

*In this issue*

*A new book on one of Scotland's great medieval treasures is published, and some memorable new acquisitions arrive in the Library. This issue's Curator's Choice comes from Russia, the Music Division is under the Spotlight, and an American singing star visits the Library.*

# A Luxurious Manuscript

# Quarto

Newsletter of The National Library of Scotland

**I**N FEBRUARY 2001 – more than 700 years after its creation – a new study of one of Scotland's greatest medieval treasures will be launched. *The Murthly Hours: Devotion, Literacy and Luxury in Paris, England and the Gaelic West*, by John Higgitt, is to be published by the British Library and the University of Toronto Press in association with the National Library of Scotland. The book comes complete with CD-ROM, thus highlighting 13th-century techniques via the latest 21st-century technology.

The Murthly Hours – a Book of Hours created in Paris, probably in the 1280s – was acquired by the Library in 1986. Books of Hours, containing private prayers and devotions to be said at different canonical hours during the day (Matins, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers and Compline), were very popular during this period. They were frequently made for wealthy laypeople (often women) and were lavishly decorated – in this case, with gold paint on a burnished gold background, and with other techniques. The Murthly Hours is an outstanding example of

the genre and, with its unquestioned Scottish provenance, is one of the finest medieval manuscripts that the Library has ever acquired.

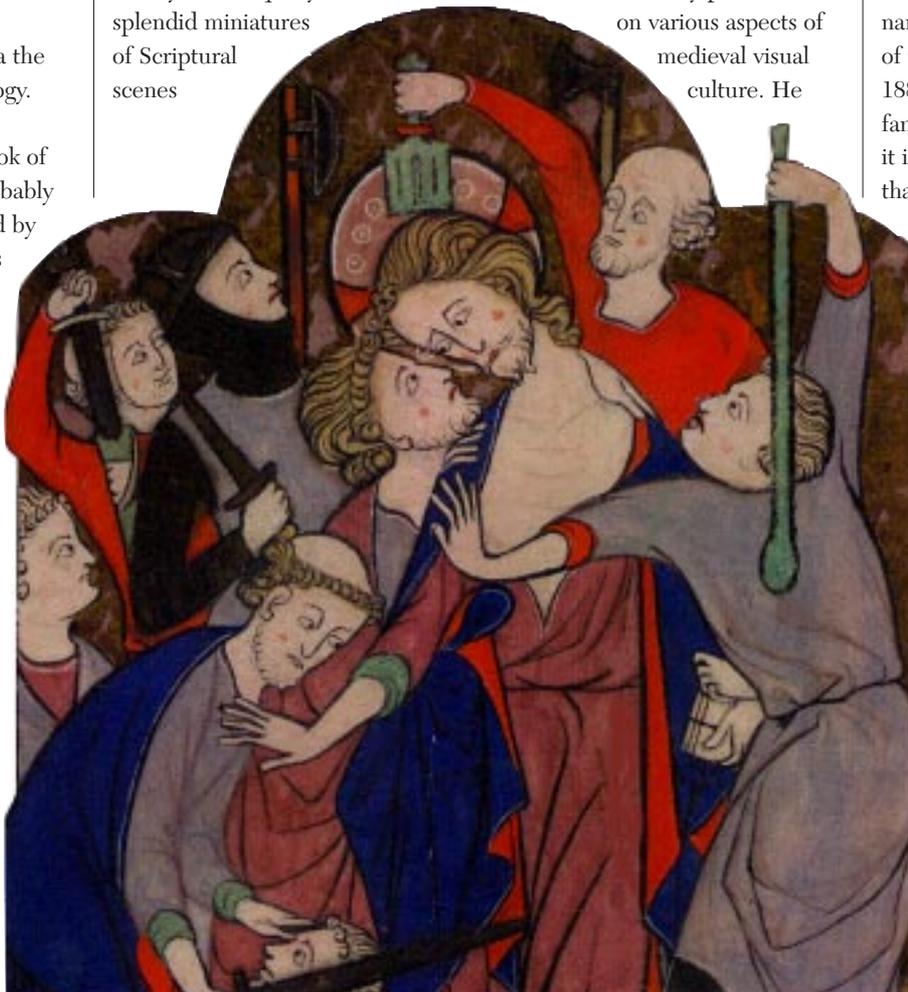
It consists of 215 leaves with eleven large initials illustrating the life of Christ, illuminated initials for every verse, and highly decorative line-fillers of dragons, kings, animals, and grotesques. The main text is preceded by twenty-three equally splendid miniatures of Scriptural scenes

