
Curator, Literature
and the Arts



Chris Fleet
Curator, Maps



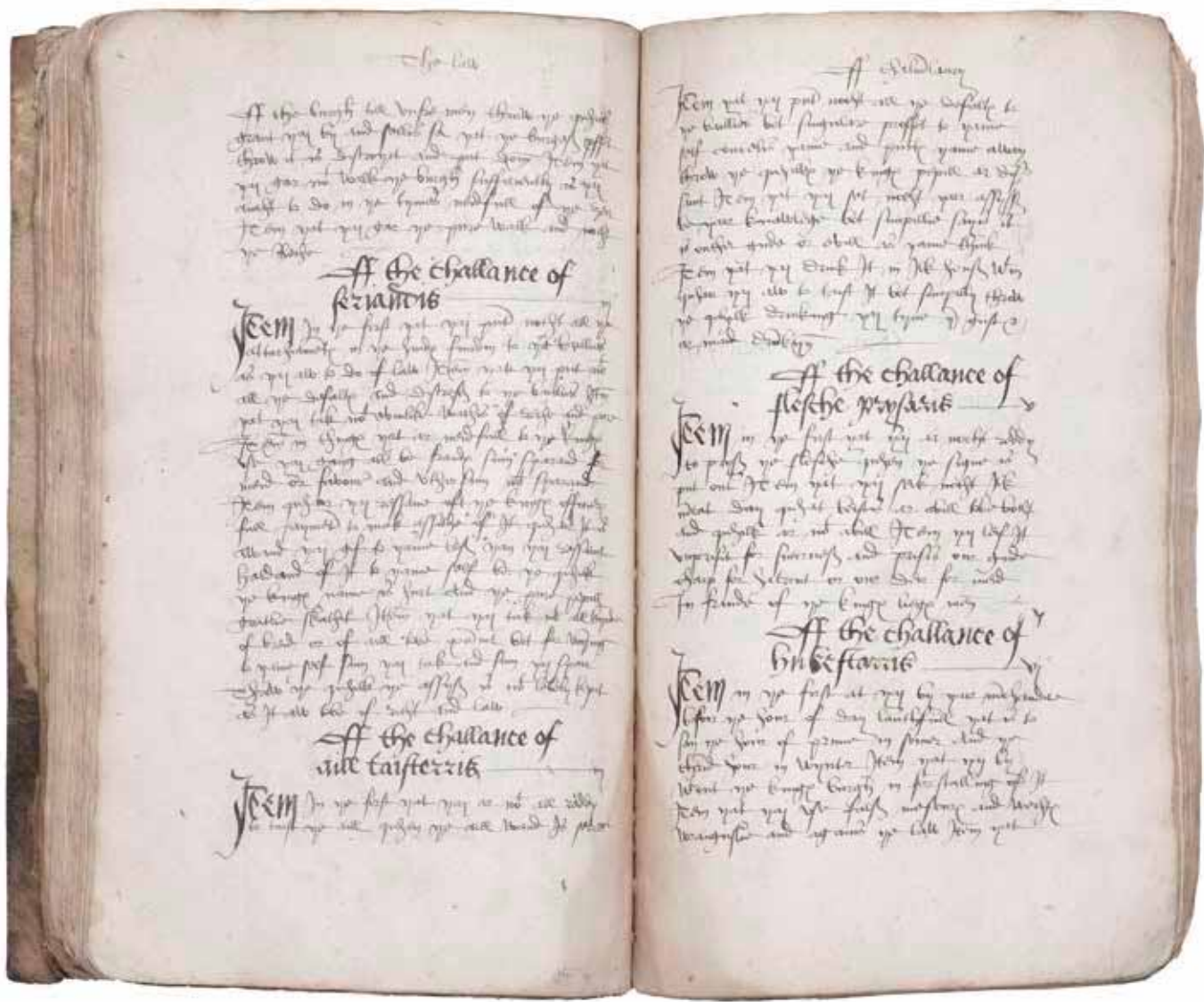
Dr Ralph McLean
Curator, Manuscripts
(Long 18th Century
Collections)



Robert L. Betteridge
Curator, Rare Books,
Maps and Music
Collections



Stewart McRobert
Editorial Executive
at Connect
Communications



Bonhams

SCOTS LANGUAGE LEARNING + TREASURES DISPLAY + COMPETITION
LITERARY EVENT + CURATOR'S CHOICE + MEDIEVAL BOOK SECURED



From industry to social history, the Library's film collection captures every aspect of Scottish life



OUR MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVE IS ON THE MOVE

Collection of international significance deserves new home, explains Lois Wolffe

Recently, a short reel of film from my father's side of the family came to light, of his sister's wedding in Berlin in the summer of 1939. Watching it, you are immediately transported to another era.

