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CUSTOMER MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR PPA Scotland Awards

# DISCOVER

The magazine of the National Library of Scotland | [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk) | Issue 15 Spring 2010

**Hume  
with  
a view**

Philosopher  
ahead of  
his time



  
STARGAZER  
IN SPOTLIGHT  
MRS ROBERT  
BURNS  
SCOTTISH  
CINEMA

## THE MYTH MAKER

King Agamemnon and the extraordinary  
excavations of Heinrich Schliemann

# Stories from the Library's past and future

**W**elcome to the latest *Discover NLS*, which this time around covers quite a lot of ground. We go back to the middle of the 18th century, when a philosophical colossus worked by day as a librarian for the institution that preceded the National Library of Scotland. And we also peer into our crystal ball to consider what the Library might look like in 20 years' time.

On our features pages, John Murray Archive Curator David McClay shares with us some of the many extraordinary photographs recording the excavations of 19th-century archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann. The piece highlights the contribution that Schliemann made to our understanding of the Trojan wars, as well as his tendency to court publicity.

We also remember David Hume who, not content with being one of the leading thinkers of his day, also found time to be Keeper of the Advocates Library. Hume features prominently in our manuscript collections, including a number of letters he sent to the economist Adam Smith.

You can also gen up on modern Scottish films with our guide to the Scottish Screen Archive's new online catalogue, and learn about the work of our bookfetching staff, who are largely unseen by our customers, but play an essential part in serving them.

Add to that, news of an exciting new Burns acquisition, additions to our digital archive and upcoming events with Janice Galloway, Iain Banks and AL Kennedy, and you should find plenty of mind-expanding reading here.



Julian Stone  
Managing Editor, Discover NLS



**A philosophical colossus worked by day as a librarian**



**DISCOVER NLS**  
ISSUE 15 SPRING 2010

#### CONTACT US

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

#### FOR NLS

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Alexandra Miller  
**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Julian Stone  
**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS**  
Teri Wishart  
**EDITORIAL ADVISER**  
Willis Pickard

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Karla Baker, Catherine Booth, Dr Iain G Brown, Karen Brown, Ann Cameron, Andrew Cattanach, Chris Fleet, David Hunter, William Marjoribanks, Andrew Martin, David McClay, Kirsteen McCue, Prof Charles Withers

**EDITOR** Jack Kibble-White  
[jack@thinkpublishing.co.uk](mailto:jack@thinkpublishing.co.uk)

**DESIGN** Matthew Ball  
**SUB-EDITORS** Anne Boyle, Andrew Littlefield, Clare Harris

**PUBLISHER** John Innes  
[john@thinkpublishing.co.uk](mailto:john@thinkpublishing.co.uk)

**ADVERTISING** Julie Twaddell  
0141 582 1280

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Think Scotland  
Woodside House  
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**National Library of Scotland**  
George IV Bridge  
Edinburgh EH1 1EW  
**TELEPHONE** 0131 623 3700  
**FAX** 0131 623 3701  
**EMAIL** [enquiries@nls.uk](mailto:enquiries@nls.uk)

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[www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)

## Three ways to view the Library's digital images

1

#### DIGITAL ARCHIVE

View complete books page by page, photographs, posters and maps at NLS' ever expanding online digital repository  
<http://digital.nls.uk/>



2

**NLS ON FLICKR**  
The Library has its own photostream on the image hosting website, including Soviet posters and construction photos of the Forth Bridge  
[www.flickr.com/photos/nlscotland](http://www.flickr.com/photos/nlscotland)

3

#### DIGITAL LIBRARY

View material such as broadsides from 1650 to 1910 and the photographs of Scottish traveller John Thomson  
[www.nls.uk/digitalibrary/index.html](http://www.nls.uk/digitalibrary/index.html)

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Playwright and novelist JM Barrie



The most important philosopher ever to write in English  
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## Contributors to this issue include



**Willie Marjoribanks**  
Willie is a Collection Support Services Assistant and has been working at the Library since 1986



**Kirsteen McCue**  
Burns expert  
Kirsteen is a Senior Lecturer in Scottish Literature at the University of Glasgow



**Andrew Cattanach**  
Andrew is a freelance writer and art critic with a keen interest in philosophy, literature and art



**Catherine Booth**  
Catherine is a Science Curator in the Legal Deposit & Modern Collections department at the Library

# Inside NLS

With a collection of around 16 million printed items, two million maps, 32,000 films, three miles of manuscripts, plus thousands of photos and journals, getting around NLS requires a little navigation

## How to join

To use the Library's reading rooms and order up items from the collections, you need to hold a Library Card. An application form can be picked up at George IV Bridge or the Causewayside Building, or downloaded from [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk). To complete your application you will need proof of identity (a driving licence, passport or matriculation card are all valid) and a recent utilities bill.

Photos, for identification purposes, can be taken at Readers' Registration.

## Viewing material

With a Library Card you gain access to the reading rooms, from where you can view material held in the Library's collections. Requests can be made in person, by telephone on 0131 623 3700,



The Visitor Centre

by email: [enquiries@nls.uk](mailto:enquiries@nls.uk), or through the Library website at [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk). If you know what you're looking for, we recommend you make your request in advance of your visit to the Library.

## Online

NLS has a vast range of electronic resources, including digital versions of reference works, massive full-text

# Digital resources

From articles on sport to Parliamentary Papers, NLS' licensed digital collections are a superb research tool

## Art and literature

The Library's digital collections relating to art and literature include  
\* 19th Century UK Periodicals Part 1. Women's, Children's, Humour and Leisure/Sport; British Literary Manuscripts Online c.1660-1900; Naxos Music Library; Oxford Music Online; Perdita Manuscripts – Women Writers, 1500-1700; RILM Abstracts of Music Literature; Scottish Women Poets of the Romantic Period and SCRAN Digital Materials.

## Business

NLS has a wide range of online resources for businesses, including Business Insights (Reuters); \* COBRA – The Complete Business Reference Adviser; Factiva;

FAME – information on over 2.4 million of the largest UK and Irish companies;  
\* Frost & Sullivan; \* Global Reference Solution; Hoovers; Key Note Market Research; product and services database Kompass Database; Market Research Monitor and Mintel Market.

## Education, science and social science

Educational resources include ALPSP Learned Journals Collection; Blackwell Compass Journals; Electronic Enlightenment; \* Environment Complete; \* GreenFILE; JSTOR – a collection of leading academic journals; \* MLA International Bibliography; Oxford Journals

Online; Science Full Text Select; \* Standards Infobase and Web of Knowledge.

## Government and official

A wealth of political information can be viewed online, including 18th Century Official Parliamentary Publications Portal 1688-1834; \* Early English Books Online (EEBO); House of Commons Parliamentary Papers; Public Information Online and \* Making of Modern Law – Legal Treatises 1800-1926.

## History, biography and genealogy

You can access  
\* 17th & 18th Century Burney Collection;  
\* 19th Century British Library Newspapers;  
\* 19th Century UK Periodicals –

Part 2. Empire: Travel and Anthropology, Economics, Missionary and Colonial; British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries; Celtic Culture – A Historical Encyclopedia (via NetLibrary); InfoTrac – custom newspapers featuring titles from around the world; John Johnson Collection: an archive of printed ephemera – digitised images from the ephemera collection of the Bodleian Library; \* Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB); India, Raj & Empire; \* Sabin Americana, 1500-1926; \* Making of the Modern World; \* Times Digital Archive; Waterloo Directory of English Newspapers & Periodicals 1800-1900, a bibliography of publications, personal names, issuing bodies and subjects; The Scotsman Digital Archive 1817-1950 and \* Who's Who (and Who Was Who).

For more information visit:  
<https://auth.nls.uk/ldc/>

facsimiles and business databases (see below for more details).

