A new chapter will begin in the story of the National Library of Scotland when it opens its first premises in Glasgow to showcase riches from the national collection



# **KELVIN HALL**

# From previous page>

periodicals and manuscripts spanning more than five centuries; thousands of full-text newspapers, journals and reports; and hundreds of full-text reference works. These collections cover business, science, government, art, literature, history, biography and music.

The Library's Moving Image and Sound Collection Manager, Ruth Washbrook thinks the building's rich history and special place in so many people's memories makes it a fitting location for an archive that celebrates our shared cultural heritage.

"I think it's a brilliant use for the building," she said. "Obviously you had the Transport Museum here, and also the Kelvin Hall's history with the carnivals and the fairs and the trade exhibitions. I think it's true to the building and to Glasgow that it is now this cultural hub, bringing different collections together."

Work is well under way to develop the Library's space within the building. After passing through an entrance shared with the other partners, visitors will be drawn towards a video wall at the end of the internal avenue made up of 12 large high-definition screens showcasing a selection of what is on offer. This is the Library's discovery area, where visitors will be able to see the breadth and variety of its collections and find inspiration in the archive material on display.

The discovery area will be a mirror on Scottish life, past and present. It will feature experiences on film and in print of people, places and activities. The exhibits may evoke feelings of nostalgia among older visitors and, perhaps, surprise among younger members but the aim is to create an experience that is both enjoyable and memorable.











# FIVE CENTURIES OF COMPELLING CONTENT

Visitors will be able to access more than 46,000 film reels, videotapes and digital files. These include hundreds of thousands of digitised books, periodicals and manuscripts spanning over five centuries

The spacious welcome area provides a variety of seating for visitors to relax and start enjoying the Library's collections. There will be physical exhibits on display and technology that allows visitors to view archive material in a range of formats.

Visitors will be able to browse two large wall displays featuring vintage film equipment and iconic items from the Library's heritage collections, such as copies of treasures, rare books, manuscripts and other unique materials.

The discovery area will also house two interactive 'curiosity chests' looking at Scots at work, at home and how they have had fun down the years with different themes and pullout drawers showing a variety of material from the collection.

Scottish films covering topics as

diverse as transport, fashion, shopping, sport and food and drink will be on show on individual screens in another area of the new facility.

A highly specified viewing theatre with a large screen will allow the Library a dedicated space to show film and video to the public.

Within Kelvin Hall the Library also shares access to a cinema which is managed by the University of Glasgow.

There will also be a learning room where groups can take part in educational or other events.

Finally, a study space with desks and terminals will allow anyone to research and access the Library's digital collections of maps, books, manuscripts, rare books, film and other content.

"The key to this space is that it will be open and accessible to everyone, whatever they want to explore," said Ruth.

"Moving to Kelvin Hall is going to be amazing," added Emily Munro, Learning and Outreach Officer. "We're going to be part of a learning hub in Glasgow. It's going to take us closer to our users, so that we know them better and understand their needs, but it's also going to ensure that we reach new audiences, more diverse audiences.

"There's not really a limit to who we want to engage with now, and I think that's going to be a real transformation for the National Library of Scotland."

If you can't wait for the new facility to open, why not view our extensive online archive at movingimage.nls.uk







# BOXES OF DELIGHTS

Dame Muriel Spark was a self confessed hoarder. Her archive is vast and varied and curator *Colin McIlroy* is revealing its contents

he largest modern literary archive held here at the National Library of Scotland is that of Dame Muriel Spark. The unlisted material numbers 274 boxes, and brings the total to an incredible 150 feet of manuscripts, letters, notebooks, correspondence and ephemera. The record of much of Spark's fascinating life is contained within and, thrillingly, it's my job to reveal the secrets, the facts and the stories, box by box.

From her first published story *The Seraph and the Zambezi*, winner of the Observer short story competition in 1951, through the rest of her career, Spark continued to publish perfectly-pitched stories where the supernatural and the surreal come into collision – and collusion – with the everyday. Fast forward nearly 40 years to the early 1990s, and we find Spark, long established as a writer of international stature, revisiting a number of these early short stories; retyping some, rewriting others, and reselling a number. The mystery is; why these stories, and why now?

