



# National Librarian and Chief Executive's Report to the Board

September 2021

## Librarian's key events since June 2021

8 June 2021	Gave a talk at the CILIPS conference:
16 June 2021	Attended the Legal Deposit Librarians Summer meeting and chaired the Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries' Board meeting
23 June 2021	Attended the Scottish LIC Board meeting
8 July	Attended the virtual launch of the Library's Petticoats and Pinnacles exhibition
21 July	Chaired the inaugural meeting of the Honresfield Scottish Partners Group (now Honresfield Scottish Steering Group)
26 July	Attended a Paisley Museum Re-Imagined Board meeting

## One Third Digital: Digitisation Update

The **Mass Digitisation** team continued to focus their work on the ABS collection, with over 300 items digitised during June and July. In addition, the team digitised another 100 items to enrich the Library's contributions to the multi-national [Europeana Sport](#) collaboration.

Colleagues have been busy processing files for around 1.6 million pages from the ABS collection in preparation for newly digitised items to go online soon. The collection comprises around 15,000 works, of which 4,000 are online already, 2,000 are currently being processed to go online, and 7,000 are digitised awaiting processing before they can go online.

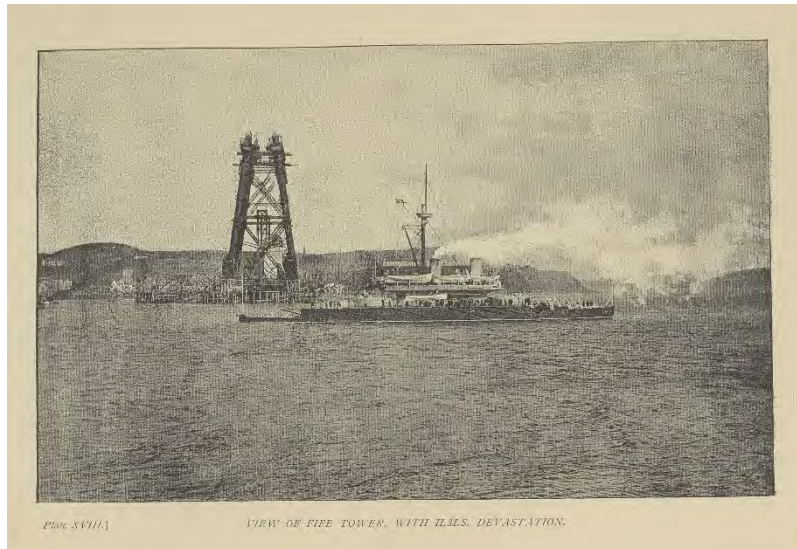


Image above: excerpt from B Baker: 'Bridging the Firth of Forth', 1887 (abs.4.77.8)

The team have also digitised a further 27 **medieval manuscripts**, bringing the total to 197 out of 226 items digitised. The remaining volumes include nine Class 1 Safe Items which require invigilation during digitisation. This is scheduled at intervals in early autumn.

The Library reached its target to digitise all 131,000 **single sheet maps of Scotland** from its collection, with the final batch of around 3,600 maps finished in July. This excludes some 1,600 fragile and large format Scottish maps which require intensive conservation treatment and digitisation on specialist equipment.



Image above: excerpt from Medical treatises, 13th century (Adv. MS. 18.6.1)

**Map digitisation** has now moved to OS Town Plans for England and Wales which are expected to be complete in early autumn. Around 4,000 of those have been captured during the reporting period, with an average throughput rate of 300 maps per day.

The latest **online** map addition is a set of 694 unpublished [Ordnance Survey 'blue-and-black' drawings](#), which show revision for the Scottish 25 inch to the mile maps, between the 1890s and the 1940s. The maps are useful for showing some security deletions due to censorship. Military and related sites were added in black, but some of these were subsequently erased from the final printed maps. Some of the larger security deletions, which can be seen clearly with our Side by side viewer, are [Broughty Castle](#) (Battery), [Champfleurie / Bridgend](#) (Oil Works), [Crombie](#) (Royal Naval Arms Depot), [Clyde](#) (Oil Fuel Depot), [Dalnottar](#) (Oil Fuel Depot), [Denny](#) (Gas Works), [Donibristle](#) (Aerodrome), [Dunbar Castle](#) (Battery), [Fort George](#) (Ardersier), [Grangemouth](#) (Oil Refinery), [Inchgarvie](#) (Battery), [Niddry Castle](#) (Oil Works), [Torry Point](#), [Aberdeen](#) (Battery), and [Whiteforeland Point](#) (Royal Naval Torpedo Factory).

In June and July the team in **Moving Image and Sound Collections** digitised 62 items from film, 196 from video, and 95 tapes within the Unlocking our Sound Heritage project.

Changes in moving image cataloguing practises to published records have resulted in an increase in digitisation-on-demand requests, meaning the team are meeting concrete user needs.

Preparations are underway for the Collections on Tape project, including a significant effort to clear previously digitised films from local servers at Kelvin Hall to create the necessary digital storage space required for the large-scale project.

Overall, **a total of 9,348 collection items** were digitised during June and July 2021, with over 7,500 of those being single sheet maps.

## Digital Resources and web statistics

### External Resources

#### [Wikipedia](#)

In line with historical figures views across Wikimedia projects are slightly down on the last quarter. Usage is still high, at around 10.5million views across all projects. The pages that our material is used on has continued to increase with another 3,000 pages in the last 3 months

#### [Internet Archive and Flickr](#)

These sites are similar in that our content on them is not updated or promoted. Towards the end of last financial year we had seen a dip in usage and then a slight rise. This quarter usage remains largely unchanged on both platforms. This is still lower than historical quarterly usage. This could be the new normal for these services. However, as seen with other services, Q1 tends to show a dip in usage and we might see an increase next quarter

#### [YouTube](#)

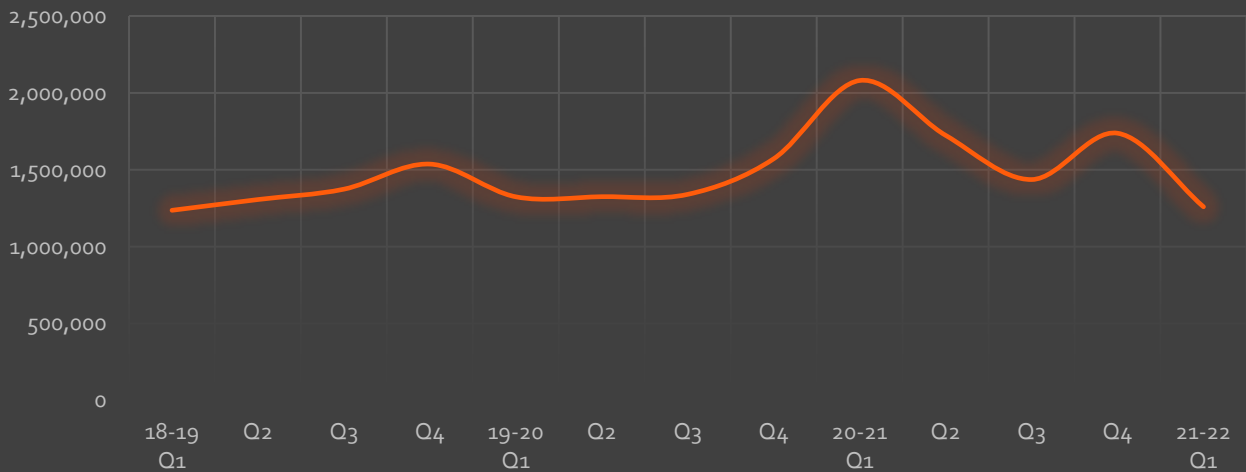
Compared to last quarter our YouTube statistics seem to have plummeted with all figures around a third of those in Q4 2020/21. This is due to the semi-viral success of a clip last quarter. However, views remain strong with an increase of 150% on the same time period last year.