Many of these resources are available over the internet to readers living in Scotland (although certain restrictions do apply to some of the collections, in line with licence agreements). Your first port of call to access the Library's online collection is <https://auth.nls.uk/ldc/>

## Visitor Centre

NLS' George IV Bridge building boasts a new Visitor Centre. Opened last year, the centre features an exhibition space, a shop selling books, stationery and gift items, a café, and PC terminals with access to NLS catalogues and other digital facilities.

## NLS locations

### FILMS

Scottish Screen Archive  
39–41 Montrose Avenue  
Hillington Park  
Glasgow G52 4LA  
Tel 0845 366 4600  
Email [ssaenquiries@nls.uk](mailto:ssaenquiries@nls.uk)

### MAPS

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

### ALL OTHER COLLECTIONS

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

## Reference works and catalogues

\* **Credo Reference** gives you access to 400 high-quality reference books from the world's leading publishers. Other online reference works

available via NLS include

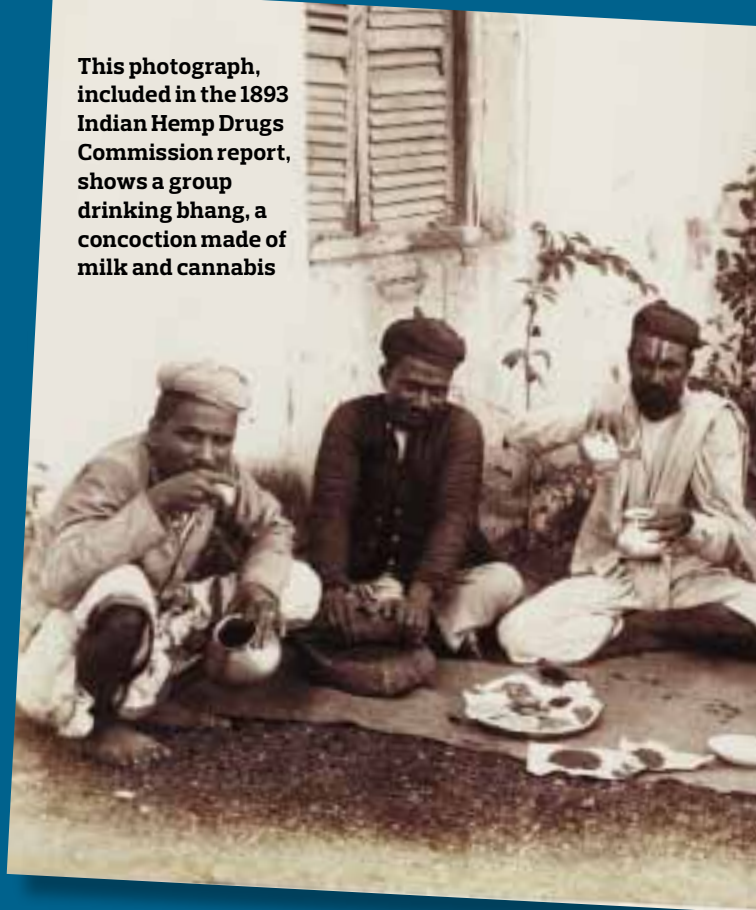
\* **Early American Imprints, Series 1 – Evans, 1639–1800**;  
\* **Early English Books Online 1475–1700 (EEBO)**;  
\* **Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)** and \* **Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) Part 2; Oxford English Dictionary Online** and **Oxford Reference Online**.

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

**An issue of *Punch* from 1915 – one of many titles included in the UK periodicals digital collection**



This photograph, included in the 1893 Indian Hemp Drugs Commission report, shows a group drinking bhang, a concoction made of milk and cannabis



## FOCUS ON Official Publications

With over one million items, including parliamentary papers and documents from the United Nations, NLS holds one of the largest collections of official publications in the United Kingdom and the largest collection of official publications in Scotland.

The Library has rich holdings of official material, beginning with the *House of Lords Journal*. Dating from 1509 to the present day, this record of House of Lords proceedings is the Library's oldest currently published periodical. NLS also holds a largely comprehensive collection of the publications of the Westminster Parliament from the early 19th century to the present day, together with extensive holdings of the publications of government departments.

NLS also holds wide-ranging collections of overseas publications, including material from the United States and Commonwealth countries and NLS' India Papers, a collection of published documents relating to the British administration in India, from the post-Mutiny re-organisation of the Indian Government to Indian independence in 1947.

If you have any questions about the collection email: [opuenquiries@nls.uk](mailto:opuenquiries@nls.uk)

# Stargazer in the spotlight

## TREASURES

**F**rom 18 March, astronomer and instrument-maker James Ferguson will come under the spotlight in a new display in the Treasures space. Ferguson was born near Rothiemay in Banffshire, and 2010 marks the 300th anniversary of his birth.

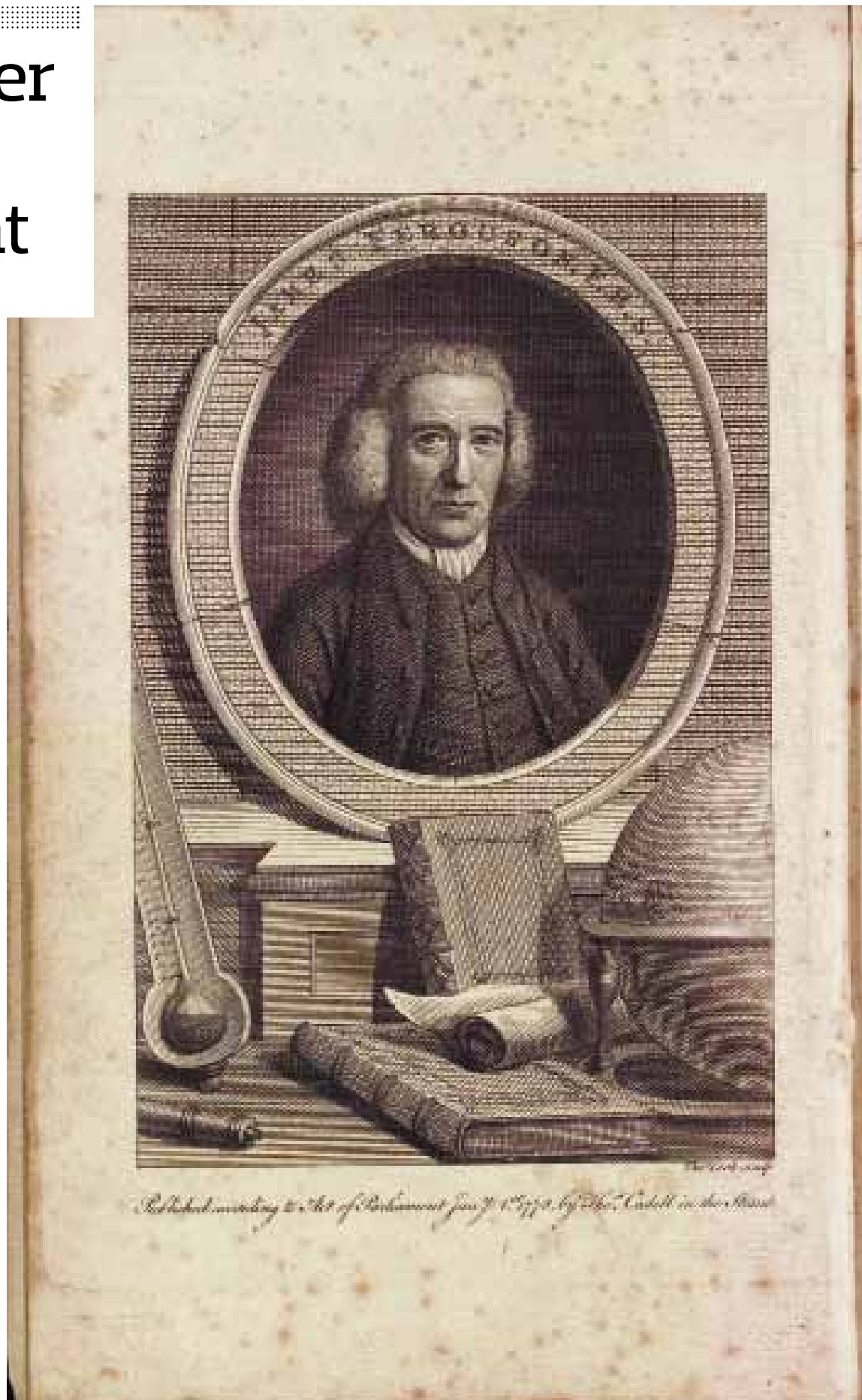
As a child Ferguson developed an interest in astronomy and mechanics that continued throughout his life. In order to make a living he earned money by drawing miniature portraits, at the same time continuing with his scientific pursuits.

