

National Librarian and Chief Executive's Report to the Board

28 March 2018



The Librarian and Emily Wilson of Scottish Enterprise signing a Memorandum of Understanding on 13 December 2017

KEY EVENTS SINCE LAST UPDATE

5 December 2017:

Visited the Tunnocks factory in Uddingston, touring the facilities in the company of CEO Boyd Tunnock;

7 December 2017:

Hosted the launch of the Library's Muriel Spark exhibition;

13 December 2017:

Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Scottish Enterprise;

14 December 2017:

Met with Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli in Glasgow to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Glasgow;

15 December 2017:

Took part in the judging of the Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Awards at the Library;

10 January 2018:

Represented the Library at the SCURL Business Committee at the University of Glasgow;

15 January 2018:

Introductory lunch with Benny Higgins, new Chair of the National Galleries of Scotland, Sir John Leighton, Director NGS and Professor Sir Kenneth Calman;

17 January 2018:

Attended the British Library Advisory Council at the BL;

24 January 2018:

Met with Dr David Duncan, University of Glasgow to progress the proposed MoU;

30 and 31 January 2018:

Attended the SLIC Board Away Day in Dundee;

31 January 2018:

Opened the Muriel Spark Symposium at the Kelvin Hall;

1-16 February 2018:

Visited a donor in Kolkata, India;

23 February 2018:

Represented the Library at the Research Libraries UK Board meeting at the BL;

8 March 2018:

Gave a lecture and seminar to the Information and Library Studies students at Robert Gordon University;

14-16 March 2018:

Attended the RLUK Annual Conference at the British Library;

22 March 2018:

Represented the Library at the Joint Committee on Legal Deposit at the BL;

23 March 2018:

Hosted the Friends of the National Libraries at a reception in the Boardroom.

25th Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition

The award ceremony for the 25th Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition was held on 15 February at the Library and was, as always, a very cheerful affair. This year's winners were Susana Domínguez Martín and Mónica Gil Sanvicente from Spain for the Best Creative Bindings (overall and student categories respectively), and Richard Tong from United Kingdom and Rosario Penche Garcia from Spain for the Best Craft Bindings (overall and student categories respectively). The judges were the Librarian, Dr Bill Zachs, Honorary Fellow in the School of Literatures, Language and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh, who is also a private book collector, and Linda Ramsay, Head of Conservation at National Records Scotland, whose background in bookbinding enabled her to cast a discerning eye over the technical aspects of the entries.

As always, the standard was extremely high. The winners were selected from the 22 entries on the grounds of their proficient mastering of bookbinding techniques and their original designs. Some of the winners arrived in Edinburgh early to enjoy a visit to the Library's conservation studio, and three of them made it to the award ceremony in the evening. The ceremony was hosted by the Library's General Collections Manager Graeme Hawley who entertained the audience with a light-hearted performance of his Joy of Spines presentation. The prizes were awarded by the Chair. The leaflets for the next competition have already been distributed, and with an optional 'Muriel Spark' theme we are hoping for some particularly special entries.



Winners and hosts of the 25th Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Competition award ceremony.

Sir Kenneth Calman, Mónica Gil Sanvicente, Susana Domínguez Martín, Richard Tong, and Graeme Hawley.

Collections Storage – Annual Update

Collections Support Services (CSS) maintain data on the storage of collections at our George IV Bridge and Causewayside buildings.

Summary figures for January 2017 and 2018, given below, indicate linear metres of usable shelving: metres already committed for receipt of serial and other continuing publications, and those available for other acquisitions, largely monographs.

	Committed		Available		Totals	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
GB	1360	1522	850	843	2210	2365
CB	17873	14272	3556	5349	21429	19621
GB Strongroom	418	416	571	561	989	977
Totals	19651	16210	4977	6753	24628	22963

All figures are linear metres

Based on last year's rate of intake, and utilising current shelving, the library has approximately ten years of growth space across the two buildings. This will be increased by ongoing rationalisation work, including the innovative use of 'side-on' boxes developed by CSS and Collections Care divisions.



Traditional shelving with spines out, showing redundant shelf space, compared with 'side-on' boxes using full depth of shelf.

In trials, one collection, traditionally shelved in 109 linear metres, was reduced to 68 linear metres. The method maximises the use of shelf space, and will extend our growth space beyond the estimated ten years, as well as providing added protection to collections through boxing.

The Changing Library – Quarterly Update

‘The Changing Library’ is a culture change programme designed to support achieving strategic goals by enhancing staff engagement and encouraging innovation, resilience and professional development in the Library.

Staff Survey 2017

Staff Survey results show some small improvements on previous years’ scores, particularly in Learning and Development. The Library remains within the top quartile (‘High Performers’) of all surveyed organisations and engagement levels are generally good. An action plan is currently being developed to further enhance engagement levels.

Management Development

Our prime focus at present is on improving the management of performance, and maximising staff engagement, by implementing a revised annual appraisal process.

The process aims to:

- Ensure every member of staff understands what is expected of them at work and can describe the priorities of their job for the current year;
- Ensure every member of staff has the opportunity to have their individual strengths recognised and to be supported in developing new strengths and areas of expertise;
- Ensure all staff have an opportunity to share ideas and concerns about their jobs; their working lives; and their career or development aspirations with their manager;

- Support the Library in achieving its strategic goals by ensuring good links between the Library Plan, departmental plans and individual work plans.

The revised process is being launched through advance briefings for managers; skills workshops for managers; and multi-channel communication to all staff.

Staff Development

We are accessing the Flexible Workforce Development Fund for £10,000 of staff training in digital skills – particularly working with video to interpret, and promote access to, our collections. This fund is accessible only to organisations paying the Apprenticeship Levy and is a pilot scheme of the Scottish Government, administered through local colleges. Training will be carried out in April-June 2018.

Rosie Fyfe, our first graduate of the ELISA collaborative professional development programme, has been successful in achieving Chartered Librarian status.

Digitisation – Quarterly Update

November 2017 - February 2018

The quarter three 2017/18 digitisation figures have now been compiled, and stand at 26,363 items. Along with the 23,555 items in Q1 and 27,653 in Q2, this is slightly above the pro-rata target of 100,000 items this year, and takes the cumulative total to 77.5% of the year’s overall target.

The procurement for new mass digitisation capture equipment is progressing well, with the quality evaluation taking place through March. A number of different systems are being evaluated, including site visits to put each potential system through its paces. These visits will be attended by a number of staff including experienced digital production

operators and digital conservation staff, to ensure the equipment is ideal for both the digitisation operators and the collections that will be digitised.

The existing digitisation contract with an external supplier will conclude on 31 March after a number of years of successful partnership. In recent days the total number of images captured during that contract has gone over 3,000,000 - a nice milestone to reach. Work will follow to decommission equipment and to transfer staff to the Library.

In preparation for moving to the new in-house mass digitisation service, work is underway in a couple of areas relating to workflow:

- At the start of the year there was a backlog of over 600,000 pages to be ingested into the Library's digital repository. Through technical improvements and hard work from the teams involved, this backlog is estimated to be removed by mid-April 2018, meaning that items will be ingested into the digital repository immediately upon passing quality assurance checks.
- Development continues for a new workflow automation tool that will guide and assist the digital production operators to undertake the new digitisation workflow, including steps such as material preparation, capture, and quality assurance.

A number of digitisation fundraising and project proposals have been successful in attracting external funding. These include the digitisation of medieval manuscripts, capture of fragile formats, and the purchase of additional equipment to handle the most fragile items.

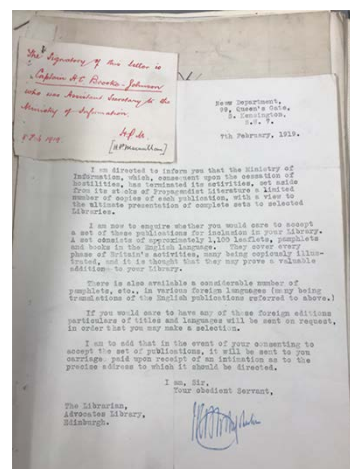
Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

Currently 147 previously hidden collections (4.76% of the total content) now have online catalogue records. The target for 2017/18 of 7% was based on the completion of work on the Dieterichs collection of theses, but this project has now been rescheduled.

69 collections remain to be appraised, 35 collections have been appraised and await scheduling for cataloguing, and 166 collections have now been scheduled or are being catalogued.

