

National Library of Scotland

Principal Additions: April – June 2009

Within sections, items are arranged chronologically, as far as possible.

A: Printed books

- 1 'The history of the life, bloody reign and death of Queen Mary, eldest daughter to Hen. 8'. London, 1682.

This is an anonymous of the life of Queen Mary I (1515-58), also known as 'Bloody Mary'. It not only contains a foreword to the Protestant reader, but an account of the Protestants martyred to death during her reign, along with engravings of some execution scenes.

This is an unrecorded edition of this title. Two other 1682 editions listed in ESTC have different paginations and signatures. Together, there are only a total of five copies of all the editions located in the UK with this copy being the only one in Scotland.

(Dealer)

- 2 'Rider's British Merlin for the year of Our Lord God 1804'. London, 1804.

This almanac, in a splendid decorative binding, is perhaps most interesting for its annotations. There are copious notes on blank pages throughout the text: accounts (five shillings for a yard of lace, nineteen for 'stuff for petticoats', sixpence for a 'poor woman', for instance), recipes, notes on sermons and devotional topics, and poetry. It seems likely that this almanac had a female owner and, judging by the other content, one with a particularly spiritual and poetical turn of mind.

(Dealer)

- 3 'The Edinburgh Almanack and Scots Register for 1807'. Edinburgh, 1807.

This copy belonged to Fletcher Norton (1744-1820), second son of Fletcher Norton, first Baron Grantley, Speaker of the House of Commons. Norton was appointed one of the Barons of the Scottish Exchequer in 1776 and set up residence in the Scottish capital. A founding member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Norton was a supporter of Scottish culture.

This almanac, whose blank pages were used by Norton to keep a record of his expenditure, provide an interesting insight into the daily life of a member of Edinburgh's social and cultural elite in the early 19th century, recording the 18 shillings spent on tooth powder, and the £2.9.0 spent on a chaise to London, among other notes.

(Dealer)

- 4 Todd, John. 'The mountain cottage'. Pittsfield, Mass., 1844.

This short work is a rare and virtually unknown American children's story about a Scottish immigrant, James Orwell, which perpetuates stereotypes of Scottish greed and melancholy. The anti-hero had been in the US for over 50 years, losing his livelihood when his shop was burnt down during the revolutionary wars. He retreated from society to this mountain cottage and cut a forlorn and repulsive figure. There is a moral and uplifting aspect to the tale relating to Orwell's children, though.

The author, John Todd (1800-1873) was an American Congregationalist who wrote a number of books for children. Only three copies of this work are recorded, all in North America.
(Dealer)

- 5 '[The Seasons] With sympathy inscribed to all who love flowers and their emblems'. Edinburgh, 1855-80.

This is a fine example of deluxe book production in mid-Victorian Edinburgh. The title page is decorated in gold and colours, and each season begins on a page with lithographed illuminated heading and colour illustration, enclosed with the text in a decorative border. The text, anonymously compiled, consists of a prose meditation on each season followed by an appropriate poem by a contemporary poet - Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Jean Ingelow, Richard Chevenix Trench and Edward Bulwer Lytton.

The book was the work of two significant figures involved in the production of artistic books in mid-19th century Edinburgh: the lithographer W H McFarlane, and T Alexander Hill (1800-66), brother of David Octavius Hill and 'printseller to the Queen'.
(Dealer)

- 6 McKinlay, John. 'McKinlay's journal of exploration in the interior of Australia (Burke Relief Expedition)'. Melbourne, 1862.

John McKinlay (1819-1872) was born at Sandbank, on Holy Loch, Argyll, Scotland. He emigrated to New South Wales in 1836. In 1861, McKinlay was the South Australian government's choice to lead an expedition to ascertain the fate of Robert O'Hara Burke and William Wills, who had failed to return from their expedition to cross Australia south to north. This is the first edition of McKinlay's diary written during his own expedition to locate Burke and his men. He failed to find them, discovering only the remains of William Gray, the first victim of the expedition. All his party survived the return journey from the interior, although they had been reduced to almost nothing, having had to eat most of their camels and horses.

