

discover

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

ISSUE 1
SPRING 2006

nls



Setting Scott
in Stone

Picturing the
'Great Unknown'

The Glory of
the Garden

Plan of
Drumlanrig unveiled

A Friend of
George Friel

The gritty Glasgow
writer revived

Finger on the future:

Taking books from shelf to screen



nls
National Library
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Library
Information

Foreword



Welcome to the first issue of *Discover NLS*, our new quarterly magazine, designed to share the stories of NLS' great national collections.

NLS is a world-class research library yet it is still relatively unknown in its own country. A year ago we conducted a survey that showed that only twenty per cent of the general Scottish population had heard of their National Library. In 2006 that figure stands at thirty-one per cent. An improvement certainly, but there is still much to be done to ensure that people from all walks of life, all ages and communities can access and enjoy this wonderful national resource. *Discover NLS* is one way of spreading the word and is available in print and digital formats.

Increasingly people use our services online as well as by visiting our buildings in Edinburgh. In this issue Digital Library Manager, Simon Bains, and ICT Manager, David Dinham, describe the role of libraries in the digital age.

NLS currently holds over 13 million items, the majority from the modern era. Our renowned historic collections of manuscripts, maps and rare books are stunning. Features in this issue tell

stories spanning 900 years, from rare books and manuscripts smuggled to Scotland from 11th century Germany to a refreshing insight into one of Scotland's unfairly neglected writers, George Friel, who died in 1975.

The relationship between historic houses and gardens and our own collections is a key theme of this issue. Map Collections Manager, Diana Webster, profiles a rare copy of an important Dumfriesshire estate plan, while we remember Hugh Sharp, the man behind one of our most prized book collections, during the centenary of his family home, Hill of Tarvit Mansionhouse. And at a time when the future of Abbotsford is under consideration, we have an interesting article on the home of Sir Walter Scott.

We hope that you will enjoy discovering NLS. You can help us to develop the magazine too - please do send us your views, questions and feedback.

Alexandra Miller

Alexandra Miller
Director of Strategy and Communications

Contributors in this Issue



Gordon Jarvie began his career as an English teacher, then spent over twenty years as a publisher at Oxford University Press, Collins and Longman. He currently works as a Project Manager at Learning and Teaching Scotland. His books include *Time's Traverse: Poems 1991-2001*, *The Scottish Reciter* and the *Bloomsbury Grammar Guide*. His most recent poetry pamphlet is *Another Working Monday*. See www.scottish-pamphlet-poetry.com for more information.

Simon Bains is Digital Library Manager, with overall responsibility for leading the development of NLS' digital and web-based services. He joined NLS in March 2004 from the post of Electronic Information Services Librarian at Edinburgh University Library. He is an active member of various international committees, such as the OCLC Reference Services Advisory Committee and the Digital Preservation Coalition.



Dr Iain Gordon Brown is Principal Curator in the Manuscripts Collections Division. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of the Society of Antiquaries of London. An authority on the literature and culture of the age of Walter Scott, he has also written widely on British art and architecture of the period. His book *Abbotsford and Sir Walter Scott* was published in 2003.

Dr Anette Hagan is a Curator in the Rare Book Collections Division. Her main interests are theology, the Scottish Enlightenment, Gaelic and Scots, and modern Scottish and German history. As a curator, she participates in the buying and cataloguing of rare books, organising exhibitions and handling enquiries. She coordinates the Division's contributions to the NLS web pages and the digitisation programme.



Diana Webster is Manager of the Map Collections Division. She came to the Library 18 years ago because of her passion for maps, and her research interests include early surveying in Scotland, sea charts, Scots abroad and historical geography.



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Cover Image:

Browsing digital resources on the interactive kiosk in our George IV Bridge building



A word on Shelfmarks

Shelfmarks are references which identify the location of specific collection items (usually a series of numbers and letters e.g. MS.1007; 5.144(2); RB.s.788). You can use an item's shelfmark to search for it in our online catalogues, to order it up in our reading rooms, and as part of any reference to that specific NLS copy.

Web accessibility plaudits

The Library's website, www.nls.uk, has reached an important stage in the development of its accessibility standards. When audited by expert assessors at the Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB), the site comfortably passed 20 out of the 27 checkpoints required for See it Right status, the standard for auditing websites. This is higher than the average 40-50% pass rate among comparable organisations, and the encouraging news takes the Library a step closer to qualifying for the RNIB's website accessibility award.

Senior Web Accessibility Consultant at the RNIB, Henny Swan commended the NLS web team. 'We were impressed with the work that has already gone into making the main area of the site accessible', she said. 'The site is clean, navigable and most important of all, usable for people with disabilities.'

Digital Library Manager, Simon Bains, expressed his delight at the news, saying: 'This is clear evidence that NLS is working hard to ensure that its web presence is accessible to all. There is still room for improvement though, and we'll be doing the work required to apply for an accessibility award from the RNIB.'

Shortly before we went to press, NLS also received the results of a site assessment by the Plain English Campaign (PEC). PEC describes the NLS site as 'impressive', with 'excellent' content, and made a few recommendations which are mostly 'minor details'. We will now work towards reaching the standards needed to apply for the Campaign's Internet Crystal Mark.

Libraries protected from 'terror' legislation

NLS has played a part in protecting libraries and their staff from potentially far-reaching implications of the Terrorism Bill. The Bill, introduced in October 2005, originally contained a clause which made it an offence to hold or provide material that could incite customers to commit acts of terrorism. NLS was part of a UK-wide consortium of library organisations that succeeded in lobbying government to amend the clause.

The legislation held serious consequences for NLS and other major libraries - including potential prosecution of staff - considering the practicalities of reviewing the content of entire collections and assessing its impact on individual readers. The study of terrorism could also have been impeded if libraries were forced to be more cautious in our collecting decisions.

The government responded to the arguments put forward on our behalf by members of the House of Lords. The Bill was amended to ensure that intent to encourage terrorism would need to be proved before a library or librarian could be prosecuted under the Act. This amendment ensures that our legitimate efforts to provide access to information as freely as possible can continue unhindered.

500 Years of Printing in Scotland 1508–2008

The Library is taking a key role in promoting the anniversary of 500 Years of Scottish Printing, to be celebrated in 2008.

Scottish printing dates back to 4 April 1508, when Androw Myllar and Walter Chepman produced the earliest known dated output from their Edinburgh press – *The Complaint of the Black Knight*, a poem by John Lydgate. Digitised versions of Chepman and Myllar's printing can be found on our website at:

www.nls.uk/digitallibrary/chepman.

The celebration is being planned in collaboration with the Scottish Printing Archival Trust, and other interested organisations are being invited to participate. The full gamut of printing activity will be celebrated from books to newspapers, commercial printing and even packaging. A wide range of activities is being planned including exhibitions, workshops, open days, competitions, publications and a heritage trail. The Library will support the initiative with a major exhibition on the history of the book in Scotland and with a web feature, showing a digitised version of a publication from the earliest printing press established in every city or town throughout Scotland.

On 30 May 2006, at 12.30, there will be an event at the Library to launch the website www.500yearsofprinting.org which will be used to log and coordinate events as they are planned. If you are interested in attending this event please contact: rarebooks@nls.uk or call 0131 623 3899.



The device, or logo, of Androw Myllar, Scotland's first printer.

Livingstone letters online

NLS is contributing to an innovative pilot web project to publish the medical and scientific letters of David Livingstone, the legendary 19th-century explorer, doctor and missionary.

Livingstone Online, a project instigated by the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London (UCL) and led by Professor Christopher Lawrence, aims to display original copies of Livingstone's letters alongside transcribed and edited versions. Livingstone was a prolific correspondent and over 2,000 of his letters are scattered throughout the world. The largest share of these reside in NLS holdings (with 77 recent additions from the John Murray Archive). Prof. Lawrence and his team have already made several visits to the Library to select material for digitisation. Initially, 70 letters from the Wellcome Trust Library will go online at www.livingstoneonline.ucl.ac.uk

Letter of David Livingstone to his son, Thomas Steele Livingstone, 1861.



Learning resources go live

Our partnership with Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS) has come to fruition as NLS digitised collections went live on the Scottish Schools Digital Network in February. Historical maps, 13th-century manuscript the Murthly Hours and Edinburgh Calotype Club photographs are now available online, accompanied by video and audio commentaries from curators, teachers and experts. Some of these interpretative clips will also be made available for podcast, enabling them to be downloaded and watched on portable digital media players. The building of the Forth Railway Bridge will feature in future snippets, alongside plans to develop a long-term literacy resource. Log on to www.ltsotland.org.uk/scottishhistory/nls to view the clips.

Dame Muriel Spark (1918–2006)

We were saddened to hear the news of the death of Dame Muriel Spark, who passed away at her home in Tuscany on Thursday 13 April, just before we went to press. Dame Muriel was undoubtedly one of the greatest writers of the past century, with more than twenty novels to her name, alongside numerous volumes of short stories, verse and literary biography. Best-known as the author of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, Dame Muriel decided in the 1940s to keep a record of her professional and personal activities, beginning a personal archive that is held at NLS, and is now one of the largest and most comprehensive in the world. We plan to celebrate her life and work with a more detailed article in a later issue, but readers can learn more about her in the meantime by visiting our web feature at www.nls.uk/murielspark



The Archive arrives

The John Murray Archive, arguably the most important publisher's Archive to become publicly available for a century, finally arrived at NLS on 28 March, thanks to generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Scottish Executive.

A treasure trove of 150,000 items valued at £45m, the Archive contains letters, manuscripts and correspondence from some of the greatest writers, politicians, scientists and thinkers of the late 18th to the early 20th centuries. Welcoming the arrival, National Librarian Martyn Wade said:

'It is wonderful to welcome the John Murray Archive to the National Library. Now we can start the work of making this fantastic resource available to the people of Scotland and further afield. We have great plans for the Archive, including a permanent exhibition, which will open in summer 2007, travelling exhibitions and a digitisation programme that will see 15,000 items being made available on the internet within four years.'

Now that the Archive is here, the project begins in earnest: to raise the philanthropic funds to secure its place in Scotland and to promote its riches and make it available as widely as possible.



JMA Project Curator Ruth Boreham (left) with Patricia Ferguson, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, opening the final boxes of the Archive's contents.

