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#### DISCOVER

ISSUE 38 SUMMER 2018

#### CONTACT US

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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A history of photography, the first UK exhibition of a compelling archive and a look at royal literature, it's all here...

# A history of photography, the first UK exhibition of a compelling archive and a look at royal literature, it's all here... Of collections and kings All of our collections are unique, but some have very special national and international importance. The new MacKinnon Of collections and kings

All of our collections are unique, but some have very special national and international importance. The new MacKinnon collection is one. It includes 14,000 images, dating from the earliest days of photography in the 1840s to the middle of the 20th century. There are works by pioneers such as David Octavius Hill and Robert Adamson, as well as many rare and unique prints. Read more about this exciting and extraordinary collection on pages 17-20.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of African American activist and author, Frederick Douglass. In October, we will display his manuscripts, letters and photographs. A preview of this fascinating exhibition is on

More than 200 years before Douglass was born, James VI was establishing a reputation as a scholarly monarch by creating an impressive personal library and authoring a wide variety of books, poetry and treatises. Find out about some of the king's literary interests on pages 21-23.

Coming up to date, the opening in September of the V&A in Dundee is a significant event in Scotland's cultural story. We are delighted to contribute by loaning the set, in the form of a massive pop-up book, of John McGrath's celebrated 1970s play The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil. There is more about the set (created by John Byrne), the play and the V&A on pages 28-29.

Indeed, there are numerous illuminating articles in this edition of Discover. Please enjoy and have a lovely summer.

Dr John Scally, National Librarian

e: NationalLibrarian@nls.uk



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#### **GUESS WHO?**

From our clues to the left, can you guess which famous Scottish explorer and missionary we are referring to?

Tweet your answer to @natlibscot using the hashtag #natlibquiz



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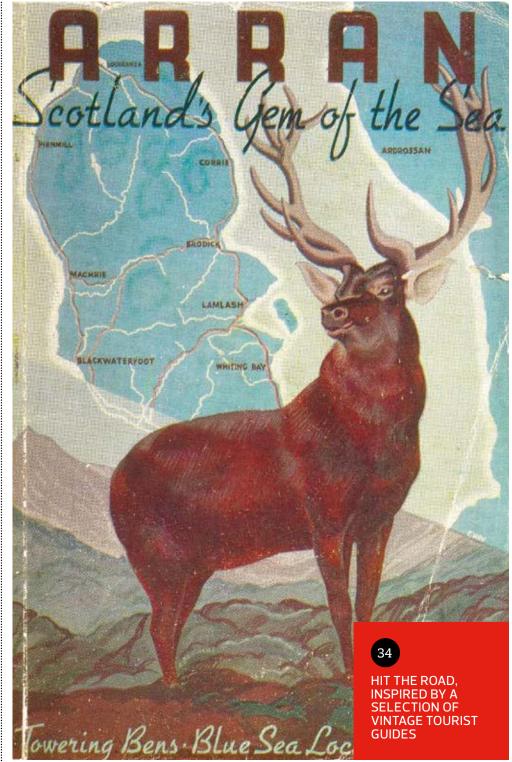
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#### CONTRIBUTORS...



**Celeste-Marie Bernier** Professor of Black Studies and Personal Chair in English Literature



**David Robinson**Freelance
journalist



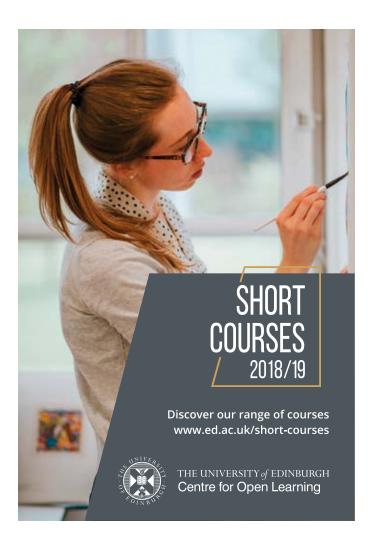
**Dr Graham Hogg** Curator, Rare Books, Maps & Music Collections