(Dealer)

- 7 Notman, William. 'Serjeants of the 78th Highlanders'. [s.l., 1867]

This is an outstanding composite albumin photograph entitled 'Serjeants [sic] of the 78th Highlanders' by the photographer William Notman (1826-1891). The photograph incorporates 51 small oval images of soldiers, all numbered in ink. These numbers refer to the key below the photograph which lists, in very neat small writing, the ranks and names of these soldiers. Notman was born in Scotland and emigrated to Canada in 1856 where he eventually became one of the most important photographers. Although the major portion of his work was devoted to portraits, he also did landscapes, street scenes, and city views across Canada.

(Dealer)

- 8 'Bhagavad-Gita'. Glasgow, 1900.

This is a miniature copy of the Bhagavad-Gita, printed in gold and produced by David Bryce of Glasgow, the pre-eminent 19th century Scottish maker of miniature books. Regular copies of this publication are extremely rare and this copy printed in gold type is most probably unique. It was originally part of the printer David Bryce's personal collection.

The book measures 3 x 4 cm. The text is printed upon the thinnest white tissue paper and it is bound in gold and purple grapevine patterned stiff paper. The book is accompanied by a lidded silver box measuring 4.5 x 6.5 cm. The top lid is engraved with a pattern resembling a tartan which incorporates a shield device. Engraved in script in the centre of the shield is Bryce's name, and 'Jedburgh' below.

(Dealer)

- 9 [Allies Bible in khaki]. Glasgow, 1901-14.

This is one of the most rare miniature Bibles produced by David Bryce and Son of Glasgow. Known as the 'Allies Bible', it is bound in brown khaki and is preceded by 15 pages of text which includes four national anthems (God Save the King, The Marseillaise Hymn, La Brabanconne, and Russian national anthem -- all in English without music). The 'Recessional' by Rudyard Kipling and 'Evening Prayer of a People' by Neil Munro also form part of the prelims. The book measures only 45 mm. in height and is accompanied by its original dust-jacket which features pictures of the Belgian, British, French and Russian flags in colour.

(Dealer)

- 10 'Catalogue of 1912 model Argyll cars'. [Alexandria, Dumbartonshire?], 1912.

From small beginnings in the 1890s, Argyll Motors quickly became Britain's largest car manufacturer. In 1906, the company occupied Europe's largest and most up-to-date motor vehicle factory at Alexandria, on the banks of Loch Lomond. This sales catalogue is from the company's heyday in 1912: it lists monarchs from Sarawak to Sweden among users of Argyll cars, as well as the senior members of the British royal family. The catalogue contains illustrations of the Alexandria factory and a list of models, from the 12 hp Doctor's Coupe to the 25 hp Landalette. However, the company faced financial difficulties and went into liquidation in 1914. The marque was finished by 1932.
(Dealer)

B. Manuscripts

1. Borthwick of Crookston legal papers, 1452 – 20th century (16 items) and miscellaneous Scottish documents, 1513-1822 (7 items).
Acc 13043
(Deposit)
2. Introductions to the Lord Treasurer, 1664, concerning the chapel at Holyroodhouse and the abbey of Inchaffray.
Acc 13044
(Dealer)
3. Letter, 1771, of William Fraser, of Fraserfield to Lady Frances Gardiner, née Erskine, wife of James Gardiner, Colonel of Dragoons.
Acc 13042
(Donation)
4. Manuscript of 'The Battle of Sherra-moor' by Robert Burns, 1790.
Acc 13039
(Auction)
5. Poems and other papers, partly in Gaelic, of Allan Stewart of Innerhadden collected by the Rev Alexander Irvine, Little Dunkeld, 18th-19th centuries.
Acc 13054
(Private Purchase)
6. 'Soutra Hill. A Poem', anonymous, circa 1810.
Acc 13047
(Auction)
7. Letters of and to David Roberts from the collection of the late Helen Guiterman, with miscellaneous transcripts of Roberts's diaries, etc.
Acc 13056
(Donation by bequest)

8. Three Golf Match Record Books and three diaries, 1886-1900, of Frederick Guthrie Tait (1870-1900).
Acc 13048
(Auction)
9. Minute books, 1910-1964, of the Executive Council and Annual General Meeting, South Edinburgh Unionist Association.
Acc 13049
(Deposit)
10. Notes and papers of the late Miss Helen Guiterman relating to her studies of David Roberts; to her personal collection of Roberts's paintings, drawings, books and letters and to its fraudulent attempted sale; to her loans, donations and bequests to public collections; together with some personal correspondence.
Acc 13055
(Donation by bequest)
11. Letters, 1952-1995, of Fred Urquhart to Lewis Davies, with copies of some of Davies's replies; also a letter and draft reply relating to Urquhart's death. With four photographs of Fred Urquhart and others.
Acc 13052
(Private Purchase)
12. Radio and television scripts, 1954-1987, of Michael Elder.
Acc 13051
(Donation)
13. Illustrated typescript journal, 1959, of 'A Camping Holiday in Scotland', by Allan George Nicholson, Chesham, Bucks.
Acc 13040
(Donation)
14. Photographs, transparencies and negatives, 1964-1991, of artwork by Ian Hamilton Finlay, including early images of the beginnings of the garden of Stonypath / Little Sparta taken by Stuart Mills.
Acc 13053
(Private Purchase)
15. Letters, circa 1968-2007, to Sam Gilliland, including about 150 letters, 1985-2007, of Gerry Cambridge, some with poems and related papers.
Acc 13045
(Private Purchase)
16. Literary papers, mainly 1984-2007, of Janet Paisley.
Acc 13050
(Private Purchase)
17. Two volumes of family histories of the Clan McLachlan of Beith, circa 2008.

Acc 13041
(Donation)

18. Electronic files of an unpublished book by Dr John G Gibson, 'Like Grass Before a Sharp Edge', being the story of Thomas Keith who died in Arabia in 1815, six files in Portable Document Format (PDF).

Acc 13046
(Deposit)

D Maps

1. Bell, Andrew. 'A plan of the city of Edinburgh with all the new streets, avenues, buildings, squares, courts &c within & round the city since 1741 till this present year 1773, comprehending likewise all grounds upon which the new town is proposed to be extended, & the buildings already finished & carrying on, which gives an idea of the appearance the whole will have when finished, & also its affinity with the old town.' Edinburgh: Andrew Bell, 1773.
1 map ; 27 x 39 cm.

This rare broadsheet map of Edinburgh, not listed in published cartobibliographies of Scotland, provides a fascinating insight into the the city as it was on the cusp of the creation of the New Town, indicating actual and proposed buildings. Broadsheets have a poor survival rate so this was an unusual opportunity to add this important plan to the Collection. The foundations for the first mansions in George Square and Princes Street had been laid only six years before and others were still under construction.

(Dealer)

2. Wyld, James Jr. 'Battle of Corunna, fought in the afternoon of the 16th of January, 1809, between the British army under Lt. Gen. Sir John Moore, K.B. and the French army commanded by Marshal Soult'. London: James Wyld, 1840.
1 map : hand col. ; 54 x 85 cm.

Coincidentally, in the bicentennial year of the battle this rare broadsheet map depicting the battle of Corunna became available. General Sir John Moore was born in Glasgow where he is remembered with a statue in George Square. He led an army of 35,000 through winter locked mountains in a fighting retreat to the Spanish coastal town of Corunna, pursued and greatly outnumbered by Napoleon's forces. A final pitched battle enabled the majority of the British army to embark on late arriving transport ships and sail for safety. Moore himself was mortally wounded in the battle and carried from the field by men from the 42nd Highlanders. His brave stand earned him posthumous plaudits at home and a monument to his memory erected by his enemy Marshal Soult, as depicted on the map, on the battlefield.

(Dealer)

3. '[Town plans to show the extent of the free post under the Great Postal Reform of 1840.]'
MS annotations, circa 1840-1847.
4 maps: hand col.

Town plans of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Selkirk and Helensburgh annotated to show the extent of the free post within each town following the Great Postal Reform Act of 1840. The underlying printed maps were among the best available for each town at the time, three of which were not already in the NLS collection. Town plans are scarce before Ordnance Survey mapping in the 1850s so these offer useful coverage of the towns at an earlier period. The underlying maps date between 1823 and 1847. The additional manuscript additions add to their potential usefulness.

(Dealer)