

Growing collections

Delivering services

Inspiring audiences

Stimulating research

Responding to change

EVOLVING

Annual Review

National Library of Scotland

2006-2007





5th/6th century

Letter to the heirs of Eustochios written on papyrus, the earliest manuscript in the collection

764-770

Japanese prayer scroll, the oldest 'printed' item at NLS



1280s

The Murthly Hours written and illuminated

1454-55

The Gutenberg Bible, the oldest western printed book



1488

Henry the Minstrel 'Blind Harry', manuscript written by John Ramsay

1508

Chepman and Myllar print Scotland's first books



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Left: A page from the journal of missionary Isabella Plumb.

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Eamonn McGoldrick, Sue Osmond.

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1542

Earliest printed Act of Scottish Parliament

1587

Mary Queen of Scots writes her last letter

1689

Advocates Library opens

1776

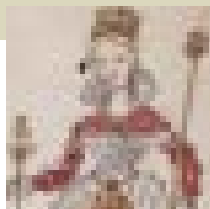
Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*

1814

Sir Walter Scott's *Waverley* is published

1848

Early photographs produced by the Edinburgh Calotype Club



Foreword

The National Library of Scotland is an organisation that has to take the past, present and the future equally seriously. As our collections stretch back nearly 1500 years, we are surrounded by history, knowledge and enlightenment. Our founders at the Faculty of Advocates began collecting material in the late 17th century. The advent of Legal Deposit, nearly 300 years ago in 1710, greatly accelerated the growth of these collections, and has provided the bedrock for them ever since. Today our work in collecting digital material prompts change and development at a remarkable rate.

This year was another of exciting challenges, and some major landmarks. The year was book-ended by the arrival of two major new collections. It began with the arrival of the John Murray Archive, one of the

most important archives in British publishing history, and ended with the merger with the Scottish Screen Archive. This film collection adds a new dimension for those researching Scottish culture over the last century or so.

The need to meet the expectations of our customers today has never been felt so urgently. This is why we have developed a new customer charter; it is why we are progressing with plans to develop a visitor centre to showcase and interpret our collections and to create spaces tailored to exhibitions, events and learning activities, and it is why we have responded to demand for improved reading room facilities.

The long-term nature of our primary role, to make our recorded heritage available for centuries to come,

means that the future is never far from our thoughts. The digital revolution continues apace, as does the Library's response. Customers increasingly expect immediate access to information delivered with the maximum of convenience. To meet this demand we continue to digitise materials from our own collections and to deliver licensed digital collections remotely, so that people throughout Scotland and beyond can use them at home, work or overseas. Our commitment to develop leading digital services was acknowledged this year with the funding secured to build a Trusted Digital Repository that will safeguard the future of electronic information, in all its many forms.

Our fundraising activities are another area in which we are building for the future. An encouraging start in 2006 is paying dividends for the Library and will

further increase the scope and scale of what we can offer customers, today and tomorrow. Our updated strategy, published early in 2008, will set out how we plan to build on all of these achievements and develop a National Library that is outward looking, dynamic and innovative. As ever, we are greatly indebted to our staff for making all of this happen, and to our Trustees and partners for the support they have given throughout the year.



Martyn Wade
National Librarian



Professor Michael Anderson
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



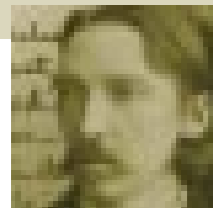
Our Mission

The National Library of Scotland exists to:

- Enrich lives and communities
- Encourage and promote lifelong learning, research and scholarship
- Provide universal access to information by comprehensively collecting and making available the recorded knowledge of Scotland
- Promote access to the ideas and cultures of the world

1881

Robert Louis Stevenson's
Treasure Island

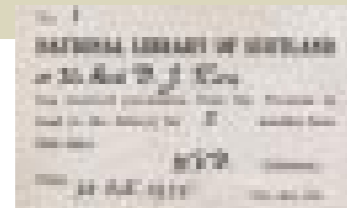


1895

Earliest surviving Scottish film,
the *Execution of Mary Queen
of Scots*

1925

The National Library of Scotland
is founded



1956

George IV Bridge building opens

1971

World's first email sent

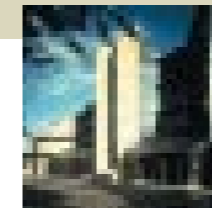


1988

NLS catalogue goes online

1988

Causewayside building opens



1995

NLS website goes online

1995

First collection item digitised



2003

Legal Deposit Libraries Act
'creates' electronic legal deposit

2006-07



INSPIRING audiences

Event visitor numbers were up by **10%**



Our vision to make a connection with an increasingly diverse audience of new and existing visitors went from strength to strength this year.

‘One of the best exhibitions I have seen – well laid out, informative and described in an accessible manner.’

Birds of a Feather exhibition visitor, Cyprus.

Far left: Alasdair Gray was one of several high profile writers to appear at our Bridge Readings events.

Left: Stevenson-inspired fun for all the family at our storytelling event, *Salty Tales of the Sea*, in February 2007.

Right: Rare Books Curator Dr Graham Hogg with Audubon's *Birds of America*.

Far Right: Brian Taylor poses some questions at the 2006 Donald Dewar Memorial Lecture.

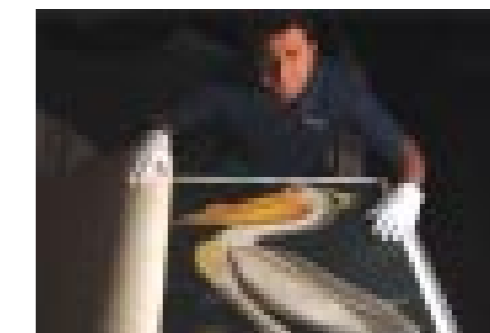
Events

Our programme of free public events continued to grow in number and diversity this year. Topics covered included wildlife photography, the Holy Grail, African explorers and epic Indian literature. The 1707 Union of Scottish and English Parliaments provided a focal point, with the popular Road to 1707 series of events featuring leading historians and authors.

The modern political landscape of Scotland was covered by Brian Taylor, Political Editor of BBC Scotland, at the 2006 **Donald Dewar Memorial Lecture**. In its fifth year at the Edinburgh International Book Festival, the lecture looked at the roles played by Holyrood, Westminster and Brussels in Scottish politics today.

NLS houses the archives of many modern Scottish writers, so the launch of a new series of monthly events showcasing the work and ideas of the Scottish literati was fitting. **The Bridge Readings** featured Alasdair Gray, Christopher Brookmyre, Ian Rankin and AL Kennedy reading from and discussing their latest work to full houses.

The in-depth knowledge and expertise of our own curatorial staff was spotlighted this year, with a series of **lunch time talks** covering treasures from our South Asian collections, Shakespeare's First Folio, the John Murray Archive and tours 'behind the scenes' of the *Birds of a Feather* exhibition.



Kidnapped

The Library played a key role in the celebrations surrounding Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped* this year. The One Edinburgh, One Book campaign, organised by the UNESCO Edinburgh City of Literature Trust, aimed to get Edinburgh reading by publishing and distributing three very different versions of the classic adventure story.

NLS devised a raft of events and workshops to tie-in with the project, including talks and lectures from leading international scholars, family-friendly storytelling events and a workshop with Alan Grant and Cam Kennedy, the creators of the exciting graphic novel version. On the digital side, we also put a complete digitised version of the first edition of the book online to complement our existing web resources on the life and work of Stevenson.