<a href="#">Wikmedia</a>	<b>46,298 Wikimedia pages</b> 6,667,423 English language Wikipedia views <b>10,424,378 total views</b>
<a href="#">YouTube</a>	6 new videos <b>52,162 views</b> 849.3 hours watched <b>168 new subscribers</b>
<a href="#">Internet Archive</a>	4,850 items in 13 collections <b>142,350 views</b>
<a href="#">Flickr</a>	2,500 images <b>178,847 views</b>

#### [nls.uk domain use](#)

Domain use has seen a dip this quarter. This fits the pattern of previous years, with a dip in Q1 which usually rises throughout the year. It is hard to compare to last year when we had more peaks in usage varying with the levels of lockdown throughout the year.

## 2018/19 - 2021/22 sessions per quarter



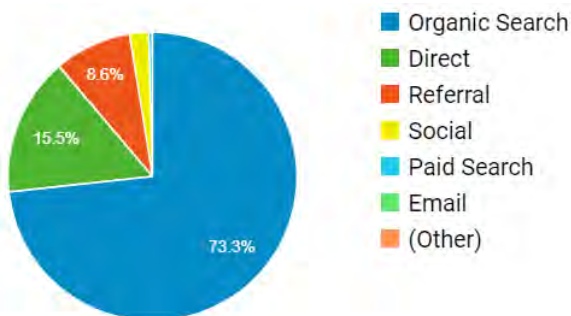
### Digital Gallery

87,773 users with 124,149 view sessions

7.93 pages per session

4.01 minutes average duration on site

#### Top Channels



#### Top referrals (non-Library)

cse.google.com	1,023 users
en.wikipedia.org	806 users
bbc.com	193 users

#### Location of users

58% UK (50% Eng, 46% Sco, 2% Wal, 1% NI)  
 15% USA  
 6% Australia  
 5% Canada  
 1% New Zealand

#### Top Landing pages

/gallery/: (4%)  
 /directories/(1%)

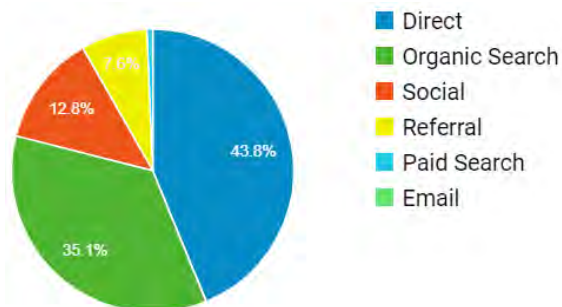
### Maps

454,944 users with 910,331 view sessions

4.03 pages per session

4.10 minutes average duration on site

#### Top Channels



#### Top referrals (non-Library)

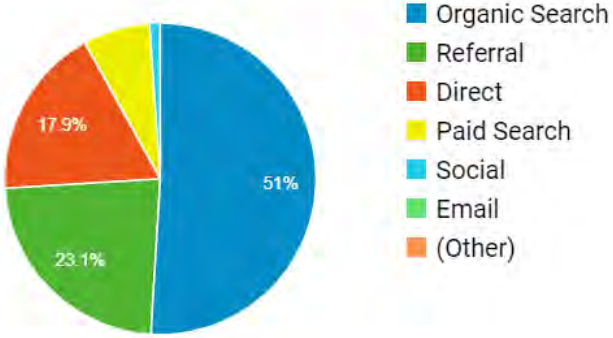
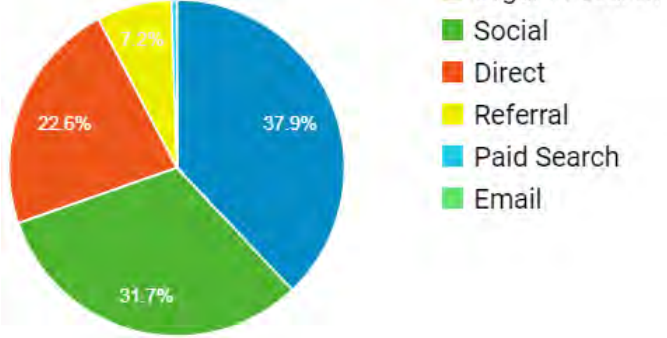
cse.google.com	6,808 users
oldmapsonline.org	4,411 users
en.wikipedia.org	1,068 users

#### Location of users

93% UK (76% Eng, 18% Sco, 5% Wal, 0.3% NI)  
 2% USA  
 1% Australia  
 1% Canada  
 0.3% France

#### Top Landing Pages

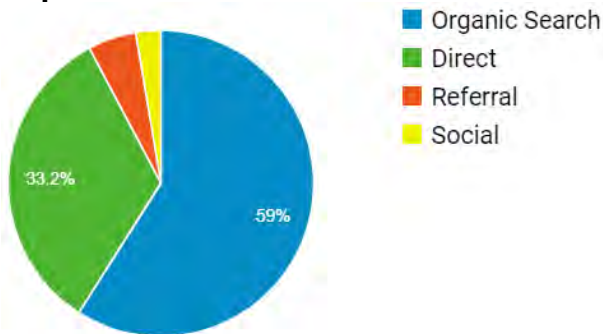
/geo/explore/side-by-side (18%)  
 /geo/explore/ (16%)

/scientists/biographies/james-watt/index.html(1%) /exams/(1%) /learning/scottish-food-history/food-in-scotland/index.html(1%)	/geo/find 8%) / (8%) /os/6inch-england-and-wales/ (4%)																																																																				
<a href="#">Main website</a> 73,084 users with 118,071 view sessions 2.25 pages per session 1.38 minutes average duration on site <b>Top Channels</b>  <table border="1"> <caption>Top Channels - Main website</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Channel</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Organic Search</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Referral</td> <td>23.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct</td> <td>17.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paid Search</td> <td>7.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Email</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(Other)</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <b>Top referrals (non-Library)</b> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>cse.google.com</td> <td>531 users</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ordnancesurvey.co.uk</td> <td>237 users</td> </tr> <tr> <td>uk.search.yahoo.com</td> <td>225 users</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <b>Location of users</b> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>73%</td> <td>UK (54% Sco,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>42%</td> <td>Eng, 2% Wal,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1%</td> <td>NI)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9%</td> <td>USA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3%</td> <td>Australia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3%</td> <td>Canada</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1%</td> <td>New Zealand</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <b>Top Landing Pages</b> / (44%) /digital-resources (4%) / family-history /births-deaths-marriages (3%) /catalogues (2%) /family-history (2%)	Channel	Percentage	Organic Search	51%	Referral	23.1%	Direct	17.9%	Paid Search	7.2%	Social		Email		(Other)		cse.google.com	531 users	ordnancesurvey.co.uk	237 users	uk.search.yahoo.com	225 users	73%	UK (54% Sco,	42%	Eng, 2% Wal,	1%	NI)	9%	USA	3%	Australia	3%	Canada	1%	New Zealand	<a href="#">Moving Image Archive</a> 32,706 users with 40,916 view sessions 2.93 pages per session 2,53 minutes average duration on site <b>Top Channels</b>  <table border="1"> <caption>Top Channels - Moving Image Archive</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Channel</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Organic Search</td> <td>37.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social</td> <td>31.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Direct</td> <td>22.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Referral</td> <td>7.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paid Search</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Email</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(Other)</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <b>Top referrals (non-Library)</b> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>en.wikipedia.org</td> <td>417 users</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cse.google.com</td> <td>248 users</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key.areo</td> <td>45 users</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <b>Location of users</b> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>84%</td> <td>UK (71% Sco, 28% Eng, 1% Wal, 1% NI)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4%</td> <td>US</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2%</td> <td>Canada</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2%</td> <td>Australia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2%</td> <td>Spain</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <b>Top Landing Pages</b> / (10%) /film/5973 – (The Ninian Central Platform)(1%) /film/0799 – (The Singing Street) (1%) /film/9309 - ('Robin's Saturday') (1%) /film/9959 - ('Anchor Pensioners 1965') (%)	Channel	Percentage	Organic Search	37.9%	Social	31.7%	Direct	22.6%	Referral	7.2%	Paid Search		Email		(Other)		en.wikipedia.org	417 users	cse.google.com	248 users	Key.areo	45 users	84%	UK (71% Sco, 28% Eng, 1% Wal, 1% NI)	4%	US	2%	Canada	2%	Australia	2%	Spain
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## Data Foundry

