

DISCOVER

nls

The magazine of the National Library of Scotland

www.nls.uk | Issue 16 Summer 2010

A swing through time

New exhibition examines the origins of golf

On the trail of Stevenson

The politics of biographical writing

The medical history of British India



Exciting developments to discover this summer



DISCOVER NLS
ISSUE 16 SUMMER 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

FOR NLS

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

CONTRIBUTORS

Allan Burnett, John Coll, Catherine Davies, Chris Fleet, Jennifer Giles, Clare Harris, Graham Hogg, David McClay, Francine Millard, Cate Newton, Jan Usher, Martyn Wade, Duncan Welsh

EDITOR Jack Kibble-White
jack@thinkpublishing.co.uk

DESIGN Matthew Ball

SUB-EDITORS Anne Boyle, Andrew Littlefield, Lou Millward

PUBLISHER John Innes
john@thinkpublishing.co.uk

ADVERTISING Julie Twaddell
juliet@thinkpublishing.co.uk
0141 582 1280

PUBLISHED BY

Think Scotland
Woodside House
20-23 Woodside Place
Glasgow G3 7QF
0141 582 1280

ISSN 1751-5998 (print)
ISSN 1751 6005 (online)

National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1EW
TELEPHONE 0131 623 3700
FAX 0131 623 3701
EMAIL enquiries@nls.uk

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www.nls.uk

This summer issue of *Discover NLS* brings with it a very welcome development in terms of sharing the Library's collection with a wider audience. Previously, to use our Reading Rooms or view our digital resources you had to apply for a Reader's Card in person at our George IV Bridge building. Our new online registration service means that anyone unable to get to the Library in person can now sign up over the internet.

Within these pages we go behind the scenes at our latest exhibition, *A Swing Through Time*. In case you haven't guessed it's about the history of golf and, in particular, Scotland's influence on the game.

Elsewhere, we take a look at a recent acquisition made by the Library – a rare, uncensored edition of an early biography of Robert Louis Stevenson. The biography itself is of great interest, but so too is the story of its making and the tribulations its author, Clayton Meeker Hamilton, faced when attempting to write an accurate account of Stevenson's life.

From our Official Publications collection comes a fascinating article by Francine Millard, who has been closely involved in the Library's online Medical History of British India Project. Out of the Library's holdings there emerges a compelling story of how those serving in British India during the 19th and 20th centuries attempted to win the war against plague, leprosy, cholera, rabies and malaria.

With all of this to digest, as well as a packed news section, I hope you will find plenty to interest you.

Martyn Wade
National Librarian and Chief Executive



Anyone unable to get to the Library in person can now sign up over the internet



Three online maps that cover Scottish history

1

1747-1755
The Roy Military Survey of Scotland provides a snapshot of the Scottish mainland at a time when the landscape was changing rapidly.
www.nls.uk/maps/roy/index.html



2

1882
Philip's Comic Map of Scotland, a luridly illustrated tartan tapestry, comes from the Library's Bartholomew Archive.
www.nls.uk/maps/scotland/detail.cfm?id=863

3

1921-1930
The Ordnance Survey one-inch, 'popular' edition of Scotland map was designed to appeal to the 'man in the street'.
www.nls.uk/maps/os/popular_list.html



“
**We have at
 our disposal
 a powerful
 auxiliary in
 the treatment
 of disease**
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Robert Louis Stevenson

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As NLS' golf exhibition comes to the fore, curator Olive Geddes talks to Allan Burnett about the game's roots and the importance Scotland has played in its development

20 BRINGING STEVENSON TO BOOK

The Library has recently acquired a copy of an early biography of Robert Louis Stevenson. Graham Hogg recounts the struggle to bring the writer's life story to print

24 OF MICROBES AND MEN

A collection of nearly 50 Disease and Public Health reports written in British India during the 19th and 20th centuries reveals how medical discoveries were turned into practical measures to combat plague, leprosy and malaria. Francine Millard investigates

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Contributors to this issue include



Graham Hogg
 Graham is a Senior Curator in Rare Book Collections with main responsibility for acquiring early printed material



Francine Millard
 Francine is the Digitisation Manager for the Medical History of British India Project, funded by the Wellcome Trust



Allan Burnett
 Journalist and historian, Allan is the author of *Robert Burns and All That*, published by Birlinn



Jennifer Giles
 A Legal Deposit Curator, Jennifer's work focuses primarily on the Library's Modern British Collections

Using the National Library of Scotland

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 number. This can be obtained by completing the online form at <https://auth.nls.uk/registration>. Simply follow the steps on the website to complete the process.

You can also pick up an application form at George IV Bridge or the Causewayside

Building, or download one from www.nls.uk. To apply for a library card number using this method you will need to hand in the completed form at Readers' Registration at George IV Bridge, along with proof of identity (a driving licence, matriculation card or passport are all valid) and a recent utilities bill. Photos, for identification purposes are also required and can be taken at Readers' Registration.



The Visitor Centre

Viewing material

Requests can be made in person, by telephone on 0131 623 3700, by email:

enquiries@nls.uk, or through the Library website at www.nls.uk. If you know what you're looking for, we recommend you make your request in advance of your visit to the Library.

Digital resources

With over 300 million items, of which 85% are available remotely, 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; Key Note Market Research Reports; product and services database Kompass Database; Market Research Monitor and Mintel Market Research Reports.

Education, science and social science

Educational resources include * ALPSP Learned Journals Collection; Blackwell Compass Journals; * Electronic Enlightenment; * Environment Complete; * GreenFILE; * JSTOR; * 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 * The Making of Modern Law - Legal Treatises 1800-1926.

History, biography, 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; * John Johnson Collection: an archive of printed ephemera - digitised images from the Bodleian Library; * Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB); * India, Raj & Empire; * Sabin Americana, 1500-1926; * The 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/lcd/>

Online

NLS has a vast range of electronic resources, including digital versions of reference works, full-text facsimiles and business databases (see below for more details). Most 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

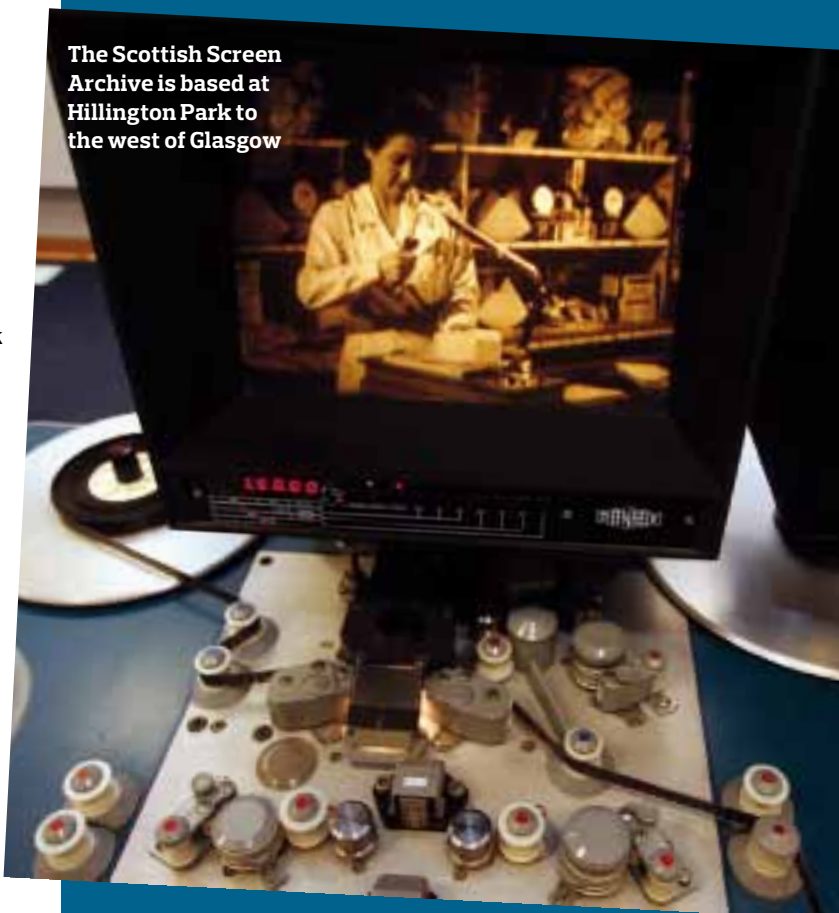
MAPS

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

OTHER COLLECTIONS

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

The Scottish Screen Archive is based at Hillington Park to the west of Glasgow



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).

Carolina Oliphant features in the Perdita Manuscripts – Women Writers collection



FOCUS ON

Scottish Screen Archive

Scotland's national moving image collection, the Scottish Screen Archive, houses more than 32,000 films and videos presenting over 100 years of Scotland's history. The archive was set up in 1976 to find, protect and provide access to Scotland's moving image heritage and has been part of the Collections Department at NLS since 2007.

