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WOMEN OF WORDS
Five free-spirited Scots writers

FIGURE FOR THE AGES
Celebrating mathematician John Napier

DISCOVER

The magazine of the National Library of Scotland • www.nls.uk • Issue 34 Spring 2017



Special beginning

The journals of Henrietta Liston give an insight into the early relationship between the US and Great Britain



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WHAT'S ON AT THE KING'S AND FESTIVAL THEATRE



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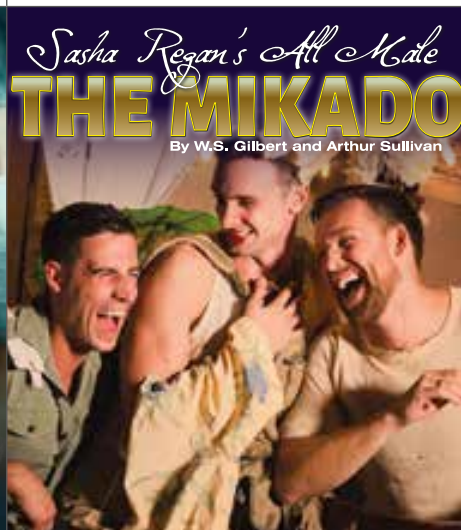
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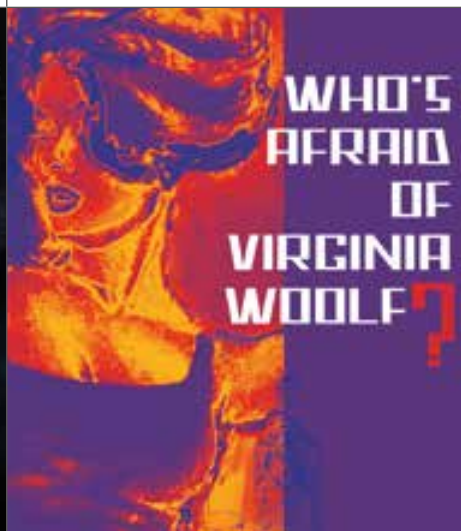
Tue 9 to Sat 13 May
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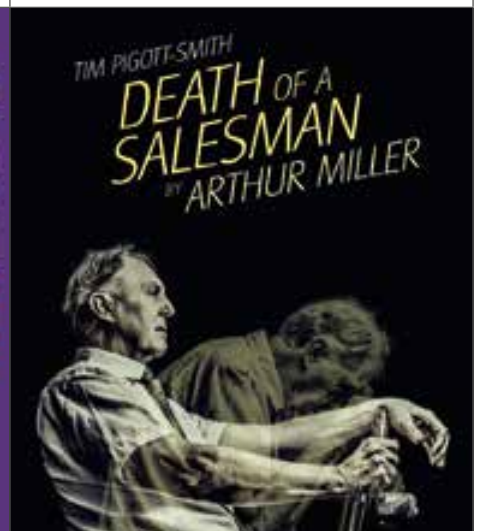
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FESTIVAL THEATRE



Tue 23 & Wed 24 May
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Tue 23 to Sat 27 May
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ISSUE 34 SPRING 2017

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From birth of a nation to tragic early death, the Library's collections feature exceptional women

Women first

As you read this edition of *Discover* one thing will strike you – the vital role played by women in the development of Scottish life and culture. We are featuring a number of women who made their mark at home and abroad in different ways.

Glasgow-educated Henrietta Marchant Liston was a friend of George Washington and present as the United States established itself as an independent nation. Her journals, recently made available online by the Library, give a fascinating insight into the early days of the country.

This issue also features the literary achievements of five Scottish women writers, all of whom died in 1946 and whose work is also being made available on our website. We also highlight the remarkable writing talent of Marjory Fleming, who, despite dying aged eight, could count Sir Walter Scott, Mark Twain and Robert Louis Stevenson among her admirers.

Talking of RLS, our Curator's Choice focuses on the exciting collection we acquired last summer, which consists of the novelist's letters to Anne Jenkins.

On a different tack, we mark the quad-centenary of the death of Scots mathematician John Napier and reveal how a new piece of high-tech equipment is allowing us to have a much closer look at our photographic collection. Our treasures display focuses on the pioneering *Blackwood's Magazine*, and we even have space to include a fascinating account of one of the Library's important science fiction collections – that of Scots writer J.T. McIntosh.

It is a stimulating and enlightening selection of stories. I hope you enjoy them.

Dr John Scally,
National Librarian



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THE CLUES

THE ANSWER IS IN OUR ARCHIVES

Scotland's first medical book was written in Scots and published in 1568. Who wrote it?

Let us know if you guess correctly!
Tweet @natlibscot using hashtag #natlibquiz

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J.T. MCINTOSH**

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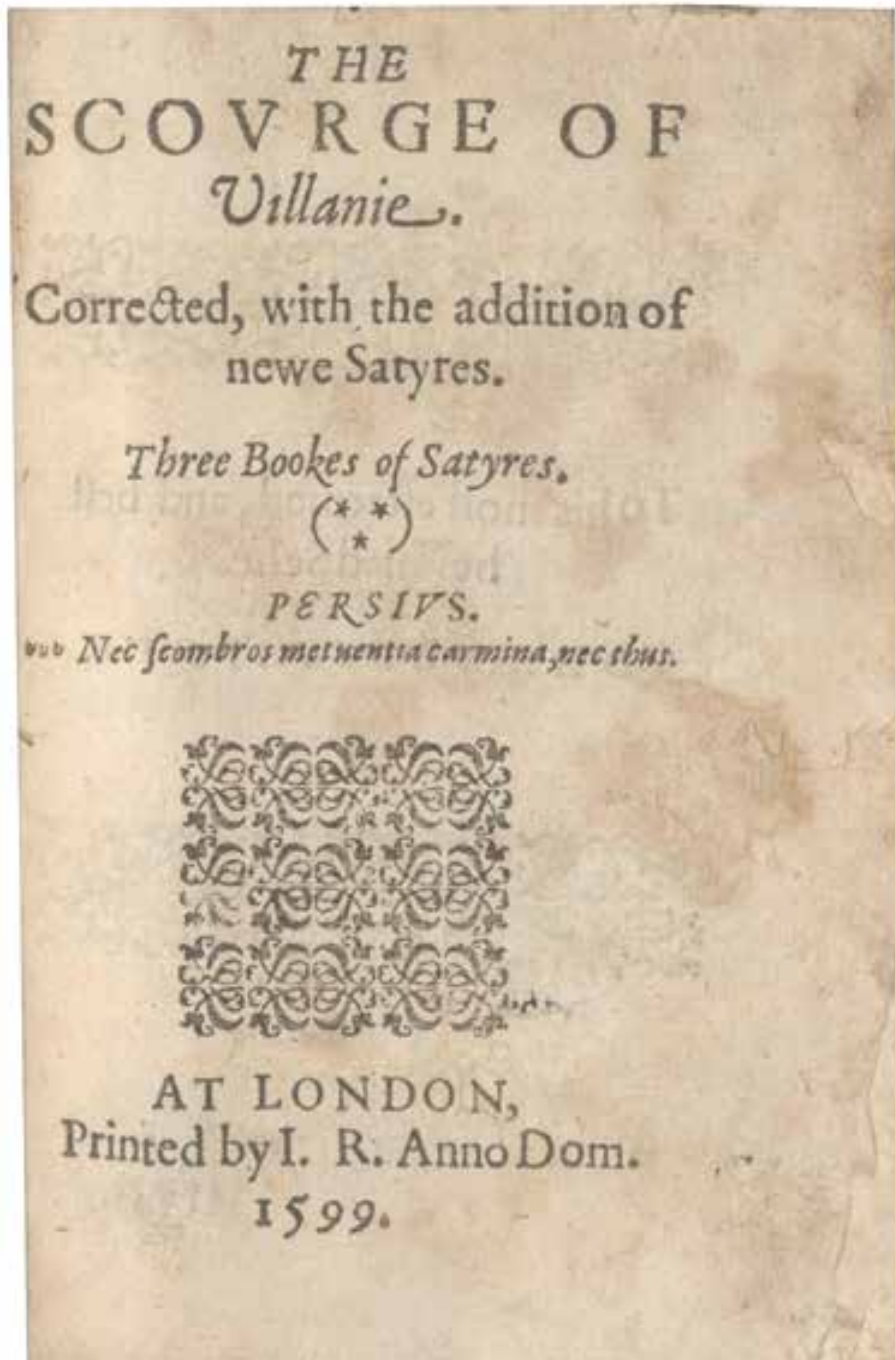
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Glentripleck surveyed in 1777 by John Gillone.



Plan of the County of the City of Glasgow (1930) by John Bartholomew.

NEW MAPS GO ONLINE

Hundreds of detail-rich maps chronicling changes in town and country help to fill in the Ordnance Survey gaps

The Library recently extended its online coverage of Scottish maps with two new categories – filling in between editions of Ordnance Survey mapping, and providing detail of places before the Ordnance Survey arrived.

In the first category, 400 new street maps of Scottish towns have been added in the Post Office Directories online. These maps allow the locations of people, businesses and factories, and their addresses listed in the Scottish Post Office Directories, to be viewed geographically. As well as naming all the streets in

towns, Post Office Directory maps show details of many other urban features, including public buildings, churches and chapels, schools, railways, tramways, docks, harbours, and public gardens and parks.

Occasionally, they also show boundaries of parishes, municipal wards, and parliamentary divisions. From the later 19th century, Post Office Directories were issued every year for several larger towns, and so the maps provide a more regular chronology of urban change than Ordnance Survey maps. The Library's coverage includes Aberdeen,

Broughty Ferry, Carnoustie, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Inverness, Monifieth, Newport-on-Tay, Perth and Wornit.

Estate maps are usually the most detailed maps showing rural areas from the 1760s to the 1840s, and the Library now has more than 450 estate maps relating to south-west Scotland online. Many of these have been scanned by the Dumfries Archival Mapping Project, covering estates in Dumfriesshire and Kirkcudbrightshire.

Also, thanks to co-operation with Dumfries Archives, the Library has put online the Maxwell of Monreith Estate Maps and Plans, 1777-1778, a set of estate maps and

accompanying schedules surveyed by John Gillone (1767-1809) in 1777-78, relating to Monreith estate in Wigtownshire. The Library holds the accompanying estate papers and archives.

View online:

- The Post Office maps are all available in our combined list of Scottish town plans at <http://maps.nls.uk/towns/>
- The estate maps are available under the respective counties and parishes on our Estate Maps page <http://maps.nls.uk/estates/>
- Georeferenced town plans and estate maps are available in our Explore Georeferenced Maps viewer at: <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/> (see under 'Scotland, Towns' and 'Scotland, Estate Maps')



Kelvin Hall wins innovation award

Just months after opening, the National Library of Scotland's new centre at Kelvin Hall in Glasgow has won an innovation award for outstanding library projects.

Organised by Edinburgh City Libraries, the EDGE awards recognise excellence in library-based initiatives

across the UK.

The National Library at Kelvin Hall won the award for innovation in the development of physical buildings or spaces. Kelvin Hall shows what libraries can be in the 21st century, through the extensive use of touchscreens to view film

content and computers to give access to the National Library's digital resources.

It also offers visitors a discovery area, with displays on life in Scotland, both past and present. The displays focus on Scots at work, at home and having fun down the years.

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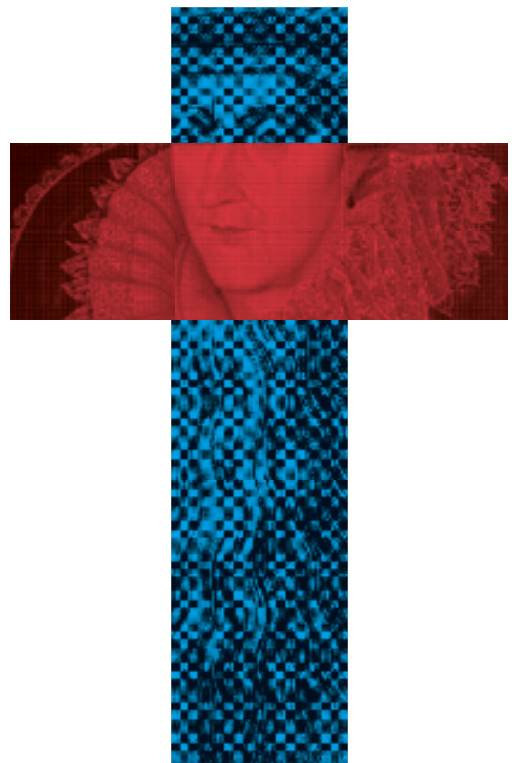
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Endurance frozen in the ice

Shackleton's story of survival

Photographic exhibition marks expedition centenary

A forthcoming exhibition at the Library will feature one of the greatest ever photographic records of human survival.

