

★ FREE ★

THE REAL MURIEL SPARK
BEHIND THE LITERARY LEGEND

TIME TRAVELLING WITH
ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH

DISCOVER **nls**

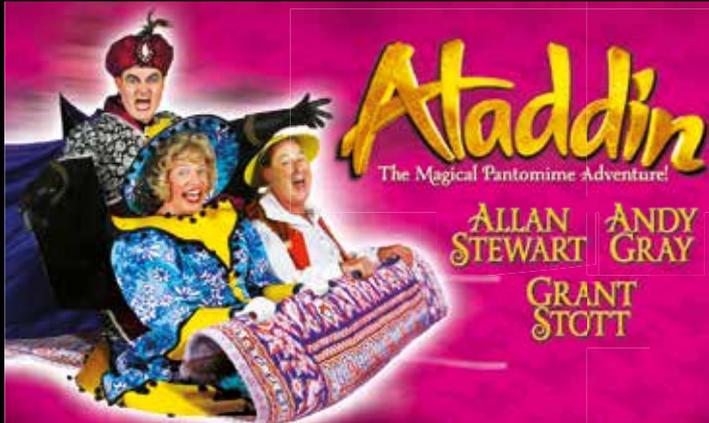
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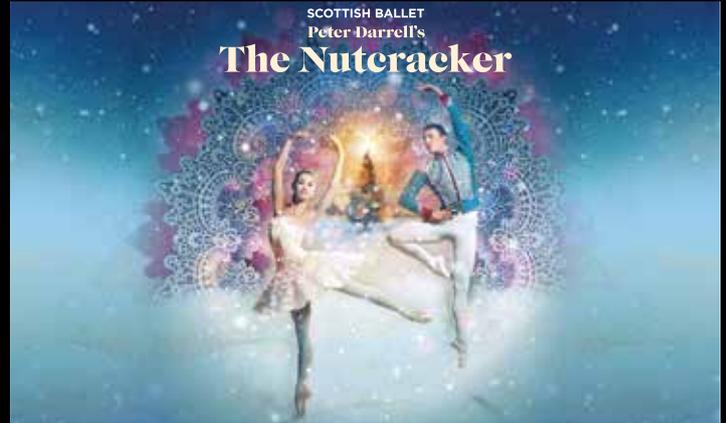


GAME OF CROWNS

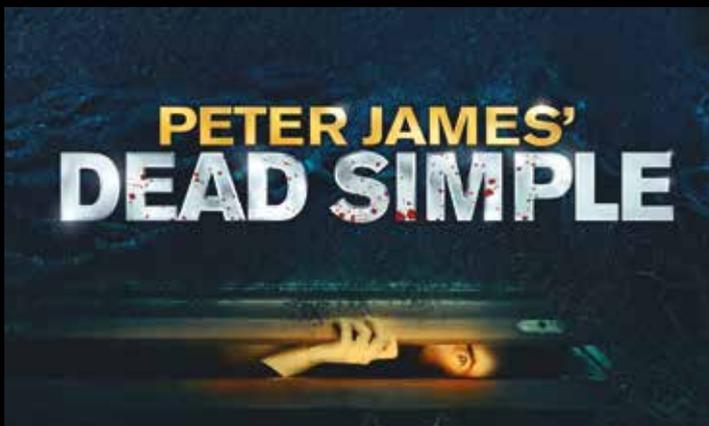
THE JACOBITE STRUGGLE FOR THE THRONE



Sat 29 November 2014 to Sun 18 January 2015



Sat 13 December 2014 to Sat 3 January 2015



Mon 2 to Sat 7 February



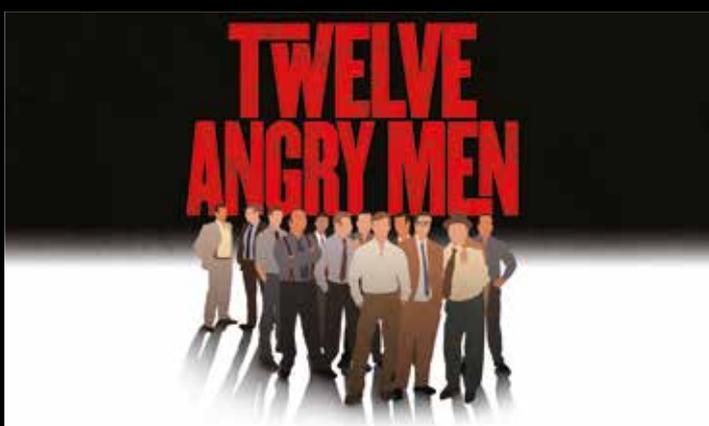
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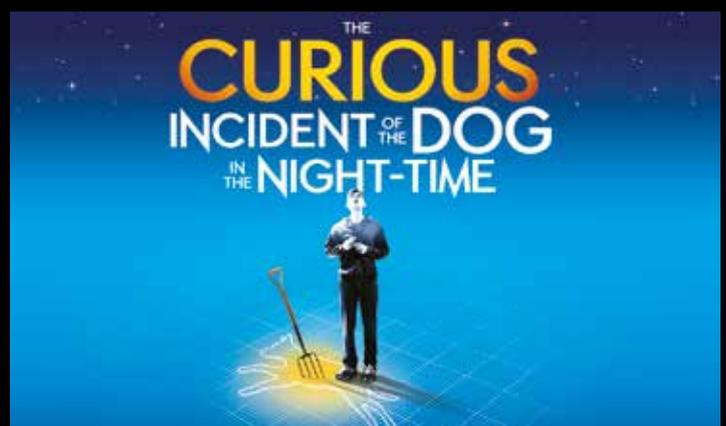
Mon 9 to Sat 14 February



