

Annual Review

2009-2010



Photograph of John Byrne with the centrepiece of the *Curtain Up* theatre exhibition, his 'pop-up book' stage set for *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil*, which has recently been acquired for the Library's Collections.



National Librarian and Chief Executive
with the Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Introduction to the Annual Report

by the National Librarian and Chief Executive
and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees

The Library has taken one of several significant steps in making its collections and resources physically accessible to a wider audience with the opening of our new Visitor Centre in September. Opened by the Minister for Culture, Europe and External Affairs along with broadcaster Kirsty Wark, the new facilities enable us to offer three exhibition areas and an expanded events space in addition to a café and shop, with computer terminals, wi-fi access, plasma screens and a more welcoming and accessible Reader Registration area.

That is only part of the story, of course, and we have been working to make our collections accessible to users throughout Scotland, with outreach activities and, most importantly, our expanding programme of digital activity. A successful pilot has been carried out for Remote Registration, a facility which will allow users across Scotland to gain access to large parts of our Licensed Digital Collections, a vast range of electronic resources which, in most cases, would be out of reach for the casual researcher.



In addition, we continue to make more and more of our own collection available online through digitisation, including images, documents, maps and archive film. We have also been working to make such material available through social media outlets to improve the chances of people being able to discover our resources and collections and to share them with others. We are also undertaking projects in partnership with other organisations in this area, from bespoke online learning resources to the digitisation of thousands of Scottish Street Directories.

The printed collections, of course, continue to grow, with notable acquisitions detailed in section 15 including a letter from Jean Armour, widow of Robert Burns, which came to us with the assistance of the American Associates of NLS. Legal Deposit continues to be the largest source for incoming material and, in that regard, we have seen the Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries, the body which deals with the intake and distribution of legal deposit material for all Legal Deposit Libraries (other than the British Library) establish itself on NLS premises at Causewayside.

As Scotland's National Library, we look, of course, to the future of our organisation and our collections. Our Property Asset Management Plan will enable us to get the best out of our physical premises. We are hopeful that, having contributed to a recent Department for Culture Media and Sport consultation on legislation to extend legal deposit to online publications, we will soon be able to start collecting in earnest the published digital output of Scotland, and we have been developing our IT infrastructure accordingly. And finally, we have published a report, *Thriving or Surviving? The National Library of Scotland in 2030*, which looks at the challenges and the opportunities presented to us by the changing nature of publishing, information and researchers in the 21st century and which will inform our strategic approach going forward.

Professor Michael Anderson

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Martyn Wade

National Librarian and Chief Executive

Objectives & Achievements

During 2009-10, the National Library of Scotland was guided by the strategic goals outlined in Expanding our Horizons, our corporate strategy for 2008-2011. These goals fall into broad themes: Developing the Collections, Widening Access to Knowledge, Building Relationships and Developing the Organisation.

