

National Library of Scotland

Principal Additions: January – March 2009

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

A. Printed books

1. Mandeston, William. 'Dialectica Guillelmi Ma[n]deston. Tripartitum epithoma'. [Lyon, circa 1520].

This is an extremely rare printing of the 'Tripartitum' by the Scottish philosopher and logician William Mandeston (circa 1485-1552), one of the leading Scottish intellectuals of his age. First printed in Paris in 1517, the 'Tripartitum' was Manderton's first published work. It is a three-part work in Latin on the principles of logic, dedicated to Andrew Forman, archbishop of St Andrews. This copy also has an interesting provenance – an inscription on the title page, 'Collegio de Montilla', shows that it was formerly in the collection of the Jesuit college of Montilla, near Cordoba in southern Spain. (Dealer)

2. Robertson, Dionysius. 'Leichte und ganz neue Art Pferde zu englisieren'. Arnheim, 1770.

This volume contains the second work by the 18th-century Scottish horse doctor Dionysius Robertson which the Library has acquired in recent years. In this work, which was only published in German, he describes cosmetic surgery carried out on horses. He outlines the process of docking the tail of a horse by cutting and raising the tail of a horse while the animal is kept in its stall. By using a system of weights and pulleys the docked tail could be pulled upwards until it had a pleasing erect appearance. Robertson then gives directions on how to carry out an operation to reduce the size of a horse's ears. The operations are illustrated with folding engraved plates. (Dealer)

3. Patterson, William. 'Wilhelm Patterson's Reisen in das Land der Hottentotten und der Kaffern'. Berlin, 1790 [with: William Francklin. 'Bemerkungen auf einer Reise von Bengalen nach Persien'. Berlin, 1790.]

This volume contains two German editions of important 18th-century British works of travel and exploration, both translated by Johann Reinhold Forster (1729-1798). Forster, a German of partial Scottish descent, was Professor of Natural History and Mineralogy at the University of Halle. He had also served as the naturalist on Captain Cook's second voyage 1772-1775.

The first item is the rare first German translation, complete with the often missing map, of 'A narrative of four journeys into the country of the Hottentots and Caffraria' by the Scots army officer and natural historian Lieutenant William Paterson (1755-1810). Paterson made four journeys from Cape Town into the largely unexplored interior of South Africa between 1777 and 1779 and published this account of his travels in 1789. The second item is a translation of 'Observations made on a tour from Bengal to Persia' by William Francklin [sic] (1763-1839).

(Dealer)

4. Wotherspoon, John and Stevenson, William. 'The weaver's pocket companion'. Glasgow, 1796.

This is an unrecorded second printing of a work which was first published in Glasgow in 1779. The book is one of several such 'Companions' produced by and for members of the weaving community in the west of Scotland, who were noted for their high level of education. It gives practical advice and a series of tables to help weavers produce the right quantity and quality of cloth. The fact that so few copies of either edition of Wotherspoon and Stevenson's 'Pocket companion' survive is probably testament to their heavy use by individual handloom weavers. After the mechanisation of cloth production in factories in the early 19th century, the handloom weavers, and by extension these printed weaving 'Companions', became largely redundant.

(Dealer)

5. [Archambault, Louis-François]. 'Les jeux, caprices et bizarreries de la nature'. Paris, 1808.

This is a rare copy of the first edition of a novel by the French author Louis-François Archambault (1742-1812), better known by his stage name 'Dorvigny'. The leading characters in this light-hearted tale are the Scottish 'Sir Jakson Makdonnal' and his family. To a modern reader, the main interest of this book probably lies in the last section, where the bearded heroine, forced to disguise herself as a man, becomes romantically involved with a girlish youth raised to wear female clothes, and they happily live like this till a bout of smallpox restores both to the normal appearance of their genders and they can get respectably married.