Most of the material held in the archive is non-fiction, consisting of documentaries, newsreels, public information films, industrial material and advertising footage. It reflects 20th-century Scottish social, cultural and industrial history and shines a light on the lives of ordinary Scots over the last hundred years.

The Scottish Screen Archive has a vital role to play in saving archive films for the nation. It carries out conservation work and makes old and often damaged films available that might otherwise have been lost forever.

You can watch film clips online, or search the Scottish Screen Archive catalogue at <http://ssa.nls.uk/>

Online registration arrives at NLS

LIBRARY ACCESS

As part of its key objective of increasing its digital activities, NLS has launched a new service which radically changes the way people register and access some of its major electronic content.

Customers can now register quickly and easily via the NLS website and automatically receive a library card number allowing them to order material via the online catalogue using their library account.

As part of the registration process Scottish residents also receive a password enabling them to immediately access, free of charge, more than 40 of the Library's subscribed electronic

resources over the web. This means that 85% of the digital collections (which consist of in excess of 300 million items) can now be accessed from home, work or place of study.

The new process also simplifies things for those visitors who then wish to use the Reading Rooms, issuing them with a library card in a matter of minutes if they have previously registered online.

Feedback from newly registered users has been very positive. Among the comments received so far are:



'Fantastic service! Easy, free, phenomenal.'
'Very simple online and on arrival. A slick and easy process.' 'It was perfectly easy, and I had my card before I'd finished a cup of coffee!'

To find out more, or to register, visit: <https://auth.nls.uk/registration>
If you would like to offer any comment on the new service, please email John Coll, Head of Access & Enquiries, at j.coll@nls.uk

Pont on view in Treasures space

TREASURES

The earliest surviving detailed maps of Scotland are set to take up residency in NLS' Treasures space during the course of July and August. The maps, made by Timothy Pont during the 1580s and 1590s, offer an incredibly detailed record of large parts of Renaissance Scotland.

Very little is actually known about Pont himself. He was probably born around 1565, and was the son of a cleric. He studied at St Andrews University from 1580 to 1583 and it is

believed he spent the late 1580s and 1590s travelling across Scotland in the pursuit of creating his maps.

Pont's maps are important not only because of their detail, but because they form the basis of the first atlas of Scotland, produced as the fifth volume of Dutch cartographer Joan Blaeu's first world atlas *Theatrum orbis terrarum, sive Atlas novus*.

Pont's maps will be on display at the National Library of Scotland's George IV Bridge building from 5 July to 29 August



Pont's map of Loch Spynie

'What of the voice of the people?'

CURATOR'S CHOICE

Jennifer Giles, Legal Deposit Curator, on publications related to the G8 summit

When the G8 Summit was held at Gleneagles in July 2005, the eyes of the world turned to Scotland. NLS, as a legal deposit library, can request a copy of everything published in the UK, and so could expect to receive the formal documents related to the summit – but what of the 'voice of the people'?

We followed newspaper and web reports to find out about events, and contacted as many people as possible to obtain copies of their literature, flyers and posters. Around 600 items were collected, representing many organisations and activists. Some websites were also archived (accessible via

www.webarchive.org.uk). Collecting this ephemeral material was only possible during the event, as most flyers (and even websites) disappeared afterwards.

The summit had a big impact on the local community, and this is reflected in the collection. The *Perthshire G8 Summit Community Update*, prepared by Tayside Police and Perth & Kinross Council, was produced to inform local communities of security and transport arrangements, while the Gleneagles Hotel *Staff Information* booklet of the time outlines their arrangements for the week.

The Make Poverty History march on 2 July 2005 is thought to have been the largest ever held in Edinburgh. It drew an estimated 225,000 people from all parts of Scotland and was organised by a coalition

of over 400 organisations, many of which, such as Friends of the Earth Scotland, produced leaflets that we were able to collect.

Other groups set up events further afield, such as the G8 Alternatives march in Auchterarder, a blockade at Faslane, the Cre8 Summit in Glasgow and the Dissent 'eco-camp' near Stirling. These events and more are documented in our collections through the literature produced by the organisations that staged them. They are a testament to the hopes and ideals of campaigners of the time, and proof that contrary to a reported declining interest in politics, global issues generated much concern in 2005.

Most of the collection is shelved at PB10.2073, but please see our catalogue for details



Jennifer Giles with items from the Library's G8-themed collection

NLS and India's National Library

OUTREACH

During March, Jan Usher, NLS' Head of Official Publications, and Kevin Halliwell, Foreign Collections Curator, visited the National Library of India in Kolkata. The two libraries are working on drawing up a memorandum of understanding that will result in the sharing of best practice in cataloguing, conservation and digitisation as well as potential staff exchanges between the two institutions.



The National Library of India

Jan and Kevin also attended a day-long, Wellcome Trust-sponsored, roundtable on medical history in India, during which NLS' Indian medical history website came in for much

praise. 'The enthusiasm for the site impressed the Wellcome Trust,' says Jan. 'In fact the Trust has now increased its commitment to funding the site's expansion.'

Finally, Jan and Kevin collected three specially commissioned painted scrolls produced in Bengal for NLS' ongoing Bengali book project (a volume of illustrated biographies of iconic Scots in Bengal).

Read about the history of medicine in British India on page 24

BY THE NUMBERS

4,000

The approximate number of chapbooks held in the Library's collections. Chapbooks were small booklets in circulation from the 17th to the 19th centuries and sold by street-criers or 'chapmen'. Their contents ranged from sermons to murderers' final words.

www.nls.uk/collections/rarebooks/collections/chapbooks.html



WIN A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

COMPETITION



Scottish Opera

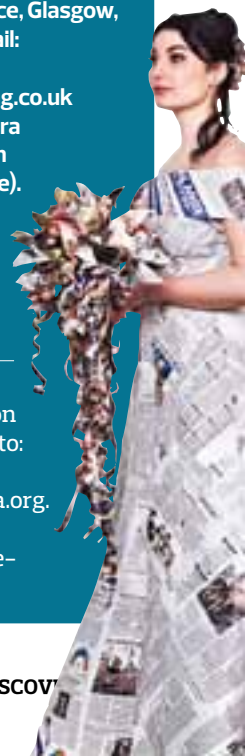
Scottish Opera is touring in October and November with a new production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, directed by internationally renowned baritone Sir Thomas Allen.

The production will run from 29 October until 4 December, and is visiting Glasgow, Inverness, Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

Discover NLS readers have the opportunity to win a pair of top price tickets for a performance at any one of the four locations. For your chance to win, all you need to do is correctly answer the following question: **Who wrote the play on which the libretto for *The Marriage of Figaro* was based?**

Post your entry along with your address to **Discover NLS Competition, Think Scotland, 20-23 Woodside Place, Glasgow, G3 7QF** or email: discovernls@thinkpublishing.co.uk (marking 'Opera competition' in the subject line). **The closing date for entries is Friday 1 October.**

For more information on tour dates go to: www.scottishopera.org.uk/10-11/the-marriage-of-figaro



Peter Arnott

Guided by amazement

RESOURCES

John Murray Archive writer-in-residence Peter Arnott has returned for a third year of archive exploration. He'll be working with the learning

team to research material for a new resource for schools.

As Peter investigates the collection he'll be recording his thoughts in a blog, *Playwright in the Cages*. In it, you can follow Peter's journey through the archive,

the items he discovers and his experiences of research at the Library.

'Most people using this archive already have a pretty good idea what they're looking for; they're specialists,' Peter says. 'I want to be guided by amazement from document to document, drawing on the expertise of the NLS team, to find emotions, stories, people that inspire me and will hopefully, through the schools project, inspire others.'

You can find a link to the blog and flickr gallery from the John Murray Archive website, www.nls.uk/jma/