The 1950s see a number of Spark's stories appear in a range of publications. *The Girl I Left Behind Me* is one of Spark's best; the narrative's unsettling

atmosphere builds subtly, until the revelatory impact of the ending's spectral twist. It appears first in The Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, then The Norseman. After a gap of 34 years, the story is re-sold for Constable's *Winter's Tales 8*, and in 1993 it appears in the Argentinian newspaper La Nacion as *La chica que dejé tras de mí*.

A similar pattern is repeated for a number of early stories. Her 1953 tale *The Pearly Shadow* appears in The Norseman in 1955, is distributed for resale in 1990, revised in 1994, and reappears in The Spectator Christmas 1994 edition, comically billed on the cover as 'Muriel Spark with her spooky short story'. And spooky it is. For good measure, it also shows up in *Winter's Tales 11* the following year.

Of all the early stories, Harper and Wilton undergoes the most radical re-imagining, becoming a story within a story. In the early 1990s rewrite, Spark has the two forgotten suffragettes come to life, and, disgruntled at being consigned to a drawer for decades, demand that the narrator 'give us substance

Continues overleaf>



# **MURIEL SPARK**

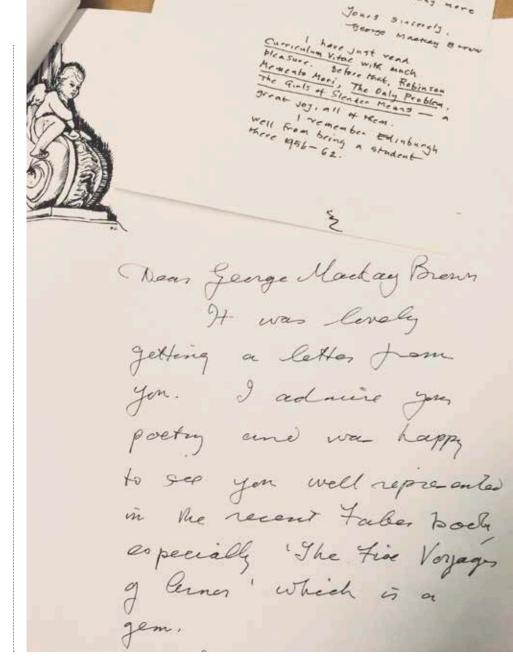
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otherwise we'll haunt you'. They embody the fears expressed in Spark's 1979 poem 'Created and Abandoned', where she asks:

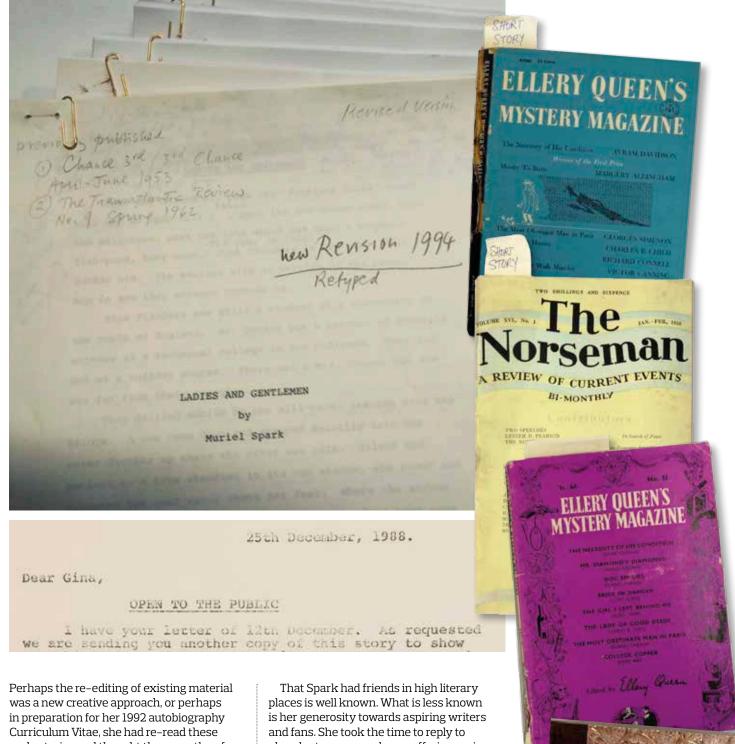
• Did something next not happen? Or are you limbo'd there where I left you forever like characters in a story one has started to write and set aside?

