

discover

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

ISSUE 3
WINTER 2006

nlS



**The Mirror of
the Life of Christ**

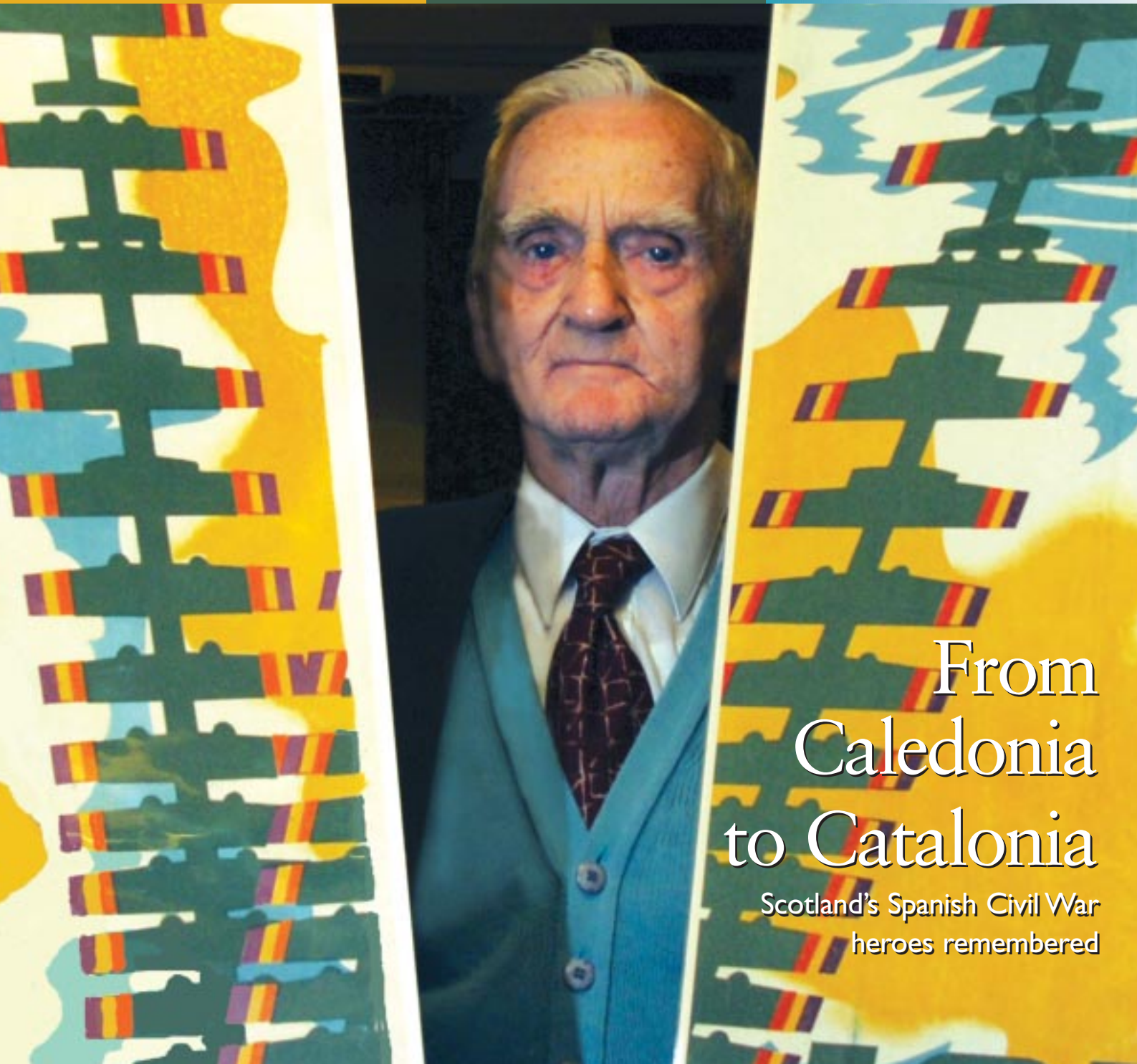
Reflections on a
dazzling manuscript

**Opening up the
Holmes Case-Book**

The narrative precision of
Arthur Conan Doyle

**Freudian
slip**

WRD Fairbairn
under analysis



From
Caledonia
to Catalonia

Scotland's Spanish Civil War
heroes remembered

Foreword



Welcome to the third issue of *Discover NLS*. In this issue we continue to celebrate the breadth and depth of our collections, from Kenneth Dunn on a fourteenth century 'Mirror of the Life of Christ' to Eric Jutrzenka on the wonder of wikis. Our manuscript collections preserve the lives and experiences not only of writers and thinkers, but of ordinary people involved with extraordinary events, as Dan Gray describes in his article on the Scots 'brigaders' of the Spanish Civil War.

Not that writers and thinkers are neglected. As the acquisition of the John Murray Archive demonstrates, we continue to expand and develop our collections whenever possible. An in-depth article from long-standing user and friend of the Library, Owen Dudley Edwards, reflects on another recent addition to the collections, the manuscript of Conan Doyle's 'The adventure of the illustrious client'.

The literary theme is continued with Ruth Boreham on the richness of the John Murray Archive (and news of an exciting collaboration with the BBC), together with Gavin Miller on the eminent but undervalued psychoanalyst WRD Fairbairn, and we hear from Ian Rankin on

what NLS means to him.

As regular readers and customers will know, we are working on a number of ways to improve access to the Library. One exciting development is the link-up with local authority schemes across Scotland that will eventually allow anyone with a 'citizen card' to access our services either remotely on the web or in person in Edinburgh without needing to obtain a separate NLS card. A service update from David Dinham outlines the potential of this revolution. I write this from Aberdeen, where we are hosting our first Roadshow, taking our services and even samples from our collections direct to the people of Scotland via public libraries. Initiatives such as these will integrate our services with those of public libraries in a way which has not been possible before. Wherever you are in Scotland, we hope you continue to discover more through, about and in NLS.

Gordon Hunt
Director of Customer Services

Contributors in this Issue



Daniel Gray is a John Murray Archive Cataloguer in the National Library of Scotland's Manuscripts Division. His interests include radical and Marxist history, and foreign intervention in the Spanish Civil War. Daniel's first book, the *Historical Dictionary of Marxism*, is published by Scarecrow Press in December. He also writes on football for ESPN Soccernet, *When Saturday Comes* and *Fly Me to the Moon*.

Dr Gavin Miller is Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in the Department of English Literature, University of Edinburgh, where he is conducting research into the history and ideas behind Scottish psychoanalysis. He is the author of *R.D. Laing* (Edinburgh University Press, 2004), and *Alasdair Gray: the Fiction of Communion* (Rodopi, 2005), as well as articles in scholarly journals such as *The Journal of Narrative Theory*, *Scottish Studies Review*, and *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*.



Owen Dudley Edwards, Dublin-born (1938), is Hon. Fellow of the School of History and Classics, University of Edinburgh, where he was Reader until his retirement in 2005. He never expects to retire as Reader in the National Library of Scotland, whose resources and staff have been a godsend to his books and articles such as *The Quest for Sherlock Holmes* (on Conan Doyle's Edinburgh years) and *The Oxford Sherlock Holmes*, the standard nine-volume edition of which he was general editor.

Derek Oliver became an Assistant Curator in the Manuscripts Division in April 2006. He has a keen interest in modern European Literature and Cinema History. He is also a member of the Scottish Ornithologists Club.

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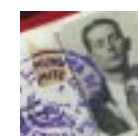
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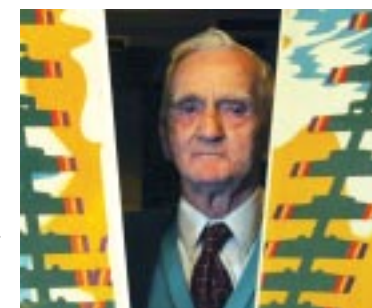
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Cover Image:

Scottish survivor of the Spanish Civil War, Steve Fullarton puts in an appearance at the Library's symposium marking the 70th anniversary of the War.



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.

Last letters of literary legends acquired

Letters from two of Scotland's greatest literary figures have recently been added to the Library's collections of manuscript material. A collection of letters from the late Dame Muriel Spark, including one of her last, has been purchased. The letters to Tony Strachan, an editor at Macmillan publishers, lifelong friend and early champion of Spark's work, date from 1957 to 2006. Mr Strachan was instrumental in commissioning her first novel, *The Comforters*, published in 1954. The last letter, written to him from hospital less than a month before she died, is particularly poignant. It was dictated, but has a very frail signature and ends: 'Please don't tell anybody I'm back in hospital as I expect to be home so soon'.

These are joined by a batch of letters from the poet George Mackay Brown (1921-1996). When Jenny Robertson read his 1976 collection *Winterfold* in 1977, it spoke to her so deeply that she was moved to write to the poet. Their correspondence developed over the years into a friendship involving various members of Mrs Robertson's family. A letter dated 'Palm Sunday '96' – written just two weeks before he died on 13 April – contains what must be one of his last poems, 'To Heather', written for her granddaughter.

George Mackay Brown once wrote that, 'the lives of writers are not greatly different from the lives of plumbers'. Indeed these letters carry evidence of the little niggles and pleasures of daily life, alongside details of his health and his depression, of faith, friendship, Orkney and of writing.

Mrs Robertson has generously donated over 160 letters to the Library, which form a welcome addition to the George Mackay Brown archives held here and at Edinburgh University. Shortly before we went to press, Maggie Fergusson's biography of the poet, *George Mackay Brown: A Life* scooped First Book of The Year at the 2006 Saltire Literary Awards.

Image: Gordon Wright



New Voyage charts Walter Scott connection

The Library has contributed to a facsimile edition of one of the 19th century's most celebrated illustrated books. William Daniell's *Voyage Round the Coasts of Great Britain* did much to inform the world of the awe and splendour of the Scottish islands and coast when it was published in 1825. The new edition published by Birlinn reproduces the Scottish plates (with accompanying travelogue) from the excellently preserved set in the National Library. The set contains some previously unknown and unpublished notes written by Walter Scott as an *aide memoire* for Daniell in planning his trips. When Scott wrote these instructions in 1814 for an artist he much admired, he had recently made his own celebrated voyage round the Scottish coast. Scott's relationship with Daniell, and their influence on one another, is the subject of an introductory essay in this edition contributed by Dr Iain Gordon Brown, Principal Curator of Manuscripts at NLS, while Elizabeth Bray contributes another essay on Daniell and his *Voyage*.

Top: Duncansby Stacks, Caithness.

