



THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR
and Scotland's tireless activists

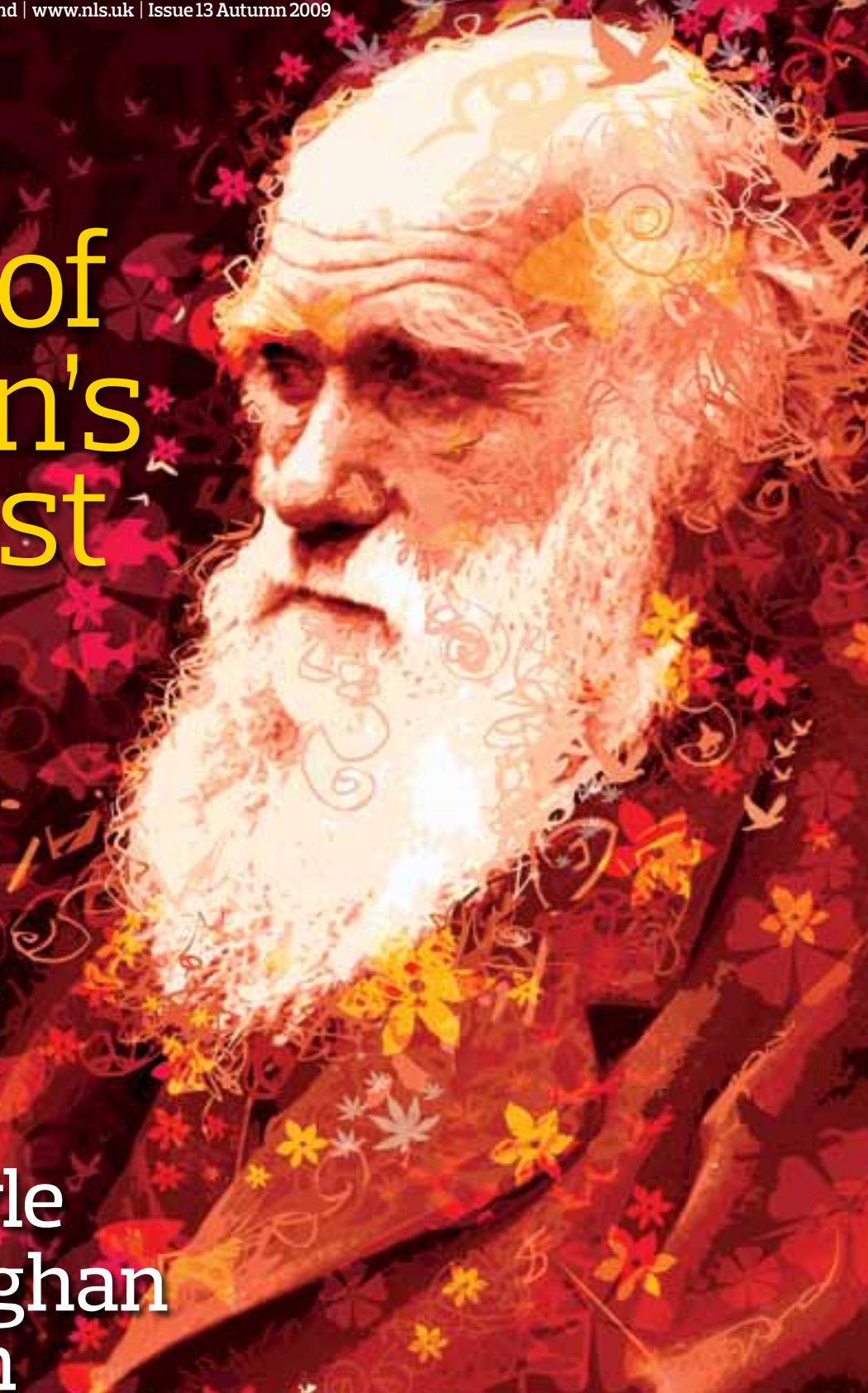
DISCOVER **nls**

The magazine of the National Library of Scotland | www.nls.uk | Issue 13 Autumn 2009

The
origin of
Darwin's
greatest
work

+
TOP 10
SCOTTISH
SCIENTISTS

PLUS
Conan Doyle
and the Afghan
connection



A new Visitor Centre and a new issue of Discover NLS



DISCOVER NLS
ISSUE 13 AUTUMN 2009

CONTACT US

We welcome all comments, questions, submissions and subscription enquiries. Please write to us at the National Library of Scotland address below or email discover@nls.uk

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The autumn issue of *Discover NLS* celebrates the official opening of our new Visitor Centre in the George IV Bridge building. After many months of work the new facilities opened over the summer to very positive feedback from staff and customers. We hope you will have an opportunity to enjoy the new shop and café area, and the general feeling of welcome that the new facilities have given to the Library.

Also in this issue of *Discover NLS*, Daniel Gray has written a fascinating piece on the role that Scotswomen played in the Spanish Civil War. It's a tale of women turning into campaigners, sometimes for the first time in their lives.

Elsewhere, we explore a series of links found in the Library's collections that bring together Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the publisher William Blackwood and Sons and Afghanistan.

Touching on connections, Conan Doyle was born in 1859, which also happens to be the year that John Murray first published Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. In this issue, Rachel Beattie recounts how Darwin came to write this groundbreaking book, and examines the author's own reservations about the publication of this work.

Within our news pages we cover the completion of one of the Library's smallest collections and the recent discovery of footage that sheds light on a great lost Scottish feature film.

So whether you're reading this issue in the comfort of our new Visitor Centre, or elsewhere, I hope you find much to enjoy in this autumn issue of *Discover NLS*.

Alexandra Miller

Alexandra Miller
Director of Customer Services



It's a tale of women turning into campaigners, sometimes for the first time



Three NLS blogs to bookmark



1

NLS OPU

The blog of the Official Publications Unit features updates on the latest items to come into the collection, ranging from knitwear for the British Army to the 2009 influenza pandemic.
<http://nlsopublog.blogspot.com/>

2

BLOG OF THE DIGITAL NLS

The Library's digital archive is ever expanding, and this blog provides regular updates on what's new, as well as discussion on how to make the most of the internet as a research tool.
<http://digitalnls.wordpress.com/>

3

THE JOHN MURRAY ARCHIVE CURATORS' BLOG

Read correspondence from the vast John Murray Archive. Some letters are written by well-known names, but many are from unknown correspondents.
www.nls.uk/jma/blog/

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Your guide on how to find your way around NLS' collections and services

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Daniel Gray explores the role of Scotswomen in the Spanish Civil War

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Writer Nick Thorpe reflects on the way the Library has helped him in his quest for a balanced life

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Cate Newton talks about NLS' Gaelic digitisation project

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The cause of the Spanish republic struck a chord with Scotswomen
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Contributors to this issue include



Rachel Beattie
Rachel works on the John Murray Archive project in her role as the Assistant Curator of this collection



Dr Iain Gordon Brown
Principal Curator in the Manuscripts Division, Iain is working on a book about the Library's collections



Daniel Gray
Daniel is a JMA Cataloguer and author of *Homage to Caledonia: Scotland and the Spanish Civil War*



James Mitchell
James is a Curator in the Rare Book Collections Division with responsibility for cataloguing NLS' pre-1901 acquisitions

Using the National Library of Scotland

Inside NLS

With a collection of around 14 million printed items, two million maps, 32,000 films, three miles of manuscripts, plus thousands of photos and journals, getting around NLS requires a little navigation

How to join

To use the Library's reading rooms and order up items from the collections, you need to hold a Reader's Card. An application form can be picked up at George IV Bridge or the Causewayside Building, or downloaded from www.nls.uk.

To complete your application you will need proof of identity (a driving licence, passport or matriculation card are all

valid) and a recent utilities bill. Photos, for identification purposes, can be taken at Readers' Registration.

Viewing material

With a Reader's Card you gain access to the reading rooms, from where you can view material held in the Library's collections. Requests for items can be



Visitors to the Library

made in person, by telephone on 0131 623 3700, by email: enquiries@nls.uk, or through the Library website at www.nls.uk. If you know what you're looking for, we recommend you make your request in advance of your visit to the Library.

Online

NLS has a vast range of electronic resources, including digital versions of reference works, massive full-text facsimiles and business databases (see below for a list). Many of these resources

Digital resources

From articles on sport, to the full text of Parliamentary Papers from 1821, NLS' licensed digital collections are a superb research tool

Art and literature

- * **19th Century UK Periodicals Part 1. Women's, Children's, Humour and Leisure/Sport** Early lifestyle publishing in Britain
- ▶ **Naxos Music Library** Classical music collection
- ▶ **Oxford Music Online** Major music reference works
- ▶ **Perdita Manuscripts; Women Writers, 1500-1700** Manuscripts from British women authors
- ▶ **RILM Abstracts of Music Literature** Bibliography of writings on music
- ▶ **Scottish Women Poets of the Romantic Period**

Poetry from 1789 to 1832
▶ **SCRAN Digital Materials** Images, films and sounds relevant to Scotland

Business

- * **COBRA: The Complete Business Reference Adviser** Business resource
- ▶ **Factiva** Global news and business search service
- * **Global Reference Solution** Company information
- ▶ **Kompass Database** More than 23 million products and services
- ▶ **Market Research Monitor** Research reports from more than 50 countries
- ▶ **Mintel Market** Leisure, market, retail and financial intelligence

Education, science and social science

- ▶ **ALPSP Learned Journals Collection** From the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers
- ▶ **Blackwell Compass Journals** History, literature and philosophy articles
- ▶ **Electronic Enlightenment** Correspondence between writers of the 18th century. Contains over 53,000 letters and documents from over 6,000 correspondents
- ▶ **JSTOR** Leading academic journals
- ▶ **Oxford Journals Online** Life sciences, medicine, humanities and law
- ▶ **Science Full Text Select** Titles from Wilson Web
- ▶ **Web of Knowledge** Links to the Web of Science and Journal Citation Reports

Government and official

- ▶ **8th Century Official Parliamentary Publications Portal 1688-1834** Over one million pages drawn from 1,400 volumes of 18th century official parliamentary publications
- * **Early English Books Online (EEBO)**: Full-text of some 100,000 books printed in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and British North America from 1473 to 1700
- ▶ **House of Commons Parliamentary Papers** Consists of over 9.4 million pages and 180,000 papers and bills
- ▶ **Public Information Online** Papers from Westminster, Holyrood and Stormont
- * **Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises 1800-1926** Provides access to over 22,000 legal treatises on US and British law

The Visitor Centre at George IV Bridge



are available over the internet to readers living in Scotland (although restrictions do apply to some collections, in line with licence agreements). Your first port of call to access the Library's online collection is www.nls.uk/catalogues/online/er

NLS locations

FILMS

Scottish Screen Archive
39-41 Montrose Avenue
Hillington Park, Glasgow
G52 4LA
Tel 0845 366 4600
Email ssaenquiries@nls.uk

