



National Librarian and Chief Executive's Report to the Board 27 June 2018

KEY EVENTS SINCE LAST UPDATE

26 March 2018

Chaired the Board of Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries' meeting at the Library;

18 April 2018

Attended the SCURL Business Committee at the Royal Botanic Gardens;

08 May 2018

Accompanied the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Fiona Hyslop, on a private tour of the Muriel Spark exhibition;

15 May 2018

Took part in a *Leading on Cyber Resilience in the Public Sector* workshop in Glasgow;

21 May 2018

Attended a SLIC Staffing & Remuneration Committee meeting in Dundee;

04 April 2018

Attended the presentation of the Edinburgh Medal to Professor Cordelia Fine at Edinburgh City Chambers;

19 April 2018

Presented a paper at the AMARC Spring Meeting, held in the Boardroom;

10-11 May 2018

Hosted the Research Libraries UK Board who held their annual Retreat at the Library;

15 May 2018

Was a panel member at the *Historical Conversations – Archiving Scotland* event at the University of Glasgow;

26 June 2018

Launched the *Youngwummin* Display in the Boardroom.

16 April 2018

Welcomed the IFLA FAIFE Committee to the Library, where they were conducting a two day meeting;

01 May 2018

Spoke at the Research Libraries UK Special Collections meeting in York;

14 May 2018

Attended the MacKinnon Press launch at the Scottish Portrait Gallery;

16 May 2018

Welcomed the Hakluyt Society who were hosting a book launch in the Boardroom;

Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update



162 previously hidden collections (7.2% of the total content) now have online catalogue records, slightly exceeding the target for 2017-2018.

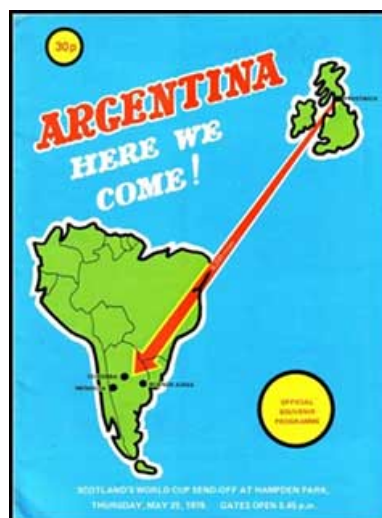
65 collections remain to be appraised, 34 collections have been appraised and await scheduling for cataloguing, and 158 collections have been scheduled or are being catalogued.

Collections scheduled to begin cataloguing this year include seven music collections totalling approximately 290,000 items, for which funding has been granted by the Foundation, and the Dean-Myatt Collection of fragile sound recordings for which funding has been acquired from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. Both projects are currently at the procurement stage.

Cataloguing of the Dean-Myatt collection will precede digitisation. The collection includes Scottish music in various genres: Gaelic songs, Music Hall recordings, fiddle and bagpipe music, and dialect sketches. Artists represented include Jimmy Shand (pictured above left), Jim Cameron, Harry Gordon, Harry Lauder, Archie Grant (pictured above right), Bob Smith, William Ross, and Henry Forsyth.

A timely find in the hidden collections

This official souvenir programme commemorating the departure of the Scotland Football Team to take part in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina was discovered during the sorting and counting of a previously unrecorded hidden collection from the late 1970s/early 1980s. Forty years after its arrival in the Library it has now been catalogued and is available to all those wishing to relive the heady days Scottish football.



***The Changing Library* – Quarterly Update**

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

Staff Engagement: Career Development

A key issue from the Staff Survey results, and one of our lowest scoring areas, is frustration among staff about a lack of career opportunities in the Library due to low staff mobility and turnover reducing chances for promotion. We have, however, been offering staff career development workshops and promoting secondments as opportunities to broaden experience.

In revising the appraisal process, we introduced career discussions between managers and staff as part of the new process. This was communicated to managers in February/March with training sessions available for less confident managers. We also ran communication sessions on this for staff through April and May. A key aspect of the approach is to clarify roles and responsibilities for career development and, although the prime responsibility will always be with the individual, to outline how both managers and the Library as a whole can support appropriate career and professional development.

Management Development: Aspiring Leadership

Five of our junior managers, and non-management staff who have demonstrated potential, attended a six-day *Aspiring Leadership* development course in collaboration with the National Galleries of Scotland. Feedback has been very positive and we are looking at adapting the programme for a wider Library audience.

Staff Development

Our use of the Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF) for £10,000-worth of staff training in digital video production was successfully completed in May. The Video Production Group has already created a 'commercial' to support income generation through the box making function in our Sighthill Building. We are also participating in evaluating the FWDF for Scottish Government.

Innovation

We are currently recruiting a Fashion Communication Intern to work with our General Collections team. The intern will spend a month in the Library looking at our fashion related collections and developing highly visual online resources to make those materials more accessible to potential users within the creative industries. The Intern will be paid from the Librarian's Innovation Fund.

Reviewing *The Changing Library*

Following an internal audit report on Staff Recruitment and Retention we have decided to review *The Changing Library* programme to assess its relevance in its current format.

Digitisation Update March 2018-May 2018

The Library Plan's digitisation target for 2017/18 was 100,000 items. By the end of quarter 4, 128,810 items had been digitised, which exceeded the target by over 28%. This was made up of maps, bound volumes, pamphlets, microfilms, manuscripts, and video tapes.

Selection of materials for digitisation in 2018/19 is now complete. This features further collections of maps as the Library continues to work towards the target of digitising all single-sheet maps of Scotland by 2020, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, films and videos. An ambitious target of 200,000 items has been set for the year.

Procurement of three new v-shaped high-throughput digitisation systems is now almost complete. March was spent undertaking on-site visits to test the systems proposed by the bidders, including trips in Scotland, England, and Germany. A supplier has now been selected, with contracts due to be signed by the end of May. The procurement will allow for further call-offs to take place in the future, which means that further expansion of the digitisation capacity of the Library can take place without significant new procurement effort.

The previous outsourced contract was successfully concluded, with the staff transferring to Library contracts. The equipment has been removed from Causewayside, and all files passed to the Library for ingest.

The backlog of items to ingest is mostly removed due to the upgrade of the ingest workflow tools. In addition, testing is now taking place to convert the preservation file formats of newly captured items from TIFF to Jpeg2000. This will result in approximately half the file size, leading to a reduction in storage costs. The workflow tool for use in the digitisation studio with the new equipment is almost complete, with beta testing due to start in June. This will ensure that items are fully tracked throughout the workflow, performance of equipment and quality is monitored, and items requiring intervention, for example from conservation or description staff, can be easily flagged and processed.

A special digitisation highlight has been the experimental 3D scanning of the Cheviot and the Stag stage set 'pop-up' book. Before this goes on loan to V&A in Dundee, it was scanned using thousands of high resolution photographs by a local Scottish specialist photography and conservation company. These images have been turned into [3D models which can be viewed online](#) or via 3D goggles! The work was jointly funded by the Librarian's Innovation Fund and the V&A. Not only can the images be used by readers wanting to experience the item, but they can also be used for conservation assessments by tracking the change against the model over time.



[BBC News website: John Byrne's giant book to pop-up at V&A Dundee](#)

George Mackay Brown MSS bought at Lyon & Turnbull (Accessions 13907-13911)

In the spring the Library bought a significant set of manuscripts of Orcadian writer George Mackay Brown. Acquired at auction, these manuscripts range from Brown's childhood to the latter stages of his life, and shed new light on our understanding of his life and work.

Foremost in the collection are draft essays by Brown on the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, written while Brown was a post-graduate student at Edinburgh University in the early 1960s. Long sought-after by researchers, these papers illuminate Hopkins's influence on Brown, and the essential role he played in Brown's development as a Catholic poet and writer.



The successful bidders unpacking the collection

Other items include a homemade childhood magazine which Brown distributed amongst his friends, a magazine edited by Brown when studying at Newbattle Abbey College, and a tranche of 'Orkney manuscripts' which completes a wonderful collection, and one which further enhances the Library's holdings on this important writer.

Article published by Kirsty McHugh

Kirsty McHugh, Curator, John Murray Archive & Publishers' Collections, is currently working towards a doctorate at the Centre for Advanced Welsh & Celtic Studies at the University of Wales. Kirsty is researching manuscript tours of Scotland and Wales in the Romantic period. Her first article on her PhD research, 'Yorkshire Tourists: The Beginnings of Middle-Class Travel in Georgian Britain,' was published online in May and will appear in print later in the year. The *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, an international, peer-reviewed publication, covers new research into the history and archaeology of the historic county of Yorkshire.



