

National Library of Scotland

Annual Report

1997-98



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National Library of Scotland
Edinburgh

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Facing page: Young visitors to the Library's
Captured Shadows exhibition.

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National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1EW

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Photo: Mark Jackson

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Chairman's foreword



DURING THE PAST YEAR the main reading rooms of the National Library of Scotland have been closed to allow essential building work to be carried out. This work, within the George IV Bridge Building, is complex and extensive and affects all parts of the building. When it is completed, the Library will have brought its fire precautions up to the most modern standards, and the fabric and services of the building will have been refurbished to a quality that structurally will allow the Library to fulfil its national and international role. Progress is such that now much of the Library's effort is being focused on preparation for reopening the reading rooms.

The disruption caused by the building work has been great. Some material has been inaccessible for as much as a year. Great efforts have been made to provide alternative facilities, but we appreciate that some researchers and scholars have been caused much inconvenience. The upheaval has also meant that many members of the staff of the Library have had to face considerable problems. Many have had to relocate temporarily in the Causewayside Building. Others who remained in the George IV Bridge Building have had to undertake their work against a background of noise and inconvenience. It is all the more pleasing for the Trustees to be able to record the exceptional efforts made by the staff to minimise the impact of the disruption and to maintain readers' services.

Everyone concerned can feel proud that with careful planning and much effort the move to Causewayside was

successfully completed and services provided to readers — on time to a very tight timetable.

A difficult year has been compounded by continuing constraints on funding, particularly for staff. The Trustees have continued to present to Government as forcefully as they can the case for adequate funding to enable the Library to fulfil its responsibilities. It is pleasing though to be able to report that in the course of the year the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department made additional resources available to allow the Library to acquire the archive of Sorley MacLean, the greatest Gaelic poet of the modern period. Nevertheless, the Trustees are aware that the level of service that the Library can offer has undoubtedly been adversely affected by staff losses resulting from Government policy on public spending. By the end of the year under review the Library had lost 40 of the 300 posts it had only ten years ago — a drop of 13% in posts, many of them at a senior level. The forthcoming year's grant will inevitably mean yet further pressures on staff numbers.

I would like to express the Library's appreciation of the help given by the Board of Trustees. We benefit greatly from the way in which they give their time, their advice and their experience to our affairs. It is a particular sadness to have to record the death in a tragic accident of Mr David Ferguson, who represented the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities on the Board. His presence and support will be greatly missed.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres

Librarian's introduction



IN INTRODUCING THIS ANNUAL REPORT I am particularly conscious that, as the Chairman notes, the achievements recorded in it have been produced against a background of disruption to normal activities as a result of building work, with many staff having to work in difficult conditions for much of the year. Warm thanks are due to all those who were directly involved with transferring activities from George IV Bridge to the Causewayside Building, also to those who put so much effort into satisfying the demand to consult rare books and manuscripts in the period leading up to the transfer, and not least to those who worked so hard to maintain the many other aspects of the Library's operations while the transfer was planned and executed.

During the year the six legal deposit libraries of Great Britain and Ireland, of which the National Library of Scotland is one, have continued to work together to the benefit of each. For example, the agreement to share responsibility for the cataloguing of current British and Irish publications has been renewed. Further work has been done jointly on the extension of legal deposit to non-print publications, not presently covered by legislation, and it seems likely that the publishers of information in the new media will agree to a code of voluntary deposit until the Government is able to give this extension the force of law.

The Library has continued to try to strike a balance between its traditional responsibilities and the new functions that technological progress makes possible. The impact of new technology on libraries has been emphasised by the report of

the Library and Information Commission, 'New Library: the People's Network', which focuses on the development of public libraries, but has profound implications for libraries of all types. The National Library of Scotland is committed to playing its part in any new national library network, and in preparation it has invested heavily in information technology, including a high-speed fibre-optic communications network linking its main buildings.

In a marriage of the old and the new, the Library is seeking to extend access to its collections by capturing in digital form the information contained in them, and making it available across the Internet or in other electronic formats. As part of this effort, the oldest detailed mapping of Scotland (the manuscript maps by Timothy Pont) and the earliest books printed in Scotland (the Chepman and Myllar prints) have been digitised and thereby new opportunities for scholars engaged in studying them have been opened up. Information about what the Library holds in its collections is also being made more widely available by the rapid expansion of its online catalogues. At the same time, the Library has not forgotten that the primary means of access to its services and collections remains for most users the personal visit and consultation in the Library's reading rooms. For this reason, plans have been made in the course of the year to improve the arrangements for providing assistance to users when they first enter the Library's George IV Bridge Building. The creation of a new Enquiries and Admissions point in the building will allow staff to enhance the quality of service to the public, for which they already have a deservedly high reputation.

I. D. McGowan

*'It's a mystery to
me how I'd cope
without the
National
Library'*

IAN RANKIN •

Ian Rankin is one of the UK's leading crime writers. His first 'whodunnit' was actually written in the Library, and is partly set in the passageways beneath the street on which it stands. Sixteen further bestsellers have followed. He is seen here in Mary King's Close beneath the Royal Mile.



The collections

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND enjoys a unique status within the cultural life of Scotland and the UK. It is the world's leading source for printed material about Scotland and the Scots, and one of the UK's leading research libraries. As one of only six legal deposit libraries in the British Isles it has a right to claim a free copy of all UK and Irish publications, and the size and range of its collections of printed books are unmatched by any UK library north of Cambridge. No fewer than 238,860 items were acquired by legal deposit in the course of the year, ranging from the white paper on Scottish devolution, *Scotland's Parliament*, to scientific works like George Ripka's *Quarks Bound by Chiral Fields: the Quark Structure of the Vacuum and of Light Mesons and Baryons*, and more popular books such as *Oh, Hampden in the Sun*, a history of Celtic Football Club.

Whilst most new publications arrive courtesy of the Library's legal deposit status, antiquarian and foreign publications and items of special interest are usually acquired by purchase or as gifts from the Library's many friends and supporters.

Among the outstanding purchases of the year were first editions of two works by Robert Louis Stevenson — *Virginibus puerisque* and *Underwoods* — with notes by the author showing where the poems and essays were written. These volumes shed a new and interesting light on the way Stevenson worked, and offer the essential blend of biography and literary revelation so appreciated by his devotees.

The Library paid £17,000 at auction for an almost pristine binding of *Paradise Lost* by the celebrated eighteenth-century binder James Scott after its owner took it along to the *Antiques Roadshow* television programme; and a



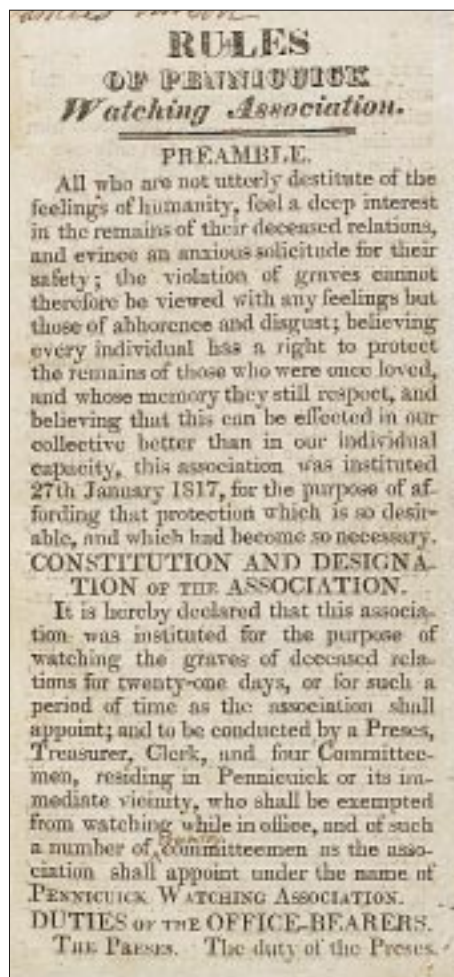
A 1904 Glasgow-published miniature edition of Shakespeare, complete with book-case. The books are just 6cm high.