Bottom: Edinburgh from Calton Hill.



National Library goes to Aberdeen

NLS celebrated its burgeoning partnership with Aberdeen Library and Information Services last month with the Library's first ever Roadshow. Staff from collections, customer services and marketing divisions accompanied displays and collection treasures in a two-day stint at Aberdeen Central Library. The trip was organised to coincide with the maiden voyage outside of Edinburgh of the Library's AGM and trustees meeting and saw the Library greeting the people of Aberdeen, answering their questions and encouraging them to register and take advantage of our growing suite of remote services. National Librarian Martyn Wade said, 'We're very pleased to have brought this Roadshow to Aberdeen and delighted that local people came along to see what we have to offer. Despite being based in Edinburgh, it's important to remember that the National Library is for all the people of Scotland, wherever they may be. We welcome every opportunity to demonstrate this, by taking part in events like this and promoting the wealth of services we offer to remote users.'

It is hoped that further road shows can be organised in other parts of the country in 2007.



Reading rooms refreshed

The Library has reorganised the reading rooms at its George IV Bridge site. The North Reading Room has now been expanded into two areas for the consultation of rare books/music and manuscript material respectively. This development doubles the reading spaces available for the supervised consultation of these collections, including the John Murray Archive.

In addition, NLS is pleased to respond to customer demand with the opening of a Silent Reading Room, which will provide readers with an environment free from laptops, PCs and other electronic equipment.

William Auld (1924-2006)

The Library is sad to report the death on 11 September of its benefactor William Auld, of Dollar, who was the first person ever nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature for work in Esperanto. The late Mr Auld wrote original poetry in Esperanto and translated many English classics, including Shakespeare and JR Tolkien. He was also a great teacher and author of textbooks. In 2000 he presented his huge Esperanto library of serials and almost 5,000 monographs to the Library, including many rare early publications. Esperanto was introduced as an 'international auxiliary language' by LL Zamenhof in the 1870s, but subsequently failed to gain widespread use.

A detailed list of the collection can be found at www.nls.uk/collections/rarebooks.

Scots writing revived for today's speakers

An important piece of history relating to the Scots language has been put online at the Scots Language Centre's re-launched website,

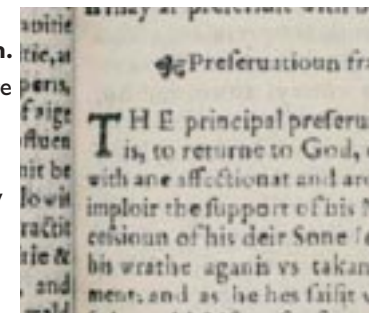
www.scotslanguage.com.

The item, from our rare book collections, written in 1568 by Gilbert Skeyne carries instructions on how to avoid infection from the plague that was sweeping Edinburgh at the time. It is the first known medical document written in the vernacular language.

NLS will be making regular contributions to the site with a different historical example of written Scots uploaded every month. Michael Hance, Director of the Scots Language Centre welcomed the news, saying, 'We wanted to show that the Scots language has been a part of our culture for many centuries and were delighted that the National Library were happy to work with us in developing this important section of the site.'

The site, featuring submissions from popular broadcasters such as Billy Kay and Mary Blance, aims to showcase both written and oral Scots and support Scots speakers in keeping the language alive.

To read the item in Scots or English, visit www.scotslanguage.com/Scots/Scots_Writing/Historical_writing



The far from home

In the year commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War, Daniel Gray tells the stories of Scots who risked their lives on foreign soil in the face of government apathy, in a civil war that held a grim portent for a much bigger war to come.

From the moment Manuel Azaña's Popular Front government gained power by the very narrowest of election margins in February 1936, Spain's descent into civil conflict appears to have been inexorable, such was the ire this result provoked among the country's religious and political conservatives. Buoyed by the potential support of a Germany determined to oppose any European nation pursuing a left-wing agenda and Benito Mussolini's imperially ambitious Italy, on 17 July 1936 a military cabal of reactionaries led by General Francisco Franco began a *coup d'état* against the government. Spain was instantaneously polarised between republicans, socialists, communists and anarchists united behind the legitimate government, and supporters of Franco's insurrection, namely monarchists, hardline Catholics and those on the political right. Thus began a three-year long confrontation between Republicans and Nationalists (whose number included fascists) that was to expend nearly one million lives, leave an indelible footprint on Spain's future, and define the boundaries of World War II.

While these tumultuous events unfolded in Spain, an atmosphere of upheaval was also evident on British soil. With mass unemployment, despair at the inequities of the third Baldwin coalition government became manifest. The apotheosis of this working class unrest was to occur in October 1936, with the now infamous Jarrow March. Yet some of the most radical British politics were not played out domestically. As news of the Franco-led rebellion broke, swathes of Britons declared their unerring interest in and support for the Spanish Republicans, with many resolving to

go to Spain and take up arms for the cause. With the British government intransigently non-interventionist, they would have to do this against the wishes of the state and through their own means and methods.

Nowhere was this willingness to take up arms and fight against Franco's fascists more pronounced than in Scotland.

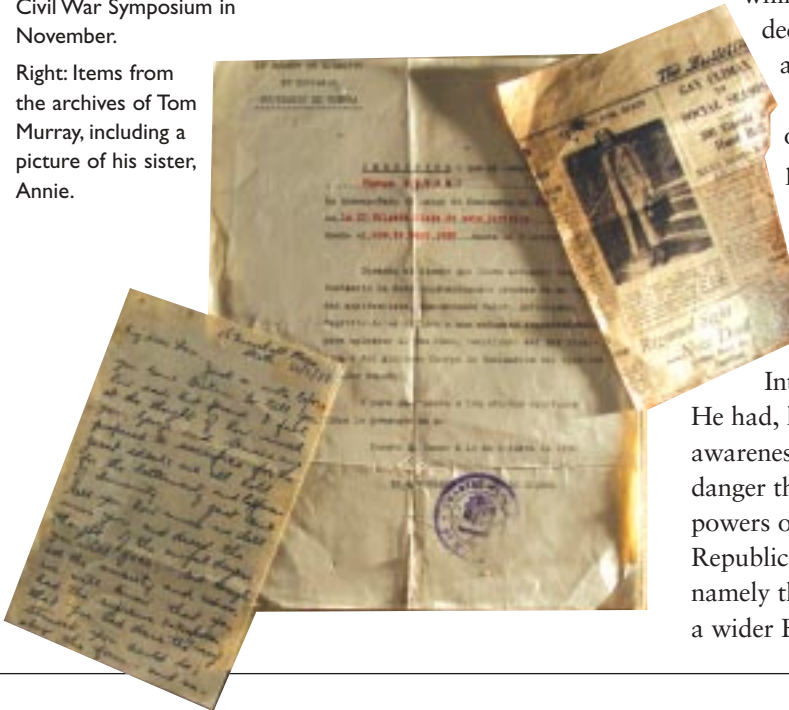
A quarter of the 2,000 men and women who left Britain to become members of the International Brigade (or Brigaders) hailed from Scotland.

Narratives on the Spanish Civil War have focused on the compelling question of what motivated these people to risk life and limb for a cause so far from home. Through looking at the archives of two of these Brigaders held by the Library's Manuscripts Department, we can begin to offer intriguingly personal answers to this question, and learn much more.



Above: Daniel Gray with Steve Fullarton, one of two surviving Scottish Brigaders, at the Spanish Civil War Symposium in November.

Right: Items from the archives of Tom Murray, including a picture of his sister, Annie.



One such archive is that of John Dunlop, an Edinburgh-based Brigader born in 1915. Dunlop was already highly politicised when in 1937, while a trainee accountant in Glasgow, he decided to attend a Communist Party assembly featuring speeches from returning Brigaders. During the course of that meeting, he resolved to put his principles into practice in Spain. Having travelled somewhat surreptitiously via Paris (as innumerable foreigners on their way to fight for Republican Spain did over the course of the conflict) Dunlop became an International Brigader on 16 May 1937.

He had, he later said, gone to Spain to raise awareness among the Scottish people of 'the danger that this war of intervention by the fascist powers of Italy and Germany against the Republican government had for this country', namely the extension of the Spanish conflict into a wider European war.

Dunlop also talked of the unity of purpose among those who had travelled from all over the world to become Brigaders, citing in particular the occasion of his arrival in Spain when he and men from Italy, France and Germany had launched into a rendition of *The Internationale*. 'Joining in this one song in their own language', said Dunlop, 'seemed to express a yearning for the unity of mankind. I find it extremely difficult to explain how exhilarating this was'.

The singing, however, was soon replaced by the piercing din of war. Dunlop saw action in the bloody battles of Brunete, Jarama, Teruel and the Ebro. In the first of those arenas, his life was saved only by the body of another Scottish Brigader, John Black, who in falling dead on top of Dunlop sheltered him from fire.

With the International Brigade gradually disbanded towards the end of 1938, Dunlop returned to Scotland. Soon embroiled in war again as part of the Scots Guards in World War II, he could have been forgiven for wagging a finger at his fellow countrymen and muttering 'I told you so'. The wider conflict he had gone to Spain to nip in the bud had begun. →

Below: John Dunlop's Spanish Communist Party membership card, and a POUM soldier's forage cap.



→ While Dunlop's decision to join the Brigade was taken without the blessing of his kindred, it was a different story for the Murray family. When Tom Murray (whose collection of papers the Library holds) left for Spain in 1938, his brother George and sister Annie were already there, he as a Brigadier, she as a nurse. Tom was born in Aberdeenshire in 1900, though it was in Edinburgh that he made his political mark as a leading trade unionist and a city councillor from 1936 until 1942. Like Dunlop, Tom Murray took the decision to go and fight in Spain having heard a stirring oration on events there, though this time it was the charismatic Dolores Ibarruri, or *La Passionaria*, who was doing the talking, at the 1936 World Peace Conference in Brussels. His willingness to go and fight for the Republican cause 'was aroused by the circumstances in which a democratically elected government was attacked by a junta of military officers'. He became a Brigadier early in 1938, and owing to his domestic political experiences was immediately put in charge of 35 other volunteers and made a Political Commissar. In a letter home to his wife Janet, the modest Murray put his elevation to these positions down to his sobriety: 'I think the fact I announced myself a teetotaler was the principal factor in the decision to make me a group leader'.

Below: A petition by soldiers under Tom Murray's command demanding to be sent to fight on the front line.