Yorkshire Archaeological Journal
A Review of History and Archaeology in the County

ISSN: 0084-4276 (Print) 2045-0664 (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ygaaj20>

Yorkshire Tourists: The Beginnings of Middle-Class Travel in Georgian Britain

Kirsty McHugh

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To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00844276.2018.1465700>



Published online: 03 May 2018.

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

North Edinburgh Arts Theatre Project

North Edinburgh Theatre Project

Film Premiere

"I see Tomorrow"

And

Exhibition Performance

"North Edinburgh Portraits"

26th of May 2018 - 2.00pm and 7.00pm

North Edinburgh Arts



Staff from the National Library's Public Programmes team hosted a group visit at the Library for the North Edinburgh Arts Project which is based at the North Edinburgh Arts Centre in Muirhouse. This is the second time the Library has worked with this group. In 2014, they visited to do research for their 1d Tenement Opera project which focused on the lives of people living in tenements in North Edinburgh in the 30s and 40s before they were moved to new housing in areas such as Muirhouse.

'The visit boosted the participants' research around the 1d Tenement collapse in preparation for their devised performance, the 1d Tenement Opera, that played to full houses across three nights in January 2015. The documents they saw during their visit really brought the period and context to life making a major contribution to the success of the project as a whole.' Kate Wimpers, Director, North Edinburgh Arts.

In preparation for their second project, the group visited again early this year and viewed film and material which recorded social and working life in the 50s and in particular life in Edinburgh. The public information film 'A Day in the Home' about how to be a perfect housewife was particularly enjoyed! Participants ranged from 8-year-olds through teenagers to retired people so the project has been truly inclusive and intergenerational.

Pictures and feedback from the visit can be seen at

<https://twitter.com/northedinarts/status/956966270217449472>.

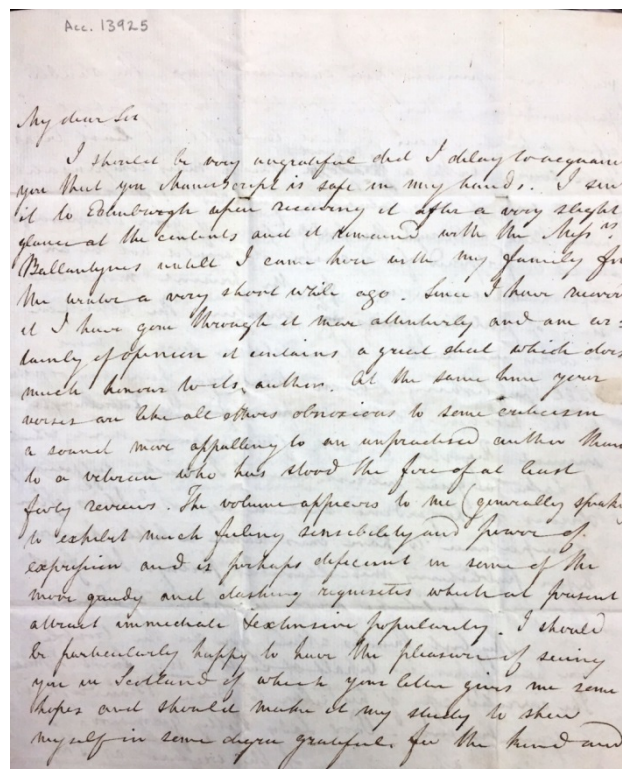
Friends of the National Libraries visit, 23 March 2018

Curators from the Archives and Manuscript Collections Division selected items from the Library's archive collections to show the range of material that the Friends of the National Libraries (FNL) have helped the Library to buy over many decades. On show were: the 12th century Iona Psalter, bought with FNL support in 1960; the Sweetheart breviary; a volume of anti-Jacobite poetry; a letter book of the personal secretary to Charles Edward Stuart; caricatures by John Gibson Lockhart; some manuscripts of Lord Byron in the John Murray Archive; and letters of Robert Louis Stevenson, of George Mackay Brown and of Muriel Spark.



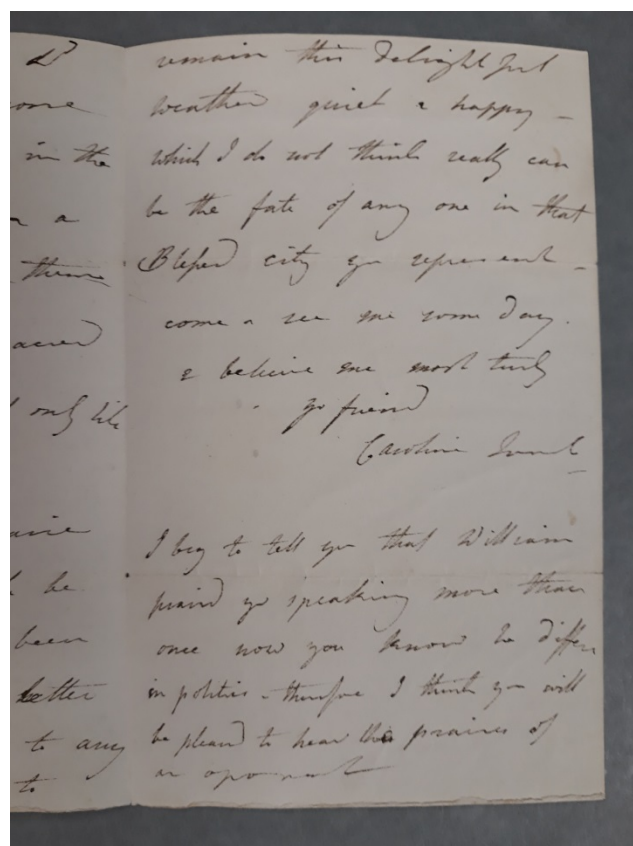
Acquisition of Sir Walter Scott letter to Matthew Weld Hartstonge (Acc.13925)

The Library recently purchased this 1810 letter of Sir Walter Scott, in which Scott discusses several literary matters including his own work on Jonathan Swift. The Library previously owned a transcript of this letter and has now managed to add the original to our collections.



Letter of Lady Caroline Lamb to John Cam Hobhouse (Acc.13918)

In April the Library bought an undated three-page letter of 1821 reflecting Lamb's obsession with Lord Byron (with whom she had a brief affair in 1812). The letter casts new light on the tense relationship between Lamb and Hobhouse, Byron's close friend and literary executor. As part of the John Murray Archive, the Library holds an unparalleled collection of papers of Lord Byron and his circle. This already includes over 200 letters from Lady Caroline Lamb to John Murray II, Byron, Hobhouse and others.



Researching and managing Scotland's mediaeval chartularies: a series of Royal Society of Edinburgh Arts & Humanities Research Workshops

This RSE-funded project brings together staff from the Library, the University of Glasgow, and the National Records of Scotland involved in custodianship, conservation and research in mediaeval chartularies. Library staff involved are Dr Isobel Griffin, Simona Cenci, Ines Byrne, Dr Ulrike Hogg, and Kenneth Dunn.

The objective is to assess the potential of mediaeval – mostly monastic – chartularies for research, conservation, description and wider access, bringing together expertise in these areas.



The project has funding for one year. This will enable a series of workshops and dissemination events to be arranged for curators, conservators, mediaeval scholars, and postgraduate students.

The first project workshop was held at the Library on 23 April. This focussed on the current research context for Scottish chartularies, with presentations on the scholarly assessment and use of chartularies; recent findings of a PhD student who analysed two mediaeval Scottish chartularies; and a presentation by Library Conservation staff on preliminary results from heritage science analysis of some of the Library's chartularies.

Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce visit

On Friday 23 March at 8.30am the National Library of Scotland hosted an early-morning event for the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce members where they enjoyed a light breakfast and a chance to network. Elaine Simpson, Business and Enterprise Partner, then gave a presentation on the business services that the Library offers, followed by a tour. Around 50 Edinburgh Chambers of Commerce members turned up and the feedback was excellent.