Eighteenth-century Scott binding.



Just some of the 127 rare seventeenth- and eighteenth-century broadsides purchased after their discovery at Blairs College.



remarkable collection of 127 seventeenth- and eighteenth-century broadsides, most of them previously unrecorded, were purchased after their discovery at Blairs College, Aberdeen. From the scaffold speech of a horse-stealer to political and religious tracts, they give an extraordinary insight into the society and culture of 300 years ago.

Notable modern purchases made during 1997-98 included the monumental ninety-two volume *Bibliography of American Imprints to 1901*, providing a single source of information about pre-1900 US works, and the equally impressive CD-ROM *Catalogue générale de la Bibliothèque nationale de France des origines à nos jours*, which neatly complements the electronic catalogue of the British Library, *British Library General Catalogue of Printed Books to 1995 on CD-ROM*, also bought during the year.

Donated material was as varied as ever, including the only known copy of the rule-book of an early nineteenth-century grave-watching society at Penicuik and a collection of Nazi propaganda sheets published in English in the 1930s (including *Adolf Hitler's Contribution to the Promotion of European Peace*). Copies of the original *Tintin* comic from the 1960s were gifted by Ruari McLean, a leading authority on twentieth-century book design and illustration, and a Trustee of the Library.

Nazi propaganda sheets collected by British sailors visiting Germany in the 1930s

The rule-book for a grave-watching society at Penicuik at the time of the body-snatchers Burke and Hare.



Tintin in tartan, from a 1960s issue of the comic.





Changing fashions are well documented by trade catalogues like this handsome publication of Shanks & Co., produced in 1893.



Maps

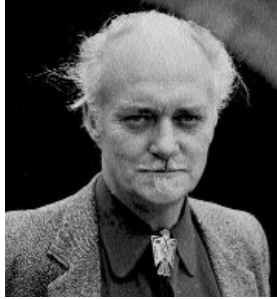
Although the legal deposit privilege includes printed maps, the Library's main source of cartographic material was donation, thanks to the Ordnance Survey continuing its gift of Survey Information on Microfilm (SIM). The most interesting map acquisition of the year came as a purchase, however. It was one of only three recorded copies of a sea-chart by Hendrick Doncker, *Groote pascaert van alle de zee-custen van Europa*. Produced in Amsterdam in 1658, and unusually printed on vellum, it covers the Atlantic, Arctic, and Mediterranean coasts, with Scotland near the centre, and admirably complements the Library's rich collections of polar material.

Hendrick Doncker's sea-chart of 1658.

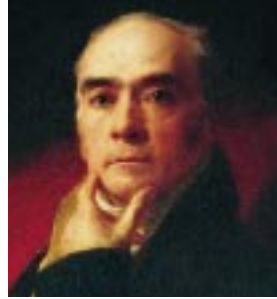
Photo: Timothy Neat



Photo: Ian Watson



Self Portrait (detail), National Gallery of Scotland



Acc.11480

Manuscripts

The outstanding manuscript acquisition of 1997-98 was the papers of Sorley MacLean, widely recognised as the greatest Gaelic poet of the modern period. Such is the richness of the collection, with its drafts of poetry in Gaelic and English and the author's complete correspondence from the 1940s onwards, that the Scottish Office provided a special grant to allow it to be acquired for the nation.

The Library's rich collection of literary magazine archives was further expanded by papers relating to *Cencrastus*, *Chapman*, the *Edinburgh Review*, and *Gairm*. Also acquired were supplementary papers from the Edinburgh International Festival, the Scottish Arts Council, and the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh. The Scottish Music Hall Society also deposited its collections, and the correspondence of composer



Acc.11497

Top, left to right:
Sorley MacLean
Ronald Stevenson
Sir Henry Raeburn

Above: Gouty and cantankerous Oxford dons read the *Edinburgh Review*. From a volume of caricatures by J. G. Lockhart. Purchased with the assistance of the National Art Collections Fund.

Right: Records of the Caltoun Hill vigil in support of Scottish devolution.

Far right: Scottish Mountaineering Club papers.



Acc.11538



and pianist Ronald Stevenson, whose manuscript scores are already held by the Library, was purchased.

A fascinating collection of the letters and papers of Sir Henry Raeburn (1756-1823), purchased at auction, sheds new light on one of the great names of Scottish portraiture, with fresh insights into his family life and complicated business dealings. Immediately after acquisition, these remarkable documents were published on the Library's website.

In August 1997, the Library was gifted the records of Democracy for Scotland, which for a number of years had mounted a vigil on Calton Hill in Edinburgh as part of its campaign for Scottish devolution. The well-documented record of its struggle, including press-cuttings, minute books, and correspondence, was donated in the light of the new government's commitment to set up a Scottish parliament.

The Library's interest in labour history and the life of working people was reflected in the addition of papers and archives relating to the Workers' Educational Association, the Union of Communication Workers, the Edinburgh Journeymen Bookbinders Union Society, and the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades. The deposit of additional material from the Scottish Mountaineering Club further enhanced the Library's rich sporting collections. The SMC deposits are a mine of information about climbing at home and abroad, and include papers relating to Sir Hugh Munro, whose identification of Scotland's 3,000ft peaks in 1891 led to today's craze for 'Munro-bagging'.



Just part of a week's delivery of books supplied under legal deposit.

Extending legal deposit

The Library continues to press for the extension of the legal deposit system to cover 'new publication media', and Ian McGowan, the Librarian, represented both the National Library of Scotland and the National Library of Wales on a working party on the subject chaired by Sir Anthony Kenny.

Legal deposit is an extremely cost-effective way of building national reference collections, but in recent years the value of the system has been eroded by the growth of publications which UK libraries cannot claim under existing legislation. These include microforms, CD-ROMs, and audio books. The result is the loss to the national collection of a growing amount of important information.

Before the general election in May 1997, it seemed likely that legal deposit would be extended to cover new publication media, but the incoming government was unable to find time in its current legislative programme and so wished to consider a voluntary code. Sir Anthony Kenny's working party was set up with a remit from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to advise on achieving an effective national archive of non-print material, and to devise a voluntary code of practice for the deposit of electronic and microform publications.

Improving access

High priority was given to the conversion to electronic form (or 'retroconversion') of the Library's older catalogues of printed books. This not only opens up the Library's collections to a global audience through the World Wide Web, but also gives increased scope for the Library to engage in collaborative programmes with major institutions at home and abroad.

The retroconversion programme began in 1992 and is on target for completion by the year 2000. In July 1997 the 2 millionth bibliographical record was added to the online catalogue, which will eventually contain some 3 million records. This excellent rate of progress has been helped by accelerated funding from the Scottish Office, which recognises the value of the programme to the country as a whole.

The Library also continued to expand and develop other products which help identify printed material relating to Scotland and the Scots. All are available to a worldwide audience through the Library website.

Bibliography of Scotland is the world's most comprehensive listing of modern publications on Scotland and the Scots. It details books, periodicals, and major articles of Scottish interest published anywhere in the world, and for the second year running was made available to the public on CD-ROM and through the Library's website. In the course of the year, discussions at a UK level explored the role of *Bibliography of Scotland* in the context of possible changes in the way the

overall record of UK publishing is maintained. The feasibility of *Bibliography of Scotland* in future recording documents which exist only as electronic files also began to be explored.

BOSLIT (Bibliography of Scottish Literature in Translation) continued to expand with support from the British Academy and the Scottish Arts Council. A unique source of information about translations of Scottish literature published after 1945, BOSLIT now includes details of some 17,000 translations into over eighty languages. The Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland has been asked for support to extend coverage to the period 1900 to 1945, and an application will be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to allow even earlier material to be included. Since the project began in 1994, it has helped to establish positive links between the Library and centres for Scottish studies throughout the world.