Byron in the USA

EXHIBITION

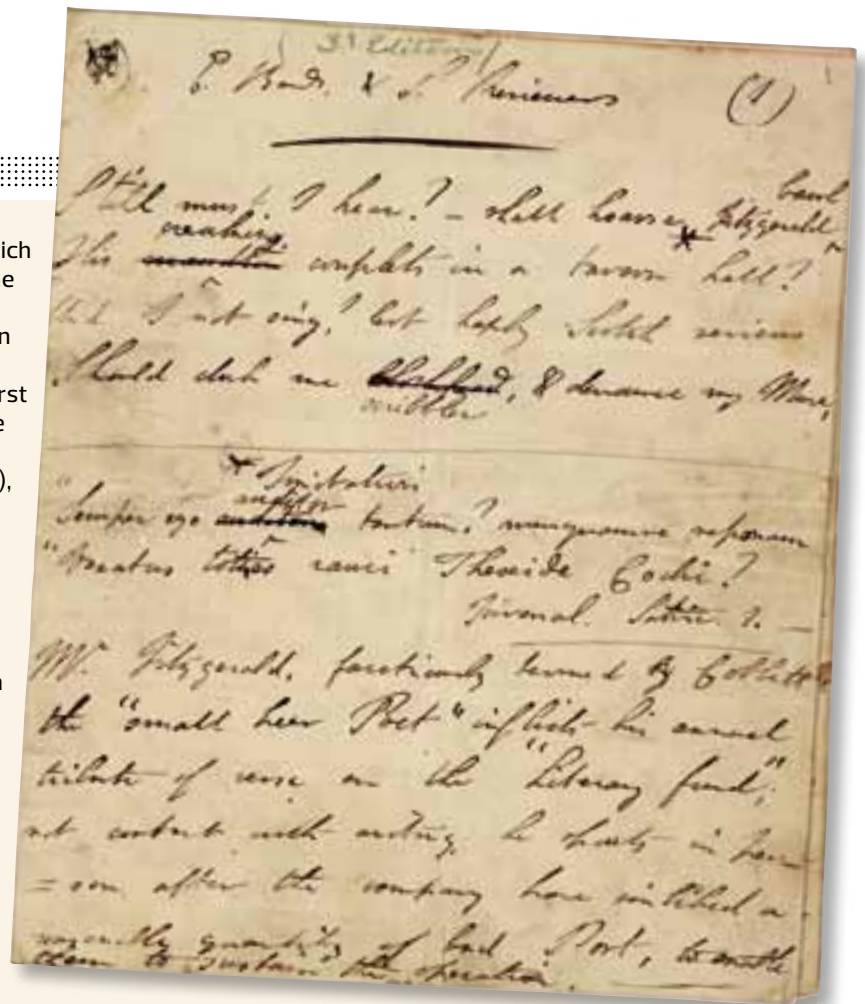
Between May and July 2010, Harvard University's Houghton Library's exhibition 'Let Satire Be My Song' explores Byron's satirical poem *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers* (1809). One of the central items of the exhibition is the original manuscript in Lord



Byron reacted bitterly to criticism of his early work

Byron's hand, which is on loan from the National Library of Scotland's John Murray Archive.

Lord Byron's first published volume of poetry, *Hours of Idleness* (1807), was savaged by some critics, including those of the journal *The Edinburgh Review*. A crestfallen Byron retaliated with *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*, in which he mocked and attacked dozens of his critics, reviewers and even fellow poets, including such eminent figures as William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey and Walter Scott. Byron never reconciled with many of the people he insulted, but he did come to regret writing the following lines about Scott:



The first page of the manuscript on loan from NLS

'And think'st thou, Scott! by vain conceit perchance,
On public taste to foist thy stale romance,
Though Murray with his Miller may combine
To yield thy muse just half-a-crown per line?'

Thanks to the intervention of publisher John Murray II, Byron and Scott were eventually to become friends.

Find out more about the John Murray Archive at www.nls.uk/jma

Site for self-help heroes

EDUCATION

What does it take to be a hero today? It's a question posed by a new educational online resource developed by NLS. The website focuses on a clutch of 'self-help heroes' as identified by author Samuel Smiles. His book *Self-Help: with Illustrations of Character, Conduct and Perseverance* was a hit in the Victorian



era, and has particular resonance today given the popularity of 'self-help' titles.

The website retells the tales of Smiles' heroes in a series of specially commissioned animations. The site also features downloadable drama activity sheets exploring what it means to be a hero, created for the Library by the Scottish Youth Theatre.

www.nls.uk/jma/who/smiles/

Key Scottish plays

THEATRE

Following on from 'Curtain Up', the exhibition that ran at the Library earlier this year, exhibition curators Sally Harrower and Andrew Martin have come together to choose 12 key Scottish plays from 1970-2010. Their selection is now featured on a new NLS website.

As with the exhibition, the website begins with *The Cheviot, the Stag, and the Black, Black Oil* and ends with *Black Watch*. Along the way, *The Slab Boys* and other productions are celebrated. Entries include

information on the companies that staged the plays, images from the productions and links to further information.

www.nls.uk/scottish-theatre/



The Library in your hand

TECHNOLOGY

This summer, the Library launches its first iPhone application – an introduction to the John Murray Archive (JMA). Visitors to the Library will be able to borrow an iPod Touch to use when making their way round the JMA exhibition, or they can download the application to their own devices. The app, funded by

Maps for your website

Another new resource from the Library allows users to include geo-referenced maps of Great Britain on their own websites. This free new service will also run on many mobile devices, including the iPhone, iPad and Google Android-based phones

View the maps at <http://geo.nls.uk/maps/api>

the John R Murray Charitable Trust, is free for visitors to NLS and is also available free of charge on the Apple iTunes store.

The app takes users on a journey through the publishing archive, telling the story of the Murray publishing house and the archive collection through audio-visual introductions narrated by Kirsty Wark. Users can also dig deeper into the collection and discover more about the authors who worked with the Murrays across the realms of literature, travel and exploration, science, politics and society. Authors represented include Jane Austen, Charles Darwin, Lord Byron, Walter Scott and many more.

The app includes audio visual introductions, zoomable images, audio descriptions and collection galleries so you can discover and enjoy just some of the hundreds of thousands of items in the archive.

Find out more about the app at www.nls.uk/murray-app



The JMA app is a great way to find out more about this unique collection



AddressingHistory



AddressingHistory

MAPS

A new collaborative project between NLS and EDINA (the Joint Information Systems Committee's national academic data centre, based at the University of Edinburgh) has received funding for the development of a brand new website. The site will allow users to place old Edinburgh addresses from historical Post Office directories onto a map from the same era.

The aim of the AddressingHistory initiative is to discover the history of the city through people, professions, addresses and maps. The work takes advantage of the current NLS and Internet Archive mass digitisation of Scottish Post Office directories and the Library's geo-referenced historical street mapping.

<http://addressinghistory.blogspot.edina.ac.uk>

Falkirk's hardest at NLS

EVENT

This August, the Edinburgh Fringe is coming to the Library, as writer and performer Alan Bissett brings his one-woman show, *The Moira Monologues*, to NLS (running from August 10-13 and 16-21).

'The production is a series of six monologues delivered by Moira Bell, the hardest woman in Falkirk,' explains Alan, who as well as writing the monologue actually plays Moira. 'It's basically a series of scenes from her life.'

'NLS is a place I have used a lot when researching my books. I have read some

fascinating things at the Library, such as the letters of James Hogg and Caroline Lamb. It is also a great place to come and write. I thought that bringing my show here seemed like a natural fit.'

For details on *The Moira Monologues* and other events at the Library, see page 15



Writer Alan Bissett

Summer events at NLS

All events and exhibitions are free to attend and take place at George IV Bridge, unless otherwise stated

TOM MORRIS OF ST ANDREWS

7 July, 6pm

David Malcolm, co-author of *Tom Morris of St Andrews, The Colossus of Golf 1821-1908*, discusses his book and its subject. Tom Morris presided over one of the most illustrious periods in the history of golf.

NLS FILM CLUB – SPORT IN SCOTLAND

15 July, 6pm

The film club presents a variety of films with a sporting theme, including Harry Lauder's 1917 golfing spoof. Tickets are £5.

A MAJOR OBSESSION

19 July, 6pm

Kenny Reid has followed golf's majors for more than 30 years. In 2009 he embarked on a pilgrimage, a 'fan slam', travelling to each of the four majors in one year. Here he talks about his international odyssey. Followed by book signing, copies on sale at NLS shop.

INSPIRATION AT NLS – MARK COUSINS

29 July, 6pm

Film writer, director and the former director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival, Mark Cousins takes us through his sometimes surprising influences.

THE MOIRA MONOLOGUES

10-13 and 16-21 August, 7pm

Writer and actor Alan Bissett performs a series of monologues from Falkirk's hardest woman, Moira Bell.

Tickets are available from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Box Office, Tel: 0131 226 0000, www.edfringe.com. Not suitable for under 16s; strong language used throughout.

THE 2010 NLS DONALD DEWAR MEMORIAL LECTURE

17 August, 6.30pm

The National Library of Scotland Donald Dewar Memorial Lecture is always a highlight of the Edinburgh International Book Festival, attracting significant political figures and commentators. This year's lecture will be given by the former Chancellor of the Exchequer and current MP for Edinburgh South West, the Rt Hon Alistair Darling. For bookings and further information visit www.edbookfest.co.uk

THE GREATEST GAME

2 September, from 5pm

Professor David Purdie takes a humorous look at the game of golf in this compendium illustrated by Hugh Dodd. *The Greatest Game* also contains a foreword by Colin Montgomerie. David, Hugh and Colin will all be present to sign your copy of the book. Copies will be on sale in the NLS shop or, if you are unable to make it, can be pre-ordered by calling 0131 623 3918. After the signing Professor Purdie will discuss why golf is one of Scotland's greatest discoveries.

HOW DID A SCOTTISH GAME CONQUER THE WORLD?

