

National Library of Scotland

Principal additions: January-March 2011

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

A. Printed Books:

1. Hay, John.' Fragstück des christlichen Glaubens an die neuwe sectische Predigkanden'. Freyburg in Uchtlandt, 1585.

This is the first German translation of the treatise 'Certaines demandes concerning the Christian religion' by the Scottish Jesuit John Hay (1547-1607). 'Certaines demandes' was first published in Paris in 1580 and consisted of 166 questions on points of religious controversy. It was highly influential on the Continent and a key text for supporters of the Counter-Reformation. A French translation appeared in 1583, followed by this German translation two years later by the Swiss Catholic theologian Sebastian Werro (1555-1614). This particular copy has the added significance of being a presentation copy from Werro to the Swiss nobleman Ludwig von Afry.
(Dealer)

2. Anderson, James. 'The true interest of Great Britain considered'. [London?], 1783.

The Scottish agriculturist and political economist James Anderson (1739-1808) wrote this treatise about the regeneration of the economy in northern Scotland and the Hebrides. A small number of copies were printed in 1783 for private circulation amongst his friends. This particular copy has been bought for its copy specific features. It includes an extra printed dedication leaf to Henry Dundas, first Viscount Melville (1742-1811). The leaf is not present in at least two of the four recorded copies in ESTC. Moreover, the work has probably been bound by James Scott of Edinburgh. The binding is not recorded in J H Loudon's work James Scott and William Scott, Bookbinders, however some tools employed are identifiable as ones known to have been used by James Scott.
(Dealer)

3. Duncan, Andrew. [Collection of 13 printed items mainly edited or written by Andrew Duncan the elder]. [Edinburgh], 1801-1810.

This collection of ephemera is mostly connected with a key figure of the Scottish Enlightenment, the physician Andrew Duncan the elder (1744-1828). It contains ten items which can be ascribed to him. Nine of them are not in NLS and at least two are unrecorded. There are also two substantial items: 'Poems chiefly in the Scottish dialect' (1809), not by Duncan but by Andrew Stewart, and part of a collection of Scottish verse edited by Duncan, 'Carminum rariorum macaronicorum delectus' (1801). The collection also contains two elegies written by James Amos and John Wharton for late Edinburgh medical colleagues. The items, which are bound together, were probably all printed in Edinburgh by the firm of Adam Neill & Son.

(Dealer)

4. Kelly, Isabella. 'The secret: a novel'. Brentford, 1805.

Isabella Kelly, née Fordyce (1759-1857), poet and novelist, was born at Cairnburgh Castle, Aberdeen. In 1794 she published her first book, a Collection of poems and fables. She published her first novel, 'Madeline', also in 1794, and wrote nine more between 1795 and 1811. The secret is a Gothic romance, set in an ancient abbey in the imaginary village of Llanleeven in North Wales. This four-volume-set contains the ownership inscriptions and bookplates of Sir John Thorold of Syston Park, Lincolnshire.

(Dealer)

5. Bell, Thomas [pseud. of John Roberton]. 'Kalogynomia, or The laws of female beauty: Being the elementary principles of that science'. London, 1821.

The Scottish physician John Roberton (1776-1840) was a radical and controversial figure in the medical profession. In 1809 he was expelled from the Royal Medical Society for disgraceful conduct. He teamed up with John Joseph Stockdale to publish this work using his pseudonym Thomas Bell. It is aimed squarely at a male readership of the middle and upper classes. Illustrated with 24 plates, Roberton covers sexual health and generation, with chapters discussing beauty and love, before turning to a more detailed discussion of sexual intercourse. The work provides a fascinating insight into early 19th-century sexual thought, revealing the sensitivity over the publication of works dealing with such matters, and the fine line in the debate of what was considered to be medical or sexual, anatomical or pornographical.

(Dealer)

6. Goalen, Walter. 'A thanksgiving ode on the recovery of H R H The Prince of Wales'. Edinburgh, 1872.

This is an unrecorded work by the Scottish poet Walter Goalen, specially written and published to commemorate the recovery from typhoid fever of Edward VII, Prince of Wales. The text is printed in gold throughout and the upper vellum board features the royal coat of arms in gilt. A bookplate on the front pastedown indicates that this copy was part of the Prince of Wales's Library. A manuscript dedication by the author to the Prince of Wales appears on the recto of the front flyleaf.

(Auction)

7. [Anderson, Alan]. [Collection of around 230 items printed by Alan Anderson at the Tragara Press]. [Edinburgh & Loanhead], 1962-2009.