Amongst the collections scheduled for cataloguing are seven music collections, totalling approximately 290,000 items. A grant of £135,000 from the Foundation will enable this work to commence in 2018-19. Added to the Dieterichs collection of 33,000 theses, this will reduce the hidden collections by a further 27%.

Meanwhile, work continues on some of the smaller hidden collections, including the Wellington House Collection, scheduled for completion in April 2018. This collection was presented to the Advocates Library in 1919, following the termination of the Ministry of Information (see the letter below). It contains propaganda material from the Great War in a variety of languages.



Recent Accessions: Manuscripts

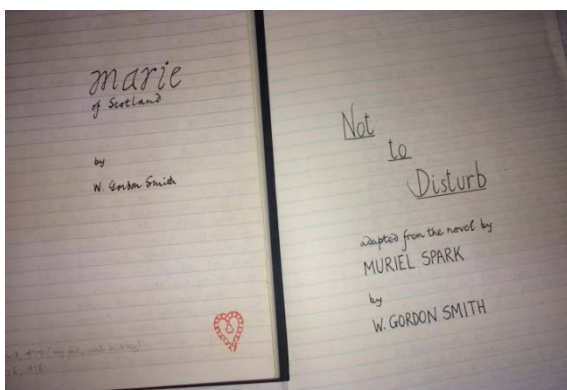
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The literary and photographic archive, circa 1960-1996, of playwright, journalist, critic, broadcaster and photographer W Gordon Smith (1928-1996).

Smith was possibly best known for the one-man plays written for the actor Russell Hunter, particularly 'Jock' and 'Mister Jock'. The company which they formed, Cacciatore Fabbro, was a mainstay of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in the 1970s and 1980s.



There are numerous play scripts in the collection – some recognised titles and some surprises, including a stage adaptation of Muriel Spark's novel 'Not to Disturb'.



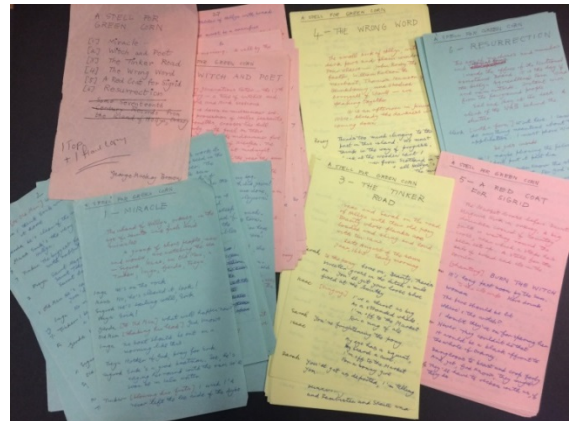
But perhaps the most intriguing seam relates to Smith's work as a broadcaster in the 1960s and 70s, when he was also active as a professional photographer. The two careers sometimes overlapped – there are some good photographs relating to a series of television interviews which he recorded for the BBC, titled 'Face to Face'. Interviewees included the likes of Spark (a clip from this

features in our current exhibition), performer Johnnie Beattie and writer Joe Corrie. The man in the photograph is Joe Corrie, as seen through the lens of W Gordon Smith. Much of the photographic archive comprises 35mm negatives – there is a lot to explore here.

Presented by Mrs Jay Gordon Smith.

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'A Spell for Green Corn' by George Mackay Brown.



A complete and colourful manuscript draft of one of an early but major play – one which was reworked over a number of years. This draft belonged to Stewart Conn, who produced the play for BBC Radio in the late 1960s. Brown and Conn had met in Edinburgh, when the poet was studying in the city. He wrote to Conn in 1964, 'I was pleased that you liked *A Spell for Green Corn*, at least most of it. It's a thing that has unfolded inside me for a long time . . . You're the first person I've showed it to, except for some rudimentary drafts . . . How it could be done on a stage I just don't know. I suppose to transpose it for radio (as you say) presents some difficulties too. Anyway, there it is, written. I've put a lot of effort into it, like wrestling with an angel. And now it's fine to have put it behind me.' The draft – carefully written in three colours of ballpoint pen and on three colours of paper – includes many corrections and differs considerably from the version published in 1970.

Purchase, dealer.

Recent Acquisitions: General Collections

Holy Rood: a translation of the Old English Poem The Dream of the Rood, by Robert Crawford with seven photographs by Norman McBeath. Edinburgh : Easel Press, 2017.

We purchased this exquisite artist's book, one of a limited edition of 25, towards the end of last year. The translation and introduction are published in a boxed set featuring seven hand-printed, signed and numbered original black and white photographs by Norman McBeath. This 21st century rendering of the centuries-old poem about the tree of the cross of Christ's suffering is another superb addition to our contemporary artists' books collection.

Over one hundred programmes for Scotland football internationals, both home and away games covering the period 1947-2016

This purchase includes the programme for Scotland's World Cup Match against Brazil, 18th June 1974 at the Waldstadion, Frankfurt (a 0-0 draw), plus many games played at Hampden. We already have 10,000 Scottish football programmes in the collections both for club sides as well as the international team, and this strengthens the collection considerably.

The 49th 500 Indianapolis Motor Speedway official program : May 31, 1965. [With a leaflet loosely inserted entitled: Starting positions for the 1965 Speedway race.]

Programme for a race famously won by Jim Clark. Fife-born Clark was killed in a racing accident at Hockenheim, West Germany almost exactly fifty years ago on 7th April 1968. We already have extensive material on Clark in our collections and are currently trying to fill gaps in our holdings.

Hints on golf: with supplement on golfing kit. Bernard Darwin. London : Burberrys, [1912]

This rare book on golf by Charles Darwin's grandson was bought from Peter Harrington booksellers.

Here Is Where You Are

A piece of research is underway to develop our understanding about digital outreach to remote communities. A call was made in December to invite proposals for a first-stage feasibility study designed to enhance our engagement with audiences in Scotland outside of the Central Belt and other large urban centres. The research has been funded from the Librarian's Innovation fund.

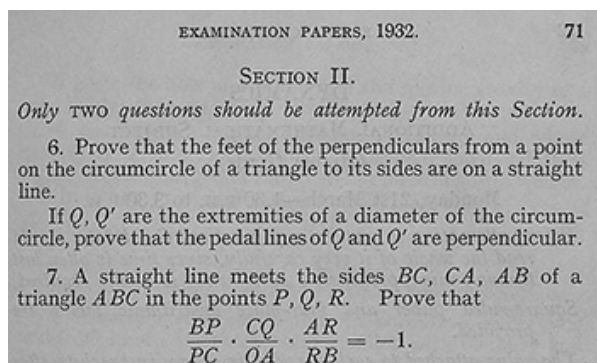
The project is about being where people are and exploring the ways in which we can make our collections useful there. Key to the project will be to explore the potential for digital engagement with the national collections as a resource for inspiration, engagement, enjoyment and research. An important aspect of this will be to learn about the needs and aspirations of 'remote' audiences, so that our collections and services can enable and empower people and communities.

The research opportunity was awarded to a team led by Dr Philippa Sheail at the Centre for Research in Digital Education, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh. Their report is due on 31 March. Contact Andrew McDougall (a.mcdougall@nls.uk) or Graeme Hawley (g.hawley@nls.uk) for more information.

Creative Re-sits

Since December a group of staff has been working on a project to develop a learning and engagement feature around the digitised exam papers. A particular strand of work emerged to engage the creative community with the collection (and therefore to raise the Library in their awareness) by offering bursaries to fund 'creative re-sits' of English, Geometry, and Algebra papers.

We received 41 applications, and the call for proposals made The Herald and the Daily Mail. We have awarded seven bursaries to artists, musicians, and dancers to enable creative responses to old exam papers. The artists are Jules Bradbury, Harry Giles, Chris Hutchings, Thomas Keyes, Hector MacInnes, Vanessa Smer-Barreto, and Robbie Synge.



We will be receiving content from these artists that we can host on a new web-feature currently under construction. The project has been funded by the Librarian's Innovation Fund and supports strategic aims to engage people with our collections, promote research, and develop the Library as a place of creative enjoyment. The call for proposals has already flagged the Library's collections to new audiences, and demonstrated a way that our collections can be put to new use, and seems to have been the artistic opportunity that no one knew they wanted.

The finished works will include: charcoal vignettes that address the human relationship with the crow; a manuscript

illumination incipit produced on vellum parchment using medieval techniques; a short film of approximately 3-5 minutes of a physical/dance language that connects with mathematical language; a geometric pas de deux; an algebraic octet using x and y axes; a punk performance solving the equations $2^{(3x-5)}=128$ and $3^{(x-1)}=2^{(x+1)}$; and a film of a semi-improvised performance at the Dun Beag broch on the Isle of Skye involving a 'choir' of volunteers numbering around 20, positioned around the edge of the circular structure facing inwards.