Happily, Harper and Wilton get their wish, and are given substance in a 1996 limited edition published by Colophon Press (see far right). Likewise 'Lavishes Ghast', which undergoes numerous revisions and is published by Cuckoo Press 45 years after its first incarnation, as 'The Quest for Lavishes Ghast' in 1998.

Nevertheless, this re-selling of stories was not new for Spark; indeed 'Ladies and Gentlemen' appears in three different publications between 1953 and 1965. So what prompted her to return to these particular stories over 30 years later? Perhaps, like her characters Harper and Wilton, she felt they had languished unread for too long, not having been collected in any anthology.







early stories and thought them worthy of resurrecting. Or perhaps the answer to this particular Spark mystery lies in the next unopened archive box.

The archive does, however, show that there is no mystery about the level of dedication and industry involved. Fax correspondence reveals Spark and her assistant Penelope Jardine acting akin to publicists and promoters, proactively encouraging Spark's agents to sell these stories, especially in new linguistic territories: 'South America? Catalan? - and what about Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Dutch?' asks Jardine in a fax of June 1993.

This industriousness should come as no surprise, as one remarkable letter from 1988 shows (pictured above). Here Spark writes to her agent to enquire about her story 'Open to the Public'. But note the date: 25 December - Christmas Day! Apparently there was no such thing as a day off for Dame Muriel.

abundant correspondence, offering praise and encouragement in generous measure. One fan writes that 'Pluto's conjunction with your Ascendant [...] in some instances can refer to death'. Despite suffering acute pain in her hip, Spark's reply is the epitome of grace and comic understatement: 'I am very glad I escaped the impending doom you read in my horoscope and feel that a temporary setback is not quite so drastic.'

In one tantalising series of correspondence from 1992, we find Dame Muriel writing a press release announcing the production of a film about her early life, based on Loitering with Intent and Curriculum Vitae. This is remarkable for a writer so protective of her privacy, but sadly the project was never realised. Perhaps it would have solved some of the mysteries surrounding one of Scotland's greatest and best-loved writers, or perhaps - like her ghostly fictions - it may simply have deepened them.

HARPER AND WILTON



A play performed by schoolchildren has served to cast the spotlight on a forgotten maritime tragedy in which more than 200 Lewis and Harris men drowned within sight of Stornoway Harbour writes Jennifer Giles

hanks to numerous films, books and documentaries, everyone is familiar with the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 with the loss of more than 1,500 lives.

Iolaire disaster – Britain's second largest maritime loss of life that occurred in 1919 when 205 Lewis and Harris men drowned in Stornoway Harbour as His Majesty's Yacht Iolaire sank in heavy seas.

What makes this event even more tragic was that HMY Iolaire was carrying soldiers who had survived the Great War and were returning home for the New Year celebrations. At 1.55am on 1 January 1919, the ship struck rocks 20 yards from shore and the men drowned in sight of Stornoway harbour.

The local Stornoway Gazette described the tragedy at the time as "the blackest day in the history of the island" and the consequence of losing so many menfolk devastated both the economy and social cohesion of the island – many islanders subsequently emigrated to find work and never returned.

The disaster shocked the nation. The King and Queen sent a message of condolence to the islanders and a public enquiry was quickly convened in February. It concluded that insufficient harbour had precipitated the tragedy. It also revealed that HMY Iolaire (previously called the Amalthaea) only had enough lifeboats for 100 men, but was carrying more than 300 passengers.