Summer exhibition visitor numbers were up by **11%**

Awards

The Library continued to support four awards that promote the finest and most unique contributions made to publishing, writing and book-making in Scotland. The 2006 **Callum Macdonald Memorial Award** for Scottish poetry pamphlet publishing was won by Pauline Prior-Pitt for her self-published and handmade work, 'North Uist Sea Poems'.

Tom McEwan, from Ayrshire, fended off international competition to be named the student winner of the 2006 **Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition**, with his binding of Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Gold Bug', while the overall winner was German Annette Friederich for her binding of Virginia Woolf's novel *Mrs Dalloway*.



At the **2006 Saltire Society Literary Awards**, held at NLS, the Library-sponsored Scottish Research Book of the Year Award went to John MacInnes for his Gaelic book *Duthchas Nan Gaidheal: Collected Essays of John MacInnes*.

The **Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship** gave five more writers the opportunity to develop their work and exchange ideas this year. The award is organised annually by NLS and the Scottish Arts Council and rewards published writers with a two month stay at a writer's retreat and international arts centre in France's Grez-sur-Loing. The 2007 recipients of the Fellowship were Diana Hendry, Hamish Whyte, Brian McCabe, Ian Macpherson and Jill Dobson.

Exhibitions

Highland 2007, the national government-led initiative, provided the catalyst for the first major collaborative travelling exhibition from Scotland's national collecting institutions. NLS joined forces with National Museums Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland to produce **Fonn 's Duthchas (Land and Legacy)** in celebration of Highland cultural life past and present. The exhibition put rare manuscript and printed material alongside iconic objects and artworks to produce a fully rounded picture of the Highland landscape, people and culture, as these have evolved

over the centuries. The travelling exhibition was designed to traverse the country, starting in January 2007 at the newly-opened Inverness Museum and Art Gallery with further residencies in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stornoway.

The Scottish experiences of 19th century American naturalist and wildlife artist John James Audubon was chosen for the basis of the Library's summer exhibition, **Birds of a Feather: Audubon's Adventures in Edinburgh**. The exhibition paid tribute to Audubon, the author of *Birds of America*, one of the world's most valuable books, and in particular the influence that key figures of the Scottish Enlightenment had on his work and legacy. Partnerships were struck with Renfrewshire Education and Leisure Services and Glasgow Libraries to display a bound volume with life-size illustrations from *Birds of America* and to deliver a wide range of events, workshops and activities. A particular highlight was the Big Draw family event at the Mitchell Library. The Big Draw is the annual UK showcase festival organised by the Campaign for Drawing. Our event with the Mitchell Library gave visitors the opportunity to work together to reproduce a giant version of an Audubon plate, as well as providing a variety of storytelling, illustration and art and craft activities.

Loans

Every year we take advantage of opportunities to share our collections with a wider audience by lending items to other institutions for events and exhibitions. A notable example this year was the loan of Wedderburn's *Vocabula*, the book containing evidence that organised football was 'invented' in Scotland. The book went on display in April 2006 at an exhibition in Hamburg to coincide with the 2006 Football World Cup. We also arranged a manuscript display on the poet Sorley MacLean at the Edinburgh Filmhouse, to coincide with the screening of the documentary film *Hallaig*, part of the Filmhouse's Poetic Cinema season.

Education and Outreach

The John Murray Archive (JMA) arrived in March 2006, sparking a number of exciting education projects. The education programme was launched with a regular series of schools visits. Poet Ken Cockburn was appointed as the first John Murray Archive **Writer in Residence**, thanks to support from the UNESCO Edinburgh City of Literature. He spent several months at the Library, delving into the papers of Byron, Livingstone and others, and subsequently led a series of workshops with school and community groups exploring the creative potential of this vast collection of 19th-century history, literature and ideas.



Left: Pauline Prior-Pitt with her winning entry for the 2006 Callum Macdonald Memorial Award.

Below: Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition winner Annette Friederich.

Right: Young visitors at the *Birds of a Feather* exhibition.

Education and Outreach participant numbers were up by **11%**



GROWING collections



The arrival of two major new collections, the John Murray Archive and the Scottish Screen Archive, added a new dimension to our collections and set new standards for the way in which our collections are brought to life for visitors.

Far left: Scottish Screen Archive Curator Janet McBain at their premises in Hillington, Glasgow.

Left: Cam Kennedy and Alan Grant's artwork for their 2007 graphic novel version of *Kidnapped*.

Right: A small sample of original artwork by Alasdair Gray.



New collection items acquired:

288,960

Scottish Screen Archive

The Library welcomed a major new addition to its collections this year, as the Scottish Screen Archive merged with NLS. The archive contains over 30,000 moving images documenting Scottish life in the 20th and 21st centuries. Thousands of hours of footage, including home movies, public announcement films, documentaries, newsreels, adverts and recent Gaelic language broadcasting, joined the Library's collections in April 2007, offering researchers a full range of formats with which to study Scotland. Topics represented are as broad as the last century of Scottish culture, with particular strengths in subjects such as family life, working life, industry, war, entertainment, transport, education and sport. A particularly unique feature of the archive is the viewing and lending collection of VHS videotapes available for research and non-commercial use. All this is supplemented by a small non-film archive comprising written material about the history of Scottish film production and cinema exhibition, photographs and sound recordings, and a growing number of film clips made available online.

Manuscripts

The Library's literary archives continued to proliferate this year, with a raft of important acquisitions from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Two major donations greatly enriched our manuscript collections this year. The first was the 1924 manuscript of **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 'The Adventure of the Illustrious Client'**. One of the last Sherlock Holmes stories, the manuscript provided valuable evidence of the author's narrative skill. Secondly, we were also delighted to receive the papers of novelist **Robin Jenkins**. Mr Jenkins was one of the most important but overlooked Scottish authors of the late 20th century, his archive included a number of unpublished novels. The archive of **George Mackay Brown** was boosted by a donation of 160 letters, spanning two decades, between the poet and the writer and biographer Jenny Robertson, including one of his last poems, 'To Heather'. Contemporary poet **Don Paterson** became the latest writer to join the ranks of those who entrust their literary archives to the nation. His prolific collection of poetry started at the age of seven and dates to the present day.

Robert Southey was Poet Laureate when he joined engineer Thomas Telford for a tour of Scotland in 1819. This year we bought the manuscript of his verses in tribute to Telford's work on the Caledonian Canal, which will be used in the collaborative exhibition with the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, **Telford: Father of Modern Engineering**, opening in October 2007.

Many writers in our collections are also major artists. This year we were fortunate to acquire both a major collection of **Alasdair Gray's** artwork, some of which will feature in his forthcoming visual biography *Life in Pictures*, plus the complete artwork for Cam Kennedy and Alan Grant's innovative graphic novel version of **Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped***, published by Waverley Press in February 2007 as part of the UNESCO Edinburgh City of Literature project to get Scotland reading.



Rare books

Appropriately enough in the year in which *Kidnapped* was celebrated, several other Robert Louis Stevenson items were bought. The tiny and very rare poetry pamphlet *Not I, and Other Poems* (1881) was written in Davos, Switzerland, to entertain Stevenson and his stepson and printed on a small hand press. We also acquired the earliest edition of *Treasure Island* (first published 1883) to have illustrations in addition to the famous frontispiece map: it was published in Boston, USA, in February 1884, over a year before the first illustrated British edition.