This is a collection of around 230 letterpress items printed by the Tragara Press between 1962 and 2009. The Tragara Press was founded in Edinburgh in the early 1950s by Alan Anderson (born 1922). It is Scotland's longest-running, and, in terms of output, most prolific private press. Anderson's printing is characterised by its emphasis on typography rather than illustration and by its elegant, austere design; his books are now collectors' items among bibliophiles. The Library has collected Tragara Press items for many years and held an exhibition of the

Press's work in 2005. This collection supplements NLS's existing holdings of Tragara Press material by adding examples of work printed for other presses; it also includes examples of very rare printed ephemera, proof copies and variant printings on different papers.

(Private vendor)

B. Manuscripts

1. Literary papers, 1943-1997, of Thomas Sturdy Law (1916-1997).

T S Law was one of the lesser-known 20th century Scottish poets, but an interesting one. From a mining background and largely self-educated, he worked almost exclusively in Scots throughout his long and prolific writing life. His poems were published in many periodicals and latterly under his own imprint, Fingerpost Publications. Law was championed at various times by Christopher Grieve, Douglas Young, Hamish Henderson, Edwin Morgan and others - these, and many more of his contemporaries, feature in the correspondence files. A highlight must be a wonderful early letter from Norman MacCaig on the nature of poetry. The archive is imbued with Law's passionate and life-long commitment to communism, republicanism, atheism, and a fierce Scottish nationalism. It's there in the poetry and correspondence, and in his active involvement with the John MacLean Society, the National Assembly for Scotland campaign, and the Scots Language Society. All this alongside a full-time job as a technical writer.

(Purchase)

Acc.13225

2. Correspondence, photographs and papers, circa 1920-1993, of and relating to Edwin and Willa Muir.

A box of papers of Edwin and Willa Muir has been generously given to the Library by Edwin Muir's great-nephew, Thomas Ross. This is in continuation of an earlier gift of notebooks of Willa Muir. Mr Ross did not know or remember that he owned this collection until the box turned up at the back of a cupboard. And what a find it is, all the more exciting for probably being entirely new to the research community. The core of the collection is a substantial file of letters from both the Muirs to Edwin's sister Lizzie, and later, to her daughters, dating from 1921-1970. This is family rather than literary correspondence, and gives a moving insight into the Muirs' lives – often financially difficult but always determinedly creative. The collection contains letters from Kathleen Raine, Stanley Cursiter, T S Eliot and a host of others. Here the stand-out item is probably a long letter of 1967 from Christopher Grieve to Willa Muir in which he gives his version of the breakdown of his friendship with Edwin Muir and reflects on other matters in the past. Further gems are to be found in the file of photographs, from early family snapshots of the Muirs and their son Gavin to photographs of the redoubtable Willa in old age.

(Presented)

Acc.13226

3. The Attic Archive

All archives are unique, but the Attic Archive is among the most unusual and highly visual in our collections. The artist who created it has, over a 30-year period, documented three distinct decades of his life as Pete Horobin, Marshall Anderson and Peter Haining. The collection given to NLS dates mainly from the 1990s, when, as Marshall Anderson, he lived a largely itinerant existence – often out of a tent – on the fringes of arts, crafts and traveller communities throughout Scotland. During this decade Marshall Anderson made a small living as an arts journalist and maintained a journal. The journal is accompanied by a series of over 350 stunning drawings, mainly of the landscapes of northern Scotland. In his later persona as Peter Haining, and as an artist, he is greatly concerned with how the Marshall Anderson collection looks on the shelf and has fashioned portfolios for the journals and drawings from the tents and clothes used and worn by Anderson. The artist has an abiding interest in artists' books, and has given the Library some unique bookworks made in collaboration with the Sutherland-based ceramicist Lottle Glob, as well as a collection of published Scottish artists' books. His correspondence (under all three identities) with fellow artists is another rich seam and – as well as a lengthy correspondence with Glob – includes files of letters and artworks from George Wyllie, Alec Finlay, Rob Fairley and Andy Stenhouse. This collection – aside from its intrinsic intellectual and aesthetic value – could prove a valuable resource for research into counter-cultural art in Scotland over three decades.

(Presented)

Acc.13227

Works costing £1,000 or more:

Printed Books:

Hay, J. 'Fragstück des christlichen Glaubens'	£2,750
Anderson, J. 'The true interest of Great Britain considered'	£2,000
Duncan, A. [Collection of 13 printed items]	£1,250
Kelly, I. 'The secret: a novel'	£2,250
Goalen, W. 'A thanksgiving ode'	£1,040

[Anderson, A.] [Collection of around. 230 items printed at the Tragara Press]
£16,000