MAPS

Causewayside Building
33 Salisbury Place,
Edinburgh EH9 1SL
Tel 0131 623 3970
Email maps@nls.uk
Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm (Wed 10am-5pm), Sat 9.30am-1pm

ALL OTHER COLLECTIONS

George IV Bridge,
Edinburgh EH1 1EW
Tel 0131 623 3700
Email enquiries@nls.uk
Mon-Fri 9.30am-8.30pm (Wed 10am-8.30pm), Sat 9.30am-1pm



'A Favourite Song In Comus' - from NLS' collection of English and Scottish songs

FOCUS ON MUSIC COLLECTIONS

The National Library of Scotland acquires music through its legal deposit privilege, as well as through bequests, donations and purchases. The music collections now include extensive British holdings, especially of Scottish music. There is also a wide selection of foreign music editions, special collections of early editions of Handel, Berlioz and Verdi, rare items from Scottish music collectors and music sound recordings. Music manuscripts are administered by Manuscript Collections. Personal access to the music collections is open to all holders of a Reader's Card, while an increasing amount of material is available to view online. For more information go to www.nls.uk/collections/music

History, biography and genealogy

- * **17 & 18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers** and news pamphlets
- * **19th Century British Library Newspapers**
A full-text digital archive
- **British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries** Writings spanning the last 400 years
- **Celtic Culture: A Historical Encyclopedia (via NetLibrary)** Articles describing the Celts
- **InfoTrac Custom newspapers** featuring titles from around the world
- * **Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB)** Accounts of those who shaped the history of Britain
- **Raj, India & Empire** The history of South Asia

- between 1615 and 1947
- * **Sabin Americana, 1500-1926** Works on the Americas
- * **Making of the Modern World** Over 61,000 works on economics and business
- * **Times Digital Archive** Pages from *The Times* newspaper from 1785 to 1985
- * **Who's Who (and Who Was Who)** Contains the current Who's Who plus the entire Who Was Who archive

Reference works and catalogues

- * **Credo Reference** 100 high-quality reference books from the world's leading publishers
- * **Early American Imprints, Series 1: Evans, 1639-1800** Digitised full-text of more than 39,000 titles
- * **Early English Books Online**

- 1475-1700 (EBO)** More than 100,000 classics
- * **Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)** Part 2 45,000 further titles
- **Oxford English Dictionary Online** Accepted authority on the English language
- **Oxford Reference Online** 100 dictionary, language and subject reference works from the Oxford University Press

* All collections can be accessed through the electronic resources search service at the Library. Collections marked with a * can also be accessed outwith the Library (although some require registration for remote access).



➤ **FROST & SULLIVAN INTERACTIVE RESEARCH RESOURCE SERVICE** The famous global market research company provides detailed industry analysis on chemical, energy, environmental and building technologies, healthcare, IT and manufacturing markets worldwide.

For more information visit: www.nls.uk/catalogues



FACILITIES

Mary Queen of Scots' last letter goes on display as Visitor Centre officially opens

The last letter written by Mary Queen of Scots is to go on display in the newly opened Visitor Centre at the NLS George IV Bridge building.

Queen Mary I's letter, written only hours before her execution in 1587, will be exhibited for just one week starting Tuesday 15 September. After that a faithful facsimile of this extremely precious document will be on display for several months.

The exhibition of the letter marks the official opening of the new Visitor Centre at NLS. Virtually the whole ground floor of the Library has now been given over to public access, with exhibition areas, a shop, a café and electronic resources.



Mary Queen of Scots at Lochleven Castle

In the exhibition areas, visitors are able to browse the summer exhibition *The Original Export: Stories of Scottish Emigration* and items from the Library's collections.

The shop offers books, including the Library's own published titles, stationery and gift items inspired by NLS' collections, such as high quality reproduction maps and iconic manuscripts.

In the café there's Fairtrade tea and coffee and locally sourced snacks. The centre also boasts PC terminals with access to NLS catalogues and other digital facilities, including free wi-fi access.

With the new Visitor Centre now open, why not take the time to stop by for a cup of coffee or a light lunch? You can browse in the shop, take in the displays or learn more about the Library's collections

MALCOLM COCHRANE

SHIRLEY WILLIAMS' DONALD DEWAR LECTURE

On 25 August, Baroness Shirley Williams gave the eighth annual Donald Dewar Memorial Lecture, sponsored by NLS, to a full house at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Baroness Williams paid tribute

to Donald Dewar before going on to discuss political reform, praising what she described as the innovation and relative accountability of the devolved Scottish Parliament.



In a lively Q&A session afterwards, she spoke on a variety of issues, including cabinet government, political engagement and her own immersion in politics from a very early age.

COLLECTIONS

Small words of wisdom

A recent purchase of the 'Allies Bible in Khaki' completes the Library's collection of all the variant miniature editions of the Bible published between 1895 and 1914 by David Bryce of Glasgow. Bryce was Scotland's most prolific and successful producer of miniature books, and in spite of his publications being of the smallest imaginable size, their texts are remarkably clear and legible. To aid readability, many of Bryce's miniatures were issued with a hinged metal locket, which incorporated an inset magnifying glass. This copy of the 'Allies Bible' is particularly significant in that it still has its original dust-jacket featuring pictures of the Belgian, British, French and Russian flags. The only other known copies of this Bible are located at the British Library and Cambridge University Library.



THE BALFOUR HANDEL COLLECTION REMEMBERED IN ANNIVERSARY YEAR

2009 marks a bumper year for musical anniversaries. It is 350 years since the birth of Henry Purcell and 250 years since the death of George Frideric Handel, not to mention the 200th anniversary of the death of Joseph Haydn and the birth of Felix Mendelssohn.

While Mendelssohn and Haydn's Scottish connections were featured in the National Library's Scots Music Abroad exhibition earlier this year, the Library also holds a collection of early editions of the works of Handel, assembled by the noted collector Julian Marshall and later acquired by Arthur J. Balfour. The collection was purchased by the Library in 1938 and given the title 'Balfour Handel Collection',

by which it is now known all over the world.

The collection contains a large number of first edition scores and instrumental parts, as well as a collection of libretti. Of particular interest is Handel's oratorio 'Judas Maccabaeus', written in response to the events around the second Jacobite rebellion in 1745–1746. Handel initially made modest contributions to the English cause with two songs, 'Stand Round, My Brave Boys' and 'From Scourging Rebellion', but by August 1746, 'Judas Maccabaeus'

celebrated the Duke of Cumberland's victory over the Scots.



'See, The Conqu'ring Hero Comes' in Handel's 'Judas Maccabaeus'

MARY EVANS



Rare Books Curator
James Mitchell with the
miniature collection



BUSINESS SUPPORT SCOTBIS upturn during downturn

COBRA
helps new
businesses to grow

As the recession continues to grip, how has the economic downturn impacted upon NLS' Scottish Business Information Service (SCOTBIS)?

'It's still quite early to tell,' says John Coll, Head of Access and Enquiries at the Library. 'But our sense is that the use of SCOTBIS has increased during the recession. One of the realities of the current economic climate is that there are lots of people being made redundant, and many of them are using their redundancy money to start their own business.'

With the largest collection of market research data in Scotland, SCOTBIS is clearly a key resource

for those people trying to set up a company, or pull together a business plan. 'We have recently rolled out the Complete Business Reference Adviser (COBRA) database so that registered readers can access it remotely,' explains John. 'COBRA is a continually updated information resource that's particularly useful for new businesses.' (see page 6 for more details on COBRA).

At the time of writing, NLS is also in the process of finalising a Memorandum of Understanding with Scottish Enterprise that will allow the two organisations to work together to share expertise and further improve support services for businesses during the credit crunch.

BY THE NUMBERS

24

▶ authors feature on the John Murray Archive website's new interactive timeline and biography pages, bringing to life the unique link between the firm and some of the greatest published works. www.nls.uk/jma

MALCOLM COCHRANE, SHUTTERSTOCK

RARE BOOKS

Sale of *Origin* in anniversary year

A first edition of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (pictured) sold in June for £15,625 as part of a Rare Books, Manuscripts and Photographs sale organised by Lyon & Turnbull, Scotland's oldest firm of auctioneers.

Only 1,250 copies of the first edition of Darwin's influential book were printed and every one of them sold on the first

day of publication.

A second edition of 3,000 copies sold out shortly afterwards.

'This particular copy of *On The Origin of Species* was found in a house near Inverness,' explained Lyon & Turnbull's Head of the Book Department, Simon Vickers, 'and it has been in the family a long time. The family have no known connection to Darwin, and it may have been bought on its first publication. It is particularly fitting that we are selling the book in Darwin's anniversary year.'



Read more about *On the Origin of Species* on page 18

CURATOR'S CHOICE

Hunting for *Huntingtower*

Janet McBain, Scottish Screen Archive Curator, on the newsreel *Sir Harry Lauder* visits the Regent Picture House, Glasgow, to view *Huntingtower*

In 1927, film director George Pearson cast Harry Lauder in the role of Dickson McCunn for his adaptation of John Buchan's novel *Huntingtower*. Pearson also recruited a dozen Glasgow lads as the 'Gorbals Die-Hards', the gang that assist McCunn in his rescue of a Russian princess imprisoned by Bolsheviks in a deserted castle.

'A merrier entertainment has never been produced' reported the *Daily Express* at the time. Sadly it's an assessment that we have to take at face value. *Huntingtower* is number one on our list of 'missing believed lost' Scottish feature films. Pearson is thought to have sold off the film's negatives for recycling in the 1930s when his company was in financial straits. Silver could be reclaimed from nitro-cellulose film stock and legend also has it that film stock could be re-processed to make patent shoe leather!

Whilst it seems unlikely we will ever be able to enjoy Pearson's movie, last year a roll of very fragile

Janet McBain and the autograph book of Dan McArthur, one of the Die-Hards, signed by the cast and crew of the film, including Lauder

nitrate film was discovered in Hartlepool. It contains a local newsreel of *Huntingtower*'s Glasgow premiere. The event took place in October 1928 and was attended by Lauder himself. Thousands crowded the streets around Glasgow's Regent Cinema, and the newsreel includes footage showing queues of excited people waiting to get into the picture house. The cinema frontage, decorated to resemble the eponymous baronial castle, is also captured, as are four members of the Gorbals Die-Hards. They stand proudly in the cinema entrance wearing their film costumes, and just in case we still don't know who they are, each one sports a big rosette on their chest proclaiming their identity.



