

OUR SCOTS TONGUE
New books in an old language

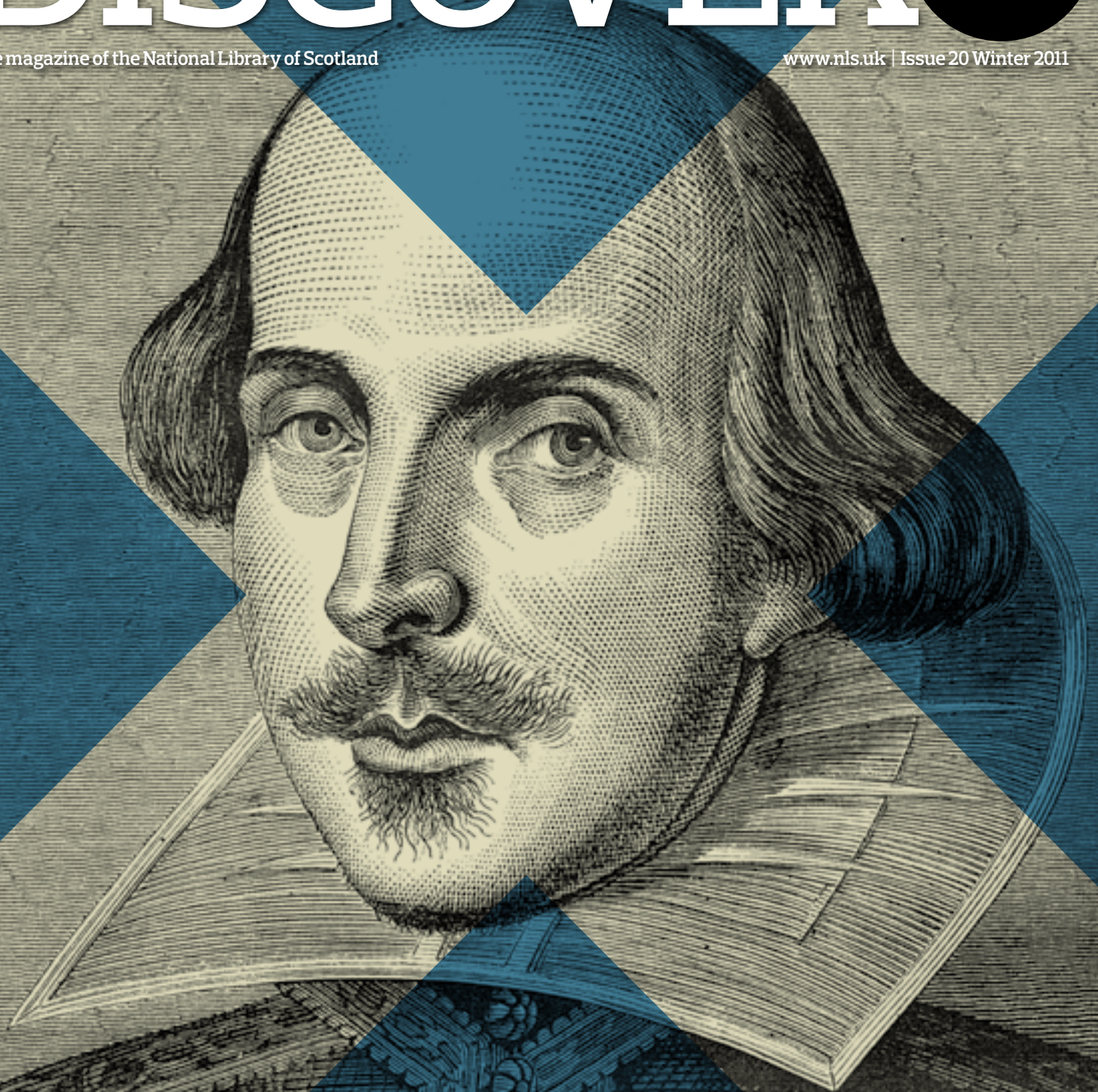


**WHAT MAPS
TELL US ABOUT
OUR HISTORY**

DISCOVER **nls**

The magazine of the National Library of Scotland

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Beyond Macbeth

Exploring Shakespeare's contribution
to Scottish cultural life



DISCOVER NLS
ISSUE 20 WINTER 2011

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Using the Library to shed some light

This is my first opportunity to welcome readers to an issue of *Discover NLS*, and it's particularly well timed as within this issue's news section we tell of a link up between NLS and the University of Dundee, which is where I carry out my 'day job'. As the university's Director of the Library and Learning Centre, I am heartened to read how some of NLS' online resources are being utilised by our medical students, as you too will discover.

The ways in which existing materials have been – and are still being – interpreted and reinterpreted by others is something that informs one of our main features this issue. The Library's upcoming exhibition, *Beyond Macbeth*, is an examination into the ways in which, over the centuries, the works of Shakespeare have been collected and preserved. These collections say much about the esteem that the playwright has been held in at different points of history, but also reveals another fascinating story – that of scholarly obsession through the ages.

A fellow Member of the Library's Board of Trustees, Willis Pickard, brings us another historical great, albeit one less celebrated than Shakespeare. Nonetheless, Duncan McLaren was a figure that influenced and shaped 19th-century life in Scotland, rescuing Edinburgh from bankruptcy and leading the Scottish campaign against the Corn Laws. Willis has recently completed a book that takes a look at the man's life and achievements and here he tells us how he brought a lifetime's story together.

Another new publication gives us a reason this issue to present some beautiful cartographic images from the Library's collections. As Chris Fleet tells us, maps can inform us about much more than geography – they are social and political records, too. Elsewhere in these pages, we celebrate the vibrancy of the Scots language through a range of books that translate some classic children's stories for the modern Scots reader.

There's also the usual round up of NLS news and events, plus another example of how the Library's online resources can shed light on the most eclectic of subject matter – in this case 16th-century witchcraft!

I hope you find much to entertain you in this winter edition.



R Parsons

RICHARD PARSONS
Member of the National Library of Scotland's Board of Trustees

THREE NLS VIDEO RESOURCES

1

INTRODUCING LADY CAROLINE LAMB

Assistant Curator Rachel Beattie introduces us to Lady Caroline Lamb, one of her favourite authors from the John Murray Archive.

www.nls.uk/about-us/films-made-by-nls/caroline-lamb



2

YOUR GUIDE TO THE LIBRARY

Find out everything you need to know about the National Library, from its history to how to use resources in person and at home

www.nls.uk/learning-zone/video-guides

3

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Cate Newton, former Director of Collections and Research, talks about some of the highlights from the collection

www.nls.uk/learning-zone/library-favourites/collection-highlights



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Shakespeare is a figure that anyone can respond to

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A Senior Curator in NLS' Rare Book Collections, Helen is also co-curator of the Library's Beyond Macbeth exhibition



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Willis Pickard
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Making the most of your National Library

With a collection of over 14 million printed items, two million maps, 32,000 films, three miles of manuscripts, plus thousands of photos, getting around NLS requires a little navigation

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
159 Causewayside
Edinburgh EH9 1PH
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

HOW TO JOIN

To use NLS' Reading Rooms and order up items from the



There's a lot to experience at NLS

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.

On your first visit to the Library, you should go to Registration where staff will take your photo and produce a library card for you. For proof of identity and confirmation of your address, bring one or more documents that include your name and address, supported by a signature or photograph.

VIEWING MATERIAL

If you know what you are looking for, we recommend making your request for the

required material in advance of your visit to the Library. Requests can be made in person, by telephone on 0131 623 3820 or 3821, or by email: enquiries@nls.uk

In addition, if you have a library card number, books can be ordered in advance via the online catalogue on our website.

More information about pre-ordering is available at www.nls.uk/using-the-library/reading-rooms/general/preorders

ONLINE

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

business databases (see opposite for a list). Many of these resources are available over the internet to readers living in Scotland, although restrictions do apply to some of the collections, in line with licence agreements. Your first port of call to access the Library's licensed digital collections is <https://auth.nls.uk/ldc>

VISITOR CENTRE

The Visitor Centre at NLS' George IV Bridge was opened in 2009. It 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.

FOCUS ON

The Scottish Collection

The Scottish Collection at NLS represents Scotland and Scots' important contributions to the world. It covers a wide range of print and non-print materials, including the world's largest and most important collection of



modern Scottish books and periodicals.

Among its holdings are impressive documents on Scottish working people's history and the life and times of Winston Churchill (pictured left), MP for Dundee before he became a wartime Prime Minister.

The Scottish Screen Archive is a national moving images collection and forms part of the larger

collection. It features some of the earliest footage of the country captured on film. A favourite in the archive shows holidaymakers leaving Glasgow by train for the coast at Rothesay, enjoying a drink before playing on the beach.

For more information go to www.nls.uk/collections/scottish

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; SCRAM Digital Materials; + Times Literary Supplement Historical Archive **and** + SUR Digital Archive.

BUSINESS

Online resources for businesses, including + COBRA – The Complete Business Reference Adviser; Datamonitor 360; + Economist Historical Archive; Euromonitor Passport Markets; 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; Mintel Market Research Reports.

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Educational resources include + ALPSP Learned Journals Science 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; + 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 Newspaper 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 and 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).

REFERENCE WORKS AND CATALOGUES

+ Credo Reference gives you access to 400 high-quality reference books from the world's leading publishers. + Early American Imprints, Series 1 – Evans, 1639-1800; + Early English Books Online 1475-1700 (EEBO); **and** + Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) Parts 1 & 2; Oxford English Dictionary Online **and** Oxford Reference Online.

ACCESSING MATERIAL

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 by people living in Scotland (although please be aware that some require registration for remote access).