Enduring Eye honours the achievements of Sir Ernest Shackleton and the men of the Endurance Expedition of 1914–1917.

To mark the centenary of the expedition, the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) has digitised its entire collection directly from official expedition photographer Frank Hurley's original photographic negatives. These reveal previously unseen details of the crew's epic struggle for survival before and after their ship was destroyed.

The exhibition showcases Hurley's images alongside items from the Library's polar collections.

Enduring Eye: The Antarctic Legacy of Sir Ernest Shackleton and Frank Hurley will be on show at George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, between June 16 and November 12, 2017.

Mid-winter dinner on board Endurance



Gaelic Services ARE ENHANCED

Library appoints first ever Gaelic Wikipedian to develop content of online encyclopedia

In a move that further develops the Library's Gaelic services and activity, a Gaelic specialist has been appointed to help increase the content of Uicipeid, the Scottish Gaelic Wikipedia.

Dr Susan Ross is the first ever Gaelic Wikipedian based at the Library. Her role involves working with Gaelic groups across Scotland to develop Uicipeid, which is part of the larger online encyclopedia.

Uicipeid's users have built up over 14,000 articles on a wide range of topics. Dr Ross will provide support to develop and improve content, as well as offering

training to attract new users.

She said: "The range of content on Uicipeid is growing all the time. Editors are free to work on their specialist topics or any areas they are interested in. It's up to me to make sure the infrastructure is there for them to do it – training materials, guides and information. I'll run events including one-day editing sessions and attend events such as the Royal National Mod."

Notably, the recruitment process saw the Library undertake job interviews in Stornoway in the Outer Hebrides for the first time.



Dr Susan Ross

The post builds on the Library's recruitment of Gaelic Digital Assistant, Sandra Corbett, who joined in summer 2016. Her position was created in response to consultations with Gaelic communities and the desire to work with young Gaelic speakers.

Sandra, a native Gaelic speaker from the Isle of Lewis, said: "Among other things my tasks have included web archiving, digitisation of materials and working on an online educational resource. We try to reach a wide range of communities and, thanks to a visit to the Mod in October 2016, have even made contact with a Gaelic society operating in the United States."

Meudachadh air seirbheisean Gàidhlig

Ann an ceum a tha a' cur ri obair is seirbheisean Gàidhlig an Leabharlann, thathar air eòlaiche Gàidhlig fhastadh gus cuideachadh le bhith a' cur ris an t-susbaint air Uicipeid, Wikipedia Gàidhlig na h-Alba.

'S e an Dr Susan Ross a' chiad Uicipeidiche Gàidhlig riamh agus tha i stèidhichte anns an Leabharlann. Anns an obair aice, bidh i ag obair còmhla ri buidhnean Gàidhlig air feadh na h-Alba gus Uicipeid a leasachadh, a tha na phàirt den encyclopaedia air-loidhne Wikipedia.

Tha an luchd-cleachdaidh dìcheallach aig Uicipeid air còrr is 14,000 artaigean a sgrìobhadh gu ruige seo air farsaingeachd de chuspairean. Bheir Susan taic seachad gus susbaint a leudachadh is a leasachadh, cho math ri bhith a' toirt seachad trèanadh gus luchd-cleachdaidh ùra a thàladh.

Thuir i: "Tha

farsaingeachd na susbaint air Uicipeid a' fàs fad an t-siubhail. Faodaidh luchd-deasachaidh a bhith ag obair air na cuspairean sònraichte aca fhèin no air cuspair sam bith anns a bheil ùidh aca. Tha e an urra rium a bhith a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil bun-structar ann gus an urrainn dhaibh sin a dhèanamh – gum bi an stuth trèanaidh, fiosrachadh agus treòrachadh ann a tha a dhith orra. Bidh mi a' ruith thachartasan a' gabhail a-steach 'edit-a-thons' – seiseanan deasachaidh fad latha air cuspairean sònraichte – agus bidh mi an làthair aig tachartasan eile, leithid a' Mhòid Nàiseanta Rìoghail."

Tha an obair seo a' togail air fastadh an Neach-cuideachaidh Dhigiteach Ghàidhlig, Sandra Corbett, a thoisich na h-obair leis an Leabharlann as t-samhradh 2016. Chaidh an dreuchd

aice a chruthachadh às dèidh conaltradh le coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig agus mar thoradh air an rùn againn a bhith ag obair le òigridh aig a bheil Gàidhlig agus sgilean digiteach aig àrd-ìre no a dh'fhaodadh na sgilean sin a thogail.

Thuir Sandra, a tha na Leòdhasach aig a bheil Gàidhlig bho thùs: "Am measg nithean eile, tha an obair agam a' gabhail a-steach obair tasglann-lìn, a' digiteachadh stuthan agus a bhith ag obair air goireas foghlaim air-loidhne. Tha sinn ag amas air farsaingeachd de choimhearsnachdan a ruigsinn agus mar thoradh air turas dhan Mhòd san Dàmhair 2016, tha sinn fiù 's air a bhith ann an conaltradh le comann Gàidhlig anns na Stàitean Aonaichte."

● We acknowledge the support for both posts provided by Bord na Gàidhlig.

The sounds of Scotland's heritage

Project to connect young people with the country's rich audio traditions fills primary classrooms with song

Scots songs are being sung in the country's classrooms as part of a project to connect today's young people with traditions of the past.

It is part of a national initiative called Scotland's Sounds, led by the National Library of Scotland, which aims to preserve and share the country's rich audio heritage. The primary school project is using archive recordings of local traditional songs to help young people discover more about what life used to be like in their area.

Each "Finding Our Voices: Exploring Local Songs" workshop series will conclude with a public performance in each school. The first schools to take part were Dundee's Craigebarns and Forthill primary schools. Among other things, the workshops will introduce



Pupils from Forthill Primary, Dundee

today's smartphone generation to older sound equipment such as reel-to-reel tape recorders.

Amy McDonald, Engagement and Learning Co-ordinator for Connecting Scotland's Sounds said: "This is an exciting project to introduce the sounds of the past to the adults of the future. We hope it will enable pupils and teachers to learn about and enjoy their local and national audio heritage, particularly with regards to Scots song."

The workshops have been made possible through the Connecting Scotland's Sounds programme, which is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to champion Scotland's audio heritage.

The workshops are run by Local Voices, an organisation that helps communities across Scotland identify, collect and engage with their local heritage. Director Chris Wright said: "We will explore themes that local songs might cover – trades, local landmarks, place names and local characters. Songs are then explored, listened to and discussed, with the accompanying visual resources of maps, broadsheet images, local landmarks, before eventually being learned as a group."

[More information on Scotland's Sounds is at \[www.nls.uk/about-us/working-with-others/scotlands-sounds\]\(http://www.nls.uk/about-us/working-with-others/scotlands-sounds\)](http://www.nls.uk/about-us/working-with-others/scotlands-sounds)

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Trail of discovery

BY DR ULRIKE HOGG, MANUSCRIPTS CURATOR

A new collection of manuscripts chronicle the times and troubles of a controversial and much-travelled family of Church of Scotland ministers in the 17th century

The Library has acquired a collection of manuscripts of the Trail family, some of whose members played a significant role in the Church of Scotland in the 17th century.

Perhaps the most interesting is the Rev. William Trail, minister of Borthwick, who was born in 1640. By entering the clergy he had followed his father, Robert Trail (1603-1678), who had been minister of Greyfriars Church in Edinburgh but had been forced into exile in the Netherlands.

William was Robert's eldest son. He was ordained minister to the Presbyterian congregation at Lifford, Ireland, in 1671. However, he and his fellow Presbyterians were soon in conflict with the Church of Ireland. Having already been called before the authorities several times, in 1681 he and three other ministers from the Presbytery of Laggan, Co. Donegal, incurred more serious trouble by calling for a fast that was not tolerated by the Church of Ireland.

They were subjected to a gruelling interrogation in Dublin. The surviving records – of which there are copies in one of the newly-bought manuscripts – show that Trail's intelligence and sense of humour won him the sympathy of his interrogators. The four ministers were eventually released although not entirely cleared of suspicion.

In the midst of these events, the Presbytery received a call for a minister from a landowner in Maryland, many of whose tenants came from Donegal. Trail and three others answered the call, being among the earliest ministers to emigrate to America from Ireland.

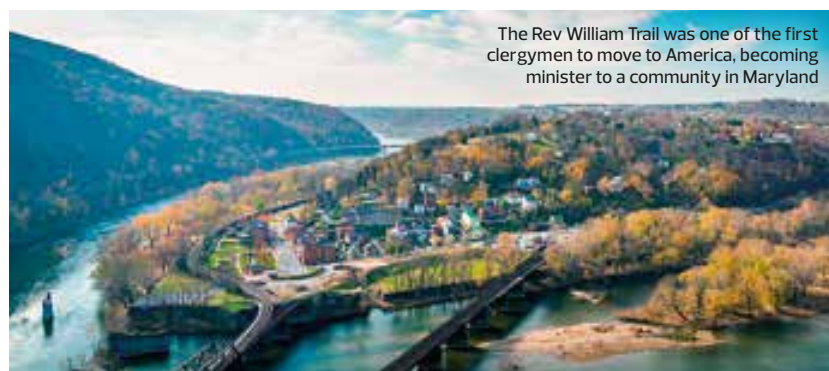
Trail became minister in Potomac, Maryland. His manuscript shows he kept in contact with emigrant communities elsewhere in America and correspondents at home.

By 1690 Trail was back in Scotland and became minister of the parish of Borthwick, where he died in 1714. His commonplace book, which contains documents illustrating his troubles in Ireland and his time in America, is one of four manuscripts owned or written by him.

Three more William Trail manuscripts bought at the same sale consist of a miscellany begun at university, dated 1659 onwards; a commonplace book covering a range of subjects, mostly religious, dated 1668; and a volume explaining a system of shorthand, "Brachygraphy", dated 1700.

We also bought two manuscripts of two of William Trail's sons, born in Ireland and Maryland respectively, who also became ministers. One is a verse miscellany and recipe book of the Rev. William Trail of Benholm, Kincardineshire (1683-1743). The other volume – a manuscript explaining a system of shorthand – was written by the Rev. Robert Trail of Panbridge in Angus (1687-1763).

The Library acknowledges the generous help of the Soutar Trust in buying these manuscripts.



The Rev William Trail was one of the first clergymen to move to America, becoming minister to a community in Maryland



Fanny Stevenson

**CURATOR'S CHOICE –
BY SALLY HARROWER,
MANUSCRIPTS CURATOR**

It's always exciting to acquire Robert Louis Stevenson (RLS) manuscripts. We did just that last summer when we bought his letters to Anne Jenkin at Sotheby's, thanks to generous support from the Soutar Trust and the Friends of the National Libraries.

Anne was the widow of Fleeming Jenkin, Professor of Engineering at Edinburgh University. The two men had been close friends since RLS's university days, and when Jenkin died suddenly in 1885, Anne asked Stevenson to write a memoir. Here, the correspondence begins.

The collection includes 15 letters from Fanny, Stevenson's wife. All RLS's letters to Anne are published but only one of Fanny's – her moving description of Stevenson's death, written to Anne the day after the event – is known to have appeared in print.

The surprise is Ginger the cat – he is mentioned in a few of Fanny's letters. I knew Stevenson liked animals, but cats? This needed some investigation, and it's all there in *The Letters of Robert Louis Stevenson*.