Nominate a scientist

From everyday objects, like the telephone and television, to life-saving advances in medicine, such as penicillin and anaesthetics, it is hard to imagine what life would be like without the work of pioneering Scottish scientists. It's not too late to cast your vote for your favourite Scottish scientist. Who do you think has made the

most important contribution to the world as we know it? The site www.nls.uk/scientist gives a snapshot of the life and work of 24 Scottish scientists from the past. Log on now to learn more about the 24 candidates and influence the selection of the final top ten, before the polls close in October.



Illustrations: Courtesy of Frank Boyle

Life with the John Murray Archive

Ruth Boreham, John Murray Archive Project Curator, shares her experiences of delving into its depths at the offices of its last owners, the seventh-generation Murray family.

Since I began my role in June 2005, I have enjoyed a privileged position in the front row of the acquisition of this Archive. I have spent much of the past nine months shuttling between the Library and Albemarle Street, London, the home of the publishing company and the Archive since 1812, and many more hours among the boxes and ledgers that make up the JMA. I have been meeting old friends and new acquaintances, reading gossip and scandal, travelling to far-off places and broadening my mind. My main task has been to try to understand the Archive a little better - I say a little better as it is too vast to get a proper grip on it in such a short space of time - the current working list has 16,500 people represented in the Archive!

I first met John and Ginnie Murray, and the Archive, on the second day of starting this job. Being shown the drawing room in Albemarle Street, which is virtually unchanged since the memoirs of Byron were burnt in the fireplace, with the portraits of past authors and generations of Murrays on the walls, I got a tremendous sense of history and atmosphere. If I closed my eyes I could almost see Walter Scott and Byron ascending the stairs discussing friends, before joining other authors such as John Barrow, Isaac Disraeli and George Canning.



And then I was taken to see the Archive. Considering this was a private Archive, it was in incredibly good condition. Over the months I looked at famous names - Byron, Scott, Livingstone - and not so famous names, making discoveries on the way and enjoying just opening up a box and seeing who was inside. As this is a largely uncatalogued Archive, each trip to London was filled with excitement and wonder - who was I going to meet today? The various generations of Murrays became friends with so many of their authors that the letters aren't just about publishing and business. Many contain snippets of family news, gossip, letting each other know what was going on in their part of the world. While I miss my trips to London and being among the Archive in its original home, the growing stream of enquiries it will doubtless generate will certainly be easier to service, now I can just pop along to the strong room and look at the item in question **nls**

The library has many exciting plans for the Archive and opportunities for people to become acquainted with it. We'll be exploring some of these, along with the different subject areas and the figures the Archive comprises in forthcoming issues.

Ruth Boreham (left) with John Murray Archivist, Ginnie Murray in Albemarle Street.

Left: The manuscript of Handbook to Scotland, revisions for edition three, believed to be written by John Murray III, who started the popular series of travel guides.

The role of libraries in the digital age

Simon Bains and David Dinham offer some thoughts on the concept of the 'digital library' and the importance of libraries and their imperatives in the 'Amazoogle' age. In the first in an on-going series of articles exploring the many facets of digital library provision, we also look ahead to the challenges of the future and suggest how NLS will respond to them.

In 2004, a well-publicised report predicted the disappearance of British public libraries within fifteen years.¹ Various reasons were cited, but interestingly not the, by now obvious, cliché that libraries would be rendered redundant by the advent of the internet, the world wide web, and the information revolution heralded by the arrival of firms such as Google, Amazon and eBay. Indeed, it recognised the need for libraries to provide books *and* technology. It also noted the apparent belief that the public no longer wanted libraries for books and reading, with information technology taking the place of traditional book collections. In fact, as long ago as 1992 (which is positively prehistoric in internet terms) an article argued:

'Who needs libraries now that the world's information is accessible through computer networks? Soon only historians may be interested in these shrines to learning'²

That we are experiencing an information revolution driven by technological change is incontestable. Search technologies, of which Google remains dominant, offer information on any subject almost instantly (particularly for the rapidly expanding base of broadband users in the UK, although admittedly coverage in Scotland lags behind the rest of the UK). For those products which cannot simply be converted into digital form and distributed over a network connection, the internet has introduced the ability to shop, day or night, without leaving your home, for everything from books to groceries (and even to easily check your bank balance beforehand, to ensure you can afford to do so). The phrase 'amazoogle' has been coined to represent the powerful attraction of the Amazon/Google/eBay phenomenon.³

Computer resources on the mezzanine floor of our General Reading Room.



It would be extremely over-simplistic to suggest that, in the face of new information delivery channels, the library is doomed to inevitable decline and extinction. In fact, the opposite appears to be happening, as the major players in the IT and internet industries actively engage with libraries to deliver benefits to both parties. Recent announcements about partnerships between Google, Yahoo and Microsoft and major research libraries to digitise their collections have received widespread media coverage, and whilst the reaction has not always been positive (with concerns ranging from 'Anglo-Saxon' bias to copyright infringements), it is worth noting that the new players in the information industry are now forming partnerships with the old.

What do libraries bring to the digital information world?

This is not an exhaustive list, but it highlights some important issues, and offers a context within which the National Library of Scotland finds itself in relation to them:

1. Research quality

Anyone who has searched on Google (the number of people who have is estimated at tens of millions, in the UK alone) knows the frustration of receiving several hundred thousand 'hits', but no obvious indication that one of them is the right one. Search engine technologies are constantly improving of course, and it is easier than it was to locate the relevant information, but Google-type services remain the domain of the quick fix, and are far less likely to be valuable for sophisticated and in-depth research enquiries. By contrast, libraries have centuries of experience in selecting, cataloguing, classifying and organising information to aid highly effective retrieval.

2. Trust

Assuming that you locate a relevant reference from an internet search, a second skill must be brought to bear: evaluation. Is the information accurate, objective, current, and provided by an authoritative source? Library collections offer a higher likelihood of quality, and are supported by librarians if there is any doubt regarding provenance.

3. Offline or deep web

It is easy to be deluded into thinking that 'everything's online these days', especially after the aforementioned search which resulted in hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of results. However, huge amounts of information remain only in 'analogue' form, and much digital information, for reasons of copyright and cost, is hidden from search engine 'crawlers', and thus invisible to internet searchers, in the depths of what is known as the 'deep web'. Libraries of all types maintain subscriptions to these sorts of resources and offer access to their users, who would not otherwise be able to use them. And, of course, libraries like NLS have printed materials some of which may never be available in digital form at all.

4. Information literacy and interpretation

Research has shown that the majority of internet searches are very, very simple; one word, maybe two (usually in the form of a name), with instances of more sophisticated searching being far rarer. Search engines can reference millions of web pages, but how do you interpret the information brought back? Librarians, equipped with the skills, tools and resources, can assist their users in making more effective use of the internet, or can advise of alternatives when it is inappropriate. They also offer reference services and act on behalf of their users to locate materials.

Information literacy is a specialist skill-set that all good librarians should and could offer, requiring observance of a number of crucial steps. It entails identification of information needs, devising a search strategy, locating appropriate sources, using those sources to retrieve relevant results, whilst minimising 'noise' (irrelevant material). Next there is the need to evaluate the results against criteria such as currency, authority, relevance, bias and accuracy and finally, to synthesise the information, manage and disseminate it, and cite references correctly.

There has been plenty of research which suggests that even the most able academic struggles with some of these concepts, let alone the casual Google user.⁴ →

5. Preservation

Many internet searchers will have also experienced the frustration of discovering that the result that looked most useful has, in fact, disappeared without trace. Efforts are now being made across the world to successfully archive websites, especially those that have particular cultural or historical significance. Digital objects generally are subject to loss and degradation, just the same as printed material, the crucial difference being that you cannot get away with hoping for the best (a concept known as 'benign neglect'). Clearly that is an inadvisable strategy in the print world, but, with luck, acid-free paper and good weather conditions, a book might still be on a shelf, and legible, a hundred years after it was placed there. A digital object, conversely, will not necessarily still be accessible. For numerous reasons, digital files become inaccessible very quickly unless actively managed and preserved. The classic example is the laserdisc version of the Domesday Book produced in 1986. Whilst the original is still readable 900 years later, the digital version is already obsolete, and new projects have had to be created to rescue the data.⁵ Libraries are at the forefront of recognising the significance, scale and complexity of this problem, and taking steps to address it before it's too late.

6. Access

Information is available via search engines to anyone with a PC and an internet connection. However, libraries offer a valuable resource to those on the wrong side of the digital divide. Initiatives such as The People's Network⁶ are vital if we are to ensure that the disadvantaged do

not miss out on the opportunities offered by the information revolution. Another access issue is how people reach the information that is not yet available online, or is restricted in some way. Libraries use expertise, funds and traditional collections to avoid the 'if it's not on Google, it doesn't exist' quandary. Now, libraries and technology organisations are beginning to work together to ensure more and more content is digitised, and becomes available to search engine users. NLS already offers a 'digital library' on its website, which is a modest collection of digitised items drawn from our own collections. We continue to build this collection, and expect to accelerate the process. Recognising that search engines have become the starting point for many information searches, we ensure these materials can be found via tools such as Google **nls**

Discover more

¹Coates, Tim (2004). Who's in charge? Responsibility for the public library service. Laser Foundation. Available at: www.libriforums.org/whosincharge

²Holderness, Mike (1992). Time to shelve the library? *New Scientist* issue 1850.

³Dempsey, Lorcan (2005). The sound of words: Amazoogle and Googlezon. *Lorcan Dempsey's weblog*. <http://orweblog.oclc.org/archives/000562.html>

⁴A Digital Dark Age? *CBS News*, 2003. www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/01/21/tech/main537308.shtml

⁵Darlington, Jeffrey et al (2003). Domesday redux. *Ariadne*, issue 36. www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue36/tna/

⁶www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk

⁷www.nls.uk/professional/policy/docs/nls_digital_library_strategy.pdf

In 2005, NLS published a three year *Digital Library Strategic Plan*.⁷ In this plan, we commit to developing collections, services and technologies to address all of the issues described above. We expect to transform our 'digital library' from a set of digitised resources into an online service which rivals the physical library in its scope and content.

In the next issue we will take a detailed look at the issue of digital preservation, and the role NLS intends to play in ensuring Scotland's digital cultural heritage is safeguarded in the same way, and with the same degree of care, as traditional artefacts. We will also look at how NLS is responding to these challenges in practical terms, including the introduction of smart card Readers' Tickets.



