

★ FREE ★

◆ **NORTHERN LIGHTS** How Scots shone in the Enlightenment

DISCOVER

The magazine of the National Library of Scotland • www.nls.uk • No.41 Summer 2019



The Rankin Files

Rebus author probes his past as he donates archive



National Library of Scotland
Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba

Prisoners or Patients?

Criminal Insanity in Victorian Scotland

National Records of Scotland



The histories of prisoner-patients held in the Criminal Lunatic Department in Perth are revealed in this Fringe exhibition. Discover their stories as guest curator Professor Rab Houston (University of St Andrews) delves into the archives of National Records of Scotland and examines their crime, recovery and release.

Free Exhibition

1–30 August 2019, 10am–4.30pm

Access via Archivists' Garden

HM General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3YY

Learn more at www.nrscotland.gov.uk



4 NEWS

We're partners in the Business & IP Centre at Glasgow's Mitchell Library – and find out how we are going back to the future

8 MY LIBRARY LIFE

Novelist Ian Rankin digs through his archive as he prepares to donate it to the Library's collection

11 A HYMN OF LOVE

Historian Owen Dudley Edwards recalls 50 years as a National Library reader

16 NORTHERN LIGHTS

Explore our astonishing collection of Scottish Enlightenment materials in this summer's main event

22 BEAUTY OF BERLIOZ

Our collection of the composer's artefacts is of world importance – discover more about his life and work

26 FUTUREPROOF

How one donor is helping us train young conservators

28 TWO TONGUES

We're marking the UN's Year of Indigenous Languages in Scots and Gaelic

FIND US ONLINE

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

WELCOME

The thoughts and deeds of 18th-century Scots still resonate today. That's why this summer's Northern Lights exhibition celebrates ...

300 years of Enlightenment

There can hardly be a more appropriate exhibition for our main hall in Edinburgh than *Northern Lights*, which explores the Scottish Enlightenment.

The National Library of Scotland's precursor, The Library of the Faculty of Advocates, had a key role in an unprecedented re-examination of science, art, religion, economics, history, ethics ... everything. As such, we hold an unparalleled collection of items relating to the Scottish Enlightenment.

Those were the days of the polymath. Someone could be a painter and a politician, a minister and a scientist, an advocate and a novelist. Curiosity about the world and the human condition transcended professions.

Three centuries on, the works of Adam Smith, David Hume, William Robertson, Robert Burns, Thomas Reid and James Watt – to name just a few – continue to be influential around the globe, continue to shape our thinking.

Moving up-to-date, we come to Ian Rankin's generous donation of his literary archive to the Library. With it comes a dowry towards a curator to catalogue and open up the archive.

He writes glowingly of how he used our facilities to peek into the minds of novelists who influenced him. Now his archive is shelved in perpetuity alongside other literary greats.

The Library exists not only to preserve knowledge, but to share it. We are thankful to everyone who helps us to preserve the memory of the nation. We hope that upon reading this issue of *Discover*, you might learn something new.

Dr John Scally, National Librarian
e: NationalLibrarian@nls.uk



CONTRIBUTORS



Ian Rankin
Novelist, and Library benefactor



Kirsty McHugh
John Murray Archive curator



Stewart McRobert
Writer



Sarah Cuthbert Kerr
National Trust for Scotland



Owen Dudley Edwards
Historian and perennial visitor

FOR THE NATIONAL LIBRARY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Barbara Burke. EDITOR: David Willis david.w@connectmedia.cc
PUBLISHED BY Connect Publications www.connectmedia.cc ISSN 1751-5998 (print) ISSN 1751 6005 (online)

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND | George IV Bridge | Edinburgh EH1 1EW | **TEL:** 0131 623 3700 | **EMAIL:** enquiries@nls.uk
The National Library of Scotland is a registered Scottish charity, No. SC011086

SCOTLAND'S FIRST BUSINESS & IP CENTRE OPENS IN GLASGOW



The National Library is a partner in a new Business & IP Centre which opened its doors at Glasgow's Mitchell Library in April, supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses to start, protect and grow their businesses.

The partnership is with the British Library and Glasgow Life, with Santander as founding partner. It provides emerging and existing businesses access to a wealth of free business and IP (intellectual property) resources, including information on patents, trademarks, design and copyright.

The new service is the 12th National Network Centre modelled on the British Library's Business

& IP Centre, and is the first to open in Scotland.