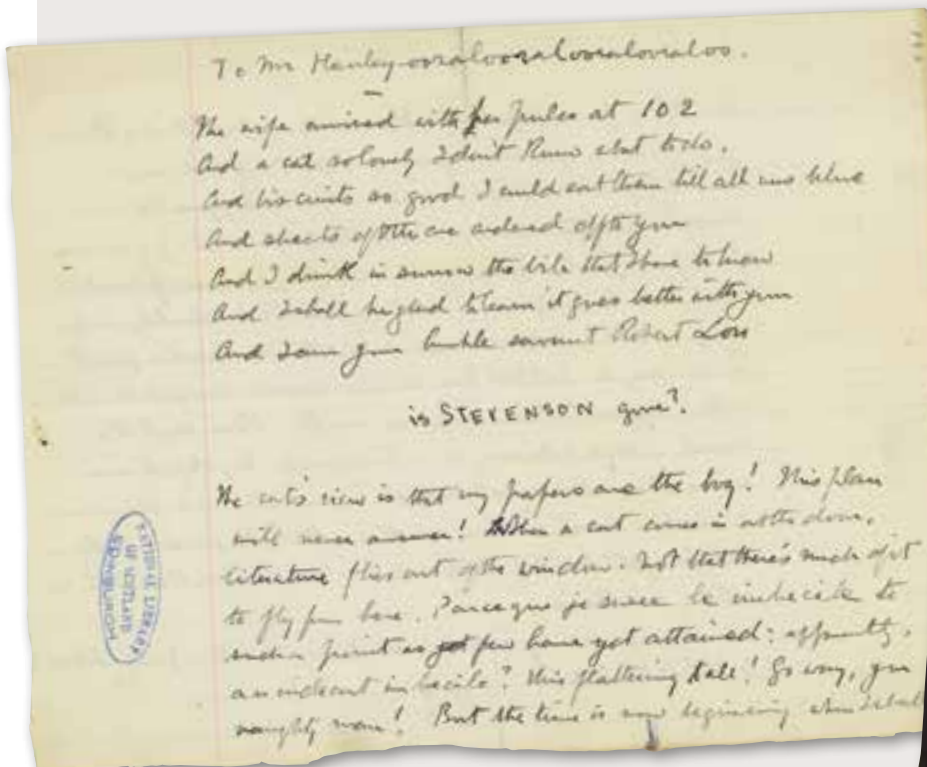
THE ARRIVAL OF GINGER

In October 1885, Stevenson writes to his friend, the poet W. E. Henley, beginning:

"To Mr Henley ooralooralooralooraloo –

MR AND MRS STEVENSON AND GINGER THE CAT

The latest acquisition of Robert Louis Stevenson manuscripts has revealed a new dimension to the life of RLS and his wife Fanny – their devotion to a beloved pet



RLS's letter to W.E. Henley (above) and Fanny's letter to Anne Jenkin about "my dear Ginger boy"

The wife arrived with her pulse at 102
And a cat so lovely I don't know
what to do ...".

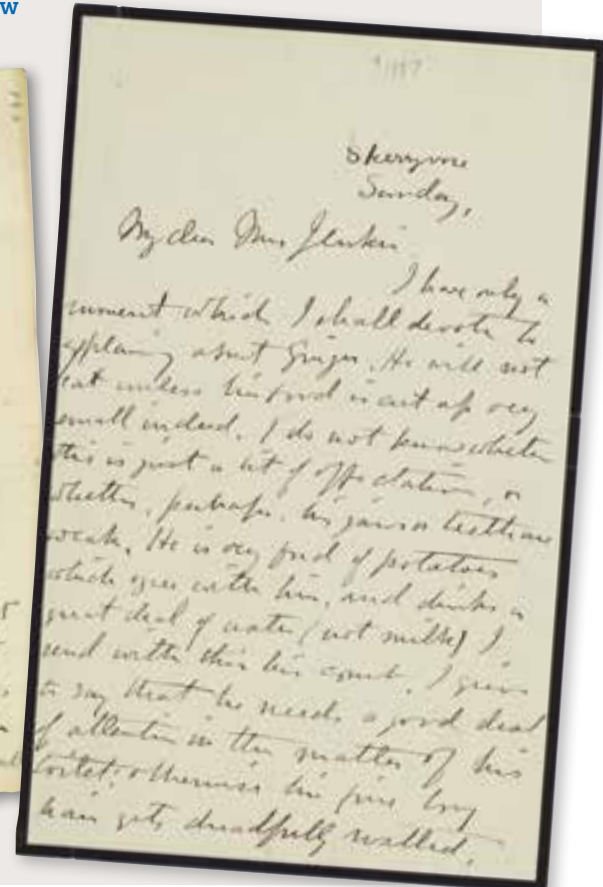
Writing soon after to Henry James, RLS observes that the cat "promises to be a monster of laziness and self-sufficiency". A footnote in *The Letters*, quoting Henley, reveals that "Ginger is a semi-Persian, not the genuine article. [Fanny] bought him for ten bob at a Cat show at the [Crystal] Palace".

GINGER GOES NORTH

In late 1887, the Stevensons were leaving Bournemouth for America and Ginger needed a new home. Anne Jenkin – good woman – clearly stepped up. RLS thanks

her "for the offer about Ginger, which we accept with exultation". Fanny writes: "... my dear Ginger boy ... I do not know how to get him to you. Would it be safe, do you think, to put him in a cage and send him by parcel post? Or if that is nonsense, by parcel something?"

Fanny's next letter begins "I have only a moment which I shall devote to explaining about Ginger. He will not eat unless his food is cut up very small indeed ...". She continues in this vein for more than a page, worrying about the cat's teeth, jaws, fur, weight and lungs. I find this touching, but it could hint at the hypochondria sometimes associated with Fanny.



GINGER, THE IMMORTAL

Stevenson died in 1894 and in 1899 W.E. Henley advised Sidney Colvin, the earliest editor of Stevenson's letters, to "... hunt out the charming note in which Lewis [sic] described the coming into his life of Ginger. It always pleased me; and, as the old cat's still alive, I don't see why he shouldn't live hereafter with the rest of us".

So there was Ginger, still going strong at 14, presumably in Edinburgh with Anne Jenkin.

It looks as if Stevenson's assessment of the cat's self-sufficiency was nearer the mark than all Fanny's worries about his health.

'LAWS WERE MADE TO BE BROKEN'

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE AT 200

Controversial and trailblazing, *Blackwood's Magazine*, which ran from 1817 until 1980, was one of the longest running periodicals of its kind. Manuscripts Curator Dr Ralph McLean assesses its significance

William Blackwood launched the *Edinburgh Monthly Magazine* on 1 April 1817, in part, as a Tory counterblast against Archibald Constable's Whig-supporting periodicals the *Edinburgh Review* and the *Scots Magazine*. Blackwood hired Thomas Pringle and James Cleghorn as editors but the venture was less than successful and sales were initially sluggish. Change was needed if the fledgling publication was to survive, and Blackwood fired both editors so that he might start afresh. Indeed, one of the few things to survive from the magazine's first six issues was the portrait of the 16th-century historian and scholar George Buchanan, which remained a permanent fixture on the title page of the magazine.

For the October 1817 edition the magazine was rebooted and retitled as *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*. It became affectionately known as

'Maga' supposedly because William Blackwood declared "there's ma Magazine" upon seeing its new incarnation. In order to attract a readership and prevent history from repeating itself, the revitalised magazine made an immediate impact by unleashing a storm of controversy.

Under the guidance of John Gibson Lockhart and John Wilson, *Blackwood's Magazine* scandalised and captivated readers with its polemical essays and reviews. The ancient Chaldee manuscript was one of the most incendiary pieces to appear in the October edition. Announced as the discovery of an ancient manuscript in Biblical language, it was in fact a work that satirised and lampooned notable public figures – including the magazine's previous editors. A number of lawsuits were brought against William Blackwood as the owner of the magazine for these personal attacks. One quarrel even resulted in the death of the editor of the *London*



SECOND IMPRESSION.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.

N^o. MCCXXVII.



Contents for January 1918.

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| The Gold Coast. By Sir Hugh Clifford, K.C.M.G. | Mountains, Fl... By... |
| On Patrol.—IV. By Klaxon. | Musings without Meth... |
| By Light Car to Mt. Iskander. By Scudamore Jarvis. | The Defection of Lord La...
Case of Atavism—Preside...
Mess...—A "Fostered...
—Prose and Verse—The...
Eighteenth Century—The...
Tradition. |

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
LONDON AND EDINBURGH

PRICE 2/6

Registered for transmission by Canadian Magazine P

LIFESAVER
Blackwood's Magazine was popular with soldiers on the front line during the First World War. This 1918 edition, carried by an officer in his breast pocket, shows where it absorbed the impact of a bullet, saving his life

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Magazine, John Scott, who was killed in a pistol duel.

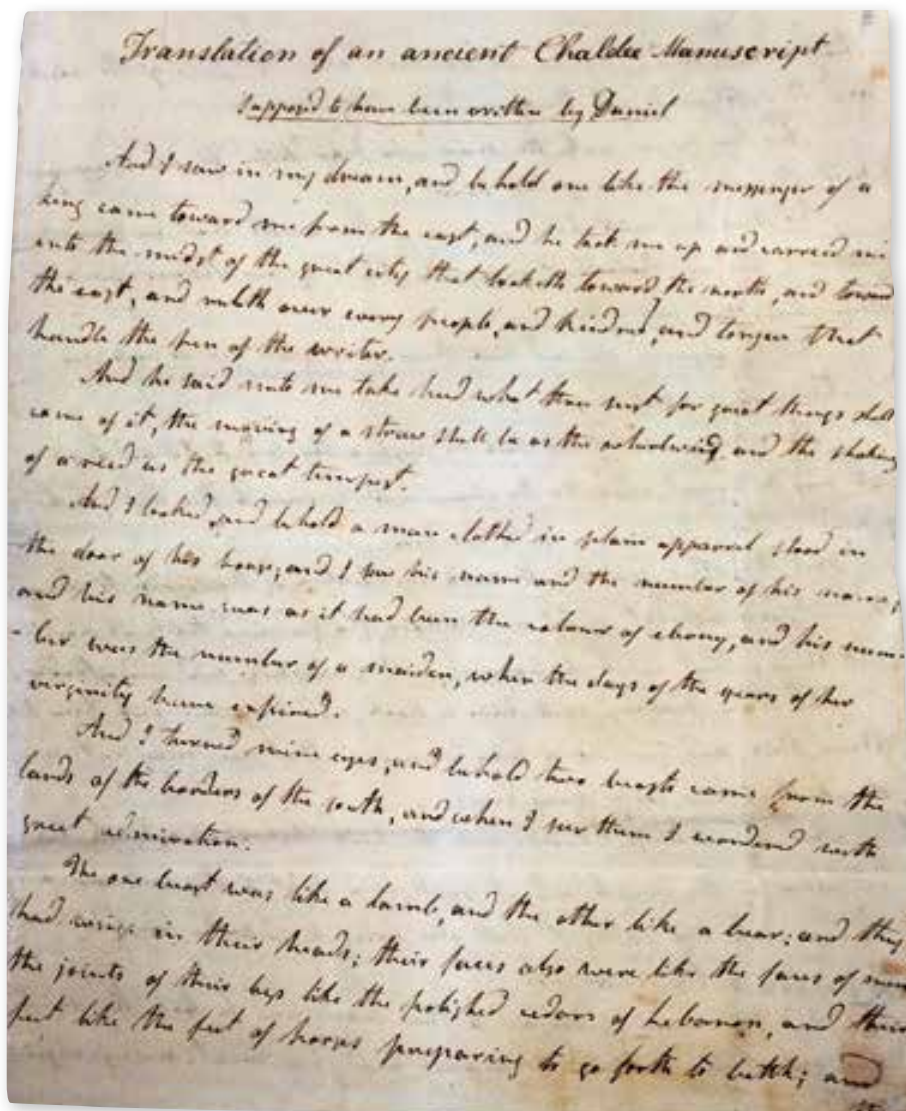
The whiff of controversy surrounding *Blackwood's* ensured that people were aware of the magazine. To capitalise on this early publicity the editors continued to introduce innovative additions to entertain readers. The *Noctes Ambrosianae*, so called because the fictional protagonists met at night in Ambrose's Tavern, created a cadre of memorable figures who discussed a wide variety of topics in their convivial surroundings.

John Wilson, whose alter-ego Christopher North frequented the tavern, was the driving force behind the *Noctes*, eventually coming to dominate its authorship. Indeed it was Wilson who wrote the words "Laws were made to be broken" in the April 1829 instalment of the *Noctes*. However, the Ettrick Shepherd, the pseudonym for the poet and novelist James Hogg, also struck a chord with many readers for the character's use of the Scots language as a medium for communication with his fellow tavern-dwellers.

LITERARY TALENT

In the following years, the magazine would act as a platform for a succession of literary talent, publishing the work of not only James Hogg, but also of such familiar names as John Galt, Margaret Oliphant, and George Eliot among a great many others. Oliphant in particular was a prolific contributor, publishing more than 100 pieces, and turning her hand to review essays, short stories, and longer works of fiction. For its 1,000th edition in 1899, Joseph Conrad's classic *The Heart of Darkness* was serialised, demonstrating that *Blackwood's* was still capable of attracting contributions from literary trailblazers.

