

SCOTTISH PRINTED BOOKS 1508–2008

Antony Kamm

Foreword by Alexander
McCall Smith

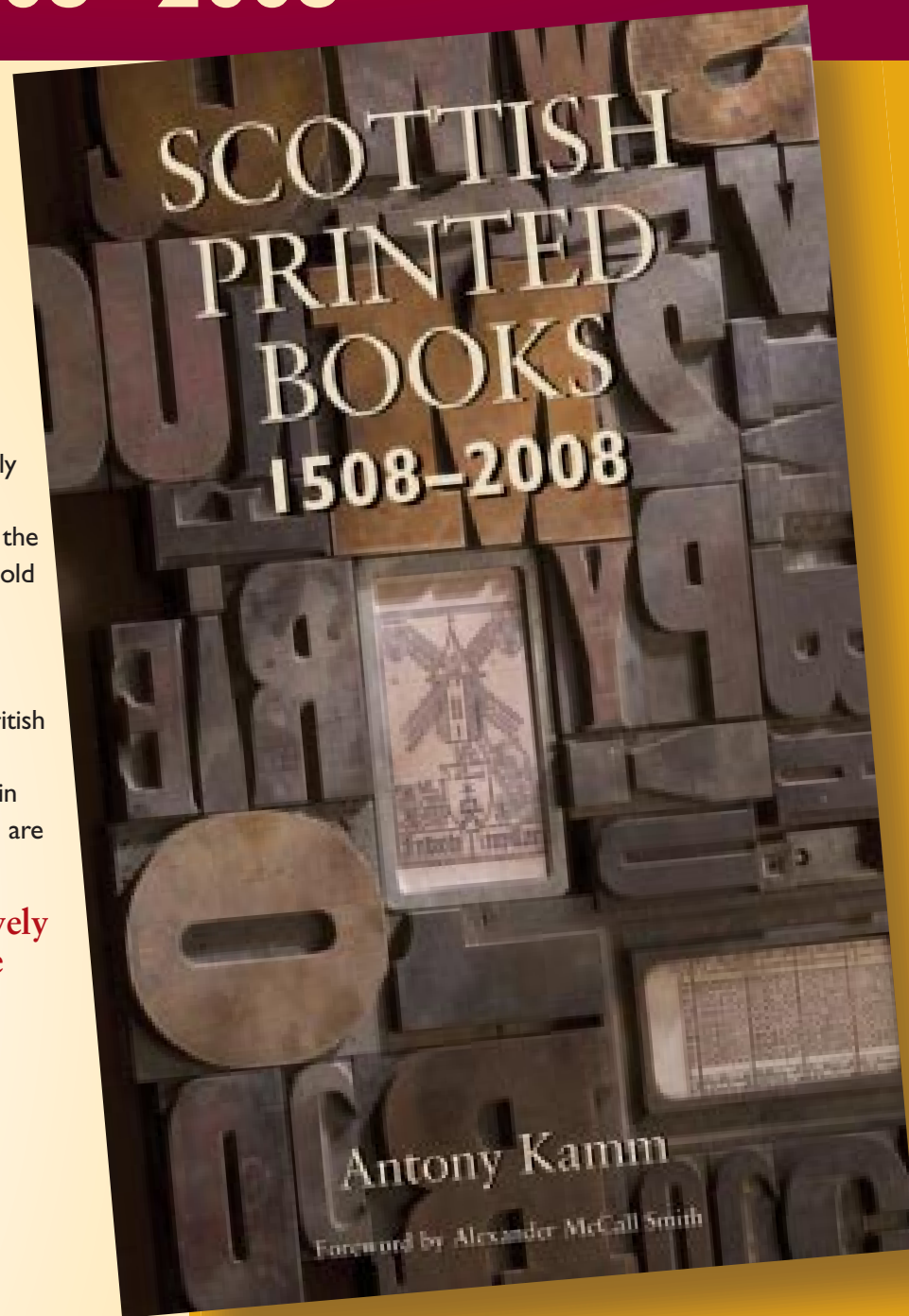
**A celebration of Scotland's
printing heritage, profusely
illustrated in full colour.**

In Scotland, printing began in 1508. This lively account of the next 500 years introduces notable books and other printed literature, the people who wrote, printed, published, and sold them, and the methods by which they were produced. It also reveals some memorable Scottish talents and describes Scotland's remarkable dynastic contributions to the British and international book markets.

Many of the images, from rare volumes in the National Library of Scotland collections are reproduced here for the first time.

**'The story set out so attractively
in this guide is a fascinating one
which Antony Kamm tells with
mastery and economy.'**

Alexander McCall Smith



discover

Collections, Research,
News and Events at the
National Library of Scotland

ISSUE 9
SUMMER 2008

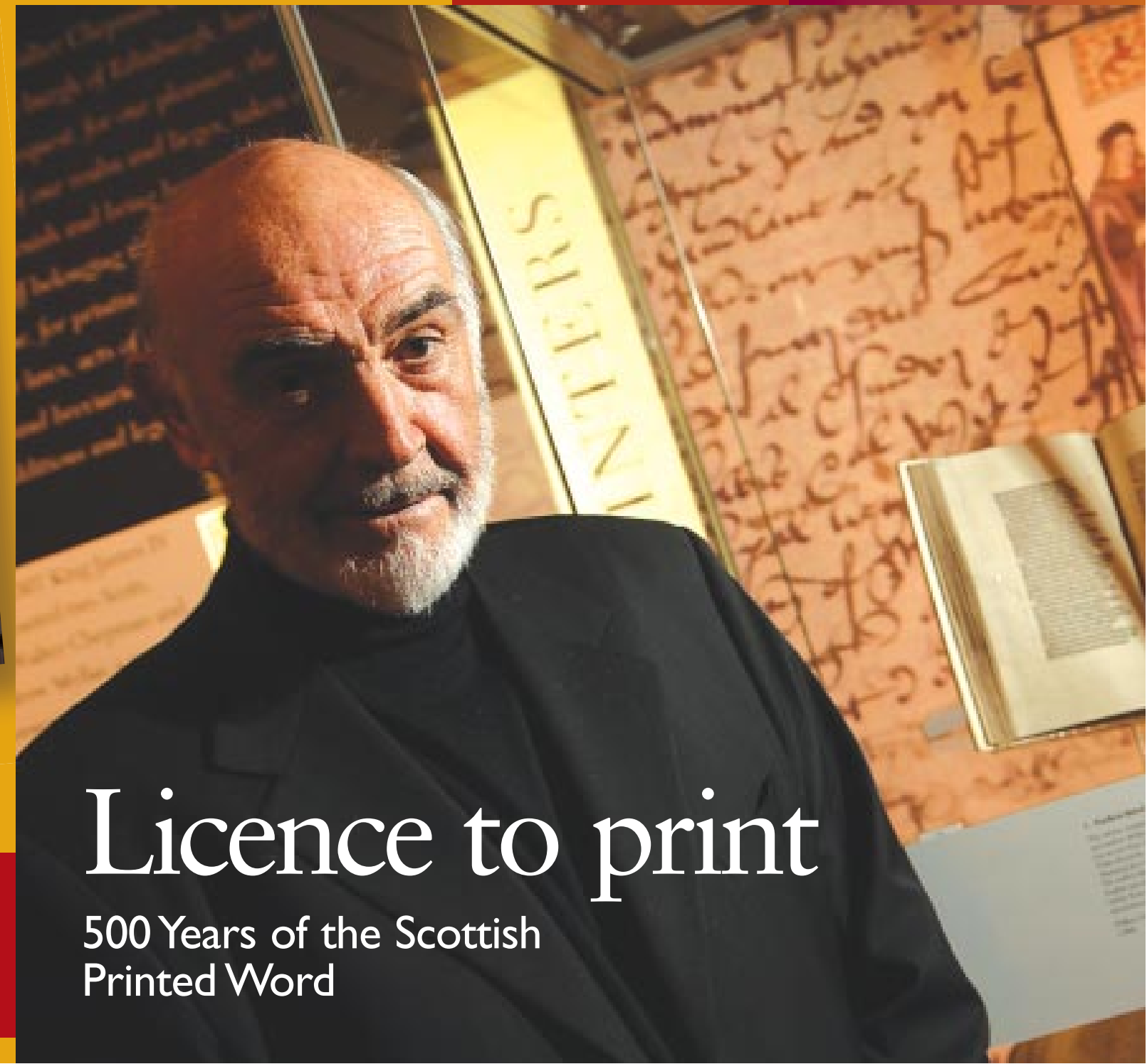
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**The roots of
your labour**
Family history
guide

**The Map
Library at 50**

**The Old
Edinburgh Club
at 100**



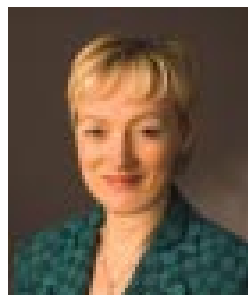
Licence to print

500 Years of the Scottish
Printed Word

Price: £5.99 On sale at National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge Edinburgh EH1 1EV and online at
www.booksfromscotland.com and www.amazon.co.uk.

Enquiries to: NLS Marketing Services on 0131 623 3764 or email marketing@nls.uk

Foreword



In the last issue we asked you for your thoughts on the magazine. We were delighted with the feedback we received, and grateful for the large number of suggestions for articles. You'll see that we've begun to respond to these ideas in this issue, with a brief overview of services at NLS and an in-depth guide to the many useful sources the Library holds for those involved with family history. We hope that these articles help customers new to using NLS.

Those more familiar with our work will no doubt know that we are celebrating 500 years of printing in Scotland this year. The significance of this anniversary is reflected in the inclusion of two articles in this issue. Graham Hogg gives some background to the beginnings and growth of printing in Scotland, the subject of our current *Imprentit* exhibition, while we reproduce an exclusive extract from Antony Kamm's book, *Scottish Printed Books 1508-2008*, a celebration of Scotland's remarkable printing heritage.

Anniversaries abound in this issue. The Library has a proud heritage of supporting the work of local history societies. One such organisation, the Old Edinburgh Club, this year

celebrates a century of recording our historic capital. The origins and present-day activities of the club are summarised by its latest president, our very own Dr Iain Gordon Brown.

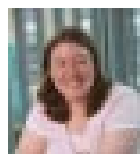
It's 50 years since the first Map Room opened at NLS, thanks to the influence of John Bartholomew of the Bartholomew mapmaking firm, whose archive remains a central part of our collections today, alongside the raft of global digital mapping we now make available. Map staff reflect on some of the changes as well as the constants of this popular service.

We were delighted to receive an Award of Excellence at the recent UK Communicators in Business Awards. We will be building on this success in the next issue, when you will see more of the ideas you've suggested and a new editor will take the helm. The in-house team, including Julian Stone, will remain involved and we hope you will continue to send in your views.

Alexandra Miller

Alexandra Miller
Director of Customer Services

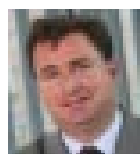
Contributors in this issue



Ruth Boreham is a freelance researcher and writer. She was John Murray Archive Project Curator at NLS for 18 months, before leaving to pursue an independent career in research. She has worked for authors, television companies and private clients on various topics. Her work on BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are* has made Jeremy Paxman cry and has traced Matthew Pinsent's family back to God.



Dr Iain Gordon Brown is Principal Curator in the Manuscript Collections Division, where he is much concerned with the record of the Scottish Enlightenment. He is actively involved in the field of architectural history and the history of taste in which he has published extensively, and where his work has been recognised by fellowships of the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Royal Society of Edinburgh.



Dr Graham Hogg is a Senior Curator in the Rare Book Collections Division, where he has worked for the last 15 years. He currently has responsibility for collection development within the division. Together with colleagues Helen Vincent and Brian Hillyard, he curated this summer's exhibition on 500 years of printing in Scotland, which involved the arduous but rewarding task of selecting material from NLS' vast collections that reflected the impact of the Scottish printed word over the last five centuries.



Antony Kamm is a former lecturer in publishing studies at Stirling University. He has written many books on historical and biographical themes. His publications include *Collins Biographical Dictionary of English Literature* (1993), *The Israelites: an introduction* (1999), *Julius Caesar: a life* (2006), and (with Malcolm Baird) *John Logie Baird: a life* (2002), *A Scottish Childhood* (1985), and *The Scottish Collection of Verse to 1800* (1985).