BOSG, an online bibliography of works in Scottish Gaelic which first went 'live' last year, continues to expand as details of new Gaelic publications acquired by the Library are added to it. Other online reference tools under preparation are a directory of the Library's printed special collections (which will also be published as a book) and a directory of the Scottish book trade.

The automation of the Library's catalogues of manuscripts also made good progress, thanks to the absence of public service duties because of

building work. Particular emphasis was placed on cataloguing the extensive archive of William Blackwood and Sons, one of the Library's most important collections. Manuscript Division staff also collaborated in international initiatives to explore the use of Standard Generalised Markup Language (SGML) in describing manuscript collections, thus allowing them to be searched over the Internet.

Work on the automation of the Library's map catalogues included the creation of test records for single-sheet maps. Discussions with the other UK legal deposit libraries began to explore ways in which the cataloguing of current material could be done collaboratively

Protecting the collections

One of the Library's primary responsibilities is to safeguard its collections for future generations. In this, the role of its internationally-recognised Preservation Division with its Bindery and Conservation Workshop is paramount.

This was the first full year of operation for the Bindery's computerised box-making machine, introduced to accelerate the protection of vulnerable material — in particular rare and valuable material from special collections. The results were impressive: over 10,000 boxes were produced to a better specification and at lower cost than those previously acquired from commercial suppliers.

The Conservation Workshop undertakes the labour-intensive task of repairing and refurbishing some of the

David Swan — winner of the Judges' Prize of the Society of Bookbinders' 1997 national competition — at work in the Library's Conservation Workshop.



Library's most vulnerable material, from rare manuscripts and books to fragile maps and early photographs. One of the more unusual items treated in the course of the year was a sixteenth-century Persian manuscript, Shah-namah of Firdausi, presented to the Library in 1932 by the celebrated painter and etcher Sir D. Y. Cameron.

The Library's Disaster Control Plan was substantially revised to take account of the hazards inherent in the current programme of building work. In addition, contractors working on site were given a detailed briefing on the importance of protecting the collections.

Security review

An external review of the Library's security procedures and practices was completed in July 1997. The resulting report indicated no significant deficiencies but did suggest some possible improvements, and work towards implementing these is now in progress. Additional security staff were engaged to take account of the Library's increased vulnerability during building operations.



An Edinburgh scene by Cécile Victor, from a series of watercolours focussing mainly on her travels around Europe from the 1940s onwards.

Donors and depositors

The Library acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals and bodies whose donations and deposits have added to the richness of its collections in the course of the year.

Donors

John T. Allan
 Mrs Mary E. Arnott
 Keith S. Bovey
 D. S. Bowser
 The Bradbury Thompson Center,
 Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas
 Dr Iain G. Brown
 Andrew Cockburn
 Conselleria de Cultura, Educació I
 Ciència, València
 Family of Sir Frank Fraser Darling
 Educational Institute of Scotland
 Mrs Mary L. Elder
 Lieut.-Colonel A. W. Scott Elliot
 Dr Joana Escobedo
 Fifth Estate Theatre Company
 Gareth Fisher
 David Fletcher
 Laurie Flynn
 Mrs Jennifer Gibb
 Mrs Liliás Grant
 Iain Gray
 Ivor Guest
 H. J. Heaney, CBE
 The Herald
 Chris Hicks
 Dr Jost Hochuli
 Ms Billie Hockett
 Institute of Chartered Accountants of
 Scotland
 Professor A. N. Jeffares
 Fr Edward J. Kelty, OS
 Professor Gavin Kennedy
 Miss Marta Yanovna Krizhanovskaya
 Allan Laidlaw
 William Laidlaw

Mrs E. Law
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 Dr Maurice Lindsay
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 Professor Alasdair MacDonald
 Murdo Macdonald
 Ian MacDougall
 Arthur McGachie
 Roy McGilvray
 Mrs Mary E. Mackenzie
 Dr David Mackie
 Duncan McLean
 Ruari McLean, CBE, DSC
 The late Mrs Jessie McLennan
 McNaughtan's Bookshop
 Ms Angela McSeveney
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Alastair Reid
 Mrs Anne S. Robertson
 Mrs W. M. Shepherd
 Professor G. A. Shepperson
 Professor Judith B. Slagle
 R. Q. C. Stevenson
 J. Thomson
 Alan Victor
 Ms Jean Wallace
 Professor Emeritus Dennis Ward
 Nicholas Webb
 James Wilson
 Scottish Committee, World Day of
 Prayer
 Douglas Wynn

Depositors

Edinburgh Festival Society
 Martin Kettle
 North Berwick Golf Club
 The Trustees of the Roman Catholic
 Diocese of Argyll and the Isles
 Scottish Mountaineering Club
 Scottish Music Hall Society
 Traverse Theatre
 Union of Communication Workers
 Workers' Educational Association

'The resources of the Library's Scottish Business Information Service, coupled with its knowledgeable staff, allow me to investigate many different aspects of specialist product development'

VICTORIA SCOBIE •



Victoria Scobie is Marketing Manager, Group New Product Development, for Tullis Russell, one of the largest independent paper-making companies in Europe. She is pictured at the company's Truflo coating plant at Markinch in Fife.

The Library's services

IT IS ONE of the Library's great achievements that in a year when its £12.7m fire-prevention programme required the suspension of all reader services in its headquarters building on George IV Bridge it was nevertheless able to maintain a very high level of service provision through carefully-planned temporary arrangements.

A completely new General Reading Room was fitted out in the Causewayside Building, offering users most of the facilities which they had previously enjoyed in the George IV Bridge Building. In some respects (such as its provision for laptop computers) its facilities actually exceeded what was previously available. A temporary Microform Reading Room was also set up at Causewayside.

To support the reading rooms some 1,200 linear metres of stock was transferred, as well as the Library's substantial collections of CD-ROMs and microforms. The Readers' Services staff moved into temporary accommodation and a temporary cloakroom was set up at Causewayside to cope with the influx of additional readers. Back in the George IV Bridge Building, an enquiry and referral point was established to advise potential readers and an hourly van service ferried books to Causewayside.

As a result of these measures, readers continued to enjoy access to the great majority of the collections, the exceptions being manuscripts, rare books, and, for short periods at a time, printed books directly affected by the building works.

Unprecedented demand

The unavailability of manuscripts and rare books after the closure of the George IV Bridge Building in August 1997 has been the most serious consequence of the building works, but thanks to extensive advance publicity many readers were able to bring forward their research. As a result, the months leading up to the closure of the George IV Bridge Building saw the number of readers of manuscripts and rare books double, with a similar increase in the number of items requested. In all, a normal year's issues were handled in only five months — an unprecedented demand which could only be met by allocating more staff and reader spaces to the service.

Although fire safety is the driving force behind the current building programme, the Library is keen to take advantage of the closure of its headquarters building to enhance reception and orientation facilities for readers. When the building re-opens, carefully planned new 'threshold' services will make it easier for readers to be helped and advised as soon as they arrive in the Library.

Serving business and industry

Both the Map Library and the Scottish Science Library were able to offer their normal high standards of service, unaffected as they were by the building works. Another feature which they have in common is their customer base, which includes a much higher proportion of users from business and industry than in other parts of the Library. About half of the Map Library's users come from the business and professional sectors.



Part of the Reference Services team which forms a vital link between readers and the books which they need.

Looking to the future enhancement of the service, Map Library staff have been engaged in extensive discussions with the Ordnance Survey to see how large-scale maps in digital form can be made available to readers and stored for future consultation. The necessary computing infrastructure and procedures should be in place by 1999.