(Dealer)

6. Nicoll, Alexander. 'Notitia codicis Samaritano-Arabici in Bibliotheca Bodleiana'. Oxford, 1817.

This is a pamphlet on Arabic manuscript versions of the Pentateuch (the five books of Moses) held in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. The author Alexander Nicoll (1793-1828) was a Snell Exhibitioner, i.e. a recipient of a scholarship for Scottish scholars at Balliol College, Oxford. In the pamphlet he draws attention to errors in interpretation of these Pentateuch manuscripts by the 18th-century biblical scholar David Durell of Hertford College, Oxford, and the German professor of oriental languages at Jena Heinrich Eberhard Gottlob Paulus. Only 60 copies in total of the book were printed.

(Dealer)

7. McKerrell, John. 'A grammar of the Carnataca language'. Madras, 1820.

This is the first published grammar of the Kannada language of India. The author was a member of the McKerrell family of Hillhouse in Ayrshire. In his preface he explains that he was initially employed in a 'judicial situation' in the region of British Carnara (Karnataka - formerly known as the kingdom of Mysore) and was required to learn the Carnataca (Kannada) language of the local inhabitants. He proposed compiling a grammar as early as 1809, but ill-health and demands of work delayed the publication of this book until 1820. 'A new grammar of the Kannada language', based on McKerrell's earlier work, was published in 1859 in Bangalore.

(Dealer)

8. Odyńiec, Antoni Edward. 'Tłómaczenia Antoniego Edwarda Odyńga'. Vilnius, 1842-143.

This item contains volumes 4-6 of the translations of Antoni Edward Odyńiec (1804-1885). The first three volumes had been published in 1838 in Leipzig. Odyńiec was a journalist, poet and translator, who had previously translated Byron's 'Corsair' while in exile in Paris. The three volumes acquired include Polish translations of Scott's 'The Lay of the Last Minstrel', 'The Eve of St. John' and 'Cadyow Castle', and of Byron's 'Mazeppa'. Other translations include works by Gottfried August Bürger, Southey, Pushkin, and Schiller. COPAC records no copies of these translations outside London.
(Dealer)

9. 'Rules of the Fettercairn Cricket Club'. Montrose, 1865.

This appears to be the earliest surviving printed rule book of a Scottish cricket club; indeed it may well be the earliest known surviving printed item relating to cricket in Scotland. Among the rules listed here is bye-law 4 which states that 'no spirituous liquors shall be brought on to the ground at any time; and no profane language shall be permitted'. Although the population of Fettercairn was relatively small (only 339 inhabitants were recorded in 1861), in the 'Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland' (1882-85) the village is recorded as having quoit, cricket, and curling clubs. This particular copy was originally part of the Gladstone family's library at Fasque.
(Dealer)

10. [Celtic F C]. [Programme of the 1967 European Cup Final (Inter Milan versus Celtic), and six continental newspapers relating to the match]. [Location unknown.], 1967.

On 25 May 1967, Celtic beat Internazionale (Inter) of Milan 2-1 to become the first British football team to win the world's premier club competition, the European Cup. All the Celtic players in the team had been born within a 30-mile radius of Glasgow. This collection contains the official match programme (ink-stamped '2/6' on the front cover with what appears to be an additional price in British currency) as well as issues of Italian, French and Portuguese newspapers for 25-26 May.
(Auction)

B. Manuscripts

1. Fourteen letters and two discharges, 1632-1833, concerning the Scottish Church, Rotterdam, collected by Rev Dr William Steven, minister of Trinity Church, Edinburgh; with a letter, 1844, of Bell and Bradfute, publishers, to William Steven concerning his 'Memoir of George Heriot' with a copy of his reply and his account with the firm, 1848-1856.
(Donation)
2. Letter-book of Andrew Lumisden, 1763, formerly in the possession of Naomi Mitchison.
(Auction)