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
<https://auth.nls.uk/lcd>



Explore the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers

The story of the Bible in English, plus the centenary of Scott's fateful mission to the Antarctic are remembered at the National Library of Scotland

Treasures space tells biblical epic

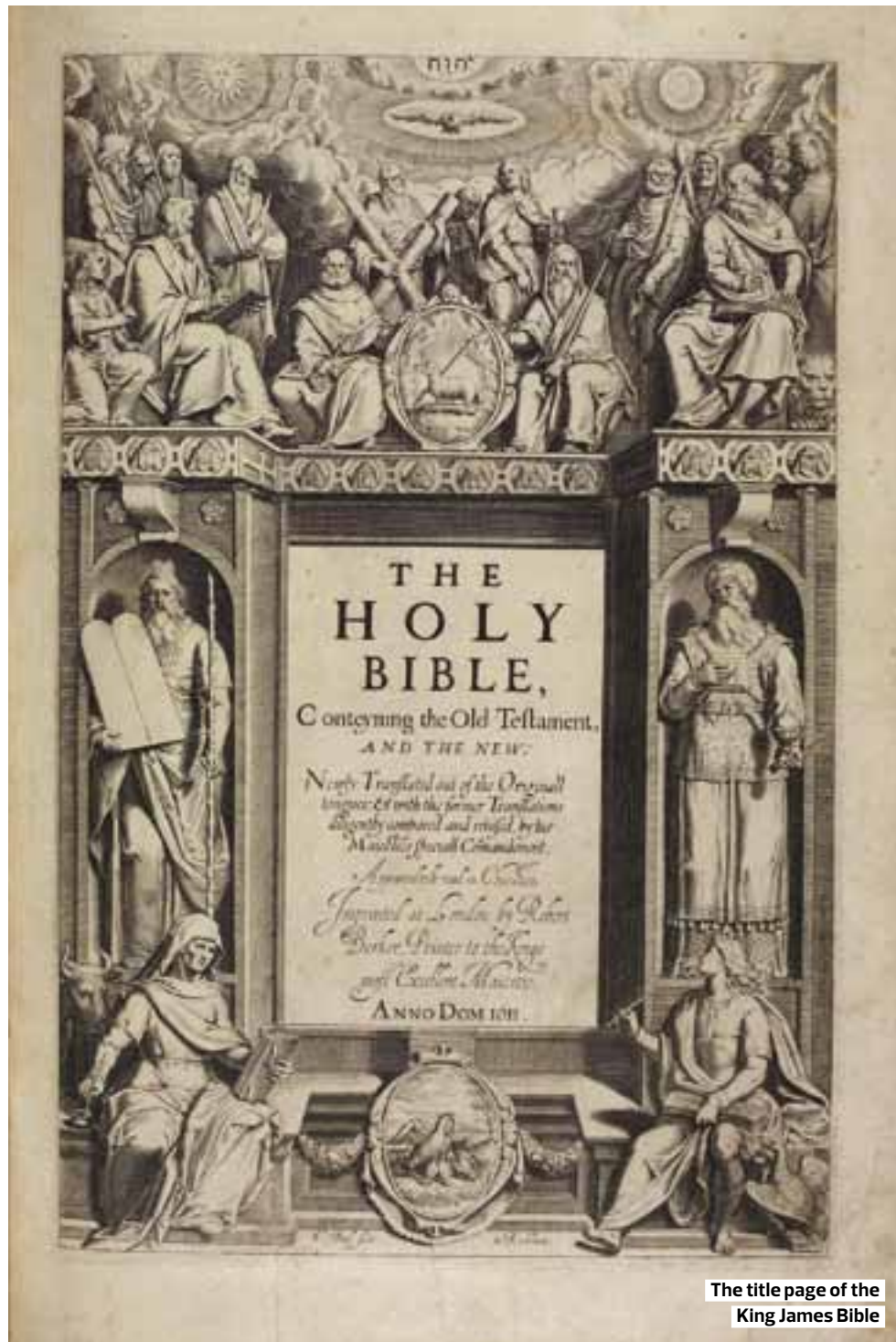
The last display for 2011 in the NLS Treasures space will tell the story of the Bible in English.

Our story starts in the late 14th century with the theologian and philosopher John Wyclif and a team of scholars

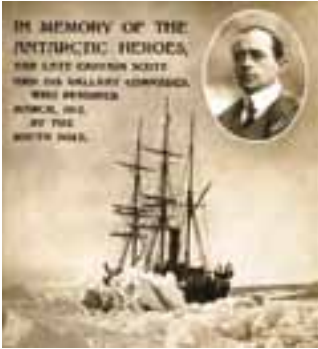
who produced the first complete English translation of the Bible. The ability to hear and read the text in one's own language rather than Latin – one of the key demands of the Protestant Reformers – was viewed with great suspicion by the English authorities, and in many cases vernacular translations were ruthlessly suppressed. English scholar and religious reformer William Tyndale translated the New Testament from the original Greek into English, but was forced to print it in Lutheran Germany. Copies had to be smuggled back into England, where many were seized and publicly burnt. Tyndale himself was burnt at the stake for heresy. English Bibles continued to be printed on the Continent.

Once vernacular Bibles became more acceptable to the powers that be, translations into English flourished. The scholarship involved in this work was amazing, as can still be seen in the marginal notes, particularly in those of the Geneva Bible of 1560. In a new twist, these notes then provoked the disapproval of the Anglican bishops and in particular of King James VI. Their demand for a new translation without marginal notes resulted in the King James Bible of 1611.

The display showcases both manuscript and printed copies of the landmark translations into English. The high light is a first edition copy of the King James Bible to mark the 400th anniversary of its publication.



The title page of the King James Bible



SUCH A TALE TO TELL...

It is 100 years since Captain Robert Falcon Scott led his fateful last expedition to Antarctica. The centenary will be marked with a display of treasures, including letters showing the planning and hard work required to launch such an expedition, and biographical and scientific books written by members of the party.

On the news reaching Britain of the Polar party's tragic demise, the nation's grief was captured in a number of memorial postcards of the unfortunate explorers (above). Published in the best selling, posthumously issued *Scott's Last Expedition*, Scott's own final words – 'Had we lived, I would have had such a tale to tell of the hardiness, endurance, and courage of my companions which would have stirred the heart of every Englishman' – have proved strangely prophetic.

The King James Version of the Bible display runs from 2 November to 8 January 2012. The Scott of the Antarctic display runs from 12 January to 25 March 2012

Bring and Byron

RARE BOOKS

The National Library of Scotland has identified a long lost tribute to Lord Byron, once held in his family vault in Nottinghamshire, where he was buried after his death in 1824. However, rather than being discovered in someone's dusty private collection, the book was bought for just a few dollars at a church bring and buy sale in the United States.

The volume has now been returned to the UK and donated to NLS by Marilyn Solana (pictured), the retired speech pathologist who bought it at her local church in Savannah, Georgia.

The book records tributes and poetic laments written by more than 800 people, many of them well known contemporaries of the romantic poet. Among those who contributed to the work are John Murray III, Washington Irving and Martin Van Buren, who later became the eighth President of the USA.

'This is a remarkable find, which offers a fascinating insight into Byron's posthumous



reputation,' says David McClay, the curator who solved the puzzle of the book. 'I'm sure there will be international interest in what has come to light.'

McClay, who largely worked from transcripts, believed he had identified some of the important figures



The Library's Scottish Screen Archive celebrated its 35th birthday on 15 November. The archive was set up in 1976 to find, protect and provide access to Scotland's moving image heritage. It has been part of the Collections Department at the National Library of Scotland since April 2007.

Library on the road

OUTREACH

NLS stages its annual roadshow during March 2012, working in partnership with East Renfrewshire Libraries. On 11 March a local history fair will take place at Eastwood Theatre, Giffnock. It will

include talks by staff from NLS' map library and Scottish Screen Archive. On the following day workshops will take place for local schools, teachers and librarians.

Email events@nls.uk or call 0131 623 3846

1813 portrait
of Lord Byron
at age 25

included in the book. He later confirmed his suspicions when he was able to inspect the work at a conference held in the USA. NLS was delighted to welcome Marilyn to Edinburgh when she presented the Library with the book.

BY THE
NUMBERS

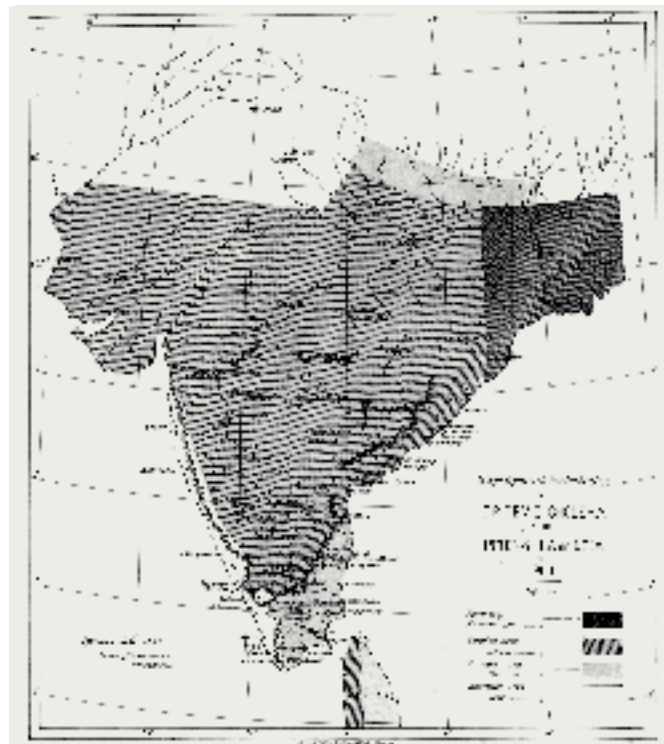
32,000
items are held
in the Scottish
Screen Archive,
and it's growing
all the time

Students use NLS resource

COLLABORATION

An NLS online resource is being used as part of the University of Dundee's BMSc International Health module. The module enables students to take a year out of medical training to hone research skills. It also provides future doctors with a deeper understanding of the health challenges facing the world today, including health policies and systems, political and economic factors, ethics and interventions.

NLS' Medical History of British India website includes historical information on lethal diseases, such as cholera and malaria, and students are using the resource to track how medical knowledge and attitudes have changed over the past 150 years. They are then taking this information and applying it to current worldwide practices. While studying the website, students also gain a valuable insight into the role libraries play in preserving the past



A geographical distribution of cholera in India from the collection

while still allowing the public to access materials.

Last year a Dundee University student chose NLS' India Papers on Lock Hospitals as the subject for her dissertation. Her text examined the role of British colonists in running a

system to protect soldiers from venereal disease.

The Medical History of British India website has been funded by grants from the Wellcome Trust.

www.nls.uk/indiapapers

National Library's Iain Gordon Brown retires

PEOPLE

Principal Manuscripts Curator Dr Iain Gordon Brown has left the Library after 34 years of service. Among other things he has been responsible for material relating to Walter Scott and has contributed much to our understanding of the great man. Iain has made many important acquisitions for the nation in this and other areas,



and has published extremely widely in the field of cultural history. He has curated notable exhibitions and in 2010 *Rax Me That Buik*, his anthology highlighting the Library's collections was published.