A multi-media installation at the Library during the Fringe showcasing these works and relevant items from the collections is in discussion. Contact Graeme Hawley (General Collections Manager, g.hawley@nls.uk) for more information.

Sports Talk at Conference

Ian Scott gave a paper at 'Kick off! Engaging with Scotland's sporting heritage,' a conference held at Hampden on 23 February 2018. The paper, entitled 'Jammers, blockers and toe jumpers: roller derby and ice skating collections at the National Library of Scotland,' was about two significant collections recently donated to the Library.



What's Your Story?

For the second year running, the Library hosted the induction weekend for the *What's Your Story?* programme. Run by the Scottish Book Trust, this year-long programme mentors seven promising young writers (aged 14-17) as they develop their writing talent. A number of 'set pieces' such as StoryCon, a week's writing retreat at Moniac Mhor, and the end-of-year Showcase create a real sense of focus, and the induction weekend at the Library has fast become a valued part of the experience. Combining collection handling sessions, exhibition and Library tours, reader registration and catalogue induction, the two-day event is a great way to reveal the diversity of publishing and writing to this next generation of authors and illustrators. Graeme Hawley and Nicole Brandon (Scottish Book Trust) hosted the induction event, with valuable contributions from Ian Scott, Colin McIlroy, Andrew McDougall, and Front of House colleagues.



Love creating comic books? Are you plotting your own videogames or movie scripts? Want to write your life story or create fictional worlds? Adore illustration? Or are you more of a poet at heart?

Scottish Book Trust is looking for you!

- Does creative writing or illustration really matter to you?
- Are you aged 14-17 and living in Scotland?
- Do you want to help us build new opportunities for creative teens?

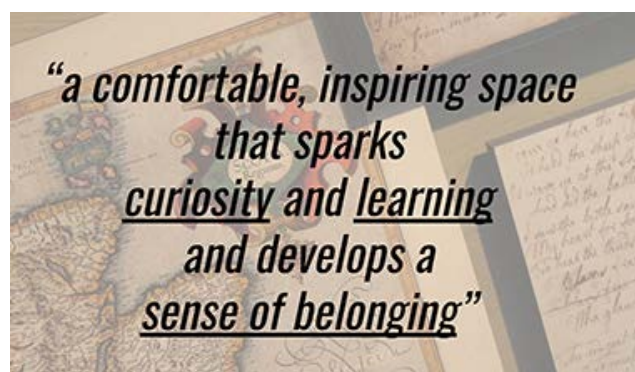
If this sounds like you, check out our FREE, all-expenses-paid programme. Previous experience is not important; enthusiasm is.

Apply by 16 October 2017. For more details visit thestoryis.co.uk



Our Collections, Our Memory Presentation

Ruth Washbrook (Moving Image and Sound Collections Manager) and Gill Hamilton (Digital Access Manager) gave a presentation at the DCDC 2017 Conference at Salford Quays on 28 November 2017 on the vision for and development of the Library's award winning centre at Kelvin Hall, and the impact it has had on the many people who have visited it since it opened in September 2016.



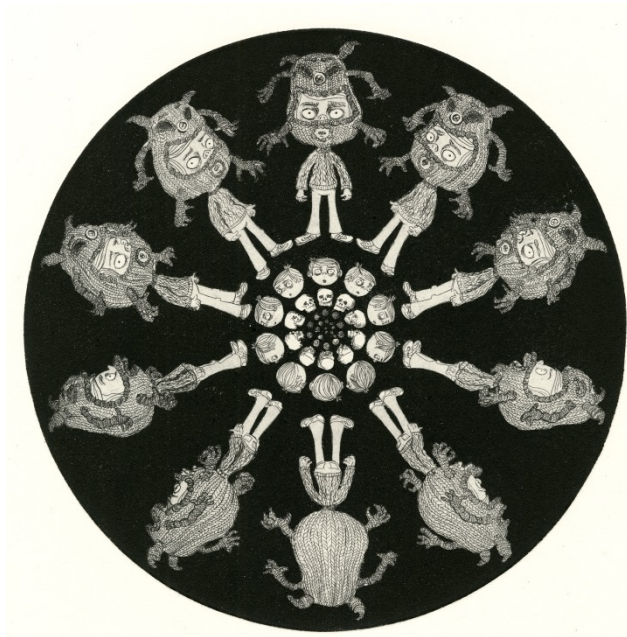
Slides are available at <http://bit.ly/DCDC2017NLS>, and a recording of their presentation is available on YouTube! <http://bit.ly/DCDC2017NLSvid>

The DCDC Conference is hosted by The National Archives and Research Libraries UK (RLUK) and attended by more than 300 people. <http://dcdconference.com/dcdc17-papers/>



Moving Image Archive – Animator in Residence

The Moving Image Archive has appointed its first Animator in Residence. Louise Wilde will work with learning officers and school groups over a three-month period to explore early animation techniques inspired by National Library collections. The AIR project is funded through the Innovation Fund.



Louise graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2002 with an MA in Animation Direction and completed the Postgraduate Drawing programme at the Royal Drawing School in 2012. She is currently based in Edinburgh where she works as a freelance artist and independent animator. Her current work amalgamates drawing, animation and printmaking to depict the animate form.

Running parallel to her practice she regularly teaches art and animation-based classes to a range of ages and abilities in schools, colleges, galleries and museums. Previous venues include the Royal College of Art, Royal Drawing School, British Museum, National Gallery and Whitechapel Art Gallery in London and City Art Centre in Edinburgh.

As an animation director Louise's short films have been screened on BBC2, Channel 4 and in national and international moving image festivals including: Edinburgh Film Festival; Cinanima (Portugal) International Animation Festival; Annecy (France) and Picturehouse Central in London and Duke of York's Cinema in Brighton; Xpo North in Inverness; Montenegro Animation Festival; 'Radiohead TV' website and DVD.

You can view her work at: www.louwilde.com

National Library at Kelvin Hall Receives Tourism Award

On 21 February 2018 the National Library at Kelvin Hall received the Gold Award for the Green Tourism Business Scheme. Kelvin Hall is the first building operated by Glasgow City Council/Glasgow Life to achieve this level of accolade.



The application to the Green Tourism Business Scheme saw representatives from the Library, The Hunterian and Glasgow Sport, led by Jade Graham to form Kelvin Hall Green Team. Over the past year, this team worked with colleagues across all partner organisations to meet the high standards required to meet the accreditation criteria. The Team are very proud of what has been achieved as a result of this, and are committed to championing sustainability and best Green business practice.

‘The Buke of the Howlat’ Collaboration

With funding from Creative Scotland, Findhorn Bay Arts will be collaborating with the Library’s Learning team on a new production of the 15th century allegorical poem ‘The Buke of the Howlat’ set to take place during the Findhorn Festival in Moray in September 2018. Using the Bannatyne manuscript as a starting point alongside later editions of the poem, a playwright has been commissioned to work with the local community on a re-telling of the medieval Scots poem. Originally composed for the Countess of Moray in the 1440s, the new production will see the poem being performed at Darnaway Castle, the historic seat of the Moray Earls, bringing the story of ‘The Buke of the Howlat’ full circle over 500 years after it was originally said to have been performed there. The Library will be displaying facsimiles of the manuscript and Pont maps alongside other related material during the festival.



First Generation RB and MSS Intern

Rachel Scott, Rare Books’ paid intern in summer 2016, has taken up a post with the Royal Collections rare book and manuscript collections in Windsor. Rachel’s paid internship at the Library, funded by the Librarian’s Innovation Fund, was intended to give the experience of working with rare books to someone looking to build a career

in special collections librarianship who could not afford to gain that experience unpaid. Rachel says: ‘Auditing the pamphlets was possibly one of the best things you could have gotten me to do as they asked me about an item and what conservation was needed and I was able to tell them using skills I gained from that task.’

We wish Rachel every success in her new role and look forward to welcoming this year’s two Special Collections interns, funded by the Cross Trust. Rachel is the second Rare Books intern to move to the Royal Collections in the past few years: Andrew Brown, whose 2013 internship was part of an ongoing programme of Edinburgh College of Art Masters degree student placements, is a Collections Acquisition and Description Officer with them.