Moving image is like that. It is a medium that immediately captures life in all of its forms. When we watch film our memories come to life right in front of our very eyes. Film is powerful and can make an impact on anyone.

Many people associate the Library with millions of books but the National Library of Scotland also has an internationally significant Moving Image Archive that dates back over 100 years to the early days of film and captures every aspect of Scottish life.

From industry to social history, gala days to amateur home videos of family life and special occasions, it is a collection that children, students, families, communities, film enthusiasts and even the general 'passer-by' can relate to and learn from. It is one of our treasures and that is why in late 2016 we will open new premises in Glasgow with our national Moving Image Archive as its centrepiece.

Scotland's Moving Image Archive deserves a home that merits its international status and significance and more importantly where everyone can access it. Located in the Kelvin Hall building in the west of the city, the

public will also have the opportunity to access our extensive digital collections including maps, books, music and manuscripts in electronic format.

Once complete, you will be able to discover the archive through a dynamic video wall, through curated show reels, and through our curiosity chests to draw the visitor in, encouraging you to look further.

We are part of a £30m development of Kelvin Hall with fellow partners Glasgow Life, The University of Glasgow (The Hunterian) and Glasgow Museums. This will be the first time the National Library of Scotland will have had a presence in the country's largest city. We have received substantial support from the Scottish Government and some very generous philanthropists. We are now looking to the public to help us raise the final £100,000 to complete this project.

SCREENSHOT



"I enthusiastically support the efforts to develop the Scottish Moving Image Archive, and I urge you all to support this vitally important initiative."

Martin Scorsese, Film director

To be part of this development, go to www.nls.uk/support-nls/kelvin-hall or for more information contact Lois Wolffe, Head of Development, l.wolffe@nls.uk or 0131 623 3735.

NEW VIEWER LETS YOU SEE THE PAST

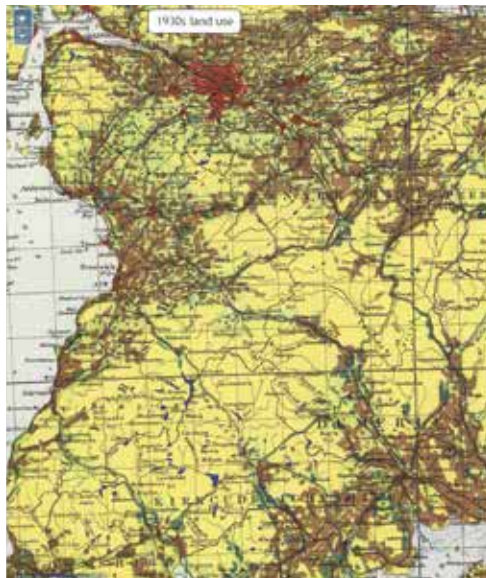
Collaboration with Historic Environment Scotland has resulted in a new split-screen view of how land was used

The National Library of Scotland has recently collaborated with Historic Environment Scotland to produce a new land-use viewer, allowing you to compare detailed mapping of land use in the 1930s with the present day.

The new viewer reveals how striking the changes were in Scotland's land use during the 20th century.

For example, in parts of Dumfries and Galloway, it shows the massive afforestation through the work of the Forestry Commission in the post-war era, as well as more subtle changes at the local level.

The extent of arable land has grown, with some reclamation of former moorland, and many towns have expanded.



The colouring on the maps follows that of the original Land Utilisation Survey maps in the 1930s (on the left), with green for meadows and permanent grass, brown for arable land, yellow for heathland and moorland, green for forests and woodland, and red or purple for urban areas or gardens

Elsewhere in Scotland, there have been other dramatic changes, with new hydro-electric reservoirs in

the Highlands, and far less farmland in the central belt as roads and towns have taken over.