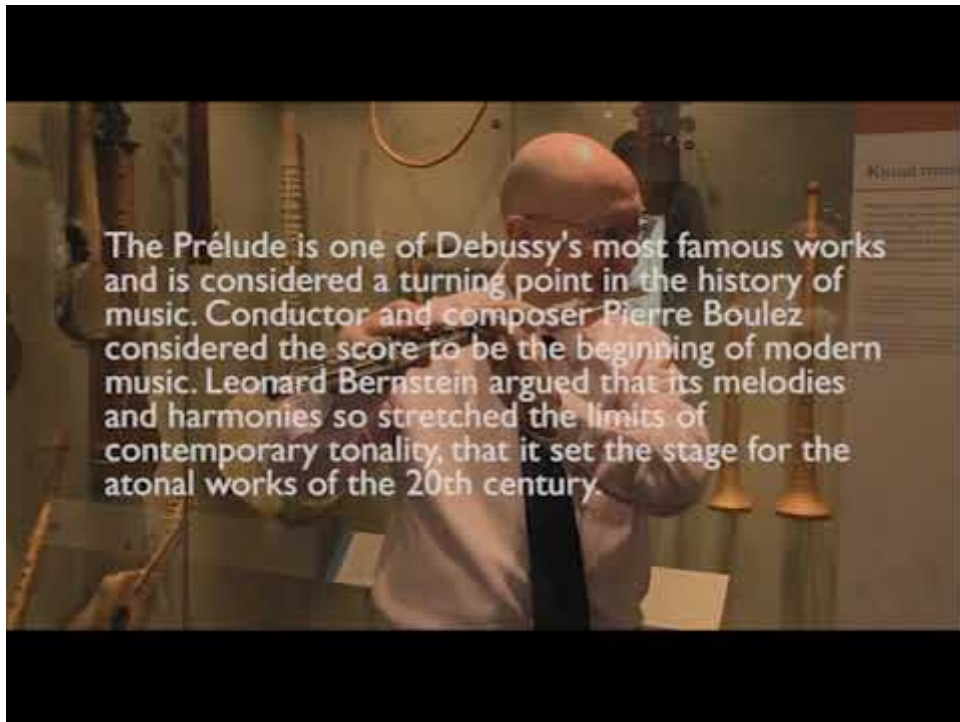


Rare Books, Maps and Music Collections You Tube video

To mark the centenary of the death of Claude Debussy (1862-1918) and to promote our printed music holdings, a YouTube video was produced in March by Rare Books, Maps and Music Collections. The script was written by curator James Mitchell who also chose and performed the music.

In line with the memorandum of understanding between the National Library of Scotland and the University of Edinburgh, the video was shot at the University's St. Cecilia's Hall with the cooperation and assistance of Dr Jenny Nex of the University's Reid School of Music.

[Claude Debussy \(1862-1918\): a Centenary Memorial](#)



First Graham Brown Research Fellow appointed

'A mountain watches over the home village of most Japanese [or Scottish] people ... and however much our lives may change, the mountain will always be there to welcome us back to our home village.'

So begins a classic mountain text, *100 mountains of Japan* by Kyūya Fukada. In this book each mountain is discussed individually, almost as a visit to a friend, explaining their nature, the pathways onto their slopes, or their meaning to the local community. Providing a cultural counterpart to this work will be the focus of research for the new Graham Brown Research Fellow, [Alex Boyd](#). The fellowship is funded by the Graham Brown Trust and supports a three-month period of research into any aspect of mountaineering, including history, exploration, environment and literature. Alex's research was selected from a number of proposals. He will be using the Library's extensive mountaineering collections to look at the social, literary and cultural significance of one hundred Scottish mountains. This will be a personal list compiled from Alex's

own mountaineering experiences. Alex is due to start on 18 June, when he returns after climbing the Inaccessible Pinnacle on Skye.

Rare Books – recent acquisitions

George Robertson, *A concise view of the Scottish islands of the Hebrides, Orkney, and Zetland*, Irvine, 1821

A scarce Irvine printing of work by Scottish topographical, agricultural and genealogical writer George Robertson, who spent the latter part of his life in the county. No other copy is recorded in major UK libraries.

Lyon & Turnbull (auction), £937.50 AB.2.218.11

***An account of some strange apparitions had by a godly man in Kintyre, who hath been blind six years*, [Edinburgh?], 1730**

This is the earliest known, and previously unrecorded, printing of a curious pamphlet. The subject was a deeply religious blind man, John Potter of Kintyre, who had a series of strange, apocalyptic visions. Potter saw apparitions in October, November, and December 1729, and again in January 1730 which the unidentified author felt compelled to set down in print.

John Drury, £1,250 RB.s.2948

***Old Scarlett the man who buried Mary Queen of Scots*, Peterborough, 1836.**

An early nineteenth-century broadside based on a portrait with accompanying poem in Peterborough Cathedral of Robert Scarlett, grave digger and sexton there. He died in 1594, allegedly aged 98; he claimed to have buried two people from every Peterborough household during his life. He is best known for the royal burials he organised: Catherine of Aragon in 1536 and Mary Queen of Scots 51 years later in 1587. (Mary's body was exhumed in 1612 and reburied in Westminster Abbey at the wish of her son James VI/I.)

Larry Hutchison, £125 AP.6.218.01

MacKinnon collection of early Scottish photography

A joint purchase with the National Galleries of Scotland of a collection of over 14,000 photographs dating from the 1840s to the 1940s which are nearly all Scottish. A wide variety of subjects and photographic processes can be found in the collection, including portraits, landscapes, city scenes, photographically illustrated books, family albums and photographs of Scots from all walks of life at work and play. The collection was formed by a collector in Aberdeenshire, Murray MacKinnon, who sold it on to another private collector.

Private owner (via Bernard Quaritch), £745,000 (with funding from HLF, Art Fund and Scottish Government).



Leith Academy Book Launch

On Monday 28 May 2018 the Library hosted the launch of *The Leither's Guide to Leith*, written by students at Leith Academy. The *Leither's Guide* is the culmination of ten writing workshops over five weeks, showing the power of one-to-one mentoring to foster imagination and aid learning. Lots of hard work by the talented students of S4, S5 and S6 classes with support from a team of dedicated volunteers went into making the book. It is a collection of favourite places, as suggested by pupils from Leith Academy, to form an unofficial guide to the area. All the students present were excited to be at the National Library of Scotland for the launch and to have their book presented to the Library for safe keeping in its collections.

Jennifer Giles, Curator (Scottish Communities and Organisations), accepted the book on the Library's behalf and congratulated all the students on being published authors.

The idea behind the project comes from the Super Power Agency (SPA), a non-profit making agency set up to send a clear signal to the people of Edinburgh and beyond: that together we can make an impact on the lives and literacy rates of under resourced students in the city and close the learning gap across the Capital.

Maxine Sloss, Founder and Trustee of The Super Power Agency, said: 'Our students don't need an asteroid from outer space or a radioactive spider to reveal their superpower, all they need is a little support and creativity.'

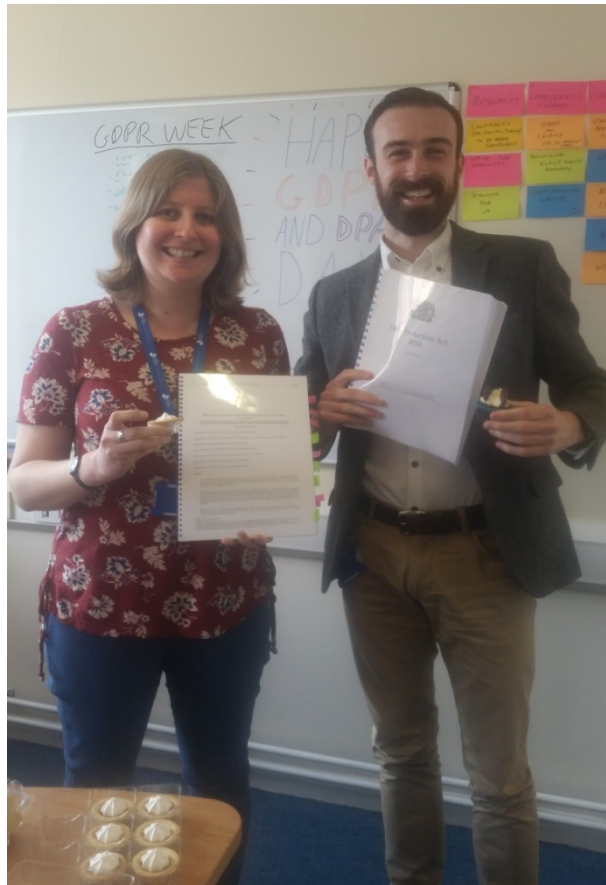
Ben MacPherson MSP for the Edinburgh Northern and Leith constituency was among the invited guests.