Hoping to further his career in astronomy, Ferguson moved to London in 1743 and built up a reputation as a public lecturer and author of popular scientific books. Before his death in 1776, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1763.

The James Ferguson display at the National Library of Scotland's George IV Bridge building runs until 28 April



View the display at the NLS Visitor Centre



Scottish astronomer James Ferguson



## Lord Coulsfield retires

### TRUSTEES

**J**ohn Taylor Cameron, the Right Honourable Lord Coulsfield (pictured above), has retired as a Trustee of the Library having served for 20 years on the Board, ten as Keeper of the Advocates Library, and ten as a Faculty of Advocates nominee.

Lord Coulsfield has made a significant contribution in many different ways to the work of the Library and its relationship with the Faculty, and his fellow board members remarked that he has been a source of much wise counsel at the meetings of the Board and its committees.

In a move that has therefore delighted the Board, Lord Coulsfield has confirmed he is willing to continue to serve, as a co-opted member, on the Board's Development Committee, which focuses on fundraising for the Library and associated activities.

### BY THE NUMBERS

# 3716

volumes from the library of the Marquesses de Astorga, now held in NLS' collections. Find out more about this collection of pre-1800 Spanish books at [www.nls.uk/collections/rarebooks/collections/astorga.html](http://www.nls.uk/collections/rarebooks/collections/astorga.html)

# NLS 2030

### STRATEGY

NLS has recently completed a research project exploring the role of national libraries in 20 years' time. Focusing on small, technologically developed countries, the report looks at changing customer behaviours, publishing trends and future

developments in digital libraries.

It includes a series of interviews with leading library thinkers around the world on the challenges and opportunities facing national libraries.

The project will inform the long-term strategy of NLS. As many of the issues it

covers are common to other libraries, it is hoped that the report will be of wide interest; NLS looks forward to hearing feedback and taking part in the discussions which we hope it will generate.

The report is available at [www.nls.uk/about/policy](http://www.nls.uk/about/policy)



The National Library of Scotland

## CONNERY TO SCHLIEMANN

The *NLS Annual Review* for the year 2008–2009 has been published digitally in full online for the first time. Highlights recorded in the review include Sir Sean Connery's visit to NLS, plus notable additions to the collections, including plans by archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann (see page 16) and a Robert Burns manuscript.

Read the review at [nls.uk/about/publications/annualreview/2008-2009](http://nls.uk/about/publications/annualreview/2008-2009)



Catherine Booth with a copy of *The Highgrove Florilegium*

Below *Magnolia grandiflora* by Jenny Phillips

# A modern botanical treasure

At present the Library holds the only public copy of *The Highgrove Florilegium : Watercolours Depicting Plants Grown in the Garden at Highgrove*. Catherine Booth, Science Curator at NLS, enthuses about this elaborately bound limited edition

## CURATOR'S CHOICE

**M**y first thought when I heard of the publication of the limited edition of *The Highgrove Florilegium* was 'Wow – we need to get a copy of that for NLS!'

*The Highgrove Florilegium* is a magnificent collection of over 120 paintings of plants in the garden of HRH The Prince of Wales created by 73 contemporary botanical artists. Measuring 67 x 48 cm, the volumes are finely bound in goatskin leather prepared and dyed by J Hewit

& Sons, Edinburgh. The front and back boards are covered in hand marbled paper. Each botanical print has been reproduced from the original watercolour using an advanced printing technique called stochastic lithography which allows greater detail and colour.

Accompanying each print is explanatory text, covering the plant's introduction into this country, geographic distribution and uses. Plants include leek and beetroot as well as roses and lilies, and each has a botanical description prepared by experts from the Natural History Museum.

The work has other Scottish connections. It was designed by Iain Bain, a Scot with an acclaimed career in printing, publishing and typography, while the thick

felt cover that protects each volume was made by Liz Brown, based in Ayrshire.

Some of the entries contain references to Scots botanists, such as Edinburgh-born Sir George Taylor, mentioned in the entry for the *Berberis temolaica* (plate 27), notable Scottish plant collector George Sherriff (*Piptanthus nepalensis*, plate 49) and John Matthew (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*, plate 4).

The Library presently holds the only public copy of *The Highgrove Florilegium* in Scotland. It can be viewed within the Rare Books and Music Reading Room, but because of its rarity and size, it is recommended that you pre-arrange this with the Rare Books Division.

[www.nls.uk/collections/rarebooks](http://www.nls.uk/collections/rarebooks)







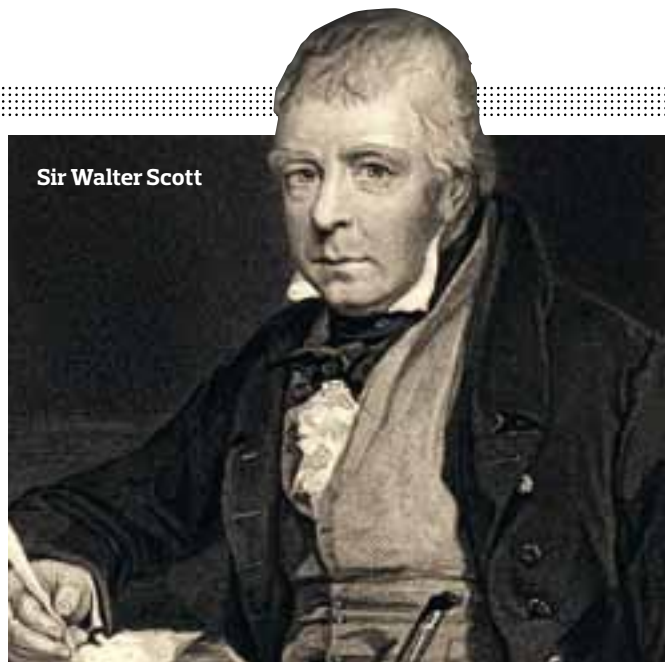
# Scott project completed

## UPDATE

**A** project to produce the definitive version of Sir Walter Scott's Waverley Novels has now been completed. The Edinburgh Edition initiative was conceived 25 years ago, with the aim of giving the world Scott's novels as he had originally envisaged them. The project's completion was celebrated with a reception at the Library in early December.

NLS was associated with the enterprise in many ways and Dr Iain Gordon Brown, Principal Manuscripts Curator, was closely involved from the outset.

Iain has been elected President of the Edinburgh Sir Walter Scott Club for 2009-10 – in his words 'the greatest honour a Scott enthusiast can receive'. Founded in 1894, the Club has a distinguished history and many famous names can be found in the list of its presidents. The 100th dinner was held in 2009, with His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch presiding and HRH The Princess Royal as Guest of Honour. As president, Iain presided over the 101st dinner, which took place in March. 'My address was a cross between an entertaining after-dinner speech and a serious lecture, with an



Sir Walter Scott

element of the "immortal memory" toast added for good measure,' he says. The theme was Scott's writing-cabinet, an item that was bought by Iain at auction in 2005. 'No institution wanted to purchase it,' he explains. 'The cabinet is a metaphor for Scott's popular standing

today – overlooked and not properly valued.'

The cabinet – and Iain – also featured in an edition of *The Antiques Roadshow* broadcast during December.

For more information on this project see *Discover NLS* issue 11 (Spring 2009)



Portrait of William, Duke of Cumberland and 1929 photograph of an Edinburgh building

## New images in Digital Archive

### ONLINE

Three new sets of images have been added to NLS' Digital Archive.