painted by English artists between the 1260s and the 1280s. Text in Gaelic was added, apparently in the 14th century. There are also two obituary notices for Sir John Stewart and his wife Isabella, the Lord and Lady of Lorne who died in 1421 and 1439 respectively.

The author of this study, John Higgitt, is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Fine Art in the University of Edinburgh, and author of many publications on various aspects of medieval visual culture. He

believes that the initial creation of the manuscript can be assigned to the illuminators of the 'Cholet' group in Paris and that it was probably made for a lady with connections to Worcester, who is shown reading her book in the initial to the Gradual Psalms. However, the manuscript was in the possession of the Stewarts of Lorne in the 15th century, who in turn passed it to the Stewarts of Grandtully, owners of the lands of Murthly in Perthshire – hence its name. It came into the possession of the 3rd Marquess of Bute in 1887 and remained with that family until the Library purchased it in 1986. The appeal launched at that time achieved the required amount of £550,000 thanks to the contributions of the National Art Collections Fund, (now The Art Fund), the Scottish International Education Trust, the Friends of the National Library, Royal Insurance (UK), a large number of individual donors, and, above all, the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

For anyone with a serious interest in the history of medieval art, manuscripts, private devotion and literacy, or in the history of 13th-century England and later medieval Scotland, John Higgitt's book is an essential companion.



# From the Danube to the Forth

**A**MONG THE NUMEROUS ACQUISITIONS for the first year of the 21st century, one in particular stands out for its special significance – that of the library of St Benedict's Abbey, Fort Augustus.

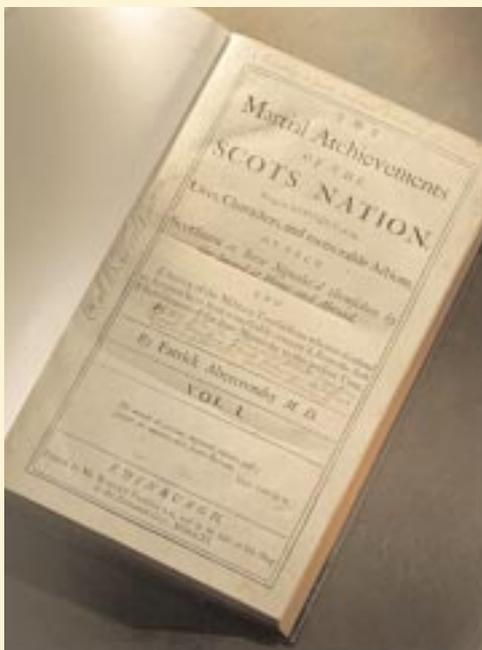
After a long and distinguished history, the monastery of St James in Ratisbon, or Regensburg – founded in the 11th century on the banks of the Danube in Bavaria by the Irish monk Marianus – was suppressed in 1862. One of the two last monks to leave the Schottenkloster, or Scottish monastery, was Father Anselm Robertson from Fochabers. He loaded a horse and cart, so the story goes, with as much of the monastery's library as it would hold and set out on a journey to Scotland where the material became the foundation collection of St Benedict's Monastery at Fort Augustus on the shores of Loch Ness. The library's resting-place was ultimately only a temporary one, as St Benedict's monastery was dissolved in 1999. However, 13 manuscripts and 543 printed books from Anselm's cartload have finally found a home in the National Library of Scotland, thanks to a generous grant of £329,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Colin MacLean, the Heritage Lottery Fund's manager for Scotland said, 'So often people associate the heritage with monuments and castles when, in fact, it encompasses much

more than that. Scotland's literary heritage is extremely important in helping us explore our history and define our culture. We are delighted to be able to provide support for this marvellous collection of works so that as well as being more accessible to everyone today, they are preserved for future generations to enjoy.'