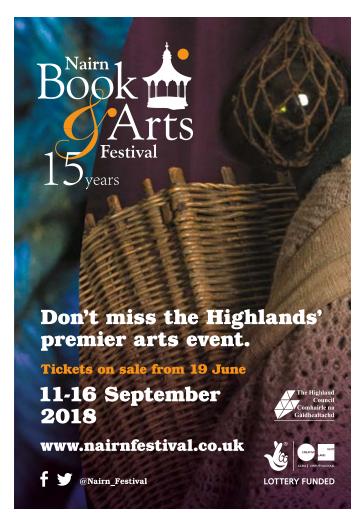


Robert L. Betteridge Curator, Rare Books, Maps & Music Collections



**Dora Petherbridge** Curator, US and Commonwealth Collections









### WILDE ABOUT ANIMATION

ver the three months of spring 2018, Louise Wilde had the time of her life, promoting the joys of animation and delivering her own creative response to the Library's unique Moving Image Archive.

It was all possible because she had taken up the temporary post of Animator in Residence at the Moving Image Archive. Between March and June she held animation workshops for local schoolchildren and college students, designed and created an animation space for members of the public, and explored and responded to the Library's collection.

Originally an illustrator, Louise became increasingly fascinated by animation and went on to undertake the MA in Animation Direction at the Royal College of Art (RCA) in London.

She said: "Animation offers infinite possibilities in terms of exploring ideas and expressing your imagination.

"I like to provide very accessible animation projects where people can create their own hand-drawn sequences then view them using traditional optical toy devices such as a zoetrope or flipbook. "It's like creating a piece of magic and the look on people's faces when they create something that comes to life is priceless."

Louise moved to Edinburgh in 2015 and said the Animator in Residence post was an opportunity too good to miss.



"I'd been exploring early animation methods and creating hand-printed animated sequences at Edinburgh Printmakers.

That included using traditional printmaking methods such as etching, so when I saw the ad for the position it seemed perfect, especially since I'd also been running workshops focusing on early animation techniques."

The post allowed her to further explore work

by inspirational Scottish animators and experimental filmmakers such as Norman McLaren and Margaret Tait.

> "There are lots of beautiful old films to see and I've

been making animations in response."

She said the big challenge was creating the interactive animation space for the public.

However, with much of the work complete, she's anticipating its imminent unveiling.

Although the post ended in

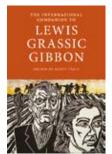
June, Louise will now continue to respond creatively to the Moving Image Archive. "I'd like to continue running animation workshops – that's something I'm really excited about. Also, I want to carry on exploring early animation devices and experiment with interactive animated spaces.

"It was a wonderful experience and I was lucky to work with a brilliant team of people at the Moving Image Archive."

#### MOVING EXPERIENCE

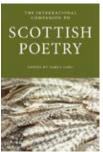
Above: Louise at work Left: One of Louise's Praxinscope etchings Below: Zoetrope artwork from one of the workshops



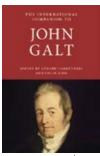


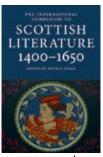


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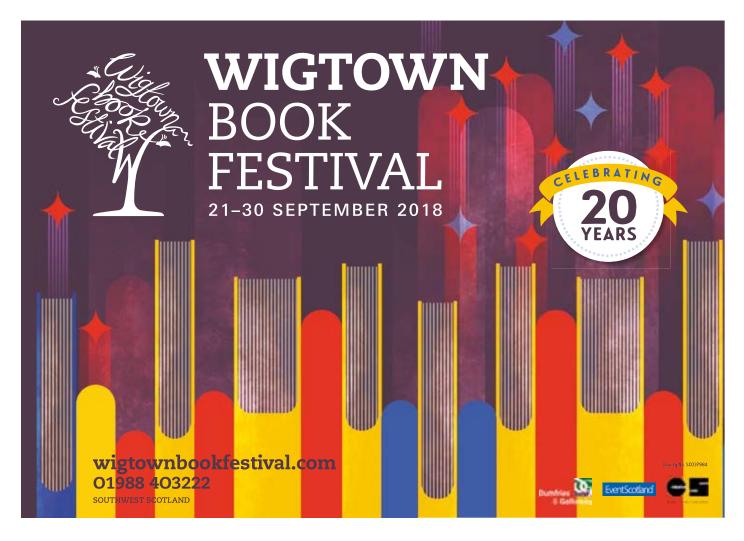
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### RAISING AWARENESS AND **USE OF THE SCOTS LANGUAGE**

Dr Michael Dempster has been appointed as our new Scots Scriever, taking up a two-year residency.