Laragh Quiney is Map Services Manager. She is responsible for managing the Map Reading Room at Causewayside and overseeing the enquiry service. She loves looking at and researching all sorts of maps and other cartographic materials in order to respond to the diverse enquiries received by the Map Library.



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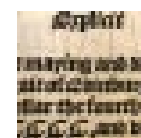
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Cover image: Sir Sean Connery made a special appearance at NLS in June, when he was the guest of honour at the *Imprentit* exhibition preview event for donors. Sir Sean remains an ardent supporter of the Library, having helped to launch the John Murray Archive fundraising campaign in April 2007.

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NLS FAQ

Basic information about using your National Library

This brief guide to our services, for new or recent users, will run in each issue. We will also spotlight a different part of our collections every issue. Please continue to give us your feedback on the type of information you would like to see, and remember that our website, www.nls.uk, provides a wealth of up-to-date information on the full range of our services and collections.



What is NLS?

NLS is Scotland's largest research library, and the world's leading centre for the study of Scotland and the Scots.

What do you have?

Over 14 million books, 2 million maps, over three miles of manuscripts, 32,000 films, and thousands of photographs, music items, newspapers and journals. Our collections stretch from the 5th century to the modern day. They chart the global and historical influence of Scots at home and abroad, while also recording and reflecting the ideas and cultures of the world.

Do you really have a copy of every published book?

Not quite! As a Legal Deposit Library, we are *entitled* to claim a free copy of everything published in the UK and Ireland. Obviously we try to collect as comprehensively as possible, with a particular emphasis on items from, or about, Scots or Scotland, but space constraints (and the collections of other libraries) mean that we often have to take careful decisions about what we do and don't claim.

Where do I go?

To use our film collection, visit the Scottish Screen Archive:

39-41 Montrose Avenue
Hillington Park
Glasgow G52 4LA
Tel: 0845 366 4600 (local rate)
ssaenquiries@nls.uk

To use our map collection, visit:

Causewayside building Opening hours

33 Salisbury Place	Monday	9.30-5pm
Edinburgh EH9 1SL	Tuesday	9.30-5pm
0131 623 3970	Wednesday	10am-5pm
maps@nls.uk	Thursday	9.30-5pm
	Friday	9.30-5pm
	Saturday	9.30-1pm
	Sunday	Closed

For everything else, visit:

George IV Bridge Opening hours

Edinburgh EH1 1EW	Monday	9.30-8.30pm
0131 623 3700	Tuesday	9.30-8.30pm
enquiries@nls.uk	Wednesday	10am-8.30pm
	Thursday	9.30-8.30pm
	Friday	9.30-8.30pm
	Saturday	9.30-1pm
	Sunday	Closed

Visit us online at www.nls.uk

Exhibition opening hours

Monday-Friday:	10am-8pm
Saturday:	10am-5pm
Sunday:	2pm-5pm

How do I join?

To use the reading rooms and consult items from our collections, you will need to apply for a reader's ticket. Applying is fast and simple. Application forms for reader's tickets are available at www.nls.uk or direct from either George IV Bridge or Causewayside buildings. Applications should be made in person and you will need to bring a standard proof of identity, which confirms your name and address, such as a passport, driving licence or university matriculation card, a recent utilities bill and two passport photographs. You do not need any academic credentials to use the Library. We're open to anyone with a valid address in Scotland.

I can't get to Edinburgh, what do you have online?

We have a vast range of electronic resources covering virtually every subject imaginable. These include over 80 digital collections, encompassing major reference works such as *Who's Who* and the *Oxford Dictionary of Biography*, massive full-text facsimiles of entire printed collections, such as *Early American Imprints, 1639-1800* and *Times Digital Archive 1785-1985*, and business databases such as *Global Reference Solution* and *Frost & Sullivan*. Many of these are offered remotely to registered readers living in Scotland.*

You will also find comprehensive (and completely unrestricted) resources on our website, many featuring digitised images of rare and unique items. These cover a broad range of subjects, from war to theatre history, and from early photography to literary greats such as Dame Muriel Spark, Robert Louis Stevenson and Robert Burns. Not to mention thousands of digitised zoomable maps.

Whether you can visit in person or not, your first port of call should be our online catalogue, the key to unlocking our exhaustive collections.

<http://www.nls.uk/catalogues>

Our electronic resources cover business databases and web features on topics as diverse as propaganda in the Second World War (pictured) and the pioneers of photography.



What about events, exhibitions and education activities?

We offer a year-round programme of free exhibitions, events, workshops, tours and other learning activities catering for a wide range of interests and groups. Exhibitions are staged in our George IV Bridge building, many of which also tour museums and other venues throughout Scotland.

Our events programme is incredibly varied and culturally diverse, taking in book launches, readings, discussions with writers and all sorts of cultural commentators, environmental issues, drama, storytelling, local history, arts and crafts, popular culture, music and dance and language.

Education activities are offered both on-site and in schools, with families and community groups well catered for with flexible drop-in events and those organised on Saturdays and during the day midweek.

Free organised tours offer groups close encounters with collection treasures and take visitors behind the scenes.



I've got an enquiry, what do I do?

We aim to be as flexible as possible. You do not need to be a reader to submit an enquiry, and you can send one by whichever means best suits you. Simply drop us a line, an email, pick up the phone or call in to either of our Edinburgh buildings. You can also submit an enquiry through the 'ask a librarian' facility on our website.

enquiries@nls.uk

0131 623 3700

www.nls.uk/info/readingrooms/askalibrarian.html

What should I do next?

Keep reading! And stay informed of how to make the most of your National Library and the wealth of information we offer, funded by your money from the public purse.

* Restrictions apply to some resources, in line with publishers' licence agreements

John Murray Archive expands

A significant addition to the John Murray Archive (JMA) has been made. Over fifty metres of boxed papers from the publishing house, dating from 1920 to 1950, have arrived. Highlights include papers relating to the publication of the *Letters of Queen Victoria* and the work of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

The Murrays' book, the *Letters of Queen Victoria*, was the first publication of the private correspondence of a monarch in modern times. The Conan Doyle files detail the publication of his famous Sherlock Holmes stories alongside works of science fiction, historical novels, plays, romances, poetry and non-fiction.

The book files contain fascinating papers relating to the firm's publications, including reprints of authors such as Charles Darwin, David Livingstone, Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters and their monumental *Wisdom of the East* series, published between 1907 and 1932, and massively influential in opening up an understanding of Eastern culture to the West.

Other notable works covered in the consignment include *The Story of San Michele* (1929) by Alex Munthe. This biographical account of a Swedish physician's time in Italy was a bestseller, selling over a million copies in Britain alone. It was translated into thirty-seven languages and remained in the firm's catalogue for nearly fifty years.

There will be more information on these papers as they are added to the online catalogue, found at www.nls.uk/catalogues

Research explores the Facebook of yesteryear

The Library has successfully obtained a collaborative award for doctoral research based on our collections. The most recent of these has been awarded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council's *Beyond Text* programme to NLS and the University of Glasgow's Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute.

The joint research will explore the phenomenon of 'social networking' within contemporary culture and in earlier periods. The researcher will compare the content of family blogs and websites with the social networks found in a collection of 19th-century correspondence in the Library's Harden/Allan collection of correspondence (1801-11) as well as other National Library collections.

Full details of the collaborative PhD award can be found at www.hatii.arts.gla.ac.uk/news/beyondtext.html

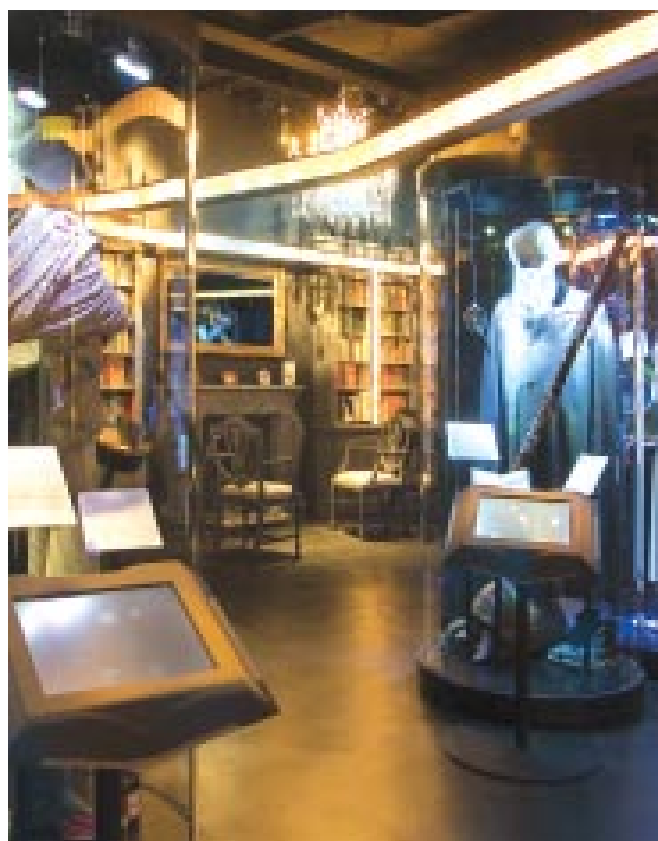
NLS now has its own Facebook page. Why not log on and send us a friend's request?

More industry plaudits for NLS

The John Murray Archive exhibition continues to receive recognition this summer, with an award of excellence at the 2008 Museums & Heritage Awards in June. The exhibition was highly commended for its use of technology, and was pipped to the top spot only by the Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Centre. Technology used in the exhibition includes theatrical lighting that reacts to approaching visitors, interactive screens that provide commentary on the physical exhibits of objects, books and manuscripts and the innovative 'publishing machine', which simulates some of the key decisions involved in publishing a book.

JMA Programme Manager Nat Edwards responded to the news with praise for the work of exhibition designers Event Communication: 'With imaginative use of technology and an award winning lighting set-up, Event Communication have come up with an exhibition which sets a new benchmark in the exhibition of archive material. It has already made the John Murray Archive accessible to thousands of visitors to NLS and we're delighted to see them receive this well-deserved recognition.'

In related news, Discover NLS received an award of excellence at the UK Communicators in Business Awards.



The award-winning John Murray Archive exhibition.

Improvements to Scottish Bibliographies Online

Regular users of Scottish Bibliographies Online (SBO) will have noticed a change over the last few months as the database now looks simpler. This is the initial step in a plan to make SBO easier to use and understand.

Scottish Bibliographies Online is a unique database of over 100,000 references to books, chapters in books, and periodical articles on all aspects of Scottish culture. It provides a simple way to discover what has been written by Scots, as well as what has been written about Scotland and Scottish topics over the last 20 years.

The database's range is all embracing. You can find references to key academic studies, as well as short articles on

local history topics, novels, literary comment and items in (and about) Gaelic and Scots. Once you have found your reference you can follow it up at NLS or the library you normally use. Over 500 new entries are added every month.

Over the next few months the website information on SBO will be refreshed to explain more clearly its format, content and potential. Any comments or enquiries regarding the database are welcome: please contact Andrew Martin, Curator Modern Scottish Collections at a.martin@nls.uk.

SBO is one of the National Library of Scotland's many online resources. More information on these and the database itself can be found at: www.nls.uk/catalogues/resources

A safety first for national collections

A groundbreaking agreement has been reached between the British Safety Council (BSC) and five public sector institutions in Scotland. The deal involves a shared approach to health, safety and environment, made possible by the pooling of resources in these areas using a software system supplied by Rivo Software. By adopting this co-ordinated health and safety policy, the institutions are confident that they will make substantial savings. The bodies involved are National Library of Scotland, National

Museums Scotland, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and National Galleries of Scotland.