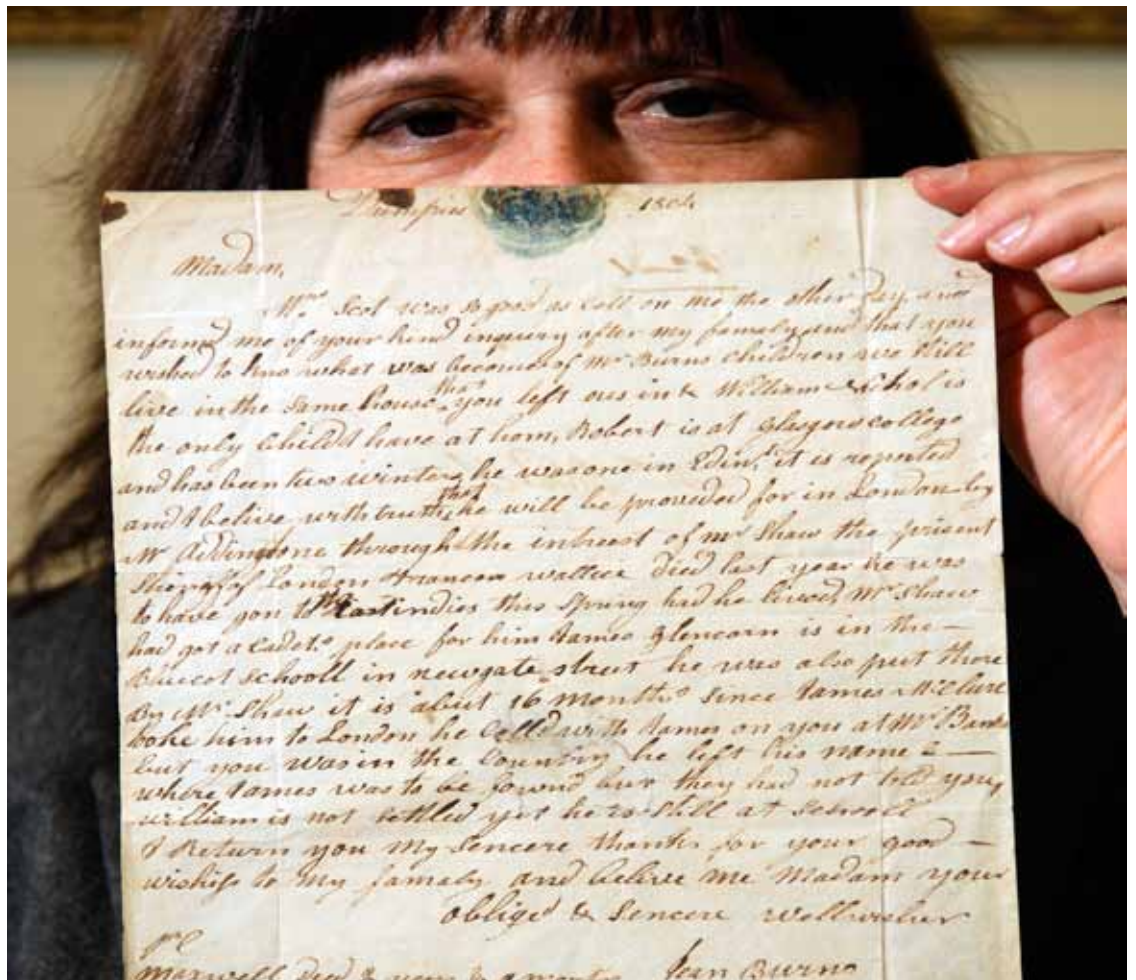


Developing the Collections

The collections continue to grow through both legal deposit, (we received 191,692 items during 2009/2010) and other traditional routes including purchase and donations, and some highlights will be covered below.

However, of even greater importance is the work being done to meet our strategic objective of making the material we already have accessible to more people, and a number of digital projects are worthy of mention in this regard.

- 13,000 Ordnance Survey maps (which are compatible with Google maps for an overlay), plus OS aerial photos of post-war Scotland.
- 3,000 largely out-of-print, out-of-copyright Gaelic books digitised in collaboration with the Internet Archive and imminently available through the NLS website.
- Start of a mass-digitisation project for Post Office Directories.
- Over 100 complete films from the Scottish Screen Archive digitised and made available online.
- Addition of digitised material to both the Digital Library on www.nls.uk and to social media channels including Flickr and Youtube.
- There are now a total of 125,000 records in the Bibliography of Scotland.



In terms of new acquisitions, arguably the most significant single item added to the collection was a letter from Jean Armour, widow of Robert Burns. Not only an exceedingly rare and exciting acquisition in its own right, as demonstrated by the substantial media coverage it received, the letter was also the first major collection donation to be facilitated by the offices of the American Associates of NLS, to whom we are grateful.

Other significant donations of papers included collections related to George Mackay Brown, John Telfer Dunbar, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Nigel Tranter and Tom Weir.

There were also several important purchases including papers of mountaineer PR Oliver (including the diary of a 1938 Everest expedition), the literary archives of JT McIntosh and Janet Paisley, a previously unrecorded atlas of sea charts, mainly of the east coast of Scotland, and Earth, the largest atlas in modern production.

Major film acquisitions included material from Red Star Cinema (left-wing 'agit-prop' films from the 70s and 80s) and the Don McLachlan collection including a wealth of early colour films.