2,509 users with 6,103 view sessions  
1.99 pages per session  
1,14 minutes average duration on site

### Top Channels



### Top referrals (non-Library)

cse.google.com	20 users
dhawards.org	15 users
librarycarpentry.org	6 users

### Location of users

64% UK (67% Eng, 30% Sco, 3% Wal, 0.3% NI)  
10% USA  
4% China  
2% Canada  
2% India

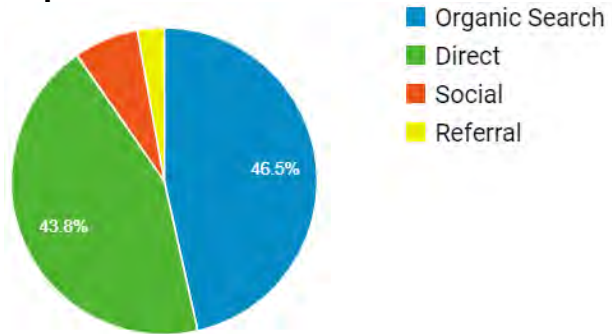
### Top Landing Pages

/projects/finding-lost-footpaths-using-gb1900/ (24%)  
/ (23%)  
/data/digitised-collections/encyclopaedia-britannica/ (6%)  
/data/digitised-collections/broadsides-printed-in-scotland/(5%)  
/data/digitised-collections/british-army-lists/(3%)

## Scotland's Sounds

1,036 users with 1,246 view sessions  
1.20 pages per session  
1.05 minutes average duration on site

### Top Channels



### Top referrals (non-Library)

baidu.com	11 users
cse.google.com	5 users
fleecetofashion.gla.ac.uk	5 users

### Location of users

55% UK (60% Sco, 33% Eng, 4%Wales, 1% NI)  
22% US  
3% Canada  
2% China  
2% Finland

### Top Landing Pages

/ (36%)  
/ index.php/unlocking-our-sound-heritage-uosh/ (9%)  
/ index.php/safe-sound/ (7%)  
/index.php/2020/09/03/newhaven-fishwives/(6%)  
/index.php/online-sound-collections/collections-with-online-recordings/(5%)

## Rare Books Acquisitions

### New map acquisition

'Johnston's plan of Edinburgh & Leith in 1850', from actual survey by Alfred Lancefield

This map is amongst the finest depictions of Edinburgh during the period of its industrial expansion. Although the Library already holds the 1851 and subsequent editions, this previously unrecorded, proof map of the city lacks some house and street names which do appear on the later, completed map. The differences are particularly marked in the areas of the city where development was in progress, along the main arterial routes and the edges of the new town. Lancefield was a civil engineer and surveyor, and this map was used over a thirty-year period to give an overview of the expanding city and to aid urban planning and city administration.

Edinburgh: W. & A.K. Johnston, 1850.

Dealer, £3,000



### 'Psalms of David in meeter', Edinburgh: Andro Anderson, 1667

Andro Anderson was Printer to the Town and College of Edinburgh when he produced this edition of the Psalms in 1667. This is the only known copy, and the edition is unrecorded. Hitherto, only the edition printed 'be A A for J Miller' has been known. Our new acquisition is not a re-issue with a different title page, but a different edition altogether. This tiny book of Psalms measures only 9.5 x 5 cm. It has a green and white glass beadwork wrapper, indicating that it probably meant a lot to a former owner. However, the binding is much more recent than the printing.

Dominic Winter (auction), £2,400

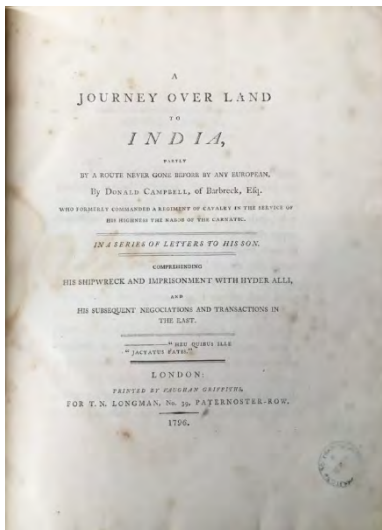
Bdg.s.990

### Donald Campbell, 'A journey over land to India', London: V. Griffiths, 1796

Donald Campbell of Barbreck, Argyll, an army officer and travel writer, first published this account of his journey across, Europe and the Middle East to India in 1795, and its success prompted this new edition's publication the following year. The journey was made by way of Belgium, Tyrol, Venice, Alexandria, Aleppo, Diyarbakir, Mosul, Baghdad, Bushehr, Bombay, and Goa and are described in the work. Campbell was shipwrecked in the Indian Ocean, imprisoned by Haider Ali of Mysore, but subsequently released. He died in Essex in 1804 and by 1808 an abridged version of his journey, published as 'Narrative of the Extraordinary Adventures' had reached its 6th edition.

Henry Sotheran Ltd, £798

AB.8.221.3



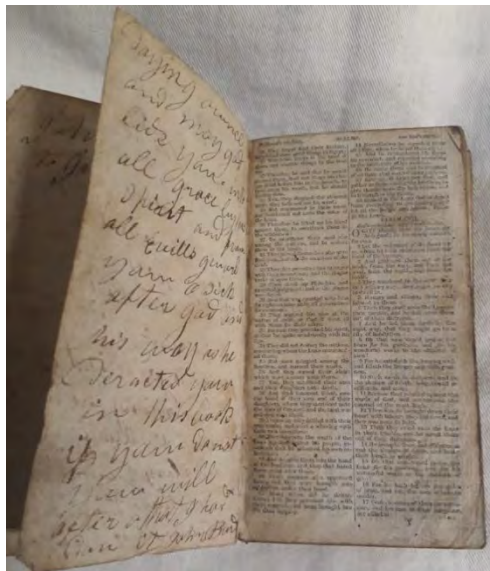
### 'Holy bible and Psalms', vol. 2, Edinburgh: D. Hunter Blair, 1813-14

This volume of the Bible was the property of John Baird, one of the leaders of the Condorrat at the 'Battle of Bonnymuir,' an armed skirmish with the Stirlingshire Yeomanry near Bonnybridge during the Radical War of 1820. Baird was subsequently captured and sentenced to death for treason. On 8 September 1820 he was hanged at Stirling Castle, along with fellow radical leader Andrew Hardie, and then his head was cut off in front of the watching crowd. He was the last executed person in Britain to be subsequently decapitated in public.

He inscribed this book as a present to his nephew John Walker on the front pastedown, and on the front free endpaper wrote a message to his nephew. The volume appears to have passed down through generations of the Walker family. A wooden box, dating from the late 19th or early 20th century was made to house it, and press clippings, dating from the late 19th and 20th centuries, relating to Baird and the Radical War, were stored in the box. According to one of the press clippings, Baird had this volume with him during his final days in Stirling prison and was carrying it with him to the scaffold. There are numbers 1-20 written by Baird in the top left-hand corners of the pages in the Old Testament in vol. 2, which may indicate his planned reading each day during his final days.

Louis 88 Books, £950

RB.s.3005

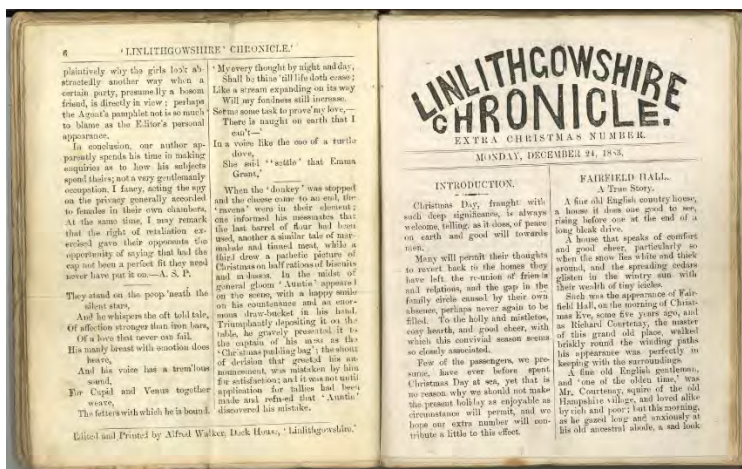


## 'Linlithgowshire Chronicle', nos 2-10 (1883-1884)

A rare newspaper printed on board the sailing ship *Linlithgowshire* en route between Scotland and the Antipodes. No copies of the original are recorded in major libraries; until now the Library has only possessed photocopies of a copy in private ownership. The ship carrying 461 emigrants, sailed from Broomielaw (Glasgow) on 10 October 1883, and arrived at Moreton Bay, near Brisbane, on 13 January 1884. A printing press was on board the ship and one of the passengers, Alfred Walker, was able to print off 6-page issues of a ship's newspaper to keep everyone entertained. Each issue had a regular column written by Walker, 'Leaves from an emigrant's journal' which gave commentary of noteworthy events during the voyage. Walker also recorded four births at sea and seven deaths, including two of the babies born during the voyage and one of the women who gave birth.