From the newsreel: Lauder outside the cinema

As the film continues, Lauder arrives. He acknowledges the crowd, greets the cinema management and shakes hands with his youthful co-stars. This all took place on a Friday morning. By teatime the film

RESOURCE

New resource remembers women's suffrage



The Suffragette leaders

A new NLS web resource for schools focusing on the history of the women's suffrage movement in Scotland will launch in the autumn. The Library has also been working with the adult learning organisation the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) to contribute to the Gude Cause project, which marks the centenary of the Women's Suffrage Procession in Edinburgh. A re-enactment of the procession will

take place on 10 October starting at Bruntisfield Links. The Library and the WEA will also be hosting a study day for adult learners on 21 October.

For more on The Gude Cause project www.gudecause.org.uk
For more on NLS and WEA Study day email Beverley Casebow at b.casebow@nls.uk View the resource later this autumn at www.nls.uk/learning/suffragettes



had been developed and printed and was run as a prologue to the main feature. Audiences delighted in spotting themselves on the big screen.

To view the newsreel:
<http://ssa.nls.uk/film.cfm?fid=7936>

In the previous issue's 'Curator's Choice', we referred to Brian Hillyard finding in New York Public Library 'a 1993 facsimile of the auction catalogue' for the collection of Edinburgh resident David Stuart. This should have read simply 'a copy of the original auction catalogue'. A facsimile of this was published in 1993 by Edinburgh Bibliographical Society in association with the National Library of Scotland.

NLS ONLINE

Viewing Scotland's historical landscapes

Full colour maps in the mid-19th century

The Library has made available online all 13,000 of the Ordnance Survey's 2.5 inch to the mile series (1855-82) of maps. The series is the earliest detailed mapping of the inhabited regions of Scotland. All towns, villages and cultivated rural areas were mapped, covering over a third of Scotland's total land area.

The maps provide excellent detail of buildings, streets, railways, industrial premises, parkland, farms, woodland and rivers. They also record the precise acreage and land use of every parcel of ground. Even features such as flagstaffs, free-standing trees, and railway signal posts are shown. The bold style of the maps and their attractive, informative hand-colouring allow easy interpretation for a wide range of uses.



The 2.5 inch to the mile series



An air photo mosaic of Ardrossan

Each map is available as a series of high-resolution, colour images. A zoomable map interface allows easy searching by counties, parishes, and a gazetteer of place names. The website also contains a guide to abbreviations, colours and symbols, as well as information on the maps.

Black and white air photos from the mid-20th century

The Ordnance Survey's air photo mosaics (1945-51) are also now available to view online. The mosaics provide a unique snapshot of postwar urban Scotland. Aerial photography was of key military importance in both world wars, but these photos were captured to aid civic planning and reconstruction work. Published at a scale of six inches to the mile, many small features can be seen, often not appearing on any other maps. The photos have been geo-referenced and are available with Google, Virtual Earth, and OpenStreetMap backdrops.

Whether researching local history or simply seeking an attractive print for the wall, these new website resources have much to offer.

View these websites at:
www.nls.uk/maps/os/

NEW PROJECT TO RESEARCH AUTHOR-PUBLISHER RELATIONS

▶ With funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Library's new Collaborative Doctoral Award will support a three-year studentship to research author-publisher relations in the 19th century.

Research will begin this month and will be focused on the John Murray Archive (JMA). The amount and diversity of material in the Archive provides an unparalleled opportunity for a range of detailed

and comparative examinations of author-publisher relations.

As well as working towards a PhD, the student will also gain experience of working closely with JMA staff, whilst sharing their research and contributing to the JMA's talks, publications and exhibitions.

This collaboration between NLS and the Centre for the History of the Book at the University of Edinburgh builds upon the strong links between the two institutions.



John Murray's drawing room

AUTUMN EVENTS AT NLS

All events take place at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, unless otherwise stated

NLS FILM CLUB: Angelou on Burns

24 September, 6.30pm.

A screening of a beautifully filmed documentary which records Dr Angelou's work and her trip to Ayrshire. Elly Taylor, the film's director, will be present to answer any audience questions.

This event carries a £5 booking fee – pay online at www.nls.uk/events/booking

DOORS OPEN DAY

26 September

The Library opens its doors to allow public access to all ground floor areas. Please check www.nls.uk nearer the time for details.



Doors Open Day at NLS

THE KING OF MADISON AVENUE

30 September, 7pm

Discover the original 'Mad Man' through Kenneth Roman's biography of David Ogilvy, *The King of Madison Avenue*. Ogilvy was a legend in the advertising world, mastering his craft with a sparkle that will live on for generations. Kenneth Roman, a former CEO at the Ogilvy & Mather advertising agency, worked directly with David Ogilvy for 26 years.

THE ANDREW TANNAHILL LECTURE: Scottish Literature and Visual Art: A Caledonian Synergy

1 October, 7pm

In the first Andrew Tannahill lecture Professor Murdo Macdonald will explore the rich relationship between Scottish writing and the visual arts.

THE THISTLE AND THE JADE

6 October, 7pm

The thistle in the title of this book refers to the Scots firm of Jardine, Matheson and Co. Clara Weatherall will be looking at the



adventurers who founded the firm.

ELSIE AND MARIE GO TO WAR: Two extraordinary women on the Western Front

12 October, 7pm

Diane Atkinson and two actors will tell the extraordinary story of Elsie and Marie, a fearless duo who were the only women to nurse on the front line.

THE EDINBURGH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL JOHN MURRAY ARCHIVE LECTURE:

Reflections on Origins

10 November, 7pm

John Murray Archive Writer in Residence, playwright Peter Arnott, will present a semi-dramatised reflection on his own work on Charles Darwin, and on the celebrations that have marked Darwin's bicentenary.

INSPIRATIONS AT NLS:

Professor Anne Glover

12 November, 7pm

Professor Anne Glover, the



Peter Tatchell

Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland, visits NLS to discuss what has inspired her throughout her distinguished career.

INSPIRATIONS AT NLS: Peter Tatchell in conversation with Richard Holloway

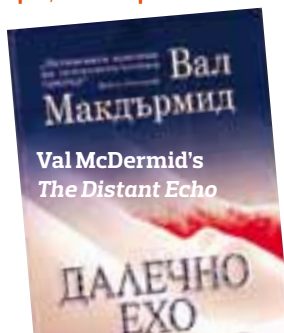
17 November, 7pm

Peter Tatchell's sometimes controversial methods of protest have been celebrated by some and derided by others. Richard Holloway joins Peter for a look back at his controversial career, which has taken in party politics and moments of headline-grabbing activism.

Book events online at www.nls.uk/events/booking or you can call to book on 0131 623 3918

TRANSLATED AUTHORS

Andrew Martin, Curator of Modern Scottish Collections, reports that 'translations arriving recently at NLS remind us just how much quality Scottish fiction there is on the shelves of readers in Eastern Europe and beyond.' For example, thriller queen Val McDermid is a star in Bulgaria, while Carol Ann Duffy's poetry can now be read in Slovak.



NLS ONLINE

Indian medical papers now online

Official medical publications from around 1850 to 1950 are available to read online and free of charge, thanks to the NLS Digital Archive and funding from the Wellcome Trust. The collection has been divided into three categories, Disease, Drugs and Institutions, and includes detailed biological research from Indian Medical Service staff on rabies, dysentery, and fevers, all demonstrating how Robert Koch's

germ theory of disease was being used in the field.

The existing web feature, the Medical History of British India at www.nls.uk/indiapapers, is already populated with the Disease publications. The Drugs and Institutions items will be added soon.

Explore the full range of medical publications at: <http://digital.nls.uk/>

Top Scot Scientists

A new NLS web resource lists the Top Ten Scottish Scientists as voted for by the public. **Catherine Booth**, a Curator in the Library's Science Information Service, explains how the project came about

The idea for the website stemmed from several unrelated enquiries we received asking about Scottish scientists. Various anniversaries, such as 'Maxwell Year' (2006) and 'Kelvin 2007', also indicated that the history of Scottish science was important and topical. Here was an ideal opportunity to highlight the lives and work of Scottish scientists represented in our collections. We easily made a list of over 50 names, representing all scientific disciplines, who had an association with Scotland, but which of these should we start with?

We managed to whittle the list down to 24, mounted those on a small web feature, and turned the decision over to the public in a light-hearted ballot. Over ten months we were delighted to receive nearly 14,000 votes, where James Clerk Maxwell came out on top. Focusing on the 'top ten' names, the Scottish Science Hall of Fame website outlines their lives, work and relevance to science and society today.



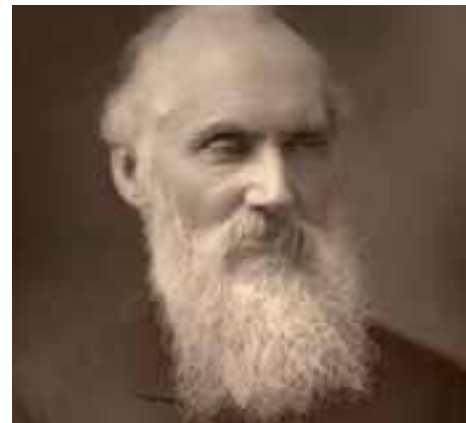
Joseph Black
(1728–1799)

6 Black discovered carbon dioxide, which he called 'fixed air', and established some of its properties. He noted that it was heavier than common air, and that it would extinguish a flame and suffocate an animal.



Alexander Fleming
(1881–1955)

5 Alexander Fleming was born in Darvel, Ayrshire. Along with Howard Florey and Ernst Chain, Fleming discovered the antibacterial properties of the *Penicillium* mould, and developed the antibiotic penicillin, after the discovery of mould in his laboratory inspired his pioneering work. Fleming was given a knighthood in 1944, and he, Florey and Chain were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1945.



William Thomson
(1824–1907)

9 Thomson (Lord Kelvin) carried out research in heat, electricity and magnetism. He devised the absolute temperature scale, where the lowest point is minus 273.15°C, and the second law of thermodynamics. Thomson also invented the mariner's compass.



John Napier
(1550–1617)

10 Best known as the inventor of logarithms, John Napier conceived the idea in 1594 and spent the next 20 years doing seven million calculations by hand before he perfected the system.



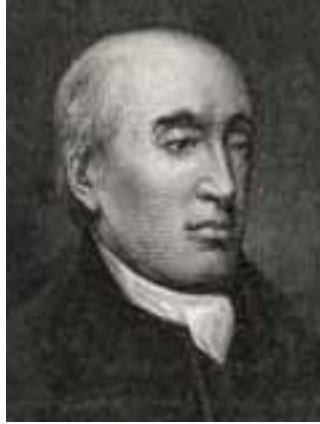
Robert Watson-Watt
(1892–1973)

4 Watson-Watt made the discovery that radio waves could be used to detect enemy aircraft. He first demonstrated his 'radar' in 1935, and it played a crucial role in Britain's defence during the Second World War.