This was reported in *The Scotsman* on 12 February 1919, and the newspaper article can be viewed online via the Library's Licensed Digital Collection site. There is much to explore about the tragedy in the Library's collection, which includes newspaper accounts, official reports into the event, together with books and poetry in both English and Gaelic.

This collection was put to good use recently by pupils learning Gaelic from Edinburgh's Stenhouse Primary School and Tynecastle High School. They visited the Library to research a new play about the tragedy called Iolaire (Gaelic for

eagle), written by the award-winning

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY PROMETO KING AND QUEEN.

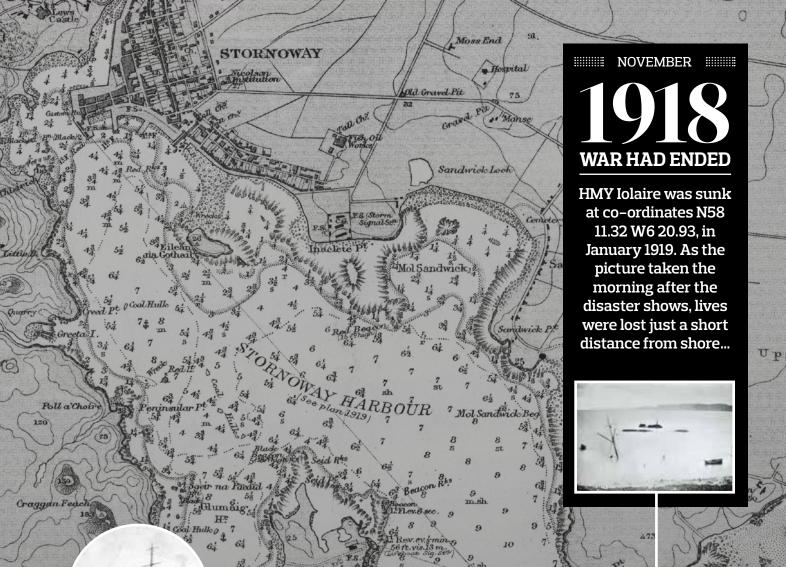
> poet William Hershaw.
>
> The project was organised by their
> Gaelic teacher Ann McCluskey, Comunn na Gàidhlig's Youth and Community Development Worker for the Gaelic Initiative in Edinburgh.

> It was a great pleasure to host the students who had a fascinating journey investigating first-hand accounts in newspapers and studying maps, poetry and later research on the event.

There was a wonderful moment when one of the pupils, who was playing a bereaved mother in the play, found a picture of her character's son in the material – it was like history coming alive.

The play premiered in March 2016 at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, and the 19-strong ensemble returned to the Library to perform it for staff and guests in April (pictured right).

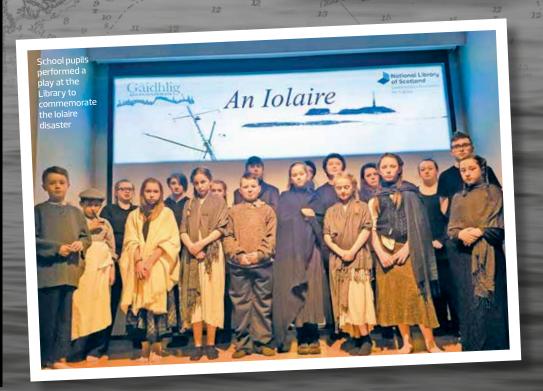
As the centenary of the disaster approaches in 2019, it is hoped that the story of the Iolaire will become more widely known.