9 September, 6pm

In the 1880s golf spread from Scotland to the rest of the world. Changes in

society and sport meant its time had come, first in England then in Europe and North America. David Hamilton, author of *The Scottish Golf Guide*, discusses the game's evolution.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

14 September, 6pm

Celebrating new, unpublished work from Scottish PEN authors. Come and meet some of the writers who will perform their work live and discuss real and imagined journeys.

THE FADED MAP: THE LOST KINGDOMS OF SCOTLAND

22 September, 6pm

Alistair Moffat's book *The Faded Map* brings to life the half-forgotten kingdoms of 2,000 years ago. Join Alistair as he takes us on a remarkable journey through a time when the English kings of Bernicia held sway over vast swathes of what is now called Scotland. Tickets are £5

VIEWS OF A NATION

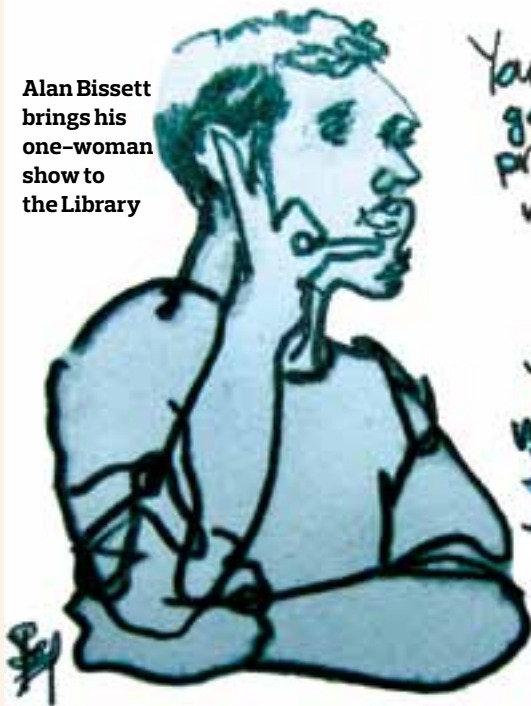
28 September, 6pm

Mike Parker, author of *Map Addict: A Tale of Obsession, Fudge and the Ordnance Survey*, and Mick Ashworth, Consultant Editor to the Times Atlases imprint, reveal the history behind national atlases and celebrate the recent publication of the new *Times Atlas of Britain*.

Book events online at www.nls.uk/events/ booking or call 0131 623 3918



Alan Bissett brings his one-woman show to the Library



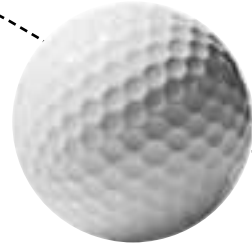
You've got a problem noo!

You might think there's safe, but one day they'll take...

fringe



Slicing into history



As a new golf exhibition tees off at the Library, Senior Curator **Olive Geddes** takes **Allan Burnett** through the game's intriguing history

Picture the scene: two boys are playing in the churchyard where they often spend their free time. They have taken branches from a hedgerow and fashioned them into crude clubs. They pick up a few pieces of stone or wood lying on the ground and decide to hit them against the church door. As the club is swung round, it makes contact with one of the stones and unfortunately, an innocent passer-by gets in the way and falls to the ground. Games such as golf and football were often played in crowded public spaces such as churchyards and the streets, so it is hardly surprising that they were frowned upon as dangerous and a nuisance.

Some years later and the same boys are to be found playing at their favourite sport on the grassy links at the seaside. One grips the stick with both hands and takes aim at a nearby rabbit hole. As the stick is swung round, it makes contact with one of the stones, which is sent sailing through the air over a gorse bush and straight into the sand-encrusted orifice. The world's first hole-in-one has just been scored. This time, the boys' sport comes to an abrupt end when two clerics appear over their shoulders and accuse them of skipping church. The boys are ordered to appear before the Kirk Session, where they are fined and made to apologise before the entire congregation the following Sunday.

Fast forward 500 years or so and golf has taken over the planet. Visitors flock in their thousands every year, and from every continent, just to be photographed on the Old Course at St Andrews. But while Scotland remains the unquestionable home of golf, nobody really knows for sure how this phenomenal sport began. Its origins are, according to Olive Geddes, Senior Manuscripts Curator at the National Library of Scotland, 'shrouded in mystery'.

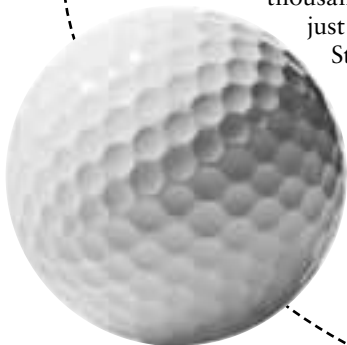
In order to cast light on why Scotland is so important to the history of golf, Olive is

curating the NLS golf exhibition entitled 'A Swing Through Time'. 'It is being staged to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the British Open at St Andrews this year,' Olive tells me as she unfastens the bindings on some of the rare treasures that will be put on display, so I can have a closer look. I admit to her that, although I have caddied and putted, I have not yet played a round of golf. So is this exhibition for the likes of me, or will I, as a non-player, feel left out? Well, I needn't worry. This, Olive, assures me, is very much an exhibition for non-golfers as much as for aficionados.

Even those who have little interest in what Olive refers to as 'the technical aspects of the game' can derive much pleasure and fascination from the documents, pictures, maps and other artefacts she has selected. These include an infamous edict issued by King James II in 1457. The king banned golf and football because they distracted his subjects from the more militarily useful pastime of archery practice. This Act of Parliament is the oldest known documented reference to the game in Scotland. The ban could not have been entirely successful as it was repeated in 1471 and 1491, when golf was called 'an unprofitable sport'. Yet while Parliament banned golf in the name of James IV, we know that in 1502, golf clubs and balls were bought for him when he was in Perth and later when he stayed in St Andrews and Edinburgh.

Then there are the first known written Rules for the game, the 'Articles and Laws in Playing at Golf', penned in 1744. They were meticulously drawn up by a group of wealthy Edinburgh merchants and professional men, lawyers and doctors known as the Company of Gentlemen Golfers, who played at Leith Links.

At the time of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745, even pillars of the establishment might find themselves on the losing side. The 1744 Rules were signed by surgeon John Rattray, winner of the Gentlemen Golfers' inaugural Competition for the Silver Club. A year later, when Bonnie Prince Charlie and his rebel Jacobite army occupied Edinburgh, Rattray





was persuaded to join the prince's cause as a field surgeon and march on London. Little did he know that the Jacobites' apparently unstoppable mission to restore the Stuart monarchy by force would end in retreat and then catastrophic defeat at Culloden.

Rattray was imprisoned in Inverness. Having risen to the high Jacobite position of personal surgeon to the prince, he was for the hangman's noose. Among the friendships Rattray had formed on the links was one with Duncan Forbes of Culloden, Lord President of the Court of Session.

Forbes had remained staunchly loyal to the establishment and now intervened by pleading for his friend's life with the commander of the government forces, 'Butcher' Cumberland. Rattray was spared and transferred to an English jail in return for an oath of allegiance. Released in 1747, Rattray went on to win the Gentlemen Golfers' Competition for the Silver Club a total of three times.

The trophy Rattray lifted was the Silver Club, a silver golf club that had been given as sponsorship for the competition by Edinburgh Town Council.

Golfers' club member William Inglis on Leith Links



Each winner of the annual competition had to attach a silver ball with his name engraved on it to the Silver Club. This was a tradition that soon spread to the other golf clubs that sprang up in the Gentlemen Golfers' wake.

Co-operation between NLS and other collections is an important feature of this exhibition. The 1457 Act of Parliament has been loaned from the vaults of the National Archives of Scotland, for example. To help put the Silver Club in context and bring to life the world of the Company of Gentlemen Golfers, a fine work by David Allan, the society painter and Lord Lichfield of his day, is on loan from the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. Allan's painting depicts club member William Inglis on the links in 1787, with the Procession of the Silver Club in the background. This painting in turn complements the 1744 Rules from the Honourable Company of Gentlemen Golfer's records, deposited in NLS' own manuscripts strongroom. Another exhibition highlight is the original Silver Club, borrowed from the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers.

In 1687, years before the first golf club was formed, a young medical student named Thomas Kincaid kept a diary. As a personal memoir of student life in 1687, the diary is important enough, but it also happens to contain the world's earliest known set of golfing instructions.

Kincaid played at Leith and on Bruntsfield Links, conveniently near the university. On 20 January 1687, he wrote: 'After dinner I went out to the Golfe [golf]... I found that the only way of playing at the Golfe is to stand as you do at fenceing with the small sword bending your legs a little and holding the muscles of your legs and back and armes



It has been said that Mary Queen of Scots was a fan of golf

From the *Illustrated London News*, Mary Queen of Scots playing golf at St Andrews

exceeding bent or fixt or stiffe and not at all slackning them in the time you are bringing down the stroak (which you readily doe)... and so on. Kincaid also offered his thoughts on what appears to have been an early handicap system.

