

National Library of Scotland

Principal Additions: April-June 2010

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

A Printed Books

- 1 [Smollett, Tobias, ed.]. 'A compendium of authentic and entertaining voyages digested in a chronological series'. London, 1756.

This seven-volume anthology of travel writing was partially edited by the Scottish author Tobias Smollett. It consists of edited accounts of the trade and military expeditions of major European explorers and adventurers such as Columbus, Vasco da Gama and Magellan.

Smollett was contracted in 1753 to complete the work by the following year. At the time he was working on a wide range of literary projects in his roles of translator, editor and critic; he was also living a hectic social life in London. It is perhaps little wonder that he later admitted that his overall contribution to the work was actually rather limited.
(Dealer)

- 2 Hume, David. 'Vier Philosophen'. Glogau, 1760.

This is an extremely rare German translation of Hume's essays 'The Epicurean', 'The Stoic', 'The Platonist' and 'The Sceptic'. Interestingly, the translation was not done from the English original, but from a French translation of 1758 by Jean Bernard Merian. The translator tried hard to praise the volume as a comfort in difficult times, saying, 'It can serve to cheer up the mind during the present sorrowful times, in order to glimpse the glow of merciful predestination.' Unfortunately, the sceptic Hume had no belief in divine predestination at all.

There are no known copies of this item in Britain or the US.
(Dealer)

- 3 Hume, David. 'Wysgeerige en staatkundige verhandelingen'. Rotterdam, 1766.

This is a rare edition (no copies are recorded elsewhere in the UK) of the first Dutch translation of David Hume's 'Political Discourses', the first work by Hume to be translated into Dutch. The identity of the translator remains unknown.

The 'Political Discourses', first published in Edinburgh in 1752, was arguably the only one of Hume's works to enjoy immediate commercial success in Britain. The work quickly became very influential throughout

Europe among the leading economic theorists of the day, including Adam Smith.
(Dealer)

- 4 Walker, Mary, Lady. 'Munster village, a novel'. London, 1778.

'Munster Village' is the best known work of one of Scotland's earliest female novelists. The author, Lady Mary Walker (1736-1822), was born in Fife. Her marriage to Dr James Walker seems to have broken down after a few years; in later life she said she had been forced to turn to writing to clothe, feed and educate her children. Between 1775 and 1782 she wrote four works, three of which were published. 'Munster Village' was her best-received novel.

This is a copy of the very rare first edition. Only one other copy is recorded in the UK.
(Dealer)

- 5 Anderson, James. 'Observations on the means of exciting a spirit of national industry; chiefly intended to promote the agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and fisheries, of Scotland'. Dublin, 1779.

This is the first Irish printing of a work originally published in Edinburgh in 1777, which contains one of the earliest critiques of Adam Smith's 'Wealth of nations'. The author, James Anderson (1739-1808), was a landowner and farmer with a strong interest in political economy. The work consists of a series of letters outlining his thoughts on the future of Scotland's economic output, with special reference to the economically depressed Highlands.

Anderson dedicated his work to the Duke of Buccleuch, a major landowner who took a keen interest in Scottish agriculture, but who also happened to be a former pupil and later a patron of Adam Smith.
(Dealer)

- 6 Graeffe, Johann Friedrich Christoph. 'De miraculorum natura philosophiae principiis non contradicente'. Helmstedt, 1797.

Johann Friedrich Christoph Graeffe (1754-1816) received a PhD in theology from the University of Helmstedt in Lower Saxony in 1797. 'De miraculorum natura' was his inaugural dissertation; in it he grappled with the Rationalists' problem of how to scientifically explain the miracles in the Bible. His argument brought him into conflict with the philosophy of David Hume, who regarded miracles as irrational and unlikely ever to have happened: he had stated his position in his essay on miracles, first published in his 'Philosophical essays concerning human understanding'.

This particular copy has a 19th-century library label indicating that it was once in the library of Theological Seminary of Lexington, South

Carolina (now the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Columbia, S C).
(Dealer)

- 7 [MacFait, Ebenezer]. 'Entwurf von Platon's Leben, nebst Bermerkungen über dessen schriftstellerischen und philosophischen Charakter'. Leipzig, 1797.

This is the first German translation of 'Remarks on the Life and Writings of Plato', which was originally published in Edinburgh in 1760 by the obscure Scottish scholar-physician Ebenezer MacFait (d. 1786). MacFait's book focuses particularly on Plato's 'Republic'. The translation was the work of Karl Morgenstern (1770-1852), a professor of philosophy at the University of Halle.