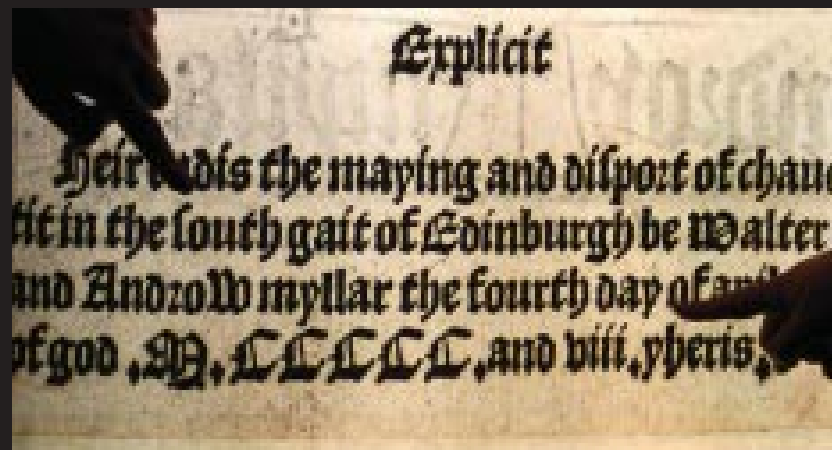
The next stage will involve using the system for risk management training. There will also be internal and external audits by the safety management team trades union sides and the BSC to ensure that the very highest standards of health and safety risk management are being maintained.



James Hodgson (Rivo Software), Stephan Coetzer (British Safety Council), Mike Galloway (NLS), Paul King (RCAHMS) and Ruairidh Walker (National Museums Scotland).

500 Years of the Scottish Printed Word

Exhibition Curator **Graham Hogg** sets the scene for *Imprentit*, our summer exhibition celebrating five centuries of Scottish printing endeavours.



Above (left): Colophon of first dated Scottish book, showing 4 April, 1508.

Main: Graham Hogg with a miniature Koran printed by Bryce of Glasgow c. 1900.

Right: Androw Myllar's device (logo)

In the 21st century it seems impossible to imagine a world without printing. We are confronted with the printed word almost everywhere in some shape or form, such as books, newspapers, magazines, packaging, advertising, road signs. However, 500 years ago printed books were a scarce commodity when two Scots, Walter Chepman and Androw Myllar established a printing press in the South Gait (Cowgate) of Edinburgh to print the first books in Scotland.

Printing with movable metal type had begun in the 1450s in the German city of Mainz at Johannes Gutenberg's press. The new technology spread rapidly, revolutionising communication and the spread of ideas in Renaissance Europe, but Scotland had to wait another 50 years for its first printing press. King James IV granted a patent (licence) to Chepman and Myllar in September 1507 to set up a press in Edinburgh. His intentions for the press are made clear in the patent: it would serve the needs of church and state, printing 'bukis of our lawis, actis of parliament, cronicles, mess [mass] bukis'. James's decision was supported by William Elphinstone, Bishop of Aberdeen, who, like other highly-educated and wealthy Scots, had been importing printed books from the Continent for several years.

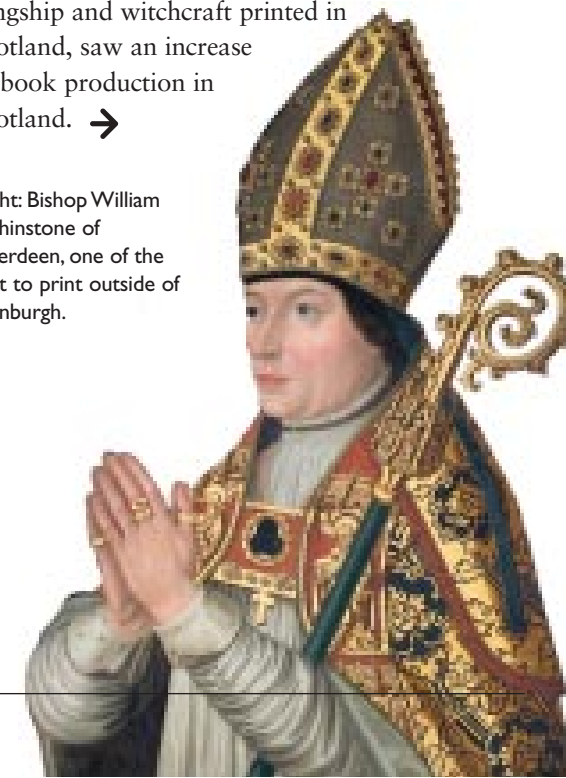


Little is known of Walter Chepman and Androw Myllar. Chepman was a wealthy merchant who presumably helped meet what James IV's patent termed 'the greit cost ... and expens' associated with setting up a press. In the early 1500s Myllar had worked as a printer in northern France, which is

where the printing press, equipment and men to operate it came from. The earliest surviving dated book from their press is dated 4 April 1508 and is a poem by John Lydgate, *The Complaint of the Black Knight*, here titled *The Maying and Disport of Chaucer*. It now forms part of a volume containing eleven books, popular texts of the day, nine of which are definitely from the South Gait press of 1508 - collectively known as the 'Chepman and Myllar Prints'. The establishment of Scotland's first printing press was commemorated on 4 April this year by the unveiling of a plaque at the corner of Blackfriars Street and the Cowgate, near the site of the original press.

The existence of the Prints was forgotten until they were presented to the Advocates Library in 1788. As the only known copies of Scotland's first books, they now are one of the great treasures of the National Library of Scotland. Chepman, apparently without Myllar, continued to print; but the only substantial work to survive from his press is his breviary, completed in 1510. It is named the Aberdeen Breviary because Elphinstone compiled it for use in Aberdeen and the surrounding area. Chepman stopped printing after 1510, and the driving forces behind the first Scottish press, James IV and William Elphinstone, were both dead by 1514. Between 1511 and 1540 we cannot date anything with certainty as having been printed in Scotland. It was not until the creation of the office of King's Printer by James V in the 1530s, which led to the printing of the Acts of Parliament in 1541/42, that printing became firmly established in the country. The reign of James VI (1567-1625), the scholar king who had his own works on kingship and witchcraft printed in Scotland, saw an increase in book production in Scotland. →

Right: Bishop William Elphinstone of Aberdeen, one of the first to print outside of Edinburgh.



Imprintit:

500 Years

of the Scottish Printed Word

27 June – 12 October

Free exhibition

Monday to Friday 10am to 8pm.

Saturday 10am to 5pm. Sunday 2pm to 5pm

National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1EW

Discover five centuries of Scotland's printing heritage

Ever since Walter Chepman and Androw Myllar set up Scotland's first printing press in 1508, the printed word has had a huge impact on generations of Scots.

The first 500 years of Scottish printing takes in books, magazines, pamphlets, posters and many other kinds of printed items, all found within the Library's collections. Together they tell the story of print in the life of the nation.

See the first books printed in Scotland and learn about the impact of print on politics, religion, children's books, literature, science, technology and education.



www.nls.uk

→ From its relatively humble origins in the 16th century, Scottish printing and publishing went from strength to strength, surviving, and indeed profiting from religious and political turmoil. An extreme example of the effect of the printed word in 17th-century Scotland was the 1637 printing of the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer* in Edinburgh by the London-based printer Robert Young, as part of King Charles I's attempts to control the Church of Scotland. During the first public use of the new prayer book an outraged Jenny Geddes is traditionally credited with throwing her stool at the dean of St. Giles' Cathedral, triggering a riot in Edinburgh, which led in turn to the Scottish Church and nobility making a stand against Charles I by signing the National Covenant the following year. Young was forced to flee back to England and forfeit some of his fee for printing the offending book. The subsequent conflict between Charles I and his Scottish subjects, which led to civil war throughout Britain, saw an increase in printing as the various parties in the conflict stated their beliefs in print.

Unlike England where printing was initially limited to London, Oxford, Cambridge, and later York, Scotland's early printers had relative freedom to set up presses wherever they chose, provided they did not print anything to offend the authorities, or attempt to break the King's Printer's monopoly on printing bibles and prayer books. In 1685 the Earl of Argyll took the bold step of bringing a printing press over to Campbeltown from the Netherlands to print a proclamation demanding the re-establishment of Protestantism in Scotland. Argyll had been in exile and had returned to his homeland with some of his followers to claim back his lands from the

Catholic King James II. Argyll's attempt to start a rebellion against King James was short-lived. He was soon arrested and executed later that year. The unknown printer was probably exiled and his press confiscated.

In the second half of the 18th-century, with Scotland on the road to prosperity after decades of economic stagnation and with stability returning to Scotland following the Jacobite uprising of 1745-46, Scotland's printed output increased in quantity and quality. In Glasgow the Foulis brothers, Robert and Andrew, who were printers to Glasgow University, produced works of a quality to rival the finest European printing. Edinburgh benefited from its position at the heart of the Scottish Enlightenment to become the largest printing and publishing centre in the British Isles after London. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, printed in the Scottish capital between 1768 and 1771, and edited by the Scottish author and printer William Smellie, would prove to be a landmark publication in the history of English-language printing.

The 19th century saw the emergence of several Scottish printing and publishing firms who became hugely successful and took advantage of the appetite for books and newspapers of a growing and increasingly literate population. Blackie, Chambers, Collins, Nelson, Oliver & Boyd, and Bartholomew, to name but a few, exported their books, periodicals and maps to all corners of the globe and became household names. The works of Sir Walter Scott, originally printed and published in Scotland, sold in their thousands. Dundee became a centre for newspaper and periodical publication, with the →

Below: "Catechisme" of Archbishop Hamilton (St. Andrews, 1552) open at pages showing the Lord's Prayer in Scots.

Below (right): A page from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, originally printed in Edinburgh.



LYON & TURNBULL

ESTABLISHED 1826

Rare Books, Maps, Manuscripts and Photographs 3/9/2008

One of the highlights of our forthcoming sale is a fine set of Ian Fleming's James Bond novels, from the library of Sir Fitzroy Maclean BT, considered to be one of the main inspirations for the character of James Bond.

For further information about the forthcoming sale or to enquire about selling at auction please contact Simon Vickers on 0131 5578844 or email simon.vickers@lyonandturnbull.com

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firm of DC Thomson building up a publishing empire at the start of the 20th century which survives to this day. In the last 100 years there has been a decline in the fortunes of Scottish printers and publishers, due to increased competition from overseas and rapid advances in technology, which rendered traditional printing techniques obsolete. Most of the firms which even 50 years ago employed several hundred people in Scotland have disappeared or have been swallowed up by rivals. However, independent Scottish publishers like Canongate, Birlinn and Mainstream continue to fly the flag in the global market place, producing best-selling, innovative, books.

In this summer's exhibition at the National Library of Scotland, **Imprintit: 500 years of the Scottish Printed Word**, we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of printing in Scotland by showing what the printed word has meant to Scots over the last five centuries. On display are books, magazines, almanacs, chapbooks, pamphlets, posters, and many other kinds of printed items - all published in Scotland - which together tell the story of print in the life of the nation. The exhibition covers a range of themes including religion, education, politics, children's books, Scottish publishers, science and technology, and literature. Visitors can see some of our greatest treasures alongside the everyday, 'ephemeral', items which Scots read and used, from fanzines to trade catalogues, and more unusual items such as an early 20th-century newspaper produced for Lithuanian

miners in Lanarkshire to a journal printed by and for German prisoners of war in Scotland during the First World War. In addition to the exhibition a full programme of events and activities relating to it has been set up

(<http://www.nls.uk/events/index.html>).

After 500 years the use and production of the printed word has changed dramatically, but it remains an important means of communication in the digital age, and one in which Scotland has played a major role over the centuries. **nls**

Below: DC Thomson, publishers of *The People's Friend* and *The Beano*, remain one of the few survivors of the Scottish publishing boom.

Below (right): Robin Harper MSP reflects on our political publishing heritage.

Discover more

In the course of researching 'Imprintit: 500 years of the Scottish Printed Word', staff in Rare Book Collections in NLS have been tracing the spread of Scottish printing from 1508 to 1900. The spread of printing was initially slow and confined to the south and east of Scotland. In the first 300 years of printing, Scotland had only 33 printing towns, but in the 19th century, improvements in printing technology and better means of transport and communication led to another 165 being established. The results of our research are now available on The Spread of Scottish Printing web pages at www.nls.uk/printing

In addition to tracing the geographical spread of printing in Scotland, you can read full texts of items printed on the first printing press set up in each of these 33 cities and towns in Scotland between 1508 and 1800. These have been digitised from NLS' collections. We would welcome any additional information about items on the site and also about printing towns in the period between 1508 and 1900 that we have not included on our web pages. You can contact us at rarebooks@nls.uk.



P.B.F.A. BOOK FAIRS in SCOTLAND



Always a mixed range of antiquarian and secondhand books, and often maps and prints for all tastes and pockets

August

Sat 9

FORFAR :

The Reid Hall, Castle Street. 10-5, £1

Sun 10

BALLATER:

Victoria Hall, Station Square. 10-5, £1

Sun/Sat 17-23

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL :

Bute Suite, Roxburghe Hotel,
Charlotte Square. Noon-6 Sunday,
10-6 Monday to Saturday. Free

September

Sat/Sun 27-28

ABERDEEN : Hilton Treetops Hotel,
161 Springfield Road.