General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018

On Friday 25 May 2018 the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) came into force. The Library has been preparing for these major legislative changes for over a year in a project led by the Library Archive and Intellectual Property team. The new legislation gives individuals increased control over their personal data with new and expanded rights, and places greater obligations on the Library to comply with stricter requirements regarding the processing of personal data. Public awareness around the subject of privacy is particularly high at present, and accordingly so are expectations around how we will manage personal data.

New privacy notices have been created for the Library website, at www.nls.uk/privacy, to provide essential information to individuals about these new rights and how the Library uses their data. The project has involved the creation of a new data protection policy and associated procedures, which set out how the Library will approach the new requirements. Over 200 members of staff attended training sessions and were given an overview of the changes in the new legislation and policy. All staff have new responsibilities under these changes.

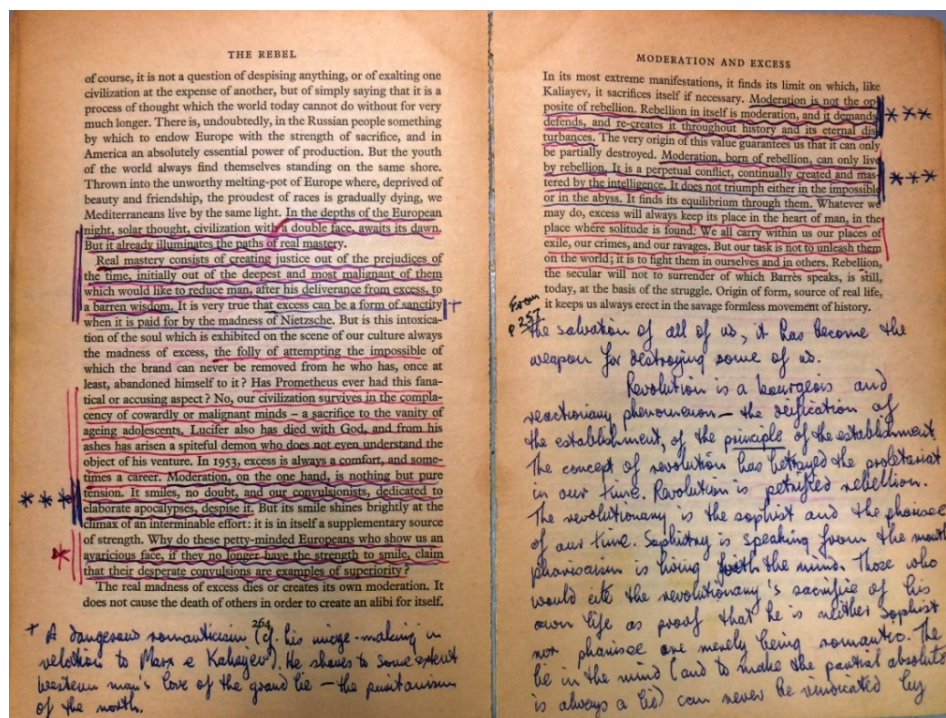


Fred Saunderson and Fiona Wood from the Library Archive and Intellectual Property team celebrated their hard work and preparations with cakes on 25 May – ‘GDPR day’. The DPA was only passed by Parliament on 21 May and published in its final Act form on 24 May, so there was an additional challenge of quickly becoming familiar with the new UK law and its implications for the Library. Thanks to all in the Library who have been involved in assisting with these preparations.

Literary Manuscripts of William McIlvanney

Another 'big ticket' modern literary manuscript acquisition in recent months is undoubtedly the papers of William McIlvanney (1936-2015).

The lengthy negotiation began with the writer in 2014 and was finally concluded with his family in March 2018. Tactful persistence brought this fascinating archive into our collections. As well as manuscripts of all the novels, there are copious notes and jottings which reveal the deep-thinking man behind the books. Much more than 'just' a crime writer, McIlvanney did not care to be called the 'Father of Tartan Noire.' Ian Rankin and Val McDermid both acknowledge a great debt to him.



Library Services Platform project update

The Library Services Platform project to replace Voyager, the current library management system, the main catalogue (<http://main-cat.nls.uk>) and Summon (<http://nls.summon.serialssolutions.com>) is on schedule and progressing well. Throughout April and May staff worked to complete documents that define how data is extracted and migrated from Voyager to Alma (the new library management system) and the way in which Alma will be configured.

Work was also carried out on documents that define: the setup of Primo, our new service that will search Library collections; initial test data for the service; and technical information about how our users will access and use the service. We expect to receive a version of Alma to test by mid-June, and have just recently been given access to an early version of Primo.

Next steps are to test the data migration, develop new workflows based on Alma functionality, train our staff, and develop documentation, information and publicity for our users about Primo. Alma and Primo are scheduled to go live at the end of October this year.

Training for volunteers offered by the National Library of Scotland

The conservation team is responsible for stabilising and preserving the books, manuscripts, photographs and documents that make up the Library's vast collection. Part of the conservation team's remit is to provide advice and training for staff, on all aspects of collection care.

Many smaller organisations do not have a dedicated conservation department, and some rely on volunteers to look after their collections. For this reason, conservators at the Library are pleased to offer training for external organisations and their volunteers.

In January this year, Shona Hunter, Conservator, was invited to deliver a training session for volunteers from [Scotland's Early Literature for Children Initiative](#) (SELCIE). Working under the supervision of a curator from the Museum of Childhood, the volunteers have been unpacking, listing, cleaning and re-shelving a collection of early modern children's books kept at the end of a labyrinth of storerooms within the City Chambers.

The training session consisted of a short presentation on appropriate methods of handling, storing and cleaning books and papers. The volunteers were asked to participate by handling various bindings from the conservation unit's 'sacrificial handling collection'; an assortment of props which have been amassed for training purposes. The volunteers were introduced to book cushions and foam wedges, latex smoke sponges and soft hog's hair brushes (with a cost-effective alternative being a synthetic make-up brush). The issue of gloves, and whether or not to wear them, was also discussed. Detached spines, split joints, loose pages, red-rot and other common types of damage were flagged up, and both remedial and non-interventive solutions were suggested. The training session was designed to be friendly and informal, enabling the participants to ask questions in a relaxed and positive atmosphere. In addition, information about our extremely competitive box-making service was provided.

A similar training session took place on 30 May for a group of volunteers who are working in the library at Montrose Academy.

In addition to providing a useful service, these training sessions allow the conservators to behave as advocates for the Library and the important work it does.



Scottish Local History Directory

Over the past year General Collections has been working with the Scottish Local History Forum (SLHF) and LocScot ([Local Studies Scotland Librarians](http://www.slhf.org/scottish-local-history-directory)) to create an online Scottish Local History Directory. The website has only been live for a few weeks and content is growing steadily. You can access the Directory at: <http://www.slhf.org/scottish-local-history-directory>.

The Directory provides information on all types of organisations, such as local and family history societies, public and private libraries, archives, museums and community groups, as well as information on their resources, from archive and library collections to web resources and museum objects.

This comprehensiveness means the Directory fills a gap in current provision, which is often format or subject based. It is anticipated that the Directory will benefit local studies professionals, historians, researchers, ancestral tourists and anyone with an interest in finding out more about Scottish heritage, and in turn will help raise the profile of collections throughout Scotland and beyond. It is free to contribute to and to use.

Entries can be very specific, thus raising the profile of collections which may be difficult to find otherwise, and each organisation can have as many entries as they wish. There is a map interface, developed with the help of the Library Maps Division, which currently shows the physical location of collections. Next year we plan to develop it to allow retrieval of collection information relevant to specific places, which we think will be especially useful.

The project was made possible with the help of three placement students from the Information & Library Studies programme at the University of Strathclyde, hosted by General Collections in the Library. The Steering Group has been assisted by a User Group drawn from various organisations. The web development work was funded by SLHF. A second phase of placement students is anticipated in the autumn, allowing further development work and marketing. For more information on this project please contact Jennifer Giles, Curator, j.giles@nls.uk.



People, Places, Pasts



Cabinet Secretary for Culture visit

The Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Fiona Hyslop, attended a private tour of the Muriel Spark exhibition in May. She is pictured here with the National Librarian and Muriel Spark curator Dr Colin McIlroy.



The Eighties are coming

Next year the Library will deliver an eight-month online campaign of editorial content that looks at key themes and events from the 1980s. The campaign will be supported by a few high profile events and a treasures display. It will run from April 2019 to December 2019.

The online campaign will be based on 100 blogs and podcasts. They will be primarily crowd-sourced from Library staff with an appeal going out to all staff in June 2018. General Collections colleagues will be writing a number of blog posts to set things in motion. A list of blog post suggestions will be made available to staff in June.