Illustration: Pawel Pych

Visionary Scottish research bank takes shape

As SCURL Service Development Manager, **Jill Evans** coordinates NLS' liaison with the wider professional research community. She outlines one of the many innovative research projects that the Library contributes to.

'Institutional repositories' are a new and developing concept, designed to ensure that research produced in the digital age is preserved and made as widely accessible as possible. Repositories allow researchers in any institution to submit their (electronic) work to a central information management system, knowing that it will be preserved and made accessible to anyone.

NLS is a leading partner in the new project, Institutional Repository Infrastructure for Scotland (IRISScotland). This will provide a platform for Scotland's research output to be organised, preserved, shared and made freely accessible. A key feature of this (and other) repositories is inter-operability with other ICT systems, so that scholarly material can easily be submitted to and extracted from the repository by the widest possible range of people from the local to international level. The investment in developing IRISScotland also provides valuable insights in how best to manage digital publications in the longer term.

The project will especially benefit Scottish researchers in smaller universities and research bodies, which do not have a 'local' repository of their own. Access to the repository will be available to everyone, whether or not they are attached to an educational institution, providing great benefits for independent researchers as well as academics and students. It will be possible to search the repository by keyword, subject or author while contributions to the repository will initially be managed through the participating research organisations.

A practical example is that you are probably now reading this article in the first paper issue of the National Library of Scotland's magazine, *Discover NLS*, (the article was written on the remote Fair Isle.) The content of the magazine could soon be accessed by a number of different routes:



- Reading it immediately in a paper format
- Accessing it as a keyword subject search using the terms 'IRISScotland' on the NLS website when the content of the magazine is 'converted' to an electronic format and thus immediately searchable and accessible world wide at www.nls.uk
- Retrieving it by searching for the author's name and/or keywords when hosted on a repository

Screenshot from an early mock-up of the IRISScotland portal, which is currently in development at the Centre for Digital Library Research (CDLR), University of Strathclyde.

IRISScotland was launched in September 2005 as a two-year project led by Edinburgh University on behalf of the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL). Funded by the UK research support body Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), the repository is due to go live as a prototype later in 2006.

Repositories are part of the growing movement by researchers and information professionals to ensure that the products of research (in any field, from science and technology to arts and social sciences) are stored securely and made as easy as possible to find by other researchers. The role of research libraries is crucial not only in supporting moves to widen access to information, but also in providing leadership to repositories which bring new opportunities for the sharing and exploitation of knowledge **nls**

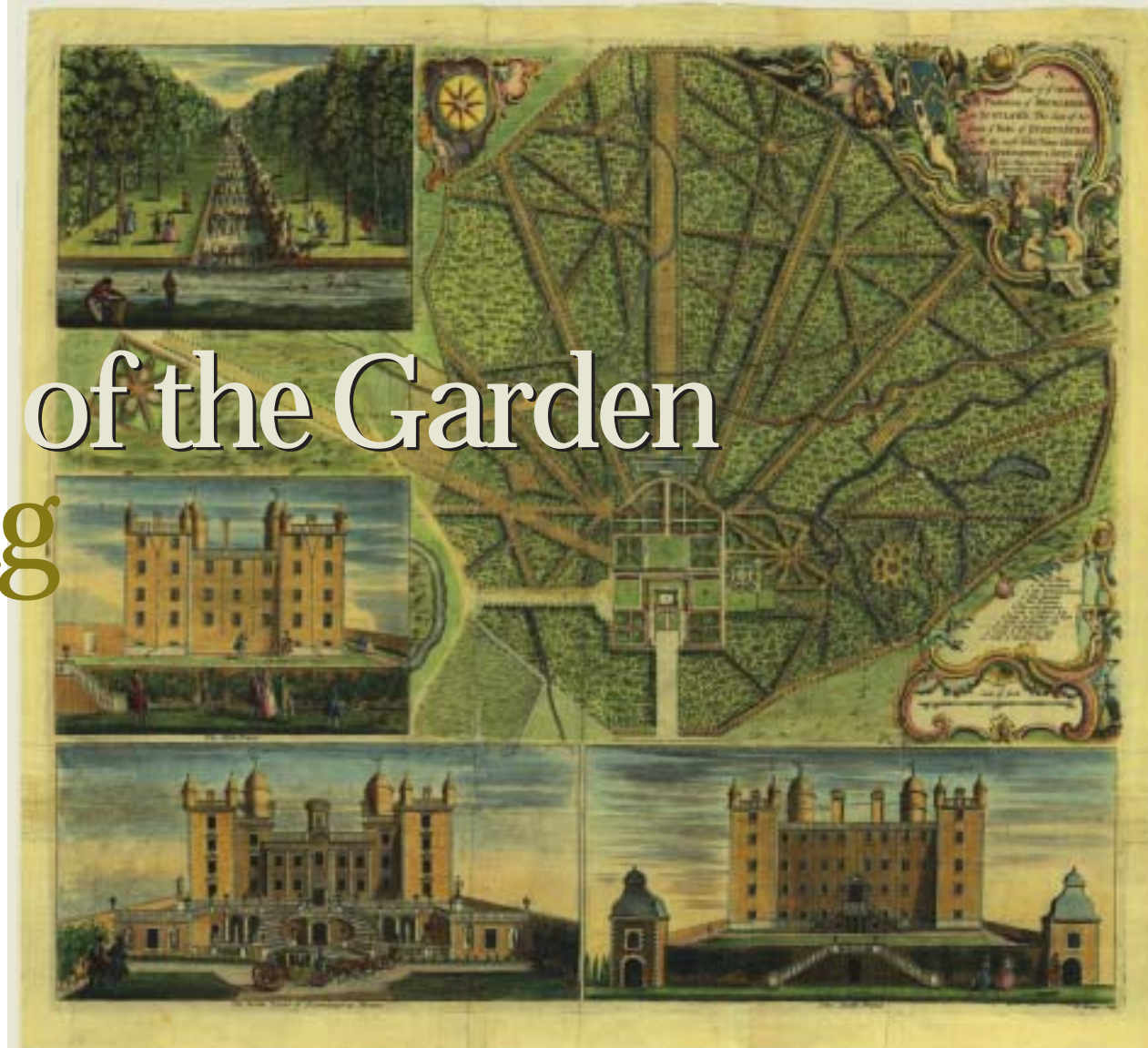


Diana Webster, Map Collections Manager, hunts down a rare 18th-century plan of a historic estate, believed to be the only copy in a public collection in Scotland.

The Glory of the Garden Drumlanrig 1739

Drumlanrig is an outstanding garden and landscape of national importance surrounding Drumlanrig Castle, 17 miles north of Dumfries. This glorious plan of Drumlanrig was published in 1739, in volume 4 of *Vitruvius Britannicus*, a collection of architectural views and plans, and was recently spotted and purchased from an American dealer's website. The gardens have absorbed numerous stylistic influences over the centuries but retain many elements of their 17th-18th century grandeur.

In the period after the Civil War, William Douglas, First Duke of Queensberry (1637-1695), rose to high office as a politician, privy councillor, Justice-General, and High Treasurer, rebuilding national and family fortunes. He built a palatial mansion at Drumlanrig (near Thornhill, in Dumfriesshire), largely completed by 1689, with gardens in the formal French style, but also influenced by Dutch fashion following the accession of William and Mary of Orange. He may also have absorbed ideas from the Low Countries during his exile in Antwerp at the time of the Commonwealth. The formal terraced gardens were enclosed by high stone walls and the six garden pavilions, some shown on this plan, were probably constructed around this time.



Development continued under James Douglas, Second Duke (1662-1711), also a notable Scottish political figure, who was highly influential during the Union of Parliaments in 1707. He enlarged the 17th-century terraces, formed new parterres, and opened up vistas, by lowering the walls, and cutting vast rides through the plantations. His scheme also included a dramatic cascade and fountains, and statues in stone and lead.

The Third Duke, Charles Douglas (1698-1778), made further changes, lowering more walls, replacing them with sloping banks, and creating a canal and bowling green. This plan, by John Rocque, published in 1739, reflects the garden and landscape midway through the Third Duke's improvements, by which time the elaborate parterres had become grass in response to the evolving, more natural landscape style. According to a recent unpublished report on the history of the gardens, a number of elements of Rocque's survey plan still survive. →

John Rocque (d. 1762)

Inscription reads:

A plan of ye garden plantation of Drumlanrig [sic] in Scotland, the seat of his Grace the Duke of Queensbury. To the most noble Prince Charles Duke of Queensbury & Dover &c. this plan is most humbly inscribed by his Graces most humble servant J. Rocque. Scale (1:3,200). (London: T Badeslade, 1739).



Cascade

The date of the cascade's construction is not known but it was established before 1732. Although a 'cascade' is recorded in the late 17th century, this may have been an original natural feature. The 18th-century cascade was a remarkable construction, supplied by a two-mile long aqueduct from the Marr Burn. It had considerable problems and could be used only for a few months in the summer, to avoid flooding. The aqueduct can still be traced in the woodland today.

→ These include: the general boundaries of present-day woodland planting, Druid Loch (subsequently modified), various man-made early 18th-century viewpoints and eminences (now sites of two surviving 19th-century heather huts), several vistas and rides and other features. Further research is still required.



After 1747, new improvements largely ceased, and the gardens remained more or less in the form shown on John Rocque's plan until the succession of the Fourth Duke in 1778. Sadly, he was more interested in horse-racing, neglecting the gardens and grounds. He cut down many of the trees, especially during the Napoleonic Wars. A verse provides a trenchant commentary on this destruction.

**'The worm that knaw'd my
bonnie trees That reptile
wears a ducal crown!'**

By the time the garden was regenerated in the 19th century fashion had changed and the present extensive grounds, part of the Buccleuch estates, owe more to this informal later period, although the layout of the formal garden plots, beside the house, remains. The parterres and woodland are again well managed today.