The collection holds a volume of patristic texts written in 1080 by Marianus himself, with some marginal notation containing old Gaelic texts. There is also a translation into Scots, in 1596, of John Leslie's *De origine, moribus et rebus gestis Scotorum libri decem* (Rome, 1578), a work of great importance as a Scots language text. A 15th-century Book of Hours carrying the signature of Mary of Guise, fragments of polyphonic music and a 16th-century *Regiam Majestatem* (a compendium of Scots laws) all reflect the diversity of this rich collection.

A particularly rare book (no other copy is known to exist) from Amsterdam in 1791, *Afbeeldingen en beschryvingen van alle geestelyke en wereldlyke ordens, zedert haare stichting tot op onzen tyd*, contains a section on the dress and regalia of the Order of the Thistle. And, finally, a personal – and perhaps more practical – touch appears in the form of *A Rudimentary Treatise on Warming and Ventilation* (London 1858), bearing Father Anselm's signature!



Holyrood Palace by Alexander Nasmyth.  
(Image: Steven Gough)

Patrick Abercromby's *The Martial Achievements of the Scots Nation*, vol 1 (Edinburgh 1711) from the Fort Augustus collection.  
(Photo: Allan Forbes)

# 150th Anniversary Gifts

**O**N THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY of the founding of the collection of material by, or relating to, Sir Walter Scott, the Library received two very significant gifts – one from the past and one from the present.

In 1821 Archibald Constable, Scott's publisher, commissioned a set of sixteen drawings from Alexander Nasmyth as title page vignettes for a collected edition of the 'Waverley' novels. 'They are particularly significant', says Dr Iain Gordon Brown, Principal Curator of Manuscripts at the Library, 'as interpretations of Scott's work and as attempts to match fictional description with actual place'.

The drawings were purchased and gifted to the Library by The Art Fund (NACF). Dr Brown adds, 'This is a splendid act of generosity, on the part of the Art Fund, on this 150th anniversary'.

The second bequest comes via the generosity of Allan Massie, the distinguished contemporary novelist. He has kindly donated his manuscript and working papers of *The Ragged Lion* (1994), his highly regarded novel which purports to be Scott's last autobiographical memoir. Allan Massie's gift is the latest item in a collection which started in 1850 with the presentation to the Advocates' Library by James Hall of the autograph manuscript of *Waverley*. It will not be the last!



Iain Brown and Allan Massie study part of the Scott Collection.  
(Photo: Mark K. Jackson)

# A Scot in Russian sport

**S**IR ROBERT HAMILTON BRUCE LOCKHART (1887-1970) was a proud Scot who led a colourful life as a rubber planter, diplomat, banker, journalist, author and wartime government propagandist. The most dramatic period of his life came in 1918 when, on a mission to revolutionary Russia, he was implicated in an anti-Bolshevik conspiracy and briefly imprisoned in the Lubyanka jail. However, it is the sporting side of his Russian sojourn that is covered here.

A keen sportsman, Bruce Lockhart had the opportunity to view pre-revolutionary Russian life from an unusual angle when he played a season for the Morozov textile factory football team in Orekhovo-Zuevo, around 100 km east of Moscow. The game had been introduced to the workers there by the Lancastrian factory manager, Harry Charnock (in Russia as in many other countries it was expatriate Britons

who pioneered organised football) and the Morozov team was a mixture of British factory managers (plus Lockhart, then British Vice-Consul in Moscow) and Russian workers. Lockhart (on the right in the photograph below) admits that he was not the most skilful of players – ‘being by upbringing a rigger-player he depended more on speed’ – but he played in the side which retained the 1912 Moscow League championship title. Among the Lockhart material in the Library is the gold medal which he received as a member of the victorious team. The front of the medal has an enamel inset of St George slaying the dragon with the words (in Russian) ‘Moscow Football League’ inscribed around the edge. Lockhart subsequently wrote of his medal that ‘It is probably one of the very few that are left. After the Revolution the Bolsheviks called in all gold ornaments of every kind.’