Workshop on Spiritualism and the Occult

Ian Scott hosted a workshop on collection items relating to spiritualism and the occult for a group of students from the University of Stirling on 28 February 2018. Items covered included rare publications by Dion Fortune, Aleister Crowley and Austin Osman Spare.



Exploring North American Collections

Researchers and university students working on North American topics were invited to 'Exploring North American Collections,' an event hosted by the British Library and National Library of Scotland. The free session on 22 February, run by curators from both institutions, guided participants through the libraries' extensive collections, giving insights to the huge research potential of electronic resources, special collections, literary holdings, historic newspapers and official publications. Dr Mark McLay also gave a talk covering his experience of using both national collections, first as a PhD student and now as lecturer in American History at the University of Glasgow. With 30 participants from all over Scotland the event was well-attended and well received.



Joy of Spines Performances

Graeme Hawley gave several performances of The Joy of Spines over the autumn-winter period. A capacity audience during Book Week Scotland saw this slideshow of 360 photographs of book spines, with a special new section on food and drink in honour of the 2017 Book Week Scotland theme. The

show also formed part of the 2017 Annual Celebration the Library holds for its patrons and benefactors, and the Elizabeth Souter Bookbinding Awards event. In February this year, The Joy of Spines made its London premiere at The Water Rats at the invitation of the Galley Club (a network of publishers). The audience at this famous venue were delighted to discover the magic of legal deposit and reflect on the astonishing reality of life on Earth, taking a cheerful pop at the alleged inhabitants of other planets along the way.



Research Slam

The Library held its second Research Slam on Wednesday 24 January and it proved to be another fascinating and successful event. Seven researchers from a range of backgrounds and disciplines competed in all three three-minute rounds to give an overview of their topic, an explanation of their use of our collections and research methodology, and an insight into the impact that their research might have.



The audience heard about the long history of tattoos and how they could be preserved, the history of women's football in Scotland, the development and visibility of Georgian music collections, the way astrology shapes what we do, approaches to measuring and understanding happiness, and respecting historic transgender identity through time. The winning performance took us on a romp through the history of the British Isles on a quest to find the black rood and similar archaic relics. David Williams will return in the autumn to give a full length talk at the Library on this fascinating topic.

Poetry Slam

The Burns Night Poetry Slam returned again on 25 January to see a full field of 14 poets perform their own work in two-minute slots in back to back rounds. Tweaking the traditional slam format ever so slightly to encourage participation from as wide a range of people as possible (reading from the page and reading sitting down all encouraged), the Library's poetry slam continues to attract a very diverse range of participants, and has developed a positive reputation amongst the performance poetry community. A hugely enjoyable night for both the audience and slammers, with excellent Burns Night fare turned around by our colleagues in the café in super quick time. Gray Crosbie (below) made for a very worthy winner.



Launch of 'The International Style of Muriel Spark' Exhibition

The Library's main exhibition 'The International Style of Muriel Spark' was launched on Thursday 7 December. Partners from across the Muriel Spark 100 group were in attendance, as well as donors, board members, staff, and a host of invited guests.



The Librarian, Jenny Niven – from our partners Creative Scotland – and novelist and Spark fan Ian Rankin introduced the event and declared the exhibition open. Exhibition curator Dr Colin McIlroy was in attendance to guide visitors through the exhibition. Following the launch, the Librarian hosted a dinner for selected guests at the Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh.

Muriel Spark 2018 International Symposium

The Library co-hosted the Muriel Spark 2018 International Symposium with the University of Glasgow. The Librarian opened the Symposium by welcoming guests and speakers to a reception and screening of 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie' at the Kelvin Hall auditorium. Two full days of panels and talks followed, with highlights including Ali Smith in conversation with Zoe Strachan, and papers from international Spark scholars. Dr McIlroy, Manuscripts Curator, gave a 45 minute talk on the Library's Spark archive, hosted a panel discussion, and closed the

event 'in conversation' with writer Alan Taylor.

Mediaeval Manuscripts 'pop-up'

Dr Ulrike Hogg & Kenneth Dunn of the Archives & Manuscript Collections Division arranged a small 'pop-up' display of mediaeval manuscripts to form part of the Library's wider Christmas shopping Day event on 14 December.

The theme was images of the Nativity in three of the Library's mediaeval manuscripts:

- 'Mirror of the Life of Christ': a translation by Nicholas Love (d. 1424), of the 'Meditationes vitae Christi' a popular devotional work of the early 14th century; it was written & illuminated for Edmund, 4th Baron Grey of Ruthin between 1445 & 1465;
- The Bohun Psalter & Hours, a manuscript probably made in London, about 1385, for Eleanor de Bohun, Duchess of Gloucester;
- The Dupuy Hours, 15th century, a volume manufactured in Northern France or the Netherlands, illuminated in a Flemish style.

These three volumes form part of the Library's foundation collection of manuscripts gifted to the nation in 1925. Those who visited were enchanted by the fine quality of the illustrations and accompanying text.



Bohun Psalter, Adv.MS.18.6.5

Heritage Science Research on the Library's Scottish Medieval Chartularies

The Library's Conservation team has recently begun an exciting project to increase our knowledge about the Library's Scottish medieval chartularies using heritage science research. The chartularies are registers of muniments produced by Scottish monasteries, and they were identified as a good collection for heritage science research because they have not undergone scientific analysis before, they contain a range of coloured pigments and a variety of styles of layout and composition, and their provenance is always known.



One of the decorative pages in the chartulary from Cambuskenneth

The aims of the research are to identify the pigments used and make comparisons with medieval manuscript production in the rest of the UK and Europe, identify the types of parchment which were used to make the chartularies and explore the potential for

imaging of the chartularies to assist with textual analysis.

The project is a collaboration with the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology (SEAHA) at University College London, the heritage science team at the Bodleian Library, the 'Team Pigment' group from Durham University and a team at York University specialising in parchment analysis.



Raman spectroscopy at the Bodleian Library

In November 2017 two of the Library's conservators took a group of seven chartularies to the Bodleian for analysis using Raman spectroscopy and hyperspectral imaging.

Characterisation of the parchment is about to be undertaken, and the results of the scientific research will feed into a wider project being undertaken with historians from the University of Glasgow and conservators from National Records Scotland, exploring how and why chartularies were created and used, and how they can be conserved and digitised.

Jacobite Filming

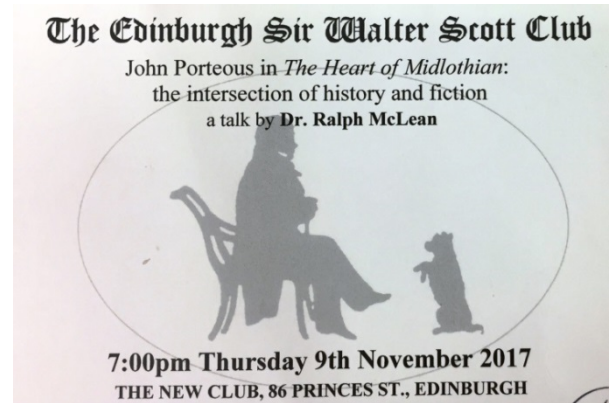
On 19 December 2017 Dr Ralph McLean assisted with filming for Gregor Ewing's TV programme 'Charlie, Meg, and me' in which he follows in footsteps of Charles Edward Stuart after defeat at Culloden in 1746, and his subsequent flight from government forces to escape to the Continent. Dr McLean discussed the route taken by Charles post-Culloden and provided historical background on the 'Lyon in Mourning', which was written by Bishop Robert Forbes following interviews with eyewitnesses such as Flora Macdonald. The volumes of the 'Lyon in Mourning' (Adv.32.6.16-26) held at the Library contain Jacobite relics attached to the volumes – such as a piece of Charles's waistcoat (pictured).



The Heart of Midlothian Talk at the Edinburgh Sir Walter Scott Club

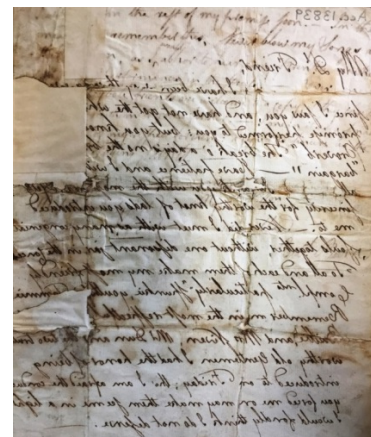
On 9 November 2017 Dr Ralph McLean gave a talk to the Edinburgh Sir Walter Scott Club on 'John Porteous in *the Heart of Midlothian*: the intersection of history and fiction.' The talk focused on the historical events of the Porteous riots and their central importance to Scott's fictional story. The National Library of Scotland possesses the original manuscript of *the Heart of Midlothian* (MS.1548) in addition to a multitude of original sources that relate to the riots. The Saltoun papers (MSS.16501-17900) held at the Library contain a number of witness accounts to the riots and these resources,

along with the extensive collection of Scott's correspondence, formed the core of the talk.