Important scientific acquisitions this year included a collection of nine scientific papers (1812-31) featuring **David Brewster** and **Mary Somerville** presented to James Veitch, a self-educated polymath from the Borders. Veitch's interests covered mathematics, mechanics and astronomy. He is best known today as the man who inspired David Brewster (1781-1868), the inventor of the stereoscope and the kaleidoscope, to take an interest in science.

Among our most handsome acquisitions this year was an 1879 edition of the poet Oliver Goldsmith's *History of the Earth*. This included 24 original fine watercolours by James Stewart and Harrison Weir, to accompany Glasgow publisher Blackie's science series and was reproduced using chromolithography.



Above: Oliver Goldsmith's *History of the Earth*, with 24 attractive plates.

Maps

Agreements were concluded this year to make annual snapshots of Ordnance Survey's MasterMap series available in NLS and the five other Legal Deposit libraries in the British Isles. These comprise the very latest and most detailed digital mapping for the whole of the United Kingdom in an updated, user-friendly web based system. MasterMap offers improved layers of information, allowing more precise recording of changing landscapes. As well as acquisitions of modern maps and atlases, highlights of antiquarian maps acquisitions included:

John G. Bartholomew, 1860-1920.

Western hemisphere ceramic map paperweight

This unusual ceramic map paperweight of the Western hemisphere was acquired because the map was drawn by John G Bartholomew and engraved by the Bartholomew firm, whose considerable archive is held at NLS.

John Adair's map playing cards, 1660-1718.

An extremely rare collection of map playing cards. The original map was drawn by John Adair, and published in 1689. It was engraved by James Moxon, who took it to London playing card specialist John Lenthall. Map playing cards were fashionable in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, and the map was dissected into playing cards, marked with suits by a coloured stamp, and numbered by hand.

George Atkinson, Ceylon, 1813.

This map of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) is dedicated to Thomas Maitland, a Scot and governor and commander in chief over the Island of Ceylon. It was published by William Faden, the leading London-based map publisher of his day, whose father came from Scotland.

William Skinner's Plan of Fort George, 1763.

shows the might of one of Scotland's most impressive fortifications at the time of its construction in 1767. This plan portrays the castle in an almost finished state. The hand colouring and shading are in the distinctive style used by military engineers in the Board of Ordnance, green for embankments and pink for buildings.

Below: Some very rare map playing cards by John Adair, 1660-1718.



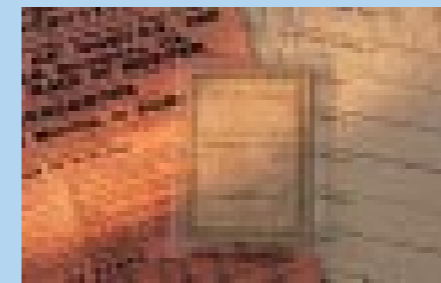
Below: A number of interesting travel items were purchased during the year:

1. Ticket for a 'fly coach' between Edinburgh and Newcastle, issued in July 1776, when coach travel between England and Scotland was a relatively new phenomenon.

2. Timetable (around 1790) for the Edinburgh to Portpatrick mail-coach. The heyday of the mail coach as a passenger vehicle was superseded by the railway in most parts of Scotland by the mid-19th century.

3. A very rare broadside from 1835, during the early years of steamships plying the west coast of Scotland. These ships took cargo, and tourists visiting Staffa and Iona.

Right: Western hemisphere ceramic paperweight, by John G. Bartholomew. The item is pictured beside its entry in the order book in the Bartholomew Archive: 'Aug. 28 1889 Engr. the reverse way for transf. to pottery the 2 hemispheres World for £5 as per quote. Delivered Oct. 22.'



Collections items consulted: **345,232**

Legal Deposit

We acquired 95,788 books and 135,314 issues of newspapers and magazines this year, thanks to our Legal Deposit status. This huge asset for the people of Scotland and beyond is worth millions of pounds a year, but its value to our users, who find material they cannot get elsewhere, is priceless. While many UK publications are sent automatically by publishers, work is always needed to ensure that we collect Scottish publications as comprehensively as possible. A particular focus this year has been obtaining publications produced by the growing Polish community in Scotland, as well as those produced for incoming refugees and asylum seekers: For example, *Gazeta z Highland* published in Golspie and *Glos Polski* published in Dalkeith.



Music

We were delighted to buy several rare Gaelic music scores this year. Among these were a book of Christmas carols published by the Gaelic language college Sabhal Mór Ostaig on the Isle of Skye in 1975 and an antiquarian item of Highland hymns, with Gaelic psalm tunes and spiritual songs, published in 1889. Scottish Gaelic music publications are usually rare as they tend to be published in smaller print runs compared to the large international music market. Another interesting acquisition was *A curious collection of the most celebrated country dances & airs which are now in vogue*. This 18th-century music publication contains 'hidden' Scottish music, alongside country dances and Italian guitar music.

Newspapers

The collaborative NEWSPLAN Scotland project this year delivered an online guide to indexes to Scottish newspapers. The guide lists details of Scottish newspaper titles, which have been indexed, and includes the type of index, the dates covered and the holding locations for the indexes. Printed, electronic and online indexes are all included and it is searchable by title of the newspaper and keyword. The guide can be found online at www.nls.uk/collections/newspapers/indexes.

Digital collections

Our physical collections are complemented by a growing body of digital collections, licensed from publishers and made freely available to users in our buildings and remotely. These vast resources include biographies and other in-depth reference works and thousands of fully digitised newspapers, journals and books. A number of important additions to these collections were made this year.

Science Full Text Journal Collection via Wilson Web provides full-text access to over 330 journal titles from the 1990s onwards covering a broad range of science subjects.

Oxford Journals Online provides full-text access to over 200 academic and research journal titles published by Oxford University Press, covering science, humanities, law, medicine and the social sciences, from 1829 to the present day.

House of Commons 19th and 20th Century Parliamentary Papers provides full-text access to Parliamentary Papers from 1801 to 1945, plus indexing to 2004.

The Making of the Modern World provides full-text access to over 60,000 printed works covering economic, political, business and social history from 1460 to 1850.

Early American Imprints

provides access to the full text of over 39,000 titles printed in North America between 1639 and 1800, many of which are otherwise unavailable in the UK. You can search for and view the images of the original pages of virtually every work of early American publishing.