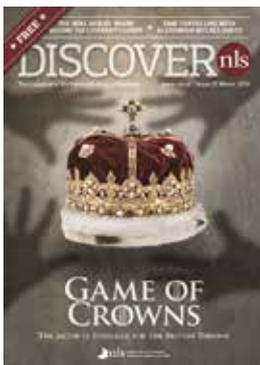
Mon 16 to Sat 21 February



Mon 23 to Sat 28 February



Mon 27 April to Sat 9 May



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We welcome all comments, questions, submissions and subscription enquiries. Please write to us at the National Library of Scotland address below or email discover@nls.uk

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Mapping out the future

The past and the future collide happily at the National Library in our world-class collections. From Scotland's first printed words to Oor Wullie, our collections contain some astounding material, often available at the click of a mouse or the tap of a screen.

Having recently become the National Librarian and Chief Executive, I am looking forward to an exciting new era. While passionate about our physical collections, as I explain on page 33, I see digital technology as key to sharing our accumulated knowledge with future generations. We are the national memory of Scotland.

This issue of *Discover NLS* looks back to turbulent times with the launch of *Game of Crowns*, a major exhibition at the Library exploring the Jacobite rising of 1715.

The exhibition's curator, Robert Betteridge, explains on page 12 the torrid background to the struggle for the throne; the role of the Old Pretender James VIII; and the family feuds that made this era so fascinating.

Elsewhere in this issue, Map Curator Chris Fleet chooses five striking depictions of Scotland's capital from his latest book, *Edinburgh: Mapping the City*.

The bestselling novelist Alexander McCall Smith tells a personal story of Auld Reekie, describing his time as a postgraduate law student working in the reading room of the National Library.

The journalist Alan Taylor, who knew Dame Muriel Spark, gives a glimpse behind the public image of a literary great. The Library is seeking to raise £250,000 to complete the acquisition of Dame Muriel's archive.

If you wonder what Sir Walter Scott and Elizabeth Taylor have in common, turn to Curator's Choice on page 10, where Andrew Martin explains why Scott's influence endures – in film and games culture, and on television.

Finally, Oor Wullie, another Scottish icon, proves he has a place in the nation's future as he features in a Library website to help children learn the Scots language.



John Scally

DR JOHN SCALLY
National Librarian

THREE NLS IMAGES ON WIKIPEDIA

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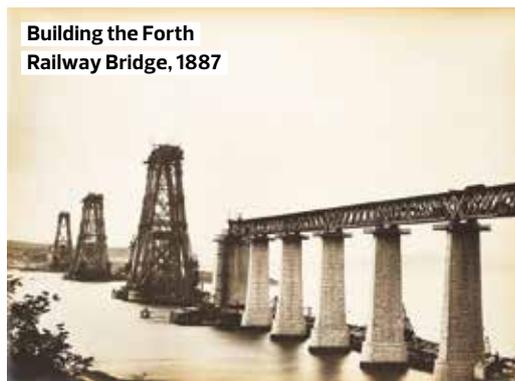
THE FORTH RAILWAY BRIDGE

This early photograph of the cantilever-design structure was among the first National Library images on Wikipedia
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/forth_bridge

2

PHOTOGRAPHY PIONEER

The Scottish photographer John Thomson brought life in the Far East into Victorian drawing rooms
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Thomson_\(photographer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Thomson_(photographer))



Building the Forth Railway Bridge, 1887

3

THE UNION JACK

Visit the most viewed article in the English language containing a Library image. Look carefully and you can spot John Slezer's Edinburgh Castle
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Jack

From engineering to enchantment.



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Great Dame:
a personal view
of Muriel Spark



ALAMY

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Gill Hamilton
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Christopher Fleet
A Map Curator at the Library, Chris is also a co-author of Edinburgh: Mapping the City and Scotland: Mapping a Nation

THE BFG

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LOTTERY FUNDED





Wikipedia co-founder
Jimmy Wales
congratulates
Gill Hamilton

Wiki award for National Library

Web entrepreneur presents accolade following success of Scotland's first Wikimedian in residence

The co-founder of the world's fifth-largest website has presented the National Library of Scotland with an award for sharing knowledge and information.

Jimmy Wales, the internet entrepreneur behind Wikipedia, presented the Library with the award at the annual international Wikimedia conference in London.

The Library appointed Ally Crockford the nation's first Wikimedian in residence last year, to explore how the public could benefit from making the Library's collections and knowledge available online.

Wikimedia, a sister project of Wikipedia, describes itself as "a global movement whose mission is to bring free educational content to the world".

Presenting the award, Wales said: "The residency has established a

self-sustaining and long-lasting relationship between the Library and the Wikimedia community in Scotland more generally.

"This award is to thank the National Library for placing their trust in the open knowledge movement. Without their

enthusiastic support, open culture in Scotland would not be where it is today."

Gill Hamilton, the Library's Digital Access Manager, collected the GLAM of the Year Award at the Wikimedia ceremony in the Barbican, London, during September. GLAM – galleries, libraries, archives and museums – is a Wikipedia initiative allowing the online encyclopaedia's community of editors to help cultural organisations ensure their collections are accessible.

Gill said: "Ally's work has influenced the Library's thinking in

the development of its new open metadata and digital content policy.

"Once fully implemented, the policy will give free and open access to the Library's metadata and digitised collections."