Major rare book acquisitions included an extremely rare first edition of John Barclay's *Euphormionis Lusini Satyricon* printed in Paris in 1605, miniature books printed by David Bryce of Glasgow and a collection of early 20th-century pictorialist photographs by Alexander Wilson Hill.

Research

The Library's Research Strategy was adopted by Trustees. The strategy was developed in order to ensure that staff research is encouraged, recorded and made publicly available for the benefit of the wider community. One major piece of research published by NLS was into the future of National Libraries. Entitled *Thriving or Surviving? The National Library of Scotland in 2030* the report looks at the challenges and opportunities presented by the changing information landscape over the next 20 years.

The Library has continued its support for the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals chartership programme. There have been three major projects undertaken with the support of Arts and Humanities Research Council: PhD studentships for research into Bartholomew Archive, a project on Urban web-mapping, and research into travel writing, focussing on the John Murray Archive. The John Murray Archive traveller's correspondence project was a two year post-doctoral project funded by AHRC (Advance Humanities Research Council). In addition to a number of forthcoming publications, the project produced a very successful international conference, jointly hosted by NLS and the Institute of Geography of the University of Edinburgh.

Work continues on the Wellcome funded project on the medical history of British India, and the Library's South Asian collections were also the subject of interest at the Kolkata Book Fair.

NLS curators across departments and subjects have been involved in many outreach talks to historical, literary and professional societies across Scotland, as well as public events including the NLS Roadshow, which took place in Dundee in November, and have also been involved in hosting numerous seminars at the Library including one on palaeography for Gaelic students, and another for University of Edinburgh Classics postgraduates. We collaborated with two universities on the creation of a rare books librarianship distance-learning module, and conducted numerous workshops in Aberdeen Central Library and at the Royal College of Physicians on how to report holdings to English Short Title Catalogue.



Building Relationships



The Library participated in several consultations and working groups throughout the period, most notably the Department for Culture Media and Sport consultation on the collection of digital publications. The consultation refers to legislation required to enable NLS (and other legal deposit libraries) to address a gap in the national collection which is growing at an increasing rate, namely to collect those items published online. At the moment, we cannot comprehensively collect this material, and so a substantial proportion of the published record of Scotland and the UK is being lost.

The Library hosted and gave submissions to working groups on Literature in Scotland and Traditional Arts in Scotland.

The year of Homecoming was celebrated through the travelling exhibition, *Zig-Zag: the paths of Robert Burns*, which continued touring to Dumfries and Glasgow. Our summer exhibition, *The Original Export*, also marked Homecoming, and we took part in the closing celebrations by hosting the Saltire Society Literary Awards and with a particularly Scottish-themed display in the Treasures Area.

The Library built on relationships throughout the country with numerous outreach activities including the Dundee Roadshow, support for the Ullapool Book Festival and numerous events, exhibition loans and film screenings across the country and in collaboration with many other institutions from local to national level, including an expanded involvement with the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The Library continues to support the Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition and the Callum Macdonald Memorial Award for pamphlet poetry.

Numerous collaborative events were hosted including launches for Edinburgh Napier University's Robert Louis Stevenson web resource, the STANZA poetry programme and Alexander McCall Smith's new book *Precious and the Puggies*, translated into Scots. Several seminars were also hosted across a diverse range of subjects and audiences, from sprinkler safety to the national newspaper *Newsplan*, the archival programme.

Our customer magazine, *Discover NLS*, won Customer Magazine of the Year at the Scottish Magazine Awards and Corporate Magazine of the Year at the Corpcomm awards. The Library also received considerable media coverage throughout the period, with major coverage for the opening of the Visitor Centre, the display of the last letter of Mary Queen of Scots as well as other Treasures displays, the *Curtain Up* theatre exhibition and associated events, and the acquisition of a letter from Jean Armour.

A memorandum of understanding with Scottish Enterprise will enable us to further promote business information resources. We have also joined the Early English Books Online (EEBO) Text Creation Partnership, which is creating searchable full text of items on EEBO. (This will be paid for over 5 years from the Rare Books allocation of the Collections Purchase Fund.) Our EEBO users will find a growing number of EEBO items available in text format, which is very useful for books in difficult fonts, and can search across them all.