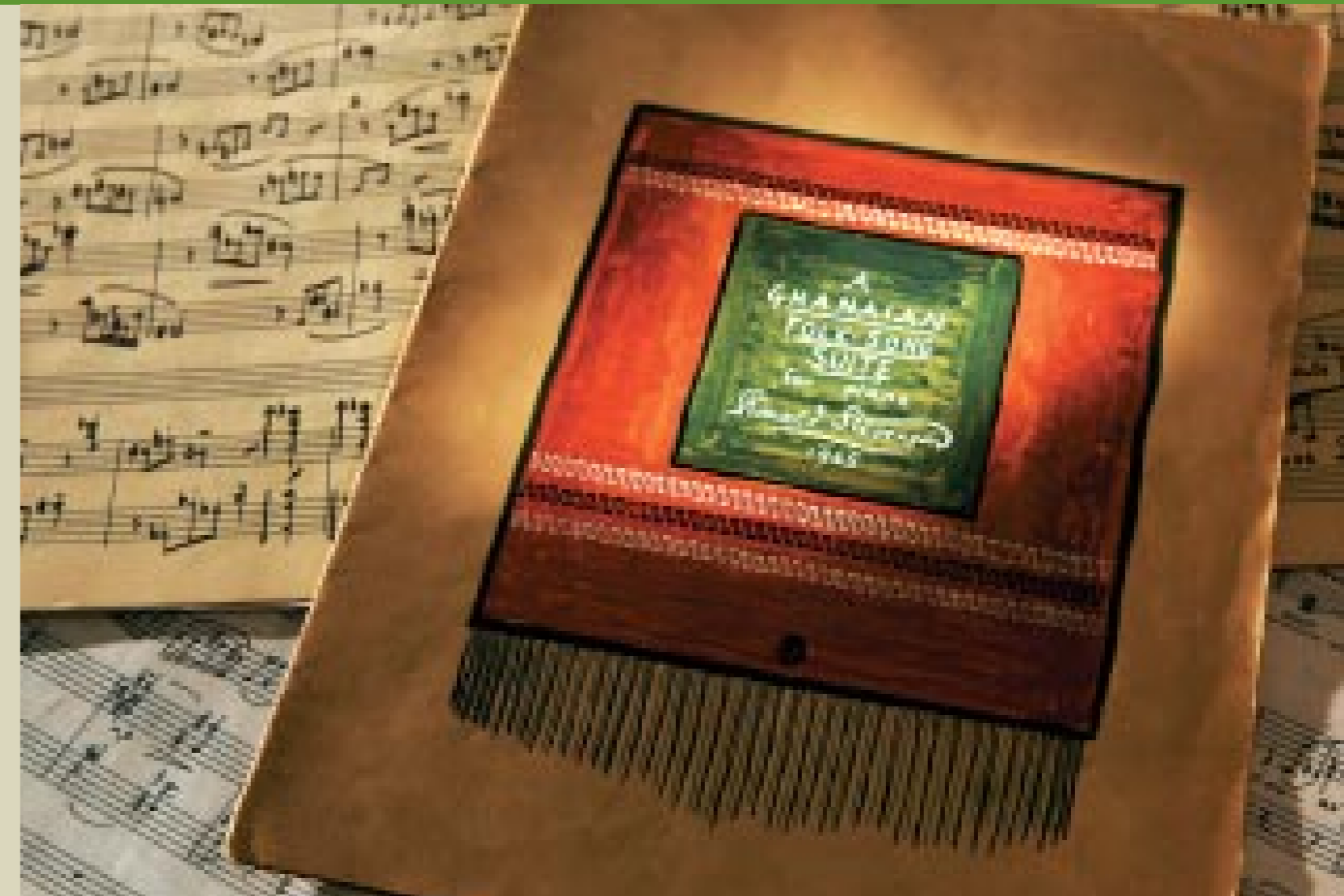
NLS is supplying titles for publication in Thomson Gale's digital archive **19th Century UK Periodicals**. Around 50 19th-century periodical titles from our collections were selected for the first unit of the archive 'New readerships', covering women's and children's magazines, leisure, sport and humour. This useful online resource for anyone researching 19th-century British popular culture features original colour illustrations from many of these titles. Unit 1, covering about 1.2 million pages of text, is scheduled to be published in the autumn of 2007. A further four units are planned for publication.



Far left: A typically broad selection of publications received by Legal Deposit.

Right: Manuscript scores from the archive of the composer Ronald Stevenson.

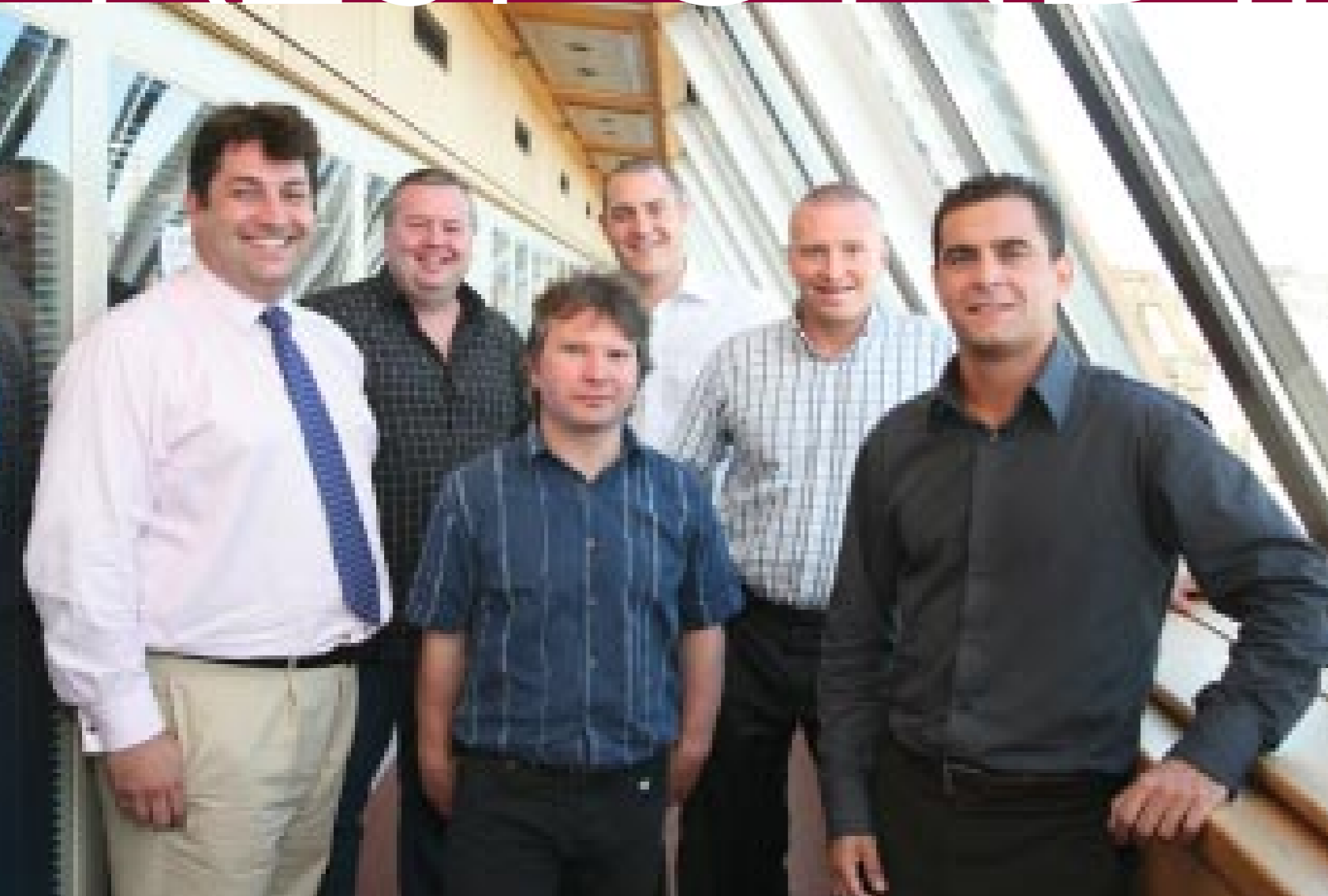
Below: Personal papers of Isabella Plumb (1861-1944), Church of Scotland missionary to Poona and Sialkot.



RESPONDING to change

Number of items digitised:

21,655



Left: Meet the Trusted Digital Repository project team, from left to right:

James Toon, TDR Project Manager

Chad Crossman, Technical Architect

Paul Cunnea, Digital Collections Development Co-ordinator

Barry Foster, Business/Test Analyst

Vincent Moffat, Systems Developer

Oscar Contreras,

JMA Web Support Officer/Developer.

Right: SCOTBIS Web Support Officer Chris Osborne.

Progress in the digital information arena, and in the way that libraries claim material, has kept us busy this year, both in partnership with others and on our own projects.