Such pieces play an invaluable role in entertaining, informing and educating the visiting public about what Olive calls the 'social history of golf'. This is an exhibition as much about the people who played the game as it is about the game itself.

In fact, it has been said that Mary Queen of Scots was a fan of golf. Included in the exhibition is an Edwardian artist's impression from the *Illustrated London News*, which depicts the queen on the links at St Andrews in the 1560s. She is concentrating hard as she takes aim while her rather impatient male competitors look on. Unfortunately, the only evidence that Mary was a golfer comes from the claims of her enemies who wished to portray her as acting inappropriately, following the murder of her second husband, Lord Darnley, in 1567. Among them was the court tutor, political writer and philosopher George Buchanan. He had been a close friend and confidant of Mary before suspicion fell on the queen over Darnley's death. As if to underline Mary's immorality, Buchanan later wrote that she took part in 'sports that were clearly unsuitable to women'. Olive, who has written *A Swing Through Time: Golf in Scotland 1457-1744*, points out that these claims should be taken with a pinch of salt.

Whether or not Mary actually played golf is perhaps less important than the social attitudes





I hope visitors will leave this exhibition with questions as well as answers

A golfing song sheet from the 1880s

expressed by her detractors. ‘Leaving aside Mary’s morals and the question of Darnley’s sudden death,’ Olive explains, ‘these extracts reveal something of attitudes towards women’s golf in the 16th century, when it would seem to have been considered as frivolous, slightly risqué and certainly not a ladylike sport.’ Male chauvinism has therefore unfortunately been an unwritten rule of golf from its earliest times, and the exhibition also includes a more recent satirical piece that demonstrates how sexist attitudes became entrenched on the links. Even so, women increasingly took up the game from the

mid-19th century and the first Ladies’ Golf Club was formed at St Andrews in 1867.

Among the other items that ought to command visitors’ attention is a charming little Victorian volume called *A Few Rambling Remarks on Golf* by publisher Robert Chambers. This book was produced at a time when the first trickle of clubs in the 1700s started to give way to a flood, and new courses sprang up all over Scotland to meet demand. Soon, golf was the ‘cool’ sport and the wealthy English middle classes began to play, making Scottish resorts such as St Andrews, Carnoustie and North Berwick their chosen holiday destination. The advent of the steam train and ship were of tremendous significance in the game’s ballooning popularity. The mania for building golf courses took hold in the rest of the British Isles, the United States and, before long, the world. Course designers became international celebrities, as did the top professional players – and memorabilia from some of today’s pro golfers rounds off the exhibition.

‘I hope visitors will leave this exhibition with questions as well as answers,’ says Olive. To the big question of how golf came about, there may never be a definite answer, short of some top player at this year’s Open hacking at a bunker and throwing up the skeleton of an early medieval rabbit with a golf ball lodged in its mouth. Joking apart, Olive points out that something about Scotland’s landscape and circumstances – the unique, flat links with lots of fresh air and beautiful views close to centres of population – seems to have invited the idea of golf to take root here. And with it has grown a rich and fascinating cultural heritage.

A Swing Through Time runs until 14 November at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge.

A Swing Through Time: Golf in Scotland 1457–1744 by Olive M Geddes (second edition published by NLS and NMS Enterprises Limited) can be purchased at the Library’s Visitor Centre and from leading bookshops.

‘Your Tee must be upon the ground’ – The Leith Rules

Which is the world’s oldest golf club? Some would say The Royal Burgess Golfing Society, yet its claim of having been set up in 1735 does not come from contemporary written evidence but first appeared almost a century later in a Victorian almanac.

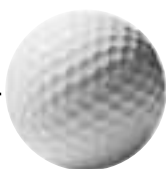
Instead, we must look to the Company of Gentlemen Golfers. Later known as

The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, this club probably has the strongest claim to being the oldest. Its records, including the ‘Articles and Laws in Playing at Golf’ of 1744, are deposited at the Library. Known as the Leith Rules, they contain such instructions as ‘Your Tee must be upon the ground’ and ‘You are not to change the Ball

which you Strike off the Tee’. These Rules were adopted by the Society of St Andrews Golfers, later the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, virtually word for word when it was formed in 1754. While the Rules have been adapted over the years, they are recognised as the source for all subsequent codes, and their principles still underpin the game’s current regulations.



The principles outlined in 1744’s ‘Articles and Laws in Playing at Golf’ are evident in the game today





One of the last photographs of Stevenson

Bringing Stevenson to book

Senior Rare Books Curator **Graham Hogg** on the fierce opposition encountered by one of Robert Louis Stevenson's first biographers

NLS has recently acquired a copy of a rare, uncensored edition of an early biography of the author Robert Louis Stevenson. American drama critic Clayton Meeker Hamilton wrote *On the Trail of Stevenson* some 20 years after Stevenson's death.

The book covers Stevenson's early life in and around Edinburgh, and his travels in Britain, Europe and North America. It ends with him leaving the USA for the last time in 1888 to embark on a cruise of the South Seas, which would eventually lead to him settling on the island of Samoa.

Hamilton appears to have researched the book carefully. There is evidence that he contacted Stevenson's friends and acquaintances, as well as visiting Scotland in 1910 where he was able to talk to the author's beloved childhood nurse 'Cummy' (Alison Cunningham). While to the modern reader this might seem a relatively straightforward biographical account, *On the Trail of Stevenson* marked the first time that anyone had tried to present in book form an authentic, balanced portrait of a man whom Hamilton refers to as 'the most personal of writers'.

Stevenson's often colourful life was a controversial topic for anyone wishing to write about it, as Hamilton himself would discover. Sir Sidney Colvin, Stevenson's friend and mentor, had planned to write a

definitive biography in the 1890s, but had given up following an acrimonious dispute with the author's widow and stepson. An official, family-approved biography of Stevenson by his cousin Graham Balfour appeared in 1901. Balfour's work was given a scathing review by Stevenson's former friend WE Henley, who regarded it as perpetuating the false image of the author as a saintly invalid, a 'seraph in chocolate, this barley-sugar effigy of a real man', which Stevenson's widow, Fanny, and his many admirers had created after his death.

Henley's scornful reaction to Balfour's biography was caused by his own bitter falling-out with Stevenson in the 1880s and his intense dislike of Fanny. By contrast, Hamilton was an outsider who had never met Stevenson or quarrelled with his family; moreover, he was an admirer of the writer's work, having edited the 1910 Longman's English Classics edition of *Treasure Island*.

Hamilton did not want to present his subject as a 'chocolate-coated angel' but as a flesh and blood character with faults as well as virtues. The overall tone of *On the Trail of Stevenson* is respectful, but Hamilton does raise issues that were considered risqué by early-20th-century standards. The text alludes to Stevenson's frequenting of brothels in his youth – 'Louis was habituated to a dangerous



Studio portrait taken in Sydney of Stevenson, his wife Fanny, his stepdaughter Isobel and his mother Margaret



A *Treasure Island*-inspired
tribute to Stevenson from 1919

and fitful intimacy with many women of a class inferior to his own'.

Hamilton also bluntly states that Stevenson killed himself through overwork while living on Samoa, the implication being that his extended stepfamily and household was a weighty, and eventually deadly, financial burden. Perhaps most controversially of all, Hamilton reveals that the struggling young author consummated his relationship with Fanny shortly after they met – ‘their union was immediate and complete’ – when she was still married to another man. Stevenson was apparently committed to a ‘project’ which involved meeting and marrying an older woman with two children in their teens.

Excerpts from *On the Trail of Stevenson* appeared in the journal *The Bookman* in late 1914 and early 1915, and the book was printed by the American publishers Doubleday and Page in October 1915. A few days later, however, it was withdrawn from public sale. Another copy of the suppressed edition, now held in the Beinecke

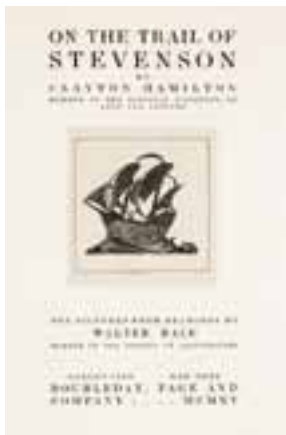
Library of Yale University, bears an inscription from Hamilton dated 1936, in which he states that the book was suppressed ‘in deference to various objections adduced by the step-daughter of Robert Louis Stevenson, Mrs. Salisbury Field [Fanny Stevenson’s daughter Isobel] ... her personal reactions seemed more important to me than a disinterested insistence on the facts of history.’