Also included in the Lockhart papers are a

number of issues from the years 1909-11 of *Russki Sport*, the first sporting weekly newspaper in Russia. For twenty kopecks (or an annual subscription of five rubles), Russia's new sporting public could read news and comment on a variety of games and sports. Football and horseracing enjoyed the greatest coverage but attention was given to a large number of other sports including cycling, fencing, gymnastics, rowing, tennis, wrestling and the very new pastime of aeronautics. *Russki Sport* provides us with intriguing glimpses of a civil society progressing along lines which were, in many respects, similar to those of other European industrial societies. The events of 1917, however, were to radically change the course of these developments.

*John Bowles*  
Curator, Russian, German Mountaineering and Polar Collections



# Spotlight on Manuscripts

*In the last issue of Quarto, we said that the rubric for the Library is to acquire, to catalogue, to preserve and to make accessible. We described the work of the Manuscripts Division in the fields of acquisitions and cataloguing, and now we take a look at preservation and provision of access...*

**T**HE COLLECTION must of course be safely preserved under the best possible conditions and this is the responsibility of all curatorial staff. Kenneth Dunn, however, supervises all preservation activities on behalf of the Manuscripts Division – in close association with David Kerr of the Conservation Unit – to ensure that the Library's collection does not deteriorate with age or use. Manuscripts are placed into fascicles and boxes made at the Sighthill Bindery, while more detailed preservation work is undertaken at the Conservation Unit, and photographs held by the division are usually conserved by Claire Thomson. Once the actual manuscripts are

secure and have been catalogued and allocated shelf numbers, they are carefully stored in the Library's strongrooms. A careful balance is made to ensure that preservation does not mean imprisonment and that this material can be accessible to as wide a number of people as possible.

To this end, the material is made available for readers in the North Reading Room where it will arrive thanks to the Division's bookfetcher, Alex O'Hara. A good bookfetcher is an enormous asset to any collection, since he must be interested enough to assimilate knowledge of the collection and to care enough to aid preservation by the careful handling of the material. He must also be fit enough to walk many miles in the course of a day! Once the manuscript arrives in the North Reading Room, the Manuscripts Division's interests are represented by Senior Curator Olive Geddes, who looks after the day-to-day running of the Reading Room, helped by Sally Harrower and Yvonne Carroll.

Yet accessibility does not begin and end with readers in George IV Bridge. All curators will

deal with telephone, postal and – increasingly – e-mail enquiries, and numerous requests are received for permission to reproduce items from the collections in publications, both academic and general, or for permission to use on broadcast programmes both at home and abroad. These are, in the main, dealt with by one curator, Sheila Mackenzie, whose responsibilities include managing readers' repro-graphic requests – via, increasingly, digitisation of images. This is a huge new area developing as a result of technological innovation, and one of enormous concern for institutions like the Library. With such varied and important collections, it is imperative that the reprographic techniques used are of the highest quality, with minimal disturbance to the originals. More and more manuscript material is now being made available digitally for publication and promotional purposes, and the Department of Special Collections as a whole is looking to wider digitisation of the collections to enable fuller access within their groups of readers. This modern technological form will make many manuscripts, from the most ancient to the most recent, more readily accessible than ever before.



Alex O'Hara, Manuscripts bookfetcher, in one of the Library's strongrooms.  
(Photo: Mark K Jackson)

The medieval illuminated manuscript 'The Mirror of the Life of Christ', which went on loan to the City Art Centre in Edinburgh last summer. Loans to external exhibitions at home and abroad are another way of extending access to the national collections.

(Photo Allan Forbes)



'The gape, the stare and the go of Glasgow'.  
From a series of illustrated letters (1816-1820) from 'Hall Tweed' (H. Wilson) to Mrs C. Whaley.