Tom Murray became increasingly exasperated with the British government's unwillingness to intervene in Spain, writing to Annie and George that, 'It is tragic how slow the forces of democracy are in the face of arrogant fascism', and to friends back in Scotland, 'If our people do not do this now [intervene in Spain], they cannot escape the necessity of doing much more later'. Despite this frustration and the bloodshed he saw while involved at the Ebro, Murray arrived back in Scotland with his faith in humanity intact and even enhanced. As he wrote in a letter to the family of a deceased comrade, Charlie McLeod, on 23 October 1938, 'I returned from Spain feeling that I had seen demonstrated the finest qualities that human beings possess, and have more respect than ever for the majesty of the human being'. Rather than receiving plaudits for his attempts to douse the flames of fascism when they first broke out, Tom Murray received instead a bill from the British government for the costs of his repatriation. He was, however, lucky to escape with just that; in January 1937 the 1870 Foreign Enlistment Act had been invoked in order to prosecute returning International Brigaders for treachery.

Though proven correct in their warnings of a future war between fascism and democracy, Dunlop, the Murrays and countless others had won only the most pyrrhic of moral victories. By 31 March 1939, the casualty list was epic, Franco's dictatorship had begun and the world stood just six months away from another ruinous conflict. **nls**

Discover more

The Library's Manuscripts Collections hold the papers of John Dunlop (Acc. 12087) and Tom Murray (Acc. 9083). These include correspondence, photographs, original certificates and artefacts such as International Brigade and party membership cards and papers, and a POUM soldier's forage cap. Also of interest are the papers of David Murray (Acc. 7914 and Acc. 7915), and Ian MacDougall (Acc. 10481). The Library also possesses printed material in both English and Spanish on the conflict.

Last month the Library hosted a symposium on the Spanish Civil War, with contributions from Andrew Ginger (University of Stirling) and Nigel Dennis (University of St Andrews). Also in attendance were former Brigadier Steve Fullarton, pictured on the previous page, and members of the Basque Children of '37 Association.

Sharing information on the Wiki Wide Web

In the second of our three-part expose of new information technologies, **Eric Jutrzenka and Gill Hamilton** demystify wikis; the tools that make collaborative web publishing easy on a vast international scale.

The Internet is not just used for publishing websites, it is also used to facilitate communication. Some of the first technologies to achieve this were email and news groups. Instant messaging followed shortly after and now websites themselves offer many different forms of communication, from web discussion groups to blogs and podcasts. The web has grown from a publishing medium to a medium for mass global collaboration. However, the basic process for publishing web sites has remained more or less the same since the web's inception. Websites themselves are usually maintained by a few people who have to coordinate the addition of new content carefully. This process does little to encourage collaboration, but fortunately a solution was developed: the wiki.

Wikis make it possible for many thousands of people to participate in the creation of a website. The word wiki comes from 'wiki wiki web' and means quick in Hawaiian. Wikis make creating a web page as easy as creating a document in a word processor – you don't need to know HTML or any other code. They also allow many people to collaborate on the same website or even the same page of a website. Wikipedia is a project that aims to create an online encyclopedia in which articles can be created and edited by any user that registers on the website. The English language version currently contains over 1.3 million articles that are the result of the efforts of over 100 000 people. Wikipedia has come under a lot of criticism regarding the accuracy and quality of its articles, however its success at allowing large numbers of people to participate freely in the creation of a website is undeniable.

Creating web pages using wikis should feel intuitive to anyone who has used a word processor. Pages are editable in place, which means that you don't have to use a separate application to manage and edit your website.



Just click on the 'Edit' link on any page and you can start modifying it in the same way as you would a word document. Pages are linked together using simple WikiWords. A WikiWord is comprised of two or more words where the first letter of each word is capitalised. The words are written without spaces so that they can be recognized by the wiki engine. When a wiki word is included in a page for the first time the wiki links it to a new blank page. If a page already exists the wiki creates the link to the existing page automatically. You can also attach images and files to pages.

NLS is involved in an institutional repository project called IRIScotland which uses a wiki to enable collaboration with other project partners from academic and research institutions. The wiki serves as a place to post documents for review and discussion by researchers involved with the project and also to document the project as it evolves. Of course, because wikis publish information online, they are important to libraries as collection material too. The National Library will eventually be looking at collecting and preserving wikis as part of our cultural heritage, along with all the other forms of digital content. **nls**

Discover more

www.jotspot.com

You can get started with wikis by trying out a free service called Jotspot; simply set up your free account online which will give you your own personal wiki.

www.wikipedia.org



Senior Manuscripts Curator, **Kenneth Dunn**, shares a lavishly illustrated manuscript from our collections that encapsulates religious attitudes in medieval England, *The Mirror of the Life of Christ*, c.1445-1465.

The Mirror of the Life of Christ



The National Library of Scotland's medieval collection includes probably the most sumptuously produced manuscript of Nicholas Love's early 15th-century Middle English translation of

Meditationes Vitae Christi, a devotional life of Christ. It was translated into the vernacular – as *Myrrour of the Blessed Lyf of Jesu Christ* – by 1410 by Love, Prior of the Carthusian monastery of Mount Grace in the North Riding of Yorkshire. At the beginning of the century it was presented to, and approved by, Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury (1396-1414) for use in popular devotion. Arundel was a known scourge of the Lollards, and his championing of this work was one of his attempts to refute this particularly English heresy. It then established itself quite quickly as the foremost Middle English version of the life of Christ. Its importance in the spiritual life of late medieval England was such that it was printed at least nine times before the reformation.

It was probably a Franciscan friar in Tuscany who, at the beginning of the 14th century, wrote the Latin text of this spiritual guide-book, though its composition has often been attributed to St Bonaventure. Both the original text and Love's translation were among the most popular devotional works of the later Middle Ages. It is reckoned that 56 complete or once-complete versions of the manuscript still exist.

The Library's copy of the manuscript, written in an English vernacular book hand, was made some time between 1445 and 1465 for Edmund, Baron Grey of Ruthin (created Earl of Kent in 1465) and his wife, Lady Katherine Percy, daughter of the 2nd Earl of Northumberland. The splendid heraldic arms of the family, forming the first full-page miniature in the volume, are a significant and expansive sign of initial ownership. The other 17 full-page miniatures – by an artist known to have illustrated other vernacular texts – include a variety of biblical and religious imagery. To single out some of them may seem almost arbitrary but, allowing for the confines of this brief article, some of the leaves deserve special



Far left: Flight into Egypt, folio 63v.

Left: The temptation of Christ, folio 49v.

mention. On the verso of folio 8 we see a monk (or more probably a friar, St. Bonaventure) writing in an architectural background with angels holding the arms of Edmund Grey and Katherine Percy. An image of the sad tale of the flight into Egypt is seen on folio 36v. The verso of leaf 49 is particularly striking. Here we see, in gruesome detail, Christ being tempted on three occasions by the devil, with accompanying scrolls, in Latin, providing the dialogue. The feeding of the 5,000 on the verso of folio 69 is depicted by a few men in fancy head-dresses at table. The resurrection of the Lord on folio 129v shows Christ appearing to his Mother with the greeting '*Salve Santa Parens*'/'Hail Sacred Parent' with the soldiers at the tomb.

The leaf depicting the Coronation of the Virgin, on the verso of folio 12, merits a little more attention since it is filled with all manner of theological detail. The centre-piece shows the Virgin while the lower margin depicts Grey and his wife. The rest of the leaf is divided into registers and compartments including the hierarchies of angels, prophets and apostles, martyrs including Saints George, Stephen and

Edmund, confessors, and virgins including St Catherine. The corner roundels show the symbols of the four Evangelists; in the four middle parts of the frame are the *Agnus Dei*, the Cross, the head of a saint or angel or Christ, and the Pelican in its piety with bleeding breast.

The volume is lavishly illustrated throughout, with fifteen full borders probably by the artist responsible for the miniatures, and many elaborately floriated initials.

Ownership of the manuscript for much of its existence is unknown. A 19th-century handwritten catalogue records the condition of the manuscript:

'This ... curious MS. is rapidly destroying [sic] by the handling of careless visitors to the Library'.

In the intervening two centuries much has been done to improve its physical condition; in 1962-3 it was fully re-bound in leather.

Owning probably the most splendid of the 56 surviving copies of this text makes this manuscript truly a treasure in the National Library of Scotland's collections. Professor Shoichi Oguro acknowledges this in his introduction to a commentary on another *Myrrour* manuscript, this one in Waseda University in Japan. He comments of our copy: 'The manuscript ... is, among all the Love manuscripts, unparalleled in the beauty of its colours, patterns and design. Anyone with the good fortune to view it ... inevitably feels himself face to face with the ultimate expression of the religious ideas that prevailed in Europe in the late Middle Ages'. nls

Discover more

The Mirror of the Life of Christ, Nicholas Love, c.1410

Shelf mark: ADV.MS. 18.1.7

Nicholas Love's Mirror of the blessed life of Jesus Christ: a critical edition based on Cambridge University Library Additional mss 6578 and 6686 / edited with introduction, notes and glossary by Michael G Sargent, Garland Publishing, 1992.

Shelf mark: H4.93.244

Nicholas Love at Waseda: proceedings of the international conference, 20-22 July, 1995, edited by Shoichi Oguro, Richard Beadle, and Michael G. Sargent., DS Brewer, 1997.

Shelf mark: H3.98.1347



Above: The Coronation of the Virgin, folio 12.v.



Competition

If you enjoyed Daniel Gray's article on the Spanish Civil War you might also like to get your hands on a copy of a new reference book he has co-authored (with David Walker) for Scarecrow Press. The *Historical Dictionary of Marxism* offers comprehensive coverage of this major global ideology, its thinkers, activists, schools of thought and the parties and countries that followed them.

Copies (worth £62) will go to the first two readers who can answer this question:

Scottish Marxist agitator John MacLean is one of over 370 entries in the *Historical Dictionary of Marxism*, but what was MacLean's profession?

- (a) Librarian
- (b) Teacher
- or (c) Trade union leader.

The book will be published in the UK in February 2007.

Visit www.scarecrowpress.com for more titles and information.



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 Edinburgh
 EH1 1EW

Or by e-mail to:
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 (please put **competition** in the subject field)



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Working smarter to make your life easier

ICT Manager **David Dinham** outlines the benefits of smart card technology.

NLS is committed to making access to the Library's collections and expertise easier and to improve the quality and efficiency of services provided to customers. One of the most visible changes in 2007 will be the customer registration process. This process will be overhauled and brought into the 21st century. The current process is cumbersome and time-consuming for both customers and staff; it will be replaced by a web-based system which will be on trial in 2007. Customers will be able to register remotely via www.nls.uk and then be given immediate access to a range of electronic resources. The system will enable customers to amend their contact details and subscribe to various Library mailing lists.