The centre will harness the expertise of local public and private business, including experts in residence, and work with organisations such as Scottish Enterprise, Business Gateway, the Chamber of Commerce, universities and colleges and Glasgow-based enterprises to deliver a programme of free and low-cost workshops and events for anyone thinking of starting or growing their business.

National Librarian Dr John Scally said: "Creativity and innovation among entrepreneurs and start-ups rely on the most up-to-date information and advice available.

"We have vast business and

Above:
National Librarian Dr John Scally, Chief Executive of Glasgow Life, Dr Bridget McConnell CBE and Chief Executive of the British Library, Roly Keating launch the new Business & IP Centre.

intellectual property resources in our collections and want businesses throughout Scotland to know that help and expertise is there.

"We are pleased to partner with the British Library and the Mitchell Library to open this service in Glasgow. By our combined efforts we will help local businesses thrive."

Q Find out more about the services on offer at glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/business-and-intellectual-property-centre-glasgow
Budding entrepreneurs can continue to access our extensive resources at www.nls.uk/business

THE STRATHMARTINE TRUST

(Scottish Charity Number: SC 028924)

The Strathmartine Trust (established in 1999) is a charitable trust the primary object of which is to support research and education in Scottish History.

The Trustees seek applications for the following grants:

- Strathmartine Awards - up to £5,000 to assist with the completion of existing projects and to aid publication.
- Sandeman Fund Awards – up to £2,000 for research in the field of early medieval Scottish History.

Full details and application forms can be obtained from The Strathmartine Trust by e-mail to factor@strathmartinetrust.org or on the Trust's website:

www.strathmartinetrust.org.

The closing date for the return of completed applications in each case is 18 November 2019. Please note the closing date.

Nairn
Book & Arts
Festival

10-15 September 2019

**John Sergeant
Leila Aboulela
Tom Devine
Alan Bissett
Don Paterson
Des Dillon
Cameron McNeish
and many more**

**GAITHERIN' DAY
Saturday 7 September**

**BOOK NOW!
nairnfestival.co.uk**

Nairn Book & Arts Festival is a registered Scottish Charity No: SC037105

Scotland
The Perfect Stage

The Highland
Council
Comhairle na
Gàidhealtachd



LOTTERY FUNDED



The Forest Bookstore

SELKIRK

26 Market Place, TD7 4BL
Tel: 01750 22763
info@theforestbookstore.co.uk

The State is destroyed,
but the mountains and rivers survive.
- Du Fu, Tang Dynasty

The mountains and rivers are destroyed,
but the State survives.
- Nanao Sakaki, 20th century

The blue mountains are constantly walking.
- Dōgen / Furong

Literature, Art & Environment • Contemporary & Modern • Scottish & International

INDEPENDENT
BOOKSELLER



Beginner to Postgraduate level online education in genealogy

University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

World leading courses in Genealogical Studies

Our programme covers sources from across the world with an emphasis on research within the British Isles.

- A flexible online format is offered allowing study from anywhere at anytime.
- No exams, progress based on continuous assessment.
- A previous degree may not be required for entry.
- Developed by professional genealogists with constructive feedback provided by assigned tutors at all levels.
- Gain a postgraduate Certificate, Diploma or MSc in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies.
- Apply now for next year's full time and part time intake.
- Or take an 8 week beginner to intermediate course; topics include Autosomal DNA and Genetic Genealogy.

Find out more :

www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning
Call: 0141 548 2116. Email: scosh@strath.ac.uk

The University of Strathclyde is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, number SC015263.

Hundreds of resources await your discovery...



The Scottish Local History Directory – listing organisations, collections and resources – is now available online.

The directory is the culmination of an ambitious project between the National Library, the Scottish Local History Forum and Local Studies Scotland Librarians (LocScot), as well as invaluable research support from Strathclyde University's MSc in Information & Library Studies students. It points readers towards a wide range of collections and expertise relevant to local history and community studies.

The directory is unique in its scope – it includes anything relevant to local history, including genealogy, companies, archaeology, sport, faith groups, schools and charities.

It comprises all formats, from original manuscripts to digital resources, which can be found in libraries, archives, museums, societies, and of course, online.

Not all listed organisations have a collection to visit, but all will be able to answer your enquiry. Eric Graham, broadcaster

and historian of Scottish maritime history, said: "I used the directory to find links to sites which had images I could use for an article using the key word search, and found a wealth of interesting resources and sources which triggered thoughts for many other articles.