‘The NLS online catalogue is as exciting and rewarding as MacFadden’s strike in Scotland’s recent football victory against France.’

Lech Lee

**Electronic Resources Librarian
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore**

Digital preservation

The Library’s digital strategy was advanced significantly this year when government funding was announced for the Library’s ambitious project to establish a **Trusted Digital Repository (TDR)** for Scotland. The Scottish Executive pledged funding of up to £1.8 million for the two-year project, which will ensure that Scotland’s digital heritage can be preserved for the long term. The aim of the project is to apply the same level of professional care to collecting, preserving and providing access to digital items as NLS does to printed matter. The government funding enabled us to recruit a dedicated team and begin to buy the technology needed to deliver the project’s aims.

The archiving of websites and the building and hosting of repository systems are two key elements of the project. The TDR team has already been contributing to **IRIScotland**, a Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL) project to provide comprehensive access to Scotland’s research output. The project provides access to all research papers held by Scottish universities. The repository uses an ‘open access’ publishing model, making Scottish research easily available to all, rather than restricted to those with subscriptions to academic journals. NLS is testing the feasibility of providing a hosting service for research institutions without their own databases.

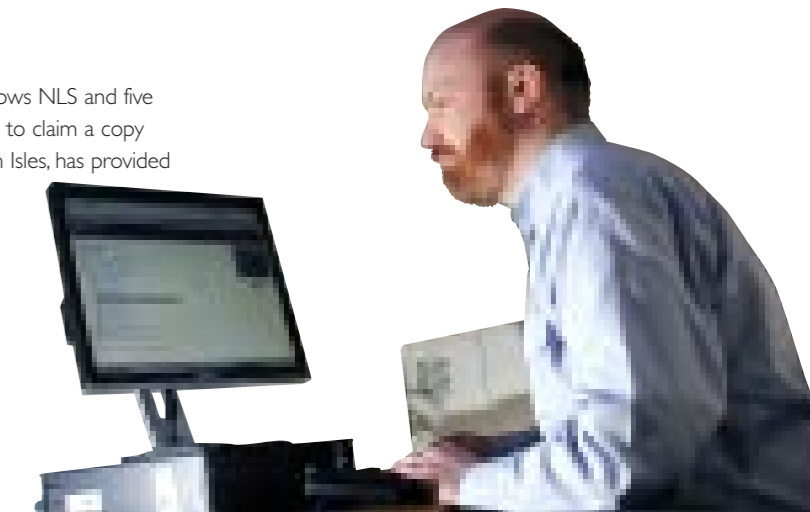
Web archiving

NLS is one of six members of the **UK Web Archiving Consortium (UKWAC)**. The web is increasingly becoming a first port of call for researchers and anyone seeking information. This project aims to explore how culturally significant websites can be identified for long-term preservation. The average life expectancy of a website is 44 days; the project aims to extend this to 100 years or more. The first phase of the two-year pilot project drew to a close this year, having archived over 2500 sites, with partners taking steps to build on the experiences they have gained from the project. To view the fledgling UK web archive visit www.webarchive.org.uk and browse selected websites covering everything from Scottish art and literature to whisky, athletics and politics.

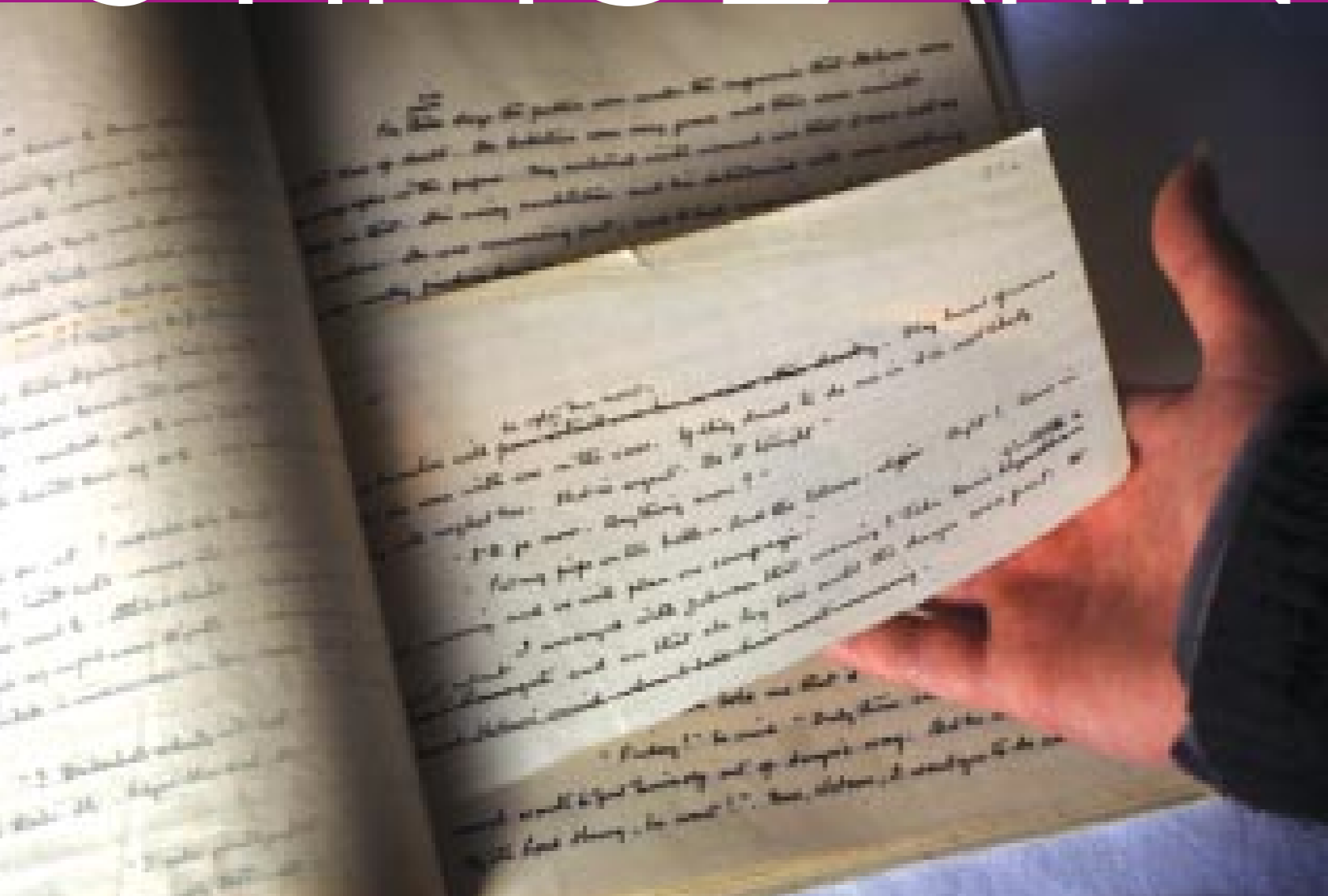
Legal Deposit arrangements

Legal Deposit, the legislation that allows NLS and five other libraries in the UK and Ireland to claim a copy of everything published in the British Isles, has provided the cornerstone of the Library’s collections for centuries.

Much of the work involved is organised by an agency which claims on behalf of four of these libraries and distributes publications accordingly. To maximise various efficiencies, the libraries have been reviewing the location and arrangements of the agency in future. Housing the Agency in the National Library’s Edinburgh premises is considered to be the preferred solution at present. During 2007 NLS has taken a key role in this process, in partnership with the other four libraries, appointing a dedicated Project Officer to comprehensively review the options and ensure the project runs smoothly. The results of this review will be announced early in 2008.