Readers who then choose to use our reading rooms will be issued with a reader's ticket based on smart card technology. Local authorities throughout Scotland are embracing smart cards (or 'Entitlement Cards') which provide seamless access to a range of services to local residents. You may even have one of these cards already if you hold a concessionary travel pass or access certain council services.

NLS will be able to accept Entitlement Cards from Scottish local authorities once partnership agreements have been established, meaning that customers will be able to use their Entitlement Card at NLS instead of an additional reader's ticket. This is being trialled by staff and students at the University of Abertay, Dundee. Students will be able to bring their university-issued matriculation cards to NLS and access services in the same way that other customers do.

Over the next few years NLS will be exploiting smart card technology for a number of other convenient services. A single card will allow you to enter secure areas of the buildings, pay for photocopying and printing, log on to PCs and purchase items from the shop. Self-service photocopying, printing from PCs and paying for microform output will improve next year with streamlined self-service systems, reducing both frustration for the customer and waste for the Library.



Smart cards will be introduced gradually; issued first to all new customers and to current readers upon renewal. We hope that these improvements reassure customers that NLS is adapting to meet your needs. If you have any suggestions or comments regarding these technological improvements then please feel free to contact us. **nls**

See the next issue for information on how to get a smart card and some initial feedback from our trial partners.



Events

December

Wednesday 13 December 6pm

Venue: NLS, Causewayside Building, 33 Salisbury Place, Edinburgh

Poetry Pamphlet Party & Fair

Treat yourself to an informal evening of poetry, pamphlets and partying. Browse, swap and buy pamphlets (which make excellent, original Christmas presents) or simply enjoy the busy programme of readings from many of the art form's leading practitioners.

February

February has been Kidnapped!

The month of February will be devoted to Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*, with a raft of events at NLS designed to tie-in with the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature's One Edinburgh, One Book campaign to get the city reading. A series of events are planned, including several talks and lectures from leading international scholars and experts of Stevenson and the literature of the time, some family-friendly storytelling of pirates and shipwrecks, the launch of the Library's complete digitised version of the first edition of the book online and a not-to-be missed workshop with the authors of the new graphic novel edition, Cam Kennedy and Alan Grant.

Exact details are to be confirmed at the time of going to press, but will be detailed online and in the Library's What's On leaflet, available in January.

More details of the campaign can be found on page 26.



Changing rooms

Due to extensive building work to create a visitor centre and improved events and exhibition facilities at our George IV Bridge site, the Library's usual venues for events, exhibitions and displays will be out of commission for the foreseeable future. As a result, there will be no events in January. Alternative venues will continue to be used throughout spring where suitable. Please bear with us while we make these exciting changes: a full programme should resume in summer 2007.



Learning point

Workshops for Schools

History Detectives

Explore history through some of the treasures in the John Murray Archive, and build a timeline of Victorian Britain. Find out how archives are made and think about what you'd put in one about you!

For Primary 5-7

Investigate the Past

Use resources from the Archive to develop historical research skills and consider key issues in Victorian society. Discuss the role of archives in history and consider the future of collection and research.

For Standard Grade 4-6

All workshops are free but booking is required.

The Bridge Readings

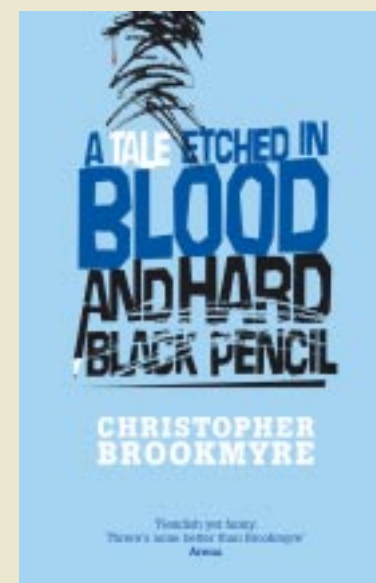
March

Tuesday 13 March 2007, 7pm

Venue: NLS, Causewayside Building, 33 Salisbury Place, Edinburgh

Christopher Brookmyre and Denise Mina

A stunning evening of readings and conversation from two of Scotland's award-winning crime writers. Brookmyre will read from his recent *A Tale Etched in Blood and Hard Black Pencil* and may even give us a sneak preview of his next, as yet unpublished, book. Mina will read from the searing *The Dead Hour* (2006), the second in the Paddy Meehan series, set in Glasgow.



Exhibition

Fonn's Duthchas Land and Legacy

This collaborative exhibition from the National Library, National Museums Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland celebrates Highland cultural life past and present. It is part of the Highland 2007 programme, a major project funded by the Scottish Executive to showcase the Highlands as a great place to live and to visit.

The exhibition features treasures ranging from Napoleon's copy of Macpherson's *Ossian* and the Iona Psalter manuscript, to modern literary manuscript and printed material from Sorley MacLean and Iain Crichton Smith, and even includes esoteric curiosities such as a Gaelic language text messaging guide.

Fonn's Duthchas will tour the following four venues across Scotland:

Inverness Museum and Art Gallery

Saturday 13 January – Saturday 17 March

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow

Friday 6 April – Sunday 10 June

National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh

Friday 29 June – Sunday 2 September

Museum nan Eilean, Stornoway

Friday 21 September – Saturday 1 December



Above: The Iona Psalter manuscript.

Admission to all events and exhibitions is free unless specified.

Our events programme sometimes changes at short notice and space is often limited, please phone or e-mail in advance to 0131 623 3845 or e-mail events@nls.uk.

The Library welcomed two new education and outreach officers in August. Beverley Casebow brings NLS 10 years of curatorial experience from a variety of Scottish museums and galleries. Most recently she worked as Curator of Applied Art at Edinburgh City Museums and Galleries. Beverley will be planning and delivering a programme of learning activities for all ages based on the general Library collections. She can be contacted on 0131 623 3841 or b.casebow@nls.uk.

Emma Faragher has also been recruited to deliver the education programme for the John Murray Archive. She joins the Library from her post of Education Outreach Officer at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Emma will be devising a diverse range of workshops and resources drawing on material from the Archive for everyone from families to university students. Her contact details are 0131 623 8846 or e.faragher@nls.uk.

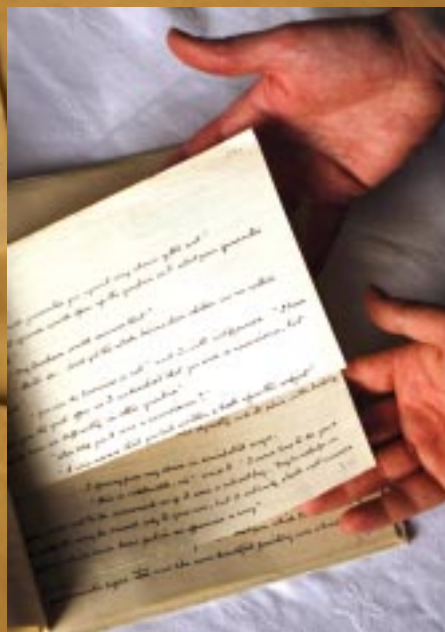
Forensic evidence from *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*

Renowned Conan Doyle scholar Owen Dudley Edwards dissects a recently acquired treasure and reveals the deft editorial surgery at work behind one of the writer's last Sherlock Holmes stories, 'The Illustrious Client'.

The Sherlock Holmes stories are not only the finest canon of detective stories in English literature, but are masterpieces of short story construction in themselves, worthy of permanent scrutiny by writers even more than critics. Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was a supreme professional, and our new manuscript of 'The Illustrious Client' reveals much about his skill in revision and his gift for language. The genius in thrust and atmosphere that John Le Carré so greatly admires in him were immeasurably enhanced by judicious tactical improvements in his manuscripts. His writings of the Holmes stories were organic, and a reader's first reactions to a surviving manuscript (very few still remaining in Britain) must be one of near-unbelief at how little

revision there seems to be. Once the author was moving, he required little strategic alteration, as a rule, and unlike his historical fiction the Holmes tales required little consultation of works of reference (although the 'The Illustrious Client' writes its relevant terms of Chinese cultural history in block letters: he intended his printers to do justice to the pains his knowledge had entailed).

First published in Britain in *The Strand* magazine (February and March 1925), the story itself is long: of the 56 Holmes short stories only seven are longer. Conan Doyle himself thought it one of his best. The leading critical assessment it has received, that by Edinburgh University's Masson →



Top right: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by Sir Bernard Partridge, pencil, ink and wash, published in *Punch* 12 May 1926.

Courtesy of the Punch Cartoon Library

Professor of English Literature, the late WW Robson, singled it out for many fine qualities. Before Robson edited the last dozen Holmes stories, published in 1927 as the *Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*¹, that series had been taken to be much below the standard of their predecessors. Robson showed that at least half of them were outstanding, and several of the others contained great things. But the series, he stressed, differed radically from the previous Holmesiana norm.

'At times we have the sense that we are being given glimpses of hell ... On the whole the world of the *Case-Book* is depicted with a ruthless realism rare in the canon. The stories conjure up a gallery of monstrosity and cruelty:

"The butler and several footmen ran in from the hall. I remember that one of them fainted as I knelt by the injured man and turned that awful face to the light of the lamp. The vitriol was eating into it everywhere and dripping from the ears and the chin. One eye was already white and glazed. The other was red and inflamed. The features which I had admired a few minutes before were now like some beautiful painting over which the artist has passed a wet and foul sponge. They were blurred, discoloured, inhuman, terrible."

Robson continues:

'The horror here is enhanced by the effect of the disfigured face on others ("I remember that one of them fainted")'.

Thus the introduction to the *Case-Book* in the nine-volume Oxford Sherlock Holmes (1993)² is now shelved in the National Library among its peers in Scottish Literature. The student of the manuscript will note that the effect that Robson describes in that last sentence was one strengthened by Conan Doyle revision. 'I remember that' was a later insertion by the author. Its effect is to isolate the process of enhancement: memory throws the item into greater relief and sharper horror than its mere inclusion in a narrative of events. Ironically for a passage



concerned with the simile of a painting under alteration, the revision helps us to see how the author's deft changes add perspective to his initial artistry.