The Scottish Science Library, incorporating the Scottish Business Information Service, is the National Library's primary interface with the worlds of science, business and industry. In the course of the year a review of its operations was carried out by a Development Working Group under the chairmanship of the Librarian. The recommendations of the Working Group now form the basis of planning for the development of services.

The Library and the wider world

IN THE DEVELOPING global information world the sharing of resources and expertise is essential if progress is to be maintained in the face of severe financial constraints in the public sector. The National Library of Scotland works with a wide variety of other organisations both for its own benefit and that of the worldwide library and information community.

In January 1998, the Librarian, Ian McGowan, began a year-long term of office as President of the Scottish Library Association (SLA), the professional body for librarians throughout Scotland. This honour has enabled him to consolidate the Library's already strong links with libraries across all sectors both in Scotland and beyond.

The Library continued to work with the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) on project LAIRD (Libraries and Archives Integrated Resources Database). This will make a wide range of documentary evidence about Scotland available to researchers at all levels through the World Wide Web. Discussions were held with the Heritage Lottery Fund and work is progressing to develop a bid in accordance with new guidelines for IT projects. The National Library of Scotland and SLIC are aware of the need to integrate LAIRD with the public library proposals in the Library and Information Commission's report 'New Library: the People's Network'. The new network is set to receive substantial government funding for the creation of digitised content, through the New Opportunities Fund.

In another exciting development, the Library entered into a contract with the Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network (SCRAN) to digitise some of the most important material in its collections. Funding from SCRAN will allow the Library to accelerate its digitisation programme, and the SCRAN link will also allow some of its choicest material to be widely disseminated in the educational field.

The Library has become a partner in Scottish EARL (Electronic Access to Resources in Libraries), a new project run by the Scottish Library Association, the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC), and EARL UK with the aim of expanding the ability of public libraries to deliver information over the Internet.

Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries

The Library is an active member of the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL). The research collections of Scotland's major libraries are an important national resource, and SCURL directs much of its effort towards projects that will ultimately allow these disparate collections to be maintained in a co-ordinated way and will enable scholars to search them as if they were a single entity.

In its efforts to build up such a 'distributed' national collection through collaboration among Scottish libraries, SCURL is involved in a number of projects to which the Library has significant input. Underpinning the exercise is the Research Collections Online (RCO) project which, with

Scottish Office assistance, has identified strong research collections in particular subject areas in the National Library of Scotland and other major Scottish libraries. This crucial information is now being edited online, and will shortly be expanded by the addition of material relating to the 'new' universities.

Also supporting the concept of a distributed national research collection is the Co-operative Academic Information Retrieval Network for Scotland (CAIRNS). This is a project to allow researchers to consult the online catalogues of the National Library of Scotland and other major Scottish libraries as simply as if they were a single catalogue. CAIRNS has secured funding from the Joint Information Systems Committee of the Funding Councils for UK Universities (JISC), and is one of three UK projects aimed at developing easier access to online library catalogues.

The effectiveness of a distributed national research collection depends on participating libraries co-ordinating their retention and preservation policies. SCURL has secured funding from the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (SHEFC) for research into the best model for Scotland and will be assessing systems used in other countries, particularly the USA and Australia.

Another important SCURL initiative with which the Library has been involved is the Scottish Datasets Project. Supported by the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland,

the Project has completed the task of identifying online sets of data relating to Scotland and shown that there is a considerable amount of Scottish material already available in datasets. Further work will now be done to hold this information online and keep it up-to-date.

As a member of SCURL, the Library continued to be involved in the Scottish Academic Libraries Serials Information Service project (SALSER), which brings together information about the journals held by major libraries throughout Scotland. Participants in the project — for which the Library supplies the main serial records — include SCURL member libraries, the Edinburgh Libraries Federation, and the libraries of Glasgow Higher Education Institutions.

The Library also made a major contribution to another SCURL project, a directory entitled *US and Canadian Newspaper Holdings in Scottish Libraries*. Compiled by SCURL's North American Studies Group under the secretaryship of Dr Kevin Halliwell of the Library's staff, it gives sources for a wide range of North American newspapers, many unrecorded elsewhere in the UK, and will shortly be mounted on the Library's website.

International developments

The Library's membership of the American-based Research Libraries Group (RLG) has brought the expected benefits. Chief among these has been access to the extensive databases maintained on RLIN, the Group's



‘The wealth of information and staff expertise at the Scottish Science Library make my role of information provider for Scottish Wildlife Trust’s conservation and research projects more effective’

MARGARET RAMSAY ●

Margaret Ramsay has provided information support for many Scottish Wildlife Trust projects, a recent one being the EC-funded Scottish Raised Bog Conservation Project to protect threatened raised bog habitats in Scotland. This photograph was taken at Red Moss of Balerno, Edinburgh.



The Executive Board of LIBER, the association of European research libraries, at its Edinburgh meeting.

network. Also mounted on RLIN is the Hand-Press Book (HPB) database, to which the Library is a contributor. The HPB database details books printed before the mechanisation of printing in 1830, and is the brainchild of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), of which the Library is a founder member. In November 1997, Nancy Elkington, the UK representative of RLG, and Clare Jenkins, Executive Secretary of the UK and Irish Consortium of University Research Libraries (CURL), joined staff in a day-long seminar on key issues currently affecting major research libraries.

The Library continues to participate in the work of the *Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche* (LIBER), with Dr Ann Matheson, Keeper of Printed Books, serving as its General Secretary. Its Executive Board met in Edinburgh on 16 January 1998. The Library also participates in the work of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Founded in Edinburgh in 1927, IFLA will be returning to Scotland in 2002 for its 75th anniversary conference, and already the Library is involved in planning for this, with Dr Alan Marchbank, the Library's Director of Public Services, serving on the Library Association's planning committee for the event.

The Library is now a participant in the provision of Scottish subject headings and name authority headings to international cataloguing programmes aimed at harmonising international standards and shared responsibilities

among libraries. The possibility of submitting records for Scottish serials to CONSER, the international co-operative file for serials, is also being investigated.

Fred Guy, Head of Computer Services, completed his term as chairman of the VTLS European Users' Group, a body of major European libraries which use VTLS software to run their catalogues and other library functions, and which combine their expertise to advise on future developments of the system.

The Library became one of the partners in a small British Council-led consortium bidding to assist the Russian State Library with a pilot automation scheme under the auspices of the European Union's TACIS programme for the development of the former Eastern-Bloc countries. As part of this project, Fred Guy paid a fact-finding visit to the Russian State Library in January 1998.

Co-ordinating legal deposit

The Library continued to be closely involved with the work of the Standing Committee on Legal Deposit (SCOLD), which aims to co-ordinate the legal deposit policies of the six deposit libraries in the British Isles. At their annual meeting, held this year in Edinburgh, the Librarians of the six libraries agreed a five-year extension for the Copyright Libraries Shared Cataloguing Programme (CLSCP), which shares the responsibility for providing records for the current UK publishing output.

Interlibrary lending

The bibliographical and location search service of the Library's Lending Services Division is central to the inter-library loan service in Scotland, and its effectiveness has been increased by greater use of online databases and the Internet.

The Scottish Union Catalogue (SUC) records details and locations of books in Scottish libraries so that loan requests can be distributed. The SUC is then included in the 'Unity' Combined Regions database for the UK (now containing 7.5 million records and 32 million locations). Unity's SUC holdings are now provided on CD-ROM, replacing the older microfiche version. Already 29 Scottish libraries subscribe to this new service.

In December, 43 staff from libraries in Lothians and Borders attended a Regional Meeting organised by Lending Services as part of its co-ordinating role for interlending in Scotland.

Preservation

Having been involved in establishing the UK-wide National Preservation Office as an independent body providing advice on best practice in preservation and security, the Librarian continued to chair its management committee. Under his chairmanship, it began to address important issues raised by the growth in information technology, in particular managing a number of studies on the challenges of digital preservation commissioned by the Joint Information Systems Committee of the Funding Councils for UK Universities (JISC).