Iain has been a regular contributor to *Discover NLS*, writing on topics ranging from the completion of The Edinburgh Edition of the

Waverley Novels to the connection between Conan Doyle and the modern-day conflict in Afghanistan.

In 1985 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and in 1997 a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's national academy. He was President of the Old Edinburgh Club from 2007 to 2010, President of the Sir Walter Scott Club 2009-10, and serves on the editorial boards of several academic journals. He is a curatorial adviser to the Abbotsford Trust and has recently been appointed a Trustee of The Edinburgh World Heritage.

“Two-thirds of those accused of witchcraft were executed”

CURATOR'S CHOICE

Nicola Stratton, Assistant Curator Modern Scottish Collections, on using Scottish Bibliographies Online to track down material on the Scottish witch-hunts

An area of Scottish history for which I have a particular fascination is the Scottish witch-hunts. Over 3,800 Scots were accused of witchcraft during the period from 1563 to 1736, and it is likely that some two-thirds of those accused were executed. Understanding how this came about involves studying not only the history of the period, but also learning about the legal procedures, religion, politics and folk-beliefs of the era. When reading about Scottish witches, you may find yourself delving into a whole range of material, from academic histories to articles in legal journals and popular magazines. Tracking down material from such a wide range of sources is something that Scottish Bibliographies Online (SBO) can help with.

SBO is a free, continually updated resource for Scottish subjects. At present it contains over 135,000 records including references to books, chapters and articles. As well as non-fiction, SBO also includes information on creative works such as novels, poetry and plays by Scottish authors or set in Scotland.

Searching SBO for 'witchcraft' and 'witches' unearths a variety of texts at every level, from academic studies to fiction and plays such as Rona Munro's *The Last Witch* (2009). There are even musical scores, for



Nicola Stratton
with material on
Scottish witch-hunts

example James MacMillan's *The Confession of Isobel Gowdie*, as well as more ephemeral items such as exhibition catalogues.

Where SBO really comes into its own is in tracking down relevant articles in journals. Searching on SBO reveals pieces on the Scottish witch-hunts in a broad range of publications, from the

Scottish Historical Review to the *Scots Magazine*. There are some intriguing finds, such as an article in the *Scottish Medical Journal* giving a psychiatric assessment of a group of witches in the late 17th century who came to be known as the 'Bargarran Witches'.

This to me demonstrates both the interdisciplinary

nature of the study of the witch-hunts and the range of material on SBO. No matter what Scottish subject you are interested in, SBO will help you find information on it. You might even discover a lot more than you first expected!

For more information
www.nls.uk/collections/scottish/modern



In search of Scottish film

APPEAL

NLS' Scottish Screen Archive (SSA) is looking for films and videos shot anywhere in Scotland over the last 40 years.

Concerned that these items might be lost forever if not collected, the SSA is interested in films currently gathering dust in attics.

Kay Foubister, the Scottish Screen Archive Curator who is working on this project

says, 'The advent of cheaper video cameras in the 1980s and 1990s made it easier for people to record local events. However, video has been replaced by newer technology and there is a danger that these tapes will be discarded. We want to prevent that happening.'

If you think you can help, go to www.gla.ac.uk/cams or email ssaacquisitions@nls.uk. Alternatively, you can call 0845 366 4608

SSA IS PARTICULARLY LOOKING FOR FILMS FROM:

- Video workshops/ community groups/ action groups
- Cine/Video Clubs
- Promotional films for local industries/ charities/tourism
- Sport and leisure
- Footage depicting significant changes in local communities
- Special local community events such as Gala Days or Millennium celebrations

NLS is continuing its successful collaboration with *Gutter*, Scotland's leading magazine of fiction and poetry. On 3 November, the Library hosted a late evening literary cabaret with readings from a selection of authors. Highlights included novelist and short story writers Brian McCabe, Elizabeth Reeder and exciting new literary talent Vicki Jarrett. *Gutter* returns to NLS in the spring; look out for details of the next event on the NLS website.



COMPETITION

WIN COPY OF NEW NLS MAP BOOK



Scotland: Mapping the Nation, is a new book co-published by NLS that features

220 full-colour illustrations, covering maps of Scotland from the Roman age right the way up to modern times.

For your chance to win a copy all you need to do is identify the location of this detail (above).

POST YOUR ENTRY ALONG WITH YOUR ADDRESS TO Discover NLS Mapping the Nation Competition, Think Scotland, 20-23 Woodside Place, Glasgow G3 7QF, or email discovernls@thinkpublishing.co.uk (with 'Mapping the Nation Competition' in the subject line). Closing date is Friday 27 January

For more see page 24

Cartoonist joins JMA

JOHN MURRAY ARCHIVE

The Library's John Murray Archive (JMA) has recently welcomed into its collections hundreds of pieces of artwork by cartoonist, author and



critic Sir Osbert Lancaster. He was perhaps best known for his single-column cartoons published in the *Daily Express* for much of the 20th century. Lancaster's work often addressed issues of class, and took sideswipes at cars and modern architecture – two bugbears of his.

By the time he stopped drawing for the *Daily Express* in 1981, it was estimated Lancaster had produced around 10,000 cartoons for the newspaper.

Winter events at NLS

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

IN CONVERSATION ON FAITH & WORK

29 November, 6pm
Brian Smith, former Bishop of Edinburgh, chairs a conversation with successful city hairdresser Charlie Miller on how his beliefs and values influence his working life.

EDITING PUZZLES AND TECHNIQUES

7 December, 6pm
SOLD OUT A hands-on workshop about modern editing techniques, using some practical examples from the New Edinburgh Edition of Robert Louis Stevenson.

CALLUM MACDONALD POETRY PAMPHLET FAIR

13 December, 6pm
Independent Scottish poetry publishing is going from strength to strength and this festive fair in our

George IV Bridge Building is always a popular event.

SCOTLAND'S SHAKESPEARE: EPISODES AND EXAMPLES

15 December, 5.45pm

SOLD OUT Tracing some key episodes in the history of Shakespeare's reception and appropriation, this talk asks whether Shakespeare has a clear place in Scottish culture. Supported by The Arts & Humanities Research Council.

Please note, bookings for the following events cannot be made until mid-December

OSSIAN—AN EPIC CONTROVERSY

7 February, 6pm
It is 250 years since Fingal, an ancient Gaelic epic poem by the harp-playing Highland bard Ossian, was revealed to the English-speaking world. Allan and Linda Burnett are the editors of *Blind Ossian's Fingal* and



they discuss the provenance of this remarkable body of literature.

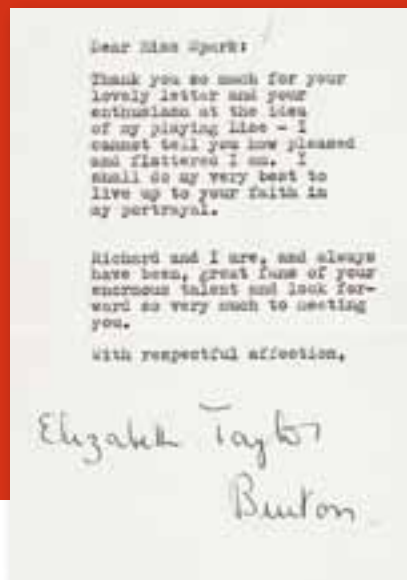
JOHN MURRAY'S HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS

15 March, 6pm

Murray's Handbooks are remembered as some of the most prestigious and pioneering guidebooks of the 19th century. Dr Gordon Johnston and Dr Gráinne Goodwin delve into the Murray Archive and the Victorian press to explore how the Handbooks' commercial and critical fortunes hold the key to the sale of the series.

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

The actress Elizabeth Taylor (far right), who died earlier this year, once sent a brief letter to Edinburgh-born writer Muriel Spark (right). This letter is now held in NLS' collections, and dates from around the time that Taylor was cast as Lise in *Identikit* (1974), the film version of Spark's novella *The Driver's Seat* (1970).

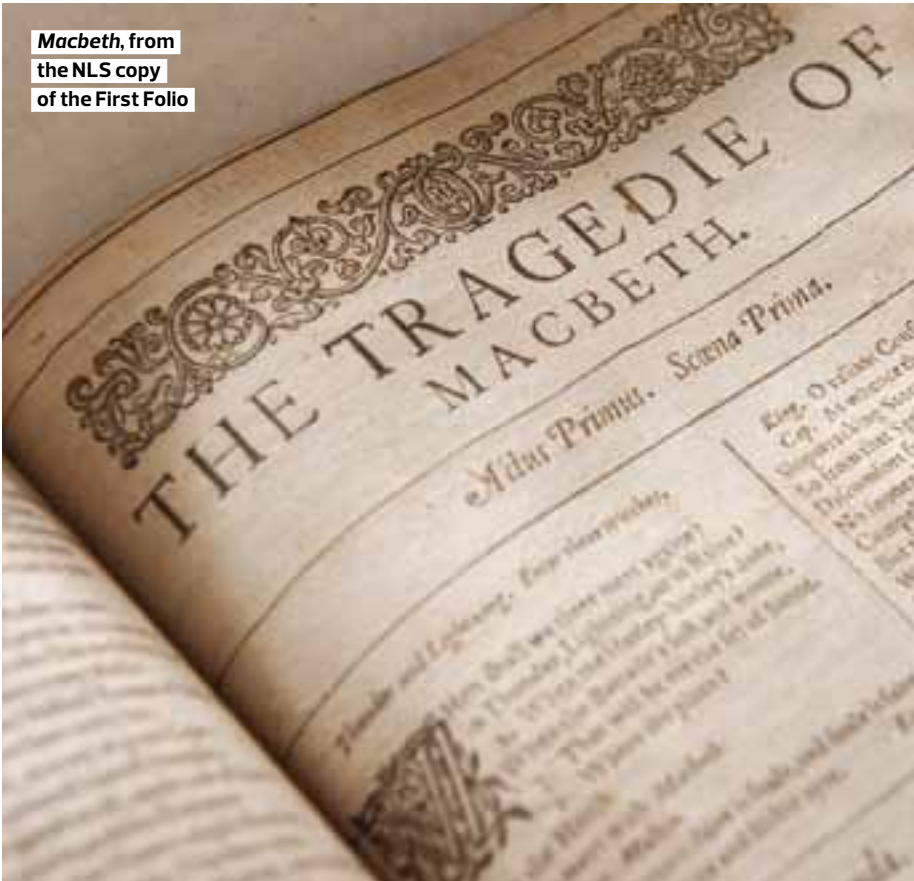




Beyond the Scottish Play

Co-curators **Helen Vincent** and **James Loxley** take **Andrew Littlefield** on a guided tour round a new NLS exhibition, *Beyond Macbeth*, that looks at the people who have collected and obsessed about Shakespeare, and the way that over the centuries the English bard has been central to Scottish cultural life

**Macbeth, from
the NLS copy
of the First Folio**



If William Shakespeare can never be called Scotland's national bard, his works are nonetheless deeply embedded within the seams of Scottish history and culture. It's a connection that reaches all the way back to the summer of 1606, the most likely date for the completion of *Macbeth*, long called the Scottish Play by superstitious thespians. This tragic study of blind ambition came to Shakespeare from an early historical source, Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles of Scotland* (1577). It made its print debut in 1623, within the leaves of the First Folio, that landmark collection that initiated Shakespeare's gradual elevation to literary pre-eminence.