Image: Wikimedia Commons
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1980s_decade_montage-02.jpg

The campaign will show why the key developments that took place during the 1980s continue to shape our lives today. 2019 will be the 40th anniversary of Margaret Thatcher's coming to power; the Iranian Revolution and Ayatollah Khomeini's coming to power; Saddam Hussein coming to power in Iraq; the start of the Soviet-Afghan war and Scotland's rejection of devolution. 2019 is also the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall; the Tiananmen Square massacre; the Poll Tax riots and Tim Berners-Lee's invention of the World Wide Web. Hallmarks of the decade, amongst other things, include the development of the post-industrial economy, the emergence of advertising as an economic driver, scientific and technological breakthroughs, significant party political and geopolitical change, and a changing relationship with Europe.

This campaign is especially well placed to engage living witnesses from the 1980s, as well as young audiences who were not alive at the time of the events, but all the same feel the impact of the decade on a daily basis, either through life experience, fashion and culture or technology. A Cabinet has been set up to manage the campaign. For more information contact Graeme Hawley (g.hawley@nls.uk).

AMARC Meeting in the Library, 19 April 2018

The Association of Archives and Manuscripts in Research Collections (AMARC) promotes the accessibility, study and preservation of manuscripts and archives in libraries and research collections in Britain, Ireland and further afield.

In April the Library hosted one of the AMARC's regular meetings. This gathering, organised by Dr Colin McIlroy and Kenneth Dunn, Archives & Manuscript Collections, focussed on modern Scottish Literary Manuscripts, to coincide with our Muriel Spark exhibition.

The Librarian opened the event with his paper, 'The Duval and Hamilton bequest to the National Library of Scotland.' This was followed by a dialogue between Booker-winning writer James Kelman (whose papers are in the Library) and Dr Bernard Meehan, AMARC Chair, formerly Keeper of Manuscripts at Trinity College Dublin. The picture shows the relaxed author in conversation.



The afternoon sessions included Dr McIlroy, 'Open to the Public: Cataloguing the Muriel Spark Archive.' Dr Helen Stoddart and Professor Gerard Carruthers, both of Glasgow University, spoke jointly on 'Cosmopolitan Issues in the Archives of Muriel Spark.' The day concluded with Dr Linden Bicket, New College, Edinburgh University, giving a paper 'Rough Jottings and Early Shapings: George Mackay Brown in the Archives,' most appropriate given the Library's recent acquisition of significant George Mackay Brown manuscripts (see page 9).

Maps Reading Room staff visit to the Royal Botanic Garden

In March the Maps Reading Room staff visited the Royal Botanic Garden at Inverleith Row in Edinburgh, and were shown around the collections. The tour finished with a look at the gems of their map collection. Most notable were annotated maps produced by and for the 'plant hunter' George Forrest, who brought hundreds of unknown species back from his numerous trips to China.

The visit was a reciprocal one, and the Maps Reading Room hosted the Botanic staff in May. They were given a short talk and a tour of the stacks by the Maps Reading Room Manager, Craig Statham. They also met with Shona Hunter from Conservation, who outlined the various ways in which the Library cares for its collections.

Project: Digitise booklet

The Library has been exploring ways to explain the process and purpose of digitisation to our external audiences and supporters. A new publication has been created to simply and concisely explain some of the complexities. Departments across the organisation, from conservators and curators to metadata and digital preservation specialists, have contributed, giving an insight into the challenges and opportunities of digitisation. It will create a compelling narrative around our One Third Digital ambition and help potential donors to understand its value and just how much is involved.



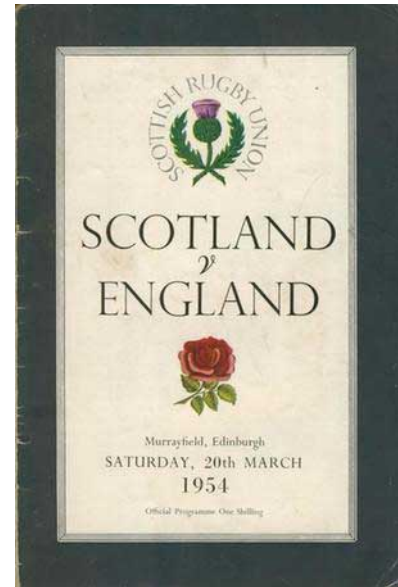
Digitisation Appeal – the results are in!

Our 2017/18 Annual Appeal, mailed to 628 people in October 2017, raised £22,291 towards the digitisation of our Rare Books shelfmark. The appeal also reengaged a number of donors who had not given to the Library in a long time and a number of first-time givers. Donations ranged from £1 to £2,500 with the average being £446. We hope to expand the reach of our Annual Appeals in future years to raise awareness of the Library's charitable status and our fantastic projects as well as attracting more funds.

Recent notable General Collections acquisitions

Scotland international rugby programmes

We recently received a generous donation of Scotland international rugby programmes from Paul Denton. Mr Denton donated 367 post-1945 Scotland and general Five Nations programmes. This has greatly helped us towards our long term aim of having a copy of every Scotland international programme in the collections. Mr Denton is an avid programme collector and we are working with him to build our already strong collections in this area.



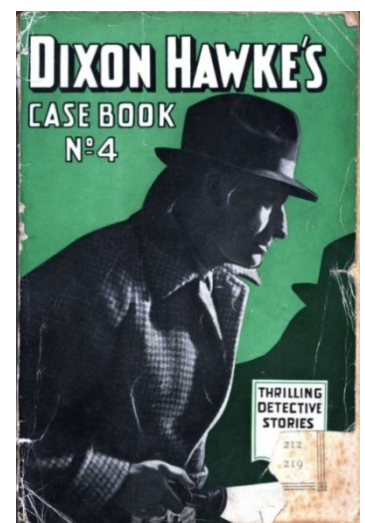
Magic Fun Book



We recently acquired a copy of the 'Magic Fun Book' for 1942 published by DC Thomson. One of the most significant early comic annuals for children, 'Magic Fun' was absorbed into the Beano during World War Two due to paper rationing. The title lived on for a few years in a joint title the 'Magic Beano Book,' examples of which we already have in the collections.

This is part of a larger project to build up our collection of early DC Thomson titles. We have also recently acquired a number of 1930s titles from the 'People's Friend Library' by Scottish romantic novelist Agnes C. Mitchell, many of which are set in Scotland. 18 volumes of 'Fairylend Tales' from the 1930s published by DC Thomson under the John Leng imprint have also been purchased.

DC Thomson has recently republished two volumes of the adventures of Dixon Hawke and we received these via Legal Deposit. Dixon Hawke was DC Thomson's rival to Sexton Blake and Dick Barton and he was hugely popular during the 1930s and 1940s, but until recently was barely represented in our collections. The recent reprints have now been joined by some vintage original editions of the adventures of Dixon Hawke and his sidekick Tommy Burke in the collections.



Scottish Red Cross News

24 rare wartime issues published between April 1941 and September 1943.

The issues contain much concerning POW camps, letters from the camps and information on the location and treatment of prisoners of war. There are also articles relating to the collection of Sphagnum moss for bandages, chiropody ambulances, Voluntary Aid Detachment call up, fund raising, Kildonan Convalescence Hospital, the penny-a-week fund, contents of food parcels and much more. They give an insight into the many social and personal needs of war-time personnel, and the voluntary work being done to meet them. Some of the earlier issues have Shetland ownership names and list the people to whom they should be passed around, for example: *'Please pass on to Mr DJ Williamson, Symbister. Items of news about Prisoners of War which will interest him.'*

Cuimhneachain Nan Gaisgeach: commemoration of our land heroes.

Published by Cuimhneachain Nan Gaisgeach, a Lewis community-based voluntary organisation set up in 1989 to erect memorials to commemorate the Crofters Struggle for land law reform. This informative programme was produced for the Aignish Cairn opening on 16 August 1996, commemorating the Aignish Farm Raid on 9 January 1888, after which 13 were imprisoned.

Ambassador's Ball, by Joanna Robson

We have added another exquisite artist's book to our collection by acquiring one of twenty of this limited edition by Edinburgh-based illustrator and book artist Joanna Robson.

The lasercut concertina book is inspired by the Spring Festival which took place on 24 April 1935 at the US embassy in Moscow. US embassy staff threw an extravagant and chaotic party at Spaso House featuring numerous live animals including over one hundred finches, pheasants, roosters, goats and a baby bear. One of the guests at the party was the Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov, who used the event as inspiration for a famous scene in his novel *The Master and Margarita*.



