

*National exams were more
difficult in the past ... discuss.*

EDUCATION

TESTING TIMES

The Library's collection of past exam papers is a valuable tool in showing how young people in Scotland have been tested over the years. But who had it the hardest? *Stewart McRobert* finds out...

Continues overleaf >

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ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY

Older exams list a cassette being used for storage media whereas more modern papers discuss mobile satellite navigation



very year, when results are announced, it seems that the newspapers, social media and airwaves buzz with accusations that exams are easier today than in the past. Anyone keen to explore this notion would be advised to consult the extensive collection of past papers and associated material held in the Library.

The archive contains papers dating from the 19th century and a complete record from 1909 up to the present day. As such, it offers a fascinating insight into the development of education in Scotland over the last 140 years.

Fiona Laing, Official Publications Curator / Collections and Research, is responsible for the collection. She said: 'The Education (Scotland) Act 1872 is the basis for the modern Scottish education system. It established a 'non-sectarian' network of public schooling controlled by what was then known as the 'Scotch' Education Department based at Whitehall, London.'

The 1872 Act made school compulsory

for the 5-13 age group, though some young people were exempt. In the late 1800s, fewer than 5 per cent of pupils attended a secondary school in Scotland: the priority for working-class children was to find work and start earning a wage.

By 1883 the nominal leaving age had been raised to 14, and in 1888 the Scottish Leaving Certificate, examined by university professors, was introduced for secondary pupils. There were two grades of certificate – a 'higher' grade for pupils going forward to universities, and a 'lower' that was initially designed to suit General Medical Council entrance requirements, but was later revised to suit banking, insurance and business.

Society at the time saw specific roles for males and females. Accordingly, there was a clear distinction in topics on offer to the two sexes. Subjects for boys included science, maths, Greek and the classics, while girls studied domestic economy, French, and botany.

The 20th century saw increased state intervention in education as schools came to be seen as an important agency for social welfare. The 1908 Education (Scotland) Act made parents responsible for their children's education. Medical inspections were introduced, as well as free school meals for needy children.

Similarly, the poor physical condition of army recruits for the Boer War (1899 – 1902) saw more emphasis on physical training and military drill for male pupils.

The next phase of major change came half a century later. In the late 1950s, teachers took over the marking of the Leaving Certificate examination. In 1963 the Scottish Certificate of Education Examination Board was established to oversee Scotland's examination system (superseded by the Scottish Qualifications Authority in 1997).

Other developments included the splitting of joint subjects. In early days subjects could include a wide range of topics. For example, the 'English' exams of 1909 incorporated dictation, history and geography. However, by 1965 it was possible to gain passes in four separate science and six technical subjects at Higher level.

A new subject – modern studies – was introduced at Ordinary grade in 1962.

DIGITAL ANSWER

Answering the age-old question about comparison of exams down the years would be made much easier if the Library's collection was digitised – and that's the current ambition of Fiona Laing (left) and her colleagues. Digitisation would allow effective comparisons of standards and subject matter across the years. Once digitised, the collection would provide an excellent resource for educational historians and anyone interested in seeing if they could still answer their old exam papers. 'We are keen to establish partnerships with institutions and researchers that would see a value in having the collection digitised,' said Fiona.





QUESTIONS

HOW EXAMS HAVE CHANGED

From use of words in 1909 to cyber-attacks on the internet in 2015

English, Higher grade, 1909

Select 10 of the following words, and make 10 sentences, using, in each, one of the words in its correct modern sense; show how the word has changed from its original meaning, and add the derivation where you can:— caitiff, considerable, cunning, entail, ghostly, humour, knave, jovial, minister, nice, person, predicament, presently, recreate, shamefaced, temper, villain.

Agriculture, Scottish Certificate Examination, 1960

Question 7: Explain Mendel's second and third laws of inheritance in terms of transmission of hereditary factors by chromosomes.

Homecraft, 1960

Design the following: a pair of bedroom slippers. The slippers are for a lady who likes elaborate decoration in subdued colours and whose favourite colour is bottle green. Draw the design full-size, in colour, showing the shape of the upper when flattened out.

Home Economics fabric and fashion, O grade, 1974

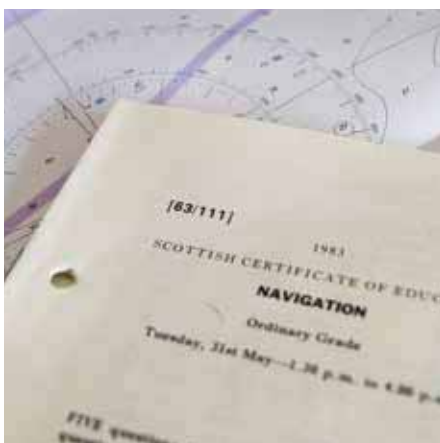
Section A, question 3: Prepare four rules which would assist with the prevention of accidents when using an electric iron?