During the First World War the magazine accompanied soldiers to the front, and it was in 1915 that John Buchan's timeless thriller *The Thirty-Nine Steps* appeared for the first time in print. John Hay Beith, writing under



INCENDIARY The publication of the 'Translation of the Ancient Chaldee Manuscript' in 1817 was announced as the discovery of an ancient work but it was in fact a satire which lampooned notable public figures of the time

the pen-name of Ian Hay, produced a number of articles for *Blackwood's* while serving in France. These essays were published together as *The First Hundred Thousand* (1915). Such was Beith's influence that he was ultimately sent to the United States in an attempt to encourage their participation in the war.

The magazine was something of a lifesaver for soldiers, sometimes quite literally. In 1841, a copy took the brunt of a sword blow in the Afghan War turning what would have been a fatal strike into a superficial one. In 1918, a copy in the breast pocket of an officer's

jacket performed a similar service by absorbing the impact of a bullet and keeping the soldier alive.

Although *Blackwood's* continued its publication run through most of the 20th century, it succumbed to a steady fall in readership. New journals emerged, utilising illustrations to attract new audiences, and employing fresh publicity stunts as *Blackwood's* itself had done in its early days. The magazine may have ceased publication in 1980 but from its humble beginnings in Edinburgh it left behind a rich legacy as one of the most original and influential periodicals to have been published in Britain.

From March 30 until July 2 a Treasures display at the National Library of Scotland will showcase some of the highlights of our extensive collection drawn from the *Blackwood Archive* and the complete run of the printed magazine.

● **Blackwood's may have ceased publication in 1980 but from its humble beginnings it left behind a rich legacy as one of the most original and influential periodicals** ●

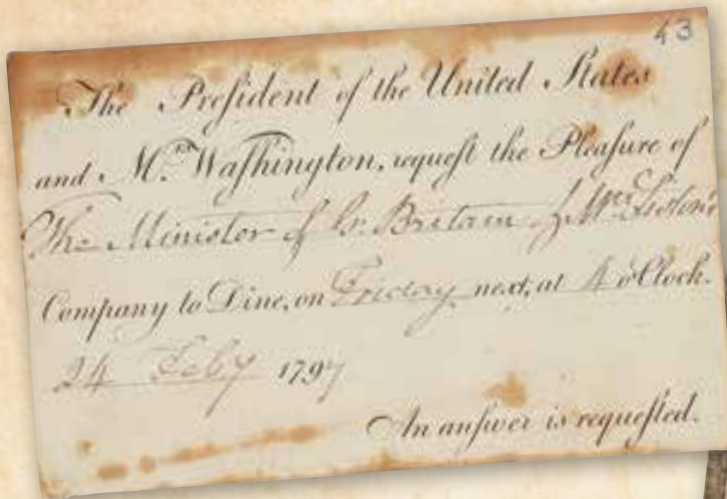
A portrait of Henrietta Liston, a woman with a large blue bonnet and a white dress with a blue sash. She is looking slightly to the right of the viewer. The background is dark and indistinct.

HENRIETTA LISTON

THE JOURNALS OF
HENRIETTA LISTON

**‘The first
appearance
of a New
Country is
wonderfully
amusing’**

Continues overleaf >



In 1797 President George Washington invited Robert and Henrietta Liston to dinner. Two years later they were invited to his funeral oration



The remarkable journals of Henrietta Marchant Liston, friend of the first US President George Washington, reveal a woman who helped establish the foundations for a special relationship between the US and Great Britain

By Dora Petherbridge, Curator (US & Commonwealth Collections), Collections & Research

B

orn in Antigua and educated in Glasgow, Henrietta Marchant Liston was a diarist, botanist, and informed, biased and spirited observer of the many countries she visited in her lifetime.

Documents recording Henrietta's life survive in the Liston Papers at the Library. In addition to her travel journals, the archive contains Henrietta's marriage contract, her fascinating correspondence, and two wills – made 20 years apart.

The archive allows us to discover Henrietta's politics, prejudices and fears,

her talents, interests, and childhood memories. It tells us that Henrietta described herself as a "gentlewoman", and valued civility highly. It reveals that she spoke French, read novels and newspapers, owned a guitar and music books, and wanted to see the star actress of the day, Sarah Siddons, perform. The archive also discloses that to her relatives and friends Henrietta was known as "Henny", and that she liked buttermilk, for it suited her "Scotch taste".

Henrietta Marchant was born in Falmouth, Antigua, and baptised there at St Paul's Church, on 17 March 1752. Orphaned before she was 10 years old, Henrietta went to Glasgow with her brothers to live with their guardian James Jackson, and his wife, their maternal aunt, Henrietta Nanton Jackson. She lived with her relatives until, aged 44, her world was transformed. Leaving her home in Charlotte Street, Glasgow, Henrietta began to lead a public life of international politics, diplomacy, and travel.

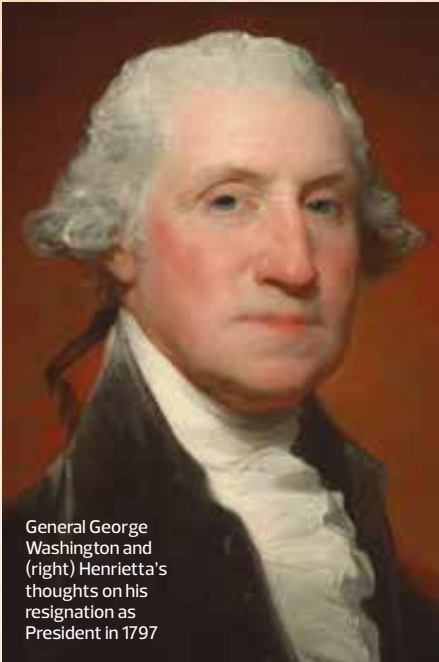
On 27 February 1796 at St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Glasgow, Miss Marchant married the respected Scottish diplomat Robert Liston, newly appointed British Minister to the United States. Robert, previously ambassador at Constantinople, was only the second

person to serve as minister to the United States. Just 13 years after the end of the War of Independence, his appointment coincided with a significant and unstable period in British-American relations.

A few weeks after their wedding, the Listons sailed to America, and on 1 May anchored in New York harbour. They found lodgings "at a charming place", the Belvedere Tavern, which overlooked the Hudson. Feeling "a great anxiety to see the President", the Listons soon moved to Philadelphia, then the capital, arriving in time for the rising of Congress. Philadelphia was the Listons' home for the next four and a half years.

Henrietta's journals, kept for the duration of her stay in the US, record her impressions of American politics and society. The journals have style and character. Her writing is full of opinion and wonderment. Her inquisitive voice fills the pages with a sense of discovery; she takes us to the streets, suppers, and taverns of the early republic.

Mrs Liston's eye-witness accounts give insights into the relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States, yellow fever in Philadelphia, the Quasi War of 1798-1800, the death of George Washington in 1799, and the British invasion of the Danish and French West



General George Washington and (right) Henrietta's thoughts on his resignation as President in 1797



Robert Liston, British Minister to the United States

Resignation of General Washington as President of the United States of America. Philadelphia, 3rd March 1797.

Yesterday, Washington voluntarily resigned his office of Chief Magistrate of the United States of America; Mr. Adams was sworn in President as his successor, carrying the election by a majority of three votes over his opponent, Jefferson, who, at the same time, took the oath as Vice President.

On the third of March, - being the last day of General Washington's power as President, he gave a public dinner to the officers of State, Foreign Ministers, principal Senators, & to their respective ladies. I had as usual, the gratification of being handed to table by the President. - Had I ever before conceived the character of Washington, I should certainly have joined the general voice, & pronounced him, greater in this voluntary retreat, & in the resignation of power over an immense country, - than when, having by his conduct as a Soldier, been the principal means of rendering his Country independent, & beloved by the universal suffrage of the people, its ruler & director. I should have repeated with others, - Washington is the first of Men-wise, great & good, whereas he is in truth & reality, honest, prudent & fortunate, & wonderful to say, almost without ambition: these words are less dignified but not less strong.

Unnatural things are generally born to escalated Nations, - bred up in luxury & fed by flattery. When Charles the first dedicated his Crown it was

Her inquisitive voice fills the pages with a sense of discovery; she takes us to the streets, suppers and taverns of the early republic

Indies in 1801. They also demonstrate Henrietta's political nous and sensitivity for the politics of character.

Henrietta was particularly interested by the character and demeanour of the first president, George Washington, with whom she developed a genuine and politically significant friendship. She wrote: "Washington has made to himself a name remarkable in Europe; but of peculiar Magic in America."

Like Robert, Henrietta seems to have been a natural diplomat. She was central to her husband's success in the United States. Through her soft power – her social abilities – she was

involved in the work Robert carried out to impress, befriend, and earn the trust of the Americans. Enabling Robert to reciprocate the hospitality they received from the important families of the United States, Henrietta ensured they were accepted in the right aristocratic and political circles, and that they could establish a supportive social and professional network through which to improve British-American relations.

The Listons' way of life in the US can be characterised as peripatetic. They travelled extensively and boldly. By

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stagecoach, canoe, ship, carriage and cart the Listons covered thousands of miles visiting 16 US states, two Canadian provinces, and concluding their American stay with an island-hopping trip to the West Indies before returning to England. Henrietta embraced what was then the primarily male pursuit of travel, and even as she notes its hardships and dangers, she reveals a desire to see new places.

One of Henrietta's most remarkable journals describes the Listons' four month journey around Virginia and "the Carolinas." Travelling in the winter through pine-barren, swamp and woodland, over rain-swollen creeks, and sleeping in private homes alongside strangers, it was an eventful expedition. The Listons dined at vast plantations and ate pork and corn bread with families in isolated dwellings in places Henrietta couldn't name.

The scope of the Listons' travels can now be visualised and explored on an interactive map, part of the online resource. Showing the tours they took and the towns, hamlets and cities in which they stayed, the map provides a way of searching Henrietta's journals through the places they visited. This map will open a door to the marvellous research potential of Henrietta's writing.

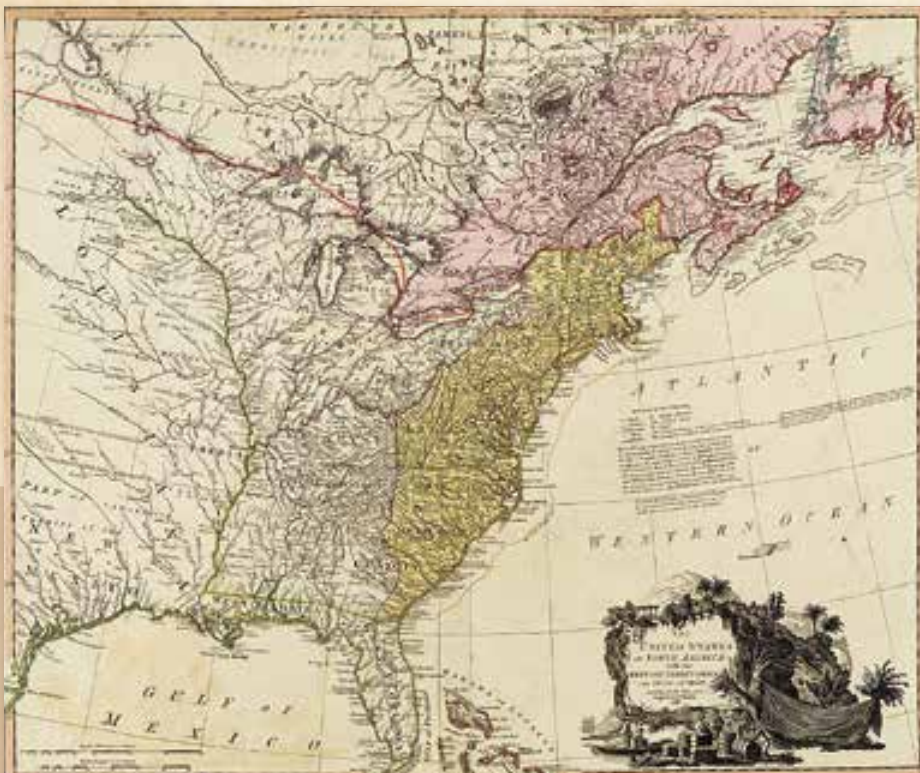
Amazed and delighted by the magnificent trees and plants she saw, Mrs Liston returned home with the inspiration to create an American garden in Scotland,

Why, may I ask, my dear sir, did you Americans... go to War with Great Britain. Was it because Mr Liston and I were not there to keep you all in order?