John (or Jean) Rocque and his brother Bartholomew were French Huguenot immigrants in the early 18th century. Initially John and Bartholomew, a landscape gardener, worked together, but by the time this plan was published John was well established in London as a surveyor and mapmaker. His nephew, also Bartholomew, was the engraver, and the drafting style reflects their French origins **nls**

Sources

¹ *Drumlanrig Castle Gardens: historical development research report; commissioned by the Earl of Dalkeith and The Buccleuch Heritage Trust; produced by Fiona M. Jamieson, July 1997. xiii, 202 p. We are grateful to Fiona Jamieson for making this unpublished report available.*

Discover more

'John Rocque d.1762', in *Map Forum.com*, 1(5). www.mapforum.com/05/may

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography
www.oxforddnb.com

This plan can be consulted at the Map Library at Salisbury Place, on production of identification, required for all pre-1850 material.

↓ Shelfmark: EMS.s.789

Displays

Displays in the barrel vaults, just past the security area in the entrance hall of our George IV Bridge building, offer a snapshot of the breadth and depth of Library collections. Look out for the following in the coming months:

May

Hugh Sharp

Highlights of the Hugh Sharp collection, ranging from treasures such as his splendid copy of the first complete edition of Chaucer's *Works* (1532) to signed modern first editions. Besides these book lover's delights, there will be material highlighting Hugh Sharp's personal interests: mountaineering, golf, nonsense verse and early and contemporary Americana.



June

Keep It Clean

Material on the subject of sanitation, from our collections of Official Publications. Keep It Clean will bring together materials from domestic and foreign collections on all matters malodorous, from the everyday stench of Victorian Britain to waste disposal policy in colonial Bombay. There will be a particular focus on material from the impressive India Papers collection.

July

Sanskrit

A selection from the Library's Sanskrit collections, displayed to coincide with the 13th World Sanskrit Conference, held in Edinburgh from 10-14 July. A number of Sanskrit manuscripts will be featured, mostly collected by the Advocates Library from Scots who were in India in the 18th century. Also included will be works on Sanskrit from the India Papers collection and early works on Sanskrit language and literature, as well as current works from the Library's general collections.



Events

May

Celebrate the New Scots

10 May 2006 at 7 pm

Scottish and Asian cultures combine for an evening of photography, poetry, music and dance, with Herman Rodrigues, Bashabi Fraser and Bani and Indrani Bhattacharya.

New Scots Family Day

13 May 2006 at 2-4 pm

Family activities in celebration of multi-cultural Scotland, from Indian Tabla drumming to Japanese Calligraphy.



Photographs by Herman Rodrigues, featured in the *New Scots* exhibition

The Witch Hunt in the Lothians

17 May 2006 at 7 pm

Writer Roy Pugh on the terrifying history of witchcraft, from early times to the Reformation.

Hugh Sharp and Hill of Tarvit

24 May 2006 at 7 pm

Dr Murray Simpson outlines the collection of book-lover Hugh Sharp, while the National Trust's Ian Gow discusses the Sharp family home, the Hill of Tarvit Mansionhouse.



June

The Return to Darien

The Road to 1707 Series

7 June 2006 at 7 pm

In August 2005 Nat Edwards represented NLS on an expedition to Darien, on the north coast of Panama to accompany historical documents associated with Scotland's brief, tragic and remarkable dalliance with colonialism. The trip, organised jointly with the National Archives of Scotland, was made to escort letters written by Darien colonist Gorge Douglas in 1699 for loan to an exhibition on the Darien settlement at the Museo del Canal Interoceanico de Panama (the Interoceanic Canal Museum in Panama).



The Darien affair was one of the key events that shaped Scotland's Union with England in 1707. Nat Edwards' talk will explore Scotland's ill-fated Central American colonial adventure, share some of his experiences of the area as it is today and throw new light on its fascinating Scottish connection. The talk is part of our short series of events examining the Act of Union: The Road to 1707.

Journey into Africa: Keith Johnston Cartographer and Explorer

14 June 2006 at 7 pm

Author James McCarthy discusses the life and travels of African explorer Keith Johnston and his attempt to trace Johnston's grave.

Twentieth-Century Scottish Poetry

28 June 2006 at 7 pm

Prominent poets discuss their work and read from the *Edinburgh Book of Twentieth-Century Scottish Poetry*.

Women in the John Murray Archive

13 July 2006 at 7 pm

Ruth Boreham profiles 19th-century explorer Isabella Bird and mathematician Mary Somerville, among other heroines of the Archive.

Exhibitions

New Scots

Until 22 May 2006



Scottish and Asian communities and cultures converge in this celebration of modern-day multi-culturalism. Photographs by Herman Rodrigues are complemented by printed material from the Library's own collections, received by legal deposit.

Birds of a Feather: Audubon's Adventures in Edinburgh

4 July – 15 October 2006

As one of the world's greatest wildlife artists, John James Audubon is forever linked to the National Audubon Society, an environmental organisation in the USA dedicated to the conservation of birds and other wildlife. The role Scotland played in shaping his work and sealing his reputation is perhaps less well known and forms the basis of our summer exhibition. The production of his most famous book, *Birds of America*, began in Edinburgh, aided by the city's leading lights in science and literature. The exhibition charts the relationships among this circle of brilliant men, offers a glimpse of how his magnificent books were made and showcases plates from *Birds of America*, one of the world's most valuable books, alongside a complete volume on display.



Right: An engraving of passenger pigeons (now extinct) from Audubon's *Birds of America*.

All events and exhibitions are free and open to anyone.

Space at events are often limited. Please phone the Events Line in advance to book a place on **0131 623 3845**.

Exhibitions are open:
Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm
Sunday 2pm – 5pm

We also run a programme of free events, workshops and educational activities for schools, colleges and community groups. Please contact Laura Murphy, Education and Outreach Officer on **0131 623 3841** or **l.murphy@nls.uk**

All activities are held in our George IV Bridge building unless otherwise stated.

Dr Anette Hagan, Rare Books Curator, reports back on a trip to a medieval monastery in Bavaria to accompany precious items loaned for an exhibition celebrating Gaelic culture.

Have rare books and manuscripts, will travel!

When a rebellious monk stowed away with priceless volumes from a Scots monastery in Regensburg in 1860, he could have scarcely guessed that custodians of our national collections would make it a round-trip, more than 150 years later. November 2005, Regensburg, Germany: the exhibition 'Scoti Peregrini in St James: 800 Years of Irish-Scottish Culture in Regensburg' is to be opened with a Pontifical Mass in the Scots Monastery. This was as much as I knew before conservator Gordon Yeoman and I set off with one of the National Library's oldest manuscripts and some rare books to loan to this exhibition.

Why would the Regensburgers want to borrow exhibits from the National Library?

In 1074 the Benedictine monk Marianus founded the Scottish Abbey of St. James at Ratisbon, the Scots Monastery in Regensburg. It had its ups and downs and was finally dissolved in 1862. The period 1074 to 1862 covers the 800 years alluded to in the exhibition title. The history of the monastery itself is fascinating, but its library is the crucial factor here. By the 1860s, it housed more than 20,000 volumes. However, there were only two monks left: Dom Anselm Robertson of Fochabers, and Dom Placidus Boyhme. Rumour has it that Pope Pius IX was keen for the collection to be added to the Vatican Library, and that Anselm Robertson did not agree. Whether in defiance of the Pope or not, he loaded a horse-drawn cart with as many

valuable tomes as it could carry and smuggled them out of Germany, depositing them with the Lovat family in Scotland. When St. Benedict's Abbey was founded on the shores of Loch Ness in 1876, the volumes from Regensburg were added to the new Abbey's library. After its dissolution in 1999, the National Library purchased 13 manuscripts and 759 printed volumes from the Fort Augustus library, including all the books known to have been carried on that cart from Regensburg.

A delegation from the diocese of Regensburg came to NLS in summer 2005 to select exhibits from this Fort Augustus Collection. They chose a volume of texts on the early church fathers →

The full Regensburg congregation, with Anette Hagan fourth from left.



→ written for the most part in Regensburg c.1080 by Marianus, who had been the founder of the Scots Monastery. The Codex Marianus, as the Regensburgers lovingly called it, took pride of place in the treasury room of the exhibition. In fact, I even saw the director of the diocesan archives and library, Monsignor Doctor Mai, bow in reverence to it! Four printed books were also selected for their provenance: they all have handwritten inscriptions marking them as coming from the library of 'Monasterij S. Jacobi Scotorum Ratisbonae'.

Gordon and I set off with our valuable load packed safely into two large, black cases, which we never let out of our sight, apart from their spell in the overhead lockers. After a rather tiring journey from Edinburgh via Frankfurt to Munich we were picked up by Dr Reidel, the very amiable director of the diocesan museum, and driven at 100 miles an hour to the priests' seminary in Regensburg. We lodged in the guest wing in great comfort and were wonderfully looked after by the seminary's principal, Mr Dachauer.

The next morning we put our loans in the display cases in the treasury, with Gordon making sure not only that they were installed safely and in adequate environmental conditions, but also strapped properly onto cradles made especially for them. The Pontifical Mass to open

the exhibition took place in the freezing cold Scots Monastery itself. It was conducted by two bishops, Gerhard Ludwig Müller of Regensburg and Peter Moran of Aberdeen, as well as Archbishop Mario Conti of Glasgow, and lasted for an hour and a half.

The remainder of our stay at Regensburg was spent visiting the diocesan archives and library, which still holds the rest of the 20,000 volumes Dom Anselm Robertson could not fit into his cart, the diocesan museum with the cathedral treasure, and the private library of the Prince of Thurn and Taxis, which houses around 1,500 books printed before 1501. A reception was held in the town hall with the Lord Mayor (admittedly in honour of the Scottish bishops rather than us!) and there was a farewell dinner at the former bishop's palace, which is now a chic restaurant. Here the Regensburg curators told the story of Dom Anselm Robertson and his horse-drawn cart; impressed by the breadth of local historical knowledge they displayed, Archbishop Mario Conti mischievously said:

'I bet they even know the name of that horse!'

The exhibition attracted well over 5000 visitors. Our exhibits are now safely back on the shelves of the National Library.

Bishop Gerhard Muller of Regensburg, Archbishop Mario Conti of Glasgow and Bishop Peter Moran of Aberdeen pore over the Letters of James IV, James V and Mary Stuart, printed in Edinburgh from 1722-24.



A friend of George Friel

Publisher and poet **Gordon Jarvie** reflects on his acquaintance with the Glasgow writer George Friel, whose manuscripts at the Library provided material for an anthology that raised a reputation.