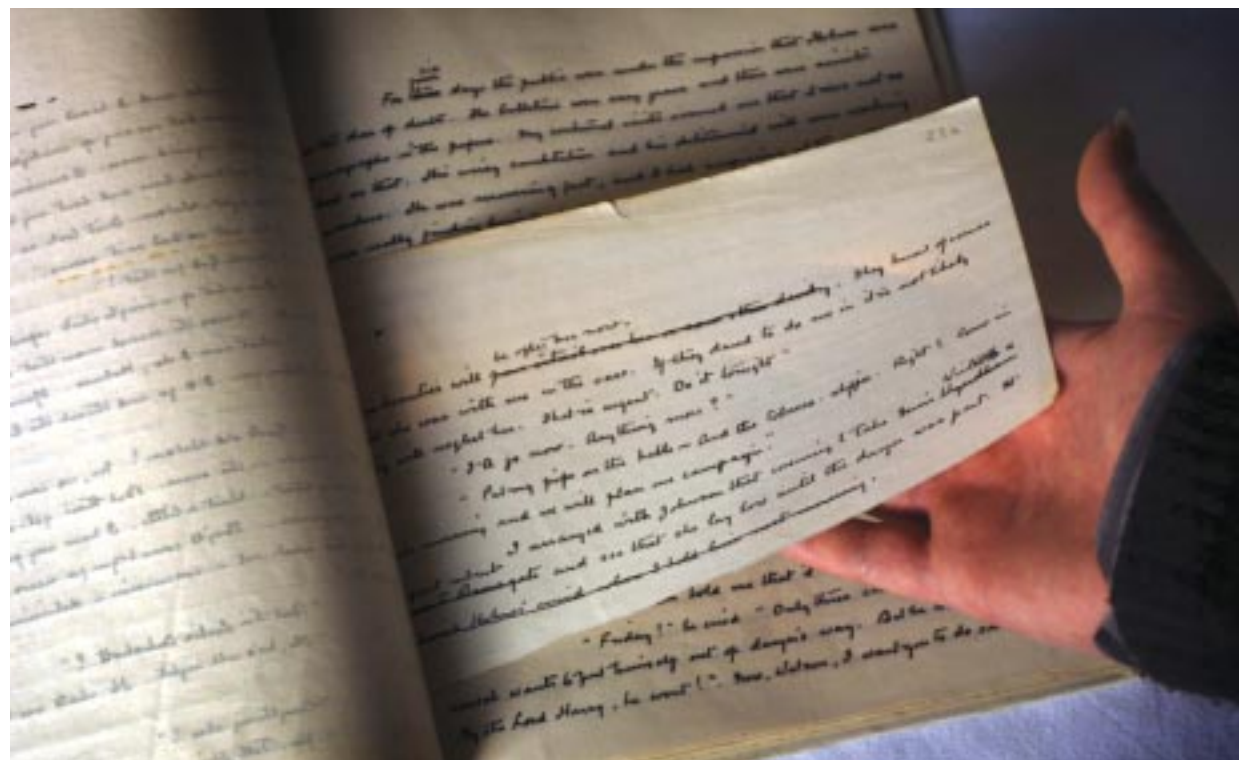
'The Illustrious Client' has as its villain the loathsome Baron Gruner, a handsome aesthete who preys on women financially, sexually, homicidally, even to the extent of keeping a 'lust diary' as a *catalogue raisonné* (the theft of which by Holmes ultimately prevents his acquisition of a further victim). The vitriol-throwing Kitty Winter raises an ambiguous question: is Gruner's former mistress from his own upper class, driven down to the depths, or is she lower-class with respectability torn from her by her handsome seducer? The manuscript shows her name as having first been 'Claire Wyndham'. Wyndham was a firmly aristocratic name, and the Christian name was spelled in its more aristocratic form (though the spelling of names was never one of Conan Doyle's strongest points). We may assume that while actually writing the story Conan Doyle found it was a little too aristocratic or prominent: some lady might suddenly make indignant and perhaps expensive protest, →

flourishing her nomenclature. A prominent case of the time (*Hulton v. Jones*, 1910) was found against defendants who had libellously used the plaintiff's names in print without the slightest realisation of the plaintiff's existence, and there had been a sexual implication in the libel. Kitty Winter was extracted from Dumas' *The Three Musketeers* where Kitty is a maidservant seduced by D'Artagnan and Milady de Winter is her (and, in the other sense, his) mistress: that would have been sufficient insurance. The change of name left the social origins of Kitty vaguer than would have been assigned to her when she was Claire. If formerly a lady, she has adapted her vocabulary to the depths into which her faithless lover has pushed her. Robson remarks of the Baron and of his former and intended future victims in 'The Illustrious Client':

'Gruner is the most credible and resourceful of villains. Kitty Winter and Miss de Merville are better drawn and have more verisimilitude than any of the women in the other tales. In their different ways they reinforce a point on which Holmes agrees with Freud: "Woman's heart and mind are insoluble puzzles to the male."

Robson greatly admired Conan Doyle's use of the 'silent woman' as victim or significant marginal figure in many of the other stories, so this was high praise.

One revelation from the manuscript is that the title by which the story has so long been known, 'The Adventure of the Illustrious Client', (commonly reduced to the last three words) was not then definitively so titled. It was a first alternative, the second being 'The Adventure of the Blue Saucer'. The choice of the former was probably for the American market, which by now was paying much higher than the British, and the last eight Sherlock Holmes stories were first published in American magazines (*Collier's Weekly Magazine*, 8 November 1924 in this case). No story had so long a delay between US and UK publication as did 'The Illustrious Client', all the more as it ran in *The Strand* in two instalments, the last Holmes story to be thus bisected (the manuscript is dated July 1924). Conan Doyle may have conjectured that his first title was too linked to King Edward VII (who, we are to infer, commissioned Holmes without divulging his own identity to prevent the Gruner/de Merville marriage). But *Collier's* accepted the first title. The significance of the second is that the one major consequence of Edward VII's interest was to enable Dr Watson to visit Gruner, bearing for sale



a nearly priceless blue saucer of Chinese origin actually belonging to the King; and the ensuing discussion provided cover for Holmes to burgle the house and seize the diary. The saucer thus occasioned what Watson in the first paragraph terms 'the supreme moment of my friend's career', and had it been used in the title less ink would have been spilt as to whether the King's commission was the supreme moment (an absurd assumption since Holmes had acted for many crowned heads including Pope Leo XIII and Queen Victoria). The blue saucer created the supreme moment, consisting of a bandaged and heavily convalescent Holmes darting through the window with diary, pursued by Gruner howling with rage only to be halted in mid-chase by Kitty Winter's vitriol. Incidentally Conan Doyle showed remarkable proficiency in Chinese ceramics, as was shown in the comments supplied to Professor Robson by his Edinburgh colleague, Professor Bonnie McDougal, an expert in the study of Chinese culture.

But perhaps the manuscript's most fascinating secret arises not from the writing as from the paper.

These manuscripts require the closest attention to overall questions of handwriting, obliteration etc. Surviving manuscripts of



'The Dying Detective' and of 'The Lion's Mane' (reproduced in limited editions by the Arthur Conan Doyle Society) showed that Conan Doyle dictated as well as wrote the former, while from the latter (as shown in the notes to Robson's edition of the *Case-Book*) it was possible to reconstruct a discarded plot (entailing a Holmes defeat in solving the case, victory going to a naturalist whom final drafting would eliminate from the story).

The particulars in 'The Illustrious Client' manuscript are both simpler and more mysterious. The manuscript is bound in white vellum boards with gold lettering, probably by Conan Doyle's heirs. There are 36 pages all with pencilled pagination and two pages surviving only in fragments, paginated 23a and 29a. These pages, along with pages 30 and 31, show evidence of the author's physical editing: they have been neatly torn. What this means is that the manuscript, as we have it, formerly contained a few paragraphs more (there is no sign of any additional material other than simple corrections). Perhaps significantly all these apparent cuttings-out of portions of pages occur in what would be printed in *The Strand* as the second part of the story, and thus just possibly could be deletions in answer to the editor's plea for space. It seems more likely that they were felt by the author to clutter the narrative or slow the pace unduly. Page 23a originally included a fear by Holmes that after Kitty Winter had been abortively introduced by Holmes into his interview with the icy, hostile Violet de Merville, Gruner would 'pour vitriol over her or some other devilry': this was then deleted, whether because Conan Doyle had decided to keep the vitriol for Gruner as victim rather than as aggressor, or because having first intended to depict both Gruner and Winter in vitriol-throwing circles Conan Doyle thought it as well to work with more economy, and quite right. When it happens, the impact of the vitriol is terrific, and would surely have been badly weakened had it been a previous topic. Page 23a concludes with Watson arranging for Kitty Winter to be held in 'a quiet suburb' ('Ramsgate' deleted), after Gruner's agents have made a hospital case out of Holmes. What filled the missing 14 lines of handwriting? Perhaps an irrelevant side-issue indicating minor difficulties with the enforced domestication of Kitty.

Page 29a is more promising. Here the break leaves Watson, disguised as Dr Hill Barton with blue saucer supposedly for sale, mentioning his knowledge that Gruner had written a book on Chinese pottery, while the new page, apparently

starting after the deletion of 12 lines, opens with Gruner's logical 'Have you read the book?' The deleted portion might have included Watson's attempts to bluff a cover for his non-existent knowledge of Gruner's book before Gruner handed him the direct question. The reader should realise that Watson is seeking conscientiously to be taken for a real doctor legitimately selling the blue saucer, while Holmes wants Gruner to assume Watson is a crook, trafficking in stolen goods: either would of course supply the desirable delay while Holmes burgles Gruner's desk in the room next door and Kitty Winter gets herself and her vitriol into position for action. There is another break on pages 30 and 31. Before the break Watson 'sprang from my chair in simulated anger' refusing to be 'examined as if I were a schoolboy': he even has the brass neck to declare his knowledge of Chinese pottery (got up in a day) to be 'second only to your own'. After the break Gruner declares Watson to be a spy and 'an emissary of Holmes', followed by a clear threat on Watson's life (rather coolly downplayed by Watson). The missing lines probably involved Watson's production of some howler: when the manuscript resumes there is a deleted allusion to Watson's conjecture that 'something I had said may have' shown Gruner the truth. Conan Doyle may have been thinking of his own ugly experience in his finals where his pupillage to Joseph Bell made him an object of persecution by oral examination from the Professor of Surgery, James Spence. Hence he may have developed the humiliating confrontation beyond what was necessary, and on revision removed excess castigation. In his later work he was content to be more impressionist than in his more explanatory youth. As the cuts were clearly made with such deft surgery as to leave no trace until the discovery of the manuscript, he is to be congratulated on the result. nls

Discover more

¹ *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, 1927.