HENRIETTA LISTON

which in 1804, she did. She also returned with an awareness of her husband's, and her own, efficacy and success in the young United States. In a letter written in the summer of 1814, while the War of 1812 was still being fought, Henrietta wrote to an American friend: "Why, may I ask, my dear sir, did you Americans after all the pleasant and tranquil days that we past together in the United States, go to War with Great Britain. Was it because Mr Liston and I were not there to keep you all in order?"

Read Henrietta Liston's journals online. Explore the Listons' travels by map. And find out more at: <http://digital.nls.uk/travels-of-henrietta-liston/>



THE LIBRARY



YOU CAN HELP

The digitisation of Henrietta Liston's American journals was made possible with a generous donation from Walter Grant Scott.

Now anyone who wants to access these fascinating documents, wherever they are in the world, can do so – from historians studying first-hand accounts of a newly independent America; to school students looking at the influence of Scots abroad; to today's diplomats and diplomatic spouses looking to compare their own experiences. All at the click of a button.

We are committed to continuing to digitise our vast and rich collections at pace, so that a third are available in digital format by 2025. This is laborious and costly work – the 'North American Travels of a Diplomat's Wife' online resource shows how invaluable it can be.

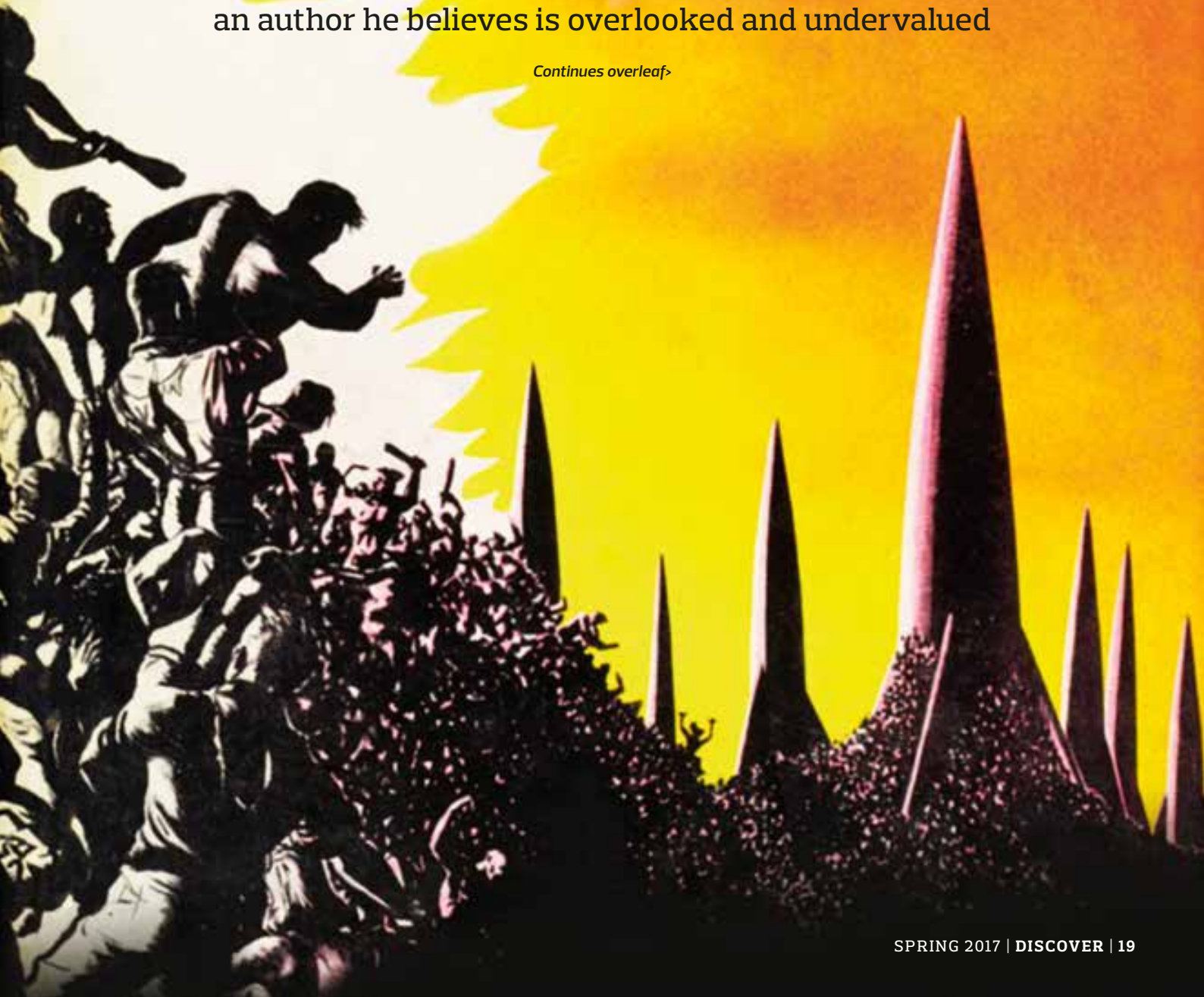
Support us in opening up our rich collections, and making Scotland's memories available to all.

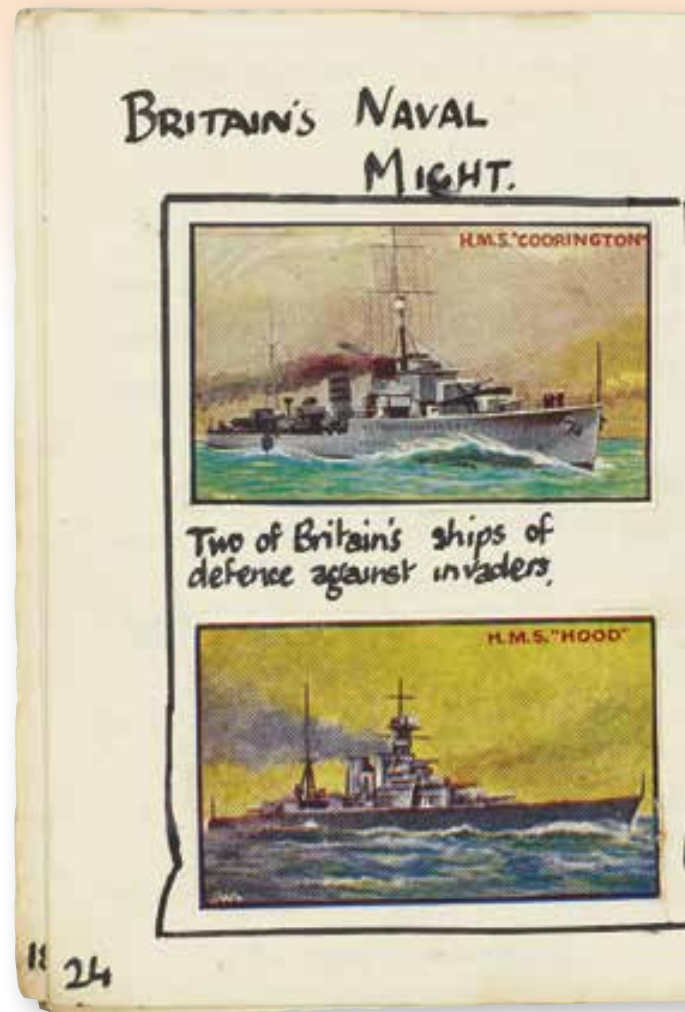
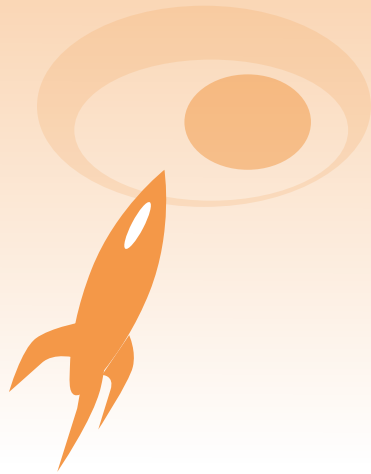
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OUT WHERE THE STARS ARE BRIGHT

In early 2016, while volunteering in the Library's Archives & Manuscripts Collections, *Dr Tony Quinn* began sorting and listing the archive of Scottish science fiction writer, J.T. McIntosh. Here, he makes the case for an author he believes is overlooked and undervalued

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A

uthor J.T. McIntosh is a unique figure. He is the only science fiction writer whose literary papers and correspondence are held by the Library. Purchased in 2010, they offer a remarkable insight into the life and works of one of Scotland's most unique, talented, but nonetheless neglected writers of the last century. It is an inescapable fact that despite considerable success in Europe and the United States, few in Scotland today are aware of McIntosh's work.

McIntosh was born James Murdoch MacGregor on 14 February 1925 in Paisley and moved to Aberdeen at a young age. There he lived for the rest of his life, working as a journalist and sub-editor as well as undertaking his novel and story-writing.

His childhood desire to be a writer is reflected in some of the items in the archive. The earliest surviving work is *The Diamond*, a manuscript magazine he wrote and designed with a friend and may have sold in school. The Library

also holds a story, *Shakespeare in Swing Time*, written in a school jotter and dated 5–21 February 1941. The author's name here is James MacGregor McIntosh, one of many pseudonyms he used before settling on J.T. McIntosh.

His breakthrough came in December 1950 when *The Curfew Tolls* was accepted for publication in *Astounding Science Fiction*, an American magazine. More short stories followed before his first novel, 'X', was accepted by the prestigious American publishers Doubleday. They liked it enough to offer a \$750 advance but requested some revision to the first part. McIntosh duly obliged and on resubmitting the manuscript he found that the title had been changed to *World Out of Mind*.

Success continued with *Born Leader* and then what was perhaps McIntosh's most celebrated work, *One in Three Hundred*, a tale that centres on a dying Earth and the individuals chosen to colonise a new world – a theme that McIntosh would often revisit.



J. T. McIntosh

● J.T. McIntosh was a highly respected writer whose narrative skill resulted in pioneering and innovative work in science fiction ●

Into Space

exists. For the rest we must wait and see."

IT was two days later.

"According to my calculations we should be nearing Lunarius by now," said Professor Darrell.

He crossed to a forward window, let back the shutter. He turned round again, a look of triumph on his face.

"Come here, boys," he said, quite calmly.

And through that window they had their first glimpse of Lunarius, a grim, barren planet with no growth upon which they were to land.

(to be continued)

25

EARLY PROMISE

As a boy, McIntosh and a friend wrote and designed *The Diamond*, a manuscript magazine which they may have sold in school. It is his earliest surviving work



With early success in Europe and the US, everything paused when illness struck. In December 1953, McIntosh was admitted to a medical establishment that specialised in non-pulmonary tuberculosis. He remained there until June 1954. What could easily have been a most difficult and stagnant time instead became a period of unmatched creativity. Here the archive groans under the weight of correspondence and manuscripts that reveal the diversity of his creative talent. As well as science fiction there are crime stories, dramas, radio plays, correspondence on censorship, a libretto for an unfinished operetta, a comedy, and the beginnings of two epic novels that take place during the Second World War.

ORIGINATOR

McIntosh's star continued to rise during the next decade. *One in a Thousand*, a requested sequel to *One in Three Hundred* was a success. He is also credited with being the originator of the now universally-used science fiction

term "empath". This appeared in a story of the same name in 1956. The archive also contains an earlier, unpublished version, *Three Hours* which predates *Empath* by almost a year. His reputation was such that Robert Heinlein, who along with Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke is considered one of the "Big Three" in science fiction, travelled to Glasgow just to meet him.

The pair also shared an interest in photography and McIntosh's book on the subject, *Glamour in Your Lens*, was published in 1958. This interest in the female form was evident in his fiction where women are often given striking physical attributes which are described in some detail. The archive contains a letter from Scottish author Nan Shepherd on this matter. Writing in 1960, she congratulates him on his recent book (*When the Ship Sank*) but criticises his overt focus on "six beautiful women".