10-5 both days, £1

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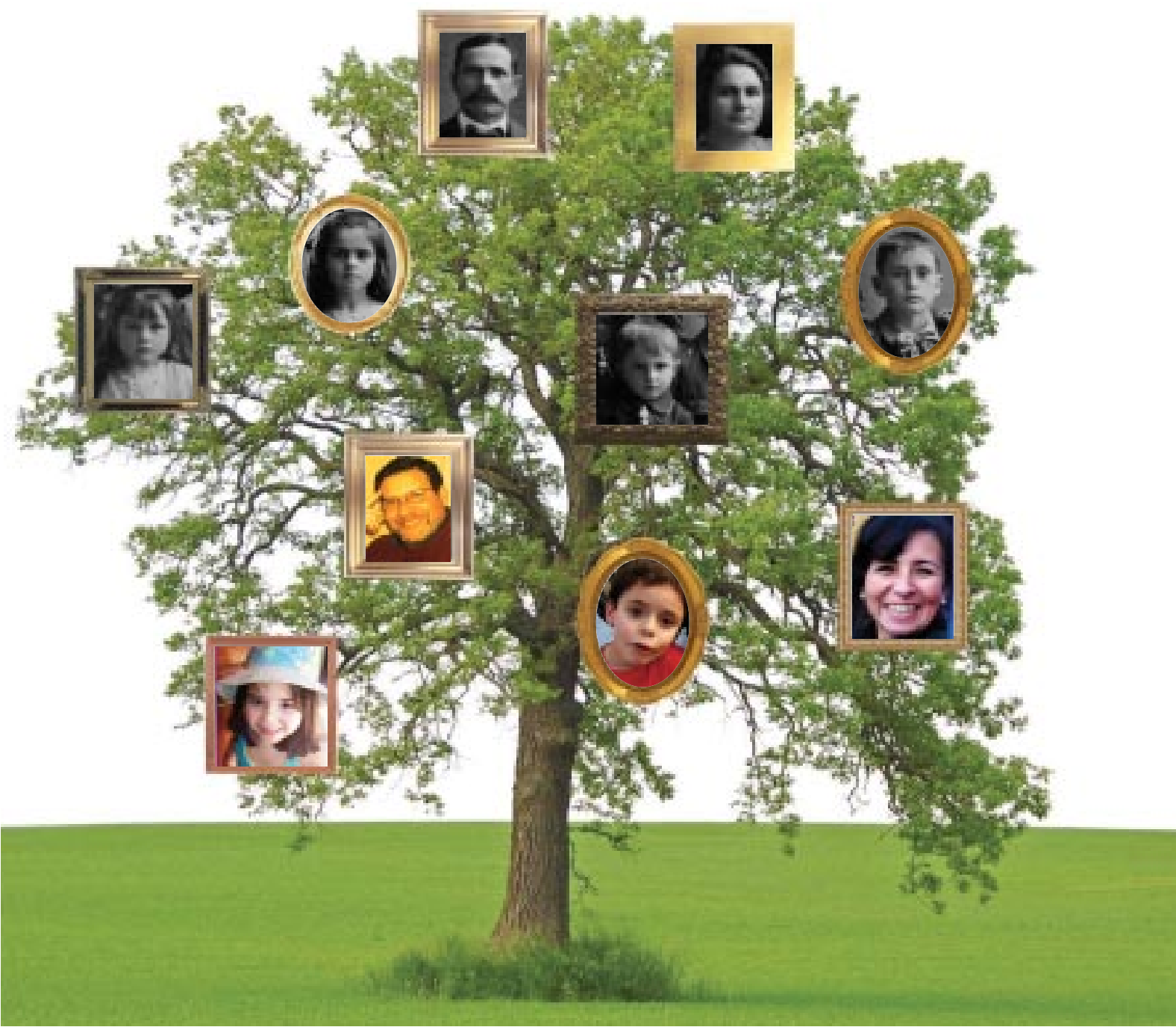
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SCOTLAND'S NEW WRITING THEATRE

THE ROOTS OF YOUR LABOUR

Ruth Boreham, a researcher for BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?*, explains how a trip to NLS can help add colour to your family tree.



With the growth of family history data available on the internet, through sites such as www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk and www.ancestry.co.uk, you would be forgiven for thinking that you never need to leave home in order to find out who your family were. While that is true to a certain extent with regard to births, marriages and deaths, can you truly know someone from their dates alone? One of the fascinating things about the TV series is that it shows a slice of social history as well, and for that you often need to venture beyond your front door. The National Library is a wonderful place to visit to help fill in some of the background.

I am a historical researcher and have made great use of NLS for numerous projects, from a refugee academic charity, to authors of both non-fiction and fiction. A large part of my time is spent on family history, particularly working on *Who Do You Think You Are?*, which makes me a frequent visitor to NLS.



Top right: Family portrait from a photo album. Taken 1870 by Robert Gibson Rettie of Kirkcaldy.

Left: Ruth at work in the Reading Room.

Below: Local newspapers, held in NLS and public libraries across Scotland, often provide useful information about the society in which your ancestors lived.



Books and Newspapers

I'm often brought in to help with research if the family is from, or has connections with, Scotland. As the holder of the largest collection of British printed materials in Scotland, the Library is a natural first port of call once the outlines of the person's family tree have been sketched. Often, the information we gather from the birth, marriage and death certificates give us clues as to the stories we would like to pursue further; for example, an unusual or recurrent occupation, or a particular place someone has come from. Among the first things I'll check are the statistical accounts for a

particular area or place. There are two Statistical Accounts of Scotland, one written during the 1790s and one from the 1830s. They are a wonderful contemporary report of life, based largely on information supplied by each parish church minister, recording topics such as wealth, class and poverty, climate, agriculture and population.

The information from these accounts can help add colour to the area people lived in, which can be supplemented by guidebooks and photographic books held by NLS. Sometimes, typing in the name of the place into the online catalogue, and using it as a keyword anywhere, can bring up some surprising results of small self-published books and pamphlets. General history books can also help, and if your ancestor was rich or historically important enough, a book may have been written about them or the house in which they lived. With the clan system in Scotland, many societies have arisen around a surname, and some have published genealogies which can prove very useful when you get stuck with a particular branch, although you will need to double check the information they contain with the original records. Family history societies have also published many useful books, particularly on monumental inscriptions, which can sometimes reveal a wealth of information about a family you would never know about from the basic certificates. I have seen a gravesite picture that reveals the operations one woman had during her lifetime in the 19th century. →



Although some of the background reading could be done at your local library, NLS proves invaluable with newspapers. By searching newspapers you can find information on, for example, the circumstances of your ancestors' death, background information on where they lived and details of any trials they may have been involved in. I found the details of a serious trial in the National Archives of Scotland for one celebrity, but trial papers can sometimes be a little confusing. A search through the local newspaper for the time (the 1860s) helped to put the trial in context for that area. One word of warning though – it is very easy to get distracted by adverts and articles which have nothing to do with your particular search, so make sure you are either very focused or leave plenty of time to go through newspapers.

Manuscripts

Once printed material, including newspapers and rare books, have been exhausted, the manuscript collections of NLS are well worth consulting. There is something very satisfying about handling original material. Seeing the handwriting, and successfully deciphering it (which is often not an easy task), can bring you much closer to a person. For example, I was once asked to look at letters written between a courting couple in the 19th century, which spanned almost four years, and started when the girl was 16. It was lovely to see the handwriting change over the years as they both

grew in maturity and also confidence with each other. Reading transcripts is one thing; to see the scribbles, crossing outs and mistakes as two people in love try to convey their feelings, brings them vividly to life.

The manuscripts department also has a very important collection of estate papers of Scottish land-owning families. While your ancestor may not have had money or land himself, he may have worked for one of these estates, and a search through their papers may reveal more about his working life, where he lived on the estate, how much he earned, what the rental was, etc. Your ancestor may also have been involved in the local administration, for example, running churches and schools, or building roads and bridges.

There are many other collections in the manuscripts department which might prove useful, for example, military papers, publishing archives, political papers (including trade unions), church mission papers and the records of many of the old Scottish trade incorporations. Although a large number of people lived and died without appearing in any lists or papers, it is always worth checking just in case. I had no idea that Jeremy Paxman's family had suffered such poverty until I checked the poor relief records on the off chance and found their name.

Bottom left: Pages from the visitors' book for Glenquoich, the Inverness-shire shooting lodge of the Ellice family, from our extensive collection of estate papers.

Below: Maps, such as this early 20th century plan of Aberdeen can provide valuable clues about your ancestors' area and how much it may have changed.

Maps

To understand where your ancestor lived, it can be useful to actually visit the place. However, this may not always give you a good sense of what the area looked like in your ancestors' time. Maps can help you imagine the scene, and the NLS collection spans some 700 years, including manuscript maps and ordnance survey maps, as well as cartographic reference books and guidebooks. Although there is much to be searched online, nothing beats a visit to the Map Reading Room (housed in a different building from the main George VI Bridge site, a 15 minute walk away in Causewayside), and seeing the actual maps and taking advantage of the knowledge of the staff there. While working on a celebrity research subject, a contemporary map of where their ancestor had lived showed just how sparsely populated an area it had been and how many miles they would have had to walk to the nearest market place – simply by looking at a contemporary map.

Online resources

Of course, there are times when you just can't make it in to NLS, if you're not within easy reach of Edinburgh or when you get a family history urge at midnight. But don't despair, the Library's excellent online resources are a mine of useful information. Two that I use a great deal are the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB) and the Times Digital Archive. With the ODNB online, you can search for a name in the text, so even if they don't have an entry themselves, you might still find information on a person. It can also throw up interesting relations between people, and give you names of further books and archives to search.

If you are lucky enough to have wealthy ancestors, you may find they subscribed to certain books. A search of Early English Books Online (EEBO) and Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) can reveal an ancestor's reading tastes, or the reading fashions of their time. The Library's own web features, (www.nls.uk/digitallibrary/index.html) such as the first ever pictorial survey of Scotland from 1693, or the playbills of Edinburgh's Theatre Royal, can help to give you an even greater understanding of the times that your ancestors lived through.

Family history can be very addictive, and programmes like *Who Do You Think You Are?* can make it look deceptively easy. You can often spend hours looking through sources to discover nothing about your ancestor, but don't be discouraged, the gems you do find more than make up for all the other reading you have done. Some tips: try to think laterally and also make friends with the staff, as their knowledge is incredible and they may know of material relevant to you but, because of where it is housed or catalogued, you might never know about.

And if all else fails, you could always join the celebrities and employ a professional researcher to do it for you. **nls**

Discover more

www.nls.uk/family-history

Early English Books Online (EEBO)

Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)

Times Digital Archive

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

All available via:

www.nls.uk/catalogues/online/er/index.html

Also available are:

www.ruthresearch.co.uk

www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk

www.ancestry.co.uk



'Auld Reekie, The Old Edinburgh Club

at 100

Dr Iain Gordon Brown, Principal Manuscripts Curator at NLS and President of the Old Edinburgh Club, toasts the first 100 years of the society that has faithfully preserved the heritage of the historical record of the capital.

In 1908 a new historical society was inaugurated. First mooted in 1907 with the proposed title of the 'Reekiana Club', the association conceived by a group of men moved and concerned by the state of degradation and decay which then prevailed in Edinburgh's Old Town was formally constituted in January 1908 as 'The Old Edinburgh Club'. The

club was to be devoted to the recording of the vanishing evidence of the city's past, and to the publication of sources which would shed light on the historical development of Edinburgh, its inhabitants, institutions, customs, interesting neighbourhoods, locations and buildings.



still and on'

The Old Glasgow Club had been formed in 1900, so the capital had some catching up to do in terms of historical retrospection. The Old Edinburgh Club's founding fathers included William J. Hay, a bookseller and publisher who had established what we might term a 'local history emporium' in the ancient and historic premises known as John Knox's House in the High Street. Also prominent in the establishment of the society was the politician, collector and man of letters, Archibald Philip Primrose, fifth Earl of Rosebery. It was he who, as a young man, had famously stated his ambitions as being to marry an heiress; win the Derby; and become Prime Minister – *in that order!* (Lord Rosebery achieved all three.) Although he did not include in his career wish-list the founding of the leading Edinburgh local history society, that nevertheless remains one of his minor legacies to posterity. The highly influential Rosebery cared not for the proposed 'Reekiana' name for the new association, which derived from the popular 19th-century works of the prolific Robert Chambers on the traditions and antiquities of 'Auld Reekie'; and so the nascent society came to bear its now

long-established and respected name, and Lord Rosebery duly served as the first Honorary President.