THE WIKIMEDIA RESIDENCY

- During the year-long Wikimedia residency at the Library, 35 Wikipedia articles were created, 34 were improved and 75 new editors were trained

- The Library has released 1,100 images from its collections on to WikiCommons. Visit bit.ly/wiki_NLS_images

- There were 700 Wikipedia articles with images originating from Library collections in September 2014

- The most viewed article in the English language containing a Library image is titled Union Jack. It attracted 209,172 views in September 2014. Visit en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Jack



BAIRNS LEARN SCOTS ONLINE

LANGUAGE

Library educational website promotes the mither tongue

Oor Wullie – one of Scotland's most famous characters – is helping children to learn Scots in an online educational initiative developed by the National Library.

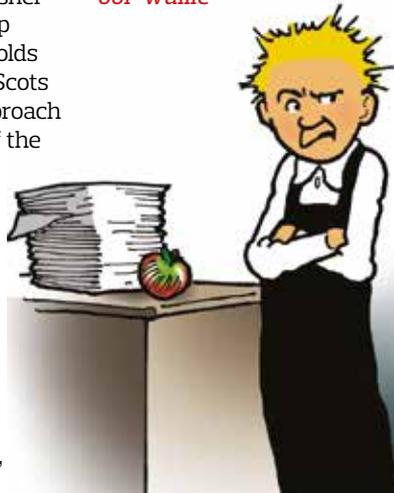
The *Oor Wullie's Guide tae Scots Language* website has been produced in association with the *Oor Wullie* publisher DC Thomson and will help familiarise six to 11 year olds with the richness of the Scots tongue. It takes a fun approach to the subject and tells of the enjoyment in store, "learnin' and playin' wi' oor Scots language" through activities including quizzes, word searches and a comic maker.

Launching the website at the Library, Dr Alasdair Allan, Minister for Scotland's Languages, said: "As someone who

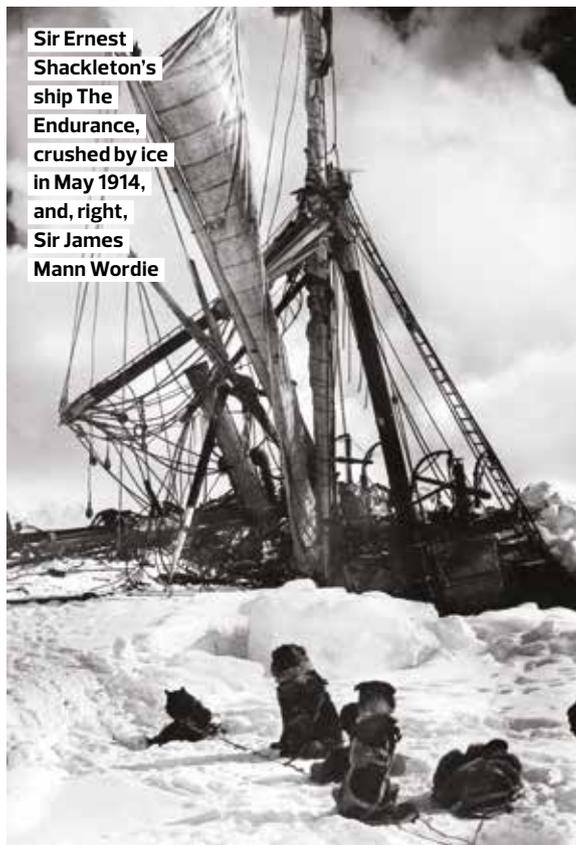
has grown up reading about Oor Wullie's adventures, I am delighted to be one of the first to try out the website. Scots is a fantastic language with brilliantly descriptive words."

Dr John Scally, National Librarian, added: "The website uses a fun approach to the serious business of learning and can be accessed by primary schools all across Scotland."

Visit the site at digital.nls.uk/oor-wullie



DC THOMSON



Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship The Endurance, crushed by ice in May 1914, and, right, Sir James Mann Wordie

ANTARCTIC ANNIVERSARY

TREASURES DISPLAY

National Library relives polar odyssey's feat of endurance

A century after the ship *Endurance* sailed to Antarctica and stuck fast in the ice of the Weddell Sea, the story of its doomed expedition is the stuff of legend.

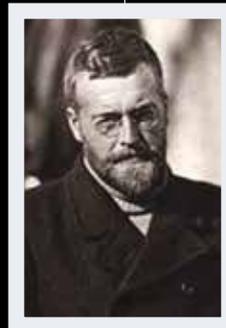
The tale of the crew's survival on the sea ice for months and subsequent rescue by Sir Ernest Shackleton have fired the imagination of adventurers and

scriptwriters. To commemorate the Transantarctic Expedition 1914–17, the National Library is exhibiting a treasures display featuring manuscripts, books, photographs and maps.

The personal papers of Sir James Mann Wordie, the young Scottish geologist who embarked on this perilous adventure, are among the highlights.

Beyond Endurance will run until 25 January.

Visit www.nls.uk/collections/foreign/mountains/biographies for more information on Sir James Mann Wordie.



ALAMY

Moniack Mhor Creative
Writing Centre, and
James Robertson, below



NANCY MACDONALD

Aspiring writers to get inside story at Library

EVENT

Innovative collaboration between Library and Highland writing centre

A treasure chest of ideas for writers will be opened at the National Library at an event led by one of Scotland's top literary figures.

James Robertson, the award-winning novelist and poet, will share his passion for the Library, explaining how it has inspired his own work. The day-long event, *Stories from the Shelves*, will include an insider's tour and a writing workshop based on the morning's discoveries.