Hamilton goes on to reveal that many of Stevenson’s friends

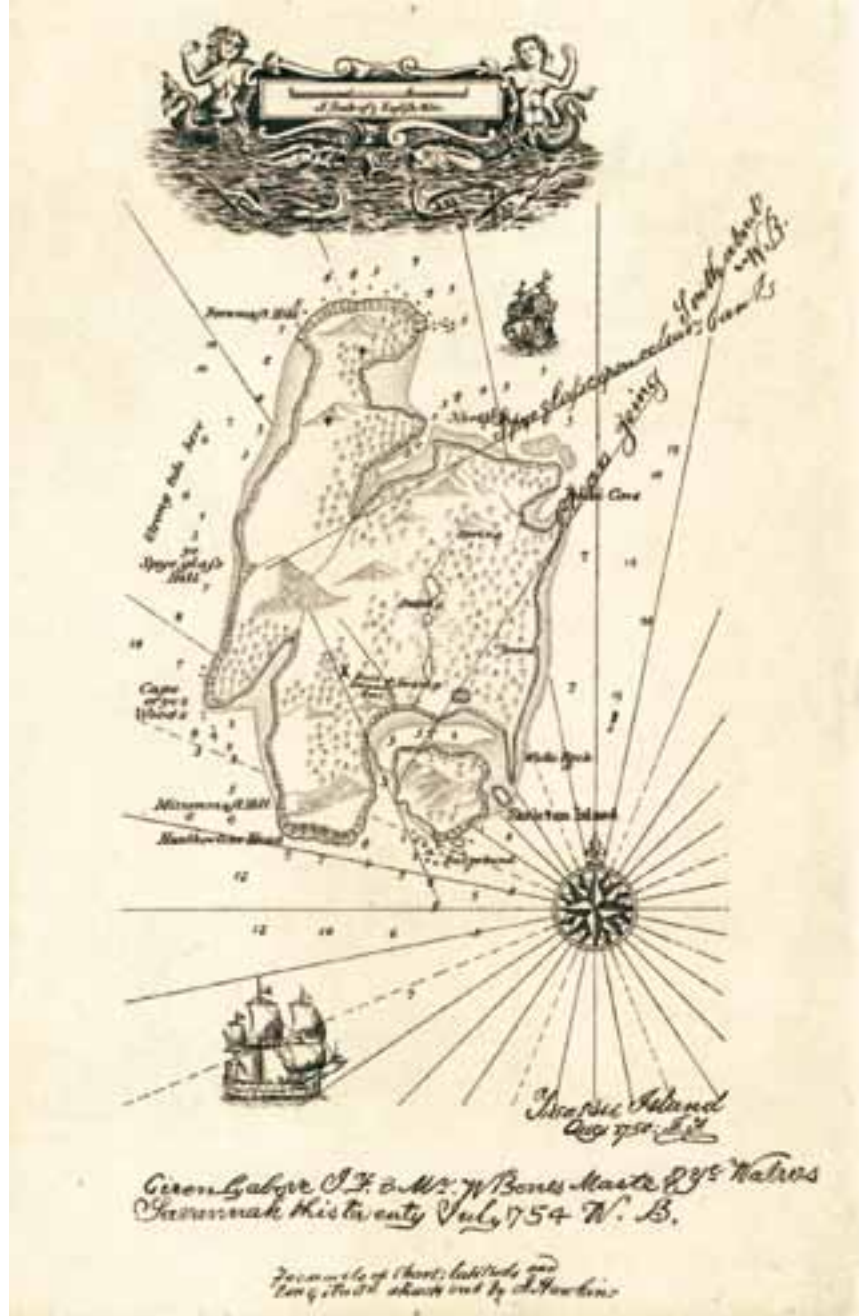
disapproved of his action, including Sir Sidney Colvin and Henry James. For his own part, Hamilton believed that he had written nothing that was untrue and scandalous, but was nevertheless convinced he had done the right thing in suppressing the book.

Fanny Stevenson had died in early 1914, and Stevenson’s stepson, Lloyd Osbourne, was not living in the USA at the time, so Hamilton may have felt it was safe to proceed with his book. But by presenting a more realistic view of Stevenson, he clearly had not reckoned with Isobel Field’s reaction. She had been close to her stepfather, acting as his scribe in Samoa when he suffered from writer’s cramp, and as his companion on some of his travels.

A new printing of *On the Trail of Stevenson* appeared later in 1915, and was published in Britain the following year, with a number of passages rewritten to remove anything remotely controversial about Stevenson, his relationship with his wife and with the opposite sex in general. NLS’ copy of the uncensored edition contains a letter from the publishers, Doubleday Page & Co., dated 27 October 1915, to the New York publishing and bookselling firm Charles Scribner’s Sons. The letter



Uncensored edition of Hamilton's book



Stevenson and the cartographer

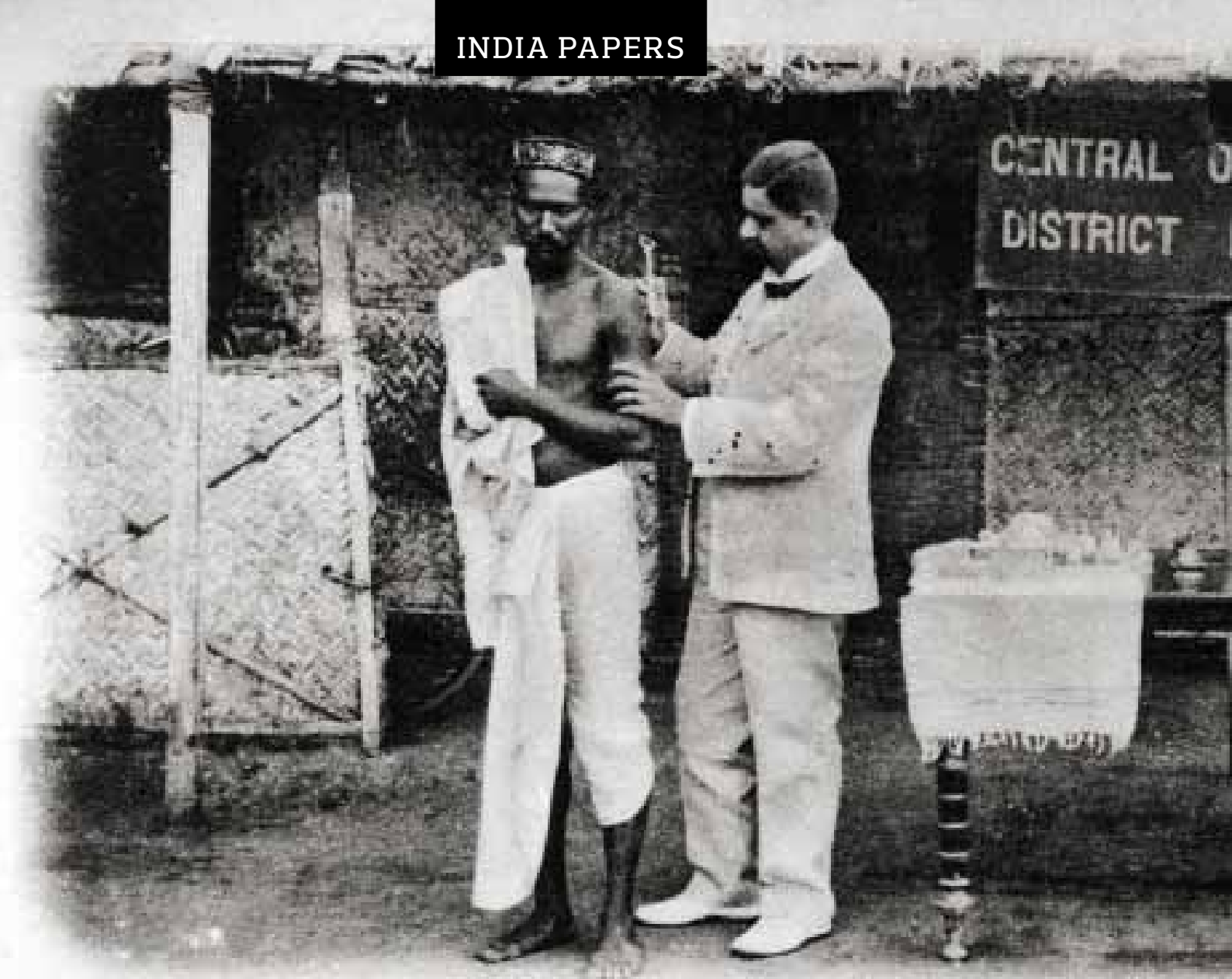
John Bartholomew was commissioned to engrave the map that appears in the first edition of Stevenson's *Treasure Island* (shown above). Bartholomew was part of the famous Scottish cartographic and publishing dynasty and NLS' Bartholomew Archive documents nearly 180 years of map engraving, printing and publishing. www.nls.uk/bartholomew

Stevenson's often colourful life was a controversial topic for anyone wishing to write about it

requests a recall of the first printing of the book, referring to ‘serious errors’, which the publishers wish to correct. In addition to requesting the return of all unsold copies, they also ask if owners of the book can be traced and asked to return their ‘imperfect’ copies. Inevitably a few, such as this one, must have slipped through the net.

It was not until the 1920s, when new biographies by George S Hellman and John A Steuart were published, that Stevenson’s life and character would once again come under critical scrutiny. Hamilton’s own important role in re-evaluating one of Scotland’s most famous authors has, in the meantime, been largely overlooked.