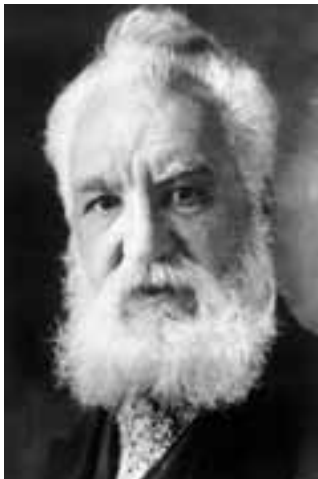
James Watt
(1736–1819)

8 James Watt came up with the idea of using a separate condensing chamber to condense steam without cooling the rest of the engine. This invention helped kick start the Industrial Revolution.



James Hutton
(1726–1797)

7 Born in Edinburgh, James Hutton clashed with the Church over his belief that the Earth was actually millions of years old. His theory about the Earth's age, based on his observation of geological features, was later confirmed as accurate.



Alexander Graham Bell
(1847–1922)

3 An early version of Bell's most famous invention – the telephone – was patented in Boston in 1876. On 10 March 1876 the first clear sentence was transmitted: 'Mr Watson, come here; I want you.'



John Logie Baird
(1888–1946)

2 Baird experimented in transmitting and receiving pictures using electricity. His first public demonstration of television took place in 1925, in Selfridge's shop in London. Baird's 'Televisor' had a picture measuring only 3½ x 2 inches.



James Clerk Maxwell
(1831–1879)

1 James Clerk Maxwell produced outstanding work in several distinct fields. One of them was electromagnetic radiation. From his extensive work here, he formulated four equations describing interactions between electricity and magnetism. Some of his results prompted Albert Einstein's research in relativity. We also owe our modern electronic communication to Maxwell's work. Without his ideas, technology we take for

granted today, such as television or mobile phones, wouldn't have been developed. In the 19th century, many astronomers believed that Saturn's rings were made up of fluid. Using mathematics and physics, Maxwell showed they were in fact made up of small particles. The composition of colour also interested Maxwell, and he demonstrated that white light (like sunlight) is largely composed of red, green and violet. To illustrate this, he produced the first colour photograph – of a tartan.

To view the website, visit www.nls.uk/scientists/

The Evolution of Darwin's Origin

The story of how Charles Darwin came to write his groundbreaking publication *On the Origin of Species* can be traced through the John Murray Archive. **Rachel Beattie** explores

This is a landmark year for Charles Darwin enthusiasts. The bicentennial celebrations of his birth took place in February 2009, and November sees the 150th anniversary of the publication of his most famous work – *On the Origin of Species*.

The book explores ideas that first suggested themselves to Darwin when he was a young man. He had always displayed an interest in the natural world and during his time at Edinburgh, where he came to study medicine, he first developed a curiosity about the classification of species (using the Firth of Forth as a base for new discoveries). Darwin next went to Cambridge University, where he attended a course on botany given by the Reverend John Stevens Henslow, whom he befriended and later saw as one of the greatest influences on his early life.

It was thanks to Henslow that Darwin was chosen to participate on an around-the-world survey expedition. Robert FitzRoy, the captain of HMS Beagle, had asked for a man of scientific background to be his guest on the ship's second survey voyage. FitzRoy believed whoever accompanied him would 'profit by the opportunity of visiting distant countries yet little known.' Darwin was just 22 years old when he first stepped aboard HMS Beagle. The ship, and he, left Britain on 27 December 1831.

The Beagle spent five years travelling across the globe, an expedition that Darwin later described as

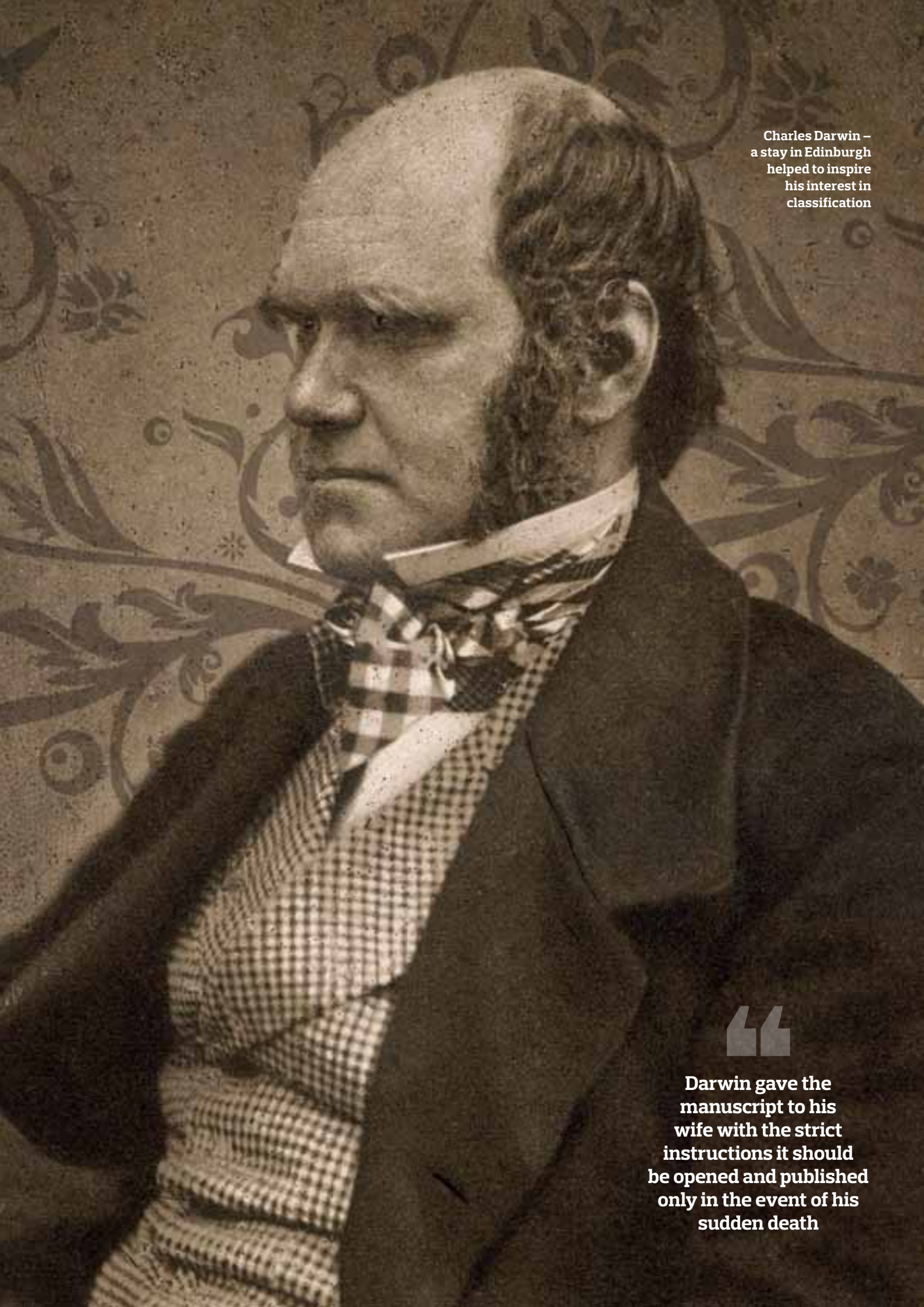
having 'determined my whole career'. As the vessel visited different countries, Darwin collected specimens of plants and animals, which once back in Britain were distributed to specialists, although Darwin made sure to retain the marine invertebrate specimens for himself.

Upon examination, the finches, mockingbirds, tortoises and rodents collected from the Galapagos Islands were shown to be island specific. This discovery helped Darwin to formulate the theory that animals adapt to their local habitat.

Darwin's accounts of the voyage were published in 1839. The publication went through many editions and titles. An edition was released by the eminent house of John Murray as *Journal of Researches*, also known as *Naturalist's Voyage Around the World* and later, more popularly, as *The Voyage of the Beagle*.

At around the time of publication, the ill health that would dog Darwin for the rest of his life forced him to withdraw from fashionable London. He took his family (he had married his cousin Emma Wedgwood in 1839) to Down House in Kent, and it was here during 1842 and 1843 that Darwin expanded his initial 35-page sketch of theories into a 235-page manuscript. This he gave to his wife with the strict instructions it should be opened and published only in the event of his sudden death.

There has been much speculation on Darwin's



Charles Darwin –
a stay in Edinburgh
helped to inspire
his interest in
classification



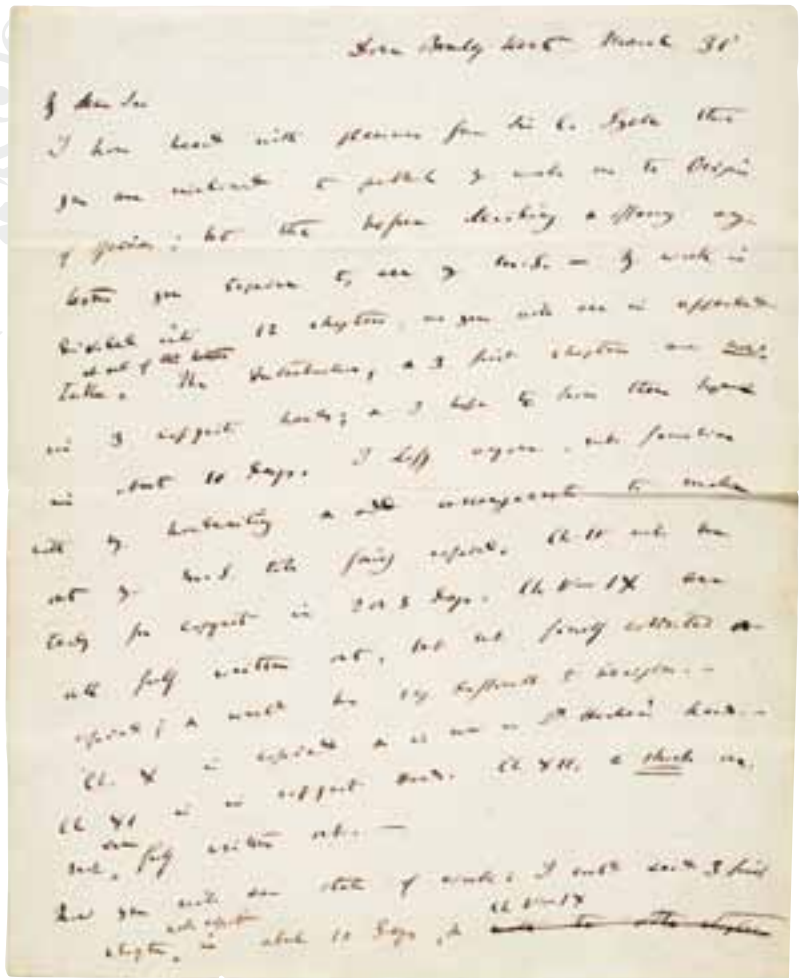
Darwin gave the
manuscript to his
wife with the strict
instructions it should
be opened and published
only in the event of his
sudden death

reasons for not going to print straight away. He was certainly apprehensive about the reactions his theories would generate, and how it might impact on his reputation, for by this point he was a well-respected man of science. Darwin's solution was to spend the next few years gathering further evidence to back up his theories.