Around 700 illustrations of events associated with the Jacobite Rebellions and Mary Queen of Scots can

now be viewed on the online resource. In addition, over 140 photographs of buildings on the South Side of Edinburgh have been added. The City of Edinburgh Improvement Trust commissioned the photos, back in 1929.

The third set of new images chronicles the complete first Edinburgh edition of *Aesop's Fables* in the Scots verse translation by the 16th century poet Robert Henryson, from 1571.

Go to <http://digital.nls.uk>

## Poetry pamphlet award turns ten

### AWARDS

**T**he Callum Macdonald Memorial Award is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2010. The award was created by NLS in memory of a publisher and poet who encouraged the practice of poetry pamphlet publishing in Scotland.

All entries submitted for the award are taken into the Library's collection. A display of previous winners is planned for May.

Download a leaflet and application form at [www.nls.uk/about/awards](http://www.nls.uk/about/awards). The closing date for entries is 2 April.

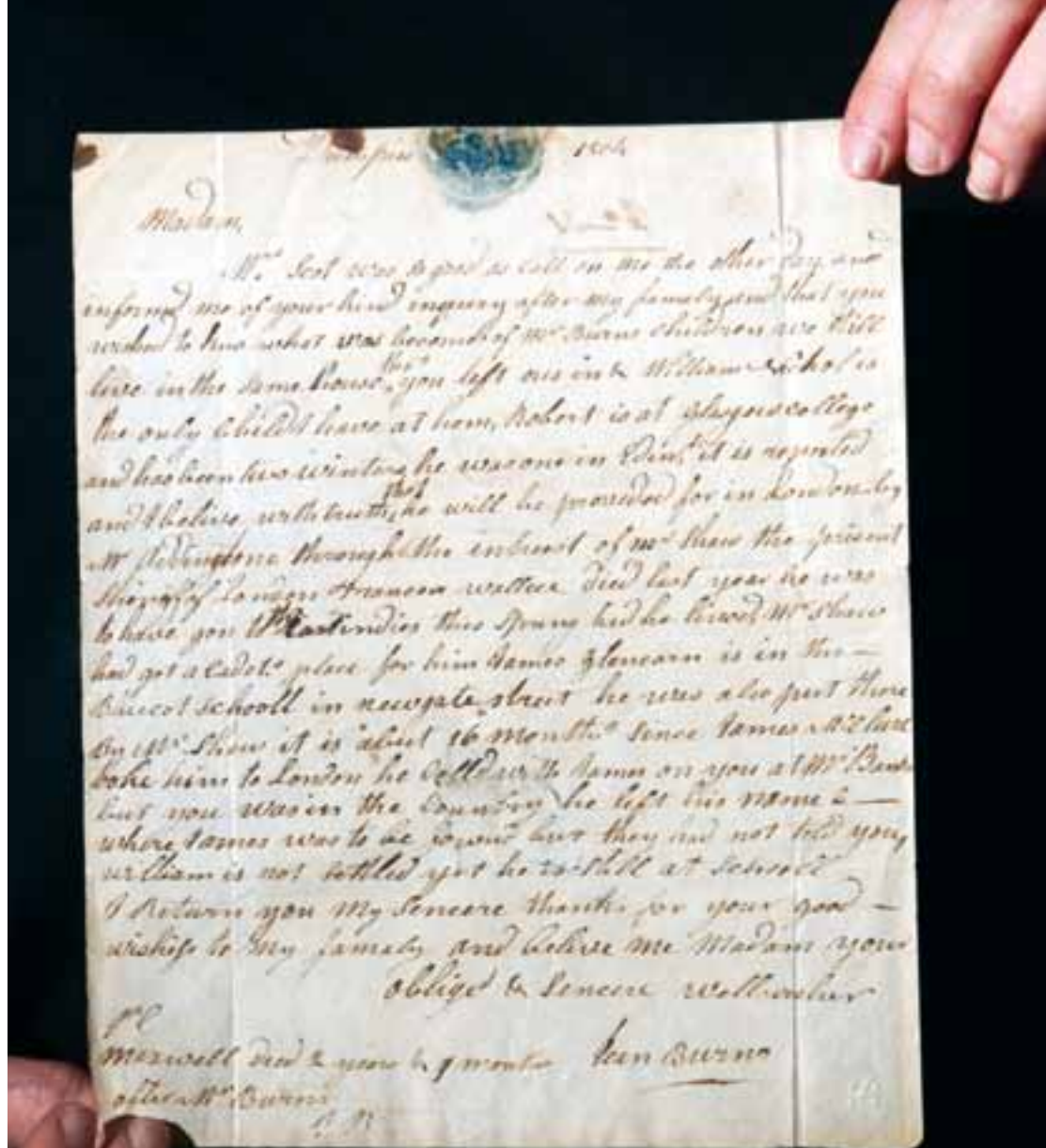
## Tales of travel writing

### RESEARCH

Thanks to funding by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Correspondence Research Project has examined the nature of travel writing c.1750–c.1850 in the John Murray Archive (JMA). It has revealed the complex relationships that linked authors, the publisher, and the reviewers appointed by Murray to scrutinise works.

The project comes to a close in May 2010. An international conference, 'Correspondence: Travel, Writing, and Literatures of exploration, 1750–c.1850', is being held in association with the project, hosted jointly by the University of Edinburgh and NLS, from 7–10 April 2010.

For further details and registration go to [www.geos.ed.ac.uk/geography/correspondence](http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/geography/correspondence)



## Historic letter found in junk store

### DONATION

A rare letter giving a glimpse into the life of Robert Burns' widow, Jean Armour, has been donated to the Library. The letter was bought in a New York thrift store for just \$75 by Burns enthusiast

Dr Nancy Groce, and gifted to the American Associates of the National Library, a US-based charity that supports NLS' work.

Written eight years after the poet's death, the letter speaks volumes about the tribulations of having been

Mrs Robert Burns.

'We're delighted at the find, and doubly so at Dr Groce's generosity in donating the letter to the National Library of Scotland,' says Cate Newton, NLS' Director of Collections and Research.

Silas Schmidt and his winning entry



## BOOKBINDING COMPETITION

A German entry took the top prize at the recent Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition, held at NLS. The awards were established in 1993 to recognise excellence in the field of craft bookbinding. Silas Schmidt won the overall prize for his binding of *Schwarzes Quadrat* by Max Frisch.

## Guid news in Scots

### SCOTS LANGUAGE

**W**illiam Laughton Lorimer (1885–1967) was celebrated for his translation of the New Testament into Scots – a surprise publishing success when it finally appeared in 1983.

The Scots Language Centre has recently formalised a relationship with the WL Lorimer Trust (their logo is shown below). Michael Hance, Director of the Centre, reports that the two bodies, both of which play a significant role in the promotion of the Scots language, are planning a new edition of Lorimer's work, and readings from it can be found on the Scots Language Centre's website.

NLS holds over two dozen notebooks belonging to Lorimer, including his drafts of the Gospels. As Scots linguists already know, the devil is the only non-Scots-speaking character in the Lorimer version – he speaks English.

scotslanguage.com



Above Speed's map; Below James VI as depicted on the side panel of Speed's map

## A kingdom with no king?

### MAPS

**T**o mark the 400th anniversary of John Speed's striking map 'The Kingdome of Scotland', NLS is displaying Speed's *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine*.

Following the Union of the Crowns in 1603, James VI and I promoted the new Greater Britain through a range of state propaganda. John Speed's *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine*, in which 'The Kingdome of Scotland' map



was published, was one such work, drawing on iconography, history and geography to promote the new nation.

The map celebrates British royal power through its panels

at the side of the map of King James and his son Henry, Prince of Wales (on the left), and Queen Anne and the Duke of York (on the right). During the Cromwellian interregnum in the 1650s, the panels on the map were replaced by less regal imagery of Scots and Highland men and women.