Shelfmark: Vts.138.k.15.

² *The Oxford Sherlock Holmes*, Owen Dudley Edwards (ed.), 1994.

Shelfmark: NPBI.95.694.

Further reading

A Bibliography of A. Conan Doyle, Richard Lancelyn Green & John Michael Gibson, 1984.

Assistant John Murray Archive Curator **Ruth Boreham** previews material from a series of Radio 4 documentaries that show how the Archive reveals the human side of some of history's heavyweights.



Archive recordings

It is eight months since the John Murray Archive joined the ranks of the National Library of Scotland. The Library now has the exciting task of showing the world just how rich in characters and ideas this Archive is. As part of this, BBC Radio 4 will be broadcasting five 15 minute programmes, starting from Tuesday 5 December at 9.30am. Each programme will focus on a different aspect of the Archive.

The main challenge in preparing material for these programmes has been deciding what to tell and what to leave out. The format is simple: Vanessa Collingridge, (pictured above) author of *Boudica* and *Captain Cook*, and a regular presenter on television and radio, will present each programme, interviewing two or three people while they examine some of the fascinating documents. As I write, programmes one and two have already been recorded. The first programme was recorded in Albemarle Street, London, the original home of the Archive. It centres on the 'mad, bad and dangerous to know' Byron. What makes this Archive so interesting is the extent to which the Murrays became friends with their authors. Byron is one such example of this. In 1822, while in exile in Italy, his illegitimate daughter Allegra died. He writes to Murray on April 22, 'It is my present intention to send her remains to England for sepulchre in Harrow church (where I once hoped to have laid my own) and this is my reason for troubling you with this notice – I wish the funeral to be very private. The body is embalmed and in lead. It will be embarked from Leghorn. Would you have any objection to give the proper directions on its arrival?' Not a request one would imagine asked of many publishers today!

The Murrays also enjoyed a close relationship with David Livingstone. Livingstone asked John Murray III to pay for his daughter's music lessons in Paris and Murray also taught Isabella Bird how to ride a tricycle. The close ties became epitomised by the daily gatherings at Albemarle Street, which Walter Scott called 'the four o'clock friends'. There is a wonderful painting, still hanging in Albemarle Street today, which shows the drawing room filled with authors. Scott and Byron are talking to each other while other literary giants are also deep in conversation. If the walls could talk they would tell us of the conversations, and perhaps heated arguments, which took place between scientists, artists, travellers, politicians, poets and novelists, among others.

Indeed, so popular did the gathering of the 'four o'clock friends' become that they prevented Murray from getting much work done.

He helped to found one of the prestigious London clubs, the Atheanum, largely to give himself some peace.

The second programme focuses on Darwin's publication *On the Origin of the Species* while also mentioning another bestseller published at the same time, Samuel Smiles' *Self-Help*. These two books are still greatly relevant today. Darwin's theory of evolution continues to cause controversy and debate, while 'self-help' remains one of the most prolific and profitable avenues of modern-day publishing. The notion of Darwin and his theory of evolution are well ensconced in the public imagination today of course, but one →

of the Archive's delights is how it can acquaint you with such famous people on a more personal level. When Darwin writes to Murray in 1859, in response to Murray's offer of publication he says, 'I am much obliged for your note, and accept with pleasure your offer. But I feel bound for your sake (and my own) to say in clearest terms, that if after looking over part of (the manuscript) you do not think it likely to have a remunerative sale, I completely and explicitly free you from your offer. But you will see that it would be a stigma on my work for you to advertise it, and then not publish it. My volume cannot be mere light reading, and some parts must be dry and some rather abstruse; yet as far I can judge perhaps very falsely, it will be interesting to all (and they are many) who care for the curious problem of the origin of all animate forms.'

Sometimes we get so used to knowing an author as a success that we forget they had worries about publishing.

The letters in the Archive help to humanise the giants, while their handwriting also provides interesting insights into their characters.

The remaining three programmes are still to be finalised, (so be sure to listen in) but the third programme will broadly focus on women in the Archive. As those who read the last issue may remember, we are finding more and more women who were published by Murray, and in their own

name and right. This adds to the challenge of narrowing down a list of who to spotlight. For example, I am currently looking into the papers of Sarah Austin, translator and reader for Murray, her daughter Lucie Duff-Gordon, traveller and her daughter Janet Ross, also a traveller – quite a family in just those three generations, but their modern descendant is the historian Antony Beevor.

The fourth programme will look at Walter Scott, and again highlights the relationship between author and publisher. A wonderful letter from John Murray III to his father written on February 28 1827, while studying at Edinburgh University, talks about a dinner he had attended, to the consternation of his parents, who were rather concerned with the amount of entertaining he was doing, and how little studying in comparison:

'The dinner therefore would have been little better than endurable, had it not been remarkable for the confession of Sir Walter Scott that he was the author of the Waverley Novels.'

Walter Scott was also important to John Murray. Murray turned to Scott when he wanted to start a rival periodical to the *Edinburgh Review*, which he did in 1808 with the launch of the *Quarterly Review*. Scott gave his support and advice, and also contributed articles to the journal. There is an anonymous review in the Archive from Scott on his own (anonymous) work *Tales of my Landlord* revealing him to be one of his harshest critics. →

The 'four o'clock friends' gather at Albemarle Street.





John Murray III at his writing desk.

→ The last programme explores the Murrays and travel. After John Murray III finished university he went travelling around Europe and this gave him the idea of starting a series of red handbooks aimed at guiding the tourist through these countries. This was the forerunner to Baedeker and was actually inspired by a guidebook Murray himself used while in Italy, written, unusually for the time, by a woman. The handbooks were a very successful series, and the one to India continued to be published well into the 20th century. But Murray published more than just guidebooks, and was also one of the important publishers for explorers' accounts. A friendship with John Barrow, second secretary to the admiralty at the beginning of the 19th century, meant that the Arctic and African explorers brought their writings to Albemarle Street. Murray was also able to secure Livingstone as an author soon after returning to England from his first African trip.

There is so much material in the Archive that these programmes can do little beyond hinting at the wealth of treasures contained within it. What makes this Archive invaluable is its ability to connect you with the greats of the past. Even John Murray III would marvel at the scenes unfolding among the four o'clock friends gathering in his drawing room:

'Mr M first introduced Walter Scott to Lord B; on meeting they embraced each other in the most affectionate manner, and were highly delighted with each other. It was a curious sight to see the two greatest poets of the age (both club footed) stumping down stairs arm in arm.'

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Discover more

The Four O'Clock Friends started on Tuesday 5 December 9.30am on Radio 4 and runs at the same time every Tuesday until 2 January.

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To book a space or discover more (or if you would be interested in selling and managing the space), please contact the Editor, **Julian Stone on: 0131 623 3764** or **j.stone@nls.uk**

¹Figure taken from 2005 readership report



Dr Gavin Miller celebrates the innovation of Scottish psychoanalyst WRD Fairbairn, whose radical theories drew inspiration from religious ideas of communion.

Exorcising the demons: science and religion in communion

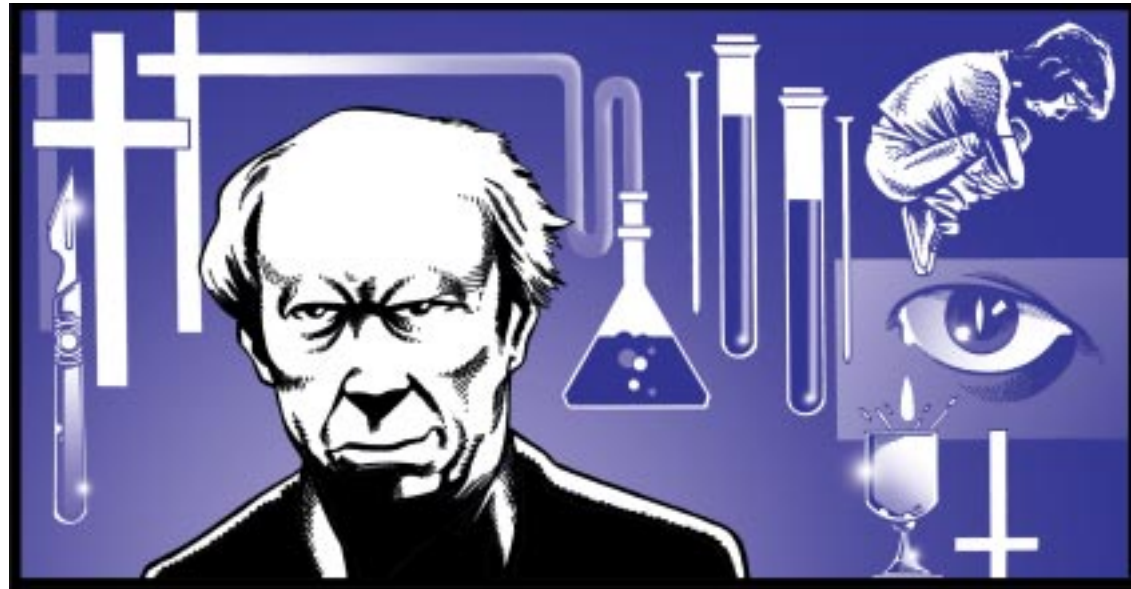
If the name Fairbairn rings any bells in Scotland, it may be as a reminder of the late Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, the Conservative MP for Perth and Kinross, who made many colourful appearances in the House of Commons before his death in 1995. Yet in psychotherapeutic circles, the name Fairbairn refers unequivocally to William Ronald Dodds Fairbairn, father to Nicholas, and the most significant British psychoanalyst to have lived and worked outside of London. Fairbairn's work was a quietly radical call-to-arms for those who found psychoanalysis useful, yet could not believe Freud's pessimistic and reductive account of human motivation.

WRD Fairbairn was born to a middle-class family in Edinburgh in 1889, and lived and worked in that same city for most of his life, until his death in 1964. His upbringing in Morningside was marked by the religiosity of his family, and a general ambience of respectability and social aspiration. After graduating with a degree in Mental Philosophy from Edinburgh University in 1911, Fairbairn studied Divinity and Hellenistic Greek, before training to be a minister in the Presbyterian Church. Although World War I interrupted his apprenticeship in the Church, redirecting his interest from theology to medicine, he never lost his Christian faith and traces of it are present throughout his work. He pursued his medical studies enthusiastically, underwent psychoanalysis, and by the late 1920s was both practising psychotherapy, and teaching psychology at Edinburgh University. →



Ronald Fairbairn in his consulting room in Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh.