On 14 May 1856, after completing research into barnacles, pigeons, ducks, seeds and plants, Darwin finally began writing for publication. He intended his book to be a fully referenced three-volume work, brimming with detail from his own research. However, events soon transpired that would force him to radically change his plans.

On 18 June 1858, Darwin received an essay from Alfred Russel Wallace, a naturalist who was studying in the Malay Peninsula. Wallace argued that natural selection was one of the processes of evolution – a conclusion Darwin had already arrived at twenty years previously. Darwin forwarded the letter and essay on to fellow scientist and friend Sir Charles Lyell, who decided that the papers of both men should be presented at the same time to the biological authority, the Linnean Society. Events unfolded so quickly that Wallace wasn't actually notified about proceedings until they had taken place.

Darwin's hand was forced and so, on the advice of his friend Joseph Hooker, he started to write an abstract of his larger manuscript, with the intention of going to publication as quickly as possible. This version was not to be the heavy, scientific and fully referenced work that Darwin had originally planned; instead it was to be a publication aimed at a general audience. Such a change would turn out to be a major contributory factor in the work's prominence. 'Had I published on the scale in which I began to write in 1856, the book would have been four or



A letter from Darwin to John Murray, dated 31 March 1859. Darwin's letters to Murray are held at Ms.42152-42153

five times as large as the *Origin*, and very few would have had the patience to read it' noted its author.

On 31 March 1859, Charles Darwin wrote to John Murray, his former publisher. Of his proposed new publication, Darwin wrote: 'It is the result of more than 20 years' work, but as here given, is only a popular abstract of a larger work on the same subject... I have done my best, but whether it will succeed I cannot say.'

Murray replied with a letter the very next day, a copy of which still exists in the letter books that were kept by the Murray firm. In it, John Murray has no hesitation 'in stating at once even without seeing the MS that I shall be most happy to publish it for you.' On receipt of this note, Darwin immediately replied with a letter that indicated he was only too aware of the controversial nature of his work. He wrote that 'I feel bound for your sake (and my own) to say in clearest terms, that if after looking over part of MS you do not think it likely to have a remunerative sale, I completely and explicitly free you from your offer.'

Murray sent the manuscript to one of his most trusted advisers, the Reverend Whitwell Elwin. The verdict was delivered by Elwin to Murray on 3 May 1859 in a marvellous letter wherein the Reverend made his own views crystal clear. 'I have been intending for some days to write to you upon the subject of Mr Darwin's work on the origin of species... at every page I was tantalised by the absence of the proofs. All kinds of objections and possibilities rose up in my mind'. Elwin had heard that Darwin had carried out some research on pigeons and suggested that a book on that subject would be preferable to the current work on offer – 'Every body is interested in pigeons.'

This View of Life

In October, the Library is hosting a Darwin themed participatory play. Peter Arnott, NLS' Writer-in-Residence, has been entrusted to develop the project. 'I've been working on Darwin,' he says, 'one result of which is the series of semi-dramatised historical and public talks I've been giving in the boardroom. I'm working with Emma Faragher here at the Library, and with collaborators at TAG Theatre Company, part of the Citizens Theatre in

Glasgow, to put together a production for an invited primary school audience where four actors will lead an interactive performance of a time journey called *This View of Life*. It will involve dinosaurs, asteroids and pigeons, as we attempt, for two weeks here, as well as two weeks in the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow and a few days at

Summerlee Heritage Centre in Coatbridge, to distill the essence of Darwin's ideas. The project is still in a fairly early stage of development, but the plan is that by the end of September we will have evolved far enough to present an engaging day out.'

This View of Life, a participatory play for primary schools, runs at the Library weekdays from 26 October to 6 November.

The kids from TAG



The book would be received in every journal in the kingdom, and would soon be on every table’.

Clearly, Murray ignored Elwin’s advice and proceeded with publication. The 1,250 copies that constituted the first edition came out on 24 November 1859. They were oversubscribed and Murray immediately ordered another 3,000 copies. Although clearly popular, reaction was unsurprisingly mixed; biologist Thomas Huxley soon became known as Darwin’s bulldog, such was the vociferousness of his defence of *Origin*. However, others were appalled at the implications for the history of human development inherent in Darwin’s theories, even though Darwin himself had shied away from such subject matter in his publication.

One notable supporter was Sir Charles Lyell. Darwin had read Lyell’s *Principles of Geology* (published in July 1830) while on board HMS Beagle and later recorded that the book had ‘altered the whole tone of one’s mind, and therefore that, when seeing a thing never seen by Lyell, one yet saw it partially through his eyes’. Lyell’s belief that by looking at the world today we could determine what had happened in the past encouraged Darwin to study current species as a way to form ideas about evolution. Lyell’s geological research and understanding was also instrumental in the formulation of theories supporting the notion that the Earth was in fact much older than had been previously thought. This extended time frame was crucial to Darwin’s theories of evolution.

Despite never being fully convinced by all of Darwin’s theories, Lyell incorporated natural selection into later editions of his popular and influential books, and such was the strength of the two men’s friendship, Darwin would later be a pallbearer at Lyell’s funeral in 1875.

But if Darwin was able to attract notable supporters, the quality of his detractors was impressive too. In 1894, George Douglas Campbell, the eighth Duke of Argyll, published *The Burdens of Belief*, a book that spoke out against evolution. If, for nothing else, it was notable for the manner in which the Duke chose to construct his rebuttal – poetry.

As Argyll himself wrote in a letter to John Murray: ‘In short the poem is a substantial contribution to the great controversy of our time – the connection between science and religion’. Argyll argued that life and nature was so complex there had to have been some kind of designer to bring it into existence. Although they disagreed, Darwin and Argyll maintained a very cordial correspondence and treated

Evolving Words

Darwin’s walks on the beaches near Edinburgh sparked off a fascination in nature that would eventually lead him to write *On the Origin of Species*. This autumn, NLS will be recreating those walks with a group of young people participating in *Evolving Words*, a performance project running in six UK cities to celebrate Darwin200 year.

John Murray Archive curator David McClay and poet Anita Govan will be working with the group to discuss evolution and

Darwin’s time in Edinburgh, which, with support and advice from Anita, will result in the creation of Darwin inspired poetry.

Evolving Words is funded by the Wellcome Trust, and the Library is working in conjunction with North Edinburgh Arts Centre and community learning & development staff from Edinburgh Council. The project will culminate in local performances, a video and display of the group’s work. If selected by a central



Darwin on display panel, some of the group members will also get the opportunity to perform at a public event showcasing the project at the Wellcome Collection Gallery in London.



My views have often been grossly misrepresented, bitterly opposed and ridiculed, but this has been generally done, I believe, in good faith

each other with respect. As a sign of this respect, and mirroring Darwin’s relationship with Lyell, Argyll was one of the pallbearers at Darwin’s funeral.

Despite the debates after publication, Darwin felt that ‘I have almost always been treated honestly by my reviewers, passing over those without scientific knowledge as not worthy of notice. My views have often been grossly misrepresented, bitterly opposed and ridiculed, but this has been generally done, I believe, in good faith’.

With all this speculation, the book continued to sell well and Darwin saw six editions published during his lifetime. Later versions tried to deal with counter-arguments, as well as offer new research from other scientists. Herbert Spencer’s phrase ‘survival of the fittest’ was first introduced in the fifth edition. The book has never been out of print.

The publication of Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species* was a seminal moment in the modern world, one that far exceeded its author’s own ambition. ‘I remember when in Good Success Bay, in Tierra del Fuego, thinking...that I could not employ my life better than in adding a little to Natural Science,’ he once wrote. ‘This I have done to the best of my abilities, and critics may say what they like, but they cannot destroy this conviction’.

Even with his great intellect, Darwin could never have imagined that national celebrations involving exhibitions, television shows and educational activities would still be honouring his ‘little’ contribution some 150 years later.

In honour of the anniversary of *On the Origin of Species*’ first publication, Sir Charles Lyell and George Douglas Campbell, eighth Duke of Argyll, will join Darwin in the John Murray Archive exhibition later this year.



Alfred Russel Wallace, George Douglas Campbell, Sir Charles Lyell

L

iving through the Hungry Thirties, like many young working-class women, Mary Docherty craved an escape from the grind of poverty. Yet Docherty dreamt not of leaving her native Cowdenbeath to find work in Glasgow or a wealthy husband, but of signing up to fight in a foreign war. 'I wanted to go to Spain,' Docherty later reflected.

'I said I could fire a rifle'.

For the three years that it ran from 1936, the Spanish Civil War captivated Scotland. Millions of Scots roared on the cause of the republican side and railed against General Franco's nationalist coalition. Nearly 600 men volunteered to serve; a quarter of them never came back. Domestically, an unparalleled aid movement materialised. That it was driven by working-class women like Docherty makes it all the more impressive.

For her part, a lack of medical experience meant that the Fifer was never able to leave for Spain. Instead, Docherty ran the local Aid Spain committee. Hers was not an untypical experience. Across Scotland, spurred on by the example of the Duchess of Atholl, women were prompted to put their principles into practice.

They had been inspired to act by a political awakening that embraced the General Strike of 1926, and subsequently the National Unemployed Workers' Movement. While they had played a supporting role in those political struggles, Spain put them at the vanguard; no longer were they the wives of striking miners or hunger marchers, but campaigners in their own right. The starchy world of the male-dominated trade union hall had been infiltrated and electrified by this brazen and brilliant generation of women.

Forming ruling committees of their own but unafraid to put in the legwork, women organised aid campaigns and events meticulously and prolifically. Prams were commandeered for collecting food door-to-door and tins rattled on street corners. 'We went round every Friday with a wheel barrow,' recalled



SCOTLAND'S FOREIGN WAR

On researching his book *Homage to Caledonia*, published in conjunction with NLS, **Daniel Gray** uncovered the intriguing story of Scotswomen and the Spanish Civil War





Clockwise from top left: A 1938 painting of the war; Annie Murray (centre) with nursing colleagues; fund raising event advert; the Scottish Aid Spain movement; a republican nurse showing her support for the cause



Edinburgh and District Joint Committee for Spanish Relief

Office: c/o The Scottish Peace Council, 85 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, 2. Phone 26373.



SPANISH REFUGEE CHILDREN.

GREAT TWO DAYS

Spanish Fiesta and Fair

11.30 a.m. — 9 p.m. Daily

TO BE HELD IN

CENTRAL HALLS, TOLLCROSS, EDINBURGH

Friday, 16th December, at 11.30 a.m.

TO BE OPENED BY
HIS EXCELLENCY
PABLO DE AZCARATE
Spanish Ambassador, London.

