A BETTER WORLD?

Celebration, contemplation and confrontation: Scotland in the tumultuous years following the First World War

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From the centenary of the Armistice of 11 November 1918 to the 250th anniversary of the peerless *Encyclopaedia Britannica* we’re...  

**Celebrating a landmark year**

As November marks the centenary of the Armistice, the nation is reflecting on how the conflict changed society and what it means to us today. Our major winter exhibition looks at the challenges the nation faced when hundreds of thousands of soldiers returned from the front. We have a fascinating account of how the dead were commemorated, the tensions that erupted in the fight for better working conditions and the hopes – not always fulfilled – of building a better world. You can read about it on pages 17–21.

There are further landmarks to celebrate. *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was first published in Edinburgh 250 years ago. Designed to inspire its readers with a love of knowledge, its influence has been immense. For more, see pages 14–16. That same year, 1768, John Murray opened for business, completely unaware that his would become one of the most influential publishing houses in Britain. You can find details of the John Murray Archive on pages 25–27.

Technology is a great way of preserving the past, and the Library is aiming to have a third of our collections in digital format by 2025. Digitisation is a complex job and requires great care, but it’s also an opportunity for important conservation work to be carried out. The story is told on page 13.

As ever, I hope this edition of Discover keeps you informed and leaves you surprised and entertained. Do enjoy it.