The Old Edinburgh of the club's title was early taken to mean not just the Old Town, then in sad and progressive decline but an area nevertheless of enduring interest to the antiquarian-minded among the citizens. The entire city, with the elegant Georgian New Town and including the inner suburbs (these often developed, of course, on the former lands of prominent families or individuals) soon became the concern of the society.

The club enjoys the patronage of the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Council of the City of Edinburgh. The Earl of Wemyss and March, KT, is Honorary President and Lord Cullen of Whitekirk, KT, Honorary Vice-President. In November 2007 I was elected President for the centenary year, and shall serve in that office until 2010.

A winter programme of lectures and a summer programme of visits to buildings or areas of interest is organised. An outing earlier this month reconstructed the club's first such event, a century on to the very day. On 4 October a major →

Left: Dr Iain Gordon Brown, the President of the Old Edinburgh Club shown against the background of the Old Town and wearing the newly commissioned centenary badge of office.

Right: An early club outing, probably in June 1910, to the Cowgate area of the Old Town. The party has paused at the foot of Blackfriars Street. A middle-class group stands uneasily amid the semi-slum housing and commerce of an area of the city probably largely unexplored until then. The girls at the left front are giggling. Were they joking about how long a club like this might last?



conference will be held in the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. The theme of this will be developments in the life and society of Edinburgh during the century of the club's existence. We shall have no lectures on Edinburgh during the '45, or on the Regent Morton; no papers on the achievement of Victorian brewers or engineers. Rather there will be eight lectures by leading authorities on progress and change in the law, the church, medicine, science, politics, the arts, literature, social life and demographics between 1908 and 2008.

The proceedings of the centenary conference will form a special volume of *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club (BOEC)*, to be published in 2009. *BOEC* is the club's enduring monument, by far its most important single achievement of the past century and one that, we trust, will continue through our next hundred years. The original series of the *Book* appeared in 35 volumes between 1908 and 1985. Publication of the new series began in 1991. Volume 7 of the new series will appear this year.

Contributions to the *Book* take the form of longer articles (some very long indeed, occupying much space in individual volumes), shorter articles, notes (which are published in a section entitled 'Reekiana', reverting to the proposed tribute to the antiquarian work of Robert Chambers) and 'Edinburgh Portraits', which are biographical treatments of lesser-known or under-researched personalities significant in the history of the city and its institutions.

Links between the National Library and the Old Edinburgh Club are close. Lord Rosebery, bibliophile extraordinaire, was a major benefactor of the Library in its early days, presenting extremely valuable collections. Several members of the Library's staff over the years have been Officers of the Club, or have served on Council. Some have been authors of work published in the *Book*. It is probably true to say that hardly an article in a single volume of *BOEC* does not refer to manuscript and printed sources (including maps) in the Library's vast and varied collections.

Also very heavily used by writers of articles in *BOEC* are the resources of the National Archives of Scotland, the City Archives, and the collections of the Edinburgh Room of the Central Public Library. The invaluable holdings of the National Monuments Record of Scotland, a constituent part of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, are also

frequently consulted and cited in the publications of the club. It is pleasing that RCAHMS also celebrates its centenary in 2008: to mark the joint occasion that organisation is generously sponsoring the concluding reception at the OEC conference in October.

The Faculty of Advocates, so closely connected with the history of the National Library, is joint sponsor of the conference.

May all interested in the history of the city be inspired by the concluding lines of Stevenson's posthumously published 'Auld Reekie', where the exile looks longingly homeward to the place of his birth:

**'O still ayont the muckle sea
Still are ye dear, and dear to me
Auld Reekie, still and on!' nls**

Discover more

To learn more about the conference, the club and how to join, please contact the Secretary, Alan Borthwick on: Alan.Borthwick@nas.gov.uk, 0131 242 5810 or visit www.odedinburghclub.org.uk

Your support is vital to the club at this centenary moment, so that the important work done in the past may be continued into the future. Societies such as the OEC survive only because of a lively and growing membership; and the best centenary memorial would surely be the club's secure progress on the road to its bicentenary.



Below: Edinburgh Castle and the Nor' Loch by Alexander Nasmyth (1824). Courtesy of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.



Old Edinburgh Club
(Founded 1908)

To book send your name, address and contact details, with a cheque made out to 'The Old Edinburgh Club'

Members - £15.00
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Centenary Conference

**'Edinburgh 1908-2008:
Once and Future Capital'**

Saturday 4th October 2008

Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, Edinburgh
9.30am–6.30pm

Morning Session

Social History Professor Robert Morris
Law and the City Professor Hector MacQueen

Coffee

20th Century Science Professor Aubrey Manning
Edinburgh Medicine Professor David Purdie

LUNCH

Afternoon Session

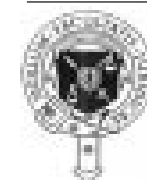
The Arts of Mid-lothian Mr Owen Dudley Edwards
Edinburgh Authors Professor Randall Stevenson

Tea

Religion Professor Stewart J. Brown
National Politics Professor T.M. Devine

Drinks Reception from 5.00pm

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From Earlsferry to the ends of the Earth

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the first Map Room in the National Library of Scotland, **Laragh Quinney** and **Chris Fleet** take a brief look at map services, past and present, and ask 'how much has changed'?

The map collections at NLS today are one of the world's largest, with over 2 million items and thousands available and fully searchable online. A great deal has changed since the Map Room first opened 50 years ago of course, but it's interesting to see how the general principles have stayed constant.

The users register notes that the first items consulted on 13 May 1958 were two Ordnance Survey topographical maps – for Cambuskenneth in Stirlingshire, and Earlsferry in Fife. Similar Ordnance Survey maps continue to be in regular use by our readers today.

Interesting correspondence relating to the foundation of the Map Room has recently been discovered between William Beattie, Librarian of NLS from 1953 to 1970 and John Bartholomew, of the Bartholomew map publishers. As well as being a Trustee of the Library, John Bartholomew (1890-1962) had broad interests in geography, cartography and in Scotland. He was President of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society from 1950-54, active

in the National Trust for Scotland, and had run the family firm for three decades, following his father's death in 1920.

As such he was very well qualified to promote the NLS Map Room, and in a letter of July 1952 offered four main principles for a 'worthy National Map Collection':

- ' (1) Maps require furniture of appropriate design for their storage in safety;
- (2) Accommodation is necessary alongside with good lighting for their study;
- (3) Books on carto-bibliography and cognate subjects should be within easy reference reach;
- (4) The services of a specially trained librarian in attendance would be indispensable.'

This letter also set out a broad set of principles for the map collection, being international rather than just Scottish in scope, with standard as well as special thematic mapping, and ranging from Classical times to the present day.

William Beattie and John Bartholomew remained in regular contact and particular care was taken that the construction of the reading room from February 1957 kept these principles in mind. Most visible, was the famous large oval

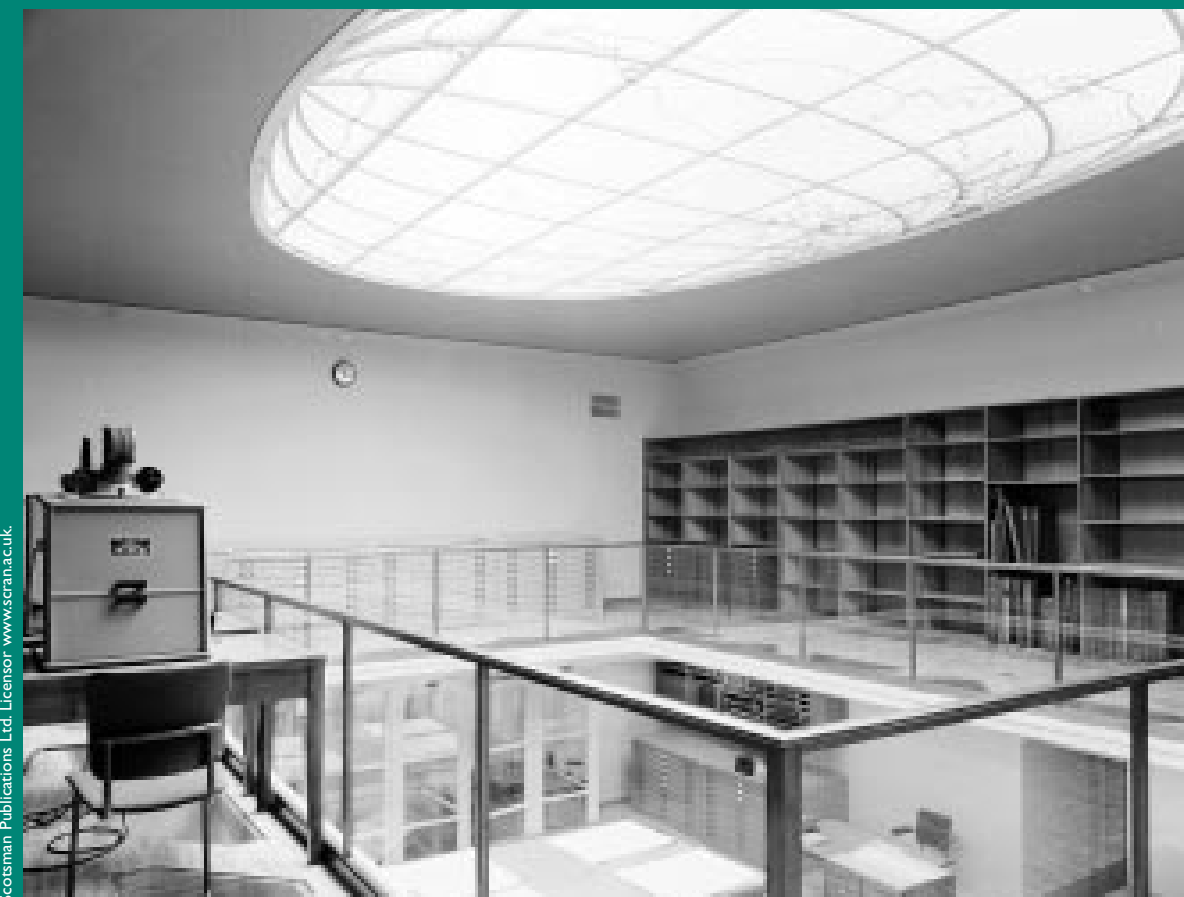
laylight in the ceiling giving good illumination, and with its outline map of the world 'attracting favourable comment'. In April 1957, Beattie was to write: 'I look forward to having a talk about the new Map Room. Some of the steel cases have now arrived and strike me as being very fine indeed - just as good as those in the Bodleian!'

Looking back at John Bartholomew's founding principles for the new Map Room, what is interesting is how far these have been carried through to the present day. The bricks and mortar, as well as the technology are now very different, but similar broad values underpin the collections and services. The Map Reading Room today offers large, well-lit tables for using or tracing maps, and open access shelves for browsing a broad range of relevant 'books on carto-bibliography and cognate subjects.' These include gazetteers of place names, atlases, and guide books, books on the history and development of cartography, on map design and technology. The Map Room moved to an old biscuit factory building at Causewayside in 1974, then to the new Causewayside Building at 33 Salisbury Place from 1988. →



Left: John Bartholomew (taken about 1950) was a driving force behind establishing the first Map Room at NLS.

Right: The first Map Room in 1958, today the readers' registration area, on the ground floor of the George IV Bridge building.