HER GRACE
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL
WILL PRESIDE.

Saturday, 17th December, at 11.30 a.m.

TO BE OPENED BY
Mr NEIL BEATON
Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Mr WHITSON will preside.

OUR AIM

To Raise at least £1000 to succour 10,000 Children.

3,700,000 Spanish Children, 337,000 of whom are under one year of age, are actually suffering from starvation at this very moment and are facing famine conditions. Thousands will die this winter unless immediate relief is provided. Lives can be saved for the meagre sum of 2/- per child per month.

We must succeed in our aim — to fall would mean disease and death to little children. We shall succeed with YOUR help.

Please help by sending a contribution in cash or in kind to any of the Receivers of contributions.

Bring and Buy

Mary Docherty. ‘Even though there was mass unemployment at that time, there was a great response to our appeal.’

Women organised Spanish markets, concerts, fiestas, film viewings and theatre shows to raise both funds and awareness. With no access to media outlets, to keep their cause current they daubed walls with whitewashed clarion calls such as ‘Save Spain, Save Peace’ and ‘Bombs on Madrid means bombs on Scotland’. In Montrose, women were behind the creation of a centre for Basque refugee children exiled from Spain as the Luftwaffe’s bombs began to fall on Guernica.

The cause of the Spanish republic struck a chord with Scotswomen for a number of reasons. On a humanitarian level, they responded to atrocities pictured in cinema newsreels by pledging to act for the stricken of Spain. The poverty and radicalism of the Scotland they inhabited meant that politically, support for the Spanish republic was natural and



General Franco in 1936, when war between his nationalist rebels and republican government forces began

inevitable. Women in Scotland seem to have been intrinsically anti-fascist too; they embroiled themselves in street skirmishes against domestic fascism in the form of Oswald Mosley’s British Union of Fascists (BUF). As Bob Cooney, an Aberdonian who fought in Spain remarked: ‘When the BUF arrived we’d shout, “These are the black-shirts who are murdering kiddies in Spain – spit on them, kids.” Sometimes we’d be too late because the women had already dealt with them!’ To them, fascism was the same whether in Aberdeen or Alicante.

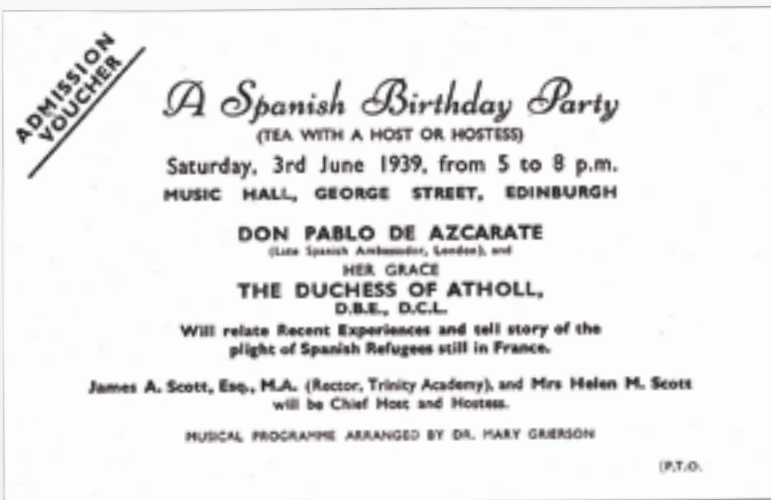
There was a form of internationalist female solidarity, too: the Spanish republican cause was the cause of Spanish women, and therefore women everywhere. Females were, after all, fighting in Spain alongside males in the hastily organised people’s militias that sprung up at the start of the war. And the conflict had, in part, been caused by reactionary irritation that the republican governments of 1931 and 1936 had advanced women’s causes, for instance, legalising divorce and extending the franchise. Further, the republican side’s figurehead was no stuffy general or suited politician, but the redoubtable Dolores Ibárruri, better known as La Pasionaria.

Representing a range of these motivations for trying to influence Spain’s war were nursing volunteers. Although Mary Docherty lacked the experience to enrol, there was an abundance of qualified exponents of Caledonian care. Margot Miller, a 24-year-old from Stirlingshire, was one of the first nurses to arrive in Spain. Miller worked with the Red Cross but was shot and wounded while tending to soldiers in the field of battle.

She was joined in Spain by Sister Winifred Wilson of St Andrews. In a letter home Wilson detailed the horror she had witnessed: ‘After an attack we are working day and night. Oh, if you only saw the slaughter! Heads and faces blown to bits, stomachs and brains protruding, limbs shattered or off.’ Wilson depicted the general situation in Spain with equal anguish: ‘They need our help, poor people, and if you only could see them when bombs are dropping overhead. I can vouch your heart would ache. Mothers snatch their children and run madly for shelter.’

Wilson was driven by humanitarian zeal and her anger at the inaction of the non-interventionist British government. These motivations, along with deeply held political convictions, were what persuaded another Scottish nurse, Annie Murray, to enter service.

Murray, whose letters are now held at NLS, arrived in Spain at the start of the conflict, and served for almost its entirety. Born in Aberdeenshire to an extremely politicised family, she had led protests against working conditions while employed at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. It was perhaps



The Red Duchess

The Duchess of Atholl (1874–1960) was Conservative MP for Kinross and West Perth, and the first Scotswoman to be elected to the Commons. From the instant civil war erupted in Spain, she campaigned fervently for the rights of the elected republican government and its citizens, incurring the wrath of her largely pro-Franco peers.

Indeed, her support for the republic more or less ended her political career.

Atholl, dubbed ‘The Red Duchess’ because of her support for this outwardly left-wing movement, became chair of the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief and the Basque Children’s Committee. She toured Scotland to raise support, stirring audiences into action

with her spellbinding oratory, and visited Spain with Labour MP Ellen Wilkinson. The fruit of her journey was the enormously affecting book *Searchlight on Spain*, which sold 300,000 copies in Britain.

The aristocrat’s work demonstrated the social breadth of the Aid for Spain campaign in Scotland, and inspired women from all backgrounds.



Aberdeenshire-born Annie Murray with her brigadier brothers, pictured in the 1980s

unsurprising, therefore, that she chose to put her burgeoning nursing career on hold and volunteer for Spain through the British Medical Aid Committee. In her eyes, the decision to go was straightforward, as she later explained in Ian MacDougall's *Voices from the Spanish Civil War*: 'I went to Spain because I believed in the cause of the Spanish republican government. I didn't believe in fascism and I had heard many stories of what happened to people who were under fascist rule.'

Working in tattered hospitals and on medical trains, Murray saw war at its most callous. Writing to her sister Agnes, she related how Italian aeroplanes had dropped 'pretty little cigarette boxes and chocolate boxes with hand bombs neatly packed inside. The poor little mites of children picking up what they took to be the long-desired chocolate and quickly opening them were suddenly left handless, their faces burned beyond recognition. Nothing could surely be more brutal.'

Murray remained steadfast in her commitment to the cause of the Spanish republic, and never lamented her decision to volunteer. 'It was,' she later said, 'the most important thing of my life. It was a terrific experience I would never like to have missed. I have certainly no regrets at having gone there at all.'



Women organised Spanish markets, concerts, fiestas, film viewings and theatre shows to raise both funds and awareness

While Murray travelled alone to nurse in Spain, another Scotswoman took an entire ambulance crew with her. For Fernanda Jacobsen's Scottish Ambulance Unit (SAU), though, best intentions very often ended in ignominy. The SAU was raised independently of the main aid movements in Scotland. Three separate convoys saw service, each of them consisting of 15 or more men commanded by the charismatic, if diminutive, Jacobsen. The unit had an avowed commitment to neutrality, pledging to treat the injured of both sides.

However, avoiding partisanship during a time of civil war proved difficult, and the unit was ridden with arguments between those who thought it was biased for the republic, those who thought it was biased for the nationalists, and those who wished it to be either or neither. This led to frequent disputes, with the feisty Jacobsen forced to repeatedly reprimand the men of the unit.

The SAU was plagued, too, by other controversies. Its founder, a former Glasgow Lord Provost named Daniel Stevenson, had questionable links to Germany's Nazi government. Early in its tenure in Spain, members of the unit were accused of looting from dead bodies in the battlefields and expelled. And it seems almost certain that Jacobsen was involved in the smuggling of pro-fascists out of

Madrid using SAU vehicles.

This intriguing Scotswoman lived long in the memory of those who met her. The pro-fascist aristocrat Priscilla Scott-Ellis described a Spanish encounter with Jacobsen in her diary:

'An incredible woman, small and square, with a huge bottom. She always dresses in a kilt, thick woollen stockings, brogues, a khaki jacket of military cut with thistles all over it, huge leather gauntlet gloves, a cape also with thistles, and, the crowning glory, a little black Scottish hat edged with tartan and with a large silver badge on it.'

When the battered and bruised third Ambulance Unit returned to Scotland, Jacobsen, now in possession of an OBE for her work in Spain, remained in Madrid, even after the fall of the city to nationalists. She worked, for a time, handing out food to the needy, before disappearing entirely from the annals of history. This firm, but mostly benevolent, force of nature has been almost entirely forgotten – the lost Mary Poppins of the Madrid Front.

Similarly maverick contributions in Spain came from Jenny Patrick and Ethel MacDonald, Glasgow anarchists catapulted into the centre of tumultuous events in Barcelona. Owing to their work in Scotland, MacDonald and Patrick were summoned to the Catalan city to work as journalists in the information centre of an anarchist trade union. In her diary, Patrick recorded the joy experienced by the pair upon their arrival:

'Tuesday, 3 November was the most exciting day in both of our lives and I don't think we'll ever forget it. We handed in our papers and after they realised we were comrades, they were terribly nice to us. They asked us if we had money and we told them the truth that we were broke. They took us to a restaurant and we had a wonderful time. Everyone was bright and cheerful and happy. So naturally we were the same. We felt full of enthusiasm. This was revolution.'

Their crowning glory as journalists occurred in May 1937, when they were among the first foreign writers to report on the internecine republican street fighting rocking Barcelona. Yet with the political tide turning against anarchist groups, the Scotswomen faced extreme danger. Patrick returned to Scotland, while MacDonald was forced into hiding. Unperturbed, she dedicated herself to helping anarchists escape from prison, earning the nickname 'The Scots Scarlet Pimpernel'. The clampdown soon caught up with MacDonald, though, and after various spells in Spanish jails, she finally escaped back to Glasgow in November 1937.

Despite the size of the aid movement and the actions of those like MacDonald and Annie Murray, not all Scotswomen supported republican Spain. Some were vociferous in their support of Franco, especially those Catholics who saw the General as the saviour of their church and the republican side as the enemy of religion. A number of them joined the

The town of Guernica after being hit by nationalist air strikes in 1937



The Civil War politicised a generation of Scottish women. Many continued their activism through to the miners' strike and beyond

Friends of National Spain, a pro-nationalist society founded by the great-great-grandson of Sir Walter Scott, Walter Maxwell-Scott and his wife Marie, an ardent supporter of Franco. The group held a number of incendiary public meetings in an attempt to garner support.