"It is a similar serendipity to that which makes browsing through physical museums so rewarding. You come across things you didn't know were there.

"I spent a happy hour or two following the links to the websites of a wide range of organisations which hold local history resources – from details of the James Lind research into scurvy on the Royal College of Surgeons' site to the Terra Nova ship model at Dundee's McManus Art Gallery and Museum.

"Although there are already more than 200 resource-holding organisations listed, we should encourage our museums, archives, private collectors, societies and local history libraries to submit an entry to the directory to help reach a wider audience.

"It's free to use and free to submit a listing. There must be thousands of potential resources out there.

"The directory's advanced search facilities allow the user to find resources by type – such as primary, secondary, oral, images, maps, film, artefacts, etc – as well as by subject, era, and geographical coverage.

"The facilities also tell you how you can access the resource – in person or by appointment, and whether online access is possible."

This constantly expanding directory is completely free to use and free to add your own listing. It features a map search tool that allows users to search for organisations by geographic location.

From Shetland Museum and Archives in the north to Hawick Archaeological Society in the south, it has the whole country covered.

Search the **Scottish Local History Directory** to find resources and collections held by museums, archives, libraries, family and local history societies, individuals and specialist groups.

Free to use and free to add your listing.

www.slhf.org/scottish-local-history-directory



**Scottish Local
History Directory**



Analogue adventure in the Day-Glo days

Visitors to the National Library at Kelvin Hall will be whisked back to the dawn of the digital age this summer with retro games and analogue activities – and free screenings of 80s feature films.

A total 80s takeover runs from Tuesday 23 to Saturday 27 July with talks on our film, sound and video collections from the decade and a seminar on computer games.

Newly digitised showreels from the era will be on display, too.


Get ready for an analogue attack as we bring out our VHS and Betamax players, clip on our Walkman and show you what the Library's moving image and sound collections are all about. Kids – young and old – can even design their own VHS cover and cassette cards.

Our 80s activities are part of the Library's multimedia retrospective, *Back to the Future: 1979-1989* – which includes essays relating to that

decade. Topics range from Margaret Thatcher's first general election victory in 1979, the 'Right to Buy' policy of the Conservative Party and Scottish nationalists' occupation of Edinburgh's old Royal High School, to the controversies and rivalries of the Olympic Games, synth pop, the Sony Walkman and the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster.

We have millions of items in our collections that relate to the decade, which our essayists – staff writers and guest writers – used to explore their topics.

Also included in the website is a wealth of video content from our Moving Image Archive – pieces include an interview with Alex Ferguson when he was manager of Aberdeen FC in 1980, a piece about mixed marriage (between different Christian faiths), the Glasgow Garden Festival in 1988 and Scottish big-screen gems from the decade.

 Check it out at digital.nls.uk/1980s



FILM SCREENING SCHEDULE


Wednesday 19 June, 5.45pm
Restless Natives (1985)

Saturday 20 July, 2pm
A 1980s playlist you won't want to miss!

Wednesday 24 July, 5.45pm
Gregory's Girl (1980)

Saturday 27 July, 2pm
Local Hero (1983)

Wednesday 7 August, 5.45pm
Highlander (1986)

 For full details of workshops and screenings, visit www.nls.uk

Crime writer Ian Rankin – the creator of the detective Rebus – sifted through his writing life as he prepared to donate his archive to the National Library of Scotland. It was a revelatory process for a man who has used our collections to learn the innermost thoughts of his heroes

The poignant privilege of sitting next to Spark, Gray and McIlvanney

So many boxes. Every time I thought I'd reached the end, I found another. Boxes filled with manuscripts, with newspaper and magazine reviews and print advertisements, with contracts, with unfinished and unrealised projects, with photographs, with correspondence, with bank statements and bills and expenditure receipts...

I am a hoarder by nature and here was the proof. Not that this had presented any problem during decades spent up-sizing, moving from a rented room to a small flat to a semi-detached house and eventually to a three-storey detached house with separate garage and workshop. But each and every room had come to be filled with books, mementoes and boxes which would eventually fill and sit there unmarked, while an empty box was placed on top.

And now it was time to downsize and declutter. Thank goodness for the National Library of Scotland, who said they might be interested in my archive.