The Library's social media presence has grown, with the addition of a presence on Twitter and the development of a Facebook page with a following of over 1,000 fans as well as a wealth of content made available through content-sharing sites such as Youtube and Flickr. We have also made audio recordings of selected events available online as well as some films made by NLS staff.

The success and value of these and other activities is reflected in the fact that public awareness of the Library has risen from 39% last year to 49% this year.



Inspirations at NLS. Peter Tatchell in conversation with Richard Halloway

Widening Access



Visitor Centre

One of several significant steps towards widening access to the Library for all was taken in September, with the formal opening of the Visitor Centre, performed by Culture Minister Michael Russell MSP and broadcaster Kirsty Wark. The new facilities open up the ground floor of the Library to public access, with three exhibition spaces, a refurbished events space, PC terminals and plasma screens and a new shop and café, which was recently awarded 'best newcomer' by Edinburgh Fairtrade. Aided by the brief display of the last letter of Mary Queen of Scots and a high-profile media campaign, the Library attracted over 15,000 people in the first week alone, a figure which exceeded the normal footfall for the entire run of the previous year's winter exhibition.

Exhibitions & Events

Taking advantage of the expanded and improved display areas, the breadth and depth of the collections was showcased in a diverse exhibition programme across the main exhibitions and the Treasures area. As well as key treasures such as Mary's last letter and the *Order for the Massacre of Glencoe*, there were smaller displays on Chopin and astronomer James Ferguson, plus major exhibitions on emigration and Scottish Theatre. The John Murray Archive exhibition was also refreshed to tie in with the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's *Origin*, with the introduction of new characters Charles Lyell and the Duke of Argyll.

An expanded events programme, particularly since the completion of the boardroom refurbishment, has seen public events with figures such as Ian Rankin, Peter Tatchell, Alasdair Gray and many others, and we were pleased to welcome over 200 people for guided 'behind the scenes' tours on Doors Open Day.

Education & Outreach

A number of innovative initiatives and projects have taken place in the last year. On Mull, schoolchildren learned from travel resources in the John Murray Archive before developing their own 21st century equivalents in the form of walking tours of the island on PDAs in the Great Escapes project.

Designed and produced in partnership with Learning and Teaching Scotland and teachers themselves, *A Guid Cause* is a new online resource about the suffragette movement in Scotland which encourages pupils to critically assess primary archive resources in order to learn more about historical topics.

The anniversaries of Darwin and *Origin* were celebrated with two key projects. *Evolving Words*, in partnership with poet Anita Govan and the North Edinburgh Arts Centre saw young adults develop original poetry inspired by Darwin and his work, which they then performed at the Library and in an event at the Wellcome Trust in London. *This View of Life* drew on the work of JMA writer-in-residence Peter Arnott, who scripted a play based on his interaction with Darwin's correspondence. The play was then staged by schoolchildren for other schools groups at the Library and at venues in Stirling and Glasgow with the help of TAG Theatre Company.

School groups were also involved in World Book Day debates, where they listened to NLS curators talking about their own favourite books and then voted for their favourites.

In partnership with Scottish Screen and Learning and Teaching Scotland, the Scottish Screen Archive contributed to an interactive web-based educational resource, Scotland on Screen, which gives students and teachers free access to archive film documenting over a century of Scottish social, economic and environmental change. The material has been selected and tagged for its relevance to learning and teaching in Scottish schools, particularly the Curriculum for Excellence, and the resource was shortlisted for the UK Learning on Screen Awards.



Developing the Organisation and Infrastructure



The Library has developed a Property Asset Management Plan that identifies the most effective and efficient use of our buildings. Included is an ongoing space rationalisation project that could enable our existing estate to provide our collections storage requirements for 25 years. In addition we are contributing to the Scottish Government's environmental sustainability agenda by implementing a carbon reduction plan that aims to reduce our carbon emissions by 30% over the next five years.

In order to meet the future challenges of the digital information landscape, the Library has been expanding its digital infrastructure with the development of increased digital storage capacity. Work in this area was recognised in the form of a 'Laureate' Award from the Computerworld Information Technology Awards Foundation.