Douglas Stewart Fine Books, \$3,500 (AUD)

RB.s.3004



### Voltaire, 'Candidus', Edinburgh: A. Donaldson, 1773

One of the most influential works in European literature, Voltaire's satire was published in 3 separate editions in Edinburgh during the 18th century. The Library already holds the editions printed by Donaldson in 1759 and 1761 and the acquisition of this 1773 edition completes the collection, none of which are publicly held elsewhere in Scotland.

David Harrison, £975

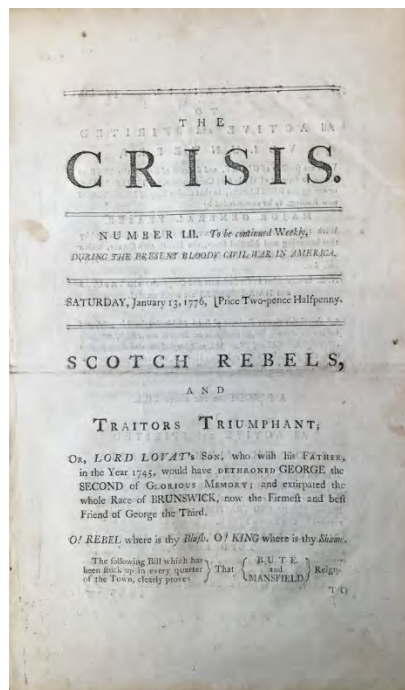
AB.1.221.45

### 'The Crisis', no. LII, London: T. Shaw, 1776

The Crisis was a London weekly published between January 1775 and October 1776 with the intention of interesting the public in American affairs. The work promoted the existence of fundamental human rights, playing on the fear of its readers that the suppression of these rights in America could lead to their loss in Britain. Issues were often considered by the government to be libellous and were burned. This issue, acquired for its Scottish content, satirises Scots who once were Jacobites, but now fight for King George to support Britain's imperial ambition in America.

David Lesser, \$950

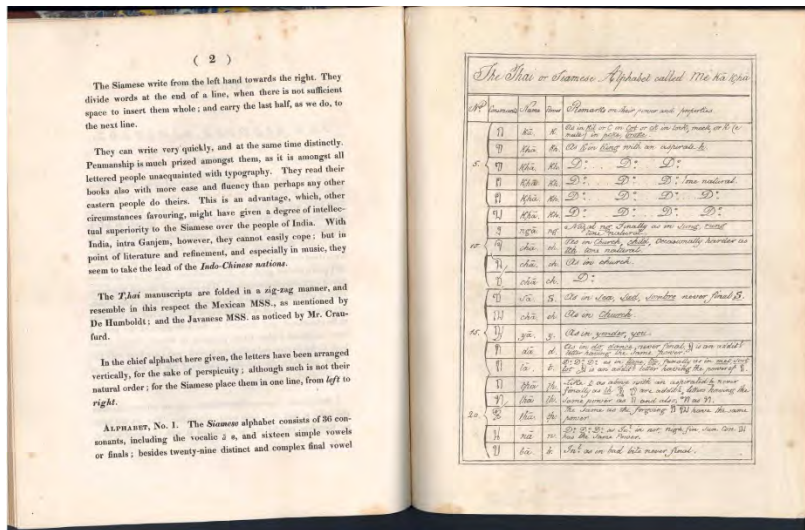
AP.4.221.3



### James Low, 'A grammar of the Thai, or Siamese language', Calcutta: Baptist Mission Press, 1828

Captain James Low (1791-1852) was a Scot serving in the East India Company who had been transferred to Penang in 1818. He had become an authority on the Thai language and this book is one of the earliest textbooks on Thai grammar in a western language. The work contains nine lithographed leaves of Thai text.

Forest Books, £3,500



J.T. Henderson [pseudonym?], 'Eleen of St. Kilda', Brechin: D.H. Edwards, [1900?]

An unrecorded novel, which covers the Highland Clearances, Western Isles and St. Kilda. This copy is still in original wrappers and has some halftone illustrations. The author J T Henderson' is possibly a pseudonym for David Herschell Edwards, the publisher of the Brechin Advertiser who wrote several works on Brechin and Forfarshire but may also have branched out into popular fiction.

Lyon & Turnbull (auction), £875

AB.1.221.61

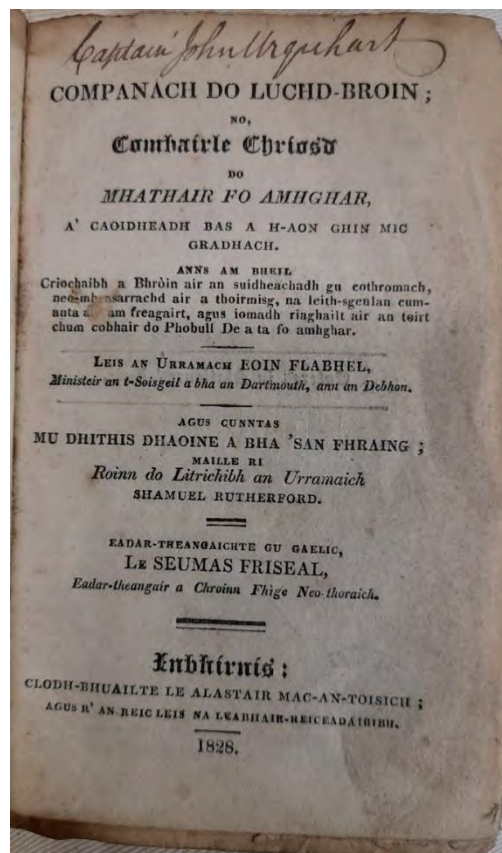


**John Flavell, [Trans. Seumas Friseal], 'Companach do luchd-broin', Inverness: Alastair Mac-An-Toisich, 1828**

John Flavell's 'A Token for Mourners' in the Scots Gaelic translation by Seumas Friseal first appeared in 1828. This is a copy of this first edition, complete with a ten-page list of subscribers at the end of the volume. Its binder Donald Urquhart, whose label appears on the front pastedown, was one of the subscribers. The only other known copy of the first edition is held by the Gaelic Society of Inverness, but it is now known if it contains the subscribers' list. There were later editions in 1849 and 1862.

