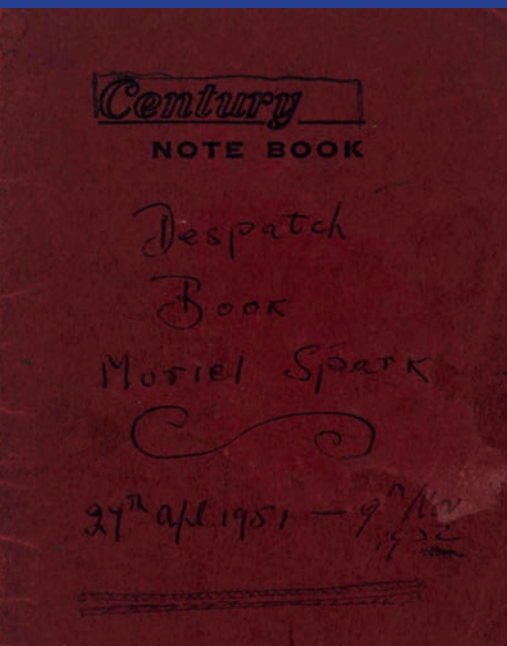




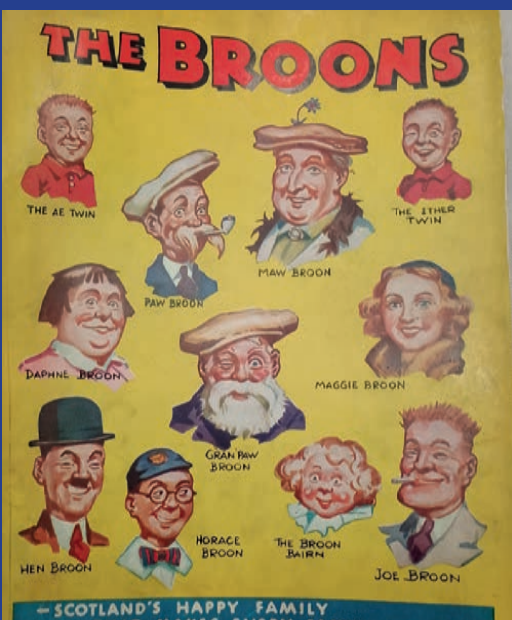
Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>. Went to office  
time. Had to pass an old sailor  
child boy, who tried both to join company  
me, lest I should be late for office. I  
sunny breezy morning, walking in. A  
boy (about ten) calling out "Flory"  
was very pretty. There was a quaint,  
bendle in his voice that gave it a  
that was both laughable and touched  
the rest of the way in, his voice rang  
memory and made me very happy.

Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>. Office work - copy  
Coast - is the easiest of labour.  
just enough mind-work necessary to  
you from thinking of anything else  
one simply ceases to be a reason  
and feels stodged and stupid and  
had a consumption deplete to be



# The Acquisitions Circle

 National Library  
of Scotland  
Leabharlann Nàiseanta  
na h-Alba



all that this world has to offer. As  
for this world I despair of ever making  
a figure in it. I am not formed for  
business of the busy nor the fluster of the  
& shall never again be capable of it.  
Indeed, I am altogether unconcerned  
with the thoughts of it. I forgive that every  
probably Poverty & Affluence are not  
& I am in some measure prepared  
& daily preparing to meet & welcome  
them. I have but just time & paper  
to give you my grateful thanks for the  
many offerings of love & pity you have  
given me. Offerings which were very  
much appreciated when they were given  
but which, I hope have been remem-  
bered ere it is a bit too late. Pray  
my respectful respects to my Mother & wish  
Comp. to Mr & Mrs Murray and all  
wishing you a merry New Year & the  
conclusion. I am, Honored Sir,  
your dutiful son, Robert



**The National Library of Scotland exists to collect and preserve the nation's memory. Acquiring items of cultural and historic significance for the national collections has always been an important part of this mission. Being able to respond quickly to auctions and compete with private buyers is imperative. We are launching an Acquisitions Circle as a group of committed and responsive donors who understand the value of acquisitions to the Library, and the nation. We are now asking you to consider joining the Circle.**

Each year the National Library of Scotland adds around 172,000 physical items to its collections (or 2.5 million if we include digital content). Comprising books, manuscripts, films, digital resources, sound and map formats, these acquisitions capture the breadth of human pursuit and enrich the national collection.

The vast majority of these items come to us via the Legal Deposit Scheme, whereby we are able to claim a copy of every item published in the UK. Our collections have also greatly benefited from the generosity of individuals and organisations donating their private collections. But an important subset of the items which we acquire each year are ones sold on the open market, for which we must pay. These are often items of historical note and significance – for example rare printed books and unique manuscripts, which command a high price.

They are sold by specialist dealers, collectors, or auction houses. Items or collections are often discovered and made available for sale within tight time frames, giving us little time to raise the necessary funds. The market for these heritage items is buoyant and fast-moving, and we must be able to respond rapidly and compete to secure them for the nation.