Things did not always go smoothly. An anthology of his work titled *Out Where the Stars*



Published in 1958 under the name of James Macgregor, *Glamour in your Lens* explored McIntosh's interest in photography... and in the female form, which was evident in his fiction where women are often given striking physical attributes

are Bright, was collated but never published. The archive also contains correspondence revealing that a contract for the South American market was withdrawn suddenly when the proprietor, Juan Peron's former Foreign Minister, was taken from his office during the revolution and "most probably shot". McIntosh was later accused of lacking discipline and returning to themes from previous works. This is perhaps true with the archive reflecting recurring detours into other fields.

There is simply too much to the life of J.T. McIntosh to ensure justice in one article. Regrettably, he is likely to remain an undiscovered treasure unless his work is given greater consideration than it is generally afforded. Now would be a good time for that, since McIntosh was a highly respected writer whose narrative skill resulted in pioneering and innovative work in the world of science fiction, and Scotland has few authors of that ilk.

J.T. McIntosh died in Aberdeen in 2008.

WOMEN OF WORDS

Five free-spirited Scots writers, whose rich and diverse work was both celebrated and controversial in their time, all died in 1946. We can now share their work more widely

By Ian Scott, Curator, Modern Collections

The literary works of five Scots women who played a key role in the development of biography, the novel, picture books for children and the revival of Scots as a literary language, have now become more widely available.

These very different women – Marion Angus, Helen Bannerman, Catherine Carswell, Jane Helen Findlater and Violet Jacob – all died in 1946. As a result, their work came out of copyright on 1 January, 2017 which has presented the Library with an opportunity to make it available online through our website.

Looking back, it is clear that opportunities for women in late 19th and early 20th century Scotland were limited. However, literature was one of the few careers open to an intelligent and ambitious young woman. These five followed that path:

MARION ANGUS 1865–1946



A daughter of the manse, Angus's father was the minister at the Erskine Church, Arbroath. Her poems were published in *Northern Numbers* (1921–2) edited by

Hugh MacDiarmid – a key early publication in the Scottish Renaissance.

A late starter, her first collection *The Lilt and other poems* was published in 1922 when Angus was 56 and was

followed by five other collections. Heavily influenced by the Scottish ballad tradition, her work is mainly in Scots. In 2006, the anthology *The Singin' Lass: Selected works of Marion Angus* brought together the best of her work with a substantial introduction by editor Aimee Chalmers including much biographical detail. Chalmers has also written a novel appropriately written in Scots based on the little we know about Angus's life.

We are digitising her celebrated poetry collections: *Sun and candlelight* (1927), *Lost Country* (1937), *The Lilt and other verses*, *The Tinker's Road* (1924), *The Turn of the Day* (1931), and *The Singin' Lass* (1929).

HELEN BANNERMAN 1862–1946



Bannerman was an early pioneer of the picture book for children. She spent 30 years in India where her husband worked as a doctor. Here, she started to think up stories to

tell to her two small daughters, inspired by her new home. *The Story of Little Black Sambo*, written and illustrated by Bannerman, was published in 1899 and quickly became a huge success. It tells the story of a resourceful small boy who outwits some hungry tigers. The title and illustrations, in particular the crude stereotypical drawings that appeared in pirated North American editions, have led to the book becoming controversial





with charges of racism being made against the work.

The American illustrator Fred Marcellino contends that the story itself is not racist and shows the title character in a positive light. He has written a new version of the book *The Story of Little Babaji* (1996) with Indian names and setting. However, the original title ensures that this continues to be a problematic book. We have digitised copies of *The Story of Little Black Sambo* as well as other children's stories by Bannerman such as *The Story of Little Black Mingo* (1901), *Pat and the Spider* (1905) and *The Story of Little Black Bob-tail* (1909).

CATHERINE CARSWELL 1879-1946



Carswell was born into a God-fearing Free Church family in Glasgow. She grew up to be a free spirited, rebellious and remarkable woman whose books were original

and controversial. She was sacked from the *Glasgow Herald* for a favourable review of D. H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow* in 1915. Lawrence became a close friend and asked for Carswell's opinion on a work in progress, *Women in Love*. Later, he commented on drafts of Carswell's first semi-autobiographical novel *Open the Door* (1920). Her 1930 biography *The Life of Robert Burns* caused consternation with its frank portrayal of Burns' life and work and Carswell was sent a bullet in the post. She was re-discovered by a new generation when *Open the Door* was republished as a Virago Modern Classic in 1986.

We have digitised Carwell's two novels, *Open the Door* and *The Camomile* (1922) as well as *The Life of Robert Burns* and her biographies of D. H. Lawrence, *The Savage Pilgrimage* (1932) and *Boccaccio, The Tranquil Heart* (1937).

JANE HELEN FINDLATER 1866-1946



Born in Edinburgh, Findlater's father, James, was a Free Church Minister and her mother, Sarah, had translated German hymns into English. Jane Findlater is closely

associated with her elder sister, Mary, born in 1865. The sisters shared a love of reading and writing and would later collaborate on several books.

Jane's first novel *The Green Graves of Balgowrie* was published in 1896. A historical novel set in the 18th century and loosely based on her family's history, it was a success and served as an entrée to literary society for both sisters who subsequently toured America meeting Frances Hodgson Burnett and befriending Henry James. It also rescued the family from the extreme poverty that followed the death of their father in 1886.

The sisters would find their greatest success with a series of collaborative novels starting with *Crossriggs* (1908). Jane was well-regarded for her authentic portrayal of rural life in Scotland and the sisters' work had many famous admirers, including Rudyard Kipling and Virginia Woolf. However, by the 1920s it began to fall out of fashion. Mary would outlive Jane, dying in 1963 at the age of 98. This means that although Jane's own writing comes into the public domain in 2017 her collaborations with Mary stay in copyright until 2034. We have digitised eight of Jane's novels and books of stories.


VIOLET JACOB 1863-1946*



John Buchan called Violet Jacob's novel *Flemington* (1911) "the best Scots romance since *The Master of Ballantrae*". This classic novel of the 1745 Jacobite Rising

draws on her own family history. Jacob was born into an aristocratic family who had lived at the House of Dun near Montrose since the 15th century.

Home educated, she grew up to have a deep appreciation of the Angus dialect and countryside. Her novels such as *The Interloper* (1904) are known for their Scots dialogue. After publishing *Flemington* she concentrated on writing poetry mainly in Scots. Volumes such as *Song of Angus* (1915) and *Bonnie Joann and other poems* (1921) were part of the Scottish Renaissance and the accompanying revival of interest in Scots language literature. *Flemington* and her poetry have stayed in print and are now regarded as classics of Scottish literature. We have digitised Jacob's celebrated novels and poetry.

 **These books will be available from April 4 on the Library website <http://digital.nls.uk/works-by-selected-scottish-authors/>**

* Pic courtesy of Angus Council collections managed by ANGUSalve Museums, Galleries and Archives

Lauded by giants

Child prodigy Marjory Fleming hailed as 'one of the noblest works of God'

Any writer would be in raptures at having their work lauded by literary giants such as Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson and Mark Twain. For the writer to be a child of only eight years, the accomplishment is all the more extraordinary.

This is the story of Marjory Fleming, born in Kirkcaldy in 1803, whose entire writing "career" was crammed into two short years before her death from what is thought to have been meningitis one month short of her ninth birthday in 1811. Such was the impact of what she left behind that Sir Leslie Stephen, the father of Virginia Woolf, declared in 1889 that "no more fascinating infantile author has ever appeared".

People now have the opportunity to judge for themselves as the original poems, letters and diary written by the child prodigy have been digitised by the Library and can be viewed on our website <http://digital.nls.uk/marjory-fleming/pageturner.cfm?id=100989212>

The Library holds the manuscripts, written in Marjory's own hand, which were published some 50 years after her death and proved enormously popular in Victorian times. A decorative headstone with a small statue of Marjory was erected in 1930 marking her grave in Abbotshall kirkyard, in Kirkcaldy although her name and reputation have faded in more recent times.

She was the third child of Kirkcaldy accountant James Fleming and his wife Isabella, a surgeon's daughter. The family were acquainted with the young Walter Scott through Mrs Fleming's relations in Edinburgh.

Marjory was an avid reader, devouring the works of Alexander Pope and Thomas Gray while other favourites included *The Arabian Nights*. She wrote mainly about her own life, the places she visited, her friends, education and about her cousin Isabella Keith, a key influence on the young Marjory. Her writing is peppered



with imperfect spelling as in this example when she says Isabella teaches her "to or three hours every day in reading and arethmatick and many other things and religion into the bargan. On Sunday she teaches me to be virtuous".

There are some surprising insights in one so young. "I am very strong and robust and not of the delicate sex. Nor of the fair but of the deficent (sic) in looks. People who are deficient in looks can make up for it by virtue."

The strength of her writing is that it provides a picture of a child discovering the world around her, laced with fascinating observations. It led Robert Louis Stevenson to attest: "Marjory Fleming was possibly – no, I take back possibly – she was one of the noblest works of God." Mark Twain described her as "the world's child." He added: "How vividly she lived her small life; how loving,

how sweet, how loyal, how rebellious, how repentant, how wise, how unwise, how bursting with fun."

The writings of Marjory Fleming:

Recalling a visit to a friend's house: "*The house full of old family relics and pictures, the sun shining on them through the small deep windows with their plate glass; and there, blinking at the sun, and chattering contentedly, is a parrot, that might, for its looks of eld, (old age) have been in the ark, and domineered over and deaved (deafened) the dove. Everything about the place is old and fresh.*"



A CLOSER LOOK

A new stereomicroscope is being used to examine and characterise the Library's photographic collections

By Ioannis Vasallos and Stephanie Jamieson,
Photographic Conservation



Continues overleaf>

The Library has an amazing collection of photographs and photographic albums. They tell the story of photography from its earliest days to its first use in books and its rapid development throughout the 20th century.

The preservation of photographs requires specialised knowledge to understand their deterioration and, in most cases, their unstable and fragile nature. Therefore, identification and characterisation are fundamental and can be achieved by taking a closer look at the photograph's structure.

Thanks to a generous donation, the conservation department has recently been equipped with a new, high-tech stereomicroscope (Leica S8APO) which makes that process much more efficient and effective.

Since its invention, the development of photography has introduced a large number of processes using different

materials and chemicals. This diversity is mirrored in the collections of the Library which provide not only a visual history but valuable technical information.

An example of the first successful form of photography in the collection, the daguerreotype (1839–1860), is a portrait of a couple by William Edward Kilburn (image 1). The daguerreotype process gives a unique photograph on top of a copper plate covered with a very thin layer of silver. The silver-plated copper was sensitised to light using iodine vapours and, after the exposure in the camera, the image was developed with mercury vapours. Although an experienced eye can easily identify the process, looking at it under the stereomicroscope, it's possible to observe the hand-painted details on the woman's dress, and going into very high magnification, examine the individual silver-mercury amalgam particles that form the image.

The impressive album *Palestine as it*



IMAGE 1 a daguerreotype portrait of a couple by William Edward Kilburn



IMAGE 3 A religious festival in Kulu Valley

is contains photographs from the late 1850s, an era where experimentation in photography was very common. The photographs in the album are salted paper prints (1840–1860) but some have an additional, thin coating on top of their surface (image 2), which can easily lead to the wrong conclusion that they are albumen prints (1850–1900). These two processes overlapped each other in the 1850s. The fundamental difference is that in salted paper prints the light sensitive chemicals rest between the paper fibres on a sheet of paper, whereas in albumen prints, the light sensitive chemicals are suspended in the albumen solution, which is then applied on top of a sheet of paper.

Using the stereomicroscope and different light angles it is feasible to compare and identify these prints.

The silver gelatine print (image from Sudan, page 25) is the most common black and white photographic process



of the 20th century. An interesting characteristic about matte surfaces of this process is the matting agents (usually wheat starch grains) which were used to bring down the glossiness of the gelatin. These grains are visible under the stereomicroscope. Paper fibres in these prints are not visible due to a thick layer of white pigment (baryta) which covers the paper under the image and provides an additional identification clue.

Using high magnification helps to identify colour photographic processes. By applying this to a collection of photographs from a religious festival in the Kulu Valley, India (image 3), it's possible to look at the individual cyan, magenta and yellow dye particles, characteristic of the chromogenic colour process.

Sophisticated software has been installed on the computer connected to the camera of the stereomicroscope, making it possible to view live images

and take pictures. This can facilitate treatments or tests on very small areas of an object and allows us to record information we would not be able to do otherwise. For example, we can measure with extreme accuracy part of an object in a micro-scale and use this information to evaluate the result of a treatment. Further equipment, like ultraviolet or transmitted light, can be added to the main body of the stereomicroscope and expand the examination possibilities.