In Act Four of *Macbeth*, 11th-century Scotland is described as a land

*Where sighs, and groans, and shrieks
that rend the air
Are made, not mark'd; where violent
sorrow seems
A modern ecstasy.*

To counteract this rather grim imagery, a new exhibition at the National Library of Scotland, jointly curated with the University of Edinburgh, seeks to move 'Beyond Macbeth', beyond Gothic cliché and misguided authorship disputes, to the

more modern ecstasy of 21st-century bibliographic interrogation.

No doubt the NLS copy of the First Folio on display in the exhibition, which came to the Scottish Society of Antiquaries in 1784 from a Miss Clarke of Dunbar, will command a great deal of visitor attention, but it is just one of many priceless books and manuscripts held by the two institutions. These objects not only tell us a great deal about Shakespeare, literature and Scotland, but also help bring to life a world of readerly obsession, scholarly rivalry, public fame and private passion.

Dr James Loxley, Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh and one of the two curators of *Beyond Macbeth*, tells me: 'There are extraordinarily rich collections of Shakespeare material held at NLS and the University of Edinburgh Library, and we would like people to be aware of these collections in a way that perhaps they haven't been before.' The other exhibition curator – Helen Vincent, Senior Curator, NLS Rare Book Collections – adds, 'What we wanted to do was to say "Look, we have these world class collections", but then the exhibition really asks "Why do we have these world class collections?" So we're looking at the people who collected these books and the people who brought them to our libraries.'

The fan of Shakespeare

WILLIAM DRUMMOND

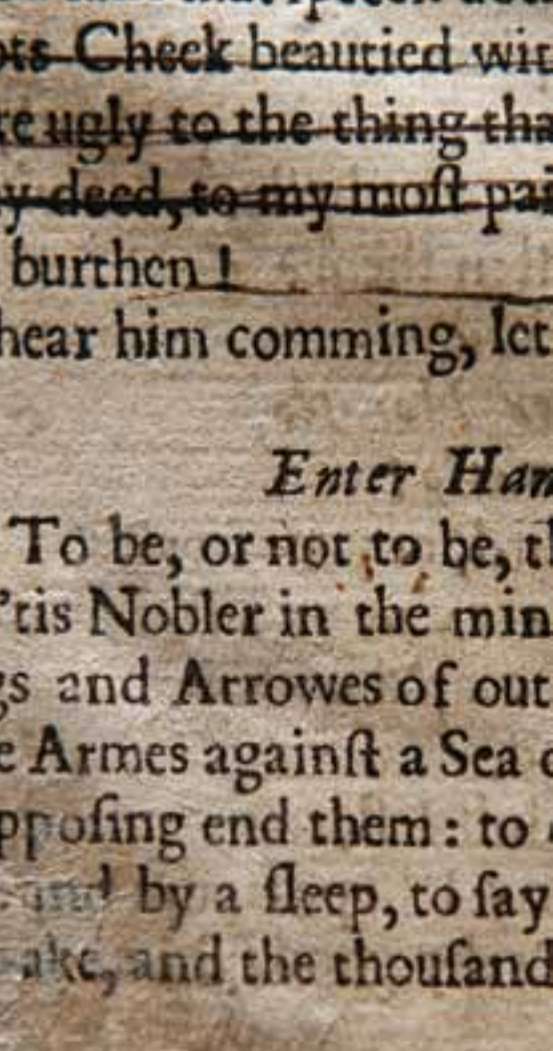
Beyond Macbeth focuses on successive generations of Shakespearean scholars and enthusiasts who have all had a significant impact on both Scottish cultural life and the Shakespeare collections of NLS and the University of Edinburgh Library. The first such figure, William Drummond of Hawthornden (1585-1649), was a contemporary of Shakespeare who can be numbered amongst the playwright's earliest fans. Born and educated in Edinburgh, Drummond was himself a poet, a man of letters who read and collected classical and contemporary literature from across Europe, including the plays of Shakespeare in their quarto editions.

According to James Loxley, 'The Shakespeare quartos that Drummond collected were part of his broader library of contemporary writing. In the 1620s, he made a gift of that library to the college where he studied, the University of Edinburgh, so the Shakespeare quartos in the university library have been there not far short of 400 years now and they've only had two careful owners in all that time.'

Helen Vincent points out that, 'It's very unusual for a university library to receive plays like that. In the same period the Bodleian Library was banning the acquisition of playbooks because they were "idle bookes and riffe raffes"'. There's a very nice image from Drummond's essay 'Of Libraries' where he talks about how, just as there are all kinds of bushes and shrubs in a forest, so there should be all kinds of books in a library. That's a principle we still operate on at NLS.'



**William
Drummond,
poet and theatre-goer**



The play's the thing

Rare prompt copies show the marks of performance

James Halliwell-Phillipps not only cut up rare and valuable early books in pursuit of his scholarly endeavours, he also collected folio playscripts mutilated by other hands. Amongst the items on display in the *Beyond Macbeth* exhibition that are drawn from the Halliwell-Phillipps Collections are a number of texts that could well have been used as prompt copies by theatrical troupes, most likely in the 17th century. These plays are covered with handwritten notations, amendments, suggestions for songs and plenty of crossings-out.

Helen Vincent explains that, 'Halliwell-Phillipps collected them not because they were prompt copies, but because they were actually taken from copies of the first and third folios. They crossed out the lines they didn't want to use, and wrote in stage directions. We wanted to show the copy of *Hamlet* - they haven't struck out "To be or not to be...". Even in the 17th century they obviously recognised that was a great speech and so should be left alone.'

James goes on to say that, 'What you've got in someone like Drummond is evidence of an interest and connection across the border. These aren't isolated cultures. Drummond travelled to London, he bought books there, he went abroad as well to buy books, and he was one of a number of people to do that.'

In 1618, Drummond even played host to Ben Jonson, when Shakespeare's friend and fellow playwright actually walked all the way to Scotland, possibly for a bet. Helen Vincent says, 'When Jonson came up from London, Drummond made a note of what Jonson said to him about Shakespeare and that will be on display in the exhibition. The original manuscript was lost but we're very lucky that in the 18th century a transcript was made by a Scottish antiquarian named Sir Robert Sibbald, otherwise we'd not have any record of the conversation.' Such off-the-record comments about Shakespeare from the people who knew him are exceedingly rare, and much prized by literary historians.

The aristocratic patrons

THE BUTES

As the exhibition moves into the 18th century, and to the collections of the Butes held by NLS, we can observe a shift in the way that the works of Shakespeare were consumed and perceived by the reading public - which of course at this time still meant the moneyed and leisured classes. As with Drummond, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689-1762) had a reader's general interest in Elizabethan and Jacobean plays and poetry, marking books in her collection with often highly critical comments: Jonson's *The Case is Altered* (1609) gets 'good plott: yett silly play', while a 1631 edition of Thomas Middleton and Thomas Dekker's *The Roaring Girl* (ca. 1607-10) is judged to be simply 'woeful'.

Lady Mary's books were inherited by her son-in-law, John Stuart, Third Earl of Bute (1713-1792), for whom 'having a library was a civilised accomplishment' in James' words. 'He was happy to be a patron of Scottish Enlightenment figures, so he established things like the first Chair in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh. And then his son, the First Marquis of Bute (1744-1814), was the person who collected some of the Shakespeare quartos,

because he was someone who acquired prestigious, valuable books, the kind of books that an aristocrat would want to have on his shelves. He wasn't exercising cultural patronage in the same kind of way as his father.'

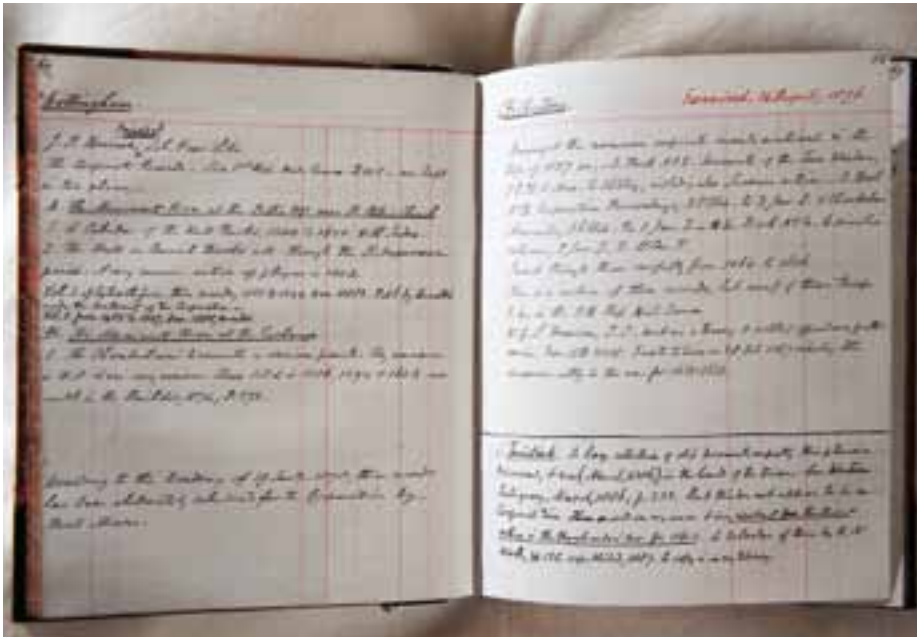
The magpie collector

JAMES HALLIWELL-PHILLIPPS

With James Halliwell-Phillipps (1820-1889), the next major figure represented in the exhibition, we reach the Victorian era, by which time Shakespeare's claim to superiority over all other cultural figures was virtually complete. Halliwell-Phillipps did not acquire Shakespeare quartos and related texts for their reflected cultural prestige, but because, in James Loxley's words, 'He was obsessively interested in Shakespeare, and was keen to try and unpick the knotted textual history of the plays, insofar as he could. What people know at this time is that, as well as the First Folio text, you've got, in some cases, five or six quarto publications of the plays. But this knowledge hadn't been systematised at all, so Halliwell-Phillipps had to go and work that out.'