This particular copy has doodles in pencil on the paper covers, including four faces in profile, and the word 'Tennemann' written in several places, which suggests that this book may have once been owned by a student of the Platonic scholar Wilhelm Gottlieb Tennemann (1761-1819).
(Dealer)

- 8 Highland Society of Scotland. 'Report drawn up by a committee of the Highland Society of Scotlan'. Stirling, [1812?]

This unrecorded report recommends 'the great utility of establishing a general uniformity of weights and measures all over Scotland'. The Act of Union of 1707 had stipulated that weights and measures should be uniform across Scotland and England, but the issue was not decisively tackled by the British government until the Weights and Measures Act of 1824, when the imperial system of units was adopted throughout Britain and its Empire.

The report was printed by Mary Randall, the widow of the Stirling printer Charles Randall. After her husband's death in 1812, Mary continued his printing business until 1820.
(Dealer)

- 9 Gray, Andrew. 'The experienced millwright; or, A treatise on the construction of some of the most useful machines, with the latest improvements'. Edinburgh, 1806.

This is the most accurate first-hand account of the state of traditional British millwrighting in the second half of the 18th century. The text is supplemented by 44 engravings showing the layouts of various types of water-, wind- and animal-powered machinery. The designs and descriptions are mostly of mills and machines which Gray either designed or supervised in actual construction in central-eastern Scotland. Little is known of Gray. In his book's preface he is described

as 'a practical mechanic' who 'has been for at least forty years employed in erecting different kinds of machinery'.
(Dealer)

- 10 'MacKenzie's Gazette'. New York and Rochester, 1838-9.

The Dundonian William Lyon Mackenzie (1795-1861) emigrated to the province of Upper Canada in 1820. He became a politician and journalist, and in 1834, when the provincial capital York was incorporated as the City of Toronto, Mackenzie became its first mayor. After the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837-1838 he fled to New York where in May 1838 he launched 'Mackenzie's Gazette'. It was an important, if rather short-lived, literary expression of radical anti-colonial feeling among Canadians and American sympathisers.

The set acquired by NLS comprises volume 1, numbers 27 to 52, covering November 1838 to May 1839. There are no recorded original copies of the newspaper in the UK.
(Dealer)

- 11 Annan, Thomas. 'Photographic views of Loch Katrine and of some of the principal works constructed for introducing the water of Loch Katrine into the city of Glasgow'. Glasgow, 1889.

Loch Katrine, a freshwater loch in the Trossach hills, was identified in 1853 as a potential source of clean drinking water for Glasgow. Opened in 1859, the waterworks made a substantial difference to the health of the city. The Glasgow Corporation Water Works engaged the photographer Thomas Annan (1829-1887) to provide a photographic record of the waterworks and the various aqueduct bridges and reservoirs built to facilitate the supply of water to Glasgow, 34 miles away. 'Photographic views of Loch Katrine', which consisted of 28 albumen prints by Annan, with accompanying text and in a special binding, was first published in 1877. The 1889 edition is much rarer and has extra photographs relating to the Corporation Water Works in Glasgow.
(Auction)

- 12 MacDiarmid, Hugh [C.M. Grieve]. 'To circumjack Cencrastus or The curly snake'. Edinburgh and London, 1930.

We have acquired this particular copy of the first edition of Hugh MacDiarmid's epic poem because of its binding by the renowned Scottish bookbinder Arthur W Currie (born 1922). He was overseer of bindings at the Edinburgh-based publishing firm of Oliver and Boyd before becoming a lecturer at Napier College (now Edinburgh Napier University). Currie specialised in the use of coloured inks as well as gold leaf to produce his designs. This binding, probably dating from the 1950s, is a blue goatskin with a serpent-like design of interlinked coils in black, blue, grey and tan morocco and with a gilt sunburst pattern.

(Dealer)

B. Manuscripts

1. Papers, 17th-20th centuries, of the Irvine Robertson family, the Rev. Alexander Irvine, and the Stewart families of Gardh, Kynachan and Drumcharry, with associated papers.
Acc.13156
(Purchase)
2. Accounts, 1714, from fruit tree suppliers and undated lists of orchard trees and vegetables from the papers of the Douglas of Cavers family.
Acc.13172
(Dealer)
3. Letter, 1752, to Andrew Wauchope of Niddry, and household bills and receipts, 1729-1750, of the Wauchope of Niddry family.
Acc.13171
(Dealer)
4. Correspondence and estate papers, 18th-19th centuries, and notebooks and sketchbooks, 19th century, of Sir Pulteney Malcolm and other members of the Malcolm family.
Acc.13175
(Dealer)
5. Correspondence and papers, 1774-1852, of the Lawson family of Selkirk.
Acc.13173
(Dealer)
6. Correspondence, family papers, household accounts and estate papers, late 17th-19th centuries, of the Chalmers of Auldbar family.
Acc.13174
(Dealer)
7. Letter of Nevil Maskelyne, 1794, and letters of members of the Park family, 1807-1830, to Mungo Park.
Acc.13149
(Dealer)
8. Letters, 1799-1828, of Francis Irvine to his father Alexander Irvine of Drum Castle, concerning his service in the East India Company and Afghanistan.
Acc.13147
(Auction)