The Acquisitions Circle is being established to comprise a group of financial donors and enthusiasts who are willing to be called upon periodically, and at short notice, to help the National Library move quickly to secure items of great cultural or historic importance for the national collections.

## Case Studies

Below are examples of items acquired by the National Library, with financial support, over the past few years.



### The Aberdeen Breviary and Compassio Beate Marie

In 2014 an opportunity arose to acquire one of only four extant copies of the earliest full-length book printed in Scotland. The Aberdeen Breviary and Compassio Beate Marie contains a calendar with the feast days of Scottish saints, such as St Andrew, St Margaret, St Mungo and St Ninian. It also includes daily prayers, hymns and lessons for Scottish priests. Commissioned by James IV, compiled by the best historians of the day, and printed in 1510, it had been in private hands for 200 years, invisible to the research community and the nation. An urgent fundraising campaign was successful in raising, from a few dedicated individuals and foundations, the £646,000 needed to acquire the two volumes for the nation.

### Blavatnik Honresfield Library

This astoundingly significant collection, which included items of great importance to Scotland, came up for auction in Spring 2021. Comprising priceless manuscripts and irreplaceable letters penned by the Bronte siblings, Sir Jane Austen, and Lord Byron, large parts of the collection had not been seen for nearly 100 years. As part of a consortium, the National Library of Scotland was successful in having the collection removed from the open market, and urgently raising the £15 million needed to bring the collection into public ownership. As a result, letters of Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott's original manuscript for Rob Roy are now housed at the National Library, and have been digitised for all to access.

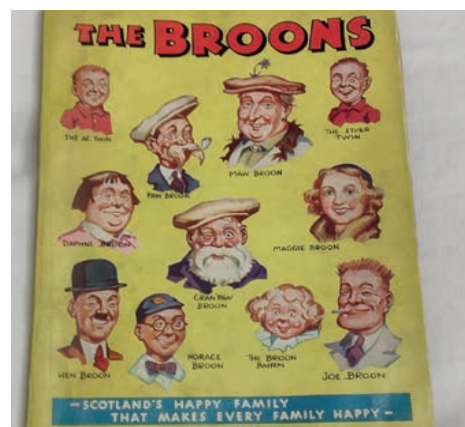


### The Muriel "Sparkive"

Muriel Spark said that 'since 1949 onwards I have thrown away practically nothing on paper'. Her decision to preserve this record of her life has resulted in a personal archive that is one of the largest in the National Library of Scotland. It includes correspondence with leading literary figures, politicians, actors, artists and publishers; school workbooks and certificates; and family photographs. The archive was acquired and catalogued following a £250,000 fundraising campaign in 2015. Regrettably the manuscript for Prime of Miss Jean Brodie was purchased by the University of Tulsa, and is indicative of the value and competition inherent in literary manuscripts acquisition.

### The Broons 1940 First Annual

Known to collectors as "the 1940 book", this was one of the most significant publications of Dundee based D.C. Thomson, produced in 1939. The Broons comic strip first appeared in "The Sunday Post", and is still published today (bar a few gaps due to wartime paper shortages), maintaining the rare quality of cross-generational appeal. This Annual, with its iconic cover image, was the first in a series which were popular Christmas gifts for overseas relatives. It was purchased for £10,000 with funding contributed by the Magnus & Janet Soutar Trust.



## The Small Print

- There is no charge to join the Acquisitions Circle and there is no obligation to donate or pledge anything towards individual acquisitions as the opportunities arise.
- We will be inviting pledges towards the cost of a particular acquisition. At the point of securing the item we will request the fulfilment of your pledge, to be paid within one month of the purchase.
- Should we fail to secure the funds needed to purchase the item, or to secure the item at auction, we will notify the Circle members and your pledge will not be drawn down.
- Any pledges, received after the target amount for the acquisition has been reached, will not be drawn down. Donors may choose to donate their pledge regardless, for allocation towards future acquisitions.
- The names of those who have contributed through the Acquisitions Circle to each acquisition will not be made public - rather, we will acknowledge the support of 'The Acquisitions Circle' in any publicity and in the catalogue records. However, with your permission, we will list the names of the members in our Annual Review.
- The amount requested from the Acquisitions Circle includes a contribution to fund any initial conservation and cataloguing work deemed necessary to make the item(s) available to the public. This figure varies by item and will be decided at the discretion of the Library (but will never exceed 10% of the item cost).
- The Library agrees to make the items purchased through the Acquisitions Circle available to the public as soon as possible, and no later than one year after taking receipt of the item.
- Donating to an acquisition does not confer any ownership rights to the donor. The acquisition will be the property of the National Library of Scotland.
- We will host an annual event to showcase acquired items to members of the Acquisitions Circle.
- You may leave the Circle at any point by emailing [development@nls.uk](mailto:development@nls.uk).

**If you are able and willing to join the National Library of Scotland's Acquisitions Circle, or if you have any questions, please get in touch using the contact details below. Thank you for your consideration.**

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### Contact details

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