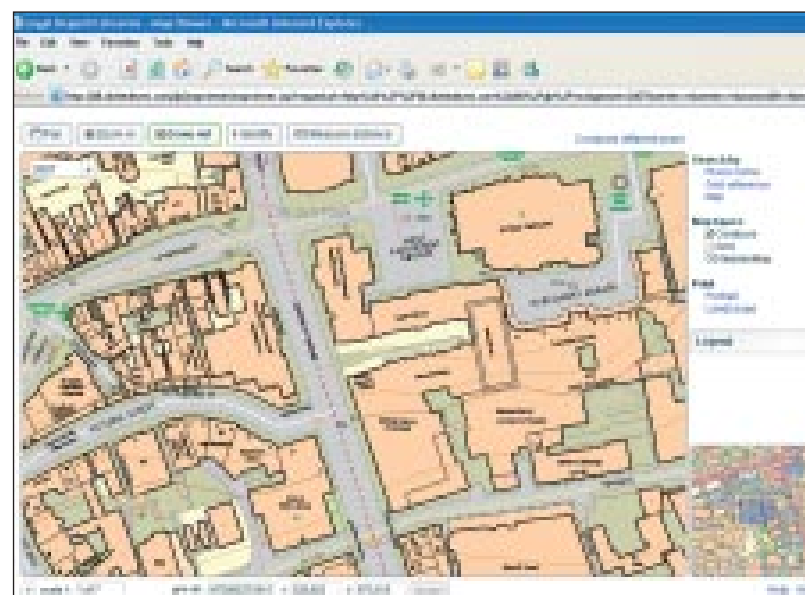


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As on the opening day, requests for historical Ordnance Survey maps continue to be an important part of the work today, but staff respond to a wide range of enquiries every year.

Questions in the past month have included:

- Historical maps and views of the Firth of Forth for landscape design students
- 1940s maps of Burma for a former soldier, who fought there during the Second World War
- Geological and soil maps of Peru for a plant collector from the Royal Botanic Garden
- The ideological and political influences behind maps of the Far East in the 19th century
- Researching a large wall map showing the missions of the United Free Church of Scotland in the early 20th century
- British War Office maps of the Ruhr in the mid-1940s, showing bomb damage and industrial premises
- Locating a street in Glasgow, where a violin maker had lived in the 19th century, for a man tracing the history of his violin.



We also respond to frequent requests to reproduce items from the collection. In the past year maps from the National Library of Scotland have appeared on Channel 4's *Time Team*, on display boards beside archaeological excavations, in a programme for the Washington National Opera and even in an Australian exam paper!

Above: Highly detailed Ordnance Survey mapping, offered online, and exclusively in Scotland, by NLS and other Legal Deposit libraries.

Left: The Map Library today.



Right: Western hemisphere ceramic paperweight, by John G. Bartholomew. Just one of many fascinating items in the Bartholomew Archive.



Right: Outgoing Map Collections Manager Diana Webster.

This international interest in the maps held by the Library has been greatly boosted by the internet and other new technology. In many ways, John Bartholomew's vision with its international breadth, long time span, and range of different types of mapping can be seen vividly on the NLS website. The website includes town plans, county maps, estate maps, military maps, marine and bathymetrical charts, and maps of Scotland from the 1560s to the 1930s. With over 6,000 maps available to view on the website, technology is enabling us to make our maps available to people across Scotland and to reach out to a world-wide audience. In the past year, there have been 2.24 million views of the maps website homepage, and 7.29 million views of the individual maps on the NLS website.

New technology is also changing the maps we receive and how we receive them. In the 1950s, the latest detailed Ordnance Survey maps of Edinburgh were printed on large A1 sheets of paper. Fifty years on, we receive a digital copy of the Ordnance Survey's latest detailed mapping for the whole of the United Kingdom once every year. Today visitors to the Library can view the latest detailed map of a street or house on a computer, then compare this with earlier years.

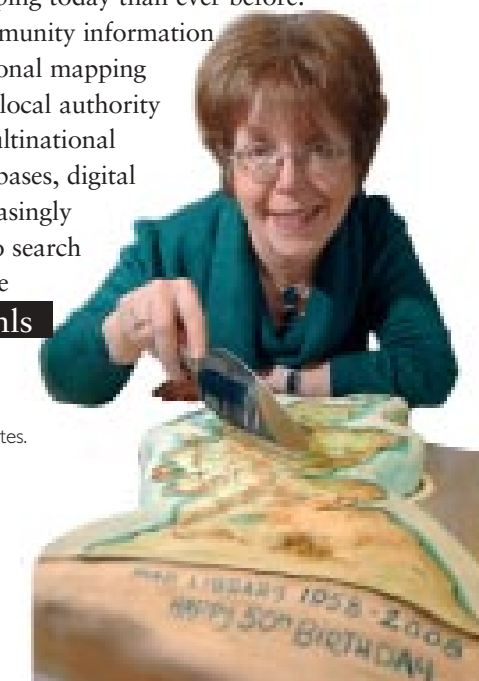
The Library also supports research into historical maps and the development of cartography. A contemporary project that would have been close to John Bartholomew's heart, is the Bartholomew Archive project. With funding for three years from the John R. Murray Charitable Trust, the aim is to make the archive accessible with proper inventories and listings of material. In addition the Printing Record, with specimens of

everything printed by Bartholomew from 1888, is being conserved and catalogued.

The recognition that 'everything happens somewhere'* - that 80% of information has a geographic component - means that maps today are increasingly used for accessing and organising other information. Through geo-referencing of information and web-mapping technology, maps today are not just ends in themselves, but means to other ends. NLS has already developed several web-mapping applications that take advantage of these features. In addition, the increasing availability of mapping and satellite imagery, not least through Google Maps and Google Earth, and the ability to merge or 'mash up' these maps with other information, means that more people are using mapping today than ever before.

From community information portals to national mapping organisations, local authority websites to multinational company databases, digital mapping increasingly helps people to search for and retrieve information. **nls**

*Nancy Tosta, Vice president of Ross & Associates.





Positive inking

In May, the Library's education and outreach unit teamed up with illustrator Gary Erskine to give disadvantaged young people a unique opportunity to learn life skills and gain confidence by creating their own comics. **Julian Stone** went along to sketch in some of the details.

Below: From left to right: Orson Page, tutor Michael Williams, Ayden Watson and Euan Cunningham.

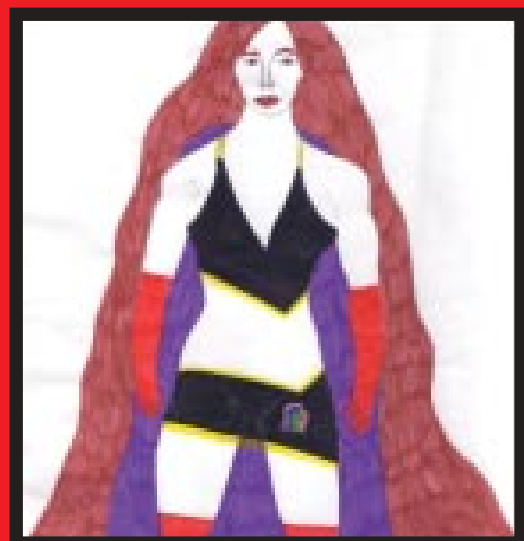
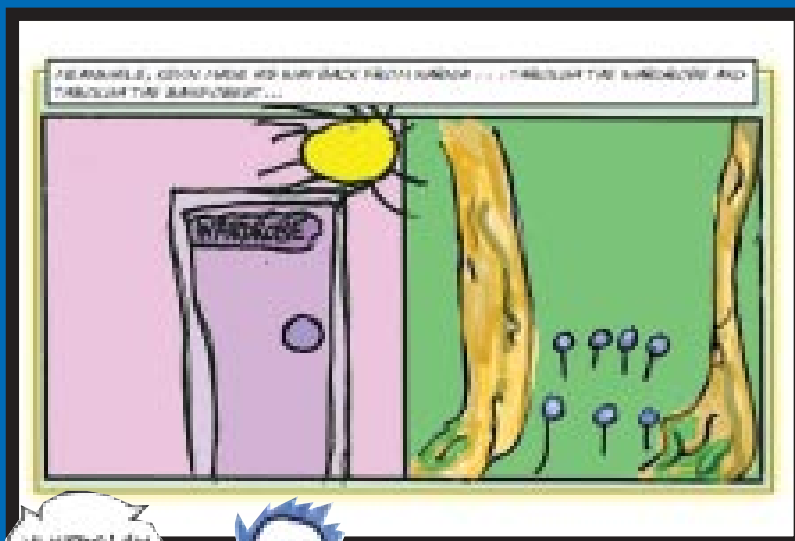
Top left: 'Metal monsters', by Ayden Watson, Orson Page and Euan Cunningham.

Far Middle: Narnia wardrobe by Kevin Staples.

Bottom: G-Man by Peter McPhillips.

Middle: Superhero by Carolanne Simpson.

Bottom right: Finished cartoon by Cheryl Brown.



As the tranche of recent Hollywood blockbusters and the success of TV shows like *Heroes* prove, comic book heroism is enjoying something of a renaissance at the moment. Many of these stories draw obvious parallels with real life heroics and what it means to aim high in life and help others in the process. It's not surprising then that this medium was chosen for the basis of a workshop with a group of disadvantaged young people from East Lothian. The Bridges Project, based in Musselburgh, helps young people between the age of 14 and 21 to build their confidence, combat isolation, improve literacy, develop life skills and employability, and generally help prepare them for the challenges of the adult world. The project encompasses a broad range of practical and creative elements, including PC and multimedia skills, artwork, music and photography.

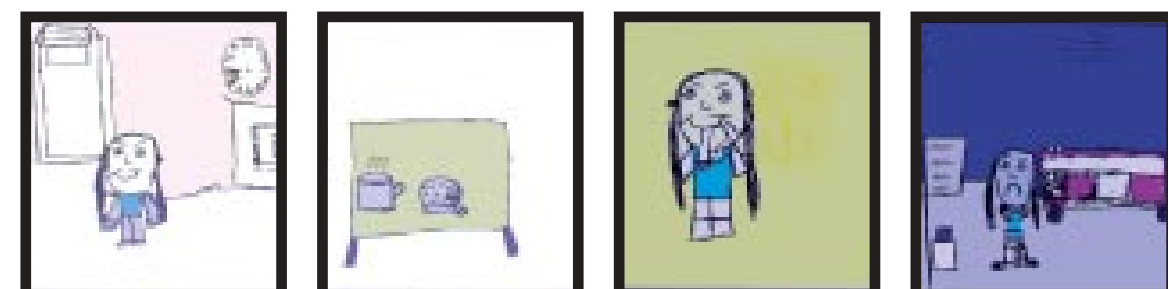
Education and Outreach Officer Beverley Casebow saw the group as the perfect fit for a project inspired by our recent Local Heroes exhibition on the growth of graphic novels. The project started with a visit to the exhibition in April. Visiting the exhibition was an important catalyst for the group, as Senior Youth Development Worker, Sandie Wyles, noticed, 'Seeing the exhibition at NLS really opened up the whole creative process. Most of the group had very little experience of libraries, beyond using computers for the web and email at their local library, but of course they have phenomenal knowledge of comics, films and related culture, so the exhibition struck a chord.'

Seasoned Dan Dare illustrator Gary Erskine and storyteller Michael Williams were recruited to work with the group to help them write and

sketch out their own storyboard adventures during an intensive three-day workshop, drawing on established narrative techniques, the participants' imaginations and their own real life experiences.

Gary Erskine spent a day with the youngsters, answering questions on his work, providing the group with a series of superhero templates and showing them how to adapt them for their own characters and ideas. Michael Williams took the project to its next stage. Michael has worked as a teacher, social worker and storyteller for over 30 years, and brought with him plenty of experience of working with similar groups. His role was to lead the group, teach them some typical storytelling structure and impress upon them the importance of plotting their narrative to include all the essential elements of a heroic quest story.

As Michael explains: 'The most important thing to stress was that the story comes first. They had to get this done before they could start drawing the panels. One of the first exercises we did was to get the kids to describe their morning journey here. We then worked on getting elements of exaggeration and humour into these potentially mundane accounts. We also worked with them to help them overcome any intimidation they might have of the artwork challenges involved. The guys all have their own styles, and vary greatly in their natural artistic ability. Some are quite primitive and simple, others are quite advanced. Comics are becoming recognised as a powerful tool in education. They test the group's problem-solving skills and give them new challenges. In solving these, they grow in confidence.' →



The project explored notions of heroism, role models and the antihero, by looking at classic examples from comics, films and other popular fiction familiar to young people. The idea that ostensibly ordinary people can aspire to heroism by helping others, bringing justice and working together became a recurrent theme in the youngsters' work. As Michael explains, 'In other cultures there are initiation rites, often involving some sort of quest or journey, but what do our young people today have? Who's there to guide them towards achieving great things with their lives? They look to the media for role models and find them in sportspeople, celebrities and pop stars maybe, but these are easily knocked down by the same media. We try to encourage the group to think about giving their characters effective qualities that they already have, so although obviously fantasy plays its part too, it is grounded in reality. There's a great example in one of the stories that Cheryl and Peter [from the group] worked on. Their characters have to work together to defeat their enemies, and they all learn something in the process.'