9. Letter, 1805, of John Rennie to Sir Joseph Banks, discussing the drainage of the Fens.
Acc.13148
(Auction)
10. Letters and poems, 1822 and undated, of Robert Hogg to John and Margaret Aitken.
Acc.13164
(Dealer)
11. Will, 1840, of Rear Admiral Sir Frederick L Maitland.
Acc.13152
(Deposit)
12. Letters, 1840, 1898, of Samuel Smiles to J A Roebuck and J A Gray, with an undated photograph of Samuel Smiles by Elliot and Fry Ltd, London.
Acc.13150
(Dealer)
13. Correspondence and papers, 1861-1864, concerning Ebenezer Henderson's research for his biography, 'Life of James Ferguson FRS' (Edinburgh, 1867).
Acc.13166
(Purchase)
14. Anonymous album of a visit to Scotland entitled 'Oban, 1919'.
Acc.13169
(Purchase)
15. Journals, letters, manuscripts, notes, verse and other papers, 1928-1967, of and relating to Alastair Cram.
Acc.13170
(Donation)
16. Literary papers, circa 1950-1997, of Nigel Tranter, including manuscripts and typescripts of 'Portrait of the Border Country', 'The Lion's Whelp', 'Lion Let Loose' and 'The Pegasus Book of Scotland'.
Acc.13160
(Donation)
17. Letters and postcards, 1970-1980 and undated, of W S Graham to William Featherston, with a few letters of Nessie Graham and others; typescript, carbon typescript and photocopied typescript of draft sections of long poems, 1958 and undated, including 'The Dark Dialogues' and 'With the Dulle Griet in Canada'; silk screen print portrait of W S Graham by William Featherston; and CD and audio-cassette of BBC radio broadcasts by W S Graham.
Acc.13163
(Purchase)

18. Letters, 1960-2001 and undated, to Maurice Fleming, mainly relating to traditional Scottish song, stories and folklore. Correspondents include Mary Brooksbank, Hamish Henderson, Ewan McColl and Jeannie Robertson.
Acc.13168
(Purchase)
19. Literary papers, circa 1962-2009, of Tom Leonard.
Acc.13151
(Purchase)
20. Letters of Robert Kemp, 1964, 1966, and of Peter Russell, 1963, to Syndey Goodsir Smith, with a photocopy of a letter, 1965, of Norman MacLeod to Andrew Young.
Acc.13155
(Donation)
21. Minute books and register of members, 1965-1992, of the Company of Scottish History.
Acc.13167
(Deposit)
22. Poetry notebooks, circa 1966-1998, of Bashabi Fraser.
Acc.13157
(Donation)
23. Letters, 1975-2000, of Diana Hendry to William Scammell, including many enclosed poems.
Acc.13165
(Deposit)
24. Letters, 1981-2001, to Ronald Renton, mainly relating to the teaching of Scottish literature. The correspondents are Belle Stewart (two letters, 1981, 1982); Sorley MacLean (two letters, 1982, 1986); Norman MacCaig (three letters, 1985-1989); Dorothy Dunnett (one letter and one postcard, 2001).
Acc.13153
(Donation)
25. Scrapbook, 1986-1989, of the International Brigades Committee 1936-1986, containing letters, ephemera and photographs relating to 'A Tribute to Democracy' and the Spanish Civil War.
Acc.13158
(Donation)
26. Papers, 1987-2007, of the Saltire Society.
Acc.13161
(Deposit)

27. Television script, 1991, of 'Dreaming' by William McIlvanney.
Acc.13154
(Donation)
28. Papers, 1993-1997, of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist
Association.
Acc.13162
(Deposit)
29. Papers, 2008-2009, of Studio Alec Finlay.
Acc.13159
(Deposit)
30. Electronic copy, circa 2010, of 'Selected Poems One, 1964-1988' by
Robin Fulton.
Acc.13146
(Donation)