→ Fairbairn's psychoanalysis is distinguished by its focus on personal relationships – in fact, he wanted to call his work a 'personal relations theory'. His distinctive approach is apparent even in one of his earliest theories, the idea of the 'moral defence.' When working with troubled children during the 1930s who had neglectful or abusive parents, Fairbairn noticed something odd. The children could only admit with difficulty that their parents were brutal, unloving and violent. The same phenomenon could also be found in children who had been sexually assaulted: they too were reluctant to see that their abuser was at fault, and tended to blame themselves for their mistreatment.

This idea is now a commonplace. But Fairbairn's clinical work in the 1930s must have troubled him deeply. The Freudian view was that children were bundles of barely contained instincts and drives, most of which were in some murky sense 'sexual' or 'erotic'. The best that a Freudian could say about the reticence of abused children was that they felt guilty about their own sexual gratification. Fairbairn clearly found this position incredible. The child's denial of the wrong done against it, he concluded, was not a matter of sexual instincts, but of personal relationships. It was, Fairbairn concluded, a way of preserving the illusion of a loving environment. The child preferred to believe it was bad or guilty, and deserved such mistreatment (hence, the 'moral defence'), rather than to face the horrible truth that it was powerless before its abusers. The child, said Fairbairn, felt it 'better to be a sinner in a

world ruled by God than to live in a world ruled by the Devil'.

Underlying the 'moral defence' is the idea that that our primary need is to feel loved, and to feel that our love is accepted: this is the cornerstone of Fairbairn's theory. As his work develops during the 1930s and 1940s, Fairbairn's opposition to Freudian theory becomes increasingly explicit. The problem, as he sees it, with Freudian theory is that its hedonistic and instinctual view of human motivation cannot account for the genuine complexities of human relationships. Fairbairn proposed, as his alternative to Freud, an 'object relations' theory in which the infant's primary need was for association with other people (in psychoanalytic jargon, 'objects'). He argued that psychoanalysis had 'put the cart before the horse' because it thought of other people as simply the means to pleasurable sensations, and reduced community life to something like mutual back-scratching. In fact, said Fairbairn, it was the other way round: the child's pleasure in the attentions of a mother or nurse was the sign of an enduring social relation. Pleasure was a 'signpost to the object'.

This challenge to Freudianism led Fairbairn to some striking conclusions. In so far as anyone is in fact a selfish hedonist, then this, he thought, was a symptom that required psychoanalytic investigation. If we want to use a familiar idiom, we might say that Fairbairn's deepest concern is with how love is corrupted into 'cupboard love', with how we fall from loving other people, to loving only what they can do for us.

→ This fall came about, thought Fairbairn, mainly because of the child's difficulty in appreciating the mother's continued love (although, of course, real abuse might play a part as well). The mother would not always be available or willing to 'prove' her love, and so the child would feel a longing for her, and a resentment of her unavailability. Somehow the child has to overcome this frightening and painful reality, and it does so, according to Fairbairn, by a strategy of 'divide and conquer'.

A key tactic in this strategy is 'dissociation', a process that had been observed by psychiatrists during the Great War. Army psychiatrists had observed how shell-shocked combatants seemed to have been possessed by submerged personalities that would repeat traumatic experiences – a psychiatric casualty might abruptly re-enact some military drill, or dive for cover, or shout orders as if in the trenches, and yet have no memory of these actions afterwards.

Fairbairn thought that the traumas of the child's early emotional life must be as overwhelming to its personality as those faced by soldiers on the battlefield. Dependent as it was upon the mother for emotional and physical security, any apparent withdrawal of her love would provoke correspondingly intense emotions. Accordingly, argued Fairbairn, the child's psyche splits in order to cope with its painful feelings toward the mother.

As abstruse as this theory may seem, it offers an intriguing and plausible account of the kind of problems that Fairbairn and succeeding analysts encountered in their clinical work. The dissociated selves of infantile longing and rage suggested by Fairbairn are a kind of psychic underworld or hell that seems to explain, for instance, the kind of possession which comes upon people who are unable to break free of abusive relationships.

The aim of therapy, thought Fairbairn, was to cast out the inner demons which stood in the way of real and fulfilling communion with others.

The therapist could awaken the residual split-off selves, invite the patient to re-integrate them, and so restore, at least in part, an original innocence and capacity for love.

Fairbairn's work was immensely innovative and has also been influential in the world of psychoanalysis, particularly in the US. Yet he is something of a 'great unknown' within European, British, and even Scottish culture. One simple reason for his relative obscurity is that Fairbairn

had his own difficulties to deal with. He was plagued by a symptom – an anxiety over urinating in the presence of others – which limited his mobility. He could not easily endure a train journey or visit to London, which was the heart of the British psychoanalytic community. And, even when he did manage to address a metropolitan audience, his philosophically rigorous dissections of other analytic pioneers such as Freud or Melanie Klein were perceived as arrogant or hubristic rather than as groundbreaking. But as time has moved on Fairbairn's work has undergone a renaissance, one that is at last reviving his reputation. Jill and David Scharff have worked in the US to popularise and extend Fairbairn's model of the human personality. And in the United Kingdom, Graham Clarke has proposed that Fairbairn's work might at last turn psychoanalysis into something like a 'mature' science, a discipline with a productive consensus that can guide research, rather than a morass of competing factions that cannot agree on fundamental issues.

Fairbairn's theory might yet furnish a psychoanalytic science; but we should not forget its origins. His theory, a narrative of communion, loss of faith, fall, division, possession, and exorcism, springs from Scotland's religious culture. The simplistic opposition between religion as supernatural faith, and science as logical knowledge, falls apart when applied to Fairbairn's thinking. The religious centre of his theory is communion, and how to preserve or recover this positive relationship with others. What stands in the way of our communion with others are the demons of the unconscious that possess us, and which the therapist may be called upon to exorcise. **nls**

Discover more

WRD Fairbairn's papers are held by the National Library of Scotland's Manuscripts Division, (Acc. 11258). The collection begins with Fairbairn's earliest papers from the 1920s, and continues throughout his professional career. When fully collected, it will also include his correspondence with other psychoanalytic figures, as well as diaries and unpublished notes.

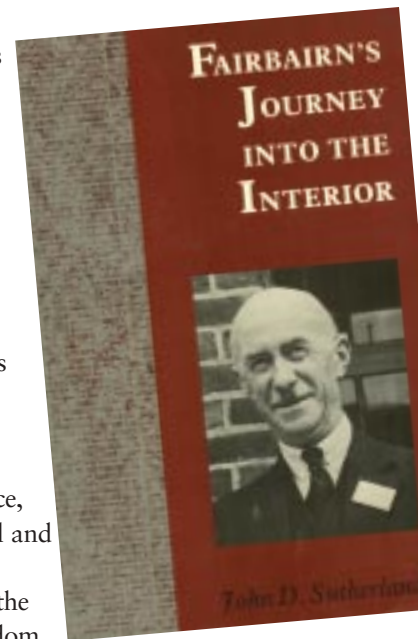
Further Reading

The Legacy of Fairbairn and Sutherland, ed. Jill Savege Scharff and David E Scharff, Routledge, 2005.

Fairbairn, Then and Now, ed. Neil J. Skolnick, David E Scharff, Analytic, 1998.

Fairbairn's Journey into the Interior, JD Sutherland, Free Association, 1989.

Personal Relations Theory: Fairbairn, Macmurray and Suttie, Graham S Clarke, Routledge, 2006.



Seton Gordon: a walking education

Manuscripts Curator **Derek Oliver** explores the papers of Scottish naturalist Seton Gordon and finds him admired by a Russian prince and an influential English film maker.

Having had a collection of Seton Gordon's (1886-1977) works on my bookshelf at home for many years, I was intrigued to discover some of the more surprising aspects of the man through his personal papers, held here at NLS.

The Library has a comprehensive collection of his letters, notebooks and photographs covering his career from his first publication *Birds of the loch and mountain* (1908), through his pioneering work with the golden eagle in the 1920s, to his place in later years as one of the most respected ornithologists in the country. Many loved his work for his ability to convey the simple pleasure he got from wandering in the Cairngorms and beyond, and many sought his counsel. Seton Gordon seems to have had a talent for making life-long friends. One such friend was the ecologist and mountaineer Adam Watson who wrote to him as a schoolboy in 1939, enthusing about his own discoveries. Gordon's oft-quoted reply is worth repeating here for its gentle encouragement: 'It is a fine thing for you to have a love of the hills, because on the hills you find yourself near grand and beautiful things, and as you grow older you will love them more and more'. →

education

Perhaps a more surprising associate was Prince Felix Youssoupov, one of the richest men in Russia. They met while studying at Oxford and in 1913 they travelled to Russia together. The Library has Gordon's diary for that year with his impressions of the country and a photographic record of the journey. Youssoupov was later implicated in the murder of Rasputin and was banished to the Crimea. Thereafter he settled in Paris when the Soviet system was established and died in exile in 1967. Seton Gordon would wonder, in later life, if he would have survived the revolution had he taken up the Russian's job offer of forester on one of his many estates.

Gordon's advice was sought not only regarding nature. His splendid hearing – which he is said to have retained until his death at the age of 92 – was attuned not only to the plaintive call of the curlew but also to the nuances of the piobaireachd. For many years he was a respected authority on the 'classical music of the Gael' and he was much sought after as a judge at highland gatherings and piping competitions. At these events he was to be seen, be-kilted (as he was in all weathers) scribbling notes and tapping his foot in time to the 'Great Music'.

Among his many talents, he was perhaps most proud of his photography. The Library has a large collection of his prints and negatives, many of which remain unpublished. These include some dramatic landscapes from the Oxford University sponsored Spitsbergen expedition of 1921 and the extraordinary intimate shots of golden eagle chicks in the eyrie. Considering the cumbersome photographic equipment of the time, these must have taken many hours and much patience to capture. For Seton Gordon it was truly a labour of love.

'Magdalena bay, Above the Mist', a photograph taken by Gordon, one of the expedition party at Spitsbergen, Norway 1921.



Image: National Portrait Gallery

Another life-long friend was the film director Michael Powell who, like Gordon, was a lover of uninhabited places. The pair of them would tramp the hills of Skye together when Powell was in Scotland. Powell had an almost mystical attachment to the wilderness as he demonstrated in his films *The Edge of the World* and *Black Narcissus*. It was he who paid Seton Gordon a last compliment on hearing of this death: 'Nothing that moved on the hill escaped his attention. To walk with him was an education. Every sound and sight was interpreted by him immediately ... Now that he has gone, I feel, when I am on the hills, deaf, dumb, and blind'.