Q View the new land use split-screen viewer at: maps.nls.uk/projects/landuse

BEFORE



AFTER



150 year old map restored

A map of Newbigging farm has recently undergone extensive treatment by Lynn Teggart from the Collections Care team. The map is part of the Bartholomew Collection and it dates from 1864. The complex

damage included large tears, discoloured varnish, brittle linen layer, planar distortions and heavy surface dirt. The treatment undertaken was a success. The linen and varnish layers were removed and the

object was washed, resulting in a reduction of discolouration. Calcium hydroxide was applied to minimise further acidity developing. The map was then lined onto Japanese paper and placed in a customised box.

From bees to Hollywood


Did you know that the National Library of Scotland has its own blog?

The online service features blogs about the work and collections of the Library with pieces written by a selection of our curators, subject experts and guest bloggers.

One recent article guides users towards the Library's new 3D map viewer which allows readers to explore the map collection from a bird's eye perspective.

Other blogs available include a natural history of bees (did you know there are more than 20,000 species of bee?) and a tale of excitement at Hollywood legend Martin Scorsese agreeing to support the Library's Moving Image Archive.

Spend some time reading through the interesting goings-on at the Library and more importantly, enjoy!

 To read our blogs, visit blog.nls.uk



The compact manuscript is in excellent condition

TINY BOOK HAS VERY BIG STORY TO TELL

The medieval manuscript is 700 years old

The Library has acquired a manuscript written in Scotland 700 years ago, in its most important medieval acquisition for 30 years.

The early 14th century Breviary, from Sweetheart Abbey near Dumfries, is an extremely rare example of a medieval religious manuscript that was both written and used in Scotland.

The manuscript is an entire volume and is in remarkably good condition. It consists of 200 vellum leaves and contains the text for many of the monastic prayers used each year in medieval Scotland.

The Breviary's whereabouts were unknown for some 300 years, until it recently came on the open market at an auction in Vienna.

"We are delighted to have made this significant addition to the national collection," said National Librarian Dr John Scally. "It is a rare survival that will shed new light on our collective past."

The Library acknowledges the generous assistance of, and contributions from, The Friends of the National Libraries, The Soutar Trust, The National Library of Scotland Foundation, and the B. H. Breslauer Foundation in the purchase of this manuscript, and for their prompt decision-making in making these contributions.

 National Library of Scotland members can access hundreds of manuscripts online at www.nls.uk

tradfest
EDINBURGH • DÙN ÈIDEANN
TRADITIONAL CULTURE. LIVE.



Wed 27 Apr - Sun 8 May 2016
Box Office:
0131 556 9579
tracscotland.org/tradfest

• Story • Song • Dance • Craft
• Folk Film • Walking Tours
• Workshops



Don't forget to visit the Scottish Storytelling Centre year round for trad arts & more!
scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY Family History Centre

All Scotland's OPRs on film... census records...
Largest M.I. collection in Scotland and free access to
www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk

Open 5 days a week, except Friday & Sunday
Contact us at 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL

Telephone 0131 220 3677
enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com
www.scotsgenealogy.com



Famous face seeks inspiration at Library

Monty Python star Terry Gilliam paid a special visit to the Library in February to find inspiration in some early editions of Don Quixote.

The director, animator, actor, writer and founding member of Monty Python's Flying Circus has been trying to turn Miguel de Cervantes' legendary story into a film for the past 25 years.

Gilliam viewed some early editions of the novel, which was first published in 1605. He took a look at early Spanish editions from 1610, the first English translations from around 1620, and illustrated