For more on Robert Louis Stevenson visit www.robert-louis-stevenson.org



INOCULATION AGAINST PLAGUE. Bombay

Thanks for your card and various stamps. Hope you

Of microbes and men

Francine Millard explores a world of sex, drugs and disease as she works to bring NLS' India Papers online

From Lahore to Bangalore, elephants to mosquitoes, native soldiers to famous scientists, the books that make up the Medical History of British India Project contain human experience on a dramatic scale.

The project consists of nearly 50 Disease and Public Health reports written in British India during the 19th and 20th centuries. These rare books, which are held as part of NLS' India Papers collection, are historical sources from a period that witnessed the transition from a humoral to a biochemical medical tradition.

The discovery that microbes cause disease, made in the 1860s by Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch, led to the birth of bacteriology. This breakthrough, together with the reappearance of plague in epidemic form and British-Indian physician Ronald Ross's work on malaria, instigated deeper medical research in India.



Inoculation against plague in Bombay, early 20th century

With its detailed scientific investigations and fine microscopic drawings, the *Scientific memoirs* series (written by officers of the Indian Medical Service from 1880-1913) was the first Anglo-Indian journal entirely devoted to biological research. Microbiologists David Semple, WM Haffkine and DD Cunningham worked on vaccines for rabies, plague and cholera respectively and published their findings in the memoirs.

In his book on the Indian Medical Service, WB Beatson (who served as Surgeon-General of the Lahore Division of the army in India) wrote: 'The Indian is now the best-paid and best-pensioned medical service in the Empire. Entrance to its ranks is guarded by the necessity of passing a special examination, and all its advantages are thereby secured for men who are willing to devote to it the best part of their lives.' Some gave their lives full stop – 'fearless investigator' Francis William Cragg perished from the louse-borne typhus

he was studying in 1924, while in 1890 John Henry Steel, first principal of the Bombay Veterinary College, 'sacrificed his health for the good of the College' because of over-exposure to 'an insanitary neighbourhood.'

The three medical discoveries that meant surgery could save lives, rather than endanger them, were effective anaesthesia, staunching blood loss and use of antiseptics. The reports held in the Library's collection from Calcutta medical institutions show doctors implementing a carbolic acid disinfectant spray regime first developed by the English surgeon Joseph Lister as a way to effectively sterilise surgical instruments and so reduce the likelihood of post-operative infections.

Today hospital patients fear the menace of MRSA and pneumonia, and these were concerns in the late-19th century too. But perhaps a cause for even greater alarm came from the barbaric-sounding operations that had to be endured under chloroform, itself a frequent cause of death. Statistical tables from the period make grisly reading – operations such as bone-scraping, cancer-ablation and abscess-tapping led to more than one patient dying from 'violent purging' and 'extreme prostration' (as gruesomely documented in a report from 1872).

English physician Dr Joseph Fayrer taught surgery at the Calcutta Medical College from 1859 to 1872 and was one of the first to be convinced of the value of antiseptics. 'We have at our disposal a new and powerful auxiliary in the treatment of disease,' he wrote. His 1877 successor, Dr Kenneth McLeod, was also committed to halting septic disease and travelled to Glasgow to observe Joseph Lister in action. 'Thus we have seen what can be and is still being done by downright fighting with sanitary weapons against adverse circumstances,' he wrote in 1880.

The implementation of new knowledge from outside the operating theatre is equally well documented in the project. Mobile fieldwork units from the King Institute of Preventive Medicine near Guindy were ready to tackle local maladies. Water supplies were carefully collected and analysed, as it was realised that good sanitation was a necessity for effective disease control. Staff investigating plague at the Harcourt Butler Institute of Public Health in Burma caught rats from Rangoon port; in 1929, 7,293 rats were examined, as were more than 18,000 fleas.

India was a challenging environment for medical personnel. The climate, poor sanitation and meagre resources would deter all but the most ambitious of men. Some were regarded as cranks by their colleagues but ultimately many of them made important breakthroughs. Ronald Ross, derided for his interest in mosquitoes, found the mode of malaria transmission in 1897. He self-funded much of his work to solve 'the great malaria problem,' and won the Nobel Prize in 1902. Welsh bacteriologist Griffith Evans withstood jibes that he 'had a bee in [his] bonnet' about finding the cause of surra, a parasitic blood infection. 'I had to work with the microscope for many hours a day out-of-doors at



A cause for alarm came from the barbaric-sounding operations that had to be endured under chloroform



From the top
Louis Pasteur,
Robert Koch
and Ronald Ross

Staff preparing for an operation at Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Hospital, Bombay, 1900s



how poor pay and conditions discouraged Europeans from joining, unlike the Indian Medical Service. Consequently, indigenous veterinarians had opportunities to make scientific discoveries, and many contributed articles to the *Indian Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry*, 1933-1959.

Candid and meticulous reports provide a detailed picture of life in British India, particularly in the military service. A disciplined and healthy army was vital, but as with the scientists, the soldiers had to face up to 'living... in low-lying districts and ill-kept cities, exposed to abundant filth emanations and tormented by the bites of mosquitoes'. (WB Beatson, 1902). 'The men become inert, spiritless and weak, lose flesh and appetite. No medicine is of any good.' (*Medical and Sanitary Report of the Native Army of Bengal for the Year 1874.*)

The army was depleted by epidemics of cholera and endemic malaria. Men were subjected to heatstroke, snakebites, varicose veins and fevers. Suicides and accidents added to the mortality rate. Huge numbers of young men perished in India, often not making it to two years' service. The army was also responsible for the health of the native population, for example, deploying anti-malarial measures around Mian Mir.

In the report *Malaria in the Punjab (Scientific Memoirs no. 46)*, which considered the effect of the 1908 epidemic, British protozoologist Sir Samuel Rickard Christophers wrote 'at Amritsar, a city of 160,000 inhabitants, almost the entire population was prostrated and the ordinary business of the city interrupted. The mortality for many weeks was over 200 per mille.' Christophers served in the Indian Medical Service from 1902 to 1930 and became Vice-President of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 1937. He was a strong advocate for the biological control of mosquitoes.

It wasn't just mosquitoes that the military was exposed to. The British soldier was said to be full of 'beef, beer and lust,' so together with clothing and food, the authorities also provided the troops with a steady flow of prostitutes, who brought with them their own health risks. The Lock Hospital Reports (1873-91) present a vivid and astonishing record of this system. The hospitals were specialised places

the sick lines,' he wrote, 'or else in a stable, when the thermometer was 82 degrees within a cool bungalow, and the sun pouring down its rays through a cloudless sky... very few investigators know what that means.' He persevered in his studies and won acclaim from Pasteur and Koch.

Medical college reports place much emphasis on results, especially in the training of indigenous students in Western medicine. Once qualified, these doctors would return to their local area, aiding vaccination programmes and sanitation measures. In Calcutta especially, native students showed exceptional skill. In Nagpur in 1875, however, the students were a concern: 'one absconded, one was imprisoned for theft and 15 were dismissed for incapacity, inattention and misbehaviour,' notes one report from the time.

**“
The British soldier is, as we all know, not very particular in the distribution of his amorous patronage**

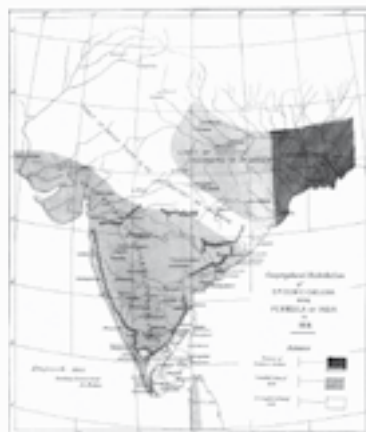
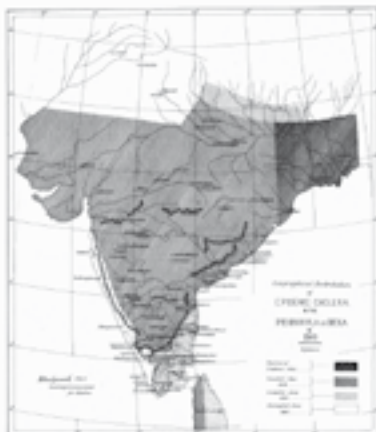
Most indigenous doctors probably did not see themselves as low-cost instruments of imperial control, but rather as part of a new stream of treatment. Veterinary students, for example, regarded themselves as engaged in a profession with good prospects, and many assistants were trained in their native languages. A Civil Veterinary Department report reveals

Mapping the path of cholera and leprosy across India

Documents held in the India Papers collection chart the movement of disease

Left and centre
A geographical distribution of cholera in India in 1859 and 1860

Right
Tracking the spread of leprosy in India 1890-91



for the treatment of venereal ailments, a key part of disease control following the Indian Contagious Diseases Acts of 1864 and 1868.