Seamanship and Nautical Knowledge O grade, 1974

Question 9a (i): With the aid of a sketch describe the arc of visibility through which the starboard side light is seen.

Information Systems, Higher grade, 2015

Describe what is meant by a 'denial of service' attack.



The 1960s saw the system embrace the future. In 1965 a working group on computer education was set up to consider what steps could be taken to 'increase the supply of trained personnel working with computers in the light of the expected demand'. However, the first exam paper on computing did not appear until 1984. Despite these advances, some traditional thinking persevered. There remained exams in topics such as 'Navigation' and, even in 1972, 'Cookery with subsidiary housewifery'.

The introduction of Scotland's 'Curriculum for Excellence' in 2010

has brought even more developments, including the new National Qualifications. This summer, students will be able to choose from nearly 40 topics ranging from Cantonese to graphic communication and sociology.

Whether those will be simpler than their equivalents of over 100 years ago is a point that in many ways is impossible to answer.

What's not up for debate is that the Library will continue to collect and make available a valuable resource that shows just how Scotland's young people have been tested down the years.

One of the finest set of maps ever produced is now available on the Library website in a complete zoomable version. *Chris Fleet* tells the story behind this masterpiece in cartography

ENGRAVED IN HISTORY

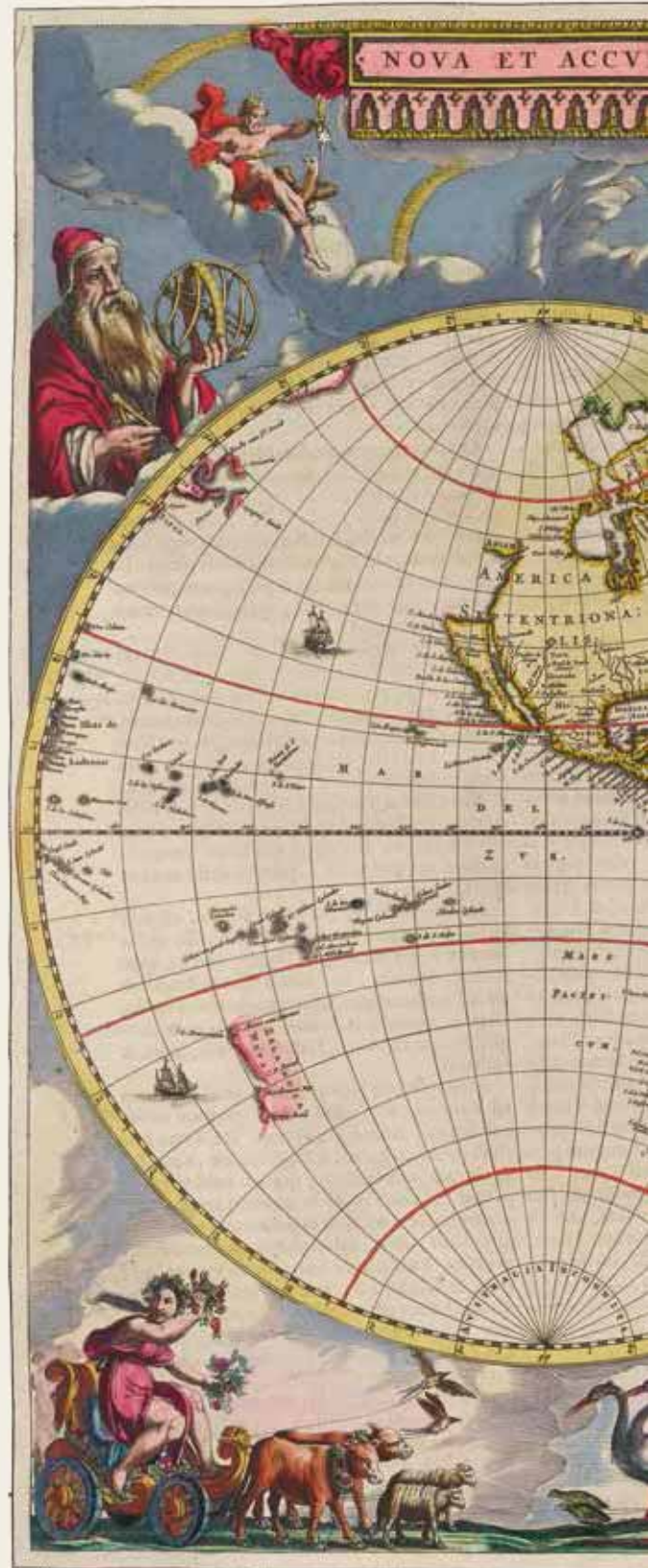
All atlases do far more than simply present a picture of the world at a point in time. Blaeu's *Atlas Maior*, published in 1662–5, is an excellent case in point. It provides an insight into the splendour and wealth of the Dutch Golden Age, into the largest publishing project the world had ever seen, as well as into more personal stories of ambition, personal rivalry, achievement and disaster.