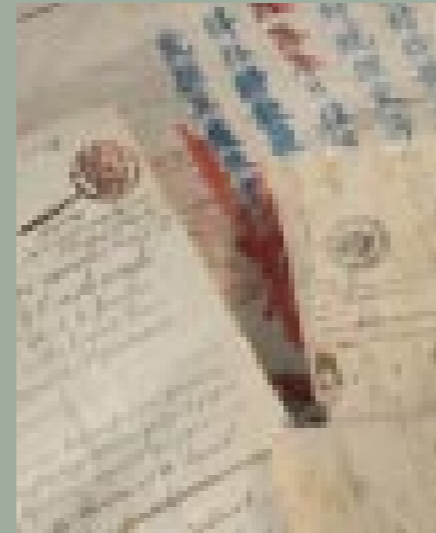
STIMULATING research



Left: Arthur Conan Doyle's manuscript of the Sherlock Holmes story, 'The Illustrious Client', one of many examples of collection items to have prompted new research.

Below: Selected travel items from the John Murray Archive.

Left: JMA Cataloguer Daniel Gray shares his passion and knowledge at the Spanish Civil War Symposium, November 2006.



The Library's collections, and the expertise of our curatorial staff, continually fuels a wide variety of research projects.



Archive scholarship

The John Murray Archive had hardly been unpacked before researchers and writers had begun to find new and imaginative uses for it. Even before the Archive was officially made available to researchers (in October 2006) two particular projects were well under way. Visiting Royal Society of Edinburgh Research Fellow, Dr Barbara Schaff used the Archive and Edinburgh University's Centre for the History of the Book to investigate the John Murray Travellers' Handbooks (the precursor to modern-day travel guidebooks) for Italy and Germany. The Library also supported the establishment of a new MSc course, Material Cultures & the History of the Book, run by the Centre. The course will draw heavily on the Archive and the other important publishing archives held at NLS.

Spanish Civil War symposium

The 70th anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War was commemorated in November 2006 with a symposium at NLS that attracted many of the war's leading academics and commentators. The event was attended by guests from the Spanish Consulate and one of two surviving Scottish volunteers from the International Brigade, Mr Steve Fullarton. A selection of relevant collection items went on display to

complement the series of talks and discussions, including propaganda posters, photographs and letters and papers from the archive of the Scottish International Brigaders. Of particular interest was a copy of a 1937 Spanish Embassy publication signed by key Labour politicians of the day including Clement Attlee and William Wedgwood Benn, father of former Cabinet Minister Tony Benn.

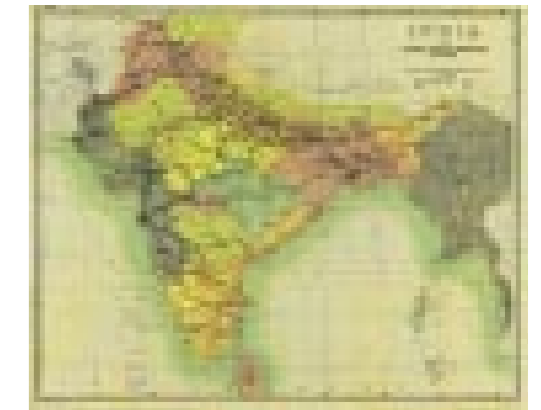
Military map research

A project to explore the military landscape of Scotland in the 18th century, using maps from NLS collections, got underway in 2006. The three-year PhD studentship, under the supervision of Professor Charles Withers the Institute of Geography at Edinburgh University and Chris Fleet of NLS, was made possible by funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

The research will investigate maps and plans, such as those published by the Board of Ordnance, depicting the militarisation of Scotland in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The research will broaden the understanding of this material and its context, and produce a 'finding list' for 18th-century Scottish military mapping which is held in several institutions in England and Scotland.

Medical History of British India website

The growing interest in our India Papers collection of official publications, maps and manuscripts of British India has led to the creation of a new web resource on disease prevention and public health in the region. The web feature, **Medical History of British India**, reproduces 50 public health records, made available online for the first time. These documents give researchers valuable insights into the state's efforts to study, understand and control diseases like cholera, plague, malaria and leprosy. The digitisation of our medical history volumes was funded by awards from the Wellcome Trust.



Above: This map, from R Nathan's report *The plague in India, 1896, 1897*, shows the location of railway plague inspection stations across India.

CARING for collections



Applying the highest possible standards of professional care to our historic collections is a constant priority. This year we have increased our support for the care of items on display in the Library and loaned elsewhere, while continuing to work on a range of national and international partnership projects.

'NLS was the right choice for our internship. We got the chance to put all the things we learned at conservation school into practice, build our knowledge and gain valuable new skills.'

Donatella Riccuiti and Simona Cenci
Conservation students
Spoleto, Italy

Items conserved or cleaned:

228,465

Identical Books Project

NLS took a major role this year in a national project to compare storage environments and the patterns of book use in copyright libraries across the UK. The project, led by the British Library, studies the physical condition of identical books held in NLS and each of the five other Legal Deposit libraries. Any differences in the condition of these books will reflect differences in the patterns of use in the various libraries and differences in their storage environments. The results of these tests will greatly inform all partners' preservation and handling practices. NLS Conservator Giordana Santoro has played a key part in the project. She has been visiting each of the libraries to ensure that scientific 'test conditions' are applied to the measuring of acidity and colourisation in the books.

Internships

For over ten years the Library has offered a regular programme of internships to conservation and preservation students studying at institutions in Scotland and further afield. The internships give the students valuable experience of working with major book and manuscript collections, and of developing practical skills taught by our highly-skilled and experienced staff. Five students were given this opportunity in 2006-07: two from the prestigious

European Course for Book Conservation and Restoration in Spoleto, Italy, two from Lyon's Restauration et Conservation D'Oeuvres D'Arts and one from the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland. These studentships provide a two-way learning process for all involved, while spreading word of the Library's strong international reputation for collection care.

Helping others

Giving assistance and advice to libraries and other collections across Scotland on conservation and preservation matters is a key part of our conservation remit. Support of this nature was given in 2006 to the Keepers of Innerpefferay Library, Perthshire, when members of the Conservation and Preservation Division carried out an inspection of their collection storage and display areas. The Keepers gained valuable advice and information that will help them to preserve their important collection of rare books and manuscripts.

Looking after the John Murray Archive

Conservation work on the John Murray Archive (JMA) began in 2006 with the addition of a dedicated conservator. JMA Conservator Kate Kidd works exclusively on the Archive, carrying out a range of remedial treatments. An important part of her role is

to provide access to the JMA by preparing items from the collection for exhibition, either within the Library or elsewhere. Additionally, a programme to re-house the collection in archival boxes is well under way, as is the preparation of items for the digitising and microfilming programmes.

Collaborative groups

The National Library maintains an active presence on a variety of national and international professional groups that share best practice, research and ideas. These include the National Preservation Office Microfilming Group, the Heads of Conservation, the



Far left: Conservator Claire Thomson working on the Fonn's Duthchas exhibition.

Above: Conservation work on a vellum ledger book from the John Murray Archive.

Preservation Advisory Panel and the Phase Box UK Group. NLS was the first of the five UK legal deposit libraries to introduce the production of phase boxes using computer-aided design equipment, setting the standards for others to follow. These boxes, which are made to measure in house at our Preservation Services Unit, provide a microclimate for the items stored inside and offer invaluable protection from accidental water damage, dust, light and handling, significantly slowing the degradation of collection items for years to come.