Regimental brothels were established, and women registered under the acts were issued with a ticket and examined weekly for venereal diseases such as syphilis and gonorrhoea. Keeping the soldiers away from unregulated, infectious individuals became a major problem for the authorities. One report from 1877 remarked 'The British soldier is, as we all know, not very particular in the distribution of his amorous patronage. He selects his partners, without fear or favour in the darkness of the night, as well as under the shadow of a tree or within the shelter of a corn-field.'

Unsurprisingly, alcohol exacerbated the situation. 'It is said that many soldiers did not know with whom they had co-habited, being under the influence of drink,' notes a report from 1878. 'It is recorded that sexual intercourse was effected in the hospital ward and in the soldiers' dining hall; and that a woman, believed to have been a source of much mischief, was found in the lines, living in a rum-barrel.'

In all of this, there appears to be scant concern for the women's health, and it seemed to be more important that they were locked away until cured. The men were rarely blamed, yet 50% of British troops were hospitalised every year due to sexually transmitted disease.

In 1888, the House of Commons passed a motion condemning the compulsory medical examination of prostitutes and the Contagious Diseases Act was repealed later that year. Yet in 1889, the Cantonment Act still kept a discreet level of control in military areas. Despite the many breakthroughs in other areas that had come from those serving on the front line of medicine in British India, Herbert Boyd, in charge of Rawalpindi Lock Hospital in 1889, summed up the view of those who attempted to stem the spread of sexual diseases amongst the military: 'The working has been most unsatisfactory. Women who live in the city are known to be diseased. I can do nothing.'

Four phases of the Medical History of British India Project have so far been funded by the Wellcome Trust. More material will be added next year. The books are available on microfilm and also online, free of charge, at www.nls.uk/indiapapers

READ ON WITH NLS

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Jaggi, O.P. **Medicine in India: Modern Period** ♦♦S8.204.0486

Pati, Biswamoy and Harrison, Mark (ed) **Health, Medicine and Empire: Perspectives on Colonial India** ♦♦PB5.206.934/1

Mills, James H. **Cannabis Britannica: Empire, Trade, and Prohibition, 1800-1928** ♦♦S3.204.0115

British Army in India:
under the canvas



Medicines & drugs in British India



HEMP DRUGS

Hemp was grown in Central Asia for fibre and food, but Indian hemp or 'ganja' contained high levels of the psychoactive drug THC. Controversy concerning cannabis use is not a modern phenomenon and *Report of the Indian Hemp Drug Commission, 1894-1895* was an India-wide, detailed study of its cultivation, use and distribution. The physical and moral effects were also explored in detail.



QUININE

Cinchonas are trees whose medicinally active bark produces alkaloids, one of which is quinine. This substance relieves the feverish symptoms of malaria. *Notes on the Propagation and Cultivation of the Medicinal Cinchonas, or Peruvian Bark Trees (1863)* depicted cinchona cultivation and bark-harvesting, including nine plates of black and white lithographs.



CHLOROFORM

The Report of the Hyderabad Chloroform Commission (1891) aimed to find a firm physiological basis for death from chloroform. The report listed experiments on 430 animals and 52 human surgical trials. In 1900, the British Medical Association concluded that chloroform was more dangerous than any other anaesthetic and by 1912 it was not recommended.



Charles Lovatt
at the Visitor Centre

The discovery of books

Business entrepreneur and NLS Trustee **Charles Lovatt** explains why he's drawn to the shelves

I have been a Trustee at the Library for just over a year. I saw the post advertised and decided to apply because, to me, libraries are the most wondrous places. I've loved them since I was 10, which was when I took out my first 'proper' book from the adult section of our local lending library. It was *The Autobiography of a Super-Tramp* by WH Davies: chosen because I was hooked by the title, and because it was the biggest, fattest book I could find.

I first came into the National Library of Scotland about six years ago while researching my MBA dissertation on social entrepreneurship at Edinburgh University. Since then there's been a huge change to the Library's entrance foyer. Today, the first thing you notice is a permanent exhibition celebrating the life and work of Scottish publisher John Murray. He was one of Scotland's earliest entrepreneurs, so for me his exhibition symbolises the way the Library has transformed itself into a place where opportunities are to be discovered amongst a wealth of intellectual property.

Since becoming a Trustee I have been very

surprised to find out how much friendlier the place is today, compared to my student days. I think it's down to café culture and the power of online social networking. The Visitor Centre and Reading Rooms are wi-fi enabled and a very healthy informal user community has developed, with much lively and witty tweeting going on between researchers. It's all a stark contrast to the sombre atmosphere I remember from my student days when library users hardly acknowledged, let alone spoke to, each other.

Another significant and highly desirable change I've noticed is the way in which the Library now welcomes children into the Visitor Centre. Exhibitions, with their interactive displays, really enthral local children and tourists alike. It seems to me that the Library now reaches a very wide audience indeed.

The underlying purpose of the National Library of Scotland remains unchanged, but its spirit and atmosphere has been utterly transformed, encouraging users to interact with the place in innovative and exciting new ways. The Library is a great Scottish institution, but one that is embracing the future – I for one am very proud to be associated with it.

Find out more about the Library's Board of Trustees at www.nls.uk/about/trustees



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Creating order

Catherine Davies, Official Publications Assistant, on how cataloguing the Library's collections helps the public gain access to a wealth of information

How does the process of cataloguing a collection begin? Are you given material that has been gifted to NLS, or are you trying to bring together disparate items that are already in the collection? It can happen in different ways. In the case of the League of Nations project that I am currently working on, the Library has known for a long time that it holds the material, but the records were not available on the online database.

What does it actually mean to 'catalogue'? It's about making it easier for people to find items in our collections by creating records of them in our database. At its most straightforward this means taking an item and documenting its title, publication date, publisher and pagination.

With the League of Nations collection, how did you determine the parameters of what is and isn't included within the collection? The scope of this project is quite clear-cut; we're cataloguing only material that was produced by the League of Nations.

What happens to a collection, once catalogued? The main idea is to open it up to the public. For this project we anticipate working with educational establishments. The League of Nations is covered within the Standard Grade curriculum, and has a lot of relevance to Higher



Catherine Davies with items from the League of Nations collection



Cataloguing is about making it easier for people to find items in our collections

Grade and university students too. A new collection is a great way to encourage people to use the Library.

How will you know when you've finished cataloguing this particular collection? For the League of Nations that's going to be pretty straightforward. There is a finite number of items identified for cataloguing, so when the details of the last item are added to our database, that will be the end of the cataloguing process. We've only just started and anticipate it will take us around two years to get through it all.

But people won't have to wait two years to start exploring the collection. I will be regularly updating our blog, detailing information on things we find, and in November 2010 we will have some items on display at our George IV Bridge building.

www.nlsopublog.blogspot.com

What was the League of Nations?



The League of Nations meeting in Geneva, 1936

'The League of Nations was founded after the First World War,' explains Catherine. 'Many see the organisation as a precursor to the United Nations and there is a belief that its main focus was appeasement. 'However, it is very

clear that the League was created and developed to do so much more.

'When readers come to explore our collection their attention will be grabbed by the variety of topics covered by the League: immigration, drugs, education, slavery and people

trafficking. Much of it is still very relevant today. 'Of course, this is all primary source information – actual documentation of what those in power discussed and decided, rather than somebody else's interpretation of those history-making decisions.'

Playwright **Alan Bennett** is just one of the several thousands of people represented in the Library's collections



Peter Cook, Jonathan Miller, Dudley Moore and Alan Bennett in *Beyond the Fringe*

A famously self-deprecating man, Alan Bennett is nonetheless one of Britain's most important playwrights.

Born in 1934, Bennett attended Leeds Modern School and later won a scholarship to Oxford University. He graduated with a first-class degree in history, but during that time developed a love for the theatre. This passion first came to public attention 50 years ago when the revue show *Beyond the Fringe* debuted at the Edinburgh Festival. The production, which featured Bennett alongside Jonathan Miller, Dudley Moore and Peter Cook, revolutionised British satire, with the quartet taking the show on to London's West End and Broadway to great acclaim.

Bennett next turned his attention to television, contributing to sketch shows such as *Not So Much A Programme*, *More A Way Of Life* (1964-65) and *BBC-3* (1965-66).

His first stage play, *Forty Years On*, followed in 1968 and his first television play, *A Day Out* in 1972. His prolific output, in particular the series of television monologues *Talking Heads* (1988 and 1998), his Oscar-nominated 1994 feature film *The Madness of King George* and his 2004 play *The History Boys*, has afforded him the kind of public profile that is bestowed on very few playwrights – an irony given Bennett's famed reticence to talk up his achievements.

The Edinburgh Fringe comes to the National Library of Scotland with Alan Bissett's *The Moira Monologues* running from 10-13 and 16-21 August at George IV Bridge

Discover more

Read the magazine online at www.nls.uk/about/discover-nls
Look out for the next issue of *Discover NLS* in November