'One of Halliwell-Phillipps' collections of Shakespeare quartos ended up in Edinburgh because he had been permitted to borrow a very rare copy of *Titus Andronicus* from the University Library, an arrangement brokered by David Laing, the Scottish antiquarian and scholar. So in the late 1860s, after a bit of toing and froing and talking to Laing, he eventually settled on the university library as the place to which he would like to leave a Shakespeare collection. Among the donations are not only the quartos and lots of really interesting manuscript material but also his working papers and notes,





An example of Halliwell-Phillipps' working papers, now in Edinburgh University Library

including scrapbook volumes where he cut and pasted little bits from early books that have Shakespeare references or relevance. He didn't do that just because he liked to cut stuff up, it was largely a working method because he couldn't make a copy. Visitors to the exhibition will get to see one of those scrapbooks with partial leaves cut from a copy of Jonson's First Folio of 1616, and indeed the second edition of Shakespeare's sonnets put out in 1640. Everything that he did was subordinate to the aim of scholarship – that's who he was, he was an obsessive, but a scholarly obsessive.'

This obsessive pursuit of rare books sometimes led Halliwell-Phillipps down the murkier byways of collectorship. As Helen points out, he 'happened to marry somebody whose father had a fantastic library. Sir Thomas Phillipps [his father-in-law] suspected that Halliwell (as he was at this point) had designs on the library as much as on the girl.' Or as James observes, 'There's a hint of a little bit of sharp practice on a couple of occasions – early in his career he was involved in a scandal around some manuscripts that were taken from the library of Trinity College in Cambridge – but nothing was ever proven, as they say.'

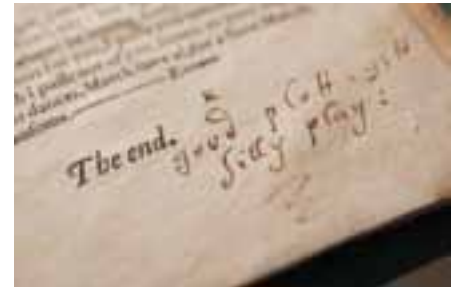
“James Halliwell-Phillipps cut and pasted little bits from early books that have Shakespeare references or relevance”

The Shakespeare man

JOHN DOVER WILSON

The last person that the exhibition focuses on is the more orthodox and respectable scholar John Dover Wilson (1881-1969), author of the best-selling critical study *What Happens in Hamlet* (1935), and, as Helen Vincent puts it, 'an academic in the modern sense of the word. Dover Wilson was a professor at Edinburgh University, and also a Trustee of the National Library of Scotland. He was just as obsessed by Shakespeare as Halliwell-Phillipps; in his autobiography *Milestones on the Dover Road* (1969), he writes about reading an article on *Hamlet* on a train in the middle of the First World War and being 'possessed' by the idea that this is the most important thing in the world.'

Dover Wilson's editorship of the complete Cambridge Shakespeare editions, and the success of *What Happens in Hamlet*, made him something of a public authority on all things Shakespeare. His advice and expertise were sought by such diverse 20th-century figures as Field Marshall Wavell, Neville Chamberlain, Siegfried Sassoon, Paul Robeson, Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh. It was also Dover Wilson who helped NLS to acquire the Bute collection, and a second tranche of the Halliwell-Phillipps collection for Edinburgh University, neatly tying together these different collectors from across history.



Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's handwritten critique on a copy of Jonson's *The Case is Altered* now in NLS

At the end of my interview with Helen Vincent and James Loxley, I ask them what they hope people will take away from the *Beyond Macbeth* exhibition. Helen replies that 'All of the people we feature see Shakespeare as somebody who they can do something with, who they can respond to. None of them are really intimidated by this sense of Shakespeare as being up on a lofty pedestal, and untouchable and remote.'

'So you can engage with Shakespeare too, whether like Drummond you want to write poetry, whether like Lady Mary Wortley Montagu you feel your critical opinion of any of his plays matters, whether like Halliwell-Phillipps or Dover Wilson you just become obsessed with finding out more about him and want to read the plays or go and see performances – he's there for people to appreciate.'

James, meanwhile, observes that 'One of the things that people will get to see in the exhibition is a projection of an image of a statue which actually sits out in the grounds of Bonaly Tower. It's neglected in a little niche there, but it once stood on top of the pediment of Edinburgh's Theatre Royal. When that theatre was built in the late-18th century, the precinct in which it stood was named Shakespeare Square. So when Scottish professional theatre gets going in a big way, they're quite happily taking their bearings from Shakespeare, it's unproblematic. They can have as much of a claim on Shakespeare as anybody else. So there's no sense that he's someone else's property.'

While Shakespeare may not be Scotland's national poet he remains, as the exhibition more than demonstrates, an important presence in Scottish literary culture.

The Beyond Macbeth exhibition runs from 9 December until 29 April at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge building.

On the trail of the Member for Scotland

The importance of self-taught businessman and Liberal Party Member of Parliament Duncan McLaren has been overlooked for more than a century. With the help of manuscripts held at NLS, author **Willis Pickard** has written a new biography of the famous Scotsman

I knew that Duncan McLaren (1800–86) was an important figure in Scottish Victorian life and had been unfairly neglected in the century and a quarter since his death. But, before any attempt could be made to replace the obsequious two-volume biography commissioned by his family, I had to be sure that there was enough material to dig into.

The Frederick Scott Oliver papers (MSS 24781-25100) in the National Library of Scotland were just such a source. FS Oliver was a businessman, diplomat and writer, who died in 1934. He was also Duncan McLaren's grandson, and the papers are rich in material about McLaren as a politician, a prosperous Edinburgh shopkeeper, Lord Provost and *paterfamilias*.

Oliver is important to McLaren's story in another way. His father, John, had been McLaren's partner in the drapery business at 329 High Street, immediately opposite St Giles' Cathedral. Yet his name is barely mentioned in the 'official' biography penned by John Beveridge Mackie. This is because the partnership ended in acrimony. It was not a falling out over the business itself, which Oliver handled with skill. The trouble lay in the relationship that developed between the middle-aged Oliver and McLaren's 20-year-old daughter Catherine. When a marriage was proposed, McLaren was outraged. He couldn't prevent the wedding, but he alleged that Oliver had kept his intentions hidden and had pressed his suit over a surreptitious game of chess.

Family loyalties were split. McLaren's eldest son John was a friend of Oliver's and took his side. Catherine's stepmother (and McLaren's third wife)

was Priscilla Bright, sister to the radical reformer John Bright. As Quakers they both tried conciliation but McLaren not only broke the business partnership, he tried to use Oliver's insurance arrangements to show a poor life expectancy. The marriage went ahead. It produced two children, but it was Catherine, and not her middle-aged husband, who was to die within a few years of tuberculosis.

McLaren's letters, and those of his 10 children, cast light on middle-class life and attitudes. He was a deeply serious, self-educated man who made his reputation in business and politics by rigorous application to duty and detail. He had trained himself in accountancy, and as a young councillor led Edinburgh out of the bankruptcy it had fallen into through careless profligacy. He regarded the Whig, lawyer-led establishment that dominated Edinburgh and Scottish politics as an obstacle to the radical Liberal principles he embraced on behalf of working men. But his relentless pounding of a statistics-based argument, in print or on his feet, made him enemies as well as followers. He waged war with *The Scotsman* for over 30 years, at one point winning £400 in a libel case that entertained newspaper-devouring Britain.

The McLaren correspondence shows a man unswerving in pursuit of his causes. When he became an MP at the age of 65 he delved deep into the Blue Books and other state papers, arguing that Scotland was regularly worse treated than England or Ireland, and that everywhere there should be more careful scrutiny of state spending. His attention to Scottish business in the Commons, much of it conducted in the middle of the night and at the fag-end



McLaren waged war with *The Scotsman* for over 30 years, at one point winning £400 in a libel case that entertained newspaper-devouring Britain



THE MAN AND HIS FAMILY

Priscilla Bright McLaren

John McLaren by Sir John Lavery

of the parliamentary session, brought him the soubriquet of the 'Member for Scotland', with hard work earning him loyal support. When he affronted the trade unions by supporting legislation curbing strikes he rightly predicted that those who demonstrated against him at a huge rally in the Queen's Park would still vote for him at the next election.

My researches took me to Chichester, Manchester, Nottingham and the British Library, as well as to libraries and archives in Edinburgh and Glasgow. There was a stroke of good luck in Edinburgh City Archives, which had recently been offered an uncatalogued cache of papers from a car boot sale in Yorkshire. These turned out to have come down from McLaren's youngest daughter Helen, who married a doctor in Bradford.

While I was researching my book, I became a trustee of NLS. One of the challenges the library has faced is the switch to electronic communication. Future historians will not be able to read letters to find out what our generation of politicians thought and did, because the penny post of Victorian houses has been replaced by deletable emails. Preserving even a portion of quotidian communications in political and business life, not to mention the interactions of families, is a continuing challenge.

I have been privileged to be able to rank the characters in my book by the quality of their handwriting. John Bright's is commendably neat. His sister Priscilla also wrote clearly, except when agitated. The McLaren children on the whole are not too great a challenge. But Duncan, throughout his long life, produced a scrawl that can charitably be only described as vigorous.

Willis Pickard's The Member for Scotland: a life of Duncan McLaren is published by Birlinn at £20



McLaren's mansion, Newington House



An advertisement for McLaren's shop

Just three questions

There is a lot to learn about NLS, but we're getting there – one question at a time

PAINFUL REMEDIES

Q In the Library's Medical History of British India archive, have you come across any particularly unusual ways of treating an illness or an infection?

A As the archive covers 1850 to 1950, many treatments seem unusual to modern readers. Before the first 'modern' therapeutics of the 1930s, illnesses were treated with alcohol, plant remedies – some Indian and some imported from Europe – together with ancient practices. Asthma was treated with Belladonna and wine, pneumonia with rum and the ever-popular bloodletting. Catarrhal eye-infections in 1874 were treated with an 'eye-caustic' – a pencil coated with nitrate of silver and potash; as you can imagine this was described as a 'somewhat painful remedy.' 1871 saw Dr. Dieulafoy's Pneumatic Aspirator drawing up to a pint and a half of pus from liver abscesses and in 1876 Bengal soldiers 'received a draught of quinine, cinchona and arsenic' to counter hot days and cold nights. Mercury was a popular 19th-century treatment for venereal disease, often given in near-lethal doses. Or patients were deliberately infected with malaria, in the hope that the high fever would 'sweat' out the illness.