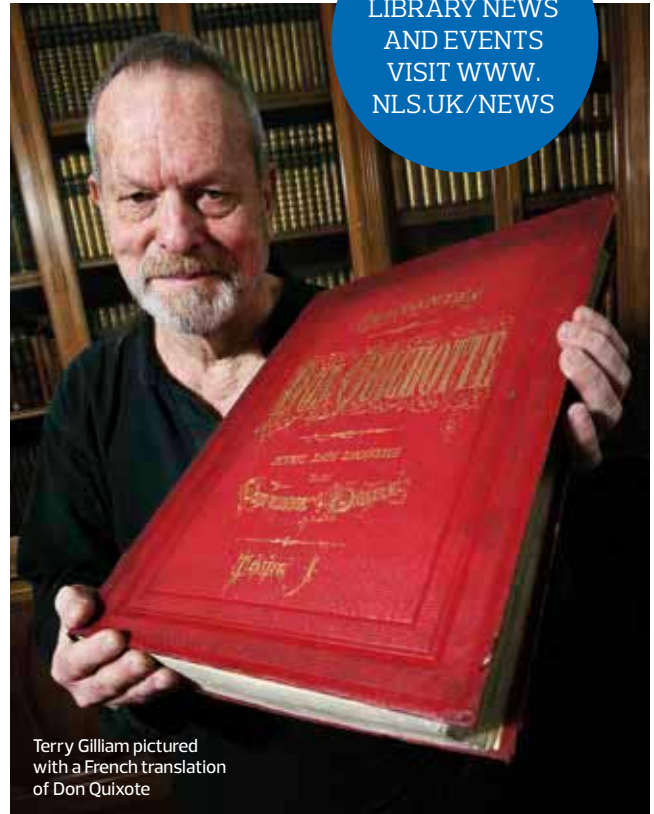
copies in a number of different languages.

"This shows how important Quixote has been over many, many years," he said.

"To see an early Spanish edition that was once owned by a Scottish nobleman is fascinating and shows how sought after it was."

Gilliam was visiting Edinburgh to reveal a 10-metre long illuminated neon-effect quotation from Don Quixote as part of the 'Words on the Street' art installation project being run by Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust.

FOR MORE
LIBRARY NEWS
AND EVENTS
VISIT WWW.
NLS.UK/NEWS



Terry Gilliam pictured with a French translation of Don Quixote

Do you love later life? We do.



At Age Scotland we want to support and inspire everyone in Scotland to make the most of later life and build communities for all ages.

We help develop and mentor local groups and projects, creating places and activities that bring people together. This, in turn, helps combat loneliness and isolation, and brings joy and a renewed sense of purpose into older people's lives and support to others who need it most.

We create vital, free information on a range of issues such as community care and benefits, to help older people make informed choices in their lives.

We also provide opportunities for older people to challenge disadvantage and unfairness - ensuring that their ideas for a better Scotland reach the ears of those who need to hear them.

However, almost half of our work would not be possible without people remembering Age Scotland in their wills. When you visit your solicitor, and you have taken care of your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift in your will to Age Scotland.

Find out more about us at www.agescotland.org.uk

Age Scotland
Causewayside House
160 Causewayside
Edinburgh
EH9 1PR

Charity no: SC010100



FundRaising
Standards Board

 **ageScotland**
Love later life

Age Scotland, part of the Age Network, is an independent charity dedicated to improving the later lives of everyone on the ageing journey, within a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland. Registration Number: 153343 Charity Number: SC010100 Registered Office: Causewayside House, 160 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1PR.

● Houlet, Houlet, fly by nicht ●

Our Scots Scriever Hamish MacDonald has been using Alexander Wilson prints as inspiration to write poetry for children. A selection of these poems is featured below...

HOULET

Houlet, Houlet fly by nicht
Poised for faintest
soond or sicht
By munelit knoll or
shaddaed neuks
Wi clauts as shairp as
fishin heuks
Skimmer past on
silent flicht
Houlet, Houlet fly by nicht

CROSSBILL

The Crossbill is a bonny bird
An she sings wi a guid
Scots tongue
Jip-jip-jip
A'll gie ye gip
Gin ye meddle wi me
nor ma young

The Crossbill is a brawlike bird
She dines on the cones an nits
Her neb is unique
Wi a crossower cleek
An the heich pine croon's
whaur she flits

The Crossbill's a hamefarin bird
An she trills her plaintive sang
By the hilltaps o Straloch
Or by wild foamin Falloch
Contentit tae bide saison lang

THE HERON

The Heron stalks the
lanely streams
Feedin on minnas an
fisherman's dreams
Stieve as a statue
Seelent an slee
He'll ding wi his spear in the
blink o an ee

As wide-eened puddock
pechs for a braith
Then oars tae the deep
tae avoid certain daith
Through fairy-
moss tendril