"Ma first language is Scots" - Hit taen me a lang, lang while fir tae be able tae come tae say that. See, A'm fae a bit o Scotland thit disnae hiv a nemm fir oor language ither'n the adjectival 'wrang' ur 'terrible', ur, if ye'r sprachlin fir a noon, 'slang'.

We dinnae e'en hae a nemm lik 'Glesga' ur 'Dundonian'. The maist favour ye'll get is when ye'r amang faimily ur freins an ye'r telt tae jist "talk normal!"

Fir masel, tho, that wis jist sic thit A cuid get a fingerhaud on whit wis gaun on wi wir language. As a wean newly airmt wi ma three pink tickets, A taen masel tae the Ladyton library tae fun oot mair.

This wis mibbie the first A'd went ootside the bairns' section. Gaein by the lang shelf o Encyclopedia Britannica wi their thistles on their spines, tae ma prize: The Dictionary of Slang!

An in it A fun precisely naen o oor language.

Nae 'heid', nae 'hauns', nae 'oxter'. E'en luikin up

the sweirie wirds, nae 'tube', nae 'skitters', it wis aw daft London gansters' an actors' wirds. Sae that wis that. Nae mair luikin fir ma language at the library. A'd stick tae Oor Wullie an the Broons in ma Gran's Sunday Post fir that.

But the language wis stull there aw the time. Singin auld sangs at hame an in the folk club ma Mither ran. that wee bittie Burns in the drama gruip an aye on the lips o thaim thit steved at oor bit. A'd aye pley wi it makin up daft wee rhymes an stories an sangs.

Flittin tae Glesga oor language made us 'the teuchters', stull tho, the patter o Glesga haes jist as bonnie a sklint fae "proper" as oor language did.

Oor the years, as A got mair an mair intae language in ma scientific an artistic practice, A realized thit this 'normal', this wey o talkin, haed a history gaein back mair'n seeven hunner year. Thit this 'normal' wis the language o law an governance. This this 'normal' wis oniehin but normal in wider Scottish society whilst stull bein normal in a million hooses an hames the warld ower.



#### THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY **Family History Centre** All Scotland's OPRs on film... census records... Largest M.I. collection in Scotland and free access to www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk Open 5 days a week, except Friday & Sunday Contact us at 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL Telephone 0131 220 3677 enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com www.scotsgenealogy.com



# GEORGE IV BRIDGE BUILDING OPENING HOURS HAVE CHANGED

In response to visitor and reader demand, we have changed the opening hours at the Library's George IV Bridge building in Edinburgh.

From July, the building is closing earlier in the evenings and fully closing on Sundays. However, the reading room

opening hours are now extended on Saturdays.

The changes reflect the different needs of the Library's visitors and readers. For example, in a recent survey, reading room users said they would use the Library more if Saturday opening hours

were longer.

The new hours are:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 09.30–19.00
- Wednesday: 10.00-19.00
- Friday, Saturday: 09.30-17.00
- Sunday: closed.

## YOUNG FILMMAKERS' CHANCE TO LEAVE A LEGACY



Filmmakers aged under 19 living in Scotland have the chance to leave their legacy in the national film archive by submitting a one-minute film showing what Scotland means to them.

Budding auteurs have the freedom to use any technology — camera, phone or tablet. It can be:

- any genre
- any theme
- any language.

And it can be created as an individual or part of a group, club, school or family. Films must be submitted as a digital file by Monday 1 October 2018 via filmfreeway.com/WhatScotlandMeanstoMe

Winning entries will be screened as part of the Scottish Youth Film Festival and preserved in the Library's Moving Image Archive to become a part of Scotland's stories for future generations.

For more information, email the Moving Image Archive Learning Officers at movingimagelearning@nls.uk

To view competition guidelines and to download a submission form and a contributor's release form visit: www.nls.uk/film-competition