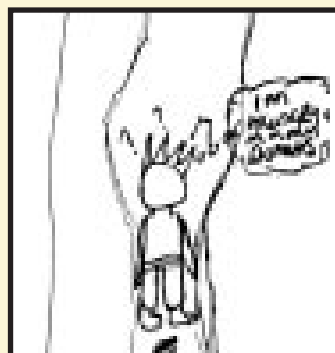
Below: Heroes in the making: Orson Page, James Watson, Euan Cunningham and Ayden Watson.



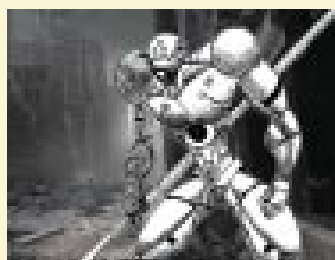
Heroes gallery

The workshop gave its seven participants a rich variety of experiences and challenges.

James Watson's (18) story centred on a hero called MetalMan, whose parents were killed in a flood caused by super villain H2O, which sends him on a quest for answers and revenge. For James, the best thing about the workshop was 'meeting Gary Erskine, drawing superheroes and making storyboards.' 'It's all completely new to me,' he added. 'I've never done anything like this before.'



Orson Page (19) honed a specialism for doing the cover artwork for other people's stories, based on their early character sketches. He described the project as, 'A very positive experience. I enjoyed developing my skills and have done a lot of sketching and other drawings.'



Peter Moore (19) wrote a story (with Cheryl Brown) for the first time on the course. His had a very personal resonance, as it referred to the loss of his baby sister. He said the best thing about the course was the help and support of tutor Michael Williams.



Although the workshop itself only lasted a few days (the course is deliberately intensive to make the group focus on realistic achievements), Sandie Wyles feels it has made a lasting impact: 'The combination of the visit, the workshop and creating their own work has been really valuable. It's also made them more open to new experiences. For example, we're taking the group to see a classical concert by the Scottish Ensemble soon. One door opens another.'

In a fitting conclusion to the project, the group's storyboards were displayed for the final week of the exhibition, giving them the opportunity to see their work alongside many of the graphic novel greats, with further plans to compile their stories into a book that the students can keep as a memento. **nls**

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www.bridgesproject.org.uk

Reading for Everyone

In celebration of five centuries of printing and publishing in Scotland, we bring you an exclusive extract from the book that tells the story of the people and places that made a major contribution to Scotland's remarkable printed heritage, **Antony Kamm's *Scottish Printed Books 1508-2008***.

BY AND WITHDRAWN RECORD, Wednesday, October 28, 1947.

The Alloa

Published at the Post Office at 4 Newmarket.



HILLFOOTS

THIRDS—No. 748

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER

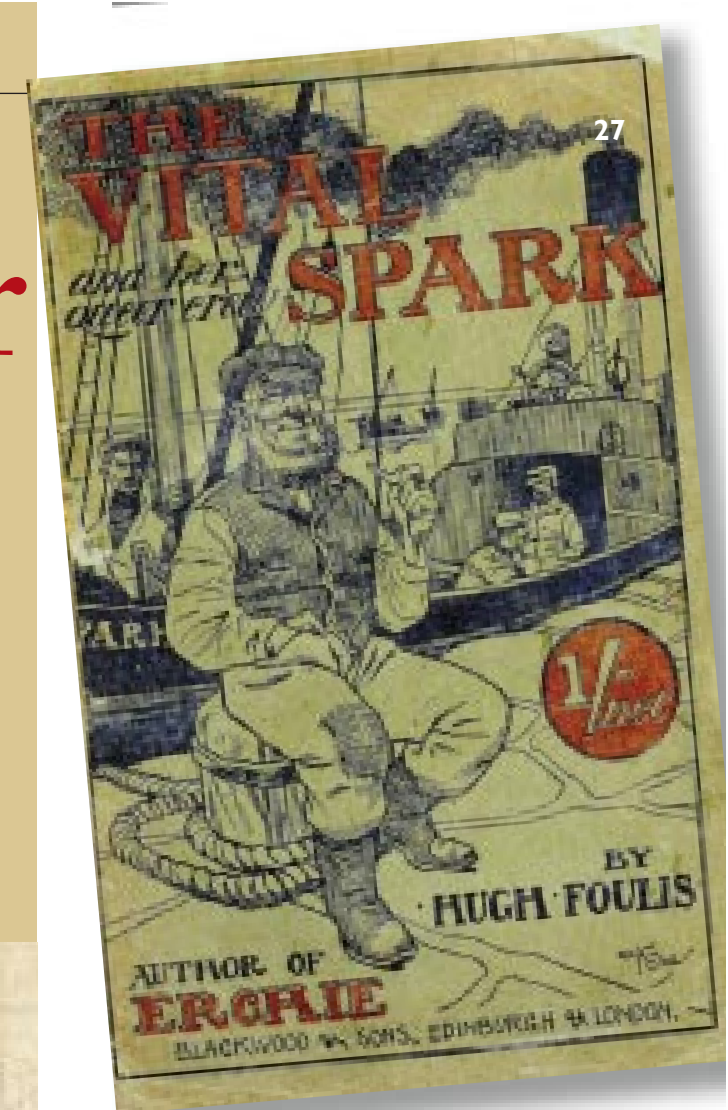
ENTIRE MINUTES CANDIDATES
The following are the candidates lodged for the forthcoming Municipal Elections to be held on Tuesday, 4th November—

NOMINATIONS
The following are the candidates lodged for the forthcoming Municipal Elections to be held on Tuesday, 4th November—

"TOON BYTES"
ALAN BERRY'S FUNNY SCENARIOS PLAY
The complete record of the play as it was presented to the public and the reception of the play by the public of the town of Alloa.

ALVA FAMILY'S EXCHANGE "TUBLES"
THESE SUBSCRIBERS WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE ALVA FAMILY'S EXCHANGE "TUBLES"
An interesting feature has been placed in the Alloa News Paper.

Above: Part of a striking 1947 masthead, with a view of the Ochils, of a local newspaper established in 1869 and published in various guises until 1976. A rival publication, the *Alloa and Hillfoots Advertiser*, was founded as a monthly in 1841 and has been a weekly since 1855; it is now published in Dunfermline and printed in Glasgow. There are today about 100 local papers in Scotland with a combined circulation of nearly a million.



The dynastic contribution of Scotland to the British and international book trades has been remarkable. It is especially so when one considers that the founder in 1768 of the historic publishing house of John Murray was born John McMurray in Edinburgh, and that Daniel Macmillan (1813–57) and his brother Alexander (1818–96), who established the firm of Macmillan, were also Scottish.

Of imprints which remained under family control until the latter years of the 20th century, William Blackwood was established in 1804, and became William Blackwood and Sons in 1835; Adam Black (1784–1874) founded in 1807 the business that became A. & C. Black; John Blackie (1782–1874) was publishing by 1809, and Thomas Nelson (1780–1861) by 1818; the brothers William (1800–83) and Robert Chambers (1802–71), both also authors of note, founded W. & R. Chambers in 1819; in that same year, a young evangelist called William Collins (1789–1853) set up the business which, between then and 1979, had six consecutive William Collinses in charge; and in 1826, John Bartholomew Snr (1805–61) founded the firm of mapmakers which remained in the family until 1980. In 1848, James Thin (1824–1915) bought up the stock and fittings of a failed bookseller in

Page 27: Neil Munro (1863–1930), journalist and writer of historical adventures and stories bordering on the Celtic Twilight genre, is best remembered for the richly comic tales and sketches about Para Handy and his Clyde puffer. Conceived as journalistic pieces, they were first published in book form by Blackwood in 1906, under the pseudonym of Hugh Foulis.

Right: Margaret Oliphant.

Infirmary Street, Edinburgh, and set up on his own. The family firm of James Thin, Booksellers, became the leading academic bookseller in Scotland, until going into voluntary administration in 2002.

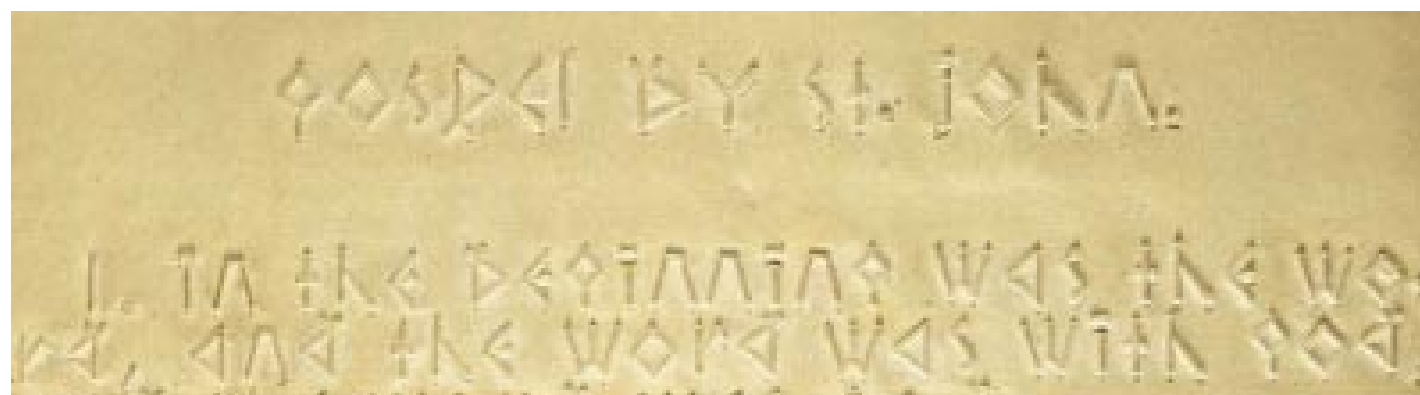
Blackie (until 1967), Collins (until 1993), and Nelson (until 1966) were also in the forefront of Scottish book printers, as was R. & R. Clark, founded in 1846 by Robert Clark (1825–94). London publishers used Clark to print quality editions of popular authors such as R. L. Stevenson, Hardy, Compton Mackenzie, Kipling, and George Bernard Shaw.

During the 19th century the population of Edinburgh grew from 62,000 to 350,000, and of Glasgow from 77,000 to 760,000. The education acts of 1870 (England and Wales) and 1872 (Scotland), which made elementary education compulsory, increased the need not only for schoolbooks but for reading matter for those for whom the ability to read was a means to an end, not the end itself. The Chambers brothers met the growing demand for popular learning with *Chambers's Encyclopaedia* (1860–68) in ten volumes (520 parts); *Chambers's Edinburgh Journal*, established in 1832, was published weekly until 1897, and then monthly until 1956.

Blackie, Collins, and Nelson were in the vanguard of the educational revolution; all three went in a big way into schoolbooks for the home and overseas markets, and children's books designed initially as school prizes. Nelson also developed several series of well-produced and tastefully-bound classics at sixpence or sevenpence each. The first Nelson 'Sevenpenny' was issued on 15 May 1907, followed three days later by the first 'Sevenpenny' from Collins, who also published a 'Penny library' for schools. Collins

'Pocket classics' had begun to appear in 1903 at one shilling each. The linchpin of the Collins publishing and printing operations, however, was the Bible, in many forms: by 1860 William Collins had in print 17 editions of the complete work, in about 300 different styles of binding.