An mirkie lagoon
Jinkin the dabs o the
whaler's harpoon

1

HOULET

(pictured above)
is the Houlet wi
clauts as shairp
as fishin heuks

2

CROSSBILL

(pictured top right)
is the Crossbill, she
dines on the cones
an nits

The heron flees hame wi a
richt puggelt straik
High up in the branches tae
skrauch an tae skraik
In the heronry clachan
Crack news o the day
An tell tales o yins that got away

THE BIG RID FLAMINGO

The Big Rid Flamingo has lang
spirle shanks
Circus stilt-walker o mudflats
an banks
Skinnymalink neck, souple an lean
Bricht bonnie feathers
wi cramasié sheen
Howks in the glaur wi
its muckle strang neb
Tae find gustie morsels that dwell
in the ebb
Like a sieve in its mou that is
awmaist complete
It'll filter aff shrimps an sic braw
things tae eat
For grace an yet gangliness
An pure lang-necked dangliness
The Big Rid Flamingo is gey
hard tae beat.

3

FLAMINGO

(pictured above)
is the Big Rid
Flamingo

4

HERON

(pictured left)
is the seelent
an slee Heron





Two young islanders on a
steamer at St Kilda, circa 1913

National Records of Scotland, GD1/713/1/13

Over 800 years of Scotland's story

THE LITERARY FORGERIES OF 'ANTIQUÉ' SMITH



When Alexander Howland Smith was fired he turned to forgery. But it wasn't long before he was found out, writes *Ralph McLean*

THE FORGERY

The image below shows an 'Antique' Smith forgery of a Robert Burns poem. This is only one of hundreds that he forged. Turn over the page to see a genuine version – can you spot the difference?

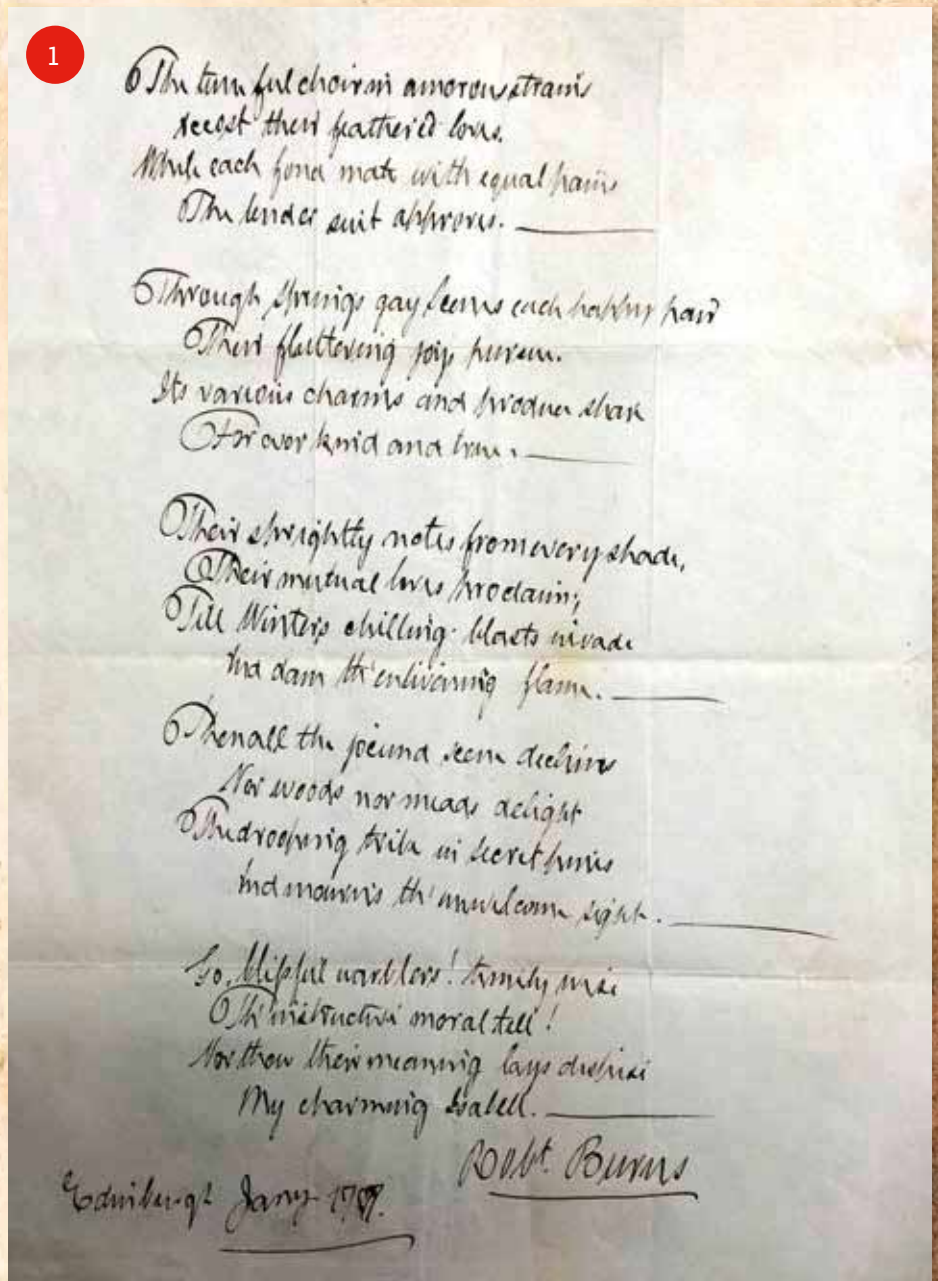
Imagine your delight if you bought your very own copy of a poem by Robert Burns written in his hand. Imagine your horror if you found out it was a fake and not worth the paper it was written on. This was the fate suffered by numerous collectors and manuscript hunters in Edinburgh in the 1880s and 1890s who all fell victim to the literary forgeries of Alexander Howland Smith.