I bought my first house in 1971 at the ripe old age of thirty, at Bishopbriggs, just north of Glasgow. It was in an extensive area of new, affordable suburban housing, widely referred to locally as Spam Valley. The house was a semi, on Shiel Road, and it backed onto open, common ground recently planted with a border of trees. The main attraction of the location for me was that it was within walking distance of my work.

On decent summer evenings, after the frugal bachelor meal, I explored the neighbourhood on foot, acquainting myself with its geography. In those days there were two main pubs here, Quin's and the Crow. Quin's, right at the crossroads, was a fairly sedate, traditional Scottish howff, lounge to one side of the main gantry and public bar to the other; the Crow, about thirty yards up the main road towards Glasgow, was a bigger, busier and brasher set-up.

Quin's became my local port of call in the course of these week-night walks. At that time I was a Guinness drinker, and Quin's indubitably pulled the better pint. Also, you could sit there in solitary silence, maybe reading a book or newspaper without drawing attention to yourself; my kind of place.

Over the months I got on nodding acquaintance with a few of the regulars. After a while I began to converse with one man, of my father's generation. Like me he would arrive on his own, buy and consume his pint of Guinness, read his paper and go on his way. Eventually we were nodding to one another, and exchanging little snippets of information with each other: I learned that he lived across the road from me, and that he was a teacher. For his part he seemed hugely interested to know that I worked for Collins, in those days still a Glasgow head-quartered public company, and one of Britain's biggest and most successful book publishers. →

Image taken from the book jacket of Canongate's edition of *The Glasgow Trilogy*, model unknown.



→ It emerged over a period of time that my friend had written novels, but he didn't tell me their titles. It also emerged that he'd tried and failed to get Collins to publish his work. He wasn't bitter about their rejection, as far as I can recall; rather he seemed to be resigned to literary neglect. But he appeared to be quite taken by the irony of our acquaintance: here we were, two residents of Bishopbriggs enjoying a Guinness and a chat, himself the writer of several works of fiction over which publishers dithered and procrastinated, and me employed as an editor for just about the biggest British publisher, but quite unable to help him. As a mere textbook editor, I had few dealings with fiction; and indeed the entire Collins fiction list was managed from the London office.

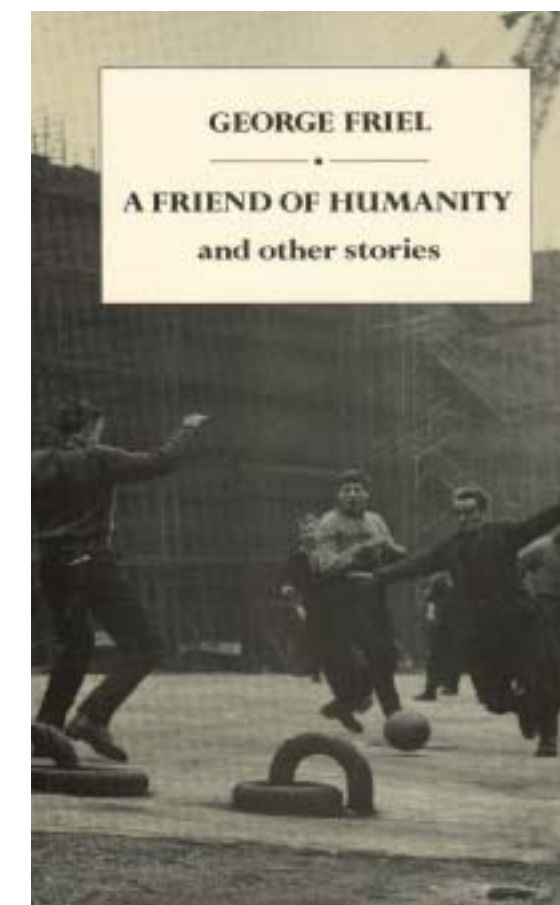
One evening in 1972 my friend had a present for me as we left Quin's bar. It was a copy of one of his books, just issued in paperback. Walking home that evening I opened up the packet and took out a copy of the new Pan edition of his novel, *The Boy Who Wanted Peace*, which I noted from the front cover had been compared critically with William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. Only then did I learn my friend's name, and that night I started to become acquainted with his fiction.

I think we only met a couple of times after I learned George's identity. I remember his delight when I commented on his work's Joycean echoes and told him about my bibliographical work on James Joyce in the USA; he was fascinated to learn that I had studied Joyce manuscripts and archives at Buffalo. I recall our shared lack of enthusiasm for 'literary society'. We were firmly agreed that life was much more interesting than writing about it.

Within a year of reading *The Boy Who Wanted Peace*, I had read all four of his then-published novels, and realised that his was a remarkable contemporary oeuvre. I was also struck by the apparent total lack of interest in it. Only *The Boy Who Wanted Peace* was available in paperback, the other three books being cheaply produced, badly proof-read hardbacks of inferior design. I had to resort to the Inter-Library Loan Scheme (then as now a wonderful and praiseworthy facility) to read two of the books, and I vividly remember that they came from public libraries in Northampton and Darlington. Truly, Friel appeared to be quite without honour in his own country.

By 1973 I had changed job, moved to Edinburgh and lost touch with him; and by 1975 he had succumbed to the lung cancer that blighted his final years. But many years later, in 1990, and by then working as a freelance editor, I was to revisit Friel's fiction. Two friends were instrumental in this: the author Fred Urquhart, who shared my view that Friel was a significant and neglected writer; and Martin Spencer, of Edinburgh University Press. I don't think Fred had been personally acquainted with Friel, but he was a determined and long-time champion of George's work, and I believe they corresponded for a while. In particular Fred drew my attention to George's short stories, many dating back to the 1930s and the war years. He felt the stories were more than strong enough to warrant a collection; and Martin Spencer, respectful of Fred Urquhart's literary judgements on Scottish writing, asked for first refusal to publish them.

I set to work on the project, the first job being to locate and then to read the stories. Friel's literary archive was held in the National Library of Scotland, and his executor, a nephew, was living in London. We spoke on the phone, corresponded, and letters of authorisation were duly furnished to give me access to the material. →



→ In all, I selected thirteen stories published between 1933 and 1976, mainly in long-defunct little magazines; and eight unpublished stories from a corpus of more than thirty items. I wrote an introduction for the collection and submitted it to Edinburgh University Press. *Chapman* magazine printed one of the eight unpublished stories ('Quoth the Budgie', in *Chapman 65*, Summer 1991) as a sort of trailer for the forthcoming collection, and George Friel's *A Friend of Humanity and Other Stories* duly appeared from Polygon in 1992, some seventeen years after the author's death. It had been my intention to dedicate the collection to Fred Urquhart, who had championed it for so long, but somehow the dedication failed to make its appearance in the printed work.

A Friend of Humanity was well received critically. Following this success, I had the great pleasure and privilege of editing and introducing two further George Friel publications. Exactly a quarter of a century after its original appearance, Polygon finally issued a paperback of *The Bank of Time* in 1994; this was George's first published novel, issued by Hutchinson in 1959, and long out of print. Then, in 1999, *A Glasgow Trilogy* appeared as a Canongate Classic, comprising *The Boy Who Wanted Peace*, *Grace and Miss Partridge*, and *Mr Alfred MA* (arguably George's three greatest fictions). By that point I was beginning to feel that justice was at last being done for the old man with the pebble glasses and the bad cough who had drunk a few beers with my younger self so long ago: he had entered the canon and was acquiring some honour in his own country.

Apart from being a pleasure and an education, meeting George Friel was one of the serendipitous events in my life **nls**

Discover more

George Friel (1910-1975) was born in Glasgow and educated at St Mungo's Academy and the University of Glasgow. He worked as a teacher in Glasgow until his retirement in 1973. He published five novels:

The Bank of Time (London: New Authors, 1959)

The Boy Who Wanted Peace (London: John Calder, 1964)

Grace and Miss Partridge (London: Calder and Boyars, 1969)

Mr Alfred M.A. (London: Calder and Boyars, 1972)

An Empty House (London: Calder and Boyars, 1974)

His work is characterised by gritty portrayals of working-class life in post-war Glasgow. While overlooked in his lifetime, he is often associated with the Scottish literary renaissance of recent years.

The papers of George Friel, 1931-1975, and the papers of his wife, Isobel, 1975-1985, which concern his writing and literary estate, can be found in the Library's Manuscript Collections.

↓ Shelfmark Acc. 8797.

Competition

Savour the New Scots

If you've visited the New Scots exhibition, you will already have had a taste of the melding of Scottish-Asian flavours – now here's your chance to actually taste them! When he is not capturing the lives and cultures of Scottish Asians on film for our exhibition, Herman Rodrigues also runs Edinburgh's two Suruchi restaurants, which serve up authentic Indian cuisine with a modern Scottish twist. Herman has generously offered a **free meal for two** at either of his restaurants to the first reader who can answer this question:

The Fife town of St Andrews is famous as the home of golf, but what links the town with a region of India, more famously associated with a certain Indian dish?

If you haven't yet seen the New Scots exhibition, which closes on 22 May, you may find a quick trip around it will give you a clue...

Answers to:

discover@nls.uk

Discover Competition

National Library of Scotland

George IV Bridge

Edinburgh EH1 1EW



Suruchi
0131 556 6583

Suruchi Too
0131 554 3268

Scotland's Secret War on the march

Our partnership with Aberdeen Public Libraries began with a flurry of outreach activity in March. The touring version of Scotland's Secret War, the Library's successful summer 2005 exhibition, hit the road as part of the Aberdeen Storytelling and Theatre Festival, in tandem with a host of NLS-organised schools' workshops and family-orientated events.

The exhibition is devised around a cunningly disguised set of filing cabinets, constructed to open out and display their secret contents to inquisitive visitors. It is currently installed at Cove Library, near Aberdeen, before plans to billet it overseas in May to the North Sea Traffic Museum at Televaag, near Bergen in Norway. Ann Stephen, Children's Services Librarian at Aberdeen Central library remarked:

'We were delighted with the exhibition and Spy School activities. The teachers were all very pleased with the visit and felt that the children got a great deal out of the event. We thank Laura Murphy and her colleagues very much for all the hard work involved in helping to make our Storytelling and Theatre Festival a success this year.'

The exhibition, which uncovers some of the hidden stories of Scotland's involvement with World War II, also reveals the history of wartime Scottish-Norwegian links, including the fascinating story of the Shetland Bus, the ferry service that shuttled servicemen and their families to safety across the North Sea.