The Library's own Preservation Division is one of the country's centres of excellence for document protection and repair. John McIntyre, Head of Preservation, formed part of a team of UK experts who visited Hong Kong in the summer of 1997 to advise the government on its Vital Records Programme; and in October 1997 he visited Oman, at the invitation of the British Council, to discuss with government officials the preservation of Omani Islamic manuscripts and possible collaboration between the Library and Omani institutions for this purpose.

Mr McIntyre also chaired the British Library Research and Innovation Centre's advisory committee for a project to develop a methodology for surveying the preservation needs of libraries and archives. Reports were completed on assessments carried out by the Preservation Division on a consultancy basis for the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin and the Bolton Library in Cashel, Ireland. Nearer home, the Division continued to support and advise National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) volunteers working on the refurbishment of books in stately homes and similar locations throughout Scotland.

Through the British Standards Institution, the Preservation Division continued to work with the International Standards Organisation on international standards covering the storage requirements for archive and library materials, the requirements for binding materials and methods used in

Photo: BBC



Photo: Colin Macpherson



Top: Dr Louise Yeoman of the Library staff in gangster guise on the set of *Stirring Times*, the controversial BBC series on Scottish history which she wrote and presented in 1997.

David Kerr with his winning entry for the Library's international bookbinding competition.

the manufacture of books, and library binding methods and materials. The Division also had an input into the revision of British Standard BS 5454, which covers storage requirements for library and archive materials.

David Swan of the Library's Conservation Workshop was the 1997 winner of the Society of Bookbinders (Scottish Branch) annual competition, and Claire Thomson took the Design Prize. Conservation Workshop staff have taken at least one prize in this event every year since 1991. David Swan has won on four occasions, and has taken second prize twice; his colleague David Kerr has won the design prize twice and the second prize three times, and this year also won first prize in the Library's own international bookbinding competition.

Saving newspapers

The Scottish Newspapers Microfilming Unit is housed by the Library and jointly managed by it and the Scottish Library and Information Council. Originally established to specialise in the microfilming of Scottish newspaper collections to archival standards, it has gradually extended its activities to other areas of microfilming, serving clients throughout the UK.

Diversification into digitisation is now being considered. Market research, carried out in collaboration with LEEL, the local enterprise body, confirmed that the Unit was held in high esteem for the quality of its work, and showed strong support for a digitisation service. The benefits of a single body offering expert advice on both technologies were felt to be considerable.

The Library continued to work with the NEWSPLAN programme which concerns itself with the long-term preservation and availability of newspapers throughout the UK. In the course of the year, the Heritage Lottery Fund agreed to support a pilot study for a national programme of preservation microfilming of local newspapers. The pilot study, to establish procedures and standards for the full UK programme, was carried out by the Scottish Newspapers Microfilming Unit using fragile local newspapers from the Mitchell Library, Glasgow. On its completion, an application for support for a full-scale programme was lodged with the Heritage Lottery Fund. If successful, 1,100 deteriorating Scottish newspaper titles could be saved for the future.

'The Library's unparalleled collection of historical maps and plans is a vital source of information for me'

CHRISTOPHER DINGWALL •



Christopher Dingwall, the Garden History Society's Scottish Conservation Officer, researches the development of landscape design in Scotland. He is photographed on the Chinese Bridge in the eighteenth-century Hercules Garden at Blair Castle in Perthshire.

Exhibitions and events

AS SCOTLAND'S premier library the National Library of Scotland is a natural focus for cultural and professional activities. Although Edinburgh-based, it recognises that its responsibilities as a national cultural centre extend throughout Scotland and beyond. One of the chief ways in which it fills this broader role is by circulating its exhibitions, and with the closure of the main Exhibition Hall for building works in September 1997, the touring programme assumed a greater than usual importance.

Exhibitions

The highlight of an exceptionally lively programme of exhibitions was undoubtedly *Captured Shadows*, which featured the work of one of the most important photographic artists of the nineteenth century, Edinburgh-born John Thomson. Active as early as the 1860s, Thomson was a society photographer, a pioneer of photo-journalism and one of the first photographers to record the sights of China and South-East Asia. Above all, his interest in publishing contributed to the rapid advance of the photographically illustrated book. The exhibition was launched in the Library on 2 June 1997 by Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, and ran until 28 September. It was widely acclaimed, not least by the numerous school parties who visited it as part of an education programme devised in collaboration with the City of Edinburgh's Castlehill Urban Studies Centre. An accompanying publication, *John Thomson (1837-1921): Photographer*, by Richard Ovenden,



'The Island Pagoda' (c.1870), from the exhibition *Captured Shadows*.

explored Thomson and his work in considerable depth.

Looking in Wonderland, featuring Sir John Tenniel's famous illustrations for Lewis Carroll's Alice books, ran from March to May 1997, and was the only other exhibition to go on show in the Library's own Exhibition Hall before it closed for building works. The perennial appeal of the famous Alice illustrations was reflected in good attendances at the exhibition and an accompanying lecture.

After its Edinburgh showing, *Captured Shadows* went on display in the Dick Institute, Kilmarnock, between November 1997 and January 1998, later transferring to the National Library of Wales for the period March to June 1998. More widely travelled still was *White World*, a celebration of

Scots-born writer and thinker Kenneth White, founder of the International Institute of Geopoetics and, until recently, Professor of Twentieth-Century Poetics at the Sorbonne. Originally mounted in the Library in 1996, in the year under review it travelled to five additional locations, including the St Magnus Festival, Orkney, where White was Poet in Residence, and the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow. In an innovative collaboration with the French society *Les Amis et les lecteurs de Kenneth White*, a French-language version of the exhibition was created and began its tour of White's adopted homeland in March 1998.

Other exhibitions were made specifically for display outwith the Library. *Naomi Mitchison*, created with support from The Post Office, focused on the remarkable life and work of writer and campaigner Naomi Mitchison who celebrated her



A youthful Naomi Mitchison from the exhibition on her remarkable life.

Top right: Union Bridge, near Paxton, Berwickshire, from the Stevenson papers lent to the Pompidou Centre, Paris.



MS.5659 (1)

hundredth birthday in the course of the year. It featured in the Edinburgh Book Festival before setting out on a tour of six other venues.

Two other exhibitions, already on the road at the start of the year, completed their tours. One, featuring writer and artist Alasdair Gray, had visited twelve venues before ending its circuit in February 1998; the other, marking the centenary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, had been on show at thirteen locations before coming to an end in March 1998. In addition, a selection of the finest craft bindings submitted for the Library's International Binding Competition was exhibited at the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, from February to March 1998.

The Library's responsibility to a wide constituency was also reflected in loans from its collections to major exhibitions staged by other bodies. The Pompidou Centre, Paris, borrowed a number of

exhibits for *Les Ingénieurs du siècle*, including records of the famous Stevenson family of engineers to which Robert Louis Stevenson belonged. Manuscripts of the creator of the legendary Sherlock Holmes went to the City Art Centre, Edinburgh, for its exhibition *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: the Edinburgh Connection*, and to the same venue went a Sir Walter Scott item for the exhibition *Roots: the African Inheritance*. Early Gaelic manuscripts were sent to two separate exhibitions marking the anniversary of St Columba's death in 597: one at the Columba Visitor Centre, Mull; the other at the Museum nan Eilean on the island of Lewis. A special display of Sir Walter Scott exhibits was lent to the International Rotary Convention, which attracted some 29,000 delegates to Glasgow in June 1997, while a wide range of items, from the sixteenth-century Bannatyne Manuscript to a Muriel Spark notebook, featured in *A Mad God's Dream: the Story of Literary Edinburgh*, again at the City Art Centre. Edinburgh University's Talbot Rice Gallery borrowed early issues of style and fashion magazines for *A New Look at 1947: Dior and the Edinburgh Festival*, and the National Galleries of Scotland were lent exhibits for their *Portrait of a Lady: Sargent and Lady Agnew*. Rare early pamphlets went to the McManus Galleries, Dundee, for their exhibition *Glorious Victory*, commemorating the 1797 battle of Camperdown. Finally, in March 1998, a Brontë manuscript was borrowed by the Brontë Parsonage Museum, Haworth, Yorkshire, for the exhibition *No Coward Souls*.