Speed's *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine* is on display in the Map Collections at Salisbury Place until June. Zoomable images of the maps can be viewed at [www.nls.uk/maps/scotland](http://www.nls.uk/maps/scotland)

## Curtain still up

### EXHIBITION

The Library's exhibition, looking at the last four decades of Scottish Theatre is continuing its popular run. **Curtain Up: 40 Years of Scottish Theatre** takes John McGrath's 1973 production *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil* as its starting point and weaves together the recent history of Scotland on stage, covering such productions as *Mary Stuart* and *The Bacchae* (pictured).

NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

# Spring events at NLS

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

## SCHLIEMANN DISCUSSION FORUM

13 April, 6pm

■ Heinrich Schliemann is one of the most famous and controversial 19th century archaeologists. Join this fascinating discussion and debate featuring David Trill (appearing via live web link), one of Schliemann's leading biographers and critics.



One of Heinrich Schliemann's discoveries

## DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS: SCOTTISH THEATRE FROM THE 1970S TO THE 1990S

15 April, 6pm

■ Scottish Literature has enjoyed an impressive renaissance since the 1980s. The revival in Scottish drama, though, began significantly earlier, in the 1970s or even before. Professor Randall Stevenson's lecture explores the roots and nature of the developments involved, the work of playwrights concerned, and the different factors that contributed to the wider success of Scottish writing later in the century.



## A NIGHT IN THE GUTTER

22 April, 8pm

■ Gutter is Scotland's new independent magazine of fiction and poetry. Well known names and some new writers on the block will present their diverse, delicate and sometimes dangerous work.

## INSPIRATIONS AT NLS – JANICE GALLOWAY

27 April, 6pm

■ From the great composers of classical music, the nonsense of Edward Lear and the wit of Armando Iannucci, author Janice Galloway's influences are as varied as her many works. Book early to avoid disappointment.

## DAVID HUME AND THE ART OF DYING WELL

5 May, 6pm

■ Taking David Hume's *My Own Life* as a starting point, James Runcie looks at Hume's preparation for death within both the classical and the medieval tradition of 'the art of dying well'.

## ULLAPOOL BOOK FESTIVAL

7 May, 7.30pm, Ullapool Village Hall

■ Iain Banks remains one of Scotland's most celebrated and successful authors, and here's a chance to join him at this NLS-sponsored event,



Iain Banks



Janice Galloway gets inspired at the Library

as Iain gives us an exclusive preview from a new science fiction work.

Tickets cost £6 and will be on sale from 24 March from The Booth at [www.thebooth.co.uk](http://www.thebooth.co.uk) or by post from Ullapool Book Festival, PO Box 27, Ullapool IV26 2WY (cheques payable to Ullapool Book Festival) enclosing SAE.

## THE LORE OF SCOTLAND

18 May, 6pm

■ Sophia Kingshill, co-author of the definitive guide to Scottish folklore, joins us for a discussion of Celtic myth and legend.

## INSPIRATIONS AT NLS – A L KENNEDY

26 May, 6pm

■ Author, stand up comedian, playwright and television presenter – there is not much that AL Kennedy cannot do.

Come along to discover who or what has inspired her to achieve all that she has.

## BURKE AND HARE

3 June, 6pm

■ The vicious deeds of the 19th century's most prolific serial killers continue to shock us over 150 years after they took place. Now the tale of William Burke and William Hare has been turned into a graphic novel, with a major film on the way. Find

out why these Scottish villains still fascinate and repulse us.

## THE PLACE NAME DEBATE

30 June, 6pm

■ This panel discussion will explore the importance of promoting Gaelic.

Book events online at [www.nls.uk/events/booking](http://www.nls.uk/events/booking) or call 0131 623 3918



# Face to face with ancient history

The John Murray Archive holds an extraordinary photographic record of the excavations of Heinrich Schliemann. JMA Curator **David McClay** digs in

**T**his is an extraordinary work on the most extraordinary and grandest discovery of all ages, on a discovery which can never be excelled by man.' This is how archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann (1822-90) described his forthcoming publication, *Mycenae and Tiryns* (1878), concerning his recent archaeological excavations in Mycenae in Greece to his publisher, the third John Murray.

Schliemann, a very wealthy businessman, travelled extensively and was fluent in over a dozen languages. He was passionate about proving the historical reality of places mentioned in Homer's works on the Trojan wars. This led to excavations at Troy in Turkey and at the Greek Bronze Age sites of Mycenae and Tiryns. The treasures and discoveries uncovered at these places made Schliemann an international celebrity. Although Schliemann's excavations were important, in his time he attracted criticism; he was a great showman and shameless self-promoter and this led to him being branded a treasure-hunter by some, and fraudulent and deceptive by others.

Two of Schliemann's more controversial finds, made amongst the hundreds of objects discovered in the Mycenae graves, were the 'Mask of Agamemnon' and the 'Mycenae Mummy.' Although his other discoveries were of undoubted significance, Schliemann sought to enhance their importance further by directly linking them to the heroes of the Trojan wars. On discovering an unusually well-preserved corpse with a golden mask, he wrongly suggested it was King Agamemnon who had waged war on Troy. His telegram to a Greek newspaper concerning the discovery is often abbreviated as 'I have gazed on the face of Agamemnon.'

Although the corpse had been well preserved, it had not in fact been mummified and quickly began to deteriorate, so Schliemann commissioned a rather gruesome painting of it. The mask that became known as the 'Mask of Agamemnon' was actually from another skeleton. It differs in style so much from the other masks that it has been



Mycenae Mummy painting



The Acropolis at Mycenae

# ARCHAEOLOGY

Figurines from one of the digs

Schliemann's wife at the entrance of the 'Treasury of Atreus'

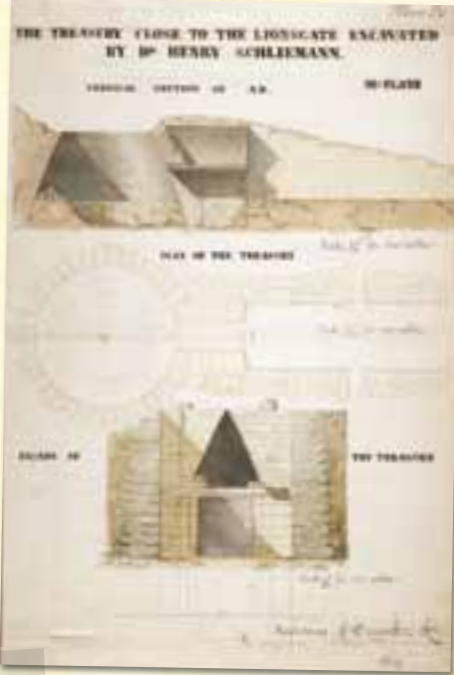


Pottery fragments



A cowhead of silver and gold

Drawings of some of the found vases



Plans of the 'Treasury of Atreus'