David Harrison, £325

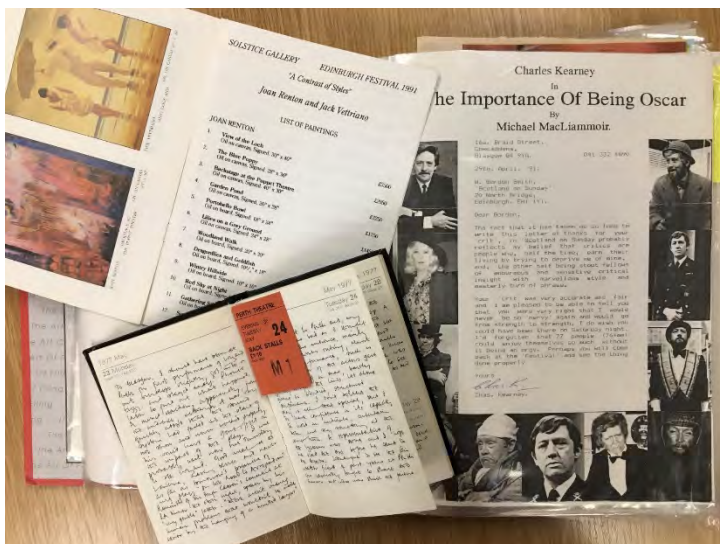
AB.1.221.64



## Manuscripts Acquisitions

### Addition to the Archive of W. Gordon Smith (Acc.14244)

We are pleased to acknowledge the generous bequest of the published and unpublished works of W. Gordon Smith (1928-1996) from his widow, Jay Gordonsmith (1948-2019). A playwright, filmmaker, art critic, author, and photographer, W. Gordon Smith was a pioneer of televised arts programming who played an important role in nurturing and promoting Scotland's post-war cultural renaissance. During the 1960s and 70s he produced over 100 documentaries for BBC Scotland which captured, early in their careers, the innovative work of figures such as William McIlvanney, Liz Lochhead, and Bernat Klein. This addition to his archive at the Library contains private diaries, correspondence, and biographical materials arranged by Jay, and documents the couple's support for friendships with artists such as John Bellamy, Sandy Moffat, and Jack Vettriano. The archive also contains a wide range of exhibition catalogues and ephemera relating to W. Gordon Smith's visual arts journalism, many of which fill in important gaps in our catalogue collections for both national and local Scottish galleries. The bequest complements an existing donated collection of literary manuscripts and a photographic archive relating to W. Gordon Smith's plays (Acc.13872).



## Recent addition to the General Collection

### Popular literature from West Africa – Onitsha market chapbooks

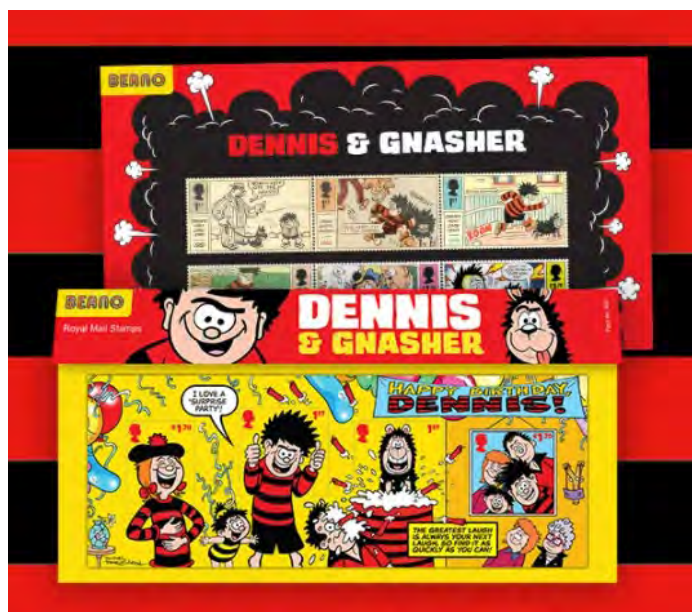
We purchased a collection of 90 Onitsha market literature titles published by small-scale author-publishers in Nigeria and Ghana in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. The material, dating from the heyday of Onitsha publications, enhances the Library's collection of literature from the Commonwealth countries of Africa. The short fiction books and political pamphlets were primarily sold in the Onitsha market in south eastern Nigeria. There are stories of love, families, and villainous characters as well as educational titles. Some of the books were written by authors who went on to produce a widely-read, widely-studied significant body of work, such as Chinua Achebe (1930-2013) the acclaimed novelist and critic, whose *The Sacrificial Egg and Other Short Stories* (Onitsha: Etudo Ltd., 1962) is among the collection.



### 'Dennis the Menace' stamps presentation pack

Here's a new collection item that will certainly need to be stamped. This special Dennis and Gnasher presentation pack was released to mark the new special edition set of six stamps celebrating D C Thomson's most famous errant schoolboy. It comes with an exclusive comic strip produced especially for the Royal Mail. With stamps not received through legal deposit,

and souvenir editions quick to sell to collectors, getting our hands on a set for the national collection was a first-class job.



**'Monument Maker', by David Keenan (limited edition, which also features 'Full Length Mirror', by 'Pierre Melville')**

Scottish author David Keenan has just published his latest novel called Monument Maker. Ten years in the making this fusion of many styles and complex plots has been tipped to become a cult classic. This is a publication that will come to us through non-print legal deposit but given its Scottish authorship this is an example of a book that we will also seek to acquire a print copy of. In this case, we are purchasing the limited-edition hardback because it also comes with a rendering of the book that is written by one of the characters in the novel, Pierre Melville. The character's book, Full Length Mirror, is presented as a bonus fanzine.

## **Acquisitions Team Update for the Librarian's Report to the Board**

### **Digital Deposit Scotland and collecting Scottish digital publications**

During 2020, Acquisitions worked with the Digital Department to design and develop a web-based service to allow publishers or donors to easily transfer their publication files to the Library. The result of this work, Digital Deposit Scotland, has been in use since late summer of 2020 and has proven a reliable and efficient means of collecting publications over the past year.

You are uploading Books | [upload Journals](#)

[Instructions](#)

Click or Drop files here to upload

Our preferred file type is PDF

Permitted file types are PDF, ePub, Mobi, JPEG, GIF, PNG, TIFF, Word (.doc and .docx), Excel (.xls and .xlsx), CSV

File size must not exceed 50 Megabytes.

[Refresh Page](#)

If you would like to send us a different filetype or larger file please contact [acq@nls.uk](mailto:acq@nls.uk)

Filename	Date Uploaded	Uploaded Date	Organisation
There are no items to display			

Depositor file upload screen on Digital Deposit Scotland

In May 2021 Emma Collins was recruited to the Acquisitions Team to work as Senior Legal Deposit Librarian, with a particular focus on the collecting of Scottish digital publications. Working together with Zoe McPhail-Smith, Senior Serials Librarian, this means that we are now in a better position to begin to scale up the use of Digital Deposit Scotland.

Although Digital Deposit Scotland greatly simplifies the deposit process for publishers, there is still a great deal of investigative work and negotiation required behind the scenes before we reach this stage of the process. For example, Emma needs to check the output of the publisher to determine their suitability for digital deposit and consider any current deposit in print format.

At present, our focus is on securing deposit by publishers who have moved to publish in electronic format only. This is important as it will enable us to collect and secure content where gaps in the Library's collections are likely to have arisen since the publisher ceased producing in print.

During publisher negotiations we ask the publisher to agree that the Library can make their digital publications available to readers to access from home. Where successful, this mitigates the restrictions on access to digital publications under the terms of The Legal Deposit Libraries (Non-Print Works) Regulations 2013 and furthers the Library's aim to increase the accessibility of our collections.

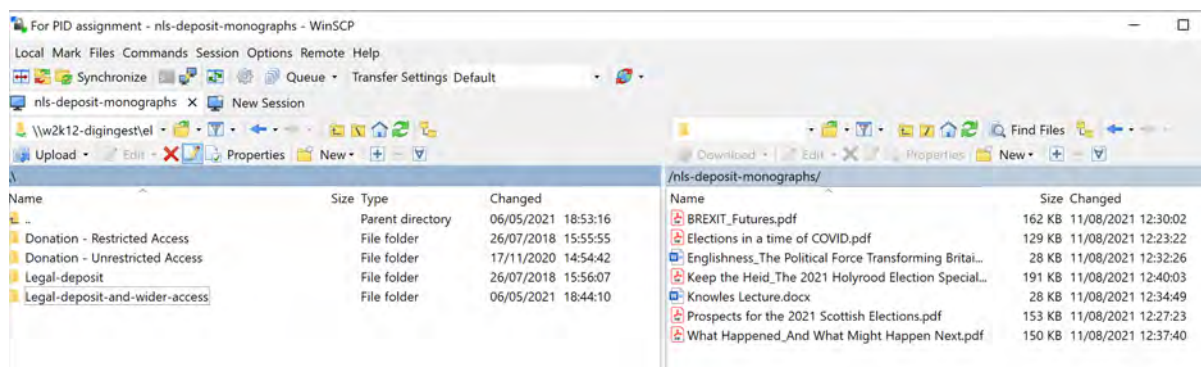
### Scottish digital publishing - collecting successes since May 2021

Since May, the following Scottish publishers have begun to deposit their electronic publications using the Library's Digital Deposit Scotland service:

- CILIPS
- Humanist Society Scotland
- Laird and District Community Initiatives

- Our Scottish Future
- Poverty Alliance Scotland
- SASA (Science & Advice for Scottish Agriculture)
- Scottish Enterprise
- Scottish Environment LINK
- Scottish Government Planning and Environmental Appeals Division
- Scottish Greens
- Stevenson Trust for Citizenship
- These Islands
- Women Speak Scotland

Some of these publishers had formerly deposited via FTP or previously produced print publications and had not deposited in some time. As of 12 August 2021, there are 30 depositors registered on Digital Deposit Scotland.