Francine Millard, Digitisation Manager, Medical History of British India Project

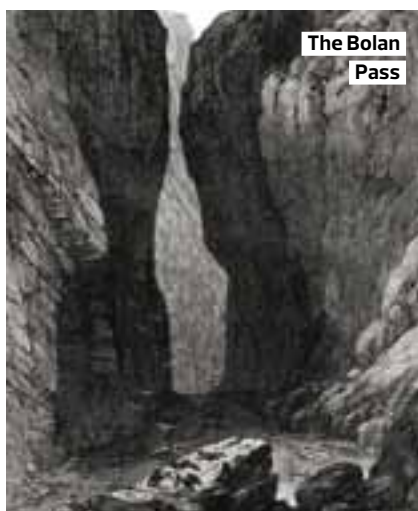
PASS MARKS

Q Can you tell me about a particularly strange place in which an item now held by the Library was found?

A In 1928 the Library acquired a single volume of *The Arabian Nights* [London, 183?, Shelfmark: Bn.11/1.] The donor, Miss Annie Pond, wrote to the librarian that it had belonged to her father, the late Lt. Colonel James Ruthven Pond (1812–1857). As a lieutenant in the Bengal European Regiment, Pond served in the Army of the Indus sent by the East India Company in 1838 to dethrone the Afghan ruler Dost Mohammed. The army made an arduous and disorderly march



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



The Bolan Pass

through the 55-mile long Bolan Pass on 16 March 1839, during which Pond presumably picked up this volume which had been dropped by another soldier; hence the inscription, on the front free endpaper:

This book was found in the Bolan Pass by dear old JR Pond MP [i.e. Maria Pond, his wife] on the march to 1st Afghan War 1839 March 16th.

The choice of exotic reading matter seems highly appropriate for a soldier serving in the wilds of Afghanistan.

Graham Hogg, Senior Rare Books Curator

OLD SPICE

Q Have you found any particularly visually striking material whilst cataloguing the Library's Bartholomew Collection?

A John Bartholomew & Son Ltd. was once a household name, a cartographic publisher of world renown. However, the company's Printing Record reveals the true diversity of its output, which includes posters, floral prints and anatomical drawings.

Bartholomew printed this poster (below) on 2 December 1879. It was commissioned by John Rorrison, a Cattle Spice manufacturer based in Dumfries. In spite of being over 130 years old, the colours in this poster remain as vivid as the day that it was printed. Just what 'cattle spice' was remains a mystery!

Karla Baker, Bartholomew Archive Curator Take a look at Bartholomew Archive at www.nls.uk/bartholomew



Mapping the nation

Scotland: Mapping the Nation is a new book co-published by NLS. Senior Map Curator and co-author **Chris Fleet** brings us three examples of the maps featured within its pages

Maps frame our view of the world and our place within it. They select, simplify and embellish it – and often misrepresent and distort it. In doing so, maps promote a particular way of seeing the world, and over time this has helped shape the image of Scotland as a nation.

Scotland: Mapping the Nation takes these issues as its central focus. The book is the first full-length, systematic study of Scottish maps, map makers and map history for over 30 years, and is a collaborative publication between Scottish publisher Birlinn and the National Library of Scotland.

The book's 220 full-colour illustrations, mostly from NLS collections, are maps that have been selected to reveal particular aspects of Scotland's history and geography, from the earliest Roman mapping of Scotland in the first century AD, through to modern digital mapping and SATNAV.

Scotland's maps are interpreted as part of a broader European cultural heritage, and many international themes can be seen played out in maps of Scotland. However, many of the particularities of Scotland's history are also well illustrated through maps.

The book takes a thematic approach, with chapters on Scotland occupied and defended, towns and urban life, the changing countryside, islands, travel and communications, recreation and leisure, popular culture and mapping science. The book also focuses on particular people behind the maps and their work is explained in historical and geographical context.

Scotland: Mapping the Nation, by Christopher Fleet, Margaret Wilkes and Charles W.J. Withers. Birlinn, in association with the National Library of Scotland. ISBN 978 1 84158 969 5 £30 hardback. 250 x 246 mm



GREENOCK, 1979
This map of Greenock by the Soviet Army in 1979 shows more detailed information than the official mapping of Britain by

Ordnance Survey. Widths and heights of bridges, and widths and depths of rivers are given. Buildings are colour-coded; residential

buildings brown, administrative buildings purple, and industrial plants black. Contours are shown at closer intervals than on Ordnance Survey maps.

Here was all the information one needed to mount a successful invasion, part of a massive global mapping project by the Soviets from 1919 to the early 1990s.



Many of the particularities of Scotland's history are well illustrated through maps

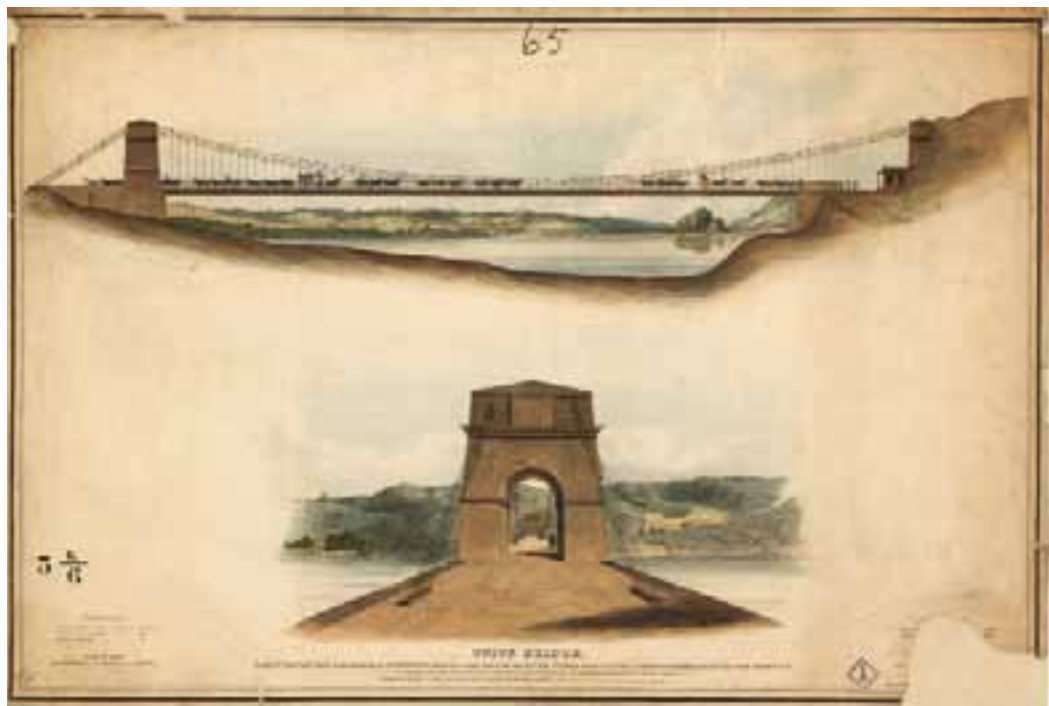


SCOTLAND, 1714
This map of Scotland of 1714, produced by the Dutch mapmaker Herman Moll, promotes through its title the post-Union form of Scotland as the North Part of Great Britain. Several 'errant' features are notable – for example, the 'crooked' line of the Great Glen,

and the orientation of Skye. Moll based his map not upon a detailed first-hand survey, but upon others' existing work, with the result that the outline of the country remained unchanged, though names and locations of places were brought up to date.

UNION BRIDGE, 1820
This stunning profile and view from 1820 of the Union Bridge near Paxton in Berwickshire is from the NLS Stevenson Archive. The Union Bridge was designed by Captain Samuel Brown of the Royal Navy, following

revisions by John Rennie. When it opened in July 1820, uniting Scotland with England across the River Tweed, it was the longest wrought-iron suspension bridge in the world, with a span of 137 metres (449 feet), and the first vehicular bridge of its type in Britain.



In oor ain mither tongue

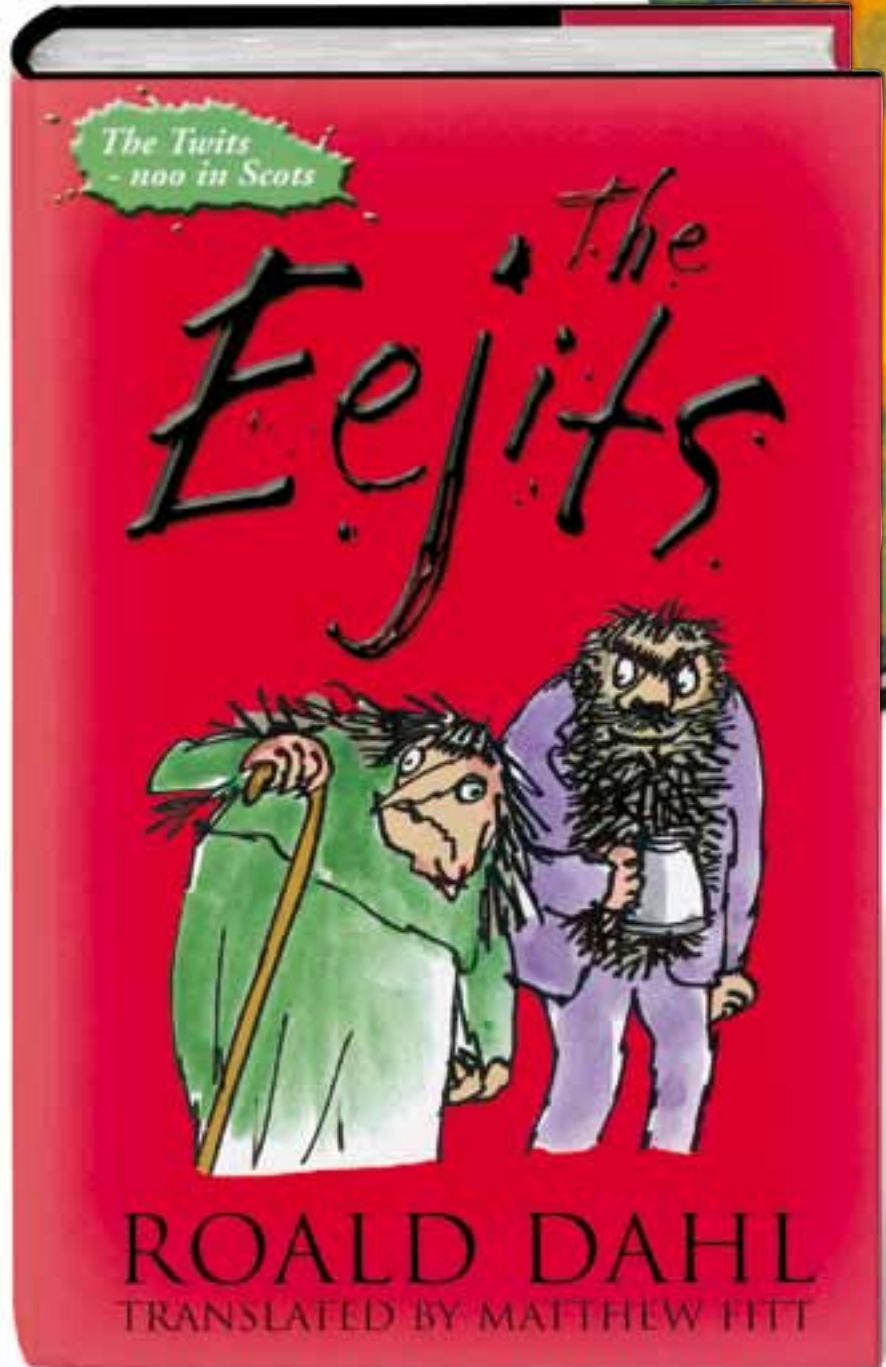
NLS holds amongst its collections a number of recent publications written in Scots. **Bryan Christie** considers how new life is being breathed into an old language