# Spotlight on Music

**W**HEN THE ADVOCATES' LIBRARY was founded in the late seventeenth century there was little interest in acquiring music collections. Only a small amount of music was acquired by the Advocates over the centuries, but this includes such important manuscripts as the Skene MS, and the Leyden and Agnus Hume music books. Since the National Library of Scotland was formed in 1925, the music collections have grown very considerably, largely through the Library's legal deposit privilege, but also through bequests, donations and purchase of foreign and special collections. Numbers of printed music items are now nearing the 300,000 mark.

Today the Library's collections of printed music and sound recordings are part of the Music Division while music manuscripts are administered by the Manuscripts Division. Apart from extensive Scottish and British music collections the Library holds a wide selection of foreign music editions, special collections of Scottish music collectors, and music sound recordings ranging from 78s and reel tapes to modern CDs.



The composer's holograph manuscript of 'A Carlyle Suite for piano' by Ronald Stevenson. Purchased in 2000 to add to the Ronald Stevenson Collection.

Among the special collections of printed music are five outstanding collections. The **Balfour Handel Collection** (acquired in 1937) contains some five hundred printed scores and more than a hundred libretti, most of them published during Handel's lifetime. In 1952 the music bibliographer **Cecil Hopkinson** presented his inter-nationally significant **Berlioz** collection to the Library; twenty years later the Library acquired Hopkinson's **Verdi** collection. Scottish music has not been neglected either: **John Glen's** collection of mainly 18th and 19th century Scottish music and music books was presented to the Library in 1927. In 1929 the Library received another bequest, by **Alexander Wood Inglis**, containing traditional Scottish and English songs and keyboard music, including some piano pieces composed by Wood Inglis under the pseudonym of Alexander Selva.

The third large private gift of Scottish material came in 1972 on the death of **John Murdoch Henderson**. He had made a lifelong study of Scots fiddle music and his final bequest comprised 556 sheet music publications, over 200 bound volumes and a large quantity of manuscript music. The bequest also includes a fund for purchases of traditional Scottish music. In 1982 the Library purchased much of the **Edinburgh Society of Musicians'** important music collections. The history of these collections goes back as far as the days of the Edinburgh Catch Club in the 18th century: a contemporary recorded that, 'there were many excellent voices in the catch-club who sang each their part at sight; and the easy cheerfulness which reigned in this select society, rendered their meetings delightful'.

Scottish music represents a significant area of collection strength. The Library possesses the largest single collection of *piobaireachd* pipe music and virtually the only written example of *canntaireachd* (a form of syllabic notation). The Music Division continues to make considerable efforts to acquire as much of the work of contemporary Scottish composers and performers as possible while still receiving the regular output of printed British music publications through legal deposit.



Almut Boehme (centre) and Kenneth Dunn of the Manuscripts Division (third from right) with IAML conference delegates during a tour of the Library's music collections.  
(Photo: Walter Bell)

The Music Division is headed by Almut Boehme who came to the Library in February 2000, following Roger Duce's retirement in May 1999. Since her arrival, Almut has been busy acquiring scores and books on music, while cataloguing of scores has been re-organised. It is hoped that about a quarter of a million catalogue cards will be converted to electronic format over the next five to eight years so that users can access music material on the online public catalogue.

Almut is actively involved in committee work within the International Association of Music Libraries (UK) and served as a member of the Advisory Group during the international IAML conference last August in Edinburgh. During the conference she also conducted tours of the NLS music collections.

## Chairman of the Board



(Photo: Alan Forbes)

**I**N THIS ISSUE it is with very great pleasure that we welcome our recently-appointed Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Professor Michael Anderson, OBE, FRSE, FBA, Professor of Economic History and Senior Vice-Principal at the University of Edinburgh.

Professor Anderson's research interests have focussed in particular on the history of population, families and households in Western Europe over the past 250 years. Currently working with a group of sociologists on the ways and manner in which people 'plan' their personal lives in contemporary Scotland, he is also interested in how a better knowledge of family life in the past can help us cope with problems today.