James, an honorary patron of the Library, said: "People will get a sense of what goes on behind the scenes, and I'll be encouraging them to write



something based on that experience. A library has more human stories than any other place you can imagine."

The event is a collaboration with Moniack Mhor Creative Writing Centre, which has been running courses from its Inverness-shire base since 1993.

Rachel Humphries, the centre director at Moniack Mhor, said: "This is our first large collaboration with the Library. Many of the writers we work with have used it, so there's a personal connection there."

Stories from the Shelves with James Robertson is on Friday 28 November, 10.30am-3pm. Admission is free, although spaces are limited. To book, call Moniack Mhor Creative Writing Centre on 01463 741 675 or email info@moniackmhor.org.uk

GOING BACK TO YOUR ROOTS

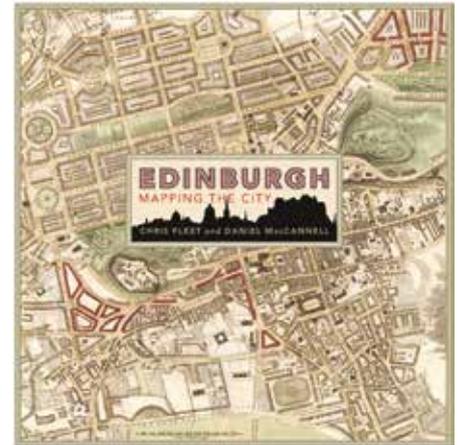
FAMILY HISTORY

Discover the National Library's genealogical resources

The Library's ability to help in tracing family roots has extra poignancy during the 100th anniversary of World War 1. *Behind the Lines*, our summer

2014 exhibition, could well have inspired some of our visitors to research the lives of relatives killed in the war. If you want to trace your family roots back to WWI or beyond, why not let the Library help?

For more information, visit <http://www.nls.uk/family-history> or <http://blogs.nls.uk/familyhistory/>



COMPETITION

WIN A stunning book of maps

Maps can tell a story about a place that words can fail to communicate – and Edinburgh has more stories than most.

Edinburgh: Mapping the City, co-published by the Library, gives a fresh insight into the social, political and cultural life of Scotland's capital.

The lavishly-illustrated book, co-written by Chris Fleet, the Library's Map Curator, traces the history of the city across 500 years. Many of the 71 maps are reproduced in book form for the first time.

For your chance to win a copy, you should answer the following question correctly:

Which royal was murdered at Kirk o' Field, Edinburgh?

POST YOUR ENTRY, ALONG WITH YOUR ADDRESS, TO:

Discover NLS Maps competition, Think, Suite 2.3, Red Tree Business Suites, 33 Dalmarnock Road, Glasgow G40 4LA, or email discovernls@thinkpublishing.co.uk (with "Maps" in the subject line). Closing date is 19 January.

For more, see page 24

A journey into medieval myth making

CURATOR'S CHOICE – ANDREW MARTIN

This souvenir *Ivanhoe* album was publicity for the 1952 American film version of Sir Walter Scott's novel. Printed in Spanish, it was bought from South America for the National Library of Scotland collection

We might smile at something like this now, and think it is for little children, but there is a lot of artistry here. It reminds me of the sort of thing I was buying on holiday in the 1960s – you would collect pictures and stick them on to its pages. There are 156 little black-and-white pictures taking you through the story of the *Ivanhoe* film, starring Elizabeth Taylor, Robert Taylor and Joan Fontaine.

As a bonus, you've got a section on famous castles of the world. Some of the 78 featured are Scottish. There are some odd choices – Kisimul on Barra, Cawdor, and Scalloway in Shetland. You ask yourself: "Where is Edinburgh? Where is Eilean Donan?" The idea I suppose is that if you are interested in *Ivanhoe*, filmed at a castle built by MGM Studios outside London, you will be fascinated by real-life castles.

In his novel, Scott invented what we now imagine was the middle ages – the tournaments, the ladies, the castle, the siege and the crusades – but it is often historically inaccurate. He turns it into a tale of Saxons versus Normans at the time of the Crusades, and Robin Hood is in there as well.

Ivanhoe was an extremely popular work during Scott's lifetime and

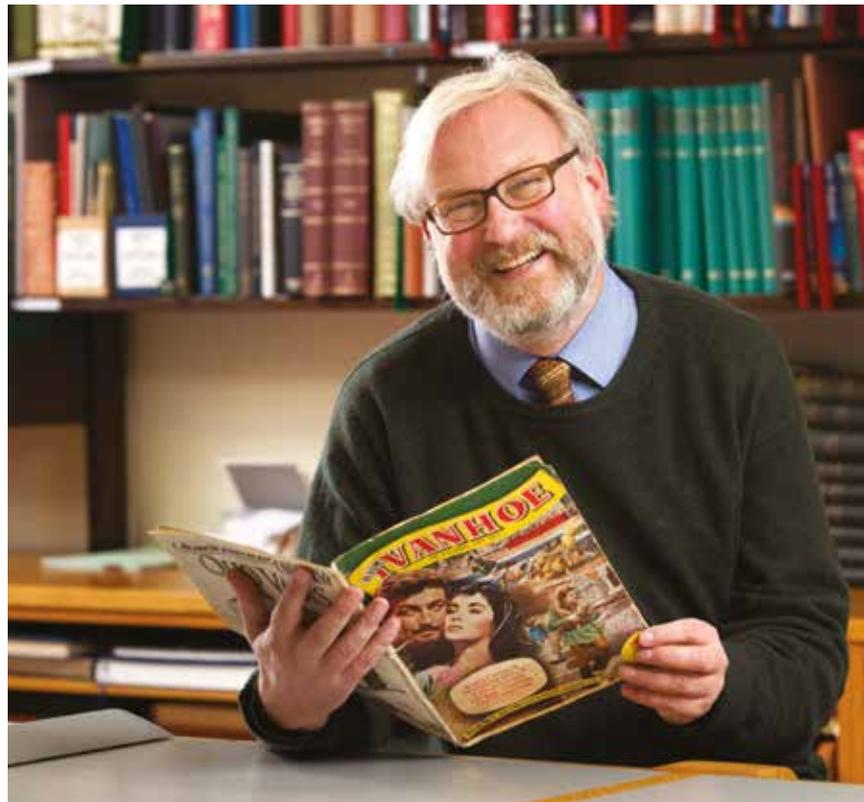
beyond. There were operatic versions, and many stage adaptations. The most famous opera was by Sir Arthur Sullivan, which premiered in London during 1891. Scott's work continued to be represented on stage until, at the end of the 19th century, along came film, and the fledgling industry discovered him.