It is one of the world's best loved nursery rhymes, instantly recognisable to millions of children and their parents. But how many of those who nowadays sing along to Wee Willie Winkie running through the town would be familiar with the original 1841 Scots version?

*Hey, Willie Winkie, are ye comin' ben?
The cat's singin grey thrums to the
sleepin hen,
The dog's speldert on the floor and
disna gie a cheep,
But here's a waukrife laddie, that
wunna fa' asleep.*

There is a life and richness in the original – 'A wee, stumpie, stousie, that canna rin his lane' – that is completely missing in the much more insipid translation – 'A small short little child, who can't run on his own.' It is regrettable therefore that, while Willie has made his mark upon the world, the original Scots has barely survived.

Happily, new life is now being breathed into Scots, especially among the young. The principal driving force behind this has been publishers Itchy Coo – 'Braw Books for Bairns o Aw Ages' – set up by the poet Matthew Fitt and the novelist James Robertson in 2002, in partnership with Black & White Publishing. It has now issued 37 books in Scots, starting out with original works and expanding into translations of children's favourites such as *The Eejits* (Roald Dahl's *The Twits*), *Winnie The Pooh* and *Kidnappit*.



THE EEJITS Translated by Matthew Fitt

Tae get her back for the gless ee in his beer, Mr Eejit thocht it wid be a guid idea tae pit a puddock in Mrs Eejit's bed.

That nicht... Mr Eejit slippit the puddock in atween her bed claes. Then he lowped intae his ain bed and waited for the stooshie tae stert.

Mrs Eejit sclimmed into her bed and pit oot the licht. She lay there in the dark scartin her belly. Her belly wis aw yeukie. Clarty auld carlines

like her ayewis hae yeukie bellies.

Then aw at yince she felt some-thin cauld and creeshie crowlin ower her feet. She skraiked.

'Help!' skirled Mrs Eejit, booncinq about. 'There's somethin in ma bed!'

'I'll bet it's yon Muckle Skooshywaggler I saw on the flair jist noo,' Mr Eejit said.

'Whit?' skraiked Mrs Eejit.

'I tried tae kill it but it got awa,' Mr Eejit said. 'It's got teeth like dirks.' Mrs Eejit passed oot.



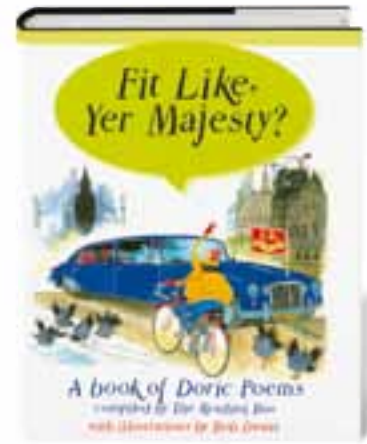
A title from the Scottish Children's Press

**FIT LIKE, YER MAJESTY
A BOOK OF DORIC POEMS
Compiled by The Reading Bus Press**

HEATHER THE WEATHER
At sax o'clock the news comes on
Depressin' aa the nation,
Wi tragedies an floods an crime,
A total scunneration.

'N' syne presenters prophesy
The weather that's afore us.
'N' ten t' one that's fin we hear
Low pressure's sittin' o'er us.

Bit fin the forecast's dull and dreich,
The outlook filthy weather,
There's neen I'd raither hear it fae
Than bonnie smilin Heather.
Jim Bremner



A NORTH EAST LOONIE CAAD MIKE
A North East loonie caad Mike
T'London birlid doon on 'is bike
Fin the Queen passed his wye
Mike jist had t'cry
'Gweed mornin, Yer Highness! Fit like?'
Ali Christie

Itchy Coo's titles have proved highly popular, selling more than 250,000 copies and scooping up awards along the way. They have also paved the way for others, such as the Scottish Children's Press and The Reading Bus Press, to publish their own titles.

All of these books are part of the NLS collections and they demonstrate that there is a real demand for books for children written in Scots. They have also helped to raise the status of the language within schools in particular.

It might surprise some people to have Scots described as a language when it is often seen as little more than a collection of dialects or, at worst, street slang that has no proper place in polite company. That kind of hostility to Scots has been all too common over time, with the result that generations of children have grown up with Scots as the language of the playground but never of the classroom.

Far from being slang, Scots has a fine pedigree. It is descended from Old Northern English with links to Danish, French, Gaelic and Latin. It was the language of the medieval Scottish court and has been used by many of our best known writers including William Dunbar, Robert Burns, Robert Louis Stevenson, Hugh MacDiarmid, Edwin Morgan, Liz Lochhead and Irvine Welsh. Scots is now recognised as a language by the Scottish and UK governments and the European Union.

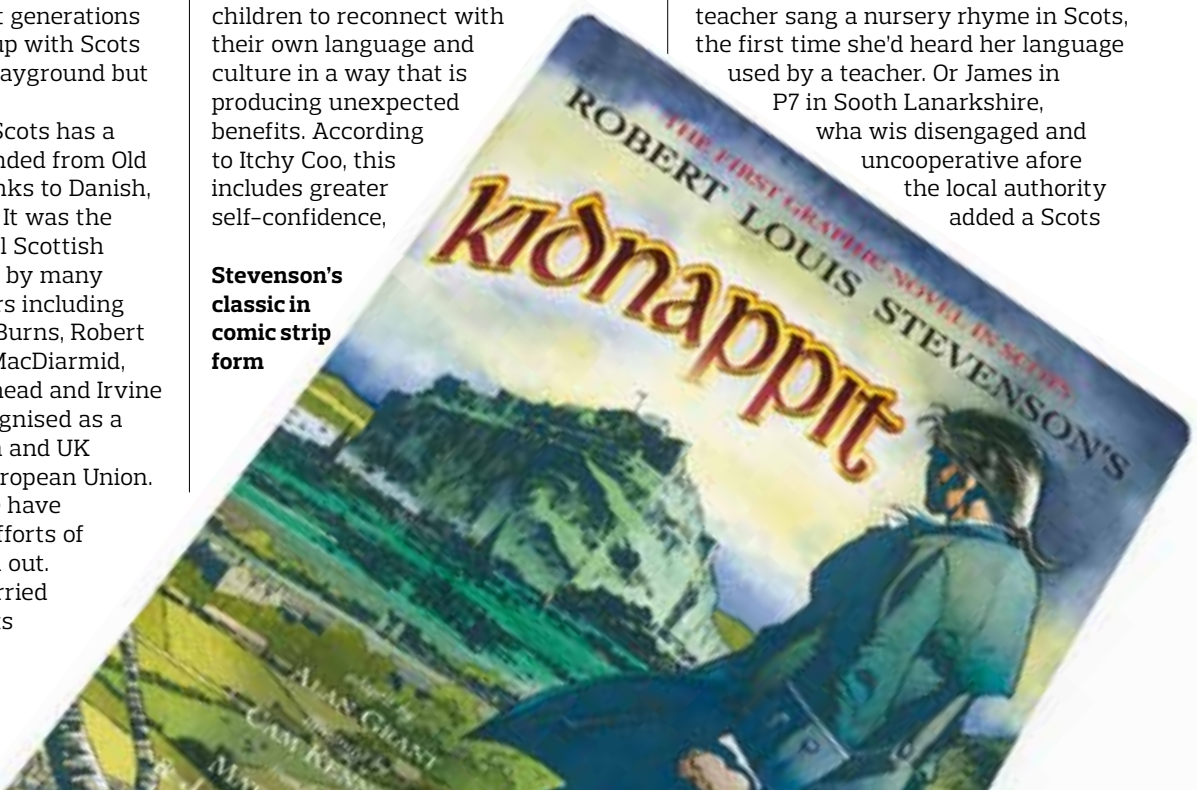
Although many people have championed Scots, the efforts of Fitt and Robertson stand out. The two writers have carried out more than 1,000 visits

All of these books are part of the NLS collections and they demonstrate that there is a real demand for books for children written in Scots

to schools across Scotland, helped to train hundreds of teachers and inspired countless numbers of children. They have also promoted the educational benefits of Scots to policy makers at the highest level, resulting in perhaps their greatest achievement – getting the teaching of Scots included as part of the Curriculum of Excellence used by every school in the country.

Scots now has a confirmed place in the classroom allowing children to reconnect with their own language and culture in a way that is producing unexpected benefits. According to Itchy Coo, this includes greater self-confidence,

Stevenson's classic in comic strip form



improvements in classroom behaviour, enhanced English language skills, increased aptitude for foreign languages and awareness of Scotland's culture and heritage.

'For thoosans o Scottish weans Scots words like haun, hame, greetin, bonnie, crabbit, mingin, spoot, scurrie, or fit-like are just a normal pairt o their everyday lives,' says Fitt. 'If Itchy Coo did naethin else, it gied a generation o Scottish bairns the chance tae enjoy their ain language at the schule.'