Image from
<http://joannarobson.blogspot.co.uk/2018/02/the-ambassadors-ball.html>

The Face magazine, Issue no. 2

The General Collections team is currently doing some focussed work on gap filling for 1980s publications (ahead of the Eighties Campaign which will run in 2019). Popular culture magazines like *The Face* are important to have, but often difficult to acquire. Paul Weller, Joe Jackson, Graham Parker, and Pete Townshend are the focus of the main feature articles in this issue.

Twentieth-century golf publications

We recently purchased seven rare and fine golf publications, the highlight of which is the publication for the 1931 Open Championships (Dundee: Simmath Press, 1931). Won by Edinburgh-born 'Silver Scot' Tommy Armour, this was the first Championship to be held at Carnoustie.

Web Archiving landmark

General Collections targeted their 4,000th URL in the UK web archiving project in early May – a Facebook page for Burra Isle Parish Shetland.

Archival Meeting: 'Protocols for Describing and Managing Racially Offensive Archives'

In June Freddie Alexander, Visitors Services, attended a working meeting on 'Protocols for Describing and Managing Racially Offensive Archives' at the University of Liverpool. The goal of this meeting was to convene persons who work in the archives sector to examine how UK archives may handle racially sensitive content. The meeting was chaired by the Wellcome Library and the Liverpool University for Archive Studies, and was attended by representatives from the Bodleian Library, The National Archives, and The Archives and Records Association (ARA).

Since 1995 the Australian and North American archival communities have developed protocols for the culturally sensitive management of archives about indigenous peoples. The UK continues not to have a comparable industry-accepted protocol, despite the legacy of colonial records. The purpose of this working group was to examine protocols from Australia and North America, and consider how they may inform a new UK protocol for handling racially sensitive records.

Minutes from this conference were relayed to the Library's Manuscript and Archive Collections division. They will also further inform Freddie's dissertation, examining the access policies of the Library and British Library's India Office records.

Celebrating Cordelia Fine, Edinburgh Medallist 2018

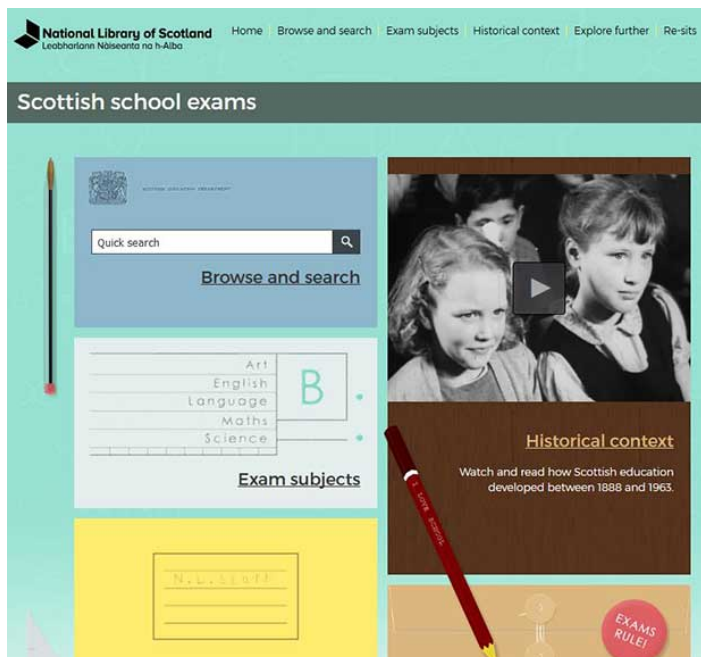
'...to those interested in gender equality there is nothing at all frightening about good science.'

Cordelia Fine, *Delusions of Gender: The Real Science Behind Sex Differences*

For the duration of the Edinburgh International Science Festival the Library held a display of publications celebrating the work of bestselling author Professor Cordelia Fine, recipient of the 2018 Edinburgh Medal in recognition of her scientific and literary work in the field of neuroscience, psychology and gender. The display also represented the Library's extensive science collections by including a selection of publications that informed and inspired Professor Fine's research.



Scottish School exams project



The Library recently digitised and made available Scottish School exam papers published from 1888 to 1963 (<https://digital.nls.uk/scottish-school-exams-and-circulars/>). Recognising that the papers have broad appeal it was agreed that their presentation and context warranted further development. A cross-departmental team was established to take this forward, and to also explore new and alternative ways of working together.

The team adopted an agile approach where progress was made in short manageable steps, with colleagues taking personal responsibility for delivering their area of work and collective responsibility for the overall

project. The project was extended from its initial brief to enable the inclusion of commissioned creative works based on the exam papers. These works, which were supported by the Librarian's Innovation Fund, include dance, singing (punk and choral), visual art and written pieces.

The outputs of the project will include a new website for and about exams and education in Scotland which mixes video, historical context, resources from across the collection, and the creative works. The agile method of working has allowed staff involved to gain a better understanding of each other's work and see where dependencies lie. It has developed trust and demonstrated that a nimble and collaborative approach can deliver on developments more rapidly than is usual in the Library.

The agile method is now being used in other work in the Library. The Scottish School Exams website is tentatively scheduled for launch in late June.

Maps Reading Room News

Wednesday 10 May was the 60th birthday of the Map Reading Room. Colleagues in Causewayside were invited to enjoy cakes with Library maps used as icing.

Staff shared their memories of the Map Library and the various changes over the years.

The Maps Twitter celebrated the event with several fun tweets including a GIF showing the Map Reading Room through the years: <https://twitter.com/natlibscotmaps/status/993913546261049344>



Final Whistle for the Sports Writer in Residence

Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan completed his year as the Library's Sports Writer in Residence in March. Over the twelve months of his post he wrote a wide range of articles that appeared in a number of sports publications and also profiled the Library and its collections on radio and television. A fluent Gaelic speaker, he contributed to activities at the Mòd and other Gaelic audience development, typically writing his articles in dual languages.

Highlights included articles in *The Scotsman*, *Scrum*, *History Scotland*, *Sunday Mail*, and *Stornoway Gazette*, a half-time slot during the Aberdeen versus Hearts match on BBC Alba, an Olympic speed reading social media April Fool, and a paper at a conference in Bradford. Hugh has put the Library in touch with all sorts of collectors and enthusiasts, and as a result we have acquired a huge amount of collections content via donation. We expect to benefit from his connections for some time to come.



This post also brought the Library into further contact with Sports Heritage Scotland, an organisation that uses sports heritage as a resource for use with Alzheimer's groups and people experiencing social isolation. Our involvement with Hugh will continue this summer as part of the University of Edinburgh's Academy of Sport Summer School, and Hugh has volunteered to do some extra time with the General Collections team in the future. For more information about our modern sport collections contact Ian Scott, Curator (iscott@nls.uk).

Callum Macdonald Memorial Award



Poet and publisher Leonard McDermid won the 2018 and final Callum Macdonald Memorial Award for his pamphlet *Landway*.

The annual Callum Macdonald Memorial Award was established in 2001 in memory of Callum Macdonald MBE, Scottish literary publisher and founder of Macdonald Publishers and Printers. It was supported by the Michael Marks Charitable Trust and administered by the National Library of Scotland.

Discussions are now taking place between the National Library of Scotland and the Scottish Poetry Library (SPL) about the potential for a wider set of poetry awards that could recognise talent in Scottish poetry across a range of categories. These new awards would be administered by SPL. For more information contact Graeme Hawley, General Collections Manager (g.hawley@nls.uk).

National Library of Scotland soon to become Ambassadors for Resource Efficiency in Scotland

The Library's exemplary performance in reducing carbon emissions and energy usage is soon to be recognised by appointment as a 'Resource Efficiency Ambassador' with Zero Waste Scotland.

This recognition will lead to the Library sharing its knowledge and experience to promote energy efficiency and support learning through engagement with businesses, local communities and the public across Scotland.

The appointment follows impressive achievements over the past few years which have seen reductions in carbon emissions of 54% since 2008-09. This reduction exceeds the Scottish Government target of 42% by 2020 and has been achieved early. Energy use has also been cut by 48% – again in excess of the target of 40% and achieved early. Taken together, these changes have saved the Library a massive £1.32 million.

This performance has led the Library to be awarded Gold status from Resource Efficient Scotland with work now underway to achieve the Platinum award, the highest available.