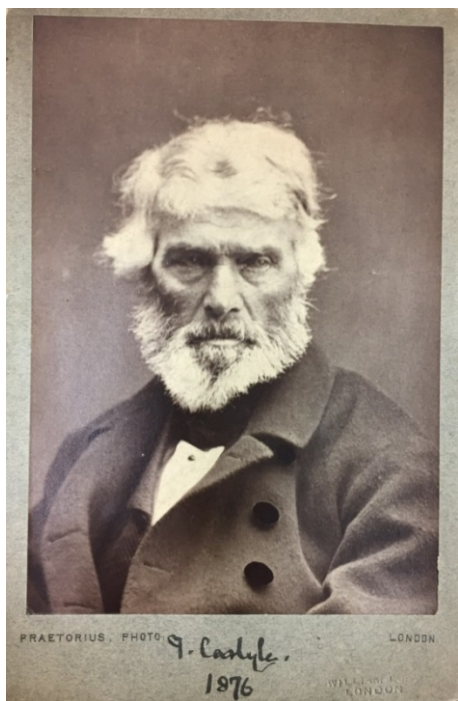
Robert Burns Pop-up Event

On 25 January 2018 the Library's recent acquisition of a letter of Robert Burns (Acc.13839), purchased at auction in 2017, went on public display for the first time in over 100 years. Dr Ralph McLean and Kenneth Dunn were on hand to answer questions about the letter, written in August 1786, in which Burns talks about the recent publication of the Kilmarnock edition of his *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, and alludes to his potential emigration to Jamaica. Kenny Redpath and Ollie Quinn from the events team and Sarah Wilmott from the Library's Conservation department, who prepared the manuscript for display, all worked together with the manuscript curators to make this event possible. The manuscript was on display for four hours and was viewed by 184 visitors.



Talk on the Carlyle Manuscripts for the Carlyle Society

On 17 February 2018 Dr Ralph McLean delivered a paper to the Carlyle Society on 'The Carlyle Manuscripts at the National Library of Scotland'. The Carlyle collection, the most comprehensive of any in the world relating to both Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle, is heavily used by Carlyle scholars across the globe, and has been extensively consulted for the *Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* project, which still continues to publish volumes of the Carlyles' letters. This talk focused on how the early Carlyle manuscripts came to the Library, the Library's collecting policy in relation to Carlyle, and how collections relating to the Carlyles are catalogued and made available to researchers. The paper on which the talk is based will be published in *the Carlyle Society Papers* (2017-18).



Scots Language Seminar for Edinburgh University students

On 20 February 2018 Dr Ulrike Hogg and Dr Ralph McLean received a group of students from Edinburgh University led by their

lecturer Dr Rhona Alcorn. The students were shown manuscripts showcasing the Scots language from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, which complements their university course on the History of Scots. Among the highlights of the collections shown was the Bannatyne Manuscript, which is the earliest known source for a multitude of Scots verse; letters in Scots by Queen Mary and King James VI; the poetry and songs of Robert Burns; and manuscript entries from Jamieson's *Etymological Dictionary of the Scots Language*.



Publication of Work on James Thomson's *Rule, Britannia!*

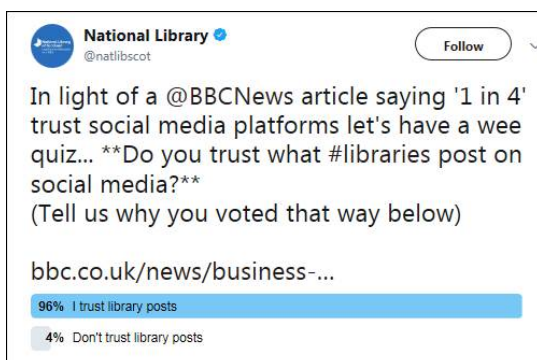
As a part of the Carnegie funded Literature and Union project run jointly by the Universities of Glasgow and St Andrews a new collection of essays has been published on the links between Scottish literary culture and the Union. *Literature and the Union: Scottish Texts, British Contexts* (2018) is edited by Professor Gerard Carruthers and Professor Colin Kidd. Dr Ralph McLean contributed an essay to this collection on 'James Thomson and "Rule, Britannia!"' which investigates the role the Scottish poet Thomson had in creating and shaping British iconography through the symbol of Britannia. Dr McLean has also published recent articles on 'Digital Resources for Scottish Neo-Latin Literature' in *Studies in Scottish Literature* 43 (2017), and, 'Literary Symbols: Language and style in the 1707 Union debates' in *Scottish Affairs* 27 (2018).

Social Media Status

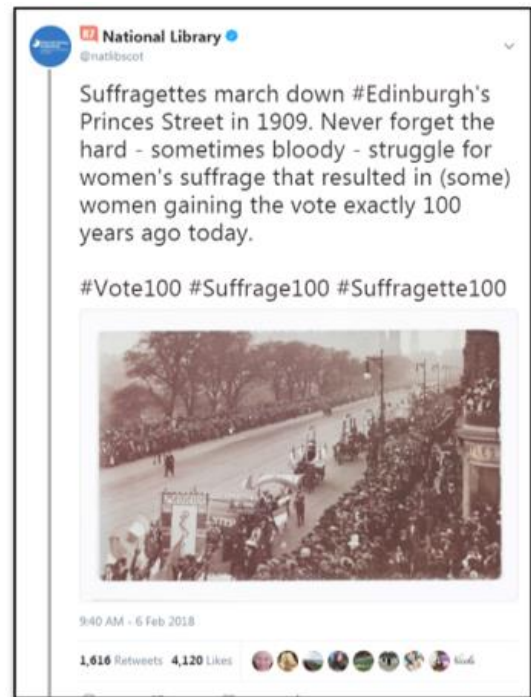
Since November 2017 the Library's social media follower numbers have grown by 10% (Facebook) 14% (Twitter) and 22.3% (Instagram). Our highlights have included the [#FlurryandFloe](#) advent campaign throughout December, which ran on Twitter and Facebook. This campaign showed every department in the Library and resulted in highly positive feedback and strong levels of engagement. Also pleasing was the involvement of other libraries such as Edinburgh Central Library and Glasgow Women's Library.



In January we ran a Twitter survey about trust – over 96% of respondents replied that they trusted libraries on social media, compared to only 25% trusting social media platforms generally.



Finally, in February we had an incredible response to a post on the centenary of Women's Suffrage. This tweet was our second-highest performing ever, with a reach of nearly half a million impressions. We also filmed and tweeted a video for this day with Elaine Simpson, General Collections.



Development Team

A new Development Manager, Lucy Clement, took up post in January. She is tasked with growing the Library's supporter base, increasing unrestricted and project income, raising awareness of the Library's charitable status and case for support, developing new income streams and laying the groundwork from which to launch a major campaign for the centenary.

Her priorities for the coming year are:

- Project Audit and review of project development procedures.
- Establishing a robust Major Gifts Programme.
- Creating and communicating a compelling case for support for the Library.
- Increasing the profitability of the Patrons & Benefactors Scheme.
- Developing lower-level giving programmes.

'Mapping the Borders' – Exhibition, Events, Talks and Film

The National Library of Scotland was pleased to collaborate in a series of events and an exhibition (18-25 November), organised around the theme of 'Mapping the Borders', part of the nationwide *Being Human: Festival of the Humanities*.



The exhibition, which took place at the Creative Coathanger in Galashiels, featured the work of nine artists, who had each 'mapped' part of the Scottish Borders' landscape and culture through various media including photography, pastels, and sculpture. Several facsimile historical maps from the Library, which the artists had each selected to link to particular personal themes, formed a key part of the gallery display.