An early enthusiast for all kinds of IT, between 1989 and 1993 Professor Anderson was the first Vice-Principal of the University of Edinburgh to have a remit to provide a greater degree of policy integration between computing, library and multi-media services. This led to membership of the Follett Committee, and subsequently to the chairing of a task group on UK national and regional strategy for library support of research. This group produced what has become known as 'The Anderson Report'. Many of the library collaboration recommendations from this report are currently being implemented through the funding councils' Research Support Libraries Programme which is chaired by Professor Anderson.

A member of the British Library Board since 1994 and the National Library of Scotland Board since 1998, Professor Anderson has in the past been a council member of the Economic and Social Research Council, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the British Academy.

This background, says Professor Anderson, means that he is very aware of the opportunities and challenges facing the Library over the next few years, 'with the requirement to embrace digital activities of many different kinds while continuing to support readers of traditional print, archival and manuscript materials, and in a world where Government will also be looking to the Library to broaden its user base, on- and off-site, in support of lifelong learning and the wider cultural enrichment of the people of Scotland. It is a great privilege to be chairing the Board in its key task of supporting the Library's outstanding and dedicated staff in meeting the challenges ahead.'

## Law and Literary Partnership

**L**AST SUMMER Semple Fraser WS, the Business Law Partnership, became major sponsors of the Library's highly-praised summer exhibition, **Scotland's Pages**. This support has been much appreciated for, without significant sponsorship, it is increasingly difficult for the Library to mount major exhibitions and maintain free admission for the public.

It is gratifying too for Library staff engaged in months of hard work when comments in the exhibition's visitors' book offer such praise as 'A truly wonderful exhibition', and 'A rare and privileged opportunity to directly view 'history''.

It is thanks to Semple Fraser that among the enthusiastic comments a visitor from Germany wrote that 'It was great to see an exhibition without paying!' and a Belgian visitor said, 'I was amazed at your

collection and that you gave the exhibit as a gift to the people – thanks'.

Unsurprisingly, the atmosphere was buoyant in the autumn when Semple Fraser hosted some evening receptions at the exhibition for clients, friends and colleagues. In addition to celebrating the success of the summer literary and law partnership (their first major venture into sponsorship), Semple Fraser had something else to celebrate – November heralded the tenth anniversary of the firm.

A ghostly presence on the stair: Alister Fraser (left) of Semple Fraser WS and Alan Marchbank of the Library with Caroline MacKellar after her performance as Mary Queen of Scots.

A contemplative Mary Queen of Scots after reading from her last letter, which was on display in the exhibition.

(Photos: Mark K Jackson)

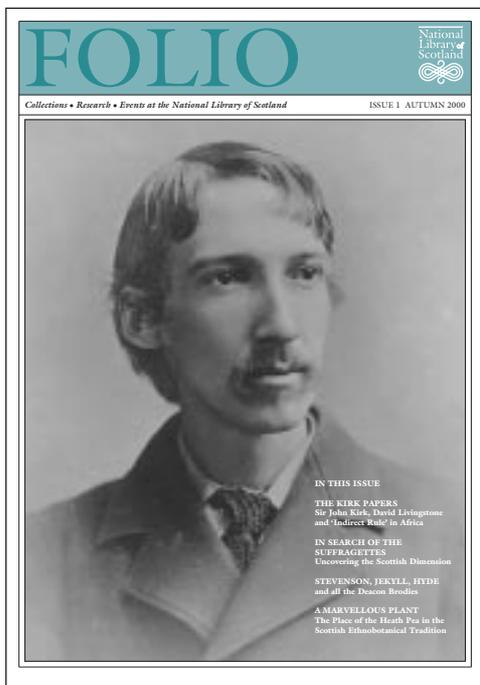


## A New Folio Opens

THE FIRST ISSUE of *Folio*, the Library's new journal, has just been published. *Folio* will appear twice yearly, featuring in-depth articles on items from the collections and on general research carried out using Library resources.