One of their most trenchant advocates was Mary Allen, the women's police representative for Scotland. She addressed the floor at a rally in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, and proposed a motion congratulating 'General Franco and the Spanish people on their heroic and successful fight to maintain Christian civilisation, freedom, and religion in Spain'. However, such sentiments were far from common among Scotswomen, who were more likely to be outside the Usher Hall protesting than inside seconding pro-Francoist motions.

Spain's Civil War politicised a generation of Scotswomen. Many never forgot the fillip it presented them with, continuing their activism through to the miners' strike in the 1980s and beyond. While the republican side may have lost the war, Scottish women accomplished victories: they demonstrated they could run campaigns, nurse, fight and write, and proved they had the acumen, political and otherwise, to compete and lead. For Mary Docherty and countless others, it opened up a whole new world.

READ ON WITH NLS

Shelfmarks denoted by ♡

For more information on using the Library, see page 6

Annie Murray letters and Aid Spain papers

♡ ACC.9083

David Murray letters on Ethel MacDonald

♡ Acc.9714/1

Docherty, Mary *A Miner's Lass* (Lancashire Community Press, 1992)

♡ HP2.93.4914

Gray, Daniel *Homage to Caledonia: Scotland and the Spanish Civil War* (Luath Press, 2008)

♡ OP8.209.3/8

MacDougall, Ian (ed) *Voices from the Spanish Civil War* (Polygon, 1986)

♡ HP2.86.3351



Making connections: Conan Doyle, *Blackwood's* and two Afghan Disasters

Dr Iain Gordon Brown, Principal Manuscripts Curator at NLS, explores connections that link the creator of Holmes and Watson, Conan Doyle's might-have-been first publisher and military conflicts in Afghanistan

Richard Caton Woodville's painting depicting an incident at the Battle of Maiwand



On occasion, a curator in the Manuscripts Division may take the chance to notice connections that present themselves through coincidence or happenstance, and sometimes as the outcome of an intriguing interface between fact and fiction.

Such links may be the result of careful planning through use of catalogues and indices, or of personal knowledge, or they may be prompted by the finding – or more accurate identification – of individual items in the collections not previously linked or overtly connected.

One such moment occurred when I was looking out material for a presentation to a visiting party of United States bibliophiles. With the 150th anniversary of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's birth (1859) in mind, I thought that one of the literary manuscripts I might show should be the short ghost story 'The Haunted Grange of Goresthorpe', written possibly in 1877 or 1878, but which remained unpublished until the year 2000. This Doyle

MARY EVANS

manuscript (MS. 4791), apparently that of his earliest story, antedates the appearance of his first published story in *Chambers's Journal* in September 1879. The manuscript of 'The Haunted Grange of Goresthorpe' came to the Library with the archive of William Blackwood and Sons in 1942. Although its existence had long been known, and its likely priority in the Doyle canon appreciated, it was nevertheless recognised as an early work by a still immature talent, and publication was not approved by the keepers of the Doyle flame. It is probable that the historian John Hill Burton, a friend of the Doyle family, had shown the manuscript to John Blackwood, not necessarily in the expectation that his firm would publish it, but as a marker, so to speak, of likely future ability on the part of the young Conan Doyle, a new writer who might one day be worthy of what Blackwood had earlier described as 'the honours of print and pay'. This, rather than Doyle's own speculative submission of his story, seems the most likely explanation of the manuscript's presence among the Blackwood papers.

With an eye to pointing out not only the world reach and significance of our collections, but also the relevance of our holdings for today as well as



Holmes and Watson

Dr Watson and Maiwand

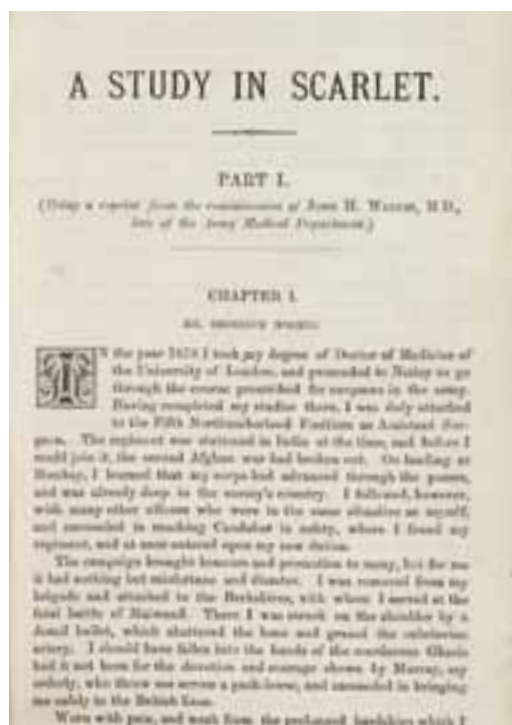
Sherlock Holmes was first introduced to the world (and through the medium of the fictional Dr John Watson's putative 'Reminiscences') in *Beeton's Christmas Annual* for 1887. The story shared the volume with two pieces by other authors, both now wholly forgotten. Arthur Conan Doyle reissued his story, *A Study in Scarlet*, as an independent book the next year with the same publisher as that of the annual, Ward, Lock and Co.

Dr Watson opens the story by telling the reader about his service as an army doctor in Afghanistan. He explains how he had been seriously wounded in the shoulder at Maiwand and recounts that due to the courage of his orderly who had found transport for him, he had been lucky to survive the retreat to Kandahar. Watson's experiences mirror those of the real-life Medical Officer who

was the model for his character. Dr Preston left a graphic account of his remarkable survival after Maiwand, when he too owed his life to the bravery of those who stayed to help him and bring him out of danger.

The opening page of *A Study in Scarlet*

in its first edition carries Watson's story of Maiwand and its aftermath. A passage on page 13 shows Sherlock Holmes explaining to Watson how he had instinctively known that a man, previously a stranger to him, had returned recently from active service in Afghanistan.



The opening page of *A Study in Scarlet*

in the time of an individual item's creation, I thought it would be interesting to select for the visiting Americans a couple of things that might illustrate Great Britain's long and unhappy connection with Afghanistan. This was an involvement that led to three full-scale wars in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and to other major campaigns, punitive expeditions and countless more minor skirmishes on the North-West Frontier of India. From the Minto Papers I chose two volumes of letters from the Governor-General of India, Lord Auckland, to his cousin, the second Earl of Minto. In this correspondence (MSS. 11795-6) Auckland describes his hopes and fears for his policy in Afghanistan, which led ultimately to the disaster of the First Afghan War and the annihilation of the Army of the Indus sent to enforce 'regime change'. Auckland's letters chart his descent from the optimism of 1839 to his despair at the situation prevailing in 1841-42. Victorian sentiment had been much affected by the stirring tale of the return of the Scottish army surgeon, Dr William Brydon, who arrived alone at Jalalabad upon a stumbling horse, badly wounded and exhausted, a broken sword dangling from his wrist, as 'the remnant of an army' later immortalised in Lady Butler's famous painting. It was said that Brydon, the sole survivor of the entire British force, had escaped more serious injury because, in a pathetic effort to shield himself somewhat from the intense cold of the Afghan winter, he had stuffed a tattered copy of *Blackwood's Magazine* into his head-dress, which had warded off some of the tribesmen's knife-blows.

Thus far in my melting-pot, so to speak, of allusion and connection, I already had Conan Doyle and the house of Blackwood, the First Afghan War and the great Edinburgh periodical *Blackwood's Magazine*, in which Conan Doyle, as an Edinburgh man, very much wished to publish some later work. I looked then for something that would illustrate the subsequent disasters and heroism of the Second Afghan War of 1878-80. In the index to the manuscript collections I found an item that looked hopeful, to me at least, if not to the shades of poor British, Indian and Gurkha soldiers whom I sensed peering over my shoulder as I read the index slips. They had perished in a campaign that had the single merit of propelling to prominence the future Field Marshal Earl Roberts, VC, archetypal Victorian hero, and enshrining in legend his epic march from Kabul to Kandahar. 'AFGHAN WAR, 1878-80, letters concerning battle of Mazra (1880), MS. 2544, ff. 130-9' said the index. The name of this engagement was new to me: I had never heard of it. I was dubious. I went to the strong-room shelf. My scepticism was proved correct. The letters clearly described the Battle of Maiwand and its aftermath.

Maiwand was etched on the British military memory. Like Isandlwana in the Zulu War only the previous year it was a bloody defeat. A strengthened



'At Bay' from *The Illustrated London News*, August 1880



British forces at
Kandahar

and country still being carried in action as late as 1880. Both colours were lost in the wreck of the shattered battalion, of which the last remaining eleven officers and men made a final stand, all to be killed. The two Indian infantry battalions of Burrows' brigade suffered even greater losses, with the 1st Bombay Native Infantry (Bombay Grenadiers) faring particularly badly with some 370 dead. (Jacob's Rifles, 30th Bombay Infantry, lost nearly 250 dead). The two Indian cavalry regiments also present proved less resolute than might have been expected.

The importance of traditional research in primary and serious secondary sources such as official military histories (that for the Second Afghan War having been published by the firm of John Murray) cannot be over-stressed today, when so much of what passes for 'research' is done from the internet. If one looks at some electronic sources, one would believe that when mention is made of 'the [Bombay]

brigade under Brigadier General GRS Burrows had crossed the Helmand River (Helmand! – a name we today hear daily as our own forces engage the Taliban on this same ground) and had found itself outnumbered seven-to-one by the combined forces of Ayub Khan, both regular Afghan army troops and irregular hordes of ghazi warriors. The brigade was forced to fight on disadvantageous terrain and once routed, had to retreat to Kandahar in disorder.

Dr Watson, Conan Doyle's fictional creation, had served at Maiwand as Medical Officer of the 66th Foot, the Berkshire Regiment, to which he had been seconded from the Northumberland Fusiliers. At Maiwand he had received the wounds which troubled him in his postwar life in Baker Street. But at least he had a postwar life. A thousand other men were not so fortunate, for Burrows' force was badly mauled and casualties were very high. Among those who lost their lives was Major George F Blackwood, commanding E Battery, B Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery. He was younger brother to 'Willie' Blackwood, who in 1879 had become editor of *Blackwood's Magazine*. Another piece of my self-made jigsaw was falling into place.