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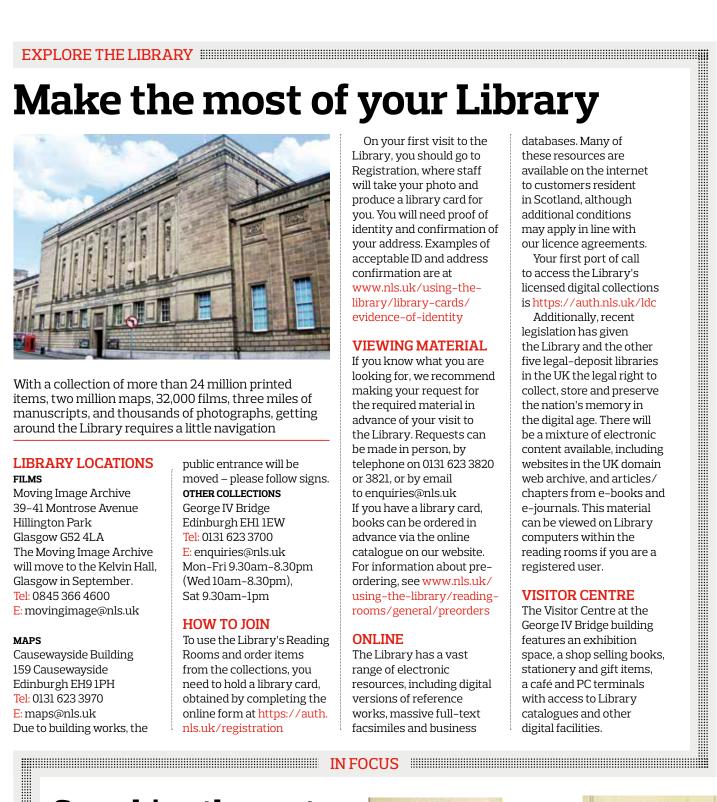
**ORPHANED CHILDREN** 

as a result of the disaster, with 67 women widowed. 6,712 Lewismen served in the Great War with around 1,150 fatalities. 200 were from the Iolaire sinking – representing 17 per cent of total fatalities. The population of Lewis was around 30,000 in 1914



The wreck of HMY lolaire (pictured left at sea – image courtesy of Adair Ltd) is marked with a pillar rising out of the water which can be seen on entering Stornoway harbour

# Make the most of your Library



Edinburgh EH9 1PH



# Histories of Scottish families now available

Delve into the lives and achievements of people in Scotland's past...

re you interested in family, local or Scottish history? The Library has recently digitised a selection of almost 400 printed items relating to the history of Scottish families, and you can read them all on our website in the Digital Gallery (see digital.nls.uk/ histories-of-scottishfamilies).

They date mostly from the 19th and early 20th centuries, and include memoirs, genealogies and clan histories, with a few produced by emigrant families. All areas of Scotland are included, from Dumfries to Shetland, and many different families and places are represented in fact, many more than the titles might suggest, as a keyword search by place or name will reveal.

# NEWARK CASTLE

Our first excursion into these items leads us to this excellent image in Memoirs of the Maxwells of Pollok, Volume 1 - Memoirs & charters (see above right).

Newark Castle had been owned by the Maxwell family, who are most usually associated with

Pollok House in Glasgow. Now owned by Historic **Environment Scotland** and open to the public, it is a fascinating building, situated on the banks of the Clyde at Port Glasgow, and is a remarkable 15thcentury survival amidst the shipyards. It was upgraded into a fine mansion by the influential Sir Patrick Maxwell in the 1590s, and



in one of the bedrooms one can still see the original pinewood panelling and cupboards, which would have included a fold-down bed - handy to have for visitors even then!

# THE GORDONS

Many of the digitised volumes include family arms and genealogy charts, such as the Family of Gordon in Griamachary, in the parish of Kildonan,

compiled by John Malcolm Bulloch in 1907 (pictured above). It outlines the lives and military achievements of Tacksman Adam Gordon's family and descendants. The chart shows four generations of military service in one family, probably not unusual, but remarkable

# A NEW ROUTE

nonetheless.

There are wonderful stories to find too, such as this account which proves that "doing the Highlands" is nothing

new! Summer at the Lake of Monteith was written by PHDun, 1865.