Ms.4731, f.55



Above: Letter of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes.

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Editions of *Vogue* and *Harpers Bazaar* from 1947 which featured in *A New Look at 1947: Dior and the Edinburgh Festival*.



*‘There are many
manuscripts in the
National Library that
I regard as old
friends; many of the
splendidly
knowledgeable and
helpful staff have
become that too’*

SALLY MAPSTONE •

Dr Mapstone is an authority on Mediaeval and Renaissance Scottish literature, and on the history of the book in Scotland. A Fellow of St Hilda’s College, she is seen here in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.



Hugh Macpherson, winner of the 1998 Robert Louis Stevenson Memorial Award, pictured outside Stevenson's Edinburgh home.

Events

In August the Library held a reception for delegates attending the 64th International PEN Congress, attended by writers from around the world. The opportunity was taken to launch the Library's travelling display on author Naomi Mitchison, at 100 years of age Scottish PEN's oldest member. In the same month, the Library and Virago Press jointly hosted a Naomi Mitchison evening at the Edinburgh Book Festival.

The Library's fifth International Bookbinding Competition, generously sponsored once again by Mrs Elizabeth A. Clark, attracted high-quality craft bindings from as far afield as Germany and the Netherlands. The bindings are judged anonymously, so it came as a particularly pleasant surprise when it was revealed that the winning entry had been created by David Kerr, Supervisor of the Library's own Conservation Workshop.

The Library was also involved with a poetry competition run by *The Herald* newspaper to mark the historic referendum on Scottish devolution. Writers from across Scotland and beyond submitted poems on devolution — providing a unique 'snapshot' of the devolution debate. All entries were donated to the Library, and the competition winners were invited to a reception followed by a tour of the strongrooms where their work will be stored for future historians.

The 1998 Robert Louis Stevenson Memorial Award was won by international diplomat Hugh Macpherson.

Organised jointly by the Library and the Scottish Arts Council, the Award gives young Scottish writers the opportunity to develop their work during a two-month residency at Grez-sur-Loing in France, where Stevenson spent several summers in the 1870s, and where he met his wife Fanny.

Between April and June 1997 the Scottish Centre for Geopoetics explored the idea of culture and its development in a series of three lectures held in the Library.

The Library joined with the Cataloguing and Indexing Group in Scotland and the Library Association's Information Services Group, Scottish Branch, to organise *Information for Scotland '97*. Designed to give participants an opportunity to discuss issues concerning the provision and exploitation of information in Scotland, this year's event focused on the future Scottish Parliament's information needs and was held in the Business School of Strathclyde University.

Photo: Michael McLaren



Sam Galbraith, Scottish Office minister with responsibility for the Library, is shown new digitisation initiatives by Chris Fleet.

Below: Librarian Ian McGowan studies one of the poems on the Scottish devolution debate gifted by *The Herald*.



Photo: The Herald

Other highlights of the 1997-98 events programme

- April 1997** Private view of *Looking in Wonderland* exhibition, and lecture by Dr Leo DeFreitas on 'The Making of the Alice Illustrations'.
- May 1997** Visit to Map Library by Mr W. G. Stevenson from Spatial Data Centre, Ålborg University, Denmark.
Study visit to Map Library by Scottish Genealogy Society.
- June 1997** Launch by Scottish Library Association of *Discovering Scottish Writers*.
Reception for leading literary figures at the St Magnus Festival, Orkney.
Visit by Scottish MEPs.
Visit by young Russians visiting Scotland as winners of the annual Pushkin competition.
- July 1997** Annual Copyright Librarians' Conference.
Edinburgh College of Art prizegiving and private view of exhibition.
- August 1997** Visit by students of library information from the University of Wisconsin, USA.
Formal handing-over of papers relating to printers' and bookbinders' unions by Laurie Flynn.
- October 1997** Study visit by postgraduate students from the history departments of Scottish universities as part of their annual training visit to Edinburgh repositories.
- November 1997** Visit to the Map Library by Fife University of the Third Age and the Central Scotland Family History Society.
Visit by Sam Galbraith, minister responsible for the Library.
'More Questions than Answers?': Second Project Pont Symposium.
- December 1997** National Library of Scotland Lending Services host regional meeting for interlending professionals.
Delegation of Russian librarians and publishers gives presentation on the ILIAC programme to create international centres of information.
Visit by a delegation from the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) preparing for IFLA's 75th anniversary conference in Scotland.
- January 1998** Executive Board of the Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche (LIBER) meets in Edinburgh.
- February 1998** Award ceremony of Library's International Bookbinding Competition.

Developing the Library

IN TODAY'S rapidly-changing environment major institutions must continually review their organisation and structure to ensure an effective response to new challenges. Action groups set up in the wake of last year's major strategic review issued reports and recommendations for action on internal communications, external contacts, and public relations. At the same time, senior management worked towards a restructuring of the Library's various departments. New structures and lines of communication were devised to take account of recent changes in procedures and priorities, and these were implemented in July 1998. The restructuring will be followed by a new staff pay and grading system, and in preparation for this a major job evaluation exercise was begun.

Each year the Library prepares a Corporate Plan for discussion with the Scottish Office, through which it is funded. In the year under review, the Corporate Plan placed particular emphasis on the urgent need for a rise in the paybill ceiling which at its present level was stifling development and threatening existing standards of service.

The Library was pleased that its concerns were acknowledged and paybill constraints relaxed to take account of crucial work such as the continued conversion of Library catalogues to electronic form, and the increase in stock management and security measures necessitated by major building works.

Following the endorsement by referendum of the government's plans to establish a Scottish parliament, the Library has been actively exploring ways in which its expertise and collections can be put to the service of the new body.

Information and communications technology

NEVER IN THEIR LONG HISTORY have libraries found themselves in such a rapidly changing environment. Dramatic advances in information and communications technology (ICT) hold out the prospect of a global information world where researchers locate and consult information through purely electronic means. Yet to take advantage of these exciting new possibilities is not easy, not only because the speed of change makes long-term planning difficult, but because the Library, with its constrained funding, must at the same time continue to acquire and process the output of conventional publishing, which continues undiminished.

The infrastructure

One fact is indisputable: the Library must have a robust 'future-proof' electronic infrastructure which will allow it to take full advantage of the ICT revolution. During 1997-98 the asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network of fibre-optic cables linking the Library's Lawnmarket and George IV Bridge Buildings was extended to include the Causewayside Building. The installation of this high-speed (155 Mbps) scaleable link, capable of handling voice, data, and video transmission, completes the Library's infrastructure for high-speed internal and external computer communications. By choosing to install its own cabling for this new mile-long link the Library will make considerable savings over the cost of commercial leasing.

A major step was taken towards the replacement of the Library's ten-year-old library management software with the completion of a detailed specification for a new system. With ICT lying at the heart of both internal and external Library operations the system will need to underpin everything from acquisitions to online catalogues. The lengthy procurement process, conducted under EU regulations, is due for completion in the coming year, with final implementation in late 1999.

The Library's highly successful website (www.nls.uk) attracted a steadily-growing audience throughout the year. Statistics show that its most popular areas were the Library's online catalogues. A characteristic of good websites is that they evolve in response to users' needs, and work on developing the site has therefore continued, focusing in particular on improved navigation and the provision of additional 'hard' information about the collections.