Age Scotland Workshops

To celebrate their 75th anniversary, Age Scotland has been awarded a grant of £54,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to investigate, record and present the history of national and local older people's led community groups. This covers the period from the formation in 1943 of the Scottish Old People's Welfare Committee through to the present day.



They have recruited a team of 14 'History Detectives' who are carrying out oral history interviews and researching in national and local archives. They have held three workshops in the Library, working with staff from General Collections, Learning and Outreach, and Reference Services, discussing their findings and deciding how to define their projects. Much time was spent looking at the publications of the organisation itself, through its various name changes, from the Scottish Old People's Welfare Committee, to Age Concern Scotland and then to Age Scotland.

It has been a good example of the role of the Library as an archive of publications, as by looking through their own annual reports and magazines, most of which were routinely received by legal deposit, they have uncovered their own history, changing role and attitudes. The team plan to create a timeline oral history and to produce a special issue of their magazine in the autumn.

Health at Work Week, 14-18 May 2018

This year the Health at Work Group decided to trial a more interactive approach to health promotion at the Library. It organised a Health at Work Week where staff had the opportunity to participate in a variety of different events to raise awareness and promote different ways of keeping fit and healthy.



Nineteen events were run across the week at our George IV Bridge, Lawnmarket and Causewayside buildings and were attended by over 100 members of staff (and a dog!). We received positive feedback from many of those who attended the different events.

We had a wide variety of sessions including Defibrillator Training, Healthy Eating, Hypnotherapy, and awareness sessions for Age, Mental Health and the Menopause. There was an opportunity to get active with Pilates and Yoga as well as a beautiful evening walk up Arthur's Seat. For those wanting to get out on their bikes Dr Bike came to do some maintenance. There was also a chance to have a spot of relaxation with Reflexology and Indian Head Massage as well as Mindfulness and Breathing Techniques.

Thank you to the many suppliers and participants who made our first Health at Work Week so enjoyable.



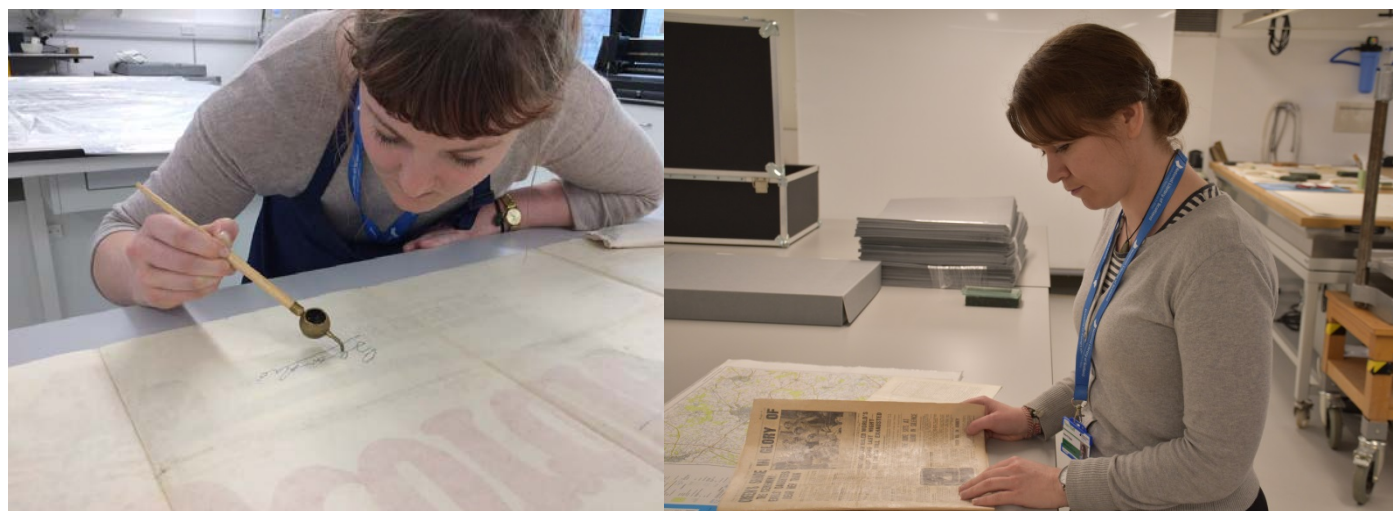
Former volunteers return to Conservation

The Library's Conservation Unit hosts several interns and placement students every year. We aim to take a student from each of the three book and paper conservation courses in the UK and one or two conservation students from overseas.

This year is a particularly busy year because two of our previous volunteers asked to come back for internships. The first, in April, was Helena Robson, who had worked as a conservation volunteer in 2015 and gone on to secure a traineeship in collections digitisation through the programme run jointly between the Library and the National Galleries of Scotland. At the end of the traineeship Helena was able to request a placement in an area of her choice. She returned to the Conservation Unit to get additional experience to help advance her career. During the placement Helena undertook a range of remedial treatments and preventive conservation tasks. For example, she helped to survey and condition-check a collection of deposited maps; she assisted with the preparation, washing, pressing and repair of several outsized film posters from the 1950s and 1960s; and she rehoused some of the newspaper clippings which form part of the Miners' photography collection and archive.

The second intern of the year has just started her placement. Anna O'Regan was a volunteer in 2016 and her volunteering sparked a passion which took her to Northumbria University to study the conservation of works of art on paper. Anna approached us towards the end of the course to ask about the possibility of an internship, and it just so happened that we were looking for a student to undertake a particular research project. We applied for a grant from the Librarian's Innovation Fund to fund Anna for five weeks while she investigates methods for removing a nylon material which was applied to large numbers of the Library's maps and manuscripts in the 1980s and 1990s, and which is causing problems for some items.

The experiences of Helena and Anna illustrate the impact the Library's conservation volunteering programme can have in inspiring future career choices, and we are delighted to welcome them back and to be benefiting from the expertise they have developed since we last met them.



Helena Robson and Anna O'Regan at work

Social media update

In this period the most important development on social media was the MacKinnon collection release, conducted jointly with the National Galleries of Scotland. Ahead of the launch, the Library worked with the Galleries to create a joint hashtag – [#ScotlandsPhotos](#) – which we could use on the morning of the launch. We also developed a threaded approach to the launch, with a series of tweets being posted in the same thread, illuminating aspects of the MacKinnon collection. The posts were similar between the Galleries and ourselves, but not identical – including separate photographs – so we could retain our individual attraction to audiences. The launch was very successful, with high engagement and a reach for [#ScotlandsPhotos](#) of over 3 million.



On Friday 18 May, the Library conducted our first live Twitter Q&A with Muriel Spark curator Colin McIlroy as part of the Glasgow Women's Library's [Open the Door online festival](#). During our designated 20 minute period we answered eight questions, using a mixture of words, pictures, links and video content. The Q&A was a success, with lessons learned in terms of the right equipment, networks and number of participants. We will put these lessons into practice going forward. A path for future social media Q&As could involve a rotating list of guest curators across the coming year, aligned with our campaigns and exhibitions.

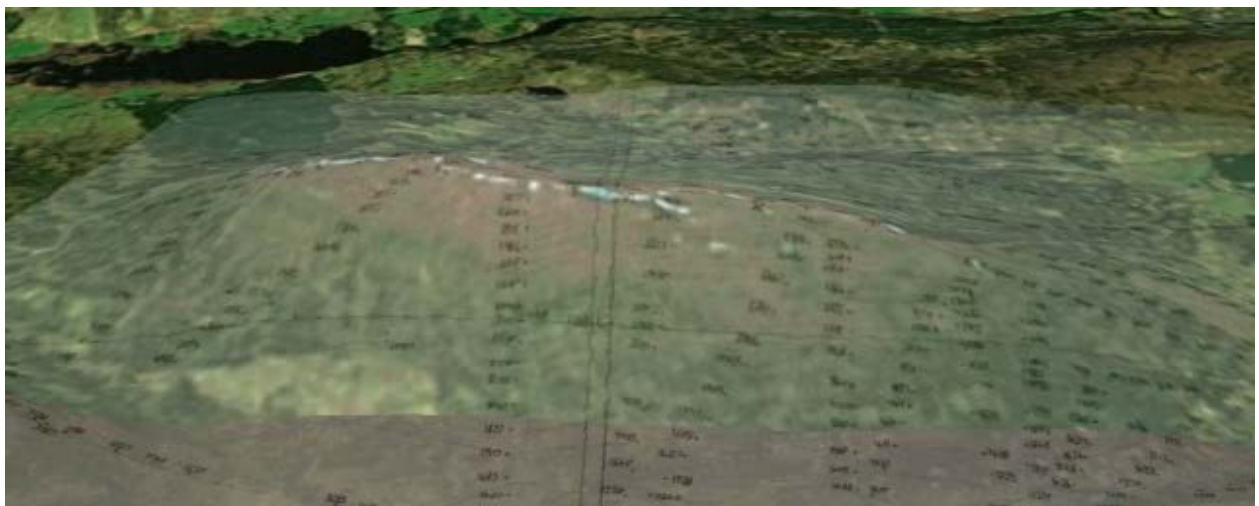
Stewart Hardy, Marketing Officer (s.hardy@nls.uk), attended the Culture Geek conference in London on Wednesday 09 May. Culture Geek is a conference for digital practitioners in the cultural sector. Takeaways from the conference included the possibilities of gamifying collection content for online use, social media channels that may be decreasing in popularity (such as Snapchat) and examples of best practice.