'It'll be a lang time afore I forget Jack, a P1 in West Lothian, that had sic a muckle smile on his face because he wis the ainly yin in the cless that kent the Scots word for "mouse" wis "moose". Or the P2 lassie in Fawkirk that didna say a word in cless until her teacher sang a nursery rhyme in Scots, the first time she'd heard her language

used by a teacher. Or James in P7 in Sooth Lanarkshire, wha wis disengaged and uncooperative afore the local authority added a Scots



Matthew Fitt and James Robertson

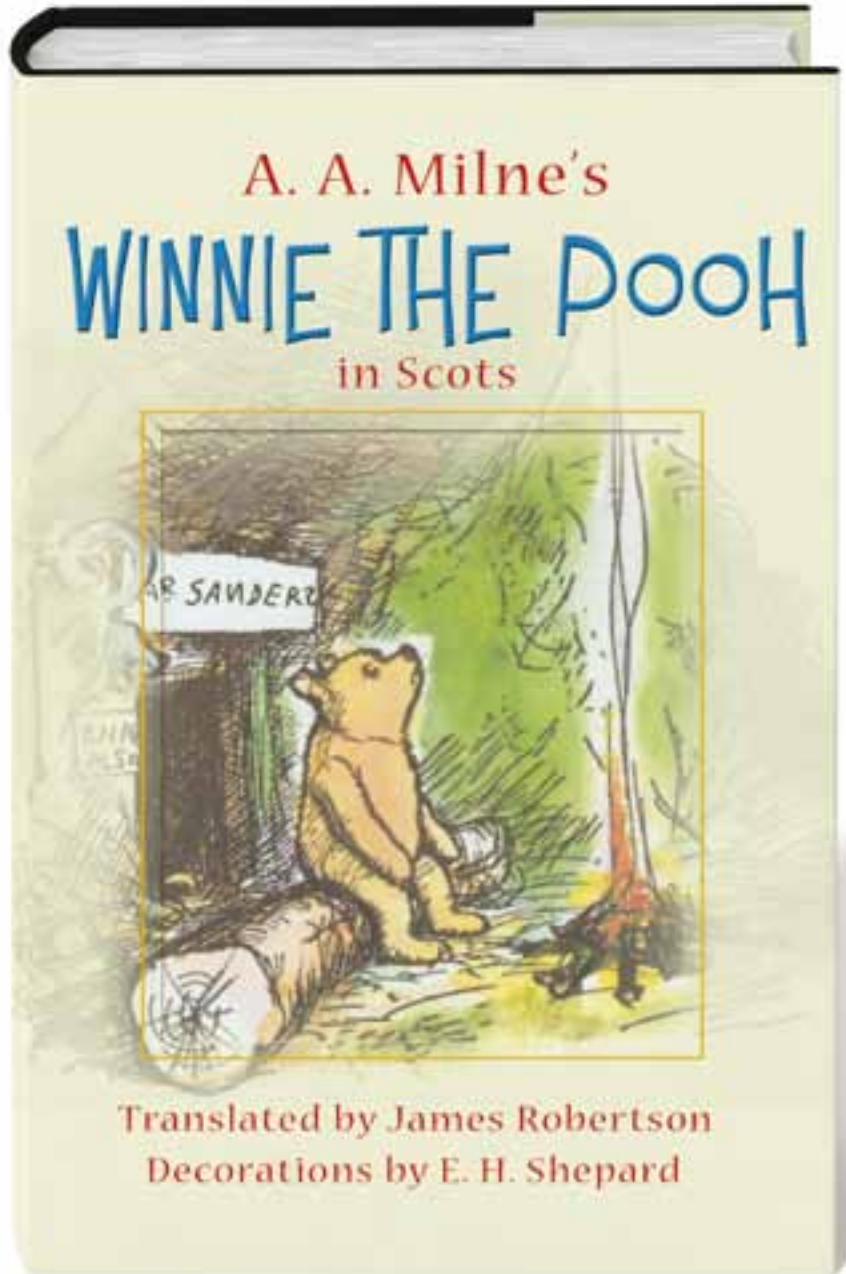
“The project has done a huge amount to raise awareness among the public of the existence of Scots as a language with its own extensive literature”

element tae the schule week and suddenly he wis tap o his cless and workin hard at his ither subjects.’

Itchy Coo has been an undoubted success, but the school based work has proved very demanding and has now ended. The existing books will continue to be available and further new titles are planned.

Robertson, one of our finest contemporary novelists and author of *And the Land Lay Still* and *Joseph Knight*, believes that more can be done. ‘There is as yet no coherent, formally articulated government policy towards the Scots language at either national or local level, and while the project’s experience would warn against heavy-handed, top-down imposition of language policy, nevertheless a more proactive attitude to Scots shown by government would have the effect of encouraging and enabling further progress to be made within the education system.’

Whatever happens in the future, today’s children have many more opportunities to be exposed to the Scots language than at any other time in recent memory. In a foreword to *Fit Like, Yer Majesty*, a book of Doric poems compiled by The Reading Bus Press, Maureen Watt MSP, a former Minister for Schools and Skills, said: ‘I wis brocht up spikkin the Doric but canna ivver min seein ony buiks far I could read it. So it’s gran tae see this buik and tae ken that the bairns’ll hae a chunce tae read it as pairt o their squeelin. It’ll fit in jist fine in the Curriculum for Excellence – the bittie about oor ain Scots tongue.’



WINNIE THE POOH Translated by James Robertson

‘Guid morning, Christopher Robin,’ says he.

‘Guid morning, Winnie the Pooh,’ says you.

‘I’m wunnerin if ye wid hae sic a thing as a balloon about ye?’

‘A balloon?’

‘Aye, I jist said tae masel as I wis daunerin alang, ‘I wunner if Christopher Robin has sic a thing as a balloon about him?’ ‘I jist said it tae

masel, thinkin about balloons and wunnerin, ken.’

‘Whit for dae ye want a balloon?’ says you.

Winnie the Pooh keeked aboot tae mak shair naebody wis luggin in, pit his loof tae his smooth, and said in a laich whusper: ‘Hinny!’

‘But ye dinna get hinny wi balloons!’

‘ Ah dae,’ said Pooh.

The Itchy Coo books are great fun, but fun with a serious purpose. A report from the Scottish Arts Council in 2004 had this to say: ‘The project has done a huge amount to raise awareness among the public of the existence of Scots as a spoken and written language with its own extensive

literature. There has never before been such a significant and concentrated input of Scots language materials into schools, and we believe this has greatly enriched the education of those children and young people who have had access to the Itchy Coo books and the work of the schools liaison officer’.

Letters from the lost boys and girls

Reader in Literature and Ethnology at Glasgow University **Dr Valentina Bold** explores a touching volume of letters sent to Hilda Trevelyan, the original Wendy from *Peter Pan*

This year saw the 150th anniversary of JM Barrie's birth. To mark the occasion, the University of Glasgow held a conference in Dumfries, celebrating the Kirriemuir-born writer's affection for the town, where he lived between 1873 and 1878. It was during the conference that NLS' Manuscripts Curator Sally Harrower drew my attention to a fascinating volume that had featured in the Library's 2010 Barrie exhibition. The volume includes letters written by children between 1906 and 1911 to Hilda Trevelyan (1880-1959), the actress who played the original Wendy in Barrie's *Peter Pan*, or *The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*.

The writers are aged between six and 15 (but most are eight to 10). They know that what they have seen of Wendy is someone 'acting', but have no notion what that really means. One mother writes in a covering note: 'she is under the impression that you are a child her age'. They assume Wendy and Peter live in the theatre between shows and so several invite Wendy to tea or, more boldly, propose marriage (Hugh Bridson, aged six). In one heart-breaking letter, a child writes, 'Have you a mummy? I have not. I have a nurse, I would like you for my mummy but daddy says you don't want me and he would not let me go and of course I don't want to leave him but I would like you to write letters like one.'

I have not found evidence of Trevelyan's responses, although some correspondents are traceable. For example, Arthur Coventry from Monkton Park, Chippenham (who writes to Trevelyan to tell her he liked her 'brown dress with the brown bonnet with the holly') is probably the Captain Arthur Beauclerk Coventry who is on record of having lived from 1900 to 1976. Kenneth Morris, aged 14, is recorded as stating he liked 'Wendy' but, unusually, also liked Pauline Chase



Valentina Bold at NLS



They know that what they have seen of Wendy is someone 'acting' but have no notion of what that really means

as Peter: 'you made people think that the love between you and Peter Pan was real,' he says. 'I wish you would tell me whether it was'. This same Kenneth Morris appears in the Census of 1911 in Hampton Hill.

Within the correspondence there are pictures and poems, plus approaches from aspiring actresses, and from those who feel the distance between stage and audience is just too great: 'My chief ambition is to know you, but as I never shall I must be content to go and see you from the stalls'.

Gateway to the Modern: Resituating J.M. Barrie, edited by Dr Bold and Andrew Nash and published by the Association of Scottish Literary Studies in 2012



Explorer **Robert Falcon Scott** is just one of the many hundreds of thousands of people represented in the Library's collections

Robert Falcon Scott made two trips to the Antarctic. From the first he returned a hero, having reached further south than anyone before him. The second, an endeavour to be the first to reach the South Pole, saw the death of Scott and his team.

Despite failing in his attempt, Scott remains a hero. This is in large part due to the diary he left behind, describing in evocative detail his trip and the final days of his life. It is one of the most famous journals ever written, with Scott boldly accepting his imminent demise.

On 17 January 1912, he and the remaining members of his team reached the Pole, only to find a Norwegian party, headed by Roald Amundsen, had got there first. Scott records that this was 'a horrible day' and confesses that he might not survive the journey back to base.

Of the men lost to the harsh conditions, Captain Oates' self-sacrifice (believing he was holding the others back, he simply walked out into the freezing cold by himself) is particularly sobering. The final three of the expedition team died of starvation and exposure in their tent just 20 kilometres away from a supply depot. In his final diary entry Scott writes, 'These rough notes and our dead bodies must tell the tale'.

The bodies and the diary were found eight months later by a search party. The men were buried in their tent, with a cairn made of snow and ice to mark the spot. Later, a cross was added to the tomb. Inscribed on it was a line from Tennyson's poem *Ulysses*: 'To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield'.

Scott is the subject of the Library's Treasure space display in 2012. See page 9 for more details

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