New intranet

Towards the end of the year considerable progress was made on the construction of an intranet, following the recommendations of the Library's Action Group on Internal Communications. An intranet operates in much the same way as a website, but is available only within a business or organisation. The rapid advance of the project was largely due to the Graduate Internet Training for Work Programme sponsored by LEEL and run by NetCon-X Ltd which provided a computing graduate to develop the system. The Library intranet went 'live' in May 1998.

Digitisation

Rapid advances in digital technology are opening up exciting possibilities for the Library. Where film used to be the primary means of capturing images for reproduction in leaflets, posters, and full-scale books, it is now increasingly being supplanted by digital images captured by scanner or electronic camera. Moreover, for the scholar, high-definition digital images manipulated on-screen may reveal information previously undetected. And, perhaps most revolutionary of all, electronic 'facsimiles' can be mounted on the Library's website, bringing its treasures and its more intriguing acquisitions to a wide international audience.

The Library's digitisation programme advanced on a number of fronts, although more slowly than had been hoped, owing to staff shortages.

The mile-long fibre-optic cable link being installed between the Library's buildings at Causewayside and George IV Bridge.



Photo: Linda Hiron

1.

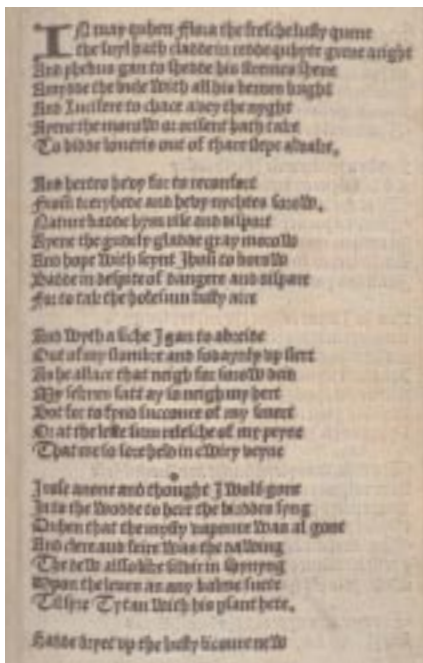


MS.20996

Images from the Library's digitisation programme.

1. Detail of John Geddy's plan of St Andrews around 1580.

2.



Sh. 6(6)

2. The earliest dated book printed in Scotland — John Lydgate's *Complaint of the Black Knight*, published on 4 April 1508.

3. Gordon Highlanders on the Western Front during World War I, from the papers of Earl Haig.



3.

Acc. 3155

Excellent progress was made with the multi-disciplinary Project Pont, which uses digital technology to facilitate research based on the earliest surviving detailed maps of Scotland, produced by Timothy Pont around 1583. Of immense value for the variety of detail which they reveal, digital images of the maps were demonstrated to a range of interested parties including the Scottish Place-Names Society and Edinburgh University's School of Scottish Studies. In November 1997 the second Project Pont Symposium, chaired by Sir William Fraser, Chancellor of Glasgow University, and Professor Geoffrey Barrow, attracted both delegates and speakers from many disciplines. Towards the end of the year the project successfully attracted support from the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland for an investigation into marketing and publication possibilities for the Pont database.

Earliest Scottish books online

The digitisation of the only known copies of the nine earliest books printed in Scotland — the so-called Chepman and Myllar prints of around 1508 — was completed, and the digitised images were demonstrated to specialists of the period attending an international conference on the fifteenth-century poet William Dunbar.

On-going work on the books is directed towards preparing a complete 'page-through' version for the Library's website. Accompanied by various levels of introductory material as well as a transcription and commentary, this will

appeal both to the general public and to a more specialist audience.

Advances were also made on the digitisation of material relating to the First World War from the papers of Earl Haig, and the digitisation of new acquisitions for display on the website continued. An agreement with SCRAN (see above, p.16) will bring in revenue which will allow the digitisation programme to be accelerated. It will also make some of the Library's most important holdings available to a wide educational audience through SCRAN's website and multimedia products.

Buildings

THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES were effectively dominated by major refurbishment work at the Library's headquarters on Edinburgh's George IV Bridge. The building's three reading rooms were closed temporarily from September 1997 and all but a few staff were relocated to other premises.

The primary object of the five-year programme is protection from fire. Due for completion in 1999 at a total cost of £12.7m, the work is essential for the safety of staff and the public as well as the building and its enormously valuable collections.

The size and complexity of the works would pose operational difficulties for any large organisation. Over 100 men may be at work on the site at any one time. Sensitive fire-detection equipment has been installed throughout the warren-like building with its miles of shelving. Floors are being strengthened and fire escapes constructed. An innovative sprinkler system will guard against fire and, with heated water circulating in its stainless steel pipework, will also double as a central heating system. New air-conditioning will control the environment. A new central control room will be the nerve-centre of the Library's security operations. And, throughout the building, outdated and inefficient services and plant are being replaced. In addition, the opportunity is being taken to refurbish the reading rooms and modify the entrance hall so that a better service can be offered to readers.

In parallel with these activities, the Library worked with the Scottish Courts Administration and the Advocates Library to ensure that sprinklers were installed in adjacent court buildings to protect the National Library of Scotland from fires originating outwith its own premises.

While the building work is the responsibility of contractors, the preparatory work has imposed heavy additional loads on Library staff. Throughout 1997 staff were on duty every weekend — both Saturday and Sunday — moving collections so that work could be carried out. Around a fifth of the entire manuscript collection of over 100,000 volumes was moved, with 4,000 items having to be transported to other buildings. Similarly, some 750,000 printed books will have been moved by the end of the contract. On top of this, new, temporary reading rooms had to be created and fitted-out in the Causewayside Building, while

staff decanted from the George IV Bridge Building also needed temporary provision made for them elsewhere.

Buildings Manager Bill Jackson was again involved with the work of the American-based National Fire Protection Association in the development of international fire codes for historic buildings. He gave a paper on the Library's major project at the NFPA annual meeting in Los Angeles, and was also involved with Historic Scotland in the drafting of a technical advice note on fire protection in historic buildings.

Welcome recognition of the Library's continuing commitment to health and safety at work — and of the efforts of retiring safety manager Douglas Donnelly — came in the form of a Five-Star Award from the British Safety Council. A new professional safety manager, Mike Galloway, took up his post in January 1998.



Photo: Guhrle Photography



6

Building work at the Library's George IV Bridge Building.

1. Bookshelves are cocooned in fire-retardant polythene for protection during building operations.
2. Welding in the plant room.
3. Refurbishing the General Reading Room.
4. The refitted plant room.
5. Just one of more than 2,500 sprinkler heads being installed throughout the building.
6. Roof-top construction, with St Giles beyond.

Opposite page: The temporary General Reading Room set up in the Causewayside Building.

Trustees and senior staff

Trustees

Chairman

The Right Hon. the Earl of Crawford
and Balcarres, KT, PC

Vice-Chairman

The Right Hon. the Lord Emslie, MBE,
PC, LLD, FRSE

Ex-officio

The Lord President of the Court
of Session

The Lord Advocate

The Secretary of State for Scotland

The Dean of the Faculty of Advocates

The Minister of the High Kirk
(St Giles'), Edinburgh

The Member of Parliament for the
Central Division of the City of
Edinburgh

The Crown Agent

The Lord Provost of Edinburgh

The Lord Provost of Glasgow

The Lord Provost of Dundee

The Lord Provost of Aberdeen

Appointed by the Crown

The Right Hon. the Earl of Crawford
and Balcarres, KT, PC

Professor Kathleen J. Anderson, OBE,
PhD, CBiol, FIBiol, CChem, FRSC, FRSE

Ruari McLean, CBE, DSC

Jack Dale, MA, BD, STM

John M. Menzies

Appointed by the Faculty of Advocates

Nigel M. P. Morrison, QC

The Right Hon. the Lord Emslie, MBE,
PC, LLD, FRSE

Bruce Kerr, QC

Angus Stewart, QC

M. G. Thomson, QC

Appointed by the Universities

Professor Graham D. Caie, MA, PhD

Professor Josephine A.