"Having seen, in one of the Forth & Clyde Railway time-tables, that I could leave the City at 9.35 a.m., reach Port of Monteith station at 11.20, and "do" the Lake of Monteith, Aberfoyle, Loch-Ard, Loch-Chon, Inversnaid, and Loch-Lomond, returning to Glasgow at 8 p.m., and all for "sixteen bob", it struck me as something

Find out how he gets on at deriv.nls.uk/dcn23/ 9483/94833305.23.pdf

.....

"decidedly new". Determined to make a trial of the new route, on the morning of Saturday last I found myself at Port of Monteith station, exactly at 11.20."

Glasgow coal women, photographed 

# FREE ACCESS

Find these and much more in our 'Histories of Scottish families' page at http:// digital.nls. uk/historiesof-scottishfamilies/ pageturner. cfm?id=93506071



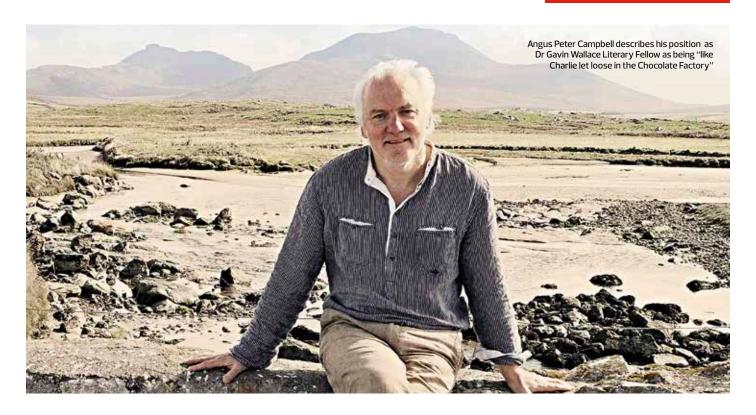
# Read between the lines.

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# Skipping along

Angus Peter Campbell's exploration of the Library archive has led him down a path strewn with memories of Burns, Stevenson – and a treasure trove of children's rhymes

ngus Peter Campbell is the Dr Gavin Wallace Literary Fellow of 2016, which is funded by Creative Scotland and hosted by the National Library of Scotland. Angus Peter's remit is to explore the huge archive at the Library with a view to making creative use of it. On his appointment at the beginning of the year, he described it as being like Charlie let loose in the Chocolate Factory. Here, he talks about some of the treats he's found:

"I've had the great good fortune not only to see and read but to touch Robert Burns's letter to Mrs Maclehose (Clarinda/Nancy), where the human basis of all love and art shines through. Rabbie says that the post is leaving in 10 minutes, but meantime, my dear Nancy, here's a song for you, to the tune of Rory Dall's Port – "Ae' fond kiss, and then we sever..."

"The great archive at the Library is full of thousands of these treasures: Hugh MacDiarmid's passport, with the clear description "British Subject"; the letters of Sorley MacLean; the beautiful handmade etchings made by Robert Louis Stevenson for his stepson; the gorgeous river-fishing maps drawn by Maude Parker in the 1930s.

"But what I've enjoyed most are the sounds of children running and skipping through the vaults of the Library: the countless street-rhymes and songs that have been recorded everywhere from Shetland to Selkirk and beyond.

"Some of them are in R.C. MacLagan's wonderful book *The Games and Diversions of Argylshire*, published by David Nutt in London for the Folklore Society in 1901.

The material itself was collected in the 1880s and 1890s and contains hundreds of Gaelic as well English-language games and rhymes.

"In English, you may have Peter Piper picking a peck of pickled pepper off a pewter plate, but try this next time you're out on the spree in Uist: Chleachd a' chearc dhubh bhith breith anns a' cliabh agus chleachd a' chearc liath bhith breith anns a' chro! "It contains many marvellous skipping and game rhymes and it's a terrible shame that these are not being used daily in our Gaelic (and English) schools, if not on our streets.

"Within this one book alone lies a fun educational resource that would keep the next generation of youngsters skipping along in beautiful linguistic style. This ought to be republished and be in every

● This ought to be republished and be in every home, in every school, on every mobile device, in every croft and city ●

home, in every school, on every mobile device, in every croft and city.