The current issue includes articles on Sir John Kirk in 19th-century Africa, the Suffragettes in Scotland, Stevenson and 'Jekyll and Hyde' and 'The Place of the Heath Pea in the Scottish Ethnobotanical Tradition'.

If you would like to receive a copy of *Folio* please contact: Jackie Cromarty, Deputy Head of Public Programmes, by telephone on 0131-622 4810 or via e-mail at [j.cromarty@nls.uk](mailto:j.cromarty@nls.uk).



## Binders with Class



DAVID KERR AND VILMA CIRIMELE proved to be in a class of their own at the recent Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition, held annually by the Library.

David, who has undertaken special presentations for HRH The Princess Royal and for the late Donald Dewar, is Conservation Manager at the Library. He beat international competition from all over continental Europe to become overall winner. Vilma Cirimele, from Italy, became interested in binding as a teenager when her grandfather left her his precious copy of Dante's *La Divina Commedia*. Vilma, who won the student prize, is studying bookbinding as part of an arts and crafts degree in London.

The Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition, sponsored by Mrs Elizabeth Clark, is an annual event and those interested in receiving information about the competition should write to R Jackson, Head of Preservation at the Library.



Top: David Kerr with a few of the competition entries.

Above, from left to right: Vilma Cirimele, Mrs Elizabeth Clark and David Kerr. (Photos: Dan Tuffs)

## Intercontinental Co-operation

Stuart Boon (right) was one of two students who came to the Library last summer from the School of Library and Information Studies at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, to carry out his 'practicum'. The practicum calls for 100 hours of work in a library – a combination of practical experience and fact-finding – followed up by a report. The arrangement with Dalhousie was organised by Dr Kevin Halliwell of the Collection Development Division (left), after he gave a talk at the Library School at Dalhousie in October of last year.

(Photo: Chris Taylor)



## The Saltire Flies High over the National Library



The annual Saltire Literary Awards took place at the Library on St Andrew's Day. The Saltire Book of the Year was won by *The Lantern Bearers* by Ronald Frame, the Post Office/Saltire First Book of the Year went to *The Rising Sun* by Douglas Galbraith, and the National Library of Scotland/Saltire Research Book of the Year was *Jessie Kesson Writing Her Life* by Isobel Murray. The winners are pictured here (from left): Douglas Galbraith, Ronald Frame and Isobel Murray. (Photo: Mark K Jackson)

## An American Emmy for the Library

**I**NTERNATIONAL country music star Emmylou Harris, who won the prestigious Century Award in the States in recognition of her 30-year career in the business, has been touring the UK with material from her latest album *Red Dirt Girl*. Earlier in

the summer of last year she visited the Library while recording a series for American television on culture in the great cities of Europe, and was fascinated to see and hold the original manuscript of *'Ae Fond Kiss'* by Robert Burns.

(Photo: Mark K Jackson)



## Director of General Collections

**F**OLLOWING THE RETIREMENT in the summer of Dr Ann Matheson, the Library has a new Director of General Collections. She is Mrs Cate Newton, previously Associate and Deputy Librarian at St Andrews University Library. There, she was

responsible for acquisitions, processing and cataloguing, and headed the team which introduced a new library management system in 1999. An interview with Cate Newton will appear in the next issue of *Quarto*.

## A Learning Challenge

Serious contemplation of some of the new training opportunities on offer at the Learning and Development Day for Library staff which took place at the Causewayside Building in October.

(Photo: Antonia Reeve)



## Safety First

(Photo: British Safety Council)

**R**OSEMARY REASON, one of the Library's 'first aiders', and Mike Galloway, Safety Manager, hold high the prestigious Five Star Award from the British Safety Council at a ceremony in November. Sir Neville Purvis, Director of the British Safety Council, who

presented the award, said, 'Good safety is good business and can save firms hundreds of thousands of pounds. In achieving a Five Star award, the National Library of Scotland has shown real commitment to improving health and safety in the workplace'.



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