Top: Pupils in Aberdeen share war secrets

Bottom: Laura Murphy and Derek Oliver install the travelling exhibition



Lending network goes nationwide

The first national network for resource sharing and interlibrary lending has been unveiled, bringing together the union catalogues of the combined regions (the South West, North West, East Midlands and North East of England and Scotland) and LinkUK under the one banner for the first time in the UK. UnityUK is the new name for next generation resource sharing, drawing on technology from world leaders OCLC PICA who will host and manage the new service. The full service launches in May after regional pilots, and will allow customers nationwide to request a greater choice of material from their local library.

Talent abounds

International bookbinders scooped prizes for their work in January at the 2006 Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition, the Library's prestigious annual award for craft bookbinding. Julia van Mechelen (below) from Belgium won the overall award for her goatskin binding of *Over Boeken*, while German Clara Schmidt took the student prize. The closing date for submissions to the 2007 award is 26 September.

See www.nls.uk/news/awards for full details or to download an entry form.



Poetry awards: call for entries

The National Poetry Competition, the longest running poetry competition in the UK, calls for 2006 entries. All entries are judged anonymously and past winners include both published and previously unknown poets. The three prizes for the competition range from £500 to £5000, plus the opportunity to read at the Ledbury Poetry Festival, in Herefordshire. To enter, send a stamped addressed envelope to Competition Organiser (NLS) 22 Betterton Street, London, WC2H 9BX or visit www.poetrysociety.org.uk for full details. The closing date is 31 October.

Treasures across the sea

NLS has been flying the flag for Scotland's collections in New York by participating with annual celebrations for Tartan Week, which took literature as its theme this year. Director of Collection Development, Cate Newton, visited the city in early April to give a talk outlining the treasures of the newly acquired John Murray Archive at New York Public Library. The visit is part of the Library's international strategy, which aims to raise awareness of NLS overseas. The event took place alongside Tartan Bites, a programme of talks and readings in venues across New York and Washington DC, organised by The Scottish Book Trust to showcase Scottish literary and publishing talent.



Make a noise in the Library!

Do you have a burning issue to raise, a question for our expert staff to answer or a relevant library-related topic you're keen to discuss? We plan to run a regular readers' letters section, so please do drop us a line. Either email discover@nls.uk or write in to:

Julian Stone, Editor, Discover NLS
National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1EW



Building technology saves energy and money

Advanced energy saving measures have been introduced in Library buildings, thanks to an innovative water chilling system instigated by NLS' Estates Division, as part of major plant replacement works in our Causewayside Building, at Salisbury Place.

The system works by using cold air from outside to provide chilled water instead of running on electricity. This provides reductions of up to 30% in CO² emissions, helping to reduce the Library's overall environmental footprint. The system benefits the public purse too, with electricity consumption down 19% in the building, helping to offset rapidly-increasing energy costs.

Sound archive wins EU funding

The EASAIER project (Enabling Access to Sound Archives through Integration, Enrichment and Retrieval) has successfully attracted EU funding. EASAIER will investigate new ways of accessing sound archives through online information retrieval. NLS will provide content from its music collections for research purposes, and will take part in the evaluation of the project and the new tools it creates. Head of Music Collections, Almut Boehme, has been invited to join the Expert User Advisory Board for the project, which gets underway in May.

Military map research project gets go – ahead

A collaborative postgraduate research studentship on 18th-century military maps of Scotland has been awarded funding by the Arts & Humanities Research Council. The award will fund a three-year PhD studentship to study military maps, focusing not only on the NLS' Board of Ordnance and Wade collections, but also on related maps and archival materials in other repositories, including the British Library and The National Archives. The research will be managed and organised by Edinburgh University Institute of Geography, and the NLS Map Library. For further information please contact Professor Charles Withers at c.w.j.withers@ed.ac.uk or **Chris Fleet** at c.fleet@nls.uk.

Advertising in Discover NLS

We hope readers appreciate the investment we have made in our new publication. In order to continually develop *Discover NLS*, we would be interested to hear from an individual or small Scottish agency capable of generating and managing advertising revenue on a quarterly basis. Applicants should be committed, service-orientated, mature and able to demonstrate an interest in and knowledge of library or cultural issues. To express an interest or learn more, please write to or email the Editor, Julian Stone at j.stone@nls.uk in the first instance.

Come aboard with our expert curators as they trawl our collections for fascinating but little-known treasures

Community care in benevolent Beith

Rare Books Curator, Helen Vincent, uncovers the hidden social history of a small Scottish town, whose people guarded against coffin robbers and provided for the hard-working in hard times.

the key principles of Scottish Enlightenment thought. As the *Articles and Regulations of the Friendly Association in Beith* explain, 'man is formed for Society, and stands in need of its aid ... And as Society is the main support of human happiness, so the more friendly and social any Society is, the greater degree of happiness its Members may expect to enjoy'.



Many of the most exciting items in NLS collections are the least interesting at first glance - small, plainly bound books with no pictures to catch the eye. This collection of pamphlets from Beith in North Ayrshire is one such book within whose unprepossessing covers lies the hidden social history of one small Scottish town in the years between the French Revolution and the ascension of Queen Victoria.

Beith is a small textile town near Paisley, with a fascinating hidden history documented in a set of 25 pamphlets, published between 1772 and 1846. These pamphlets contain the rules, regulations and reports from some 21 local societies, ranging from the Beith St. Salem Encampment of Knights Templers Harmonic Society to the Beith Benevolent Coffin Society. Most of these societies were 'benevolent societies', where groups of working people clubbed together and paid in money while they were well, to receive benefits if they became too ill to work. Far from being a dry assembly of facts and figures, or a depressing picture of poverty, these documents give us a picture of a small community (Beith's population grew from 2872 in 1792 to 5119 in 1831) living out one of

From these pamphlets, we learn that men were considered past their prime at forty (the usual cut-off age for joining any Benevolent Society), and that they were concerned only to reward 'the Industrious Poor' and not 'those whose trouble is ... the result of vicious practices'.

We see how these organisations were conducted, with their formal structures of preses, or Presidents, (allowed to sit 'with his head covered, if he chuses' in meetings), committees and meetings. We can also sympathise with their rules against 'sub-committees in whispering →

Items disbursed by the Beith Female Benevolent Society, 1817-1821

Petticoats,	102
Shifts,	104
Short-gowns,	10
Blankets,	11 pairs.
Shoes,	45 —





→ and keeping up trifling chat', and their insistence that anyone receiving aid should not be the subject of derogatory gossip.

We also learn that the people of Beith were worried about grave robbers, hence the formation of the Society for Protecting the Dead, whose rules insisted that members should refrain from 'boasting, cursing, and blasphemy' and 'clubbing for Ardent spirits' while on watch. We discover that orphans were supported only until the age of fourteen - 'or sooner, if they be thought to be capable of gaining their own maintenance by their own industry'. And we witness the slightly different ways in which women and men, and different social classes, dealt with charitable aid, from the Female Benevolent Society run by the ladies of the parish to the Female Friendly Society organised by working women - (the only one in this collection to consider providing an allowance to women after childbirth).

'...to secure support to the unfortunate, who may be reduced to necessitous circumstances without any fault of their own; but by no means to give any encouragement to Idleness or Extravagances...'

From the *Articles and Regulations of the Beith Merchant and Farmer Society, 1772*

Discovering items like this, which allow us to hear ordinary people of the past discussing the way they went about their daily lives, is one of the greatest pleasures of delving into our collections. It is a magical experience to see a collection of tiny texts conjure up a whole society as you read them, fleshing out the dry bones of social history with fascinating details until the friendly and benevolent citizens of pre-Victorian Beith spring to life before your eyes **nls**

Discover more

This pamphlet volume is part of the Library's general collection of Rare Books, comprising early printed books and other important items printed in Scotland and elsewhere.

↓ Shelfmark: RB.s.927.

Reader Offer

Exclusive Reader Offer: 2 for 1 Admission to Hill of Tarvit Mansionhouse

Discover NLS is pleased to support the centenary of the National Trust's Hill of Tarvit Mansionhouse, the family home of revered book collector Hugh Sharp, with an exclusive offer of 2 for 1 admission to all readers, eligible throughout 2006. Read the feature on pages 26-27 for more details about the house or visit www.nts.org.uk for opening times and further information on their events programme. Simply present this coupon on arrival.



2 for 1
Admission to
Hill of Tarvit House

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Setting Scott in Stone

Abbotsford and Melrose in miniature

Dr Iain Gordon Brown, Principal Curator of Manuscripts, uncovers an evocative piece of Walter Scott memorabilia from our collections.



As the principal centre of Walter Scott scholarship, the National Library acquires and makes available a wide range of documents relating to the writer, his circle and his world. The manuscript collections include thousands of letters to and from Scott. Why, then, should the addition of yet one more - physically small and textually brief - be an event worth celebrating? The answer lies in what happened to a trifling note in Scott's hand relating to a lunch party at Abbotsford that never, in fact, took place. The small piece of paper was subsequently transformed. It became a 'canvas' on which a distinguished contemporary artist managed to unite the celebrity of Scott, as exemplified originally by his autograph, with the attraction and historic associations of his country house, as captured in evocative little sketches illustrating Scott's own Borders realm. The resulting literary and artistic ensemble epitomises something of the magic that the very names of Scott and Abbotsford conveyed to admirers across the world, then and long afterwards.

In 1823 Scott invited his neighbour in Edinburgh's Castle Street, Hugh William 'Grecian' Williams, and a fellow artist, William Scrope, to Abbotsford when they were staying locally. The two painters could not, however, avail themselves of the opportunity. Scrope was a sporting artist admired by Scott. Williams was an important figure in the development of the cult of the picturesque in Scotland. A pupil of Alexander Nasmyth, the father of Scottish landscape painting, he had made his name and a successful career with large-scale watercolours. Topographical views on this scale - akin to vignettes in size and feeling, as if intended for engraving - are much less common in his oeuvre. →

Letter, 1823, of Sir Walter Scott to William Scrope, illustrated with pen and wash drawings of Abbotsford and Melrose Abbey by Hugh William Williams.