Discover more

Days with the Golden Eagle, by Seton Gordon. 1927. Reprinted by Whittles Publishing 2002.

Seton Gordon's Scotland, An Anthology, Whittles Publishing 2005

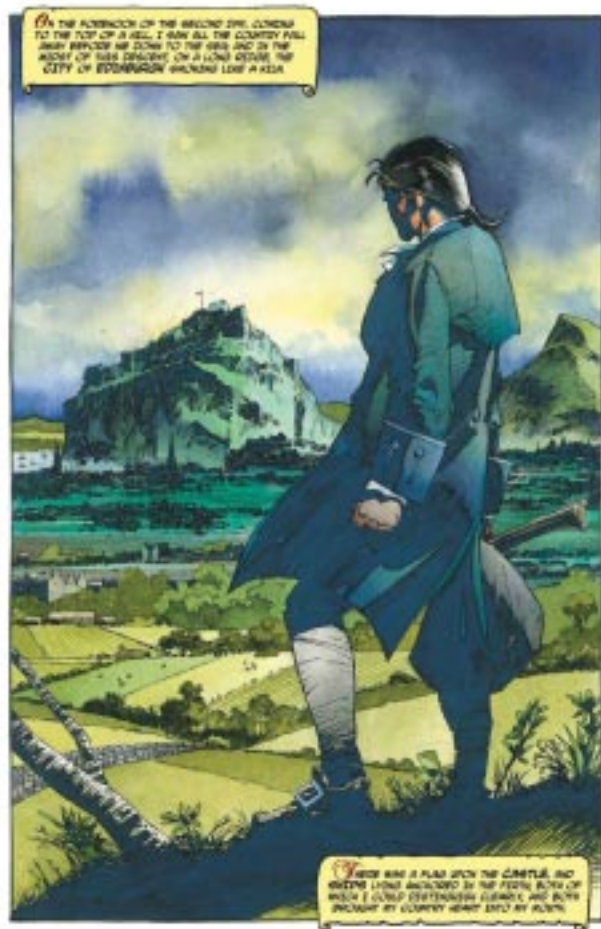
Seton Gordon, The Life and Times of a Highland Gentleman, Raymond Eagle. Lochar Publishing 1991

Kidnapped captured for the 'playstation generation'

Robert Louis Stevenson's classic adventure story, *Kidnapped* has been adapted by comic artists Alan Grant and Cam Kennedy in an innovative project by Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust (EUCLT). Waverley Books will publish the graphic novel version of the book in February 2007, as part of EUCLT's One Book - One Edinburgh campaign geared at getting the city reading the same book.

Ali Bowden, Manager of Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature, said: 'This graphic novel is the perfect publication for the playstation generation. We are hugely privileged to have a writer and an illustrator of this calibre contributing to this initiative, which we hope will get the whole of Edinburgh reading in February next year.'

Two further editions of the book (a classic edition from Canongate with notes from Stevenson scholar Barry Menikoff and a 'retold' version for children, also by Waverley) and a campaign of distributing the graphic version free across the city will be complemented in February by the Library's launch of a complete digitised version of Stevenson's first edition of *Kidnapped*. The artwork for Grant and Kennedy's graphic novel was recently received by the Library and added to our collections.



Secret war exhibition visits ex-service man's hospital

The Scotland's Secret War travelling exhibition stopped off at Renfrew Community Museum recently, and due to demand, paid a special visit to war veterans at Erskine Home. Residents (including a veteran of the 'Great Escape') enjoyed the exhibition and shared their wartime experiences with primary 7 pupils from the St John Bosco school, who also had lots of questions to ask the war heroes. Other local schoolchildren took part in the popular 'Spy Schools' project at the museum.



Discover commended at magazine awards

Discover NLS was short-listed for 3 prizes at the 2006 Scottish Magazine Awards. The awards, organised annually by the Periodical Publishers Association Scotland, reward the best in Scottish magazine publishing. The magazine was highly commended in all of the three categories for which it was nominated: Best Magazine Design (Business & Professional), Best New Magazine of the Year and Business & Professional Magazine of the Year.

Bill's blaze of glory

Library Estates Manager Bill Jackson has been awarded a Fire Safety Award by the Association of Building Engineers. Bill was nominated for the award, recognised as a paradigm of excellence in the building engineering field, by a fire engineer for his exemplary work on fire safety in the Library's buildings at George IV Bridge and Causewayside, which house our historic collections and therefore demand the highest possible safety standards. The award was also given in recognition of his pioneering international work with the Library of Congress and the National Fire Protection Association.

James Clerk Maxwell tops scientists poll

The public has nominated Edinburgh-born physicist James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879) as the most worthy of a dedicated web feature outlining his eminent legacy, alongside nine others in the full version of the Hall of Fame site which will be developed in 2007. His work in the 19th century led to the technology behind the television and the mobile telephone, but he is also credited with creating the first colour photograph and for discovering what the rings around Saturn are made of.

Library bard slams home victory for Scotland

The Library's Corporate Information Officer, Graeme Hawley played a part in securing victory for Scotland in Britain's first ever Three-Nation Poetry Slam. The Scottish team members also took the first 4 individual rankings. Poetry slams began in Chicago in 1986, and see poets competing with their own material in knockout heats, winning points based on content, presentation and audience response. Alongside Graeme in the Scottish team were Jenny Lindsay, Bram Gieben and Milton Balgoni.

Government website award win

The Library's website has been hailed Best Government Website in the Web Marketing Association's annual WebAward competition. NLS triumphed against some tough international competition from the sector, including the prestigious Library of Congress. Previous winners in this category have included the US Postal Service and TMP Reserve, the website of the US Naval Reserve.

A Sharpe exit

The Library said a fond farewell to its longest serving member of staff in August. Christina Sharpe joined NLS in 1961 when she worked in the typing pool. She went on to serve four National Librarians including her last role as PA to the current National Librarian Martyn Wade. Martyn Wade said, 'Christina was a loyal and valued colleague, her knowledge of how the Library worked was unparalleled. She provided invaluable support not only to me, but three of my predecessors, and three Chairmen of the board of trustees. She will be very much missed by us all.'

Moir collection creates a buzz

A group from Dunblane and Stirling Beekeepers' Association made a beeline to the Library in August to learn about one of the more unusual parts of our rare book collections. A selection of books from the Moir Rare Book Collection was exhibited, accompanied by a presentation from Rare Books Curator James Mitchell on both the collection and the collection's founder,

John William Moir (1851-1940). The Moir Collection consists of 233 volumes relating to all aspects of beekeeping and was placed on long-term deposit in NLS by the Scottish Beekeepers' Association in 2002. It is one of the very finest collections of rare beekeeping books in the world, including items published as far back as 1525.



Readers' Letters

Discover NLS welcomes your comments, questions and views, please address all correspondence to:

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Readers' Letters
Discover NLS
National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1EW

or e-mail: discover@nls.uk

(Please put 'Readers' letters' in the subject line)



Sir,

Many thanks to Ruth Boreham for the fascinating article, in the Summer issue of *Discover NLS*, on Mary Somerville and the John Murray Archive.

It is good to let you know that Mary Somerville's close connection with the John Murray of her time is being kept up by the present generation of Somervillians. Somerville College, Oxford was named after her in honour of her outstanding scholarship in 1879. She herself was unable formally to attend Oxford (as women were excluded from University at that time) however her strong character and exceptional abilities enabled her to overcome that petty restriction. To quote from the College's website, her 'international reputation as a scientist ... provided students with a formidable role model'.

Today Somervillian Maggie Fergusson is author of the recent and Saltire Award-winning biography of the Orcadian poet, George Mackay Brown, which has been published by the John Murray of this generation. She spoke about her work in November to the Somerville London Literary Group. This is a happy but not unusual event, as the group delights in hearing talks by the many successful and talented writers who have attended Somerville College. However on this occasion we were privileged to hear her speak in the delightful 18th century rooms of the John Murray house in Albemarle Street, which is probably the only publishing house in London which is still working at its original address.

The Somerville London Literary Group, is made up of a comparatively small number of Somerville college alumni in London. The group was formed in 1997 by the late Carole Rosen, a gifted professional singer, biographer and broadcast producer.

I am sure that these historic links between Somerville, John Murray and NLS will continue in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Vice
Somerville London
Literary Group



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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.

Ian Rankin

Ian Rankin is Scotland's best-selling crime writer with a strong international reputation. His first Rebus novel was published in 1987 and they are now translated into 22 languages around the world. He has won numerous prizes and awards and in June 2002 he was awarded the Order of the British Empire for services to literature. He delivered a Bridge Reading at NLS in November and will be returning to the Library early in 2007.



Image: The Orion Publishing Group

Q: Do you remember when you first became aware of NLS?

A: I think it was when I was a student. It had a sort of mystical power, as lowly undergrads were not supposed to be allowed in. I don't think I ever set foot inside until I was a postgraduate in October 1983. A lecturer, Ian Campbell, arranged a behind-the-scenes tour, which was great fun – especially seeing the 'bowels' of the place and store-rooms which used to be holding cells for the court. Once I had my reader's card, there was no stopping me! I was doing a PhD on Muriel Spark, and worked pretty much every day in the Library. I remember finding out that she had won a poetry contest while still at school. I spent a fascinating (if fruitless) week poring over every issue of *The Scotsman* from the year in question, looking for mention of this and maybe even the poem itself.

Q: Have you ever done any of your writing in the reading room or have you set any of your fiction in or around NLS?

A: I don't remember ever doing any novel-writing in the reading room – I always used a typewriter, and that wouldn't have been allowed! But at the end of my first Inspector Rebus novel, Rebus finds himself in some tunnels beneath the Central Lending Library, and I'm sure I did that because of the tour I'd been given.

Q: Have you done any research in NLS that has informed your work, or formed the basis of your work?

A: When I needed to research 1968 and '69 for my novel *Black and Blue*, I came to NLS to look through old newspapers from the period. It was odd to see the modernisation of the place – laptops replacing card-index files, for example. As a postgrad, I did some paid work for a lecturer who was researching Charles Dickens. I would compile lists of essays about Dickens, and read through any I found, making notes on their content. I was always amazed by the sheer variety of works held by NLS – and impressed by the patience of the staff when I went to them with lists of 'wants'.

Q: Do you come to any of NLS' free events and exhibitions?

Now that I am a full-time novelist, I find I don't use NLS very often – but it is always reassuring to know it's there if I need it. I do come in from time to time, to attend exhibitions or talks, I've also donated foreign-language editions of my novels to NLS. **nls**



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