Scott's writing in *Ivanhoe* is highly visual and he created a world that Hollywood fed on. In 1913, an American company boldly came to Britain on location and filmed an adaptation of *Ivanhoe* against the ruins of Chepstow Castle in Wales. It was one of the most ambitious films made up to that time.

The medieval world is a gift for the cinema – but interest in it goes in cycles. While there were no actual *Ivanhoe* films made from 1913 until 1952, the *Robin Hood* films in between are inspired by the character portrayed in *Ivanhoe*.

UNHAPPY TRIANGLE

The 1952 adaptation of *Ivanhoe* was tremendously successful, and won a Best Picture nomination at the Oscars. It was released at a time when American audiences were staying at home to watch television rather than going out – and it was one of the films that changed that. It's an interesting post-war film



because the heart of the story is not really about Saxons and Normans, it's about Jews and Christians, and intolerance. Elizabeth Taylor, as Rebecca, was the embodiment of the outsider. The film portrayed an unhappy triangle. Rebecca was in love with Ivanhoe but couldn't have him because, in film terms during that era, the blonde Saxon princess, Joan Fontaine, had to have him.

Importantly, the 1952 film shows that, 130 years after the publication of

The album features character stickers and a number of Scottish castles

Ivanhoe, Scott's reputation was there in a popular form, and that he was a truly international name, above the title. Some people might think "films are not important" or "the film is not an accurate representation of Scott's work", but it has a key role because the medieval world we now imagine is coloured by *Ivanhoe*.

It's fascinating to think that Scott in the 1820s is bankrupt, writing away in Abbotsford, his home in the Borders, to pay back his debts. And then in the



Andrew Martin enjoys a trip down memory lane, in Spanish

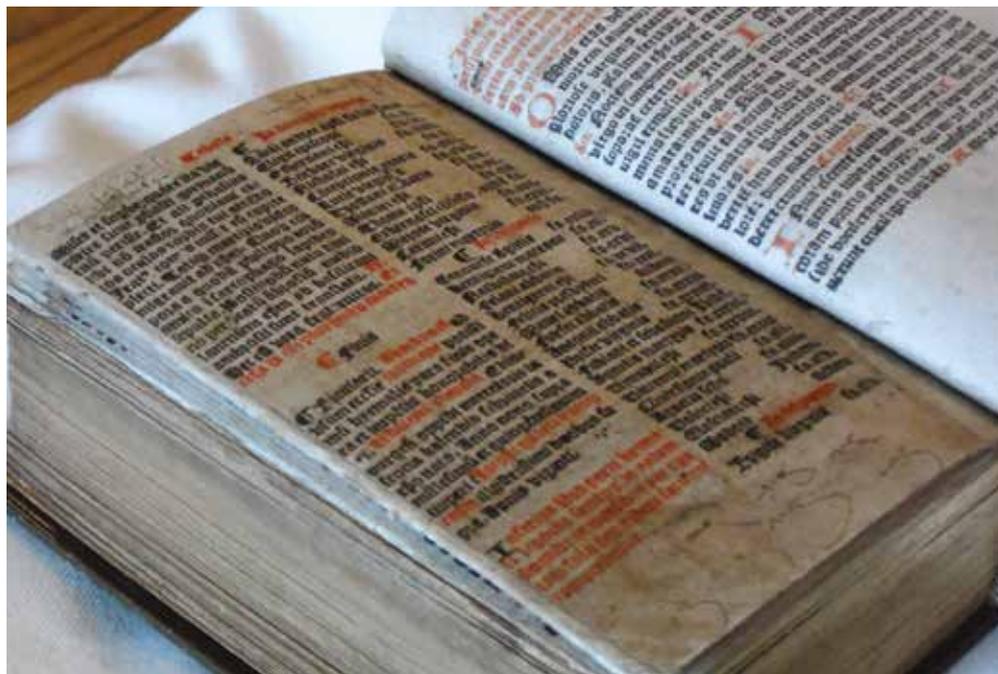
MALCOLM COCHRANE

1950s, an American film adaptation of his work makes lots of money and Scott doesn't get a penny out of it.

More recently, Scott has slipped out of the popular consciousness. Obviously Edinburgh has a station named after his novel *Waverley*, and there is the amazing Scott Monument, but people generally don't read Scott. During the bicentenary of *Waverley* this year there have been attempts to get people reading him again.

There were a number of crusade films a few years back, and we've had the rise of gaming culture and *Game of Thrones*, based on the George R R Martin fantasy novels. These days, people are used to elaborate, alternate worlds. There are plans for a new film of *Ivanhoe*.