Schiehallion Mini Festival



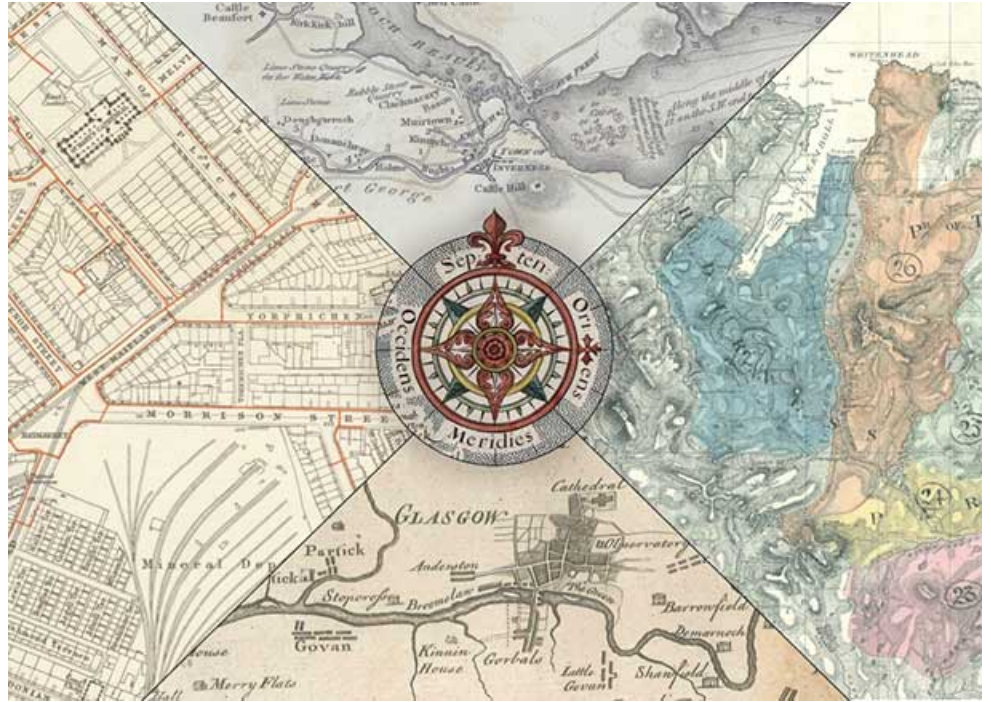
The Library supported a project relating to mapping Schiehallion with an exhibition and a half-day of talks in Pitlochry on 28 April. The project reflected the work of Karen Rann, a visual artist, and her study of contour lines, which has been the focus of her active [Great Lines blog](#).

In 1774, the Astronomer-Royal Nevil Maskelyne and the mathematician James Hutton conducted seminal experiments measuring pendulum deflections, in order to calculate the mean density of the earth, and Schiehallion was chosen due to its regular, conical profile. The Great Lines project has involved a mapping exhibit, school project work, walks, and even fiddle music, with historic maps of Schiehallion playing an integral part.



Scottish Maps Forum seminar in Kelvin Hall

Around 80 people attended the 11th Scottish Maps Forum seminar, organised by the National Library of Scotland and held at Kelvin Hall on 20 April, with a welcome from the Chair of the Board, Professor Sir Kenneth Calman. The day included nine papers on new research or projects relating to early maps of Scotland. In the morning, the focus was on the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, including John Watt's chart



of the Clyde (1759), canal plans at the National Records of Scotland, county maps funded by the Commissioners of Supply, Burnett & Scott's county map of Sutherland (1831-2), and Scottish surveyors who emigrated to Australia/New Zealand. In the afternoon, the focus shifted to the value of maps in researching urban history and river boundaries, recent doctoral research on Bartholomew and their mapping of Edinburgh, and a look at current web-mapping and geographic technologies in Historic Environment Scotland. There was good feedback from those attending, many of whom praised the diversity and interest of the papers.

New map website content

In the last three months, the Library has made three important additions to our popular *Map Images* website:

[Maps of Scotland by commercial map-makers, 1840s-1940s](#)

A set of 220 maps of Scotland, including county/regional maps, town plans and some charts.

[GB1900 gazetteer for searching Ordnance Survey 1888-1913 maps](#)

This new gazetteer allows 2.52 million names on [Ordnance Survey six-inch to the mile, 1888-1913](#) maps of England, Scotland, and Wales, dating from a century ago to be searched. The names have been gathered through the [GB1900 transcription project](#), which ran from September 2016 to January 2018, transcribing all text content from these maps.

[Ordnance Survey Books of Reference for Scotland, 1859-1882](#)

The Ordnance Survey [Books of Reference](#) (or Area Books) record acreages of each land parcel on the [OS 25 inch to the mile maps](#), and usually its land use. Both are valuable for family and local history purposes.

Competition for young film-makers

On 10 May the Library launched our youth film competition [What Scotland Means To Me](#). This competition, run in partnership with the Scottish Youth Film Festival, will be open for submissions between now and 01 October. The Library has teamed up with Young Scot, to offer reward points for submissions, and the National Youth Arts Advisory Group and Into Film, to assist with the judging panel. The awards ceremony will take place at Kelvin Hall on Wednesday 28 November.



Animator in Residence at Kelvin Hall



louise wilde
@louisewilde

Follow

@scotsonscreen @nlskelvinhall has a wonderful archive including this vintage Cinema Projector



5:36 am - 9 Apr 2018

The Library's Animator in Residence, Louise Wilde, has taken up her post. Louise is based at Kelvin Hall and is busy devising new workshops, creating diverse artwork, and making traditional and digital animations. She is just about to build an interactive animation station in the access centre. Louise is documenting her adventures with us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/louisewilde>.

Library presence at the Edinburgh International Book Festival at Glenrothes

The Library worked in partnership with the Edinburgh International Book Festival as part of ReimagiNation celebrating the New Towns, marking 70 years of Glenrothes between 17 and 19 May. The Library showcased an exhibition of our collections, including our new Scotland's Sounds listening station, and transformed an empty shop unit in the Kingdom Shopping Centre into a pop-up Cinema. Jennifer Giles, Curator for Scottish Communities and Organisations provided a lovely summary of the event on the Book Festival blog site:

<https://booked.edbookfest.co.uk/blog/the-making-of-glenrothes/>.

Europeana Project Partners Visit

On 18 April the Library hosted a meeting of the editorial working group from the [Europeana Rise of Literacy](#) project, the major European Commission-funded digital cultural heritage project which was featured in the [September 2017 Librarian's Report](#). The project will make thousands of full-text items from across Europe available to the public through the Europeana portal, including a wide variety of significant Scottish manuscript and printed material from our own collections. Representatives from eight national libraries and archives and the Europeana Foundation attended, and there was a happy reunion with Elisa Brunoni, who interned at the Library with Rare Books through the EU Leonardo da Vinci programme in 2007, and who is now working with project partner ICCU, the Italian national cataloguing agency.

In the course of a very positive and productive meeting the group agreed common themes for collaboration and decided on the form and delivery of the online exhibitions, galleries and blogs. Editorials will highlight major aspects of literacy across Europe, providing insights into topics such as early manuscripts, the treatment of national languages (including Scottish Gaelic) and education. A post about the meeting written by Project Co-ordinator Moray Teale will be published on the Europeana blog for cultural heritage professionals in early June and the first part of the project, the manuscript thematic collection, is now live at <https://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/collections/manuscripts> with a blog about the manuscripts thematic collection here: <https://pro.europeana.eu/post/discover-manuscripts-from-late-antiquity-to-the-arrival-of-the-printing-press-with-new-europeana-manuscripts-collection>.