↓ Shelfmark: Acc. 12583

→ Impressed by the charm of these delightful drawings, the National Art Collections Fund was persuaded to support the Library's auction bid for the illustrated letter, and we are pleased to acknowledge once again the charity's assistance. Art Fund support confirms the status that this intriguing document has now assumed: what began as a hurried and prosaic note, albeit one from the tireless pen of the greatest man of letters of the age, was transformed into a most attractive and evocative miniature work of art.

Katharine Thomson, the wife of another Edinburgh acquaintance of 'Grecian' Williams, had also been invited but was unable to make the journey. Williams brilliantly seized an opportunity to allow her, as it were, to have the pleasure of meeting 'the Great Unknown' (as Scott was often called) and of 'seeing' his famous Abbotsford by way of compensation for her disappointment in missing, what would doubtless have been a memorable occasion for her. What might have been an actual pilgrimage to Abbotsford and its surroundings was thus accomplished metaphorically, through the medium of Williams's skilful brush, in sketches from nature done on the spot and on Scott's own paper bearing his distinctive scrawl.

Abbotsford was, even then, well on the way to becoming the tourist draw that it has remained ever since. Scott's fantasy in stone and lime was, within his own lifetime, established as one of the most famous houses in the world. It has remained the archetype of the literary shrine. In architectural

terms the building is also the key structure in the history of the revived Scottish Baronial style. Scott's antiquarianism is apparent everywhere: for example in the decorative details copied or reproduced in the form of plaster-casts, from prototypes at the nearby romantic ruin of Melrose Abbey. The very name of the house was an invention intended to evoke a connection with the medieval monastic community. Williams's choice of a view of Melrose was most appropriate as a pendant to that of Scott's modern mansion.

Abbotsford and Scott's literary achievement were intimately related. The profits from his hugely successful narrative poems and his even more widely popular novels were lavished on the house. The prodigious expenditure would contribute to his ruin. Scott called the place his 'Dalilah'. It was natural that his admirers should want to see the man in his domestic setting, the Wizard of the North in his den where so many works of romance were created. Williams captures the essence of Abbotsford's appeal in its Tweedside setting. Fantastically turreted and be-gabled, the house was instantly recognisable and immediately appealing. One recalls the episode when the ailing Scott himself was travelling back across Europe in 1832. In a bookseller's shop in Frankfurt the proprietor, knowing only that the visitors were British, brought out of his stock something he knew would appeal: it was a print of Abbotsford. Scott, unrecognised, muttered only 'I know that already, sir.' He was going home to Abbotsford to die. **nls**



About Abbotsford

Abbotsford is the house built for Sir Walter Scott in 1824, in the heart of the Scottish Borders, on the banks of the River Tweed. The house was opened to the public in 1833, five months after Scott's death. Abbotsford contains an impressive collection of historic relics, weapons and armour, and a library containing over 9,000 rare volumes.



Visitors to the house can see Scott's study, library, drawing room, entrance hall, armouries and the dining room where he died on 21 September 1832. See www.scottsassbotsford.co.uk for full details of opening hours or contact the house at:

Abbotsford, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9BQ
01896 752 043
enquiries@scottsassbotsford.co.uk



Discover more

NLS holds the pre-eminent collection of the literary manuscripts, papers and correspondence of Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832). Our collections include manuscripts and page proofs of many of Scott's greatest novels, poetry, non-fiction and biographies, alongside personal papers of every kind and some 10,000 letters to and from him. Readers will find an excellent introduction to our Scott holdings at www.nls.uk/catalogues/resources/scott/collection

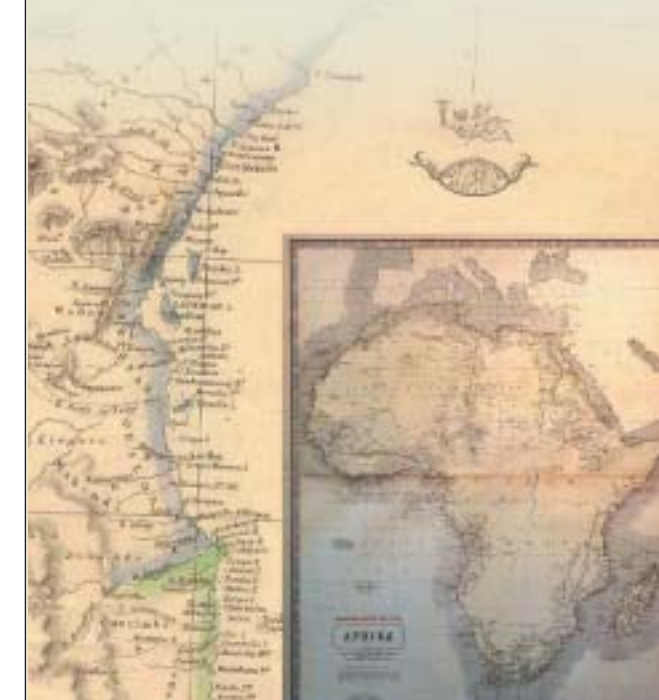
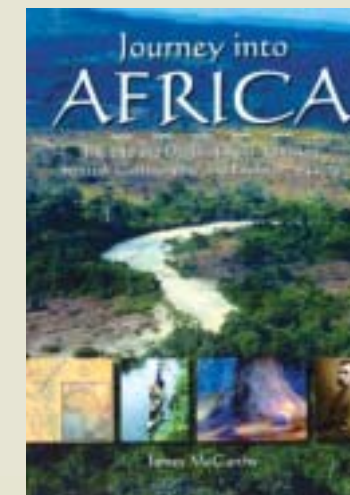
Competition

Win a Journey Into Africa!

Well, a copy of the excellent book by James McCarthy and published by Whittles Publishing. We have copies of *Journey Into Africa: The Life and Death of Keith Johnston, Scottish Cartographer and Explorer* to give away to the first three people who can answer this question:

Which famous explorer commented that Keith Johnston probably knew more about Africa than himself?

Answers to:
discover@nls.uk
Discover Competition
National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1EW



House for a book-lover: the life, home and collection of Hugh Sharp (1897-1937)

Dundee is famous for its legacy of 'the three Js' – jute, jam and journalism – the staples upon which the city built its prosperity in the 19th century. Some of the city's wealthy families gave back to the nation just as much as they made. **Julian Stone** remembers the family of Hugh Sharp, a book-lover and jute tycoon, whose collection of rare books remains one of our most cherished.

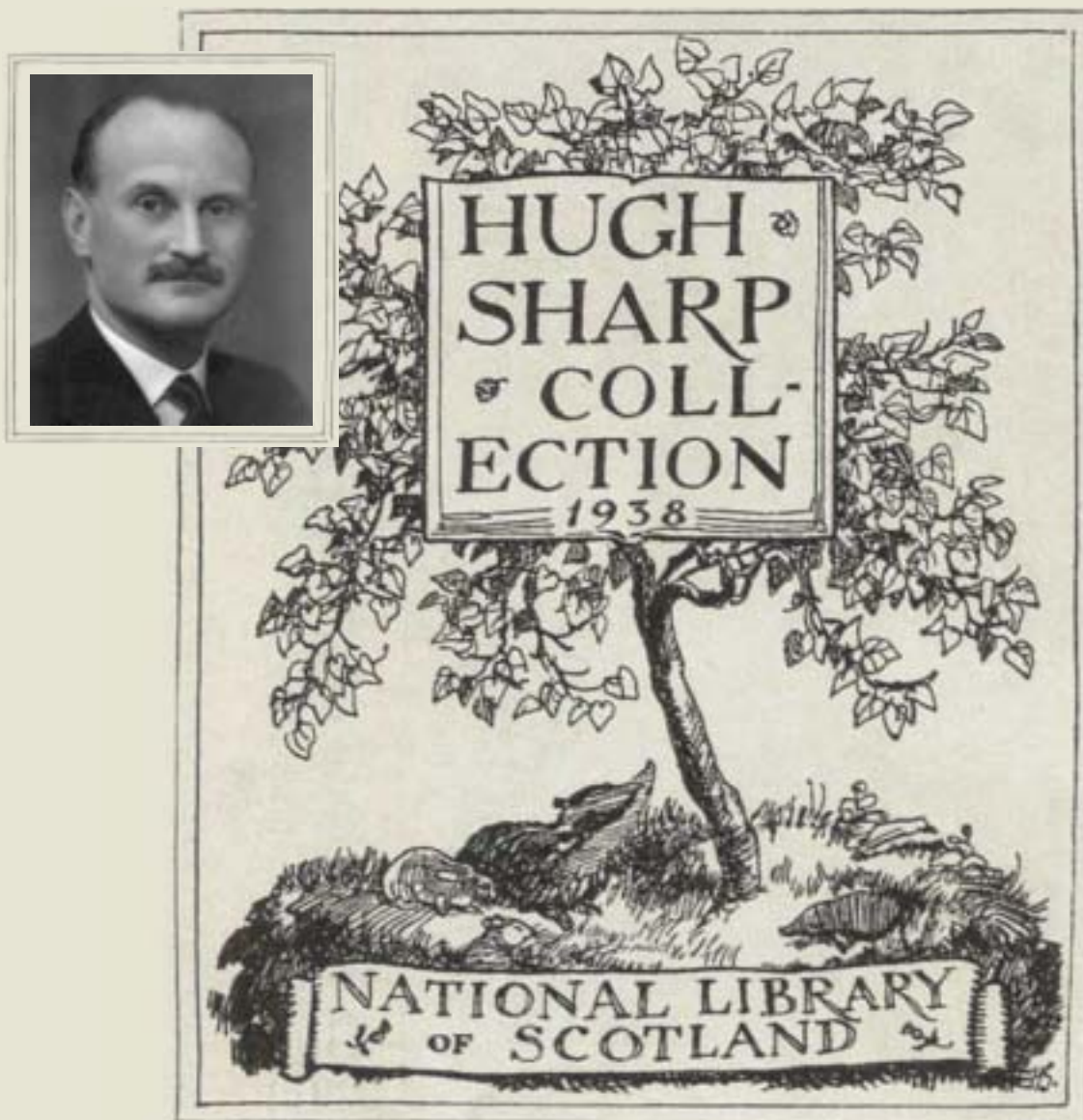
The Hugh Sharp Collection

The collection comprises over 1200 books, many in pristine condition, most notably numerous first editions of the majority of significant British and American authors from the 18th century and early 20th century. Jane Austen, Milton, Charles Dickens, Herman Melville, the Brontës and Mark Twain all feature prominently alongside writers from Sharp's lifetime such as TS Eliot and Compton Mackenzie.