The new stereomicroscope has already made a big contribution to understanding the materials found in the Library's collections and it has become an indispensable everyday tool. Such donations provide a real boost to our work and allow us to expand the boundaries of our research.

 **Help support the Library's activities email: development@nls.uk or call: 0131 623 3733**



IMAGE 2 Entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre from the impressive *Palestine as it is* album

A FIGURE FOR THE AGES

John Napier (b.1550), one of Scotland's most renowned mathematicians, died 400 years ago in April 1617. Here, *Brian Rice*, a descendant of Napier, discusses his forebear's achievements

John Napier has been described by one biographer as "probably the greatest unknown Scot". In fact, he is now remembered primarily for his invention of logarithms, the mathematical methodology that was taught to countless schoolchildren until electronic calculators became a staple in the classroom.

To mark the quad-centenary of his death, I decided to prepare a book which brings together all five of his works in one volume in English for the first time.*

Napier's four mathematical works were originally published in Latin: two in his lifetime, one shortly after he died, and one more than 200 years later. However, during his life Napier was best known for his religious polemic against the Roman Catholic church, *A Plaine Discovery of the Whole Revelation of St. John*. Published in 1593/4, this was his first book.

Often such a work would be published in Latin, allowing it to be read by the educated throughout Europe. However, Napier claimed that he published it in English so that "the simple of this Island may be instructed, the Godly confirmed and the proud and foolish expectations of the wicked beaten down". The book proved enormously popular during this religiously contentious period and was soon translated into numerous editions in Dutch, French and German, while three further English editions were published.

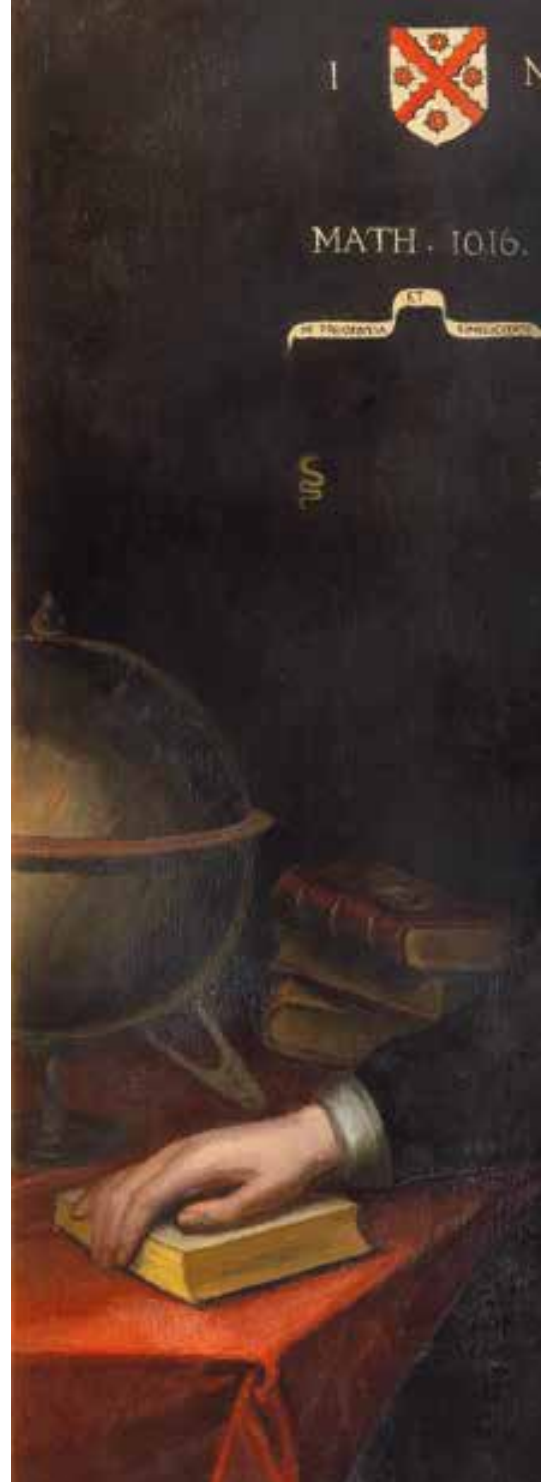
The greatest part of the *Plaine Discovery* was a commentary on the Book of Revelation, the final text of the



Christian Bible. Napier saw the events foretold in the Revelation as occurring in chronological order and explaining key events throughout the history of Christianity from the baptism of Christ to the end of the world, which he forecast would occur between 1688 and 1700.

INVENTING LOGARITHMS

Napier had a long-standing interest in mathematics and he created the word logarithm from the Greek words λόγος (lógon, ratio) and ἀριθμός (arithmós, number) to give logarithmus, ratio-number. The purpose of logarithms was to allow large numbers to be multiplied or divided by simple addition or subtraction. However, the preparation of the required



tables was a long and laborious process that Napier undertook alone.

He first published his invention of logarithms as the *Mirifici Logarithmorum Canonis Descriptio* (*A Description of the Admirable Table of Logarithms*) in 1614, but it is well-established that he was working on the concept and the tables at least 20 years before their publication. An instant success, logarithms were immediately taken up by astronomers and navigators who routinely undertook complex calculations. Johannes Kepler made great use of them and he wrote a generous letter to Napier, publishing it in 1619 as a dedication to Napier in his *Ephemerides*, unaware of Napier's death two years previously.

Descriptio provided the theory of logarithms and a table of their values, which was sufficient for people to use



Recognised mostly for the invention of logarithms, John Napier, was one of Scotland's most important intellectuals

them for complex calculations. A separate work (*Mirifici Logarithmorum Canonis Constructio*) was published in 1619, after Napier's death, by one of his sons, which explained his method of calculation.

Logarithms were so useful in speeding up calculations that mathematicians throughout Europe immediately started generating tables of ever-increasing accuracy, while creating ever-simpler methods for calculating the values. Thus Napier's own logarithmic tables were not used for long but all subsequent tables utilised his core concept, making logarithms one of the key steps in the development of modern mathematics.

Logarithms are still widely used in science and engineering. The Richter scale for earthquake magnitude and decibels, the unit of measurement for sound levels, both use a logarithmic scale.

It is hoped this volume of the collected works of Napier will help to preserve and enhance his legacy as one of Scotland's most important intellectuals.

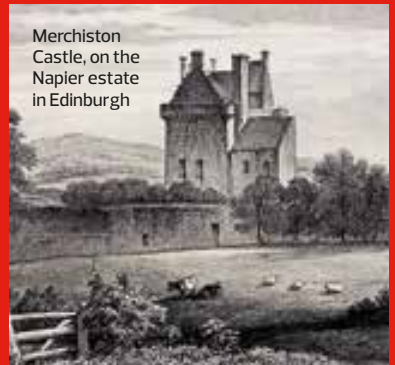
THE NAPIER COLLECTION

The Library holds copies of many early editions of Napier's works, both in theology and mathematics. These can be found in our main catalogue, and consulted in the Special Collections Reading Room. The Library also has manuscript collections of the Napier family including letters, deeds and genealogical accounts. Catalogues for reference to this collection can be found in the Special Collections Reading Room.

***The Life and Works of John Napier, (Brian Rice, Enrique González-Velasco & Alexander Corrigan), Springer, 2017.**

THE NAPIERS

A FAMILY OF NOTE



Merchiston Castle, on the Napier estate in Edinburgh

John Napier came from a long-established Edinburgh family. The first clearly documented Napier was Alexander who died in 1454, having acquired the Merchiston estate from James I before 1438. It is thought that either he or his son built Merchiston Tower, now part of Edinburgh Napier University.

At age 13 or 14, John Napier matriculated at St Andrews University but there is no record of him completing his studies there. It is almost certain he then attended one or more universities in Europe, perhaps in Paris, Geneva or Flanders. On his return to Scotland he married in 1571/2 and had two children before his wife died. He remarried and had a further 10 children who survived to adulthood. He died in 1617 and was buried in St Cuthbert's, then the parish church for Merchiston. Following rebuilds of the church his grave is now lost.



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Due to building works the public entrance will be moved, please follow signs.

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HOW TO JOIN

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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 users 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 is 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 in Edinburgh has an exhibition space, a shop selling books, stationery and gifts, a café and PCs with access to Library catalogues and other digital facilities.



IN FOCUS

Discover your history

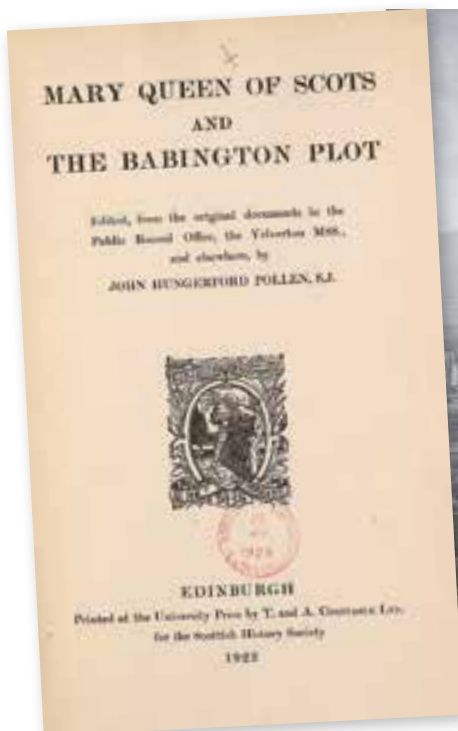
The Library has an impressive range of genealogical resources if you want to research your family history.

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





Grantown-on-Spey c1868
by Alexander McIntosh
Urquhart

History as it was made!

Scottish History Society publications digitised

The Library has recently added a significant new resource to our Digital Gallery which brings to life the history of Scotland as it was recorded by contemporaries.

The range of subjects and sources covered is vast, as Dr Annie Tindley of the Scottish History Society explains. "When the Society was established in 1886, its constitution noted that its main purpose was to make available in published form key contemporary sources for the study of Scotland and the Scots, from the earliest times and more recently, up to the end of the 20th century. Thanks to the wording of the constitution, the Society has published primary sources on the history of Scots overseas, in the Americas and Europe for instance, as well as transcriptions of original sources held outwith Scotland, such as those



in the Papal Archives, Rome. Many would be hard to find, or simply unavailable otherwise. All volumes include a scholarly introduction to provide context and analysis."

There is much here illuminating the big stories in Scotland's history, such as Mary Queen of Scots, or the Enlightenment, through personal papers and government documents.

However, there is also material relating to local people and places. Series 5 Volume 18 investigates Scotland's planned villages, from Grantown-on-Spey to Portpatrick, and with nearly 500 villages in between, this is a rich source of local information.

The papers of the British Linen Company 1745-1775 (which later became the British Linen Bank) provide a fascinating insight to Scotland's linen industry, while the Mid and East Lothian Miners' Association minutes for 1894-1918 shed light on a later period of our industrial heritage. This resource will be useful not only to those studying the history of Scotland, but also to genealogists and those interested in local history, buildings and industries.