Scott is a wonderful writer, but perhaps nowadays we think we don't have the time to get into his world - he's a great leisurely read. But if we do make that effort, Scott is worth every hour we spend on him.



BREVIARY BOUGHT FOR THE NATION

RAREBOOKS

Pioneering religious texts make pilgrimage to the National Library of Scotland

Two of the first works to be printed in Scotland more than 500 years ago have been bought by the National Library of Scotland.

The *Aberdeen Breviary*, printed in 1509-10, contains services and readings for use in Scottish churches. Commissioned by the Bishop of Aberdeen, it was the reason James IV granted a licence for printing to begin in Scotland.

Bound at the back of the *Breviary* is the *Compassio Beate Marie*, a 16-page book containing readings about the arrival in Scotland of St Andrew's relics. Printed between 1510-1532, it is the only known copy in existence and is evidence Scots continued to print their own books after the *Breviary*.



The two-volume *Breviary* had been at Glamis Castle, Angus, for many years before being offered to the Library by the estate's trustees.

Dr John Scally, Scotland's National Librarian, said:

"Each surviving copy of the *Aberdeen Breviary* makes an important contribution to our understanding of how Scotland's first books were printed."

The *Breviary* and the *Compassio* have been digitised by the Library to allow the public to see them.

Helen Vincent, Head of Rare Books and Music (pictured), said: "I hope scholars will be able to work with the originals and use the digitised versions to uncover new details about early Scottish printing."

6,000

BY THE NUMBERS

Known Scottish books printed before 1701. The Library has copies of 4,200 of them



THE PLAYER

Forget Bonnie Prince Charlie, the original royal rebel was his father, the Old Pretender. Three centuries after the 1715 Jacobite rising, a major exhibition puts the forgotten rebellion centre stage, writes Bryan Christie

I imagine, for a moment, you are the son of a king. Your half-sister and her husband help to send your father into exile because of his religious beliefs and they ascend to the throne. They have no children and the crown passes to your other half-sister. She too dies childless.

You are alive and well and consider yourself the rightful heir to the throne. Even so, it is decided the crown should pass to a different family. Your royal line is over.

You would be forgiven for thinking history – and key figures in your own family – had served you badly. Supporters who recognise your claim are willing to act on your behalf. You agree an uprising against the forces of the new king is the only answer.

Step into the shoes of James Francis Edward Stuart, the “Old Pretender” – the royal who sought to reclaim his regal birthright through the 1715 Jacobite rising.

This absorbing tale of dynastic, political and religious wrangling is told in the winter exhibition at the National Library of Scotland as the 300th anniversary approaches. *Game of Crowns: The 1715 Jacobite Rising* is a story of power struggles within a network of royal families, fed by the Catholic and Protestant allegiances of the time. It pitched members of the same families against one another as plots proliferated and intrigue became the order of the day.

The central figure in the exhibition is the Old Pretender, James Stuart, who wanted to succeed his Catholic father – James VII of Scotland and James II of England – to the throne of Great Britain. He was certainly no stranger to family infighting as the history of the warring Stuarts well records:

- James's great-grandfather, James VI, did not contest the execution of his great-great-grandmother, Mary Queen of Scots, to help him ascend to the throne of England.



- His grandfather, Charles I, was executed by the English Parliament
- His uncle's illegitimate son, the Duke of Monmouth, tried to dethrone James VII
- His half-sister, Queen Anne, allowed a distant German cousin, George I, instead of James to succeed her
- His illegitimate half-brother, the Duke of Berwick, an experienced soldier, refused to help him fight to regain his throne.

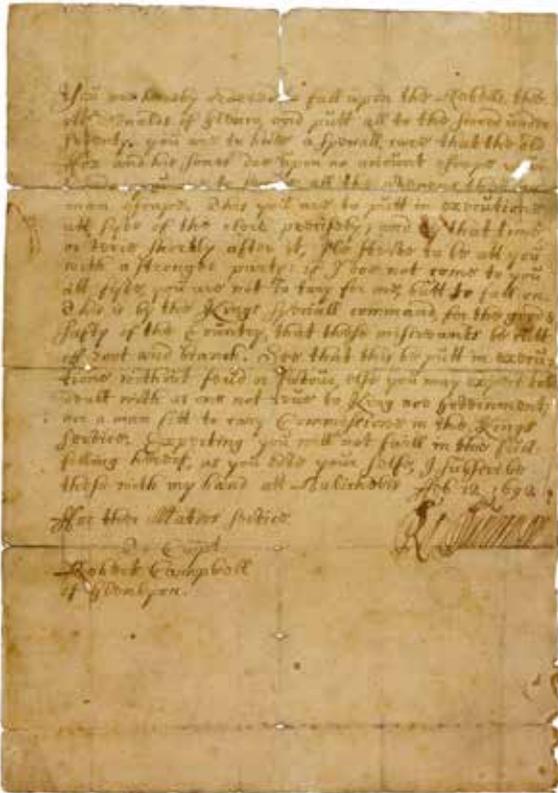
The exhibition explains this turbulent period of British history through original letters from some of the key figures in the uprising, contemporary manuscripts, books, maps, portraits and songs. One of the key documents on display will be the Order for the 1692 Massacre of Glencoe where 38 MacDonalds were slaughtered for their suspected Jacobite sympathies. Jacobite and government songs, recorded by the celebrated folk singer Sheena Wellington, who performed at the opening of the Scottish Parliament in 1999, will also help visitors travel back in time.