3. Calligraphic Edinburgh burgess ticket in favour of John, eleventh Lord Elphinstone, 1786
(Auction)
4. Diary and common-place book, circa 1805-1838, of Miss Kate Sym (1758-1838).
(Donation)
5. Journal, circa 1817, of a tour in the western counties of Scotland by Miss Archibald (sic) Montgomerie Williamson.
(Dealer)
6. Copy letter, 1825, of John Murray II to John Leycester Adolphus.
(Donation)
7. Fragment of letter, before 1826, of Sir Walter Scott, mentioning books in the Advocates Library and at Abbotsford.
Acc 13007
(Auction)
8. Letters to and concerning the Rev Dr David Aitken, Minister of Minto, with testimonials in his favour, 1827-1867. Writers include Thomas Chalmers and Sir David Brewster.
(Donation)
9. Miscellaneous (and unconnected) Sym and Wilson family papers, earlier 19th-20th centuries.
(Donation)
10. Calligraphic manuscript volume of poems, circa 1830, written by James Cargill, teacher, Leith.
(Donation)
11. Letter-book, 1837-1840, of James Grieve [died 1838?] and his son William, tenant farmers at Branxholm Park, near Hawick.
(Donation)
12. Two volumes, 1853 and 1855, recording Continental travels in France, Corsica, Italy, Belgium, Germany and Austria; with a volume containing cuttings, entitled 'Continental Notes', from the 'Edinburgh Evening Courant', 1860 and 1862, published under the name of 'An Occasional Correspondent'
(Dealer)
13. Journal-letters, 1871-1872, describing travels in Germany, sent by Elizabeth Sym to her niece Elizabeth, later Lady Sym. Originals and typed transcript.
(Donation)
14. Scottish Print Employers Federation Archive, 1876-1997.
(Donation)
15. Record, 1900-1905, of meteorological observations made at Capelrig, Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire.
(Private Purchase)

16. Miscellaneous papers relating to military and para-military uniforms and equipment, specifically the Canadian militia, 1907, and the Auxiliary Division, Royal Ulster Constabulary, 1920-1922.
(Donation)
17. Photographs, circa 1920s-1936, of George Oliver, emigrant to New Liskeard, Ontario, Canada, and Chicago, USA.
(Donation)
18. Photographs, circa 1920s-1936, of George Oliver, emigrant to new Liskeard, Ontario, Canada, and Chicago, USA.
(Donation)
19. Ten letters and one postcard, 1926-1933, of Leonora Blanche Lang, née Alleyne (1851-1933), to her niece Margaret Munro and her husband, William. With a notebook [not dated] containing MSS of a series of sketches titled 'Country Conversations'; also some photographs, circa 1880-1920, of Leonora and Andrew Lang.
(Donation)
20. Three scrapbooks, 1947-1960, containing photographs and ephemera of Nicholas Fairbairn, later Conservative MP for Perth and Kinross.
(Donation)
21. Letter, 1956, and corrected carbon typescripts of six poems by Alastair Reid, with an inscribed copy of 'Oddments Inklings Omens Moments', Boston, 1959.
(Dealer)
22. Eight ledgers, 1973-2008, of Alasdair Gray, containing diary entries, draft letters and literary notes and drafts relating to stories, poems, plays and the novel 'Old Men in Love'; with six corrected and annotated typescripts, 2008, of 'Fleck', a play.
(Private Purchase)
23. Stage set, 1973, for 'The Cheviot, the Stag and Black, Black Oil', designed and painted by John Byrne as a giant pop-up book to form four different backdrops to the play.
(Private Purchase)
24. Letter, 1977, of Muriel Spark to Michael Keith.
(Donation)
25. Production archive, circa 1990-2008, of Theatre Workshop, Edinburgh. Includes play scripts, photographs, reviews and publicity material.
(Donation)
26. Further papers, circa 1994-2008, of 7:84 Theatre Company (Scotland), with related artefacts.
(Donation)
27. Papers, 2007-2008, of 'Morning Star'.
(Deposit)

C. Maps

1. Ordnance Survey.
'Ordnance Survey of England and Wales'. Six inch to one mile.
'Ordnance Survey of Scotland'. 25 inches to one mile. Large-scale town plans.
Southampton: Ordnance Survey, 1840s-1930s.
[Donation]