Haythornthwaite, BA, PhD, FLA, FIInfSc

Professor A. Rennie McElroy, MA, MBA,
FLA

Colin A. McLaren, BA, MPhil, FSAScot

Appointed by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities

David Ferguson (deceased 27 February
1998)

Councillor Elizabeth Maginnis

Co-opted

Lady Dunnett, OBE

Professor A. John Forty, CBE, PhD,
DSc, FRSE, FRSA

Michael F. Strachan, CBE, FRSE

Librarian and Keepers

Librarian and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Ian D. McGowan, BA

Secretary of the Library

Martin C. Graham, MA, DipLib

Keeper of Manuscripts, Maps and Music, and of the Scottish Science Library

Ian C. Cunningham, MA, BPhil

Director of Electronic Information

Bernard Gallivan, BSc, MBCS, CEng
(retired 13 March 1998)

Keeper of Printed Books

Ann Matheson, MA, MLitt, PhD

Director of Public Services

Alan M. Marchbank, MA, PhD

Finance and statistics

The National Library of Scotland is a Non-Departmental Public Body, grant-aided by the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department. Grant-in-Aid applied to the Library's running costs amounted to £10,714,000 for the year to 31 March 1998. In addition the Library receives a Purchase Grant which is for the specific purpose of making appropriate additions to the National Collection. In 1997-98 this grant was £1,103,000.

The bulk of the Library's resources are directed toward collection development, preservation and user access to collections: together these activities absorbed 74% of the Library's total resources for 1997-98. The remaining resources are applied to maintaining the Library's estate and to general administration.

A summary of the Library's finances is shown in the Statement of Financial Activity and Balance Sheet which are included, in abridged form, on this page. The Accounts of the Library are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General, and these are available from the Secretary of the Library when the audit has been completed.

Statement of financial activity	1997-98 £000s	1996-97 £000s
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Grant-in-Aid	10,714	9,898
Book purchase fund grant	1,103	858
Income from revenue-earning activities	20	10
Gross income from grant-aided activities	29	26
Interest received	91	87
Endowment income	10	15
Trust funds and Bequests	83	82
	12,050	10,976
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Collection development	3,935	3,882
User-access to collections	2,765	2,559
Preservation	880	860
Buildings	1,682	1,421
Publicity	234	227
Administration	874	816
	10,370	9,765
NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		
Increase in market value of investments	726	128
Revaluation of assets	29,495	-
Net movement in funds	31,901	1,339
Fund balances brought forward – 1 April 1996	30,197	28,858
Fund balances carried forward – 31 March 1997	62,098	30,197

Summarised balance sheet as at 31 March 1998

FIXED ASSETS	61,302	29,357
CURRENT ASSETS		
Creditors – amounts due within one year	1,010	193
NET CURRENT ASSETS	796	840
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	62,098	30,197
FINANCED BY		
Accruals and deferred income		
Deferred Government Grants	29,499	27,527
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES		
Insurance provision	73	27
CAPITAL AND RESERVES	32,526	2,643
	62,098	30,197

Sponsorship and support

The Library is grateful to the undernoted for their sponsorship and support.

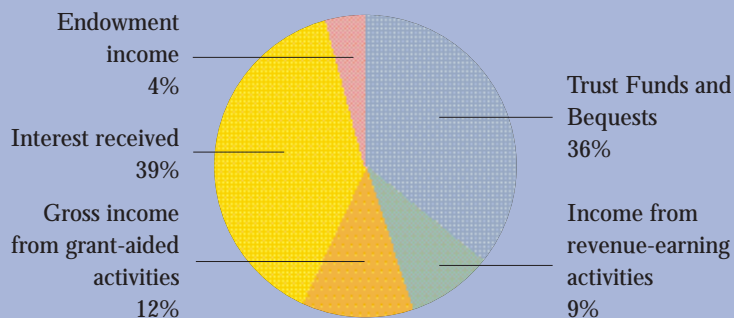
- ABSA
- British Academy
- British Council
- The Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland
- Mrs Elizabeth A. Clark
- Friends of the National Libraries
- General Accident plc
- LEEL
- National Art Collections Fund
- National Heritage Memorial Fund
- The Post Office
- Scottish Arts Council
- Scottish Library and Information Council

Trust funds

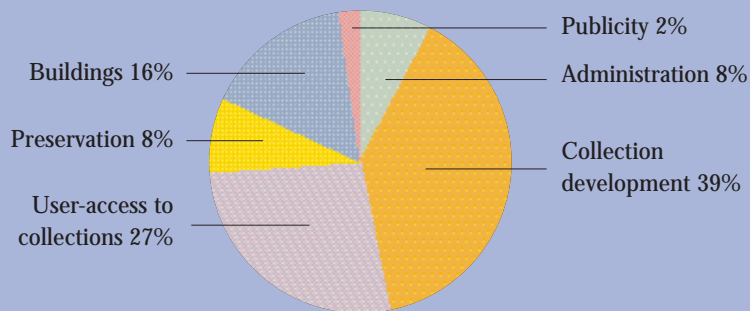
The Library is grateful for the support which it received from the following trust funds in the course of the year.

- Alexander Grant Fund
- Graham Brown Fund
- Henderson Trust Fund
- Keppie Bequest Fund
- Rosebery Trust Fund
- Mrs Ruth Ratcliff's Fund
- Reid Trust Fund

Income other than Grant-in-Aid 1997-98



Expenditure 1997-98

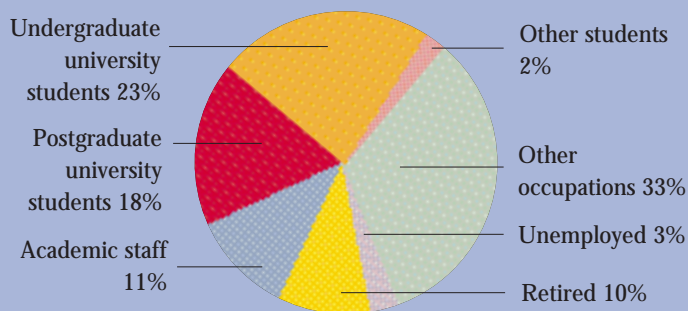


User profile

The Library acts both as a major general research library and as a world centre for the study of Scotland and the Scots. These roles are reflected in the profile of its users.

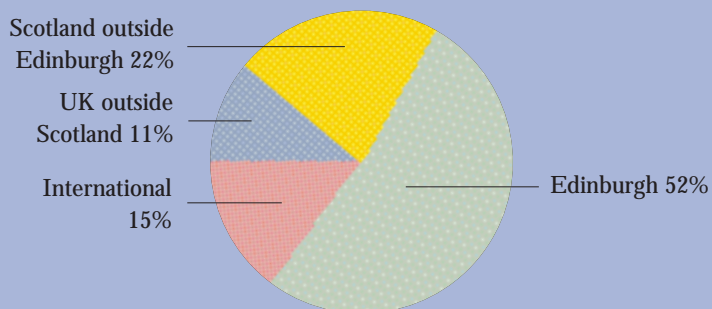
Occupation of users 1997-98

Although just over half (54%) of the Library's registered users are from the academic sector, the remainder come from a wide range of backgrounds and include representatives of almost every occupation.



Origins of users 1997-98

Although a significant proportion of Library users are from Scotland, around one in seven users are from overseas, and around one in ten are from other areas of the UK.



Figures based on analysis of applications for short-term Readers' Tickets. Map Library users are not included.

National Library of Scotland

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