From the early 17th century, Amsterdam emerged as the main centre for map production in the world, helped by a major economic, cultural and artistic boom within the new Dutch Republic. With the growth of her overseas empire, expanding trading networks and continued technological innovation, Dutch economic, political, and intellectual life

flourished. The Dutch educational system, with its strong humanist roots, became highly regarded throughout Europe, and its curricula had a strong emphasis on the practical application of mathematics and geometry.

All these factors encouraged an expanding market for travel narratives, maps, atlases and globes, helped by high standards of literacy, and a keen and growing interest in geographic discovery.

The *Atlas Maior* was a work of many superlatives: for cartography, publishing, printing and its customers. Its 11 folio volumes contained 594 maps of the world, along with 3,368 pages of detailed text; very often its proud owners had special cabinets made to house it and show it off. But when its publisher, Joan Blaeu, began work on the Atlas in the 1630s, his map stock was relatively



1

WORLD MAP

Blaeu's double-hemisphere world map, flanked by the Greek geographer Ptolemy (top left) and the Polish astronomer Copernicus (top right), with personifications of the planets in between

small, and easily surpassed by that of his rival, the more successful Hondius-Janssonius publishers. How did he pull it off?

Part of the answer lies in his investment in printing and publishing technology. Blaeu developed a factory-style printing works, described in glowing terms by visitors from afar. Just one of Blaeu's printing premises on Bloemgracht in Amsterdam had



nine presses for books and six for maps, employing more than 80 men working full-time – and in the 1660s, he opened a second press on the Gravenstraat, focusing on map printing.

It has been estimated that just typesetting the text pages for one edition of the *Atlas Maior* took seven man years of work, and when we add to this the significant time spent drafting and engraving

maps, binding and printing, the immensity of the task becomes apparent. At its peak, Blaeu's presses produced more than one million impressions in four years.

A more important driver, though, was Blaeu's bitter rivalry that grew over time with the Hondius–Janssonius publishers, as they vied with each other to produce the largest and most splendid world atlas. Currency

of information and a consistent, even geographic coverage were increasingly sacrificed in pursuit of bulk. Aesthetic considerations such as luxury bindings, fine engraving, attractive colouring and beautiful typography were also emphasised, recognising the presentational value of the atlas as a status symbol for its purchasers.

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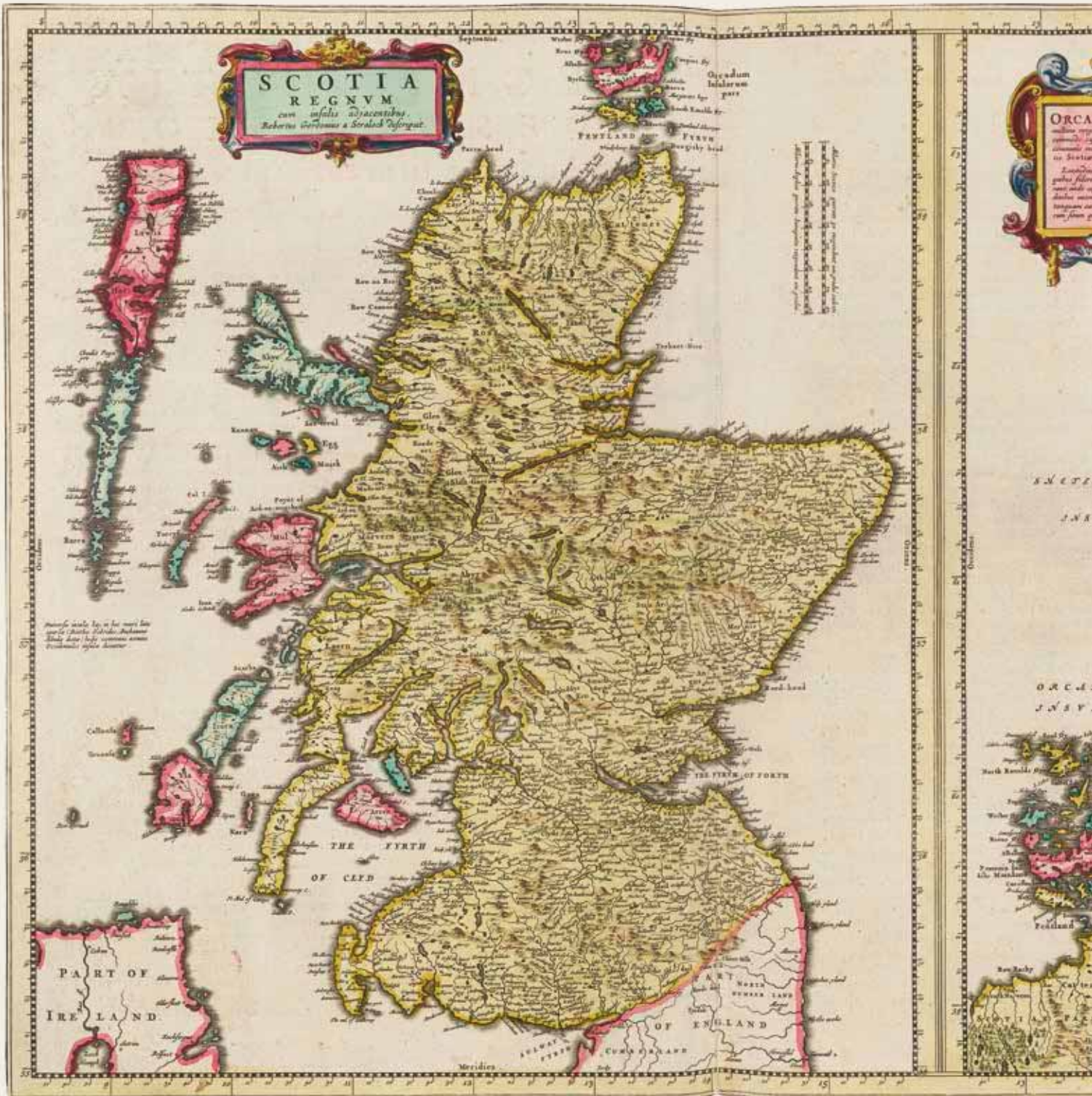
THE NUMBERS