Whilst the impact of the flooding incident in February 2009 on the collections was relatively limited, substantial work has been carried out to remedy and mitigate damage to estates, with drying, dehumidification and mould removal as well as repair work on those collection items which were affected in addition to ongoing reviews of business continuity procedures to cover a range of potential emergency situations. A drive towards greater efficiency has underpinned much of the Library's activity over the last year. As such, we have been actively pursuing the shared services agenda in order to realise cost savings and process benefits. Progress is being made in the areas of central

services including Finance, Human Resources and Information systems, and a concrete example comes in the area of Health and Safety, where the national collecting institutions have jointly invested in a software package which will track and manage training issues and risk across the organisations, leading to efficiency savings in the joint procurement of relevant equipment and training.

As well as cost efficiency, environmental efficiency is a priority, and the work of the Green NLS group, bringing together staff, trade union and management to work on areas for improvement was recently recognised in the form of a case study presented in a TUC paper.



Fundraising



We are now entering the final stages of the Library's major fundraising campaign in recent years; acquiring the renowned John Murray publishing archive and making it accessible for everyone to enjoy. Over £30 million has been raised so far with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Scottish Government and many philanthropic individuals, charitable trusts and foundations and company supporters. We now have just under 10% of the fundraising target remaining as we enter the concluding stages of the campaign in 2010/11.

The American Associates of the National Library of Scotland (AANLS) continues to grow; it welcomed two new Board members in 2010 and it made a major contribution (\$70,000) to the John Murray Archive project through its network of supporters in the US. The AANLS was also delighted to accept a donation in kind from a friend of the Library, Nancy Groce, who discovered a lost letter to the wife of Robert Burns, Jean Armour Burns, in a junk shop in New York. The AANLS Board is now looking forward to promoting the Library and its national collection to friends and supporters in the US in 2010/11 through a series of activities and events.

The Library completed the fundraising project for its new Visitor Centre, receiving major contributions from two corporate supporters in 2009/10 – John Menzies Plc and William Grant & Sons. Supporters of the Visitor Centre Project have enabled the Library to open up access to its main entrance hall and its exhibitions and events spaces, encouraging many more new visitors to explore its collections and services.

Thank you

We gratefully thank all of our funders, supporters and donors for the year from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. Thanks also to our Board of Trustees, Development Committee, Campaign Group and AANLS Board.

A full list can be found here: www.nls.uk/supportnls/donor-list.html

John Murray Archive (JMA) Project funders and supporters
This year was marked by further extremely generous support for our John Murray Archive Project.

JMA Major Donors

Heritage Lottery Fund
Scottish Government
The Darwin Trust of Edinburgh
The John R Murray Charitable Trust

JMA Sponsors

The Michael Marks Charitable Trust
The North British Hotel Trust
Mr Chris M Giles

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Mr Charles Lovatt
Mr Robin Menzies
Ms Anne Mortimer
Dr and Mrs Willis R S Pickard
Mr W James Wolffe QC and Mrs Sarah P L Wolffe QC

Visitor Centre Project Funders

The new NLS Visitor Centre was officially opened in September 2009 and the donors below supported its development during this financial year:
John Menzies Plc
William Grant & Sons

Other Projects

The Bartholomew Archive Project

The John R Murray Charitable Trust

NLS Events

Royal Norwegian Consulate

Callum Macdonald Memorial Award

Mr Robert Gregor
Institute of Contemporary Scotland
The Michael Marks Charitable Trust
Mr and Mrs James Barr
Mrs C Mary Coghill
Mr John Maclean

The Curator's Chest

The Lansdowne Charitable Settlement

Education and Interpretation Programme

The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation
The John R Murray Charitable Trust

American Associates of the NLS Donors

Driver Family Foundation
Mrs Darlene T Anderson
Mr and Mrs George Carmany
Professor Martha W Driver
Mr Francis K Finlay OBE
Ms Allison Fippingger
Mrs Janet Saint Germain

and many others who wish their generosity to remain anonymous.

Board of Trustees

You can find details of the Board here:
<http://www.nls.uk/about/trustees/index.html#members>