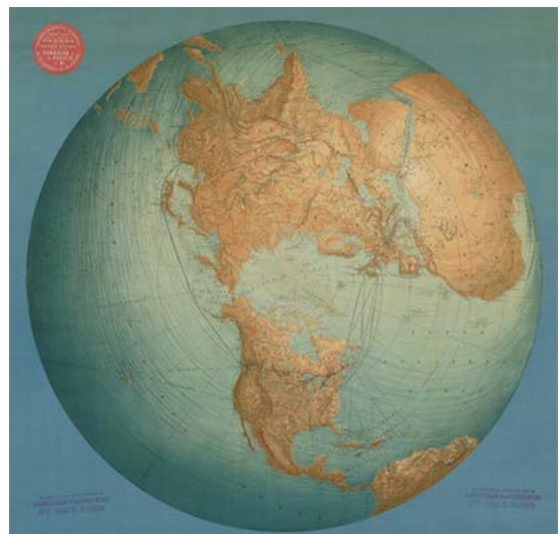
The exhibition was formally opened through a set of PechuKucha 20x20 lightning talks (including one by Map Curator Chris Fleet) at the MacArts Gallery in Galashiels, which can be [viewed online](#). The maps also inspired further events, including a popular glass-

making workshop in Jedburgh. A [short film](#) was also made, capturing some of the themes, and featuring interviews with a few of the artists in the exhibition.

New Online Map Resources

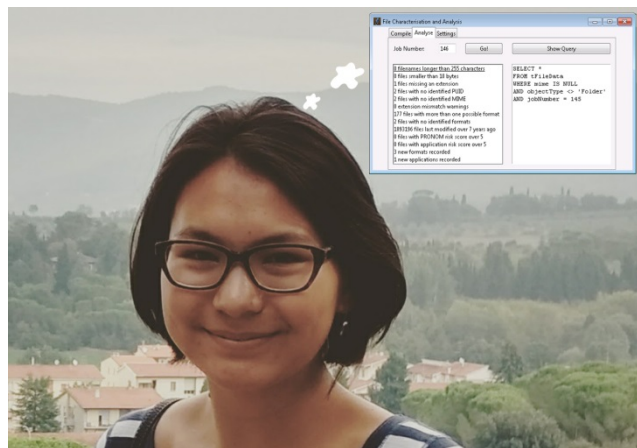
We are keen to put online web-mapping resources and information that can support other historical research. Our new interactive [Boundaries viewer](#) allows counties and parishes from the 1950s, and unitary authorities, districts and boroughs from 2017, to be viewed on a range of different map backgrounds. Many other family and local history records are associated with these administrative jurisdictions, especially parishes, and viewing their location and extents is often useful.

Another recent online addition has been a stunning set of [Bartholomew maps](#), providing coverage of Great Britain in the 1940s, and available too as a seamless georeferenced layer. A final recent addition has been a small set of 34 [World Maps](#), each selected for their historical interest, content, and aesthetic qualities. The maps illustrate the many different ways that the world has been visualised and understood over time and, as for many maps, are of interest more in reflecting aspects of the society and culture when they were created than for their representation of the world itself.



New Tool Assesses 19 million Digital Files Created in the Wild West

Over a four week period before Christmas the Library used a new tool to examine 19 million digital files we are responsible for safeguarding. Little was known about the files that have been created by archive donors, Library staff and publishers in the 'wild west' and a lack of knowledge leads to increased risk in the digital preservation world. How old are the files? Have we got the right software to access them? Are the files what they claim to be? This lack of understanding is in stark contrast to the 53 million files the Library has produced in a carefully controlled way through our digitisation programme, so earlier in 2017 the Library appointed an intern from the University of Edinburgh, Anita Klementiev, to develop a tool to help. Anita created the File Analysis tool written in the Python programming language that is popular across schools, universities and digital organisations.



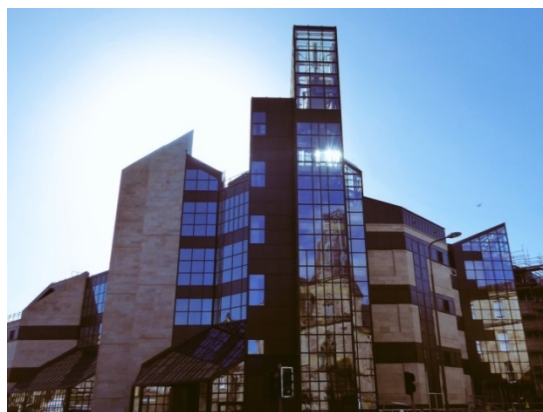
Anita Klementiev, University of Edinburgh intern, and creator of the Library's transformative File Analysis tool

The File Analysis tool did what no human could and identified key information from the 19 million files in just four weeks. The Library is now using the insights provided by the tool to plan future work to ensure access to these files for current and future generations. Here are some of those insights:

- We safeguard more than 400 unique file formats, all of which will depend on certain software being available to make their content is understandable for future generations.
- 600 thousand files have file formats not identified by an international catalogue of file formats co-ordinated by The National Archives. We know less about them and so they present a greater risk.
- 13 million files are older than 7 years. The software and operating systems that we would use to access the files may be obsolete.

Project Management Policy Updated

The Library's project management policy has been overhauled to support the improved governance and delivery of projects. It has been expanded to include programme management as well as project management. The Library has adopted the widely accepted PRINCE2 and MSP standards, and this policy explains in detail how they will be implemented. Lessons learned from recent experiences of managing major capital projects have informed the revision of the policy which now has more guidance on terminology and documentation. This will ensure that we use consistent language and tools when managing projects and programmes.

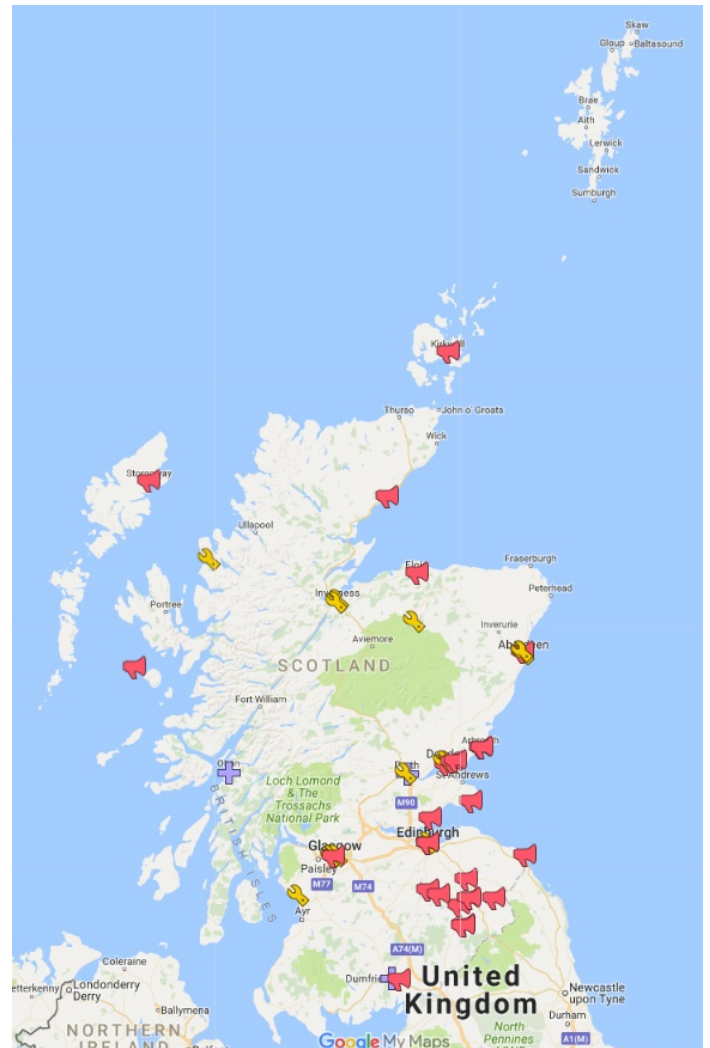


Connecting Scotland's Sounds

From 2016 to 2017 the National Library led a project to champion Scotland's rich audio heritage. Supported by grant funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Connecting Scotland's Sounds project delivered extensive knowledge exchange and public engagement programmes across Scotland. 555 knowledge exchange places were filled during 34 knowledge exchange activities designed to increase skills and expertise in caring for sound collections. Over 3000 people attended 80 public engagement sessions showcasing 25 different sound collections from across Scotland.



Partnerships were at the heart of this two-year project, with an estimated 165 people representing 95 different organisations or freelancers contributing to its programmes. Connecting Scotland's Sounds has generated a greater awareness of the value, preservation requirements and engagement potential of archive sound recordings in Scotland amongst collection holders, audiences and other stakeholders. 55% of stakeholders surveyed stated that the project had increased the priority that they give to sound collections.