The Maiwand letters in MS. 2544 were written by an officer of the 66th, Major John T Ready. The recipient was an Army Medical Service (as it then was) officer, John Stewart Lithgow, an Edinburgh graduate and subsequently a much-decorated Major-General, whose papers came to the Library in 1938. (Doyle certainly, and possibly the fictional Dr Watson too, were also Edinburgh medical students.) Ready's account brings us close to the horror of that dreadful day, from which he and all too few others escaped in the rout due to luck and their role in the action. His commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel James Galbraith, nine other officers and nearly 300 men of his battalion fell and fifty more were wounded, Galbraith and some others (the badly wounded Blackwood among them, unable to ride with his battery) having made three desperate rallies in an attempt to save the colours of the 66th, those potent symbols of regimental identity and of Queen

**READ ON
WITH NLS**
Shelfmarks
denoted by ⇨

The Second Afghan War 1878-80. Abridged Official Account (London: John Murray, 1908)

⇨ S.15.c
Swinson, Arthur
North-West Frontier. People and Events 1839-1947 (London: Hutchinson, 1967)

⇨ NF.1240.e.8
Barthorp, Michael
Afghan Wars and the North-West Frontier 1839-1947 (London: Cassell, 2002)

⇨ HP3.203.1462
Maxwell, Leigh
My God - Maiwand! (London: Leo Cooper, 1979)

⇨ H3.79.1803

Grenadiers' it was the Grenadier Guards that is being referred to. That most distinguished regiment was neither present at Maiwand, nor even engaged in the war; yet one article on the internet maligns them for cowardice in the battle. When I last looked at it, the Wikipedia article on Maiwand used a celebrated painting by Richard Caton Woodville showing the Royal Horse Artillery saving their guns – a sacred duty for Gunners – under heavy fire when out of ammunition and with the enemy almost on their position. This gallant episode was captioned as the 'Royal Horse Artillery fleeing before Afghan attack', which is not quite the same thing! Maiwand lives in memory as a shocking defeat for British imperial arms, the disgrace being relieved only by the *Boy's Own* heroism of the Berkshires' last stand and the RHA's daring extraction of their guns.

Major Ready's first note to Lithgow, written from the relative safety of a besieged Kandahar, asked him to let his wife know in Reuters cipher that he was all right. The message ended in a pencilled scrawl, as he listed his brother officers as either killed, wounded or missing as he knew the facts to be. Having fought all day in a 'broiling sun' and with no food, he had been on the night march for forty-five miles, twenty-five of them without water, and was 'still half dead with fatigue & thirst.' Otherwise he was unscathed apart from a twisted ankle. During the action he had personally bandaged the serious wound in Blackwood's thigh. Among the wounded, Ready mentioned 'Dr Preston'. This was his battalion's Medical Officer, Surgeon Major AF Preston. It is the firm belief of the modern-day regiment, which is the descendant of the old 66th Foot (that unit having passed through many amalgamations and name-changes to form today's 1st Battalion, The Rifles), that Preston was the model for Sherlock Holmes' Dr Watson, who suffered similar injuries. And where has that modern Rifles battalion been serving? Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

So, many notions appear to come full-circle when one begins to browse and muse among the manuscript collections.



Nick Thorpe
relaxes in the
new NLS café

Smiles at the Library

Nick Thorpe, the Edinburgh-based author and journalist, on why NLS turned out to be the perfect environment for the work of self-improvement

“
The vast NLS book-ordering system, a model of relaxed efficiency, lends itself perfectly to wide-ranging research

The first time I visited NLS I was sprinting. As a reporter on a deadline, I had been sent to ferret out information I've long since forgotten. What I do remember is the reverential hush that slowed my pace on the wide stone staircase, leading up to the airy reading room. After the bedlam of a newsroom, it was as soothing as a monastery cloister.

More than a decade later, as public life continues to get faster and noisier, NLS has become an integral part of my freelance mission to slow down. It has been a haven through the research and writing phase of two books about low-tech journeys – first sailing to Easter Island on a boat made of reeds, then later hitching around Scotland on other people's vessels – and, more recently, a personal quest for a well-balanced life.

Samuel Smiles, the Victorian motivational writer who featured in last year's NLS Heroes exhibition based on the John Murray Archive, has become a particular obsession of mine – though perhaps not for the reasons he might have hoped. Smiles' best-selling *Self-Help* inspired generations of compulsive

self-improvers (among them Margaret Thatcher) with the potted success stories of furiously driven men. But rather fewer have read his unfinished autobiography, in which he effectively admits that the ceaseless drive he advocated in his books was precisely what triggered his own debilitating stroke. 'Why did I not stop?' he wrote in the twilight of his life. 'Poor, weak, unreflecting human nature. "We know the right, and yet the wrong pursue".'

As a recovering self-improvement junkie, I've spent the last two years sampling everything from Zen Buddhism to naturism in an attempt to write what is essentially the opposite of *Self-Help* – tentatively titled *Relax or Die: Adventures in the Lost Art of Letting Go*. The vast NLS book-ordering system, a model of relaxed efficiency, lends itself perfectly to such wide-ranging research. I've grown to enjoy the quizzical sideways glances of staff and fellow readers evidently trying to work out what subject could possibly require the *Tao Te Ching*, *The Essential Guide to Scuba Diving*, and *Drag Queens of New York*. Nobody asks, of course – another advantage of companionable silence – though with the new café offering a friendly social hub at the bottom of the stairs, even relaxed afternoon chats aren't out of the question.

Mr Smiles might not approve, but these days I'd rather linger than sprint.

Gaelic texts go online

NLS' rare Gaelic texts are being viewed by a new audience, thanks to a digitisation project that is making the works available online. **Cate Newton**, Director of Collections and Research, reviews the project to date

Tell me about the pilot Gaelic digitisation project – how did it come about?

It's a really exciting project we're carrying out in partnership with the Internet Archive, a not-for-profit organisation based in California that is in the process of building a huge, free online text archive.

Why did the Library choose the Gaelic Collections for this project?

We wanted to contribute material that was of key Scottish interest and would be difficult for people to see elsewhere. For example, the Ossian Collection is a rare and valuable collection that we felt was of great importance to make available to a wider audience.



Digitisation fits in perfectly with the Library's ambition of making our collection available to as many people as possible



Who has been involved in the project?

Lee Hibberd, the Library's Digitisation Manager, has been instrumental in getting us to the point where we have digitised over 2,000 books. Senior Rare Books Curator Anette Hagan has been responsible for selecting the items for digitisation and Clara Shakespear has been the person scanning the books. She has been using a machine developed by the Internet Archive called a Scribe. It's a scanning camera that has a cradle built to hold fragile texts in such a way that they won't be damaged. Clara puts the rare text on to the cradle, the camera completes its scan, Clara turns the page over and the process begins again.

What happens after scanning?

The digitised pages are uploaded to the Internet Archive in California.

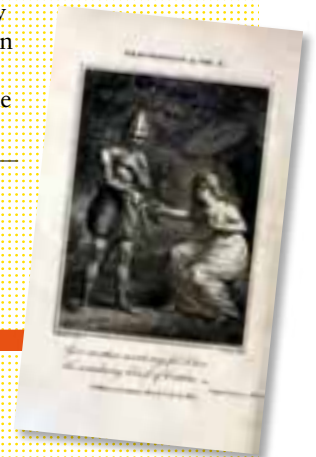
Their Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software is applied to each page, and within a couple of days the pages are available to view on the internet. One of the benefits of this initiative is that, thanks to the OCR software, all of the texts we digitise are searchable.

I understand this is a pilot project – what next?

We are hoping to build on the success of this project by going out to tender for a further exciting initiative of this type. The great thing about digitisation is that it makes material available to an audience that might otherwise never get to see it. You can view the material without having to travel to the Library, and you can search the text in ways that are far more sophisticated than an ordinary book index. Above all though, digitisation fits in perfectly with the Library's ambition of making our collection available to as many people as possible.

View the digitised text at tinyurl.com/mt9oc3

Poems of Ossian (1803) can be viewed online



Collecting for the future

In December, Cate Newton published a document that outlined the Library's new integrated collecting strategy. Here she explains the purpose of the new strategy:

'In the past we had a whole range

of collecting strategies in the Library. With so many developments in technology in recent years, we thought it was important to put in place an overall, integrated collecting strategy that looked at fundamental questions about the types of

material we collect and how those collections should be preserved.

We also felt it important to recognise that with so much information accessible online, collecting nowadays need not refer to acquiring physical items, but

can also include offering access to digital information resources held elsewhere.

The strategy is now available on the NLS website and all the Library's collecting divisions are in the process of

revising their respective policies to ensure that we are all working to a clear set of agreed collecting priorities, regardless of the format of the material.'

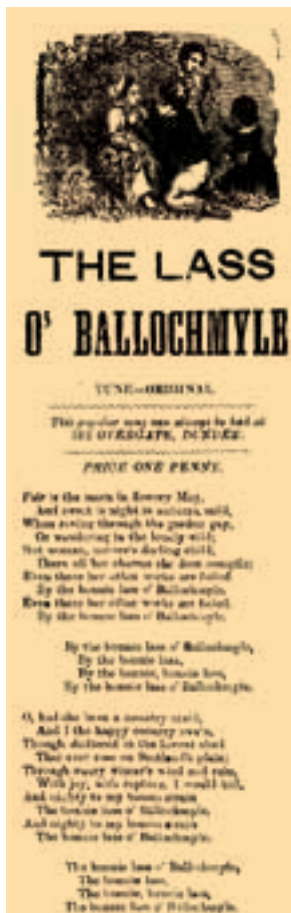
tinyurl.com/lxlul6

What would you find if you searched for the word 'Evolve' in NLS' extensive collections?



▲ OFFICERS WITH A GERMAN ANTI-TANK GUN

British officers with a captured German anti-tank gun in Bapaume, France, during World War I. This photograph of British officers with a German anti-tank gun is evidence of how quickly military technology had to evolve during the war.



THE LASS O' BALLOCHMYLE

This is a version of a ballad whose authorship has often been credited to Robert Burns. In fact, the song credited to Burns started out as a poem to Wilhelmina Alexander (1753-1843) sister of the Laird of Ballochmyle. Burns' poem was later adapted into a song with the addition of the traditional chorus that also features in the song on this broadside. This is an example of how several different ballads that were based on the same story could evolve.



▲ A PRE-EMINENT SOURCE OF INFORMATION

The Encyclopaedia Britannica was one of the great landmarks of 18th century Edinburgh publishing. It went on to enjoy success over two centuries, evolving into the purely electronic publication that it is today.



▲ THE WALTER SCOTT MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

The Library has long collected Scott proofs. They are vital pieces of evidence that tell us so much of how his novels and other works evolved.



▲ HERE COMES THE RAILPLANE

This film from 1929-30 captures the construction of the railplane, a form of transport in which the carriage is suspended from an overhead track. Invented by George Bennie, it marked a great step forward in the evolution of rail transport.

▶ WANT TO DISCOVER MORE? Send your address details to discover@nls.uk and we'll mail you Discover NLS for free. Offer open to UK residents only.