So, in July 2018, I began the process of opening and sifting each and every box. It would take the next six months and prove mortifying and therapeutic in equal measure. I unearthed whole manuscripts (for TV and film projects, for example) that I could not remember having written. Unpublished stories, too. And mentions of other stories and unrealised projects in letters to and from my various agents and publishers. Some things I decided to keep close to my chest (a daily diary kept between the ages of 12 and 32); others deserved little more than shredding

(travel tickets, restaurant bills, ancient bank statements and tax returns).

Everything else went into a series of fresh boxes – 23 of them, I think – to be collected and stored in the Library. This, in itself, was both a privilege and a thrill. I've visited the extensive archive in the bowels of George IV Bridge, poring over items once belonging to Muriel Spark, Alasdair Gray and William McIlvanney.

All three were important to me in my

● It would take the next six months and prove mortifying and therapeutic in equal measure. ●

early days as a writer, and now my life would be shelved alongside them.

I say that the process of gathering (or rather thinning out) my archive was therapeutic, but it was poignant, too, for two reasons. One, I belong (I think) to perhaps the last generation of writers who actually possess an extensive written archive.

Not for me the 'Collected Tweets' or 'Emails'. Instead, I found letters and postcards. I also found faxes, some of them reduced to blank shiny sheets, the print having faded to nothing over time. There were early computer discs, too, including some from my first word processor, manufactured by Amstrad. Whether the material on those discs can be retrieved I don't yet know. It may, of

course, have become corrupted. Which is why a paper archive is so valuable.

Letters and manuscripts dating from the 1980s remain fresh, having been kept hidden away from the light (and damp, thankfully) through several decades. I wasn't always so fortunate. I lived in France between 1990 and 1996, and when it came time to move back to Scotland I brought a box of first edition hardbacks of my first Inspector Rebus novel *Knots and Crosses* down from the attic – only to find that mice had made a substantial nest of the ruined contents.

The second reason for the poignancy relates in part to this, because while I was in France (in pre-internet days) I wrote a lot of letters and received many in return, and my archive includes correspondence from Iain Banks, Ruth Rendell, P D James, William McIlvanney, H R F Keating, Colin Dexter, Michael Dibdin, Iain Crichton Smith and Philip Kerr – all of whom alas, are no longer with us.

I had actually forgotten how often Iain Banks and I used to write to one another – me with my clattering daisy-wheel printer, he with his dot matrix. As I opened and re-read each letter, memories flooded back – of Willie signing a book to me and wishing me luck with my first detective novel; of Iain Crichton Smith sleeping on the floor of my London flat when he was in town to receive a prize; of Colin trying (and failing) to teach me a few Latin phrases.

It was, in the end, a struggle to let go of these small parts of myself, but I know my archive is in the very best of hands – and safe from nesting mice.



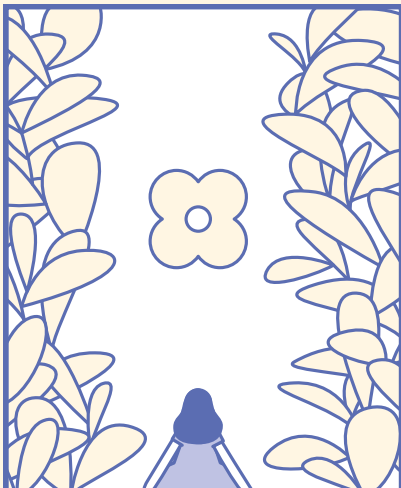
Thanks to a substantial donation from Ian Rankin, the Library will recruit a curator to catalogue and promote the archive. The curator post is also made possible through generous donations from The W M Mann Foundation and The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation.



Edinburgh International Book Festival

10 — 26
AUGUST 2019

WE NEED NEW STORIES



OVER 900 AUTHORS
FROM 60 COUNTRIES
IN 800 EVENTS



BOOK &
BROWSE EVENTS:



EDBOOKFEST.CO.UK
[@EDBOOKFEST](https://twitter.com/EDBOOKFEST)

INCLUDING:

Arundhati Roy
Tim Winton
Ali Smith
Salman Rushdie
DeRay Mckesson
Markus Zusak
Cathy Newman
Ian Rankin
Roddy Doyle
Jackie Kay
Robert Macfarlane
Carrie Gracie
Simon Armitage
Thomas Keneally
Caroline Criado Perez

Kirsty Wark
Gordon Brown
Elif Shafak
Prue Leith
Matt Haig
Linton Kwesi Johnson
Val McDermid
Kamila Shamsie
Colson Whitehead
Naomi Wolf
Xinran Xue
Malorie Blackman
John Boyne
Kate Atkinson
James MacMillan