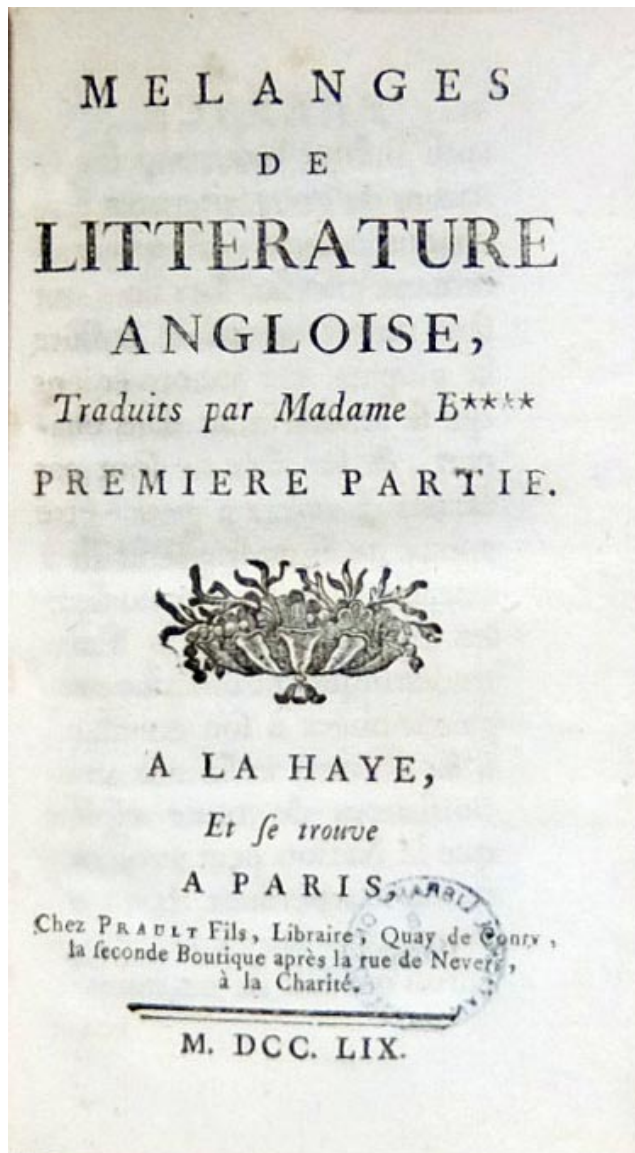


The project was born out of the Scotland's Sounds network – a group of sound collection holders and archive audio users coordinated by the National Library of Scotland. This network has grown to 387 individuals during the Connecting Scotland's Sounds project and will continue to meet to share best practice and initiate collaborations on the care and access of Scotland's archive sound recordings.



Rare Books Accessions

[David Hume, Samuel Johnson et al.],
Melanges de la litterature angloise, A la
Haye [Paris] , 1759



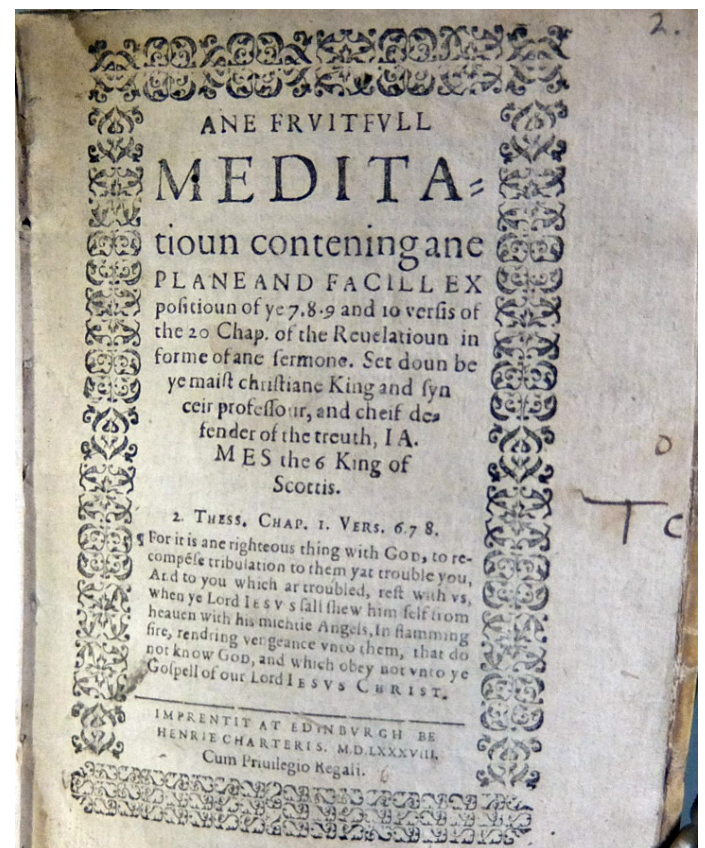
A very rare anthology of English literature, translated into French, which includes the first recorded French translations of the first three of David Hume's Essays, moral and political, originally published in Edinburgh in 1741. The three essays translated are: 'Of the delicacy of taste and passion', 'Of the liberty of the press', 'Of impudence and modesty'. The female translator 'Madame B****' was Octavie Guichard Durey de Meinieres (1719-1804), who at the time this work was published was known as Madame Belot. She was an author in her own right as well as a

translator of Samuel Johnson's *Rasselas*, Sarah Fielding's *Ophelia*, and in 1763 and 1765, of the first two parts of Hume's history of England. She appears to have been in correspondence with Hume and most likely met him when he was living in Paris in the 1760s. The anthology also includes translations of excerpts of works by Samuel Johnson, Matthew Prior and Edmund Burke. The Hague place of publication, given in the imprint of the Parisian bookseller Prault Fils, is probably false and was possibly used to circumvent French government censorship

Pickering & Chatto, £4,250

RB.s.2946

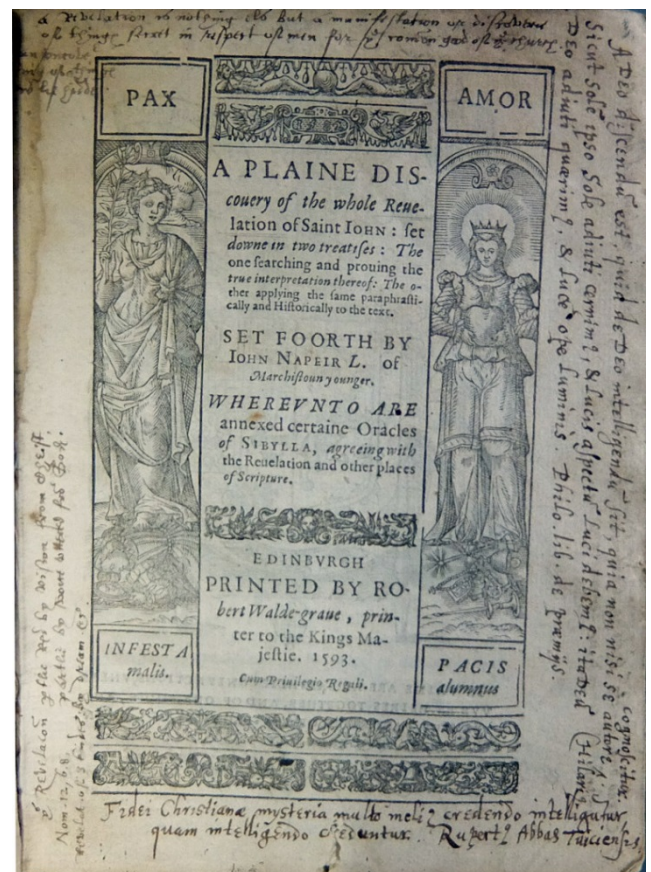
James VI, *Ane Fruitfull Meditatioun*,
Edinburgh, 1588



Bound with a copy of John Napier of Merchiston's *A Plaine Discovery of the whole Revelation of Saint Iohn* (Edinburgh, 1593), both works deal with the apocalyptic

passages in the Book of Revelation in the New Testament, commonly attributed to John the apostle. James's treatise was the second work by him to appear in print. It was written in the summer of 1588 while England and Scotland prepared for the much-heralded arrival of the Spanish Armada. Although Scotland was officially neutral, for James a Spanish victory in England would have meant at best a forced public conversion to Catholicism and submission to King Philip of Spain, and at worst deposition or assassination by the powerful Scottish Catholic lords. However, the young king prevaricated on offering support to England and only wrote to Queen Elizabeth at the last minute to offer military aid. Instead he devoted himself to a writing a meditation on some selected passages of the Revelation, attacking the power and influence of the Pope, which is preceded by a translation in Scots of the Revelation passages. Although both works were written primarily for a Scottish readership, the volume has a provenance which goes back to 17th-century England. It been heavily annotated in two or three neat early 17th-century hands. Three early owners have been identified: a Robert Langley; Richard Lodge, wealthy Leeds woollen cloth merchant; Ralph Thoresby, F.R.S. (1658-1725) antiquary, of Leeds, with his ink inscription 'ex Libris Rad Thoresby pr 16d' at the foot of A3r of the Napier. Although the Napier edition is widely held in the UK, there are only four other recorded copies of *Ane Fruitfull Meditatioun*, and none of them are in Scotland.