Above: John Murray Archive Conservator Kate Kidd at work.

SPREADING the word

Public awareness of NLS has increased by **166%** since 2004



Sharing the stories found in our collections with a widening audience is a great challenge, and one to which we are rising well.

‘NLS has done a terrific job in reaching out to a much bigger audience through the internet. The information you have on the web is terrific and I hope it continues to grow.’

Dan Gilbert, Researcher



Raising and evaluating awareness

We want as many people as possible to benefit from our collections. To make this happen, we need to continually ensure our message reaches the world, through a wide variety of media. The statistics show that we are making great progress with this. The first Omnibus Survey we participated in, in December 2004, showed that only 20% of the Scottish population had heard of the National Library. By February 2006 that figure had grown to 31%. In June 2007 we achieved 50% awareness. Omnibus Surveys are independent, statistically significant and represent the geographic and demographic make-up of the population.

The bare numbers themselves only tell part of the story of course. The results of our market research discussion groups reinforce these quantitative results.

Our outreach and promotional efforts were instrumental in achieving this goal and in improving perceptions – as a result, more people now see NLS as friendly and welcoming.

Media coverage

The daily media coverage we receive (printed and broadcast) is scanned and independently analysed every quarter. This gives a breakdown of beneficial, factual or adverse coverage achieved, including a financial value. The estimated annual value of media

coverage received this year has increased by 22% to a total of £1,227,117.

Thanks to this coverage, NLS is now firmly on the radar of the media and other influencers, such as politicians and businesses.

Awards

Our website aims to be among the most accessible and user-friendly public sector sites. The site complies with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines set by the internationally acknowledged standards body, the Worldwide Web Consortium (W3C).

This was acknowledged in 2006 when the site was awarded **Best Government Website** by the Web Marketing Association, ahead of prestigious international competition from the Library of Congress and the US Postal Service, among others. Average monthly user sessions on the site have increased from around 100,000 in 2004 to nearly 300,000 in 2006.

Further recognition of the strides we are making in raising public awareness came with the news that we had won in three short-listed categories at the **2006 Communicators in Business (CiB) Scotland Awards**, with prizes received for Best One-Off Publication, for the NLS Annual Review 2005-2006, Best Use of the Web and for Best Communications Team.

New magazine

A new quarterly magazine, **Discover NLS**, was launched in April 2006. The magazine's bright, contemporary design and rich editorial content were acknowledged at the **2006 Scottish Magazine Awards**, organised annually by the Periodical Publishers Association Scotland, where it was highly commended in three categories.

Facsimile publications

Our collections provide a wealth of material for publications, capitalised on this year by a rewarding partnership with publishers Birlinn Ltd. Birlinn worked with the Library to reproduce two stunning, illustrated facsimiles of important books. A new edition of **Joan Blaeu's** groundbreaking **Atlas of Scotland** was published with beautiful reproductions of all 48 original hand-coloured maps of Scotland. Blaeu's original atlas, published in 1654 and based on the pioneering surveys of Timothy Pont, was effectively the first atlas of Scotland. The 2006 edition includes additional material, and a translation, from a number of leading scholars, along with the original publisher's letters, which illustrate how the atlas was first created.

This was followed by a new edition of **William Daniell's Voyage Round the Coasts of Great Britain**, which was also published by Birlinn in association with NLS. Daniell's Voyage celebrated the

majestic splendour of the Scottish islands and coast when it was published in 1825. The new edition reproduces the Scottish illustration plates, with accompanying travelogue, from the Library's set, along with some unpublished notes written by Sir Walter Scott. It also features an essay by Dr Iain Gordon Brown, Principal Curator of Manuscripts, exploring Scott's relationship with Daniell, and their influence on one another.

Aberdeen Roadshow

NLS celebrated its partnership with Aberdeen Library and Information Services in November 2006 with the Library's first ever roadshow. Staff accompanied collection treasures, greeted the public and handed out information to over 500 visitors in a two-day visit to Aberdeen Central Library. The event was organised to coincide with the first NLS Annual General Meeting to be held outside of Edinburgh. Staff answered customers' questions and encouraged them to register and take advantage of our growing suite of remote services. The successful event was the first in a series to take the Library to people across Scotland, with a residency in Perth subsequently held later in 2007.

Left: The NLS Roadshow in Aberdeen Central Library, November 2006.

DELIVERING services

Average 'mystery shopping' score: **94.8%**



Our vision to modernise the Library's facilities and continually improve our customers' experiences of NLS has taken shape this year.

'From the moment I entered the building to the moment I left, everything was flawless. Every single one of the staff I encountered was as courteous and efficient as anyone could be.'

A visiting academic from Switzerland

Far left: The first phase of the Visitor Centre Project at George IV Bridge was completed in 2007.

George IV Bridge Visitor Centre project

The Library's plans to improve the environment, facilities and atmosphere of its flagship George IV Bridge site were given a major boost in 2006 when substantial government funding for the Visitor Centre project was confirmed. Patricia Ferguson MSP, former Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, announced that a further £450,000 would be made available to complete extensive renovations to the building. The first phase of this project, centring on creating engaging, interactive facilities and spaces for the interpretation of the John Murray Archive, was under way before the end of the reporting year and was completed in time for the opening of the JMA exhibition in June 2007. The funds will be used to develop the front hall area of the building, paving the way for ambitious plans to transform this area into a fully-functioning Visitor Centre. The centre will offer PC terminals for unrestricted browsing of our collections and resources, and a new public café and book shop, to be opened by spring 2008.

Reading room facilities

Reading room facilities at our George IV Bridge site were improved this year. The North Reading Room was expanded into two areas for the consultation of rare books or printed music and manuscript material

respectively, effectively doubling the reading spaces available for those using these collections, including the John Murray Archive. We also were pleased to respond to customer demand by opening a new Silent Reading Room, providing readers with an environment free from the distractions caused by laptops, PCs and other electronic equipment.

Customer services

The Library's new customer charter was developed in 2007. The charter sets out the commitments we make to our customers and the standard of service we aim to offer. It was informed by the results of our 'mystery shopping' programme, where members of the public test our services anonymously. The early results of these visits were very encouraging, with an average of over 90 per cent satisfaction reported.

Equalities

The Library published its Disability and Gender Equality Schemes in 2006-07, showing its commitment to deliver equal access to services for all our customers. Both schemes are available online at www.nls.uk. These schemes, developed in close consultation with staff and a wide range of community groups, set out our policies for ensuring we treat everyone equally and do our utmost to remove any barriers to accessing our services for our customers.

A further scheme for Race Equality is also in progress. The schemes, produced in parallel with the Visitor Centre project, are an important step towards the Library offering full access to all services in the George IV Bridge building by the end of 2007.