Better known as 'Antique' Smith, for the mementos and curiosities that he often had about his person, he gained notoriety for forging hundreds of manuscripts of British literary and historical celebrities.

Although rumours of increasing numbers of forged documents were rife in Edinburgh during the late 1880s, it was the appearance of a previously unpublished letter of Robert Burns in 1892 that thrust the issue of forgery into the limelight. Burns's letter to 'Mr John Hill, Weaver' caused consternation among locals in Cumnock who had no recollection of any such man. Soon experts were calling for the letter to be sent to the British Museum to assess its authenticity. The owner of the manuscript, James Mackenzie, defended it as genuine and claimed that he had the backing of 'the most experienced critic known to exist'.

This critic was the Edinburgh bookseller James Stillie, who had operated his business in the city for decades. Stillie claimed to have known Walter Scott for over 50 years, which would have made him at least 107 – he was 88 at this point – and had seen enough manuscripts in his time to pronounce with authority on those which

Continues overleaf >



● To give his manuscripts the appearance of age he would dip them in weak tea, and sometimes rub dirt into them to add to the effect ●

From previous page>

were genuine. Despite this, Stillie sold 202 manuscripts to the American banker John Kennedy of which, after the British Museum had examined them, 201 were found to be spurious.

Although Mackenzie and Stillie were knee-deep in the forgeries flooding Edinburgh it was clear that neither of them were the actual forgers. The forger was 'Antique' Smith, a former copying clerk at the firm of Thomas Ferrier, who was a nephew of the writer Susan Ferrier. Smith later claimed that he had found his horde of manuscripts while working for Ferrier who had asked him to dispose of unwanted documents. In reality, Smith had been fired from the firm for stealing cheques.

In order to provide himself with an income Smith turned to forgery full time. He bought up volumes of old printed books from which he then removed the blank flysheets to obtain period-specific paper.