Sharp's collecting interests extended beyond the traditional literary canon however and within the collection you will also find the nonsense verse of Edward Lear and Lewis Carroll, and books on American history, botanical reference and golf, alongside such bibliographical splendours as the first edition of the King James Bible.

The Sharp family

The building of such an impressive collection obviously requires one to have substantial financial means at their disposal and unsurprisingly Sharp and his family wanted for little in this respect. The Sharp family grew their prosperity from the expansion of Dundee's textile



Above: The handsome bookplate designed by EH Shepard, famous for his illustrations of Winnie the Pooh. The Sharp family requested the plate to be inserted in each volume of his collection, as part of the bequest.

Left: The Dining Hall at Hill of Tarvit Mansionhouse.

industry from the beginning of the 18th century. Hugh's grandfather, John, made a fortune from jute manufacturing and left the family £750,000 when he died in 1895, equivalent to nearly £60m today.

The family business was continued by Frederick Sharp, Hugh's father, who became a successful financier, offering venture capital for pioneering investors in the American West, and who went on to play a key role in leading the growth of Britain's railways, with stints on the boards of both Caledonian and London, and Midland and Scottish Railway companies.

The Sharp family

Hugh was Frederick's only son. After an education at the prestigious Rugby School, he earned a distinction and three medals in the First World War, including the Military Cross. He enrolled at Oxford University after the war, but he left after a few terms, having succumbed to a glamorous life of international travel and commerce. As the proliferation of sporting books in his collection demonstrates, Hugh relished and excelled at most sports, but chief among his passions were golf and skiing. The Sharps were ardent members of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club in St Andrews and served on the Rules Committee, while Hugh was an early champion of skiing in the Highlands and was instrumental in popularising the pastime in the area.

Hugh's passion for adventure and the ardour with which he pursued his hobbies perhaps stood in the way of his settling down, but eventually he delighted his family with the news of his engagement, at the age of forty, to Mabel Hogarth, the daughter of a prosperous shipping magnate from the West coast of Scotland. The celebrations were short-lived however. On 10 December 1937, only a week before his engagement party, he boarded a train at Dundee bound for Glasgow to meet his fiancé. Sharp would never arrive at his destination. An express from Edinburgh to Glasgow ploughed into his stationary train at Castlecary near Falkirk, and Hugh died along with 34 others in the crash. To compound the tragedy, the Sharp family line ended a mere nine years later, with the passing of first his mother Beatrice in 1946, and finally his unmarried sister Elizabeth, who died of cancer two years later. Elizabeth Sharp bequeathed the majority of Hugh's stunning collection of books (over 1200 from a total collection of 1500) to the National Library in 1938 while the family home, Hill of Tarvit Mansionhouse, was given over to the National Trust in 1949.

At home with the Sharps

Hill of Tarvit, located two miles south of Cupar in Fife, celebrates its centenary this year. Hugh's father, Frederick Sharp, himself a great collector, bought the estate on the site of the previous Wemyss Hall in 1904. Sir Robert Lorimer, a leading Scottish architect (who was later knighted for his work on the Thistle Chapel of St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh), was commissioned to build a home capable of showcasing Sharp's valuable collection of European paintings, tapestries, French furniture and Chinese porcelain. Names such as Raeburn and Ramsey are represented in the art collection, while furniture by Adam Weissweiler and Chippendale is also evident. Each room varies depending on what it was intended to display, with a drawing room housing French furniture amidst Rococo style plasterwork; while the dining room with its English furniture is complemented by the Georgian style plasterwork.

The National Trust has put much work into the house's centenary celebrations over recent months, in preparation for its re-opening to the public at Easter. The first-floor corridor of the house (whose rooms were used until the late 1970s as a convalescent home for the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity) and Hugh Sharp's bedroom have been opened to the public for the first time and many of the original features and contents of the house and its surrounding gardens have been restored and recovered. There is also a wide range of themed events planned throughout the year, ranging from an Edwardian fete and croquet days, to study days and outdoor theatre productions.*

From the ornate opulence of their stately home to the suppressed first edition copy of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, the Sharps had much to enjoy in their lifetimes and gave us much to enjoy today. And to think that all this prosperity stems from the industry of a man who judiciously sold sackcloth to both sides of the American Civil War! **nls**

The property is open between 1-5pm, Thursday to Monday during April, May, September and October and 1-5pm all week from June-August.

* Please call the property on 01334 653127 for a full list of events and opening times.

Discover more

To learn more about both the Hugh Sharp collection and Hill of Tarvit House, come along to a free event at the Library on 24 May and also peruse highlights from the collection on display throughout the month. See page 12 for full details of both.

Football focus

Our man in the Morozovtsi

The recent transfer of Hibernian FC striker Garry O'Connor to Lokomotiv Moscow has re-ignited interest in the first Scot known to have played football in Russia - Sir Robert Hamilton Bruce Lockhart (1887-1970), whose Moscow league championship medal for 1912 is now held in the Library, along with personal papers and a Russian sporting periodical.

Lockhart's brief footballing career was in fact kicked off by a case of mistaken identity.

He arrived in Moscow in 1912 on a diplomatic post, preceded by the reputation of his brother John, a famous and accomplished rugby footballer. Lockhart was invited to play for the Morozovtsi - the team of a prosperous textile factory founded by British industrialists, the Charnocks, 'as an antidote to vodka drinking and political agitation' - partly on the strength of his redoubtable soccer skills, but equally due to his fraternal association.

Lockhart certainly chose his side well - despite an entirely amateur team of ex-pats and factory workers, the Morozovtsi were unbeaten in the league between 1910 and 1914 and played

Fascinating football book

In other football-related news, the Library has loaned a rare book for a major exhibition to mark the 2006 Football World Cup in Germany. *Vocabula* by David Wedderburn (1709), a Latin textbook that contains the first references to football as 'a passing game', will be displayed at The Fascination of Football exhibition in Hamburg. The book will be used in the exhibition to help present the claim that Scotland invented the modern game. The Fascination of Football opens at the Voelkerkunde Museum on 30 April. See www.faszination-fussball.de for more details.



Top: Lockhart (centre) with the Charnock brothers
Side: Lockhart's championship medal, one of the many unusual items in our collections

to home crowds of up to 15,000.

Lockhart's one season at Morozovtsi passed fairly uneventfully, aside from unqualified rumours that he had played against the future Russian leader, Nikita Krushchev. Reflecting on his flirtation with the 'beautiful game', Lockhart commented in his biography, *Memoirs of a British Agent*, that, 'I have always counted my football experiences with the Russian proletariat as a most valuable part of my Russian education.'

The medal and associated memorabilia are part of our Rare Book Collections. To consult any items in our collections, you will need to be a registered reader: contact enquiries@nls.uk or visit www.nls.uk/info/readerstickets for more details.

First football song 'discovered'

Media interest was also sparked by the discovery of a rare printed copy of *The Dooley Fitba Club*, the earliest known song about football, documented in *The Word on the Street*, a collection of NLS web features highlighting 'broad-sides' (early street literature, the equivalent of today's newspapers). Written in the 1880s and attributed to James Currin, a leading satirical songwriter of the day, the song was later adapted and made famous by Jimmie Macgregor and Robin Hall's *Fitba Crazy* in the 1960s. To read the lyrics and more information visit www.nls.uk/broad-sides/broadside.cfm/id/15078

NLS FC

Continuing on the football theme, NLS' own first XI swept to their second consecutive victory in March, with a 4-2 win over the National Trust for Scotland. Previous opponents have included the National Museum, the Scottish Parliament and Edinburgh City Libraries. Preparations are well underway for NLS' debut international fixture, as the side take themselves off to Dublin to take on Trinity College in July. If you're part of an organisation that might fancy a relatively gentle, mixed teams, friendly fixture against NLS, contact NLS FC 'gaffer', Rachel Edwards, at r.edwards@nls.uk

The Library serves an increasingly wide variety of customers. Each issue we speak to an individual involved with NLS and find out what it means to them.

Harry Hawthorne

Harry Hawthorne has been associated with the Library for half a century. Last year he donated his war diaries and personal papers to our manuscript collections and also gave a talk to a school group on his experiences of life in a German prisoner-of-war camp.

Q: How did you first discover NLS?

A: I got involved when I returned from London in 1956. I had been working for the Labour Party, doing political research. Naturally I was acquainted with numerous politicians of the time and it was George Willis, MP for East Edinburgh who referred me for a ticket, which was the system back then. After another break from Edinburgh I returned in the late Sixties to work in the Civil Service. In those days I used the Library for all sorts of specialist research, into things like the sympathies and attitudes of Edinburgh people (trade unionists in particular) to the French Revolution.

Q: How do you get involved today?

A: I try to come to most of the Library events, exhibitions and some of the workshops. I am such a regular at these things that I often find myself helping out too! In more general terms, I do what I can to draw people's attention to the Library, let them know about the range of activities on offer and try and encourage them to come along and take part. As many of your speakers and panellists would testify, I also try to contribute as much as possible to the discussions, ask questions of authors, that sort of thing.

Q: What has been your favourite NLS experience?

A: Visiting the Scotland's Secret War exhibition threw up some surprising revelations for me personally. I discovered that an MP I had worked for was later revealed to be a spy for the Russians! I helped elect Major Vernon after the war and it was a strange experience when I visited the exhibition and learned, for the first time, that he was later exposed for his espionage.



Harry at a recent public event

Q: What is the one thing you would like to change about NLS?

A: I would like to encourage more people to discover the Library for themselves. The exhibitions and events give people a flavour of the treasures which await to be discovered. The fabulous displays also bring items from the collections to people's attention, but of course you need a reader's ticket to get beyond the barriers to view them*. I wonder also how many people realise that there are refreshment areas for readers? These could encourage people to stay longer, if they have the incentive of a tea-break to punctuate their long periods of arduous research in the reading rooms! **nls**

* Editor's note

This is changing in the near future, with renovations to the entrance hall of our George IV Bridge building already underway.



Birds of a Feather:

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Free Exhibition
4 July-15 October

Discover the work and legacy
of one of the world's greatest
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Birds of America is one of the
world's most valuable books and
learn how he has influenced wildlife
conservation, from the 19th century
until to the present day.

Opening Times:

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Sunday 2pm-5pm

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