This is an ongoing partnership between the Library and the Society that will see future volumes digitised and available on the Library's microsite after they have been in print for three years. The Society generously provided a conditional grant to fund the work and the Library provided the expertise to undertake it, as well as being an appropriate and trusted host to ensure

continuing availability of this resource. Find the resource at digital.nls.uk/scottish-history-society-publications/

If you are interested in the Society, go to www.scottishhistorysociety.com or contact Dr Annie Tindley on Annie.Tindley@newcastle.ac.uk

For more information about the resource, contact Jennifer Giles, Curator (Scottish Communities and Organisations) j.giles@nls.uk

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Included with your free Library membership comes free access to a wealth of digital resources, all at your fingertips.
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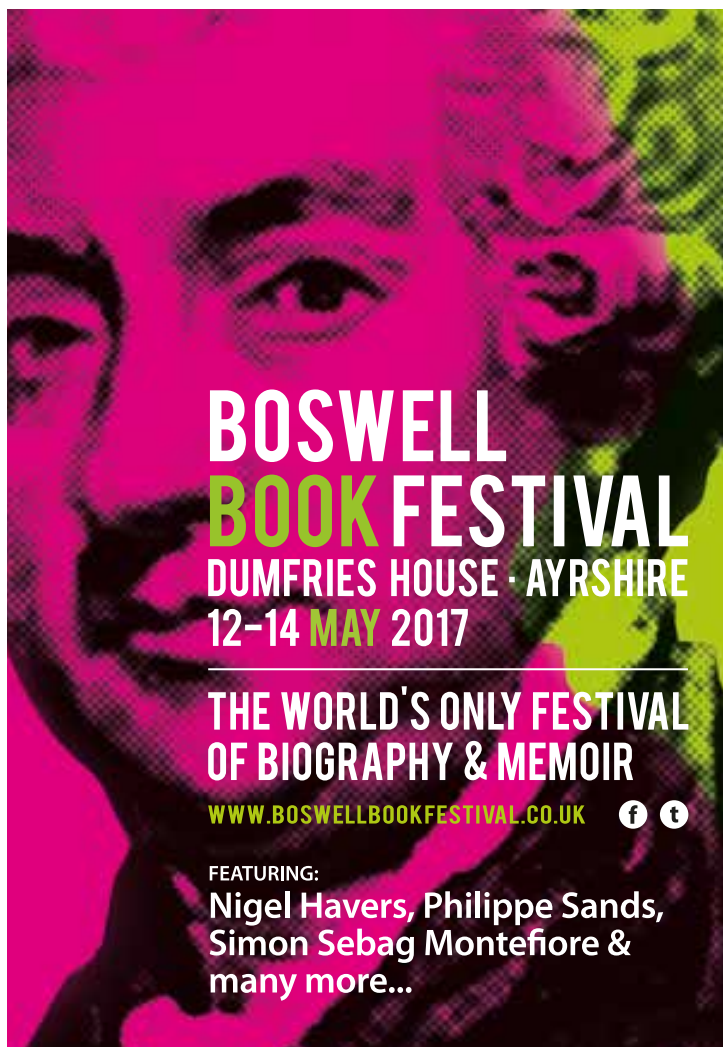
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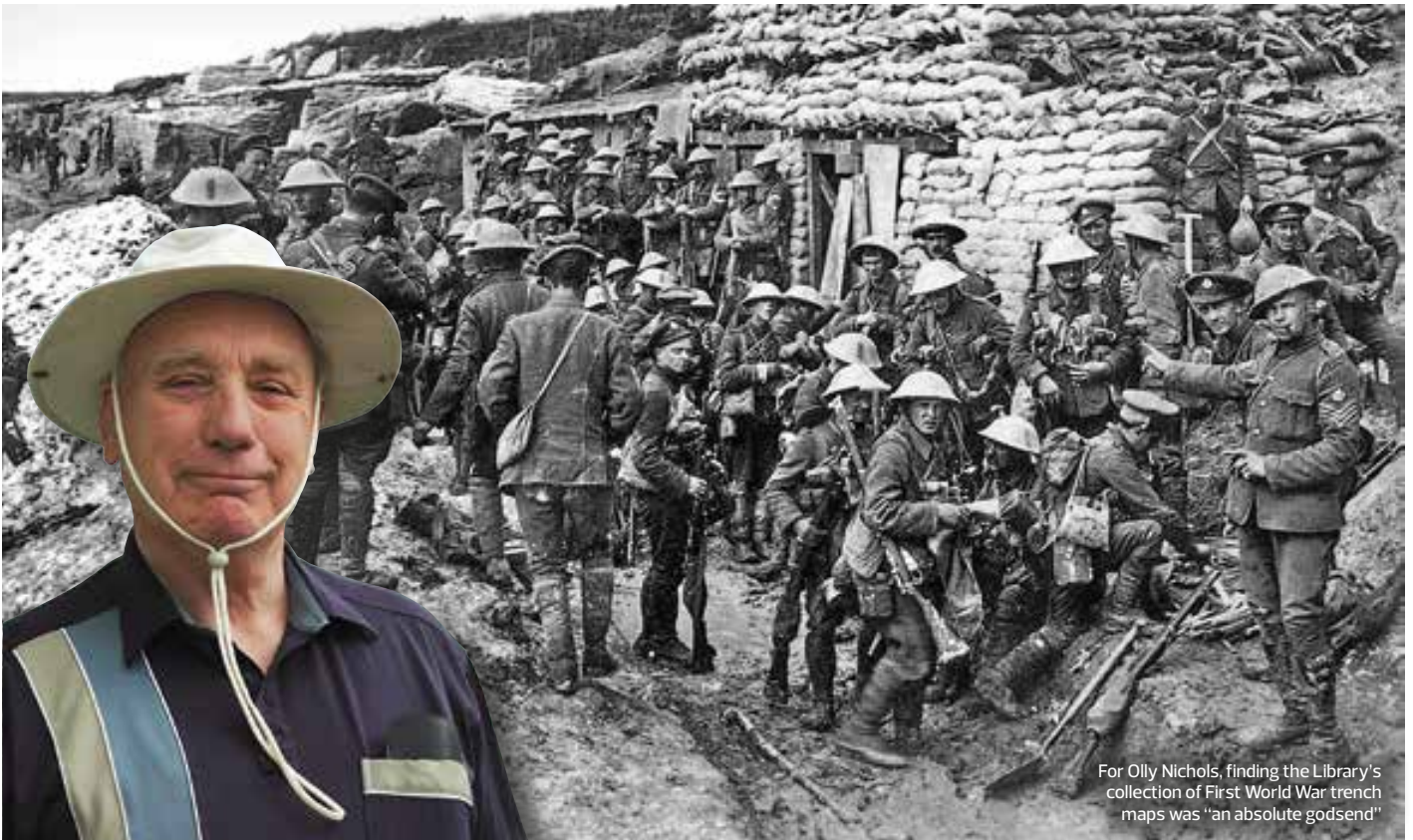
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For Olly Nichols, finding the Library's collection of First World War trench maps was "an absolute godsend"

Journey of discovery

While researching family history, Olly Nichols' online quest eventually led him to Edinburgh where he uncovered a bounty of information

You don't have to live in Scotland to make full use of the National Library of Scotland's services. I know because I've found its online maps function to be an invaluable research tool, and I live near Scunthorpe in Lincolnshire, more than 250 miles from Edinburgh.

My discovery of the Library's service began with family history research, initiated by my daughter. She had found out information about my grandfather, Owen Nichols, who died during the First World War. He was in the Seventh Battalion, The East Lancashire Regiment and was killed in October 1916 during the Battle of the Ancre Heights, which was part of the larger Battle of the Somme.

Keen to identify the battalion's movements and the spot where my grandfather fell, I began my own research. I started with the Lancashire Infantry Museum where I was able to pin down the dates on which various battalions went into action.

I am very well acquainted with maps,

mapping systems and co-ordinates systems, having had an interest in the, topics since I was 15.

As a result, one of my other interests is the military roads system in Scotland. In parallel research I was trying to discover if there was a military road on the western side of Loch Ness. That led me to the Library website. There, I noticed a link saying 'World War I trench maps' and I was eagerly searching its collection in seconds.

Until then, I had been able to locate dozens of maps but none gave me the detail I needed. However, this was exactly what I had been looking for. I was able to overlay different maps – an absolute godsend – and pin down the trench complex I'd been seeking. It turns out it's approximately 400 yards from the small graveyard in which my grandfather is buried at Grandcourt Road Cemetery.

At the Library website I found everything I was looking for and the online service was very easy to use.

It's a very well-designed site.

If I'm honest, what surprised me more than anything was the easy access to a site in Scotland for British First World War trench maps, especially when I find it nearly impossible to get anything like the same information from other national libraries and museums.

I felt compelled to write to the Library's map room and thank them.

Now I've discovered the Library I will continue to use it. I have finished the research on my grandfather. I plan to track down Second World War maps from the time of the Rhine crossing in March 1945. That's when my father was seriously injured when a glider he was in suffered a crash landing.

I haven't searched the Library's map collection so far, but you can be sure I will.

At the website I found everything I was looking for and the online service was easy to use

OLLY NICHOLS

Theatre of dreams

The Library's archives include a fascinating collection of 19th century items, mainly of Edinburgh theatres. Many were presented to the Library in 1970 by Kathleen Weir. Included are playbills, posters, programmes, photographs and newspaper cuttings.



PALACE OF VARIETY

The Theatre Royal in Broughton Street, Edinburgh, was built on the site of several former places of entertainment and theatres. First on the site was the Jones and Parkers Circus, which opened in 1788. This was followed by The Sadler's Wells Theatre, Corri's Rooms, The Pantheon, Caledonian Theatre, The Adelphi Theatre, and the Queen's Theatre and Operetta House. It became the Theatre Royal in 1859. Despite an early couple of mishaps with fire, the theatre remained active until a very serious blaze in 1946. The building was eventually demolished in the late 1950s.

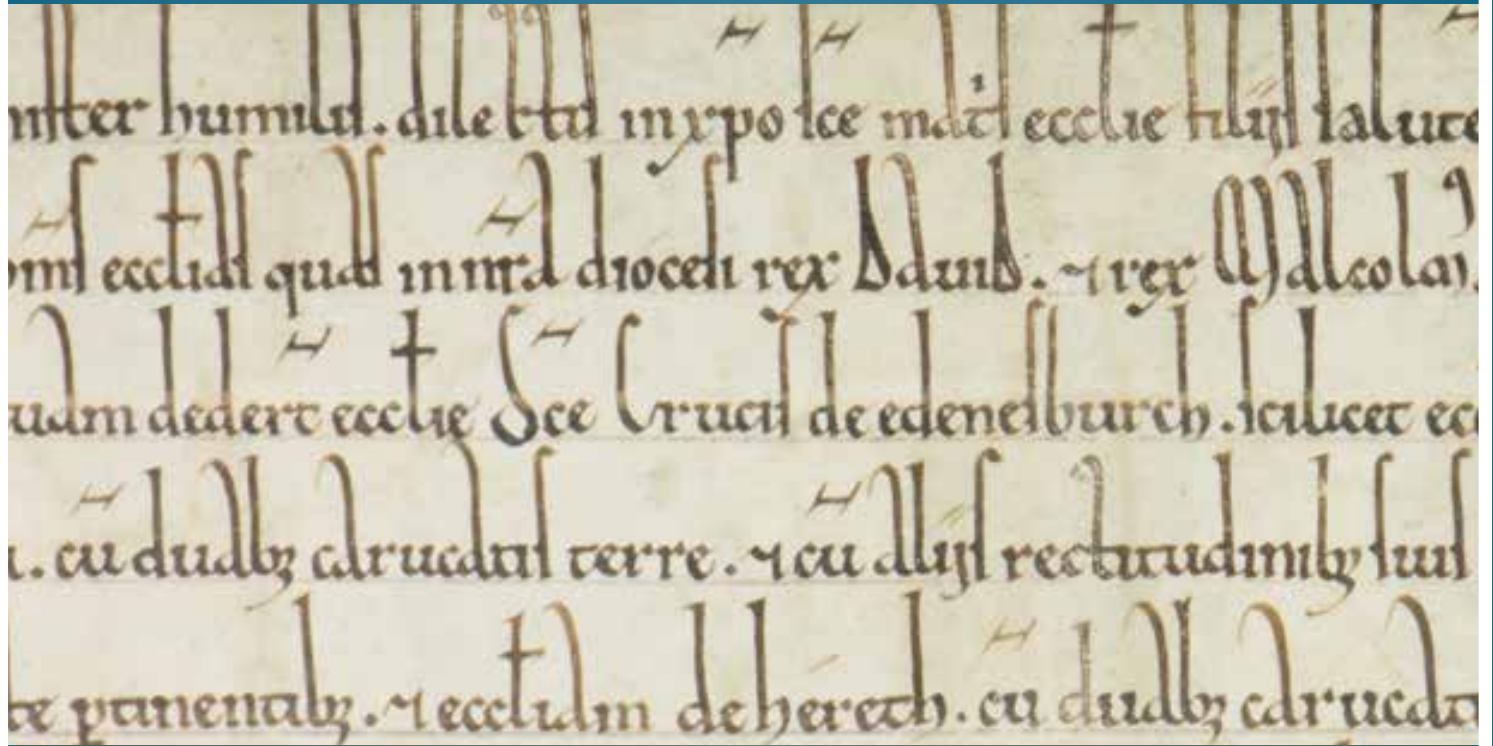


PERFORMANCES AND PRODUCTIONS Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum was built in 1883. Its early days saw performances by the likes of Henry Irving, while being run by legendary theatre managers John B Howard and Frederick W Wyndham. From the start it attracted a wide variety of productions, both home-based and, as can be seen below, those staged by international companies.



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