Margaret Oliphant (1828–97) was probably the first Scottish novelist since Scott to achieve popular fame, but her life, during which she wrote almost 100 novels, 50 short stories, and innumerable non-fiction works, articles, and reviews, was a catalogue of periodic misery, unrelenting toil, and little profit. 'The Chronicles of Carlingford' (1861–76), a series of domestic novels set in England, was first serialised and then published in volume form by John Blackwood (1818–79), who also published all but one of the major novels of George Eliot (1819–80). →



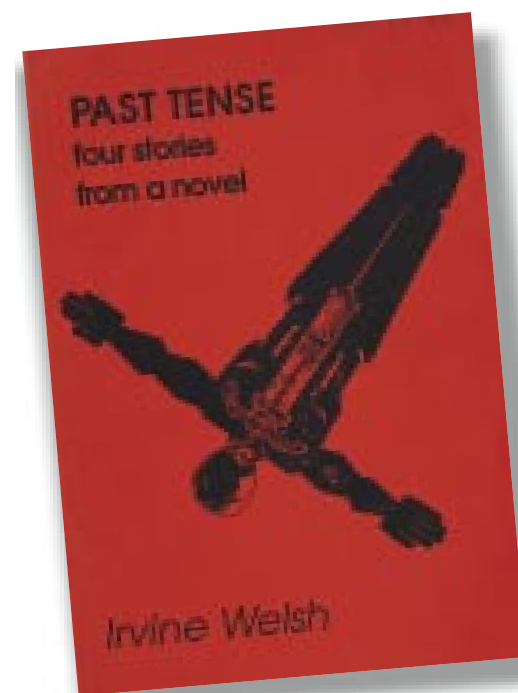
Above: Extract from *The Gospel by St John* (1834), in an embossed type design pioneered by the Edinburgh publisher James Gall (c. 1784–1874) for the blind. The system had been employed in Paris since 1786, but Gall improved its effectiveness by means of a typeface that avoided curves. He was deeply concerned about the needs of the blind: a royal commission report (1852) observed, 'It is to Mr Gall, perhaps, more than any other man, that the interest in education of the blind was awakened throughout Great Britain and America.' The Braille system was not introduced into Britain until 1869.

Nelson's literary adviser from 1907 to 1929 was John Buchan (1875–1940), a man of extraordinary literary industry who took on the job to finance his marriage. With assistance, he wrote for the firm the 24 volumes of Nelson's history of First World War, published fortnightly from February 1915 to July 1919 in issues of about 50,000 words each. To his friend and fellow-director, Thomas Arthur Nelson (1877–1917), he dedicated his most enduring thriller, *The Thirty-nine Steps*, published by Blackwood in 1915. As Lord Tweedsmuir of Elfield, Buchan was Governor General of Canada from 1935 until his death.

The first genuine Scottish newspaper was *Mercurius Caledonius*, with the issue for 31 December 1660 to 8 January 1661; before that newspapers printed in Scotland were reprints of London papers. The oldest surviving newspaper is the *Press and Journal*, established as *Aberdeen's Journal* in 1747. The *Herald* began in 1783 as the *Glasgow Advertiser*, followed 34 years later by the *Scotsman*. The [Dundee] *Courier* was first published in 1817. More recent survivors are the *Daily Record* (1895), *Sunday Post* (1915), *Scotland on Sunday* (1988), and the *Sunday Herald* (1999).

The Broon family and the comic strip of that other Scottish institution, Oor Wullie, made their first appearance in the issue of 8 March 1936 of the *Sunday Post*, published by D. C. Thomson of Dundee (established 1905). They were drawn by Dudley D. Watkins (1907–69), a member of the Thomson permanent stable of illustrators. The Broons and Oor Wullie still carry on today. Thomson had previously published adventure stories for boys in the *Rover*, *Wizard*, and *Hotspur*; in 1937 the firm launched the *Dandy*, the world's longest-running comic, which was followed in 1938 by the *Beano*.

The story of the book industry in Scotland over 500 years is one largely of survival and revival. There are today 71 full members of Publishing Scotland (formerly the Scottish Publishers Association), and certainly more books of Scottish interest are being published than, say, 30 years ago. The computer has completely revolutionised the origination and preparation of material for the press, and now digital printing is having a further fundamental effect on the economics of book production, making print on demand a viable option.



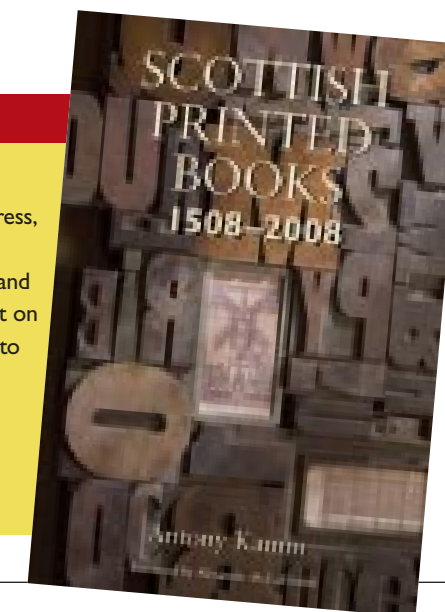
Left: Though Irvine Welsh's iconic first novel, *Trainspotting* (1993), was published in London, four chapters were issued in pamphlet format by Clocktower Press, South Queensferry, in 1992 under the title of *Past Tense*.

Notable Scottish survivors include the specialist book printer Bell and Bain (founded in 1831), the book binder Hunter and Foulis (1857), and seven university bookshops under the banner of John Smith and Son (1751), whose claim to be Glasgow's 'second oldest trading company and the oldest bookselling company in the English-speaking world' is probably correct.

Amazon has changed the way many of us buy books, but there are in Edinburgh four major bookshops within walking distance of each other. Edinburgh itself, for its associations and general literary vitality, is the first UNESCO City of Literature. Three Scottish authors (Alexander McCall Smith, Ian Rankin, and Irvine Welsh) and one permanent resident (J. K. Rowling) are in the top flight of international best sellers, and Alexander McCall Smith remains, for the initial hardcover editions of his novels, faithful to the Scottish publisher who nurtured them. nls

Discover more

Scottish Printed Books 1508-2008, published by NLS and Sandstone Press, is now on sale at NLS, www.booksfromscotland.com and at selected retailers. See the advert on the back page to find out more or to order your copy.



Farewell to colleagues who put NLS on the map

The Library said a fond farewell to two senior members of staff recently. Director of Customer Services Gordon Hunt has moved on to the post of University Librarian at the University of the West of Scotland, while Map Collections Manager Diana Webster has retired after 20 years at NLS. Diana first crossed the NLS threshold in July 1970, when a third year undergraduate student, and liked the place so much she finally landed a position in 1988, while the Causewayside building which houses the map room today was still under construction.

Gordon joined NLS in January 2004 and has been a driving force behind the developments to open up the George IV Bridge building to improved access, not to mention being the instigator of the Library's annual pantomime.

He commented, 'It's been a privilege to work for NLS over the past four years and I look forward to continuing to benefit from the excellence of NLS staff and services in my new role supporting lifelong learning in the west of Scotland.'

Politician's papers show colourful past

NLS has bought the personal papers of prominent 20th century-politician, author and broadcaster, Lord Boothby. The archive of Robert John Graham, Baron Boothby, KBE (1900-86) runs from the age of four until his death. It includes correspondence, manuscripts of books and speeches, copies of articles and a full series of scrap- and press-cuttings books. Alongside these items are copies of outgoing letters of Boothby which preserve the other side of the correspondence represented by original letters within the archive. All aspects of Boothby's complex character are reflected in the papers, as are all periods of his career as maverick politician and parliamentarian.

Space in place for four billion pages

Plans to increase conservation of Scotland's digital heritage received a boost recently when a contract to implement a new mass digital storage system was approved by the Library.

The new system provides the Library with approximately five times more digital storage space, putting NLS in a robust position to deliver digital services to customers and staff. The new system has capacity for over four billion pages of text, which is the approximate amount of digital content we expect to collect over the next five to seven years.

Competition

Glover lovers rejoice!

Win a copy of *At the Edge of Empire: The Life of Thomas Blake Glover* by Michael Gardiner.

Several issues ago we profiled the life and times of pioneering industrialist Thomas Blake Glover. Thanks to our friends at Birlinn, we're pleased to give you the chance to learn more about the fascinating man who grew the Mitsubishi and Kirin beer companies, while also making unique contributions to the Japanese government and the navy.

Michael Gardiner's highly informative biography uses material which has only recently become available to offer a balanced view of the man and his legacy to Scottish-Japanese relations.

To win one of five copies, simply answer this question:
Which opera is linked with Thomas Blake Glover?

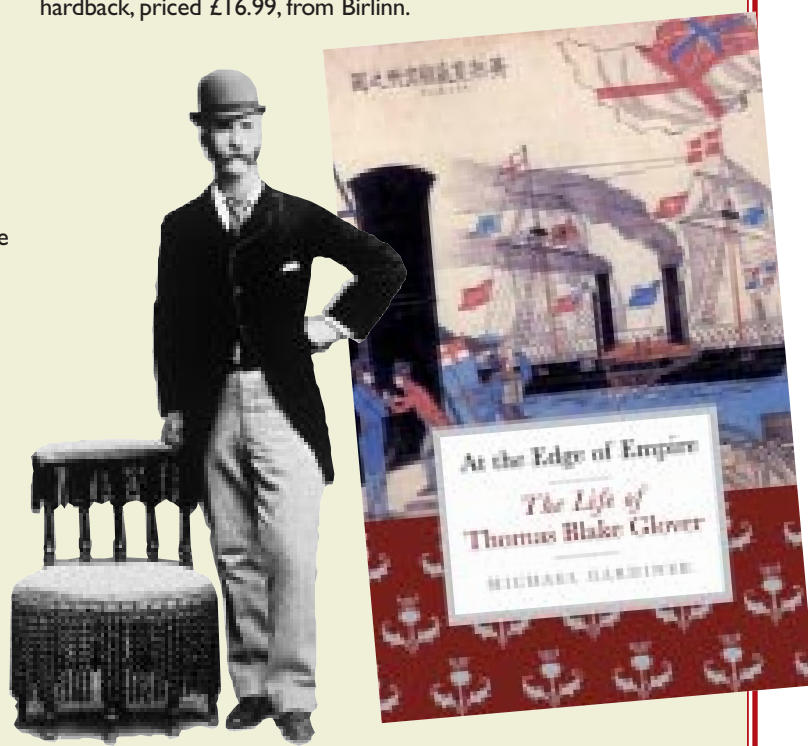
Answers to:

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Or by email to: discover@nls.uk

Please put 'competition' in the subject field.

The closing date for entries is **Friday 5 September**.

At the Edge of Empire: The Life of Thomas Blake Glover is available in hardback, priced £16.99, from Birlinn.



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Meet the team

In this issue, we speak to staff from the Library's Customer Service and Events team.

Chris Rose and Jacinta Jenkins work as **Customer Service Assistants**, where they serve, with 12 others, on a rota covering customer points at the Library's three main buildings: **George IV Bridge, Causewayside and Lawnmarket.**

Carol Stobie is our **Cultural Events Officer.** She runs our year-round programme of public events and tours.

From left to right: Chris Rose, Carol Stobie and Jacinta Jenkins.



What do you do?

Chris Rose: Basically, we're the first point of contact for anyone coming in to use the Library. We give informed guidance and assistance to anyone who requires it. We also provide support for a range of events and exhibitions at NLS.

Carol Stobie: With the help of the Customer Service team, I put on events to reach a broad range of users. We create opportunities for people to get together, to feel welcome here, make the most of our resources and get to know about the Library better. This includes talks on various themes, topical debates, tours of the buildings, readings by well-known writers, family events, tailor-made visits for community groups, arts and musical activities.

What do you enjoy about the job?

Chris Rose: Our whole job centres around customer care, giving them a great service from start to finish. When someone acknowledges the help we've given, that's very pleasing. My favourite part of the job, however, is assisting with organised events which the Library hosts. It's great to meet so many people from different spheres of life.

Jacinta Jenkins: I enjoy the variety of tasks involved and working in the different locations. Every day is so different and full of surprises. I find working in such a diverse environment challenging and rewarding.

Carol Stobie: It's the most exciting job you could have! You get to meet the most fascinating people, sometimes people who you've admired for years. Coming from a background of community and adult education, I'm very interested in the business of widening access and bringing in a greater variety of people into NLS. It all helps to counteract misperceptions of NLS as elitist or outdated, but also helps us learn from the new people we meet.

What challenges are on the horizon for you?

Chris Rose: We will be in charge of readers' registration in the near future. The completion of the Visitor Centre next year will also bring many new and exciting challenges.

Carol Stobie: I want to make the most of the new Visitor Centre and create a space for people to meet and share interests, make it a hotbed of inspiration, and show that the Library belongs to us all. My challenge is to reach people, listen to them and make great things happen as a result.

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Scottish Review of Books

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