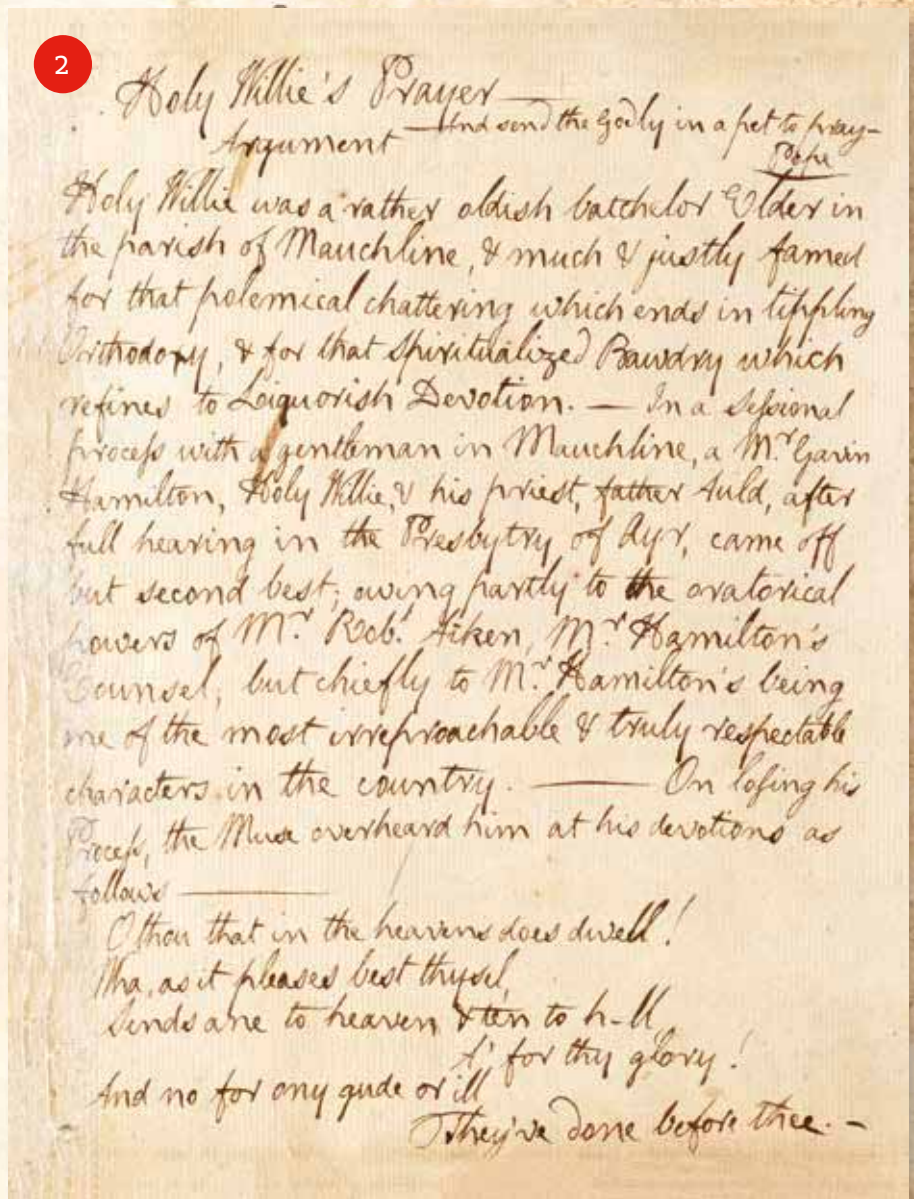
He created his forged documents freehand, rather than tracing originals. To give his manuscripts the appearance of age he would dip them in weak tea, and sometimes rub dirt into them to add to the effect.

Although the forgeries had fooled a great number of people, experts were able to detect them by a number of methods.

Sometimes the errors were obvious, for example, a letter by Burns dated

THE GENUINE ARTICLE

This image shows a version of Holy Willie's Prayer written in Burns's own hand. Robert Burns was only one of many to have his work forged by 'Antique' Smith, as the facing page shows, many others fell victim!



1797 (a year after his death). Sometimes historical investigation proved that events in the letters could not have taken place as they were described. Handwriting experts were able to find similarities in the forged manuscripts, which indicated that they had more than likely been composed by one hand. Even the paper, which Smith was so careful to source, was unlike that used by Burns and Scott.

Thanks to the efforts of the Edinburgh Evening Dispatch, which conducted a thorough investigation into the forgeries, Smith was arrested in December 1892 and stood trial in June 1893. Forging the documents was not actually a crime, but attempting to sell them as genuine most certainly was.

This led to a bizarre defence by Smith's lawyers who suggested that the booksellers knew the manuscripts were forged. If this was the case then Smith could not be guilty. With the evidence weighed against him though, Smith was indeed found guilty and sentenced to one year in prison.

However, the judge decided on leniency as it was quite clear from the trial that Smith did not act alone and could only have flourished as he did with the help of others.

Today we still do not know how many 'Antique' Smith forgeries are out there lurking in collections of manuscripts. Ironically, once the plague of the collector, Smith's manuscripts are now highly collectable in their own right.