Robert Betteridge, the Library's Rare Books

An 18th-century engraving shows the Old Pretender, otherwise known as James Stuart, landing in Scotland for the first time to take up the Jacobite cause



James Francis Edward Stuart



“THE 1715 UPRISING IS MORE INTERESTING THAN THE '45 BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION AT THE TIME. IF THE '15 HAD BEEN PROPERLY MANAGED IT MAY HAVE HAD A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS”



Curator, has put the exhibition together. He explains: “Most people will know bits and pieces of the history of the time but may be less familiar with the full story. Many people may think about it as Jacobite Highlanders against the English but it is not as straightforward as that. What we hope to do is paint a picture of what Scotland was like at this time.”

ROAD TO THE UNION

Interactive elements will help visitors to the exhibition understand the complex stories being told. A family tree showing the links between the main figures will be displayed on a touchscreen that can be accessed for more information about the protagonists.

Letters between Jacobite leaders were sometimes written in code to prevent them being read if they fell into enemy hands. The exhibition will offer visitors a chance to write their own coded letter on computer screens, based on the ideas used by the Jacobites.

There will also be an opportunity to play a card game of Jacobite “top trumps” featuring the key figures in the story. Each playing card denotes a character who is given a score for individual qualities including ruthlessness, longevity, fame and even wig size. The idea is to trump the card the opponent plays.

These fun elements sit alongside a serious explanation of the history of the uprising using many rare documents from the time. The exhibition covers the years from the Glorious Revolution of 1688, which resulted in the exile of James’s father, to the aftermath of the 1715 uprising. The period included the failure of the

Darien scheme, Scotland’s attempt to build a trading colony in Panama. This almost bankrupted the country and was a contributing factor to the 1707 Act of Union, through which Scotland lost its parliament as legislative power was transferred to London. Although there was support for the Union, it was strongly opposed in many parts of Scotland, resulting in riots in some towns and cities.

The establishment of the Union is of obvious interest in a year when people in Scotland have been debating the risks and benefits of cutting ties with the rest of the UK. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to see the Proclamation dissolving the Scottish Parliament from 1707 and the Articles of Union which set up the constitutional arrangements for the new state of Great Britain.

PATH TO THE UPRISING

Robert says the political backdrop to the 1715 uprising is one of the elements that lend a fascination to this period of history largely absent from the more popular story of the 1745 Jacobite uprising. It featured the much more colourful character of the Young Pretender, James’s son Bonnie Prince Charlie, and the romantic tale of his escape from government troops disguised as a maid.

“More has been written about the '45 but in many ways 1715 is more interesting because of the political situation at the time,” explains Robert. “If the '15 had been properly managed it may have had a much better chance of success than the '45.”

The reality is that by the time James set foot in Scotland for the first time at Peterhead in December 1715, the uprising was already all but over. The Earl of Mar had raised the standard of

The Order for the 1692 Massacre of Glencoe, left, which led to 38 MacDonalds being killed for their suspected Jacobite sympathies, and, right, the glen today

THE KEY FIGURES



WILLIAM III OF ORANGE

William was head of the powerful Dutch house of Orange and became a hero when he drove the invading forces of Catholic France from Holland in 1673. Encouraged by Protestant nobles, William invaded England in 1688 in what became known as the Glorious Revolution. This ultimately deposed Catholic James II (VII of Scotland) with William and his wife Mary (daughter of James II) ascending to the throne. William was seen as a champion of the Protestant faith and was known as King Billy by his supporters.



JAMES EDWARD STUART

James was the son of the deposed James II. On the death of his father in 1701, James claimed the British throne and his right to the Crown was recognised by his cousin Louis XIV of France. James was brought up in France and was the focus around which the Jacobite movement was based. However, he proved to be an uninspiring leader. Following the failure of the uprising, he lived for the remainder of his life in some splendour in Rome.



GEORGE I

George was born in Hanover and was ruler of the Duchy and Electorate of Brunswick-Lüneburg. The Act of Settlement 1701 prohibited Catholics from inheriting the British throne and he was Queen Anne's closest living Protestant relative. On her death, he ascended the British throne as the first monarch of the House of Hanover. He was 54.



QUEEN ANNE

Anne was the daughter of James II and sister of Mary. She was raised as a Protestant and became Queen after the death of William in 1702. Anne was plagued by ill-health throughout her life. From her thirties onwards she grew increasingly lame and obese. Despite 17 pregnancies, she died without any surviving children and was the last Stuart monarch.



EARL OF MAR

He was known as Bobbing John for his tendency to shift allegiance. On being denied office by George I, Mar decided to back the Jacobite cause and raised the standard that signalled the start of the uprising. He was too indecisive to be an effective military leader. He fled to France after the failure of the uprising where he lived for the rest of his days.