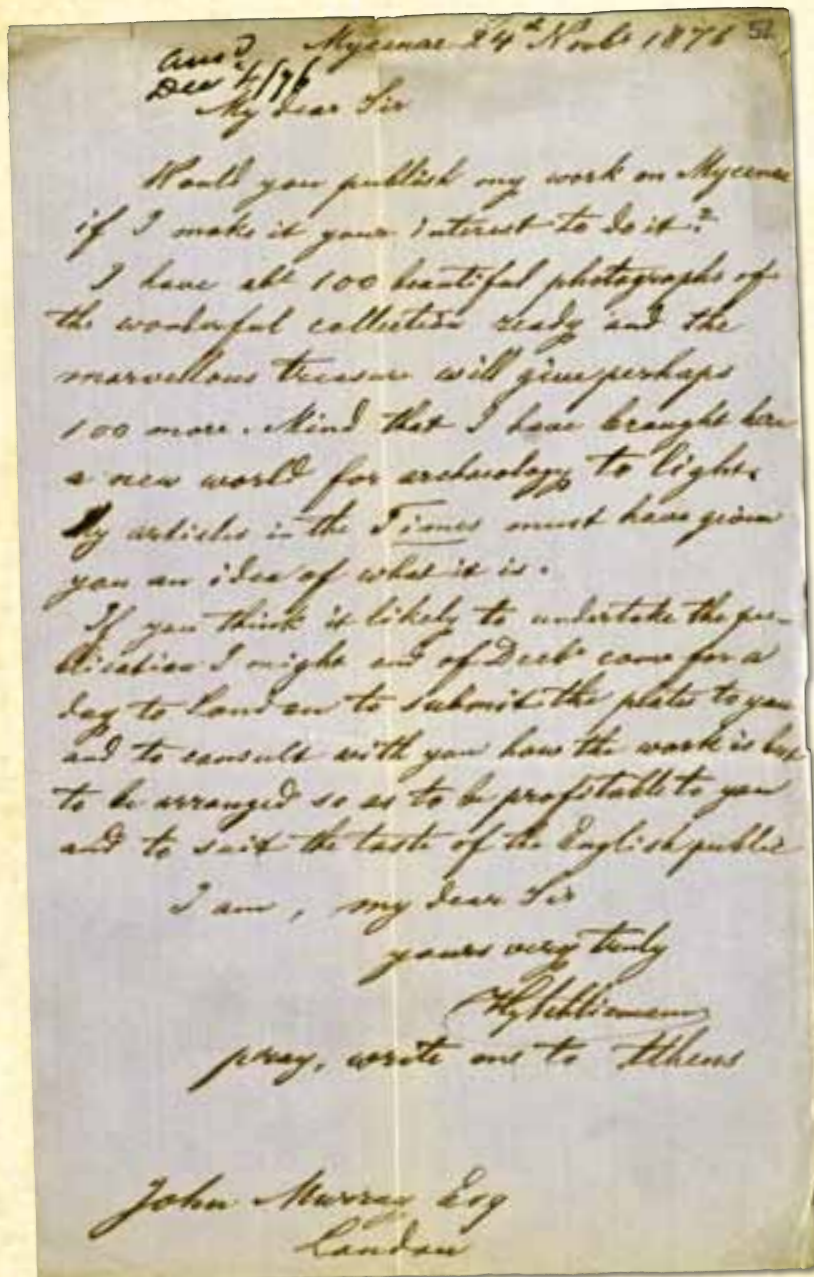


The 'Mask of Agamemnon' discovered by Schliemann



*Heinrich Schliemann*

**Above** Heinrich Schliemann  
**Right** Schliemann's letter to John Murray



suggested it is a fake, placed there by Schliemann.

In July 2008, with the support of the John R Murray Charitable Trust, NLS acquired over 300 annotated photographs, plans and drawings compiled during Schliemann's Mycenae excavations. This material was originally used to illustrate Schliemann's *Mycenae and Tiryns*. It has now been conserved and digitised and will, with a selection of letters and other material from the John Murray Archive (JMA), soon be made available on NLS' website.

In April, Schliemann will also take his place in the John Murray Archive exhibition at George IV Bridge.

Correspondence in the JMA casts light on the difficult production of *Mycenae and Tiryns*. Schliemann was a very demanding author and his numerous letters frequently and dramatically complained of problems with the engravings and editing. One typical missive stated he was 'horrorstruck' at 'such an ignominious number of blunders on the title page', claiming any more such pages 'would be death to me.'

Schliemann insisted that Murray persuade the statesman and Homeric scholar William Gladstone to write the preface, arguing that should he do so, the publication would sell five times as many copies. *Mycenae and Tiryns* was dedicated to Gladstone, despite Schliemann having promised this honour to both the Emperor of Brazil and the King of Greece.

When the book was finally published Schliemann was thrilled with the result. Although it caused a sensation, it had been so expensive to produce that it was not reprinted for nearly a hundred years.

Join us for a talk on Schliemann to be given at the George IV Bridge building on 13 April 2010

**READ ON WITH NLS**

Shelfmarks denoted by ♦♦

**Letter from Heinrich Schliemann to John Murray III, 25 Feb 1877**

♦♦ MS 41066, FF 74-75

**Letters from Heinrich Schliemann to John Murray III**

♦♦ MS 41066-41068

**Heinrich Schliemann's photographs and plans from the Mycenae excavations**

♦♦ ACC 12973

**Mycenae; a narrative of researches and discoveries at Mycenae and Tiryns (1878)**

♦♦ E.70.c.14

**Ideas that shaped the world. Visions that make the future.**

- To date we have raised over £30million to establish the John Murray Archive within the National Library of Scotland.
- Help us raise the final 10% of funds needed to ensure the archive's thousands of great authors and rare manuscripts are available for everyone to enjoy.
- To find out how you can support the campaign contact:  
NLS Development Office  
development@nls.uk  
Tel. 0131 623 3804

www.nls.uk/jma  
Scottish Charity No. SC011086



# David Hume's struggle to become 'the most important philosopher in the English language' is recorded in NLS' manuscripts collection

Andrew Cattanach explores

**A**

mongst its vast collections, NLS holds the original manuscript of David Hume's autobiographical essay, 'My Own Life'. This distinctive, handwritten document guides us through the eminent 18th-century philosopher's story, reflecting not only on his many achievements, but also his disappointments. It's a tale stoically told, and this is never more evident than in the author's courageous acknowledgment of his own imminent demise in the concluding passages. Recently diagnosed with a 'mortal and incurable' illness, Hume touchingly switches to past tense, explaining 'for that is the style I must now use in speaking of myself'.

This matter-of-fact tone was to define Hume's outlook from an early age. As the younger of two sons he was awarded only a modest allowance, and the challenge to make ends meet would remain constant through to middle age. In fact, much of Hume's life seems to have been a struggle – a struggle to financially support himself, a struggle to find a satisfying vocation, and above all, a struggle to win the respect of his peers as he attempted to find his place amongst the learned men of his generation. All too often they would look upon his writing and dismiss it as the sceptical musings of a controversial atheist.

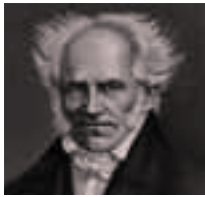


UNDER THE INFLUENCE

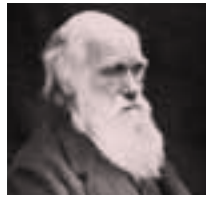
David Hume's writing would come to inspire some of the greatest thinkers in history



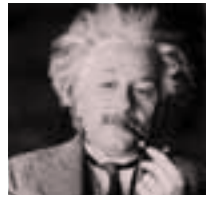
Smith



Schopenhauer



Darwin



Einstein



Wittgenstein



All too often others would look upon Hume's writing and dismiss it as the sceptical musings of a controversial atheist

Hume may have remained largely under-appreciated in his lifetime, but he has been posthumously described as 'the most important philosopher ever to write in English'. His books on human nature, morality and religion influenced such eminent figures as Charles Darwin and Ludwig Wittgenstein, and his work continues to inspire key thinkers today.

That he was able to leave behind a body of work at all is thanks to Hume's singular determination to follow his aspirations to become a man of letters. On leaving Edinburgh University at the age of 15, he set out to study law, only to find he had 'an unsurmountable aversion to every thing but the pursuits of philosophy and general learning'.

It was around this time that Hume became struck by a peculiar illness that was later diagnosed as a 'disease of the learned', an ailment believed to have been brought on by a lifestyle of rigorous study and little else. An escape to the French countryside in

search of a 'more active scene of life' was Hume's chosen remedy, and it was whilst in France he penned the first two volumes of his masterpiece *A Treatise of Human Nature*.

In this work, Hume strikes out at Rationalism, the popular philosophy of the time. Broadly speaking, Rationalists believe in the limitless scope of human knowledge, and assert that through reason man can access 'eternal truths' about the nature of the world, giving himself the means to determine what is true and what is moral with little or no recourse to any external information. Hume felt such a belief was based on untested assumptions, rather than verified matters of fact, and according to his wide-reaching scepticism, even our most basic apprehensions, such as the consistency of cause and effect, should be doubted. Hume claimed that blind conviction was the basis of much human understanding, including all religious and moral beliefs.

Although a revolution in philosophical thinking, *A Treatise of Human Nature* was, nonetheless, a commercial and critical flop. Hume himself later claimed the book 'fell dead-born from the press'. Undeterred, he returned to Scotland to complete the third and final volume, and then set about writing a further book containing essays on politics and morals. This latter publication was received more favourably, enabling Hume to, in his words, 'forget my earlier disappointment.'

Financial constraints proved more difficult to shake off. Still struggling for money, Hume was forced to pursue an alternative career. He was invited to move from Edinburgh to London and work as a tutor for the Marquess of Annandale. No doubt persuaded by a generous salary, it was an offer he accepted, although the Marquess turned out to be more than a little eccentric and members of his entourage took a dislike to Hume. After just one year, his fledgling career as a tutor was curtailed.

Hume was next employed by the military as he assumed the position of secretary to a distant relation, Lieutenant-General James St Clair. Hume first saw military action in Brittany as part of the War of the Austrian Succession, later travelling to Austria and Italy on diplomatic campaigns. Between military expeditions he found time to begin his next major work, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* – a recasting of the first volume of his greatly misunderstood *Treatise*. Hume concluded this short volume with what is now regarded as perhaps his most famous passage, a declaration that all books which attempted to answer questions that could not possibly be solved



Letter of David Hume to Adam Smith, from the Hume Papers



**Hume watched as his fame as a philosopher and historian slowly grew**

by limited human means, should be committed to the flames, 'For it can contain nothing but sophistry and illusion,' he wrote. Yet, even this controversial statement could not inspire interest, and *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, published in 1748, sold poorly.

At least the money earned from the military finally gave Hume the financial freedom to concentrate solely on his literary pursuits. Upon returning to Edinburgh he embarked on a fervent period of writing, producing what he later described as 'incomparably the best' of all his works, *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*. Destined to become yet another ill-fated book that 'came unnoticed and unobserved into the world', this now seminal work on morality was a rewriting of the third volume of the original Treatise.

Despite having earlier incited the burning of books, in 1752 Hume was appointed keeper of the Library of the Faculty of Advocates. It was a post that gave him access to a vast collection of scholarly material and would prove integral to his next major project. *History of England*, a six-volume work covering the period from Julius Caesar to the Stuart monarchs, took Hume eight years to complete. The first volume was poorly received, though later volumes proved a great commercial success. Now aged 50, Hume had at last attained some level of fame and respect, and his writing had completely revolutionised the practice of historiography.

**H**ume's time as a librarian was less successful, and disagreements with the curators of the Library led to his resignation in 1757. In 1763 he crossed the channel once again to France and took up a post as secretary to the British Embassy in Paris.

It was during this period that Hume first encountered the Swiss political philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who was living in exile in Paris after offending both the Protestant and Catholic authorities. Hume was sympathetic to Rousseau's cause, and upon returning to Britain, insisted the Swiss philosopher join him to experience intellectual life in England. Rousseau gratefully accepted and is said to have showered Hume with kisses. Such intimacy was short-lived and the two later entered into a bitter and public argument,

culminating in a series of open letters to the press. Rousseau lashed out at Hume, believing him to be at the centre of an elaborate plan to dishonour him. Hume, proud of his reputation, received the accusation as a slur on his good name and decided to set the record straight by publishing a 'true' account of the dispute, the manuscript of which is held at the National Library of Scotland.

After a brief stint as Under-Secretary of State in London, Hume returned to Edinburgh a moderately wealthy man, and for the rest of his life remained in his home town, at the centre of intellectual life. In 1775 he was diagnosed with bowel cancer. Despite the illness being 'mortal and incurable', Hume regarded the following years as some of his best. He watched as his fame as a philosopher and historian slowly grew, and he enjoyed the stimulating company of close friends, such as the Scottish economist Adam Smith.

On a final visit, Smith reports that Hume was typically candid about his approaching death. Not surprising, considering the extent of his achievements and hard-won success. 'I have done every thing of consequence which I ever meant to do', Smith recounts Hume saying, 'I therefore have all reason to die contented.'

The reputation of Hume's philosophical work, much of it unloved during his lifetime, began to grow after his death, perhaps reaching its influential apotheosis in the early years of the 20th century, when no less a figure than Albert Einstein cited the concepts explored in Hume's writing as an influence on his own work towards the discovery

of special relativity.

Unwilling to blindly follow the prevalent beliefs of the time and undeterred by popular opinion, Hume found his key philosophical works largely ignored, underestimated or misunderstood. Posterity has since proven that Hume's ideas were ahead of their time, and he is now regarded as a revolutionary figure and colossus of philosophy.



**Above Jean-Jacques Rousseau Right Monument to David Hume on Edinburgh's Royal Mile**

## Hume and the Library

**The Advocates Library, which was later to become the National Library of Scotland, was first used by David Hume during his teenage years when studying law. In 1752, aged 41, he was elected Keeper of the Advocates Library, giving him access to some 30,000 volumes.**

**Hume encountered controversy when three books he had ordered,**

***Les Contes de La Fontaine, L'Histoire Amoureuse des Gaules and L'Ecumoire*, were deemed indecent, struck off the register and removed from the shelves by order of the curators of the Library. Greatly insulted and faced with the option of either standing his ground and facing dismissal, or surrendering and losing**

**self-respect, Hume instead performed an ingenious piece of diplomacy. By gifting his salary to a blind poet friend, Hume managed to not only keep the post but also retain his dignity.**

**In 1757, two years after the controversial affair, Hume resigned from his post as keeper. His exact reasons for this action remain**

**unclear, but some believe that Hume stood down to secure the post for his friend Adam Ferguson. Even after resigning, Hume retained access to the Library.**

**Hume later offered the Advocates Library the books he had bought, inviting the curators 'to take from me such as they want at the price.'**

# Discovering modern Scotland on screen

A catalogue of around 700 contemporary Scottish films is now available to explore online. Scottish Screen Archive has the important task of preserving parts of the country's rich cinematic heritage for future generations of filmgoers, and the new catalogue is the first comprehensive listing of contemporary Scottish film to be published. Copies of all the films listed can be made available to researchers at the Scottish Screen Archive in Glasgow and at the George IV Bridge building in Edinburgh. To get you started here are some of the highlights from the catalogue.

<http://ssa.nls.uk/biography.cfm?bid=10062>

A new online film catalogue showcases the energy and invention of modern Scottish cinema. **Ann Cameron**, Scottish Screen Archive Librarian, gives us the bigger picture

*Rogue Farm*

## Animation

Energy consumption, science and God are all explored in the award-winning films *Annotate* (2003) and *The Atomists* (2004), disputing the notion in a trice that animation is just for kids. Japanese anime

meets Cyber Scotland in *Rogue Farm* (2004), a truly extraordinary film adapted from the work of noted science fiction author Charles Stross. *Pipers Of Bornish* (2003) is a Gaelic

language production featuring an old recording of the legend, found in the School of Scottish Studies Archive, with a score by piper Rory Campbell. For a truly terrifying experience, try clay animation *Molerender*



Richard E. Grant in *Franz Kafka's It's A Wonderful Life*

## First glimpse of a famous face

The Oscar-winning 1993 short *Franz Kafka's It's A Wonderful Life* was directed and written by future *The Thick Of It* star Peter Capaldi. Peter Mullan's first short *Close* (1994) was a springboard to him directing and acting in many films. Ivor Novello award-winning composer Craig Armstrong's music was heard on both *Close* and *Fridge* (1995), long before he composed for *Love Actually* or *Moulin Rouge*.

Elsewhere in the catalogue, a young David Tennant can be spotted in *Spaces* (1993) and *Bite* (1997), while Ewan MacGregor starred in *Desserts* (1993). Other recognisable faces catalogued enjoying some early on-screen exposure include Eileen McCallum, James Cosmo and Billy Boyd. Gary Lewis features in an incredible 19 of the films listed.



(2001), made by children from Midcraigie Primary, Dundee. Meanwhile, *The Scottish Villages* animation series (1996-98) captures the rich diversity of life in rural Scotland.

*A Cook's Tour*



## Documentary

This collection adds modern work in the spirit of Scotland's grand tradition of documentary making. *A Cook's Tour* (2003) follows top Indian chef Damodharan Rangafamy as he leaves the heat of his Madras kitchen for the windswept Inner Hebrides. Made for just £150, *Ceiling Man* (2001) tells the story of a schizophrenic drug addict. *Classical Kids*

(2003) tracks members of the National Children's Orchestra; *Bedroom Radio* (2002) is a searingly honest look at pirate radio in Paisley. *Gutted* (2004) records fishermen and their families in Fraserburgh, while *Looking for Mr Rogers* (1996) is an innovative documentary charting the history of Castlemilk. *Pollphail* (2009)

paints a startling portrait of a ghost village in limbo and *Glasgow Tan* (2002) takes a light-hearted look at Glaswegians and their 'perfect tan'. Productions by groups such as Pilton Video Project, Castlemilk Video Workshop, Edinburgh Film Workshop Trust and Glasgow Film and Video Workshop are also well represented in the collection.

ANNALENA MCAFEE



Ian McEwan

## Creative forces

Many writers with a Scottish connection have been involved with the moving image, and in the catalogue you will find such authors as AL Kennedy (*Stella Does Tricks*, 1996), Dilys Rose (*Friendly Voices*, *Prime Cuts*, 1997), Des Dillon (*Duck*, 1998), Ian McEwan (*New Found Land*, 2002) and Alan Warner

(*Morvern Callar*, 2002). Documentaries showcase artists Andy Goldsworthy and John Bellany, musician Evelyn Glennie, sculptor George Wyllie, visual artist Mandy McIntosh and the Alexander Brothers in *See You All on Sunday* (2003). Experimental video art is also kept in this collection.



Kirsteen McCue,  
in the Glasgow  
University Music  
Department

## Call of the music collection

**Kirsteen McCue, Associate Director of the Centre for Robert Burns Studies, sings the Library's praises**

I first started visiting the Library when I was a postgraduate student in the early 1990s. My subject was the Scottish, Welsh and Irish song collections edited by the Edinburgh musician, civil servant and publisher George Thomson (1757-1851). Thomson was famous for bringing together in print the musical arrangements of composers such as Joseph Haydn and Ludwig van Beethoven with the words of Robert Burns, Walter Scott and others. Dealing with early 19th century musical publications is akin to tackling a complicated jigsaw puzzle, yet one made immeasurably easier by NLS. Working in a place where you could view numerous issues of the same volumes all at the same time, or call upon the support of the Library's knowledgeable and helpful staff, made it possible to find my way through Thomson's back catalogue.

A couple of decades on, I am still not able to shake off the magnetic attraction of this very beautiful printed material, and the Library has a special place in my life. I arrive from Waverley station, grab a tasty latte at the new café, and nod my head at my favourite-of-all bronzes of Robert Burns on the stair. The Rare Books and Music Reading Room offers me real sanctuary:

uninterrupted time to tackle my various musical and bibliographical jigsaws. The staff respond to my awkward 'in-advance' emails with a smile, and requested items are waiting upon my arrival.

My current project involves the songs of James Hogg (1770-1835), the Ettrick (or Border Shepherd) and major Scottish songster, nay writer. I've been working my way through the large and impressive volumes and papers at the Library, attempting to track down appearances of Hogg's songs during his lifetime.

Printed music from this period is a real work of art and many volumes and sheets are engraved on copper or pewter plates, complete with elaborate titles chronicling the names of those who sang the songs at the time. A whole world of domestic and public music-making opens up just simply by looking at this stuff.

I always leave the Library having picked up something new. Speaking of which, I usually grab another delicious coffee as I make my exit, and these days I invariably walk out humming the latest Hogg hit from the 1820s.

Kirsteen is currently editing *Hogg's Songs by the Ettrick Shepherd* (1831) and a companion volume of *Hogg's Contributions to Musical Collections and Miscellaneous Songs* for *Hogg's Collected Works* published by Edinburgh University Press

“  
I am still  
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material

# Off the shelf

It's a very simple process to order up items from the Library's collections, but what goes on behind the scenes? **Willie Marjoribanks, Collection Support Services Assistant, explains**

## Can you explain the role of NLS' bookfetchers?

If you make a request to view an item held in the Library's collections, then it's the bookfetchers who will go and retrieve that material for you. When I started working here back in 1986, the process was very different. Customers would fill out request slips, and these would be sent down to us on a book-hoist by members of the Reference Services team. One of the challenges this presented was actually deciphering people's handwriting and working out exactly what material they were requesting.

## How has the role changed over the years?

These days most of the requests come to us via the online callslip process, which means customers can order up material without even being present in the Library. As long as you have access to a computer and the internet, you could be in Timbuktu and still be able to view our catalogues and place an order (although if you want to order something from the serials collection you do need to complete a manual request slip at the Library). Whereas in the old days we used to have to check the book-hoist for requests, the online callslips are routed through to the appropriate building. This means if the item you're looking for is held in our Causewayside building, the request is automatically sent to the bookfetchers based there.

## Book-fetching in numbers

**3** – roughly the length in football pitches of the larger floors at NLS' Causewayside building  
**8** – miles that each bookfetcher travels through the collections each day

**200** – on average the number of requests per day that the bookfetching team deal with at George IV Bridge for the general reading room



Willie Marjoribanks at work



**You could be in Timbuktu and still be able to view our catalogues**

## What happens once the request has come in?

Once submitted the requests come directly to the relevant PC within the building where the item is held. The assigned bookfetcher will then retrieve the items and send them to the Reference Service staff at agreed delivery times. If the customer has included a seat number on their request the items will be delivered directly to them, otherwise they can collect them from the desk in the Reading Room. Over the course of the day we run regular deliveries from our Causewayside building to George IV Bridge, so any items that have been requested from there will arrive as part of that process.

## What are the main challenges of the job?

We travel a fair distance over the course of a day so you need to be fit. Also getting to know where items are shelved is quite tough. There are over 1,200 shelfmarks (not including special collections), which all relate to different collections and locations in the Library. It sounds like an awful lot of information to retain, but although there are searching aids available that you can refer to when tracking an item down, over time you find that you start remembering where particular shelfmarks are located.

## Given you have been working at the Library since 1986 you must know the collections quite well, do you have a favourite item?

We recently exhibited *The Murthly Hours*, which is an illuminated 13th century manuscript. To me it's something really special. It's amazing that something so old can still look so vibrant – the gold leaf in particular is just stunning.



The Murthly Hours



# 2010 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of playwright and author **JM Barrie**, just one of the many thousands of people represented in the Library's collections

Peter and Wendy



**L**ike his most famous creation, the words of author and playwright James Matthew Barrie have a timeless quality. Indeed, a production of *Peter Pan* is currently on tour in Scotland.

JM Barrie was born in 1860 in Kirriemuir, Scotland. He studied at Edinburgh University, before working as a journalist for the *Nottingham Journal*. He had always had an interest in fiction and composed a series of short stories based around the town of Trums (a fictionalised version of Kirriemuir). These stories would form the basis of Barrie's first series of published works, including *Auld Licht Idylls* (1888) and *A Window in Thrums* (1889).

By the final years of the 19th century, Barrie had established himself as a successful novel-writer, but his attention began to shift to drama. *Quality Street* (1901) and *The Admirable Crichton* (1902) were theatrical successes, but his most enduring work came in 1904, with the play *Peter Pan: or, The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*.

Over the years, *Peter Pan* has been endlessly reinterpreted. Barrie himself novelised the play in 1911, and the tale of Peter, Wendy and The Lost Boys has since been transformed into a musical, a feature film and a full-length Disney animation.

A JM Barrie display opens at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge in May

## Discover more

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