"For example, girls would join hands and sing this in a ring:

One morning I rose and I looked in the glass,

Says I tae mysel', Sic a handsome young lass,

Wi' my hauns on my hunches, I gave a Ha ha,

For there's no a laddie will take mi awa'.

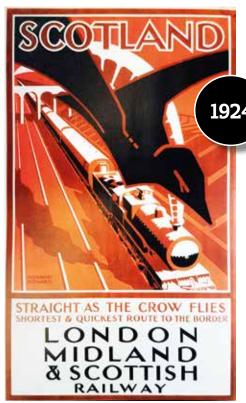


# On track

Vintage railway posters take us on a visual journey through the history of train travel. Striking, beautiful and now highly collectable, they set new standards for commercial art in the early 20th century

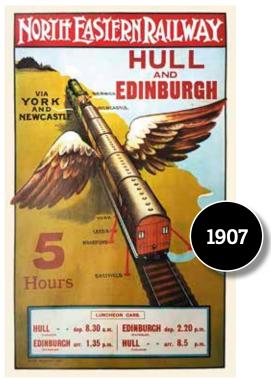
# **LONDON & NORTH EASTERN**

Opened in 1852 King's Cross was LNER's main departure point for Scotland from London. Here they lure Londoners to Scotland with a picture of a seemingly tropical Edinburgh



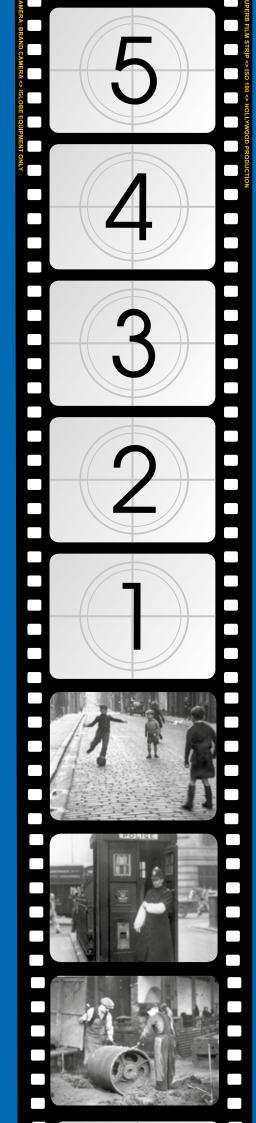
# **LONDON MIDLAND & SCOTTISH**

LMS was formed in 1923 as a result of the Railway Act of 1921 which merged 120 small railway companies into four big ones. Competition between the big four companies was fierce and led to a golden age for the railway poster



# NORTH FASTERN

Edinburgh to Hull in five hours by steam train was good going for 1907. Today the same journey takes a little under four hours





**Moving Image Archive** 

# SCOTLAND'S MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVE

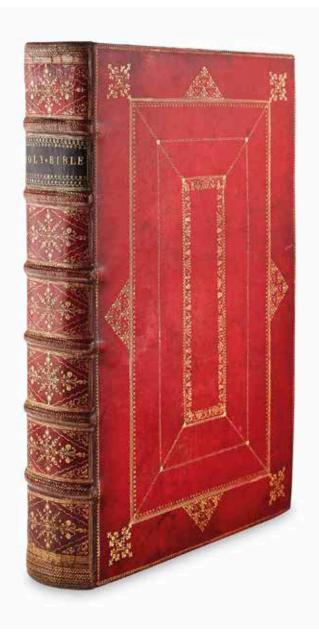
Discover over 100 years of Scotland's film history

Moving to Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, September 2016 www.nls.uk/movingimage

(Previously known as Scottish Screen Archive)

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# HOLY BIBLE - JOHN BASKERVILLE

Cambridge: Printed by John Baskerville, Printer to the University, 1763. Large folio, the first Baskerville edition. Sold for £5,000 May 2016