140,000

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2

DRAWN FORTH MAP
(pictured far left)
Timothy Pont's original hand-drawn map of the Forth, near Falkirk

3

ENGRAVED FORTH MAP
(pictured left)
The finished Blaeu engraved map of the Forth, based on Pont's map



4

SCOTIA REGUM
(pictured left)
Scotia Regum (the Kingdom of Scotland), drafted by Robert Gordon of Straloch

From previous page>

Blaeu's *Atlas Maior* became the most expensive book money could buy in the mid-17th century.

Both competed over source material, and this is where Blaeu was lucky to receive excellent mapping of Scotland through the work of Timothy Pont. Pont surveyed Scotland from the 1580s until his death around 1614, and his hand-drawn maps, representing the first detailed mapping of Scotland, are one of the Library's major treasures.

After Pont's death, through the unstinting efforts of Sir John Scot of Scotstarvit, Pont's maps were delivered to Blaeu. Pont's untidy and fading maps were redrawn, engraved on copper and printed, along with elaborate cartouches and dedications, beautiful ornamentation and a liberal army of cherubs. With good reason, Blaeu wrote an elegiac appreciation to Scot in his preface to the Scottish volume of the *Atlas Maior*:

'The world does not owe gratitude only to those who create books, unite maps to the art of geography, and fit lands to sky and sky to lands as with a plumbline; but also to those who encourage, urge on, correct and

increase these works, promote them with money and expense, strengthen what is feeble, recover what is lost, and give shape and polish to what is deformed, so that the illustrious offspring can be born and reborn and advance with beauty into the light and before the faces of men.'

But disaster was to strike Scot and Blaeu in different ways. Under Cromwell, Scot, as a royalist, was stripped of his offices and titles in the 1650s. For Blaeu, the new regime of William III (of Orange) in 1672 forced him out of his position on Amsterdam City Council. But more important was the dreadful fire that raged through his Gravenstraat printing works in the same year. Thousands of paper sheets and printed maps went up in smoke, while his copper plates and metal for type melted in the heat. Blaeu died the following year, and although his press limped along for a few decades under his sons before closure, it never regained its former glory. The *Blaeu Atlas Maior* is an enduring testament to its heyday.

Q You can now view the *Blaeu Atlas Maior* online at: maps.nls.uk/atlas/blaeu-maior/



WIN A FRAMED PRINT IN OUR COMPETITION

The *Blaeu Atlas Maior* is so beautiful we've decided to share it with you, our readers. If you answer the following question correctly you could be in with a chance of winning your very own framed print.

To enter this competition all you have to do is answer the question below, fill out the coupon (right) and post in an envelope marked 'Discover Competition' to Connect Publications, Studio 2001, Mile End, Paisley, PA1 1JS or email your answer, name and address to lauren@connectmedia.cc by 31 May 2016.

QUESTION: How many individual maps were contained within Joan Blaeu's exceptional *Atlas Maior*?

Your Answer:

.....

Your Name (BLOCK LETTERS)

.....

Address (BLOCK LETTERS)

.....

.....



Some of the greatest names in early 19th century literature were unaware that insightful and sympathetic reviews of their work were written by one of their own, writes *David McClay*



FAIR CRITIC

Pictured (right) is a proof of Robert Southey's *Pilgrim's Progress*, annotated in Walter Scott's own hand



Rave Reviewer

He reviews like a Gentleman, a Christian and a Scholar.' So wrote Thomas Campbell to publisher John Murray on Sir Walter Scott's anonymous review of Campbell's poem *Gertrude of Wyoming* in 1809. Scott had played a key role in establishing John Murray's influential *Quarterly Review* that year and would contribute insightful and important articles to it until the end of his life.

The early 19th century was a golden age for criticism and reviews, often with many more people reading literary reviews than the works themselves. However, reviews were often politically driven, personal and occasionally vitriolic. Scott as an accomplished poet and novelist was well informed and sympathetic in promoting the standing of literature and literary criticism.

A collaborative exhibition between the National Library of Scotland and Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott

in the Scottish Borders, brings together rarely, or never before, seen manuscripts and books from some of the greatest names in early 19th century literature. The works of Mary Shelley, Jane Austen, Lord Byron and Robert Southey were all reviewed by Walter Scott. He even anonymously reviewed his own work. It was the harshest review he wrote and the harshest review he received.

The story behind this and a selection of his other articles provide a fascinating insight into the lives, personalities and writings of some of the most enduring works in English literature. Highlight exhibition items include Scott's copy of *Frankenstein*, one of only 500 first-edition copies printed. This was presented to him by Percy Bysshe Shelley on behalf of his wife Mary. It was, as he explained in the accompanying letter, intended 'as a slight tribute of high admiration & respect.' However, Scott misunderstood the authorship of this anonymous work,

referring to the author as male in his review. This prompted an embarrassed, yet tactful, Mary to write to Scott that she was 'anxious to prevent your continuing in the mistake of supposing Mr Shelley guilty of a juvenile attempt of mine.' As well as displaying books from Scott's Abbotsford collection, and original letters from the likes of the Shelleys, there will also be manuscript and annotated proof drafts of Scott's reviews, financial papers and a painting by artist Hugh Buchanan.

Although his contemporary reviews are 200 years old, they still provide a useful and perceptive insight into literary works which are more admired and popular today than when they first appeared.

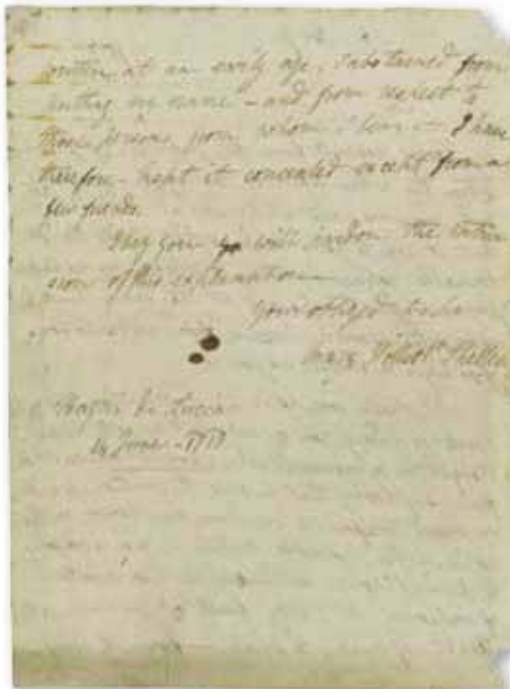
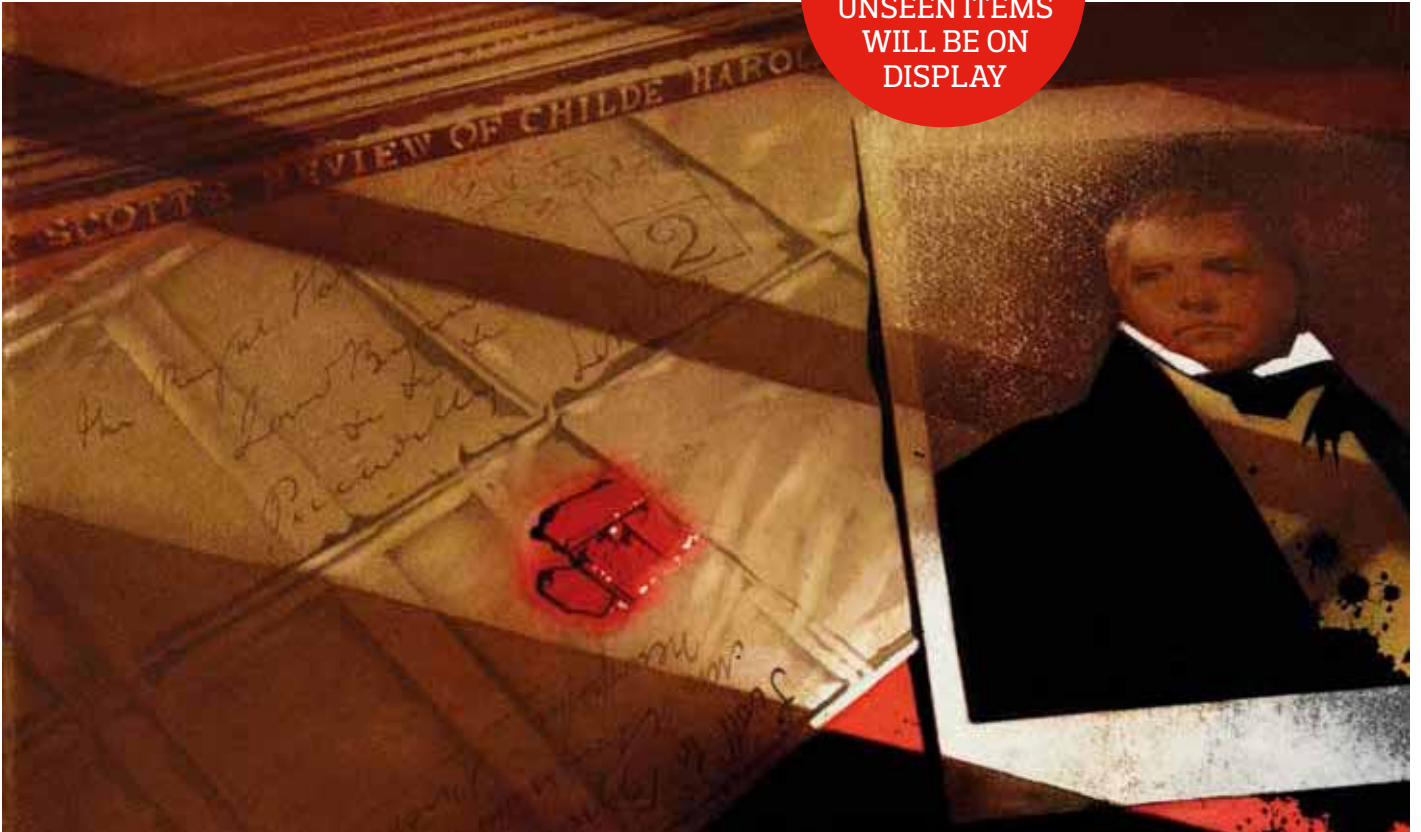
The authors have only increased in popularity and fans of their work will, with this exhibition, have a special opportunity to learn more of their critical reception and the stories behind their greatest admirer and rave reviewer, Walter Scott.

IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION

The exhibition will display items such as Walter Scott's address sheet from a letter to John Murray (right) and a collection of books (far right). A watercolour painting of 'Scott's review of Childe Harold' by Hugh Buchanan (middle) will also be displayed




NEW
PREVIOUSLY
UNSEEN ITEMS
WILL BE ON
DISPLAY



ON DISPLAY

Mary Shelley's letter to Walter Scott (left) will be displayed. An extract from the letter includes: 'I am anxious to prevent your continuing in the mistake of supposing Mr Shelley guilty of a juvenile attempt of mine, to which – from its being written at an early age, I abstained from putting my name – and from respect to those persons from whom I bear it, I have therefore kept it concealed except from a few friends.'

 **The Sir Walter Scott Exhibition at Abbotsford in the Scottish Borders will run from 2 April to 30 November, 2016. Entry is included as part of the admission ticket to the house. An exhibition catalogue is available.**

Make the most of your Library



With a collection of more than 24 million printed items, two million maps, 32,000 films, three miles of manuscripts, and thousands of photographs, getting around the Library requires a little navigation

LIBRARY LOCATIONS

FILMS

Moving Image Archive
39–41 Montrose Avenue
Hillington Park
Glasgow G52 4LA
Tel: 0845 366 4600
E: movingimage@nls.uk

MAPS

Causewayside Building
159 Causewayside
Edinburgh EH9 1PH
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E: maps@nls.uk
Due to building works the public entrance will be moved, please follow signs.

OTHER COLLECTIONS

George IV Bridge
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Tel: 0131 623 3700
E: enquiries@nls.uk
Mon–Fri 9.30am–8.30pm
(Wed 10am–8.30pm),
Sat 9.30am–1pm

HOW TO JOIN

To use the Library's 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>

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. You will need proof of identity and confirmation of your address. Examples of acceptable ID and address confirmation are at www.nls.uk/using-the-library/library-cards/evidence-of-identity

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 to enquiries@nls.uk If you have a library card, books can be ordered in advance via the online catalogue on our website. For information about pre-ordering, see www.nls.uk/using-the-library/reading-rooms/general/preorders

ONLINE

The Library has a vast range of electronic resources, including digital versions of reference works, massive full-text facsimiles and business

databases. 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 the Library 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 if you are a registered user.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Visitor Centre at the George IV Bridge building features an exhibition space, a shop selling books, stationery and gift items, a café and PC terminals with access to Library catalogues and other digital facilities.

IN FOCUS

Discover your history

The National Library of Scotland has an impressive range of genealogical resources if you want to research your family history.

The best way to start your research is to work backwards from what you already know. Collecting family memorabilia such as birth, death and marriage certificates, diaries, newspaper cuttings, letters and photographs can also provide you with further information.

Also, remember to write down any information that you find and where you found it. Be methodical and follow every clue. This will enable you to create a fuller picture of your family and its history.

 To get started, visit www.nls.uk/family-history



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SHEDL provides free access to journals and e-books no matter where you are in Scotland



VALUABLE ASSET FOR LIBRARY USERS

Being a registered member of the National Library of Scotland, and residing in Scotland, grants you access to the content of thousands of journals and e-books free of charge. The range of content is extensive and focuses on science, medicine, the arts and humanities.

The collection is called SHEDL (the Scottish Higher Education Digital Library) and many of the publications are accessible from any computer or device outwith the Library. This means you do not need to travel to Edinburgh to make use of this wide range of articles and e-books. You can access this content by visiting <https://auth.nls.uk/lhc>

SHEDL also supports the National Library of Scotland strategy, *The Way Forward*, by making more resources available digitally.

SHEDL's history started

in 2009 with a Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL) collaboration of 19 university librarians and the National Library to achieve equitable access to the thousands of journals to which Scotland's institutions invested financially in annual subscriptions.

SHEDL started negotiating with three publishers where their content and subjects covered were of interest to all the 19 universities in Scotland and supported the academic curriculum.

The American Chemical Society, Cambridge University Press, and Springer were selected as the first publishers with whom to negotiate. The terms of the agreements included three-year contracts for electronic access, with options of renewal, and to include the National Library of Scotland where registered

users could also benefit from access.

SHEDL, chaired by Dr Richard Parsons, Director of the Library and Learning Centre of the University of Dundee, has now negotiated access with more than 17 publishers for journal content and six publishers for e-books access.

The benefits of SHEDL-negotiated contracts for users is that Scotland has its own national digital library, the electronic content enables equitable access, and there is no deterioration through use in the 'fabric' of the format.

Digital content has many benefits for libraries. Unlike printed material, it does not take up valuable space on library shelves and offers the opportunity to redesign library spaces. Librarians can predict their budget to SHEDL content for forthcoming years and, by negotiating off-site access for National Library of Scotland registered

FREE ACCESS

Included with your free Library membership comes free access to a wealth of digital resources, all at your fingertips.

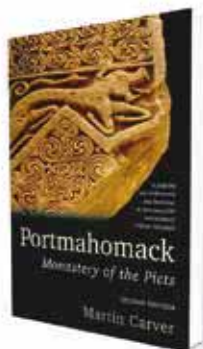
<https://auth.nls.uk/lhc>

readers, the content can be accessed from any device within Scotland – subject to the terms of the publishers' agreements.

So for all readers on behalf of SCURL, SHEDL and the National Library of Scotland: enjoy and discover the searching, retrieving and learning!

SCOTTISH HISTORY

From Edinburgh University Press

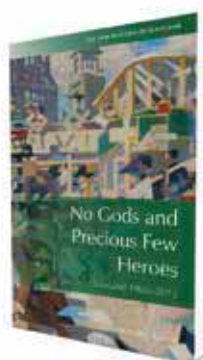


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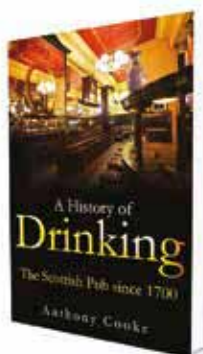


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AUGUST

Sat 13

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Glamis,
Forfar, DD8 1QU
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SEPTEMBER

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Sara Sheridan never stops researching a book. Even when it's published, she finds herself drawn to interesting material wherever she finds it. Photo: Alan McCredie

Riveting reads

For author Sara Sheridan, the Library is a constant source of inspiration. She once wrote a whole book just because an archivist showed her some letters written to John Murray

Edinburgh author Sara Sheridan is a self-confessed 'binge user' of the Library. She's spent hours poring through the John Murray archives while researching her latest book *On Starlit Seas*. This historical novel is set in the chocolate industry in Brazil and London in 1825. Sara has also recently sold the rights to her Mirabelle Bevan series of books which will now be published in America and televised in the UK. The fifth instalment of the series, *Operation Goodwood*, is due out this year. Here, Sara tells us why she visits the Library and shares her experiences of coming across some items she'll never forget...

'My main reason for visiting the Library, apart from the café, is probably the John

Murray archive. It is riveting and having access to original source material is incredibly valuable when developing a story. I never stop researching a book. Even once it's published, I still find myself drawn to interesting material wherever I find it. My first historical novel was called *The Secret Mandarin*. It was based on the real-life adventures of Scottish botanist, Robert Fortune who was a Murray author. More recently, I have written a book called *On Starlit Seas* based on the travels of Maria Graham (another Murray acolyte). It will be out in July this year. Holding Maria's letters to Murray in my hands made me tremble. People think archives are dusty old places, but for me, they are treasure troves.

'I also love maps and, of course, the

Library has an amazing map collection. I should say that often I am directed to my favourite items by the staff at the Library. They have incredible specialist knowledge. I ended up writing a whole book once (*Secret of the Sands*) just because an archivist showed me some letters from James Raymond Wellsted to John Murray. Wellsted was the first European to get permission to go into the Rubh Al Khali desert on the Arabian Peninsula. It's an extraordinary story. So letters are important but I can lose myself in a map. I collect old Bartholomew road maps. There, I've said enough. I'm proving myself to be a massive swot now!

Often I am directed to my favourite items by the staff at the Library. They have incredible specialist knowledge

SARA SHERIDAN

A look back at some vintage ads

In each issue of *Discover* we'll be taking you on a trip down memory lane. This issue looks at advertisements that you'd be very unlikely to see in any publications today...

1911

QUAKER OATS

Above is an advert in Gaelic which was published in the spring 1911 issue of the journal "An Sgeulaiche" ("The Storyteller"). It states that children ought to be given Quaker Oats twice every day, as it has been proven in tests on school children that there is nothing to top it for maintaining their energy and sustaining flesh and muscle. It also points out that one can buy as many as 40 platefuls of Quaker Oats for 6 shillings.

1905

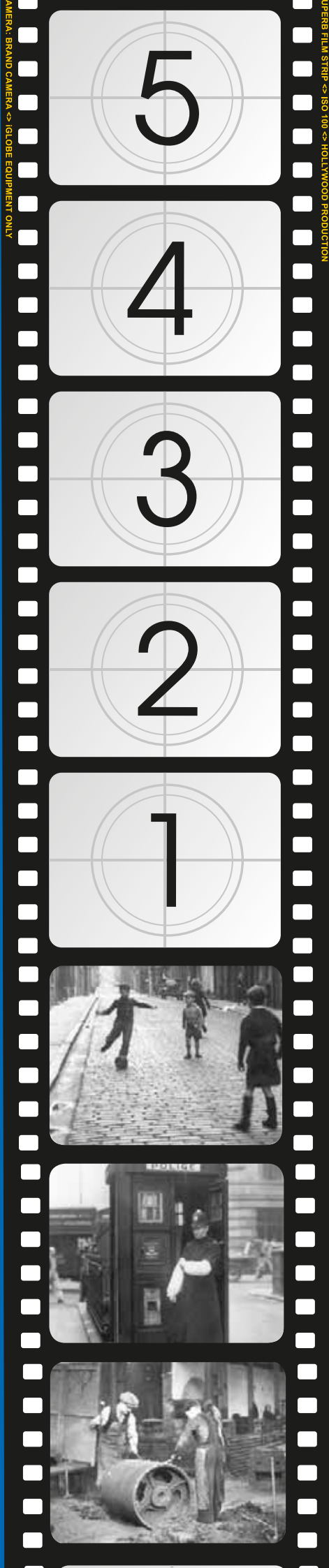
'BEST PENS INVENTED'

This bold advert was printed in a Scottish Post Office Directory, printed by J. Graham for the letter-carriers of the Post-Office, in 1905. Around 700 Scottish directories were published annually by the Post Office or private publishers between 1773 and 1911. Most of Scotland was covered, with a focus on Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen and most volumes included a general directory, street directory and trade directory.

1881

CARTERS' MACHINE CLEANED SEEDS

The advert appears in *S.W. Silver & Co's Handbook to Canada: A guide for Travellers and Settlers*, published in London in 1881. For many emigrants at this time, the experience of moving country meant clearing, settling and working the land, whatever their experience of farming back home. Sold by Carter of London and Paris.



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