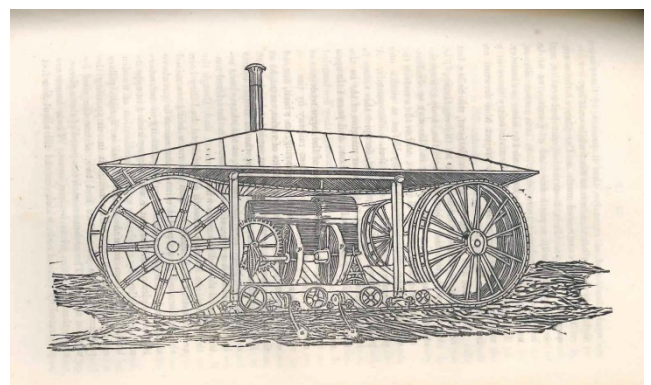
Acquired with the assistance of the Friends of the National Libraries.



Maggs Bros Ltd. £26,500

RB.s.2945(1-2)

Ambrose Blacklock, *Description of Heathcoat's steam plough, Dumfries, 1837*



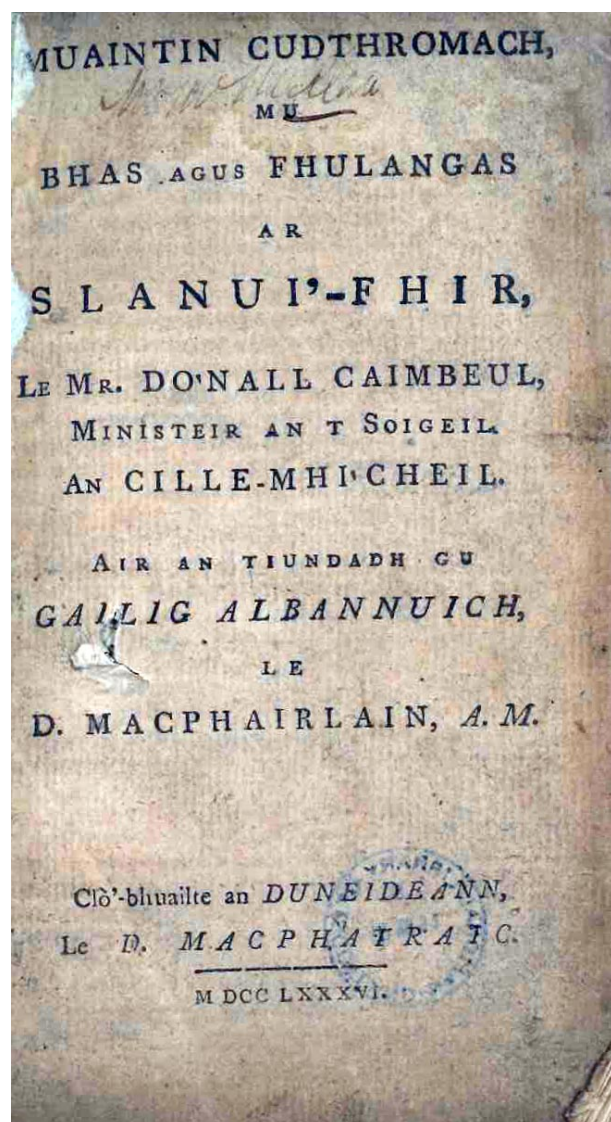
A Dumfries-printed brochure describing in detail one of the very earliest steam ploughs in Britain which has a full-page woodcut illustration of the machine in question. The identity of the machine's inventor is open to question. Woodcroft's 'Alphabetical Index of Patentees of Invention, 1617-1852', identifies the inventor as George Heathcoat who was

granted patent no. 6267 on 15th May 1832 for 'draining and cultivating land; machinery and apparatus applicable thereto'. The author, Ambrose Blacklock (1816-1873), was a Dumfries surgeon and inventor, best known for his *Treatise on sheep* (1838). He later emigrated to India and worked in Madras Medical College, eventually becoming Deputy Inspector-General of the Indian Medical Department. Only one other copy is recorded, in the British Library.

John Drury £250

AP.1.218.01

Donall Caimbeul [Daniel Campbell],
Smuaintin cudthromach, mu bhas agus fhulangas ar Slanui'-fhir, Edinburgh, 1786



This is a Gaelic printing of Daniel Campbell's work *Sacramental meditations on the sufferings and death of Christ* done by Edinburgh-based printer David Paterson (D. Macphatraic). Daniel Campbell (1665-1722) was a minister of the parish of Kilmichael-Glassary, near Lochgilphead in Argyllshire. Consisting of sermons by Campbell, originally delivered in Gaelic, and first published in English in 1701, twelve editions of the work are recorded as having been printed in the 18th century in Britain, Ireland and North America. Two of them, including this one, were printed in Gaelic. Only 2 other copies of this edition are recorded in ESTC.

Alastor Rare Books £140

AP.1.218.05

21st Century Reading Workshop Series

The Library will be running a series of four workshops during 2018 on the subject of text and data mining and distant reading, with a focus on skills, audience, content, value, and technical literacy. The series – '21st Century Reading: Text and Data Mining Skills for Scotland' – is being run with Professor Marc Alexander, University of Glasgow, and with input from the digital culture consultancy Culture24. Text and data mining and distant reading are techniques in digital scholarship that use computational analysis to understand massive amounts of text and data.

The Library successfully bid for funding to support the series from the Royal Society of Edinburgh's (RSE) Arts & Humanities Research Workshops funding stream.

Robin Smith is the named project lead and is joined on the project management team by Ines Byrne, Graeme Hawley, and Fred Saunderson, and well as by Marc. The

project emerged from the Library's Text and Data Mining Community of Interest, and that group has been active in shaping the series.

The series is intended to be collaborative and to engage participants from academic bodies, digital industry, and heritage organisations, as well as independent or freelance individuals and innovators. To support the latter, we are offering up to four bursaries to compensate for time committed to the workshops. The funds awarded to the Library from the RSE are primarily being used for these bursaries, for which an open call for applications ran in February 2018.

Attendance beyond the bursaries will be by invitation, in order to ensure that a diverse range of participants, organisations, sectors, and interests are represented. Participants will be expected to contribute to each workshop as a cohort, with the aim of fostering a wider community of interest around text and data mining, distance reading, and the development of digital literacy in support of business, creativity, and research.

The workshops will run in Glasgow, Perth, and Edinburgh throughout the year. [Further detail about the series is available on the Library's research webpages.](#)

Staff Engagement Group: Muriel Spark Exhibition Launch

On Friday 9 March a party was thrown to celebrate the Muriel Spark exhibition and to launch the Staff Engagement Group (SEG).

There were profiterole pyramids, pork pie stacks and budget plonk, and the gathering was appreciated by all who attended as a chance to let their hair down on a Friday afternoon.

It is the SEG's intention to internally launch all future Library exhibitions in this way, and

to recognise the contribution of staff across the organisation to making them happen.

Aside from these celebrations, the SEG has been looking at improving the induction process, and to this end will be introducing building tours for new staff, and quarterly departmental showcases to engage new and existing staff in the interesting and interlinked work taking place across the Library's departments.

RLUK – Library Participation

Library staff are contributing three speed presentations and a workshop to the [Research Libraries UK conference](#) taking place at the British Library on 14-16 March:

- Wee Windaes: Showcasing the continuum of the Scots language through the collections – Alice Heywood, Learning and Outreach Officer.
- 'Alexa, do you have any Library skills?' – Stuart Lewis, Head of Digital.
- Evolution of a Map Service – successful digitisation and its impact on library services – Laragh Quinney, Maps Reading Room Manager.
- Copyright, content, and confusion-busting: re-use environments for research libraries – Gill Hamilton, Digital Access Manager, and Fred Saunderson, Rights and Information Manager.