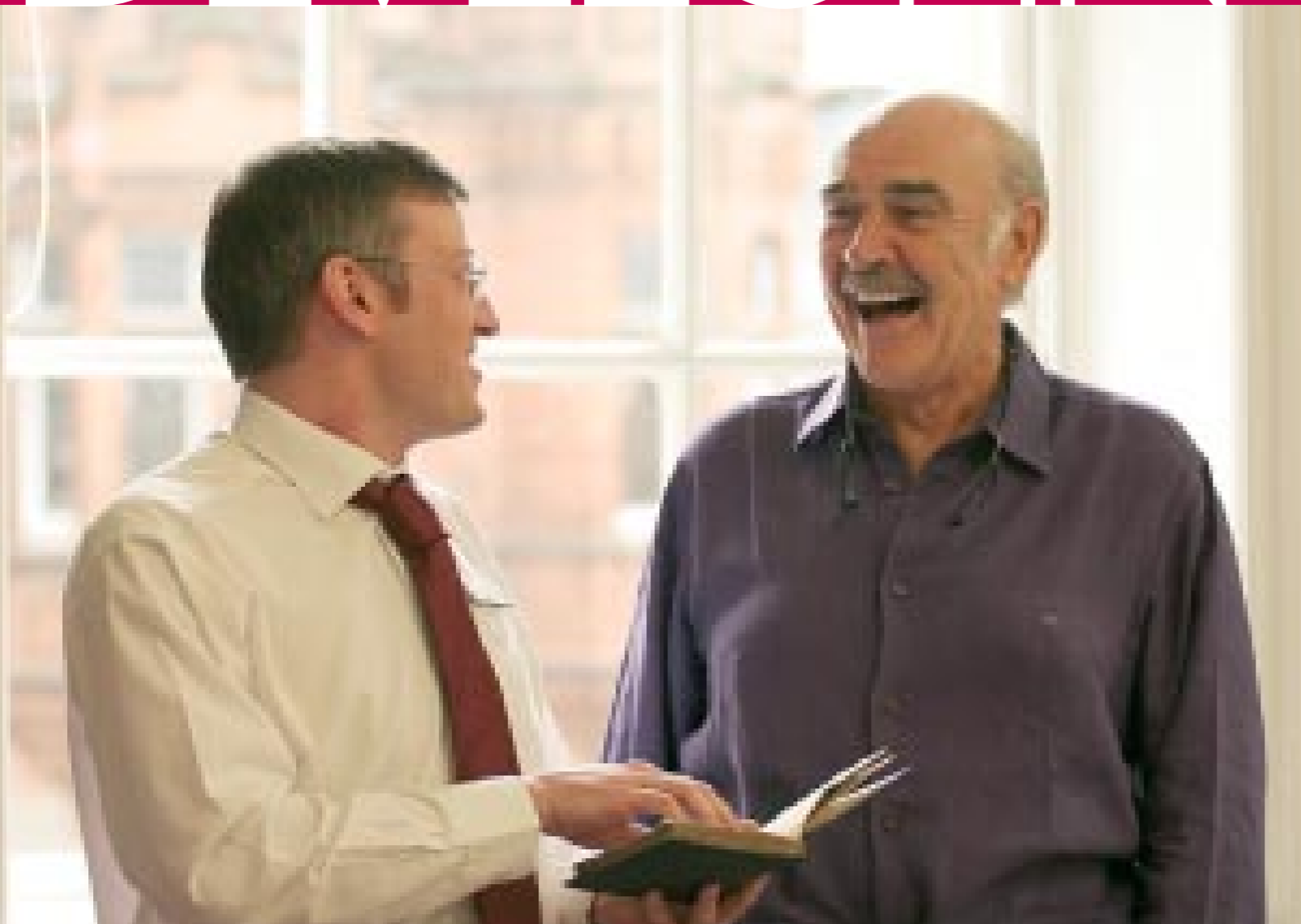


Above: A visualisation of the Visitor Centre at George IV Bridge.

DEVELOPING support

Funds raised towards the John Murray Archive project:

£1,750,000



The fundraising campaign for the John Murray Archive is the largest in the Library's history and continues to make good progress.

'I commend the National Library of Scotland for the vision and commitment to bring this treasure to Scotland and wish them every success.'

Sir Sean Connery

Far left: Sir Sean Connery shares a joke with JMA Senior Curator David McClay.

Left: Ian Rankin and guests at fundraising events in Edinburgh and London.

Right: Letters and photographs from the papers of pioneering traveller Isabella Bird Bishop, in the John Murray Archive.

Solid foundations were laid this year; thanks to the generosity and support of several major benefactors, and one or two well-known faces.

Intrigued by the inclusion in our **Sale of the Centuries** exhibition of a payslip from his first job as an Edinburgh milkman for Scotmid, Sir Sean Connery paid a visit to NLS in August 2006 to view the item in question and learn more about the John Murray Archive first-hand. His visit prompted him to lend support to the launch of the fundraising campaign for the John Murray Archive in the spring of 2007.

The launch of the campaign was celebrated with two receptions held for friends and supporters: one in London, at 50 Albemarle Street, the historic home of the publishing house of John Murray, and one in Edinburgh's Laigh Hall, the home of our predecessors, the Faculty of Advocates, on whose foundations our collections are built. National Librarian Martyn Wade and Trustee Lady Balfour of Burleigh were joined by Ian Rankin and actress Joanna David to announce the exciting news that £1.75 million had already been pledged towards the £6.5 million target.

Bequests

A Library supporter left a major bequest to NLS in January 2007 including his own personal archive. The late Major-General James Frederick Junor Johnston CB CBE (1939-2006) donated his personal collection of

military and political papers along with £250,000 to support their preservation and cataloguing. The funds will also be used to acquire manuscripts relating to the military history of 1939 to 2000, and to promote and encourage research on this important period. The Library has already been able to make good use of the bequest to acquire the illustrated archive of former King's Own Scottish Borderers Platoon

Commander Peter White, whose memoirs of active service in North-West Europe in 1944-45 give a gripping and moving account of the British Army's advance into Germany during the Second World War.

Once the JMA fundraising campaign has been completed, the Library will continue to generate funds to support a wide range of initiatives to preserve and promote access to the national collections.



THANKS

Financial donors

NLS is grateful to the trusts, foundations, individuals and corporations who have made gifts, pledges or bequest commitments during 2006-2007. We would also like to thank all those who wish to remain anonymous, and those who have given time and in-kind support to the fundraising campaign.

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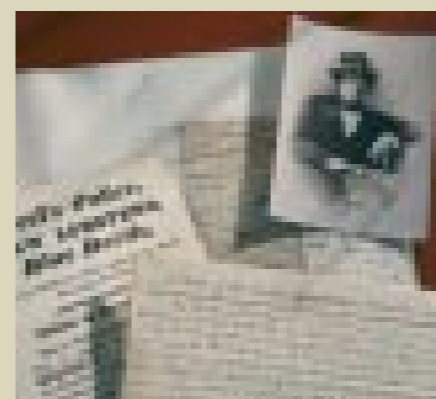
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Ms Marjorie Wynne



Left: A cheque from publisher John Murray to Jane Austen, with sales ledgers.

Left below: Notebooks of the writer Robin Jenkins, donated this year to our manuscript collections.

Below: Selection of items relating to Benjamin Disraeli, from the John Murray Archive.



JMA Supporters

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The Wellcome Trust

The Curator's Chest

Mrs K R Barclay Bowley
Historic Libraries Forum

This list does not purport to list every financial donor to NLS, but only those made before 31 March 2007. Please contact the Development Department to inform us of any omissions.

THANKS

Collection donors

The Library is extremely grateful to the many individuals and organisations, who in donating a wide range of material have uniquely enriched the collections. While space allows only a selection to be listed, the Library values all of its 500-plus donors for their generosity in the past year.

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Below Right: *Precious Gum: The Story of the Gutta Percha Golf Ball*, one of our more unusual donations.

Below: Robert Kinniburgh taught at the Institution for the Education of Deaf and Dumb Children in Edinburgh, where he designed these *Plates for the Deaf and Dumb* in 1820. The book includes scenes of animals, people and important objects.



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