Files arriving in the staff area of Digital Deposit Scotland.

The files on the right-hand screen are publications deposited by the Stevenson Trust for Citizenship

There are many more publishers currently in discussion with Acquisitions and Serials, meaning this number will continue to increase steadily over coming weeks and months.

A measure of this success is that in July 2021 alone we collected 715 files locally (via Digital Deposit Scotland, FTP and email), a figure greater than any month or quarter in the previous two reporting years.

## **Print Legal Deposit collecting continues**

Collecting the output of Scottish print publishers during the Covid period has proven challenging. Even when Library staff were onsite, publishing contacts in Scottish organisations were often on furlough or unable to get into their offices to send us publications as normal.

During this challenging time we were able to make progress in checking publisher outputs against our print holdings to identify publishers for action once restrictions were relaxed. Some 2000 publications have been individually checked since April and approaches made to publishers for missing items not yet deposited with the Library.

Eric Dickson is currently working with the ALDL to address other gaps and ensure that publishers who have evidenced poor deposit over recent years are brought back on board. This work requires a great deal of persistence, with successful results vital for ensuring we collect Scottish publications as fully as possible.

## Exhibitions

### Reopening of the Exhibitions Programme

The exhibitions programme at reopened to the public on Saturday 10 July. Working closely with Visitor Services, Estates, Security, Digital and External Relations, the Exhibitions team developed an audience-focussed, COVID-safe visitor management plan. Eventbrite was used as the booking system, to make the exhibitions visible to more visitors already in town and tourists. Most of the days and timeslots available for booking have been sold out.

As part of the online booking the Exhibitions team sent out a survey to visitors using Eventbrite. At the time of writing we have received over 140 replies. The exhibitions have only been open for a couple of months, and we will keep collecting survey responses after we remove the Eventbrite booking, so hopefully we should have a large sample of feedback for deeper analysis and review at the time of Petticoats and Pinnacles closing date. For now, a snapshot of comments and statistics provides key insights:

10. Thinking about your experience of The Eye of a Stranger: Henrietta Liston's Travels, how would you rate your enjoyment of these aspects of the exhibition? 1 = Not enjoyable, 5= Very enjoyable.

[More Details](#)

1 2 3 4 5

Subject

The objects on display

The design of the display

The interpretation - the labels and wall text

100%

0% 100%

11. Thinking about your experience of Petticoats and Pinnacles: Scotland's pioneering mountain women how would you rate your enjoyment of these aspects of the exhibition? 1 = Not enjoyable, 5= Very enjoyable.

[More Details](#)

1 2 3 4 5

Subject

The objects on display

The design of the exhibition

The interpretation - the labels and wall text

100%

0%

100%



'Greatly increased my awareness of early women mountain writers. Staff friendly & welcoming. Covid measures made visit feel safe and comfortable.'

'Both exhibitions were fascinating and life affirming explorations of women's lives.'

'Loved these exhibitions, beautifully designed and just spot on!'

'A thoroughly enjoyable exhibition which was well curated and made me laugh!'

### **Petticoats and Pinnacles: Scotland's pioneering mountain women**

Arranged as a mountain climb, moving from base camp to the summit and back, the exhibition tells the stories of eight women and an expedition. Each woman's panel is led by an extract of their own writing (also available as an audio-narration) and gives a brief introduction to their mountain achievements and a mini-biography.

'Petticoats & Pinnacles' reveals how women have overcome social and physical barriers to spend time among mountains. Once there, they have walked and rock-climbed, painted and written. As authors and walkers these women and their achievements have been ignored, under-valued and lost over time. Many of the women, educated and wealthy enough to travel and spend their leisure time as they wished, were under pressure from society to conform. Each woman has a link to Scotland, either living or climbing here, and each has their own story to tell.



## Eye of a Stranger: Henrietta Liston's travels

Henrietta and Robert Liston's lives are extensively documented through their personal correspondence, official dispatches, financial papers, contracts, invitations and travel journals in their archive at the Library. The Liston Papers create a kaleidoscopic view of North America, Europe and the Ottoman Empire through the late 18th and early 19th centuries – the age of revolution. 'The Eye of a Stranger' draws on the richness of this archive to tell the Listons' story. It also draws on research generated by the Library's collaborative project with Bilkent University, Ankara, which culminated in the publication of Henrietta's Turkish journals 200 years after their composition. Visitors to the exhibition see Henrietta's travel journals displayed alongside letters from the Middle East, Ottoman documents, a diplomat's cipher and other travellers' tales from the period.



## Treasures of the National Library of Scotland

The Treasures Gallery is a forthcoming semi-permanent exhibition space in George IV Bridge, where visitors can engage with 'Treasures' from the Library's collections. The exhibition will showcase the breadth of the collections and inspire audiences to further explore Scotland's history and culture and context within the world. The exhibition will open in March 2022.

Through a collaboration with Neu! Reekie! we have commissioned contemporary writers and artists to respond to chosen Treasures in the opening exhibition. These will feature in the exhibition via an interactive screen, showcasing the work and highlighting the creative process, and will form the basis of an event and digital content that will promote Treasures.

Alongside this, the media team are producing a podcast.

## Future exhibitions

### Walter Scott 250 & Edinburgh College of Art

This display, due to open in November 2021, will celebrate the 250-year anniversary of Sir Walter Scott's birth. The focus of the display will be his 1818 novel 'Heart of Midlothian'. While object and layout planning are still in the early stages, the display is likely to feature, among other objects, the original manuscript of 'Heart of Midlothian', the death mask of Walter Scott, and a pen that once belonged to the author.

## Learning & Outreach

The learning team have delivered a diverse range of online activities for a wide range of audiences. October 2021 will see the relaunch of in-person workshops at the Library. The first of these events is 'Prescribe Culture', a partnership with the University of Edinburgh, and is a mental health and wellbeing initiative for students, offering cultural visits and encouraging creative responses inspired by the Library's collections. We are also working with [Waverley Care](#) and [Survivor Arts](#) to develop projects and in person visits to the Library in spring 2022.

Some learning resources and projects delivered this quarter are:

- [Sunset Song: Quines Past and Present](#) - This resource examines themes of identity, community and the role of women through the prism of Chris Guthrie, the heroine in one of Scotland's most iconic novels. It features responses from modern women who themselves carry on Chris' indomitable spirit and resilience through their lives and work today. The resource also includes downloadable learning activities produced by the Scottish Book Trust aimed at secondary pupils.
- The Library Social programme, for people affected by dementia, is ongoing each month via Zoom, but we hope to resume an in person programme at the Library in spring 2022.
- The first part of the Past-Present project in partnership with the Scottish BAME Writers' Network was completed in June 2021 and comprised three online workshops led by Titi Farukuoye to support writers to make use of archives and Library collections for inspiration and research. The second part of the project will involve working with the group of writers to find ways of showcasing their work, possibly through the production of a zine, and also creating a platform for the group to feedback their thoughts and comments about the collections and Library services.
- The Armchair Explorers series of monthly workshops came to an end in June 2021. This project was comprised of 6 x monthly online discussions exploring the themes of the Petticoats & Pinnacles exhibition led by artist Katharine Aarrestad and Learning Officer, Beverley Casebow.
- We have been working with the University of Edinburgh and National Galleries of Scotland to develop the At Home with Heritage project which will support people who continue to isolate at home for different reasons – health, age, mental health. This project, funded by MGS, will create a series of monthly activity packs on different themes which will be sent out to participants, beginning in autumn 2021.

## Events

The Events team have grown their audience for an ambitious programme of online events and continued to adapt to an online model, experimenting with format and content, with regular attendees joining us from Australia, India, Vietnam, Canada, the U.S.A, the Netherlands, as well as across Scotland and the rest of the U.K.

This summer the team have started to develop a hybrid events programme, re-introducing in-person events where they are most valuable, continuing to grow an online audience, and delivering accessible events for those who are unable to attend in-person.

### Recent Event Feedback:

- Launch Event for Petticoats and Pinnacles: Scotland's pioneering mountain women (100 attendees)  
'Mollie Hughes was just brilliant - what an inspiration, fantastic speaker and all technology worked a dream. It's great that the National Library are shining a light on all these amazing women mountaineers',
- Fishing for Films in the Moving Image Archive, 18 June 2021 (37 attendees)  
We received feedback from a Taiwanese fisherman, who fed back that he 'Enjoyed the images so much. This was the first time I saw the way people fishing in Europe. The ships, the dresses, and the way people staying on boat. So fascinating.'
- Fresh Ink Launch, 15 July 2021 (47 attendees)  
'A welcome departure from traditional Library content and subjects which I hope to see more of in future', and a 'Very good, such a refreshing event - a diverse range of talented writers speaking openly about their work... handled sensitively and tactfully.'  
Technologically, the event was 'really seamless.'
- A Voyage Around the Scottish Islands, 10 Aug 2021 (140 attendees)  
Our audience commented on the 'interesting, excellent and engaging' topic, and particularly enjoyed how the Curator (Chris Fleet) wove together the information as a historical journey. This event was popular across the U.S.A., including in Michigan, New York, and Arkansas, as well as in Australia, Canada, Singapore, Jordan and Vietnam.
- Tuathanas nan Creutairean: Animal Farm Goes Gaelic, 17 Aug 2021 (38 attendees)  
Feedback from audience members fully supported and encouraged further Gaelic language and culture events: 'Aonghas Pàdraig/Angus Peter is a great performer and storyteller. So good to have Gaelic inclusion and Aonghas Pàdraig did a good job using both languages.' Another commented that 'Having only the most basic grasp of Gaelic was not a barrier and I was exposed to native speaking in a positive and open manner using a text I could relate to'.

## Fresh Ink

In a bid to support artists, as well as provide a platform for the diverse voices that make up 21st century Scotland, the Library, invited emerging writers to respond to the year 2020. Ten writers were awarded £1,000 to develop work which was then accessioned into the Literary Archive. Subject responses encapsulate the personal and the political, the private and the public, the sadness and isolation of lockdown, but also those new and different moments of contact and empathy. The result is a series of brilliant evocations of living through a time of unique change; 10 original pieces which illuminate, challenge, comfort, and intrigue.

### [Fresh Ink commissions](#)

In an online launch event, hosted by Nadine Aisha Jassat, the writers spoke passionately about their work, and the experience of creating the commissions during the Library's successful Fresh Ink online event.

In collaboration with writers the curator and wider external relations team, the events team created video content of the writers reading or performing their piece which were screened online as part of the launch event. The event received a great deal of positive feedback from audiences and participants.

### [Fresh Ink: Launch Event](#)



## [Samantha Clark - Treading Water](#)



Upcoming events:

Highlights from an exciting, online autumn Events Programme include:

- Our Climate Crisis intern has brought together two climate change experts to put on 'Knowledge, Power & Climate Justice', 9 Sept 5-6pm
- In anticipation of the Treasures exhibition, Dr Leith Davis will host 'Networking Jacobites and 'The Lyon in Mourning' Manuscript of Robert Forbes', 26 Sept 5-6p,
- Our annual Muriel Spark lecture, 'Celebrating 60 Years of The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie', will take place on 5 Oct 5-6pm
- We'll also be helping launch a new Gaelic poetry anthology, at '100 Favourite Gaelic Poetry on National Poetry Day', 7 Oct 2-3pm
- Storytelling Mara Menzies will be talking about her new book at 'Blood and Gold: A Journey of Shadows', 14 Oct 5-6pm

## Collections Care Highlights

### Library participates in conservation science project

In 2020 the Fitzwilliam Museum approached the Library to ask if it would be interested in collaborating in a research project encompassing heritage science, art history and book history. As a result, in July 2021, Dr Flavia Fiorillo and Dr Sara Oberg Stradal from the Fitzwilliam came to the Library to undertake non-invasive scientific analysis to our copy of Peter Apianus's 'Astronomicum Caesareum', 1540 (Newb.4968). Their work was facilitated by Simona Cenci in the conservation studio, with assistance from Rare Books colleagues.

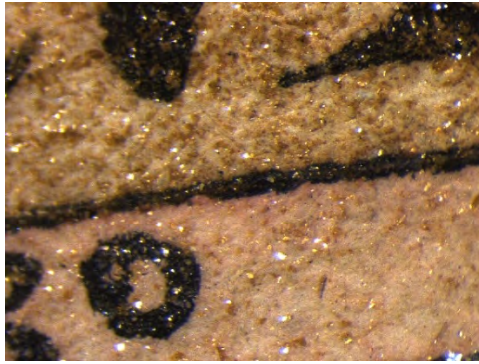
The analysis aims to compare the types of pigments and colourants used for the decorations of the illustrated pages and volvelles in the Fitzwilliam and Library volumes, with the intention of highlighting differences in colour application techniques and use of materials, as an invaluable way to understand Apianus — and in general early printed books — workshop's printing practices and processes.

By compiling a list of pigments and colorants used in the volumes, the study will also contribute to outlining the colour palette used in 15th-century printed volumes, an unexplored area of study with important implications for conservators, heritage scientists, curators, and book historians. By using non-invasive and non-destructive diagnostic analysis, the study will also help to contextualise the production, diffusion, and ownership of both copies.

The non-invasive technical analysis included: spectroscopic analysis by fibre-optic reflectance spectroscopy (FORS) to identify a wide range of pigments and selected paint binders; X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectroscopy to refine and support the identification of selected pigments, mostly inorganic; microscopic analysis to identify different techniques of applications of the colours; analysis of the folia on transmitted light to identify the different type of paper watermarks.



FORS analysis



Sparkling particles applied with the colours



XRF analysis



Detail of the colouring technique

### **Train the Trainer Training**

In July, members of the Collections Care team attended two days of Train the Trainer training, facilitated by experienced coach and trainer Kathryn MacNeill. This training, which had been identified as a need following a review of our volunteer programme, aimed to equip team

members to develop and deliver effective training sessions, be it for volunteers, members of staff, students, or interns.

The course focussed on the role of the trainer and what makes a great trainer; developing training materials and creating lesson plans; delivering the message and how to make an impact; understanding how others learn and using this knowledge to improve how we train. As part of the two day sessions team members prepared and delivered short presentations to the group, in order to practice what they had learnt. The feedback from the course was very positive and it has inspired the team to look in more detail at the suite of training that we deliver across the Library.

### Exhibition success

It has been a very busy few months in the Collections Care team as our focus has turned to the delivery of our exhibition programme, following resumption of our visitor services. Ryan Gibson, Conservation Exhibition Officer, and Gemma Kelly, Conservation Technician, worked well as a new team to assist our Exhibitions colleagues to install and open two new exhibitions in July.

The long-awaited Petticoats and Pinnacles special exhibition opened to the public on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July and celebrates female mountaineering achievements, both on and off the mountain. From a Collections Care point of view this was our first opportunity to deliver an exhibition install since 2019. Alongside this exhibition, the team also prepared and installed the Henrietta Liston Collection in Focus exhibition at the same time. This was a huge challenge, to deliver two sizeable exhibitions involving over 120 collection items, simultaneously. The team worked extremely hard, and the resulting exhibitions are testament to this commitment.

### Conservation on demand

In 2020 a reader enquired as to the possibility of conserving a collection item which they wanted to get digitised for their research. The two volumes in question were in quite a fragile condition and could not be safely digitised until they were conserved. Lockdown inevitably got in the way of this work but David Kerr, Conservator, was able to complete the required conservation work this summer to enable the digitisation and research to continue.

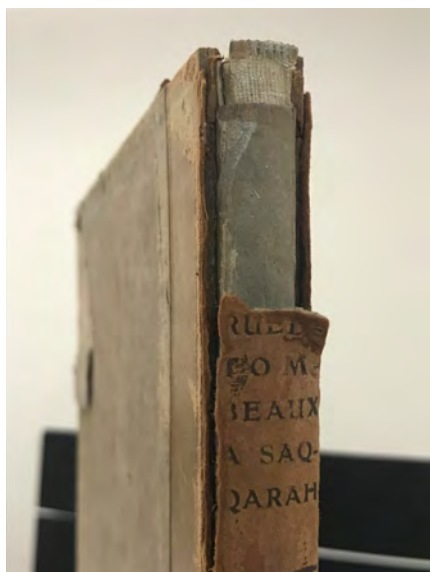
The collection items in question, 'Une Rue de Tombeaux à Saqqara, Volumes I & II' (H9.80.19) required treatment to stabilise split joints, repair losses to the spine. The text-block and the head edge were dry cleaned to remove surface dirt. The original spine lining was then removed, and a new paper lining applied. The original leather on the spine edge of the front and back boards was then lifted to facilitate the re-backing with new, matching, calfskin leather. Inner joints were repaired using Japanese paper and wheatstarch paste. Paper that was



Ryan Gibson and Gemma Kelly preparing objects for display for the Liston Collections in Focus exhibition

lifting on the outer boards was re-adhered and consolidated.

This work was generously funded by the reader and managed by our colleagues in the Development department.



Before treatment



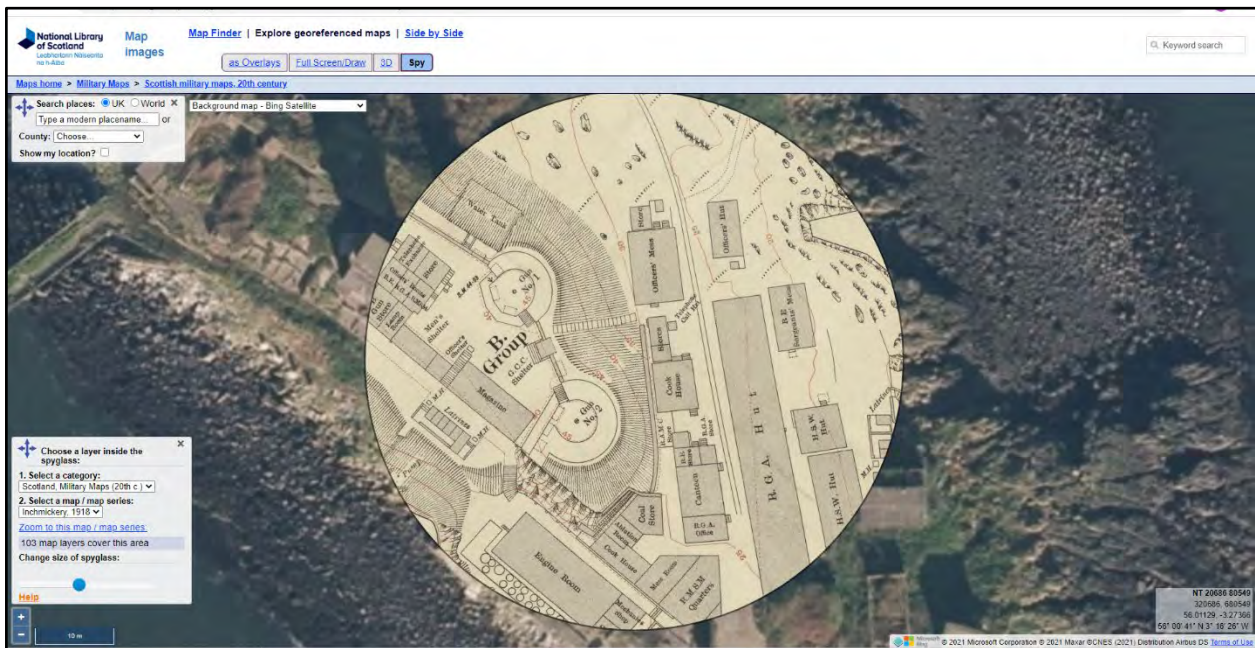
After treatment with new leather spine applied

## Maps

### Scottish military maps, 20th century

In June we put online a small selection of military maps, dating from the 20th century, including very detailed plans of defensive works in and around the Forth and Clyde estuaries, constructed before and during the First World War. These were the largest-scale plans ever surveyed of these sites, and allow the terrain and defences to be scrutinised in minute detail, with whole islands and related coastal sites remodelled for military purposes. Also included were plans relating to military training areas, and the construction of new barracks. We georeferenced a selection of these maps, to allow them to be easily compared with other maps and the present day.

Home page - [Scottish military maps, 20th century](#)



Viewing First World War detailed georeferenced mapping for Inchmickery (1918) in the Forth through our Spy Viewer.

### New guide - Maps for Researching House and Building History

As part of our growing set of resources for communities, in August we put together a new guide on 'Maps for Researching House and Building History'. This highlights some of the most relevant maps to use as documentary sources for researching houses and buildings over time. The maps are arranged roughly chronologically, covering rural and urban areas, with links to the maps and further information about them on our website. We also include information on recent buildings and map copyright, as well as further relevant resources, both online and in print.

New guide - [Maps for Researching House and Building History](#)



August 2021

## Maps for Researching House and Building History



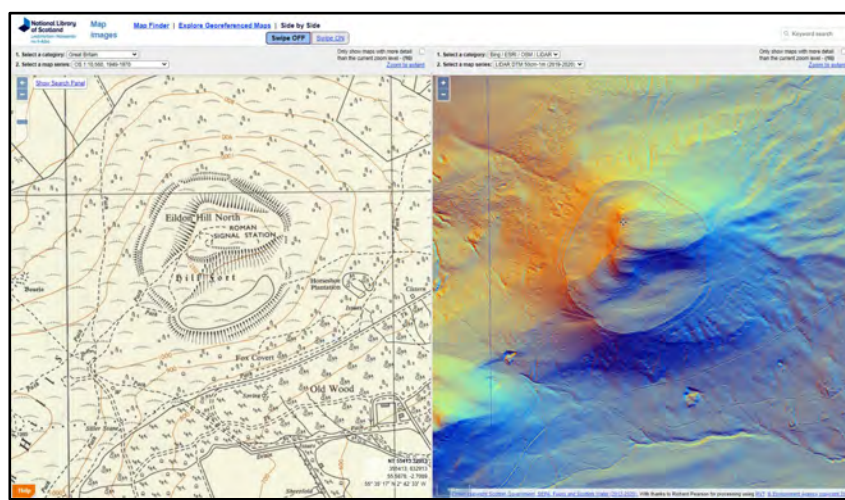
Detail from Charles Thomson's *Plan of the Town of Leith* (1822).

Maps are key documentary sources for researching buildings and houses. This page highlights how the Library's map collections can shed light on a building's history as well as the area that surrounds it. All the resources on this page are freely available on the National Library of Scotland's website. Throughout this page, we will relate back to a case study to illustrate the uses of the various maps and map series. The case study is a tenement building in Leith, on Constitution Street.

## New Scottish LiDAR Digital Terrain Model (DTM) layer

In August, we added reprocessed Scottish Government LiDAR Digital Terrain Model (DTM) data online to allow minor landscape features to be seen much more clearly. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is an airborne mapping technique, which uses a scanning laser to allow highly detailed representations of relief or terrain models to be generated. Many archaeological sites such as hillforts, Roman camps, deserted villages, or cultivation terraces can be seen much more clearly than on satellite imagery or maps. LiDAR can help to bring out the effects of glaciation on local topography, or show the effects of geomorphology on soils. Modern features like quarries, embankments or railway cuttings, as well as historic features like limekilns or canals can be seen more clearly. Although coverage is partial and still expanding, 1 metre or higher resolution LiDAR is available for most of England, Scotland, and Wales.

New guide - [Using LiDAR layers for landscape research](#)



Comparing OS six-inch 1900s mapping (left) with new LiDAR DTM (right) for Eildon Hill North, near Melrose.