JACOBITE UPRISING TIMELINE



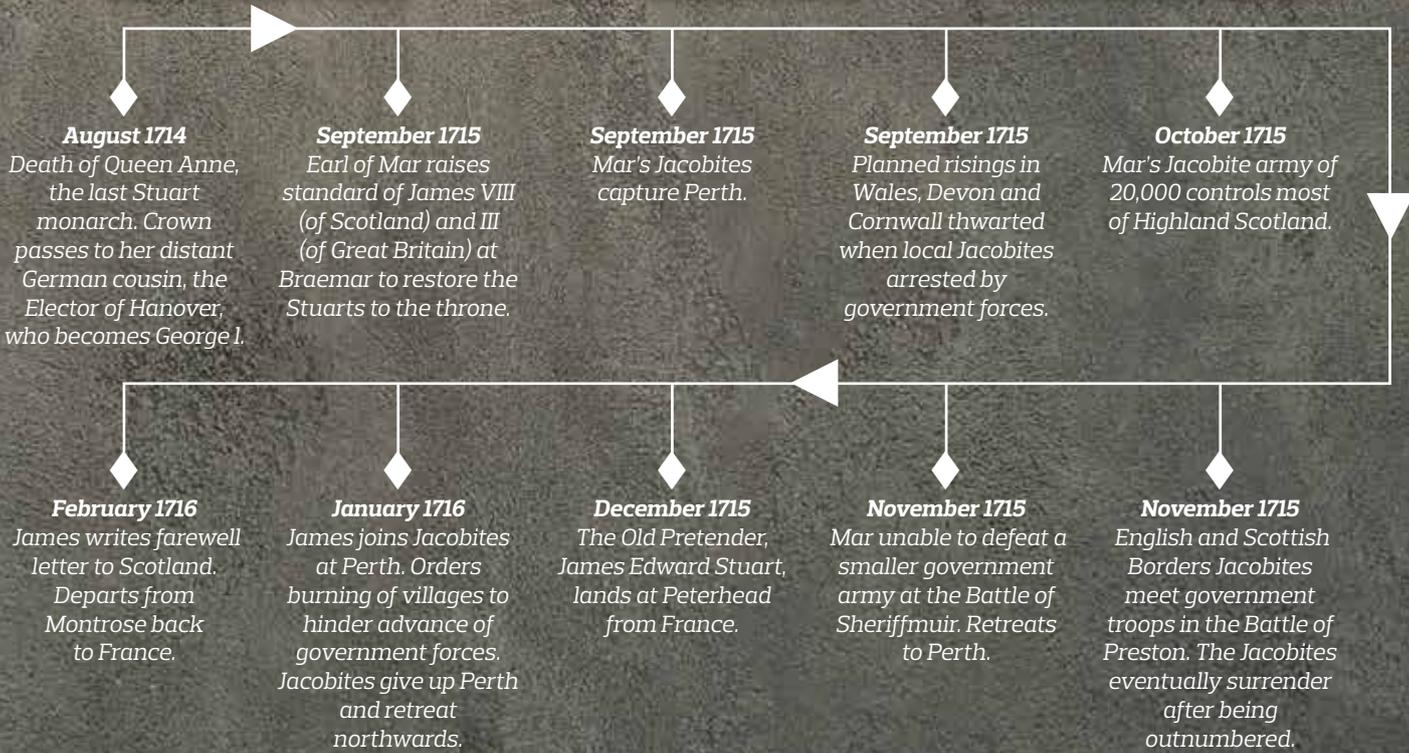
QUEEN ANNE



GEORGE I



EARL OF MAR



FIELD OF SHERIFFMUIR



JAMES LANDING AT PETERHEAD



JAMES VIII OF SCOTLAND



James VIII of Scotland – and III of England – at Braemar on September 6, signalling the start of the uprising. Initially things went well and, by October, the Jacobite army of almost 20,000 men controlled much of Scotland above the Firth of Forth, with the exception of Stirling Castle.

Pockets of support for the Jacobite cause existed in England but government troops were sent to south-west England where they arrested Jacobite sympathisers and quelled any unrest.

The Battle of Sheriffmuir on 13 November was to prove a turning point. Mar decided to march on Stirling Castle with an army outnumbering government forces by two to one. Despite this superiority, the Jacobites failed to win the day and retreated to Perth. At the same time a Jacobite army including sympathisers from the north of England surrendered after a battle at Preston. The momentum of the uprising had been lost.

A MAN OF PRINCIPLE

By the time James arrived in Perth in January 1716, the Jacobite army numbered fewer than 5,000 men while government forces had acquired heavy artillery and were on the advance. The writing was on the wall and James set sail back to France on 5 February, never to return. He had spent just a few weeks in Scotland and lived the rest of his life in exile, dying in Rome in 1766.

His was as much a religious as a personal mission. In March 1715 he appealed to Pope Clement XI to aid a Jacobite rising, saying: "It is not so much a devoted son, oppressed by the injustices of his enemies, as a persecuted Church threatened with destruction, which appeals for the protection and help of its worthy pontiff."

The easy route for him to become king would have been to abandon Catholicism but James refused. "He stays true to what he believed," says

"BY THE TIME JAMES ARRIVED IN PERTH IN JANUARY 1716, THE JACOBITE ARMY NUMBERED FEWER THAN 5,000 MEN WHILE GOVERNMENT FORCES HAD ACQUIRED HEAVY ARTILLERY AND WERE ON THE ADVANCE. THE WRITING WAS ON THE WALL AND JAMES SET SAIL BACK TO FRANCE ON 5 FEBRUARY, NEVER TO RETURN"

The Battle of Sheriffmuir as depicted on canvas by John Wootton

Robert. "It is a distinct possibility that if he had agreed to convert to Protestantism he could have become king, but he refused to do that."

The exhibition will feature items loaned from museums, galleries and archives, including a Jacobite sword from the National Museum of Scotland, and letters from James to the Earl of Mar, on loan from the Royal Collections at Windsor Castle.

"If the crown had passed down the Stuart line, there would only have been two monarchs in James's lifetime, when in reality there were seven," says Robert.

"More than 50 claimants had a closer right to the throne than George I, but laws had been established to keep Catholics from the throne and George was the first Protestant in line. That explains why this exhibition has been called *Game of Crowns*. We hope visitors will enjoy learning more about this rich period of Scottish and British history that still has relevance for today."

Game of Crowns: The 1715 Jacobite Rising runs from 10 December 2014 to 10 May 2015 at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge building