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National Librarian and Chief Executive's Report to the Board 28 November 2018

LIBRARIAN'S KEY EVENTS THIS QUARTER

19 September 2018

Attended the Scottish Library & Information Council (SLIC) Board Meeting in Glasgow;

20 September 2018

Welcomed a group of visitors from George Washington's Mount Vernon in Virginia, USA;

10 October 2018

Attended the British Library Advisory Council (BLAC) meeting at the British Library;

14 and 15 October 2018

Co-hosted Board recruitment events with the Chair of the Board Sir Kenneth Calman, at George IV Bridge and Kelvin Hall;

24 October 2018

Guest-lectured and conducted a seminar in the School of Creative and Cultural Business at Robert Gordon University – annual event;

6 November 2018

Attended The Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities Board meeting at the University of Edinburgh;

7 November 2018

Welcomed the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs (Fiona Hyslop) together with patrons of the Donmar Warehouse (the group supporting the new MQS movie) to the Library for a special viewing of the last letter of Mary Queen of Scots;

12 November 2018

Met informally with the Edinburgh-based Directors of National Collections (NGS, NMS, RBGS, HES);

13 November 2018

Was a guest at the launch of *Dear Mr Murray* at St Cecilia's Hall;

14 November 2018

Hosted the event at Kelvin Hall to formally sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Library and the University of Glasgow;

15 November 2018

Attended at the Scottish Parliament, together with the Chair, for the Library's annual strategic meeting with Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop;

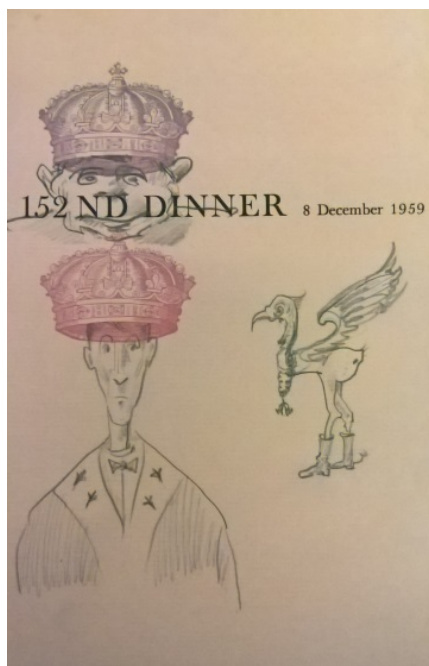
20 – 21 November 2018

Attended the DCDC (Discovering Collections, Discovering Communities) Conference in Birmingham.

Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

7,084 printed items from the hidden collections were catalogued during Quarter 2 (July-Sept).

Cataloguing work has begun on a substantial collection assembled by former National Library Trustee Ruari McLean (1917-2006). The collection reflects McLean's interests in design and illustration. It was purchased in 1994 and includes printed works by renowned calligrapher, typographer and book designer Jan Tschichold (1902-1974), a number of German books of significant illustrative content or design interest, and much ephemera, including an impressive selection of menus from the Double Crown Club. The Club was founded in the early 1920s and drew its membership from the world of publishing and design. The typography and design of the menus changed for each dinner. Many are annotated by Ruari McLean and some are illustrated by fellow club members, as shown below.



In addition, procurement for scanning and keyboarding of several thousand printed music records is well advanced. The project aim, to provide online access to around 285,000 records, will make a significant contribution to reducing the hidden collections, with items catalogued rising to over 41%.

Digitisation – Quarterly Update

The number of items digitised this year stands at 113,280 at the end of Q2 (July-Sept), having grown by a further 36,311 items this quarter. This is 56% of the overall target for the year. Within this number are many more maps and past exam papers, which are two popular online collections.

After more than eighteen months of planning, the new mass digitisation studio at Causewayside is now complete. From the decision in February 2017 to take this service in-house and to treble it in size, a number of important steps have been undertaken: the commissioning of new space on level 6 of Causewayside, the ending of the previous contract with TUPE transfer of staff, the recruitment of a new Mass Digitisation Service Manager, the OJEU procurement of a new digitisation equipment framework, the delivery and commissioning of three new capture systems, and the recruitment of an additional five staff to operate the service. October was a busy month with the installation of the new equipment, and preparation for the new staff. Over the coming months the new team will get fully up to speed, and we will be able to predict our future digitisation capacity with better levels of accuracy.

September also saw the start of a new commercial scanning operation of the John Murray Archive. This contract provides the Library with a digitised version of the archive, with rights to make this freely available onsite, and following an embargo period, off site also.

We have almost completed the scanning of the Shellac record label collection - one box still to complete - and we have begun planning digitisation of the bound volumes of the recently acquired McKinnon collection.



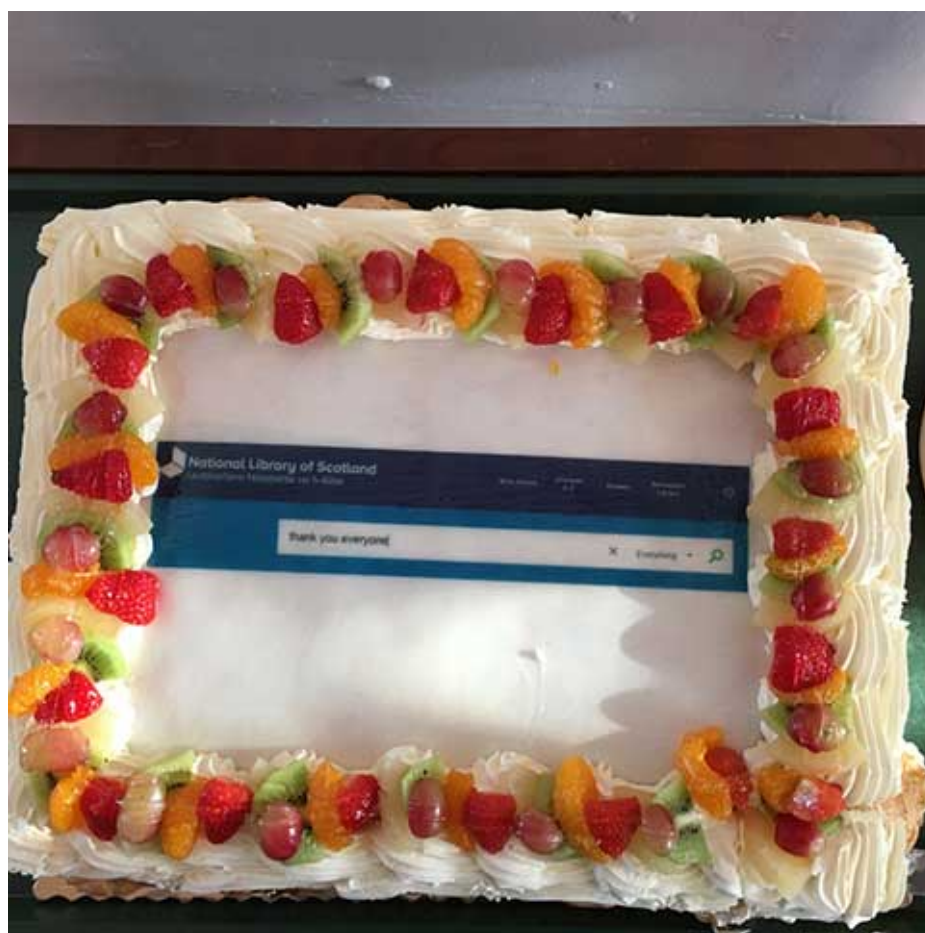
Library Services Platform project update

On 29 October the Library Services Platform project achieved a major milestone when we went live, on schedule, with Library Search and Alma. This marks the culmination of 22 months of work, which started in January 2017 with the business case, continued with procurement and data preparation through 2017, and from February to September 2018 focussed on system configuration, implementation, training, and work flow development, bringing us to the final system migration and *go live* in October.

With Library Search we can, for the first time, search across all our described collections and many of our e-resources. And in Alma we have a library management system that streamlines workflows, helps us better manage e-resources, and significantly improves our ability to track and audit the published collections. However, much work remains to be done including dealing with teething problems, continuing the development of Library Search, developing new processes, introducing automation and integrating with other library systems.

The project continues into the New Year when it will close with a final report including lessons learned and benefits realisation.

The launch of Alma and Library Search not only marks a huge milestone for the project but also in the modernisation of the Library's systems and services. It would not have been possible to achieve without the extraordinary hard work and professionalism of many staff across the Library.



The Changing Library – Quarterly Update

The Changing Library (TCL) is an umbrella term for a series of projects designed to change the Library culture by building staff engagement, introducing new ways of working and encouraging innovation in the workplace.

Key points for August-November 2018:

- A collaborative, cross-departmental approach to staff training in support of the new Library Systems Platform promoted knowledge sharing across the Library's buildings.
- Promotion of the staff survey (1-31 October 2018) included a strand highlighting our work on improving career opportunities.
- 74.1% of staff took part in the survey. This is down 6.2% on last year and may be, in part, attributable to the LSP project going live in October. The response rate for the whole Civil Service was 66.4%. Results will be available from 15 November 2018.
- Management Forum in September focussed on library innovations and early consultation on a forthcoming Change Management Policy.
- A staff celebration of the new exhibition, 'A Better World?' examining the decade immediately following the end of the First World War, is scheduled for 30 November 2018.

International Health students return for Medical History of British India workshop



Seven medical students from the University of Dundee attended a workshop at the Library as part of their BSc International Health Programme. The visit focused on our rich collection of India Papers from the official publications collections and allowed the students contextualise global health into a historical perspective, giving them an insight into how knowledge and attitudes have changed over time. The topics being researched by the students this year include yellow fever, kala azar, plague and hemp drug misuse. We look forward to reading their final submissions.

George IV Bridge Treasures Space

The Treasures Space project has progressed over the first six months of the year and the Enabling Works element of the project has now been completed. The Enabling Works element comprises the bulk of the project and is designed to give a 'blank canvas' into which the exhibition can be fitted. It also provides a direct public access route to the new Collections Based Learning space on Level 13 and the south side of the building.

The remaining element of the project comprises the design and build of the Treasures exhibition. The Library went out to tender during August for this work. Although all of the five suppliers who were invited to tender attended a Suppliers Briefing, only one submitted a response. As a result of this the Project Owner has decided to delay progress with the Exhibition element of this work. This will involve undertaking some market research to identify the reasons for the disappointing response. This means that the full Treasures Space will be delayed and will not be complete by the end of the 2018/19 financial year.

Donmar Warehouse visit

On Wednesday 7 November the Cabinet Secretary, Fiona Hyslop, and the National Librarian, welcomed Patrons of the London's Donmar Warehouse to the Library. The group were on a special tour of Scotland visiting sites of significance to Mary Queen of Scots. We were pleased to be able to show them a number of items from our collections including a set of letters written by Mary as a young girl to her mother, Mary of Guise; a charter in Scots issued by her and François together as "King and Queen of Scots"; letters sent by Mary to her supporter John Mure of Rowallan and one of the Library's foremost treasures – the last ever letter written by Mary just a few hours before her execution.

The Artistic Director of the Donmar Warehouse, Josie Rourke, directed the forthcoming film, *Mary Queen of Scots*, and the Library is planning a number of activities in the New Year to build on the anticipated interest in Mary that the film will generate.



A Better World? Scotland after the First World War

On Thursday 15 November Professor Sir Tom Devine opened the Library's new exhibition *A Better World? Scotland after the First World War*. This exhibition is named after a phrase used by the Ministry of Reconstruction, which was formed in 1917 to rebuild the nation after the war. The Ministry developed the idea of rebuilding a society that was fairer than it was before the war, stating that:

"the idea of... a simple return to pre-war conditions, has gradually been supplanted by the larger and worthier idea of a better world".

Politicians promised a "land fit for heroes" to a war-weary populace with a new-found political voice – a population with raised expectations of better homes, improved working conditions and hope for a brighter future.

The exhibition reveals some of the many rare and unique items held in the Library's collections- there is a hand-drawn plan of the Scottish National War Memorial, and more personal mementoes of men killed during the war.

In his introduction to Professor Sir Tom Devine the Librarian said:

'Scotland after the First World War was a time of grief and hope, promises and disappointments, yet also creativity and political awakening, and above all, collective effort. We hope the exhibition encourages visitors to reflect on the struggles and achievements of that period, and on the many topics which still resonate 100 years on. The exhibition invites you to consider contemporary parallels.'

Professor Sir Tom Devine opened the exhibition with a talk which evoked the social reality of the post-war period for the people of Scotland. He spoke of a tumultuous time with unemployment, poor housing, strikes and poverty which only much later gave way to a more hopeful era with the advent of the NHS, the welfare state and a more stable society.

The exhibition runs until 27 April 2019.



Kelvin Hall awarded a five-star rating by Visit Scotland

Kelvin Hall has been awarded a five-star rating from Scotland's national tourism organisation.

The venue received VisitScotland's top Quality Assurance (QA) Scheme accolade in recognition of its exceptional customer service and high-quality facilities. Feedback on the National Library of Scotland offer from VisitScotland included the following remark:

"within the attraction I received really excellent service from both Roisin and the NLS desk, who gave a full and enthusiastic introduction to the services on offer, and from Stuart on the tour. Both demonstrated exactly the customer skills and friendliness we hope for at the 5 star level".

VisitScotland's QA Scheme is the benchmark for quality across the country's tourism industry and rewards accommodation providers, visitor attractions and food and drink sector operators.


Earlier this year, Kelvin Hall received a Gold Award from the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) – the largest eco-certification programme of its kind in the world – for its "highly impressive" commitment to sustainability and accessibility.

On Saturday 10 November 2018 a free family fun day was held within Kelvin Hall to mark the second anniversary of the building having reopened to the public in 2016. On the day activities themed around the circus and carnival were on offer, including circus-themed films at the National Library; art and craft workshops; tumbling taster sessions at Aerial Edge; Glasgow Club Gymnastics Academy demonstrations and animal skull handling sessions from The Hunterian.



LD Web Archiving Subgroup at the Library in November, and launch of new UK Web Archive interface

The Legal Deposit Web Archiving Subgroup met in the Library on 1 November 2018. The group coordinates the collaborative harvesting of the UK web domain by the six legal deposit libraries, as well as overseeing development of harvesting, discovery and access. As part of this work, the new public interface was launched on the 23 October. This provides improved navigation and searching of the archive, as well as bringing together open access content with content that is restricted due to legal deposit regulation. The archive contains millions of archived websites and billions of webpages, providing a regular snapshot of the UK web over time, as well as access to focused collections such as the 2014 [Independence Referendum](#), and [Brexit](#). To view the new interface visit the [UK Web Archive](#)

Cymraeg Gàidhlig

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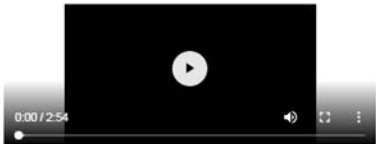
Search the UK Web Archive

What we do

The UK Web Archive (UKWA) collects millions of websites each year and preserves them for future generations.


UKWA collects on behalf of the [UK Legal Deposit Libraries](#) - The British Library, National Library of Scotland, National Library of Wales, Bodleian Libraries, Cambridge University Libraries and Trinity College, Dublin.

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Topics and Themes

Topics and Themes are groups of websites brought together on a particular theme by librarians, curators and other specialists, often working in collaboration with key organisations in the field. [Find out more](#)




FEATURED

[British Stand-up Comedy Archive](#)



FEATURED

[French in London](#)

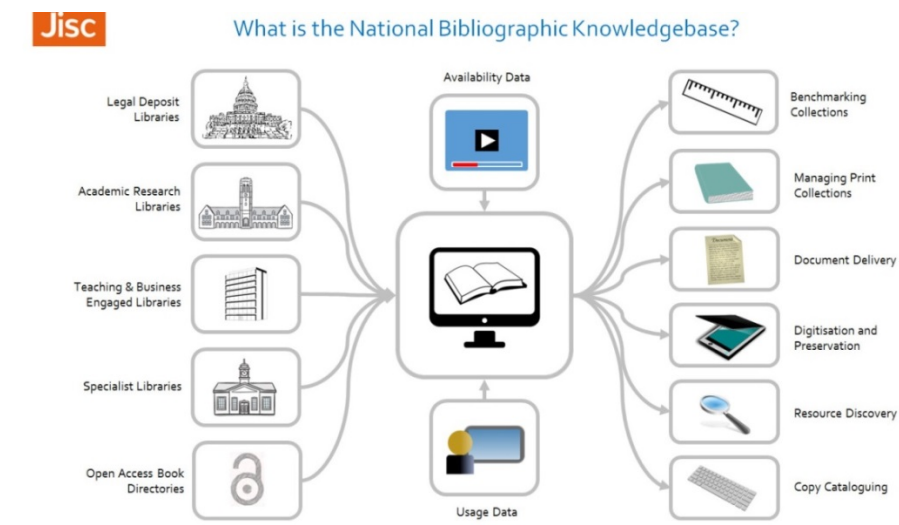


FEATURED

[News Sites](#)

National Bibliographic Knowledgebase Roadshow visits the Library

The Library hosted a Jisc [community roadshow](#) for the National Bibliographic Knowledgebase (NBK) on the 9th of October. The event attracted around 40 librarians from universities across Scotland, as well as healthy NLS representation. The NBK aims to transform how libraries manage their collections collaboratively, provide researchers and students with convenient access to scholarly resources, and support the sharing and re-use of contributed data. NBK will replace existing Jisc data services Copac and Suncat, as well as link to other services such as licensing, usage and collection management tools and data. The National Library of Scotland has been closely involved in the project via participation in initial consultations and representation on their data community groups, specifically in the areas of data sharing and data quality. For more information about the project visit the [Jisc website](#)



Joint workshops with the Heritage Lottery Fund

During autumn 2018, the learning team will be running a series of workshops in partnership with staff from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). These sessions are designed for community groups / youth groups who are interested in applying to HLF for funding, but who have little or no experience of working with a heritage partner or heritage collections. Representatives from the groups are invited to visit the Library for a tour and to find out how heritage organisations can support projects by providing access to collections, basic research skills, specialist knowledge, and a greater understanding about the importance of preserving our shared memory.

The first session took place in early September, and included representatives from Enable, Capability Scotland, and The Welcoming. The second session in October was aimed at those working with young people, including the Borders Youth Theatre, Pilmeny Development Project, and Connecting Craigmillar. A third workshop took place in Edinburgh in November, and several workshops are also scheduled at Kelvin Hall, focusing specifically on the Moving Image Archive.

The Library was invited to partner on these workshops, based on the success of previous HLF-funded projects – Circadius (Muirhouse Youth Development), Youngwummin (Youthlink), and the ongoing project Rebel Roots (Fast Forward) which explores the history of youth sub-cultures in Scotland.

Gutenberg Bible on display

What better way to mark Book Week Scotland than with a display of the original printed European book, the Gutenberg Bible? The two volumes of one of the most significant printed items in the Library's collections was displayed in the Boardroom on Thursday 22 November from 10am to 6pm, along with some other examples of early printing, and Rare Book Curators were on hand to talk about the book and Gutenberg's achievement, throughout the day.

Recent scholarship suggests that this copy was decorated in Germany around the time of its publication in 1455, perhaps for a German monastic house, but by 1796 it had come into the library of David Steuart, a prosperous Edinburgh banker and merchant. He later sold the Bible to the Advocates Library, whence it was transferred to the National Library of Scotland on its foundation in 1925. It still remains the only copy of this work in a public collection in Scotland.

The full Bible can be viewed on our Digital Gallery at <https://digital.nls.uk/74481666>.



Antiquarian Music acquisitions

This has been an unusually strong year for adding to the Library's collection of antiquarian music, with a rare addition to our world-class collection of early Handel editions, a version of the British national anthem with particular significance for Scottish history, and works showing the diffusion of Scottish airs and songs in the wider world among the new accessions.

G.F. Handel, edited by Hugh Bond. *Twelve anthems for one, two, three and four voices...*, London, [between 1787 and 1789]

This is a rare edition of a compilation of anthems drawn from Handel's oratorios for use in worship. It shows the popularity of Handel's works from the early years after his death. There are only five other reported copies of this edition in the world, with this newly-recorded sixth now finding a home beside our world-renowned Balfour Handel collection.

Bought from dealer, £950.

A Loyal Song. Sung at both Theatres, for two Voices. [London?] : [publisher not identified], [Circa 1745].

This is one of the earliest prints of the national anthem. The first words 'God save great George our King' include George in larger letters to emphasise who was king when Bonnie Prince Charlie returned to Scotland and the term king seemed to become ambiguous. The song sheet is a rare issue of the version that contains an extra 'Scottish' verse relating to General George Wade's leaving for Scotland on 6 Oct, 1745 and it is likely that this song sheet was published shortly after this date: "O grant that Marshal Wade / May by his mighty aid / Victory bring. / May he sedition hush / And like a torrent rush / Rebellious Scots to crush. / God save the King."

Bought from dealer, £750.

John Hunt, Songs, by the late John Hunt, Organist of Hereford Cathedral. London, [1843].
Louis von Esch, *A Fourth Divertimento*. London, [1820].

Song sheet publications by Henry Rowley Bishop. London, c.1811-34.

These three publications show the different ways in which Scottish song and music reached a wider audience in the nineteenth century. Von Esch's *Divertimento* and the songs by H.R. Bishop, Reid Professor in Music at Edinburgh University 1841-43, incorporate Scottish airs into art music compositions. It is more unusual to find secular songs – including settings of lyrics by Burns and Hogg – published with the composer prominently identified as a cathedral organist at this time. It is a posthumous publication, and perhaps Hunt himself would never have let these particular compositions, written for his own circle, appear in print. They certainly show how Burns and Hogg were a source of inspiration and enjoyment for musicians in their private lives.

Bought from dealers, £200, £20 and £50.

An evening with Jane Stirling

On the 10 October the Library hosted an event in partnership with The About Project Foundation (www.theaboutproject.com). This Foundation is based in Poland and works to bring to light lost or forgotten historical figures or connections. Jane Stirling is one of these figures.

Jane was born in Kippenross House, near Dunblane in Perthshire, in 1804 and studied under Frederick Chopin; by late 1844 they had become close friends and he dedicated his two Nocturnes, Op. 55 to her. The event told the story of both Jane and Chopin, their friendship, including Chopin's last tour of Scotland and England in 1848 which was organised by Jane.

The evening was a mixture of music, narration and film. As the visual story unfolded the musical pieces accompanied each stop on Chopin's last tour, attempting to take the audience back in time to the concerts that Chopin gave in his final days in 1848.

We were delighted to be able provide a baby grand piano for this recital, it was the first time the Library has had such an instrument in the Boardroom, This was only made possible by Almut Boehme working to secure funding from the Consulate-General of Poland, who also were in attendance and made the closing speeches on the night. Also in attendance were descendants/relatives of Jane Stirling, they very much enjoyed the evening.



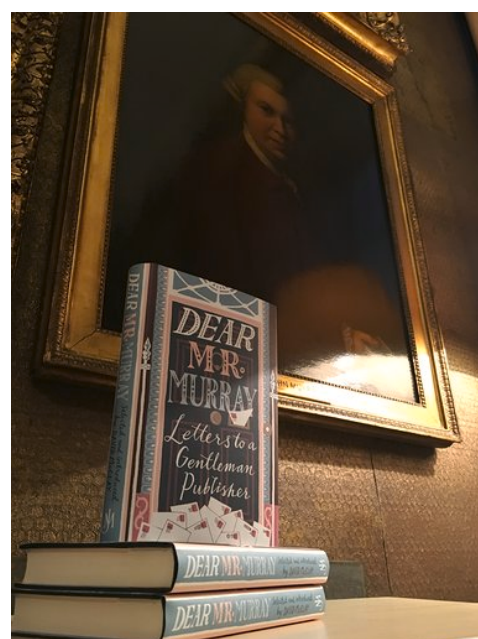
Women in the archives, 25 September 2018

This event was a collaboration between the Library and the Transatlantic Literary Women project. Dora Petherbridge (Curator, US & Commonwealth Collections) and Kirsty McHugh (Curator, John Murray Archive & Publishers' Collections) worked with the TLW team to put on an afternoon of talks on the theme of archives and women writers' literary reputations. Four speakers discussed their experiences of recovering the lives and works of women with transatlantic connections. The first speaker was Jenni Calder talking about Scottish explorer Isobel Wylie Hutchison, a fascinating but largely unknown figure, whose papers are held by the Library. Donna Campbell then talked about how Edith Wharton's archive challenges the popular view of Wharton as a socially conservative writer and Imaobong Umoren discussed the difficulty of researching Una Marson, a Jamaican author without a personal archive. Finally, the representation of women in the rare book trade and the marginalisation of female writers was explored by A.N. Devers, founder of The Second Shelf, which sparked a lively debate about how women's archives and writings can be preserved, promoted and made accessible.



Celebrating John Murray's 250th anniversary

On 16 October David McClay gave a lively and engaging talk based on some of the letters in the John Murray Archive. A selection of letters from the Archive is the basis of *Dear Mr Murray: Letters to a Gentleman Publisher* edited by David McClay and published to mark the 250th anniversary of the publishing house. The talk was accompanied by a small display of original letters and followed by an event organised by the Development team to re-engage people who donated to the campaign to acquire the John Murray Archive in 2006.



Opening of *Strike for Freedom: Slavery, Civil War, and the Frederick Douglass Family* in the Walter O. & Linda Evans Collection – 4 October 2018

Marking 200 years since his birth, this Treasures display explores the life and work of Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) and his family. Douglass is the most famous anti-slavery author and freedom-fighter in US history. Material from the Library's collections is exhibited alongside loaned items from the Walter O and Linda Evans Collection. Together they present a picture of Douglass's commitment to social justice, a commitment shared by the whole Douglass family.

Walter and Linda Evans have collected over 100,000 items relating to African American authors and artists, including letters, books and manuscripts. Many of the exhibits from their collection are on show at the Library for the first time. Walter and Linda came to Edinburgh to attend the official opening of *Strike for Freedom*. The opening reception included words from guest curator Professor Celeste-Marie Bernier, Walter Evans telling the story of how he built his collection, and an extraordinary, emotive performance of the plantation song 'Another Man Done Gone' by Andrea Baker.

Visitors to the display have been sharing their thoughts in our comments book:

'I am here because he was. Thank you for this amazing exhibition that brings the equation of racial equality into being. Frederick Douglass's life is testimony that whatever we do today paves a way for future generations.' – Barbara, Kampala, Uganda, 10th October



Reaching out to Atlantic Quay

Fiona Laing (Official Publications Curator) and Veronica Denholm (Access and Outreach Officer) delivered a training session to Scottish Government staff based at Atlantic Quay in Glasgow. The session demonstrated the extensive range of electronic resources that could aid their research work. These are all free to access and remotely accessible upon registration with the Library. A follow up session will be delivered at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh in December. Sixty bookings have already been made for this presentation.

Mòd Dhùn Omhain 2018, 15 – 19 Dàmhair

The Library made its annual visit to the Gaelic Mòd, which was held in Dunoon in October. We had an information stand in the Mòd Showcase for five days, which was well placed to capture the attention of a large number of Mòd competitors and friends. This allowed us to raise the profile of the Library's collections and resources, Gaelic and beyond, and we now have a list of enquiries and contacts to work through. It proved to be an excellent way of engaging with people clearing their attics and unsure of what to do with music, Gaelic and local pamphlets that they have found, but which may well fill gaps in the national collection.

We also held an event as part of the Mòd Fringe. *Dunoon Occasions* was held in Dunoon's new library. We showed two Dunoon films and gave an introduction to building the modern collections, focussing specifically on our Dunoon collections, and explaining why we appreciate help to tell us about new local publications.

It was also an opportunity to visit the Dunoon local history collections and meet Eleanor McKay, Bibliographic & Local Studies Librarian, who put on a display to accompany our event. Further trips were made in the area making contacts, such as Cairndow's Here We Are Centre, and also collecting information and publications which the Library doesn't have, for example a large run of Cowal Highland Gathering programmes from the 1930's to date, an important acquisition as this is the largest Highland games in Europe and will celebrate its 125th anniversary next year.



The Mòd itself will be held in Glasgow next year, providing the Library with an opportunity to showcase its even collections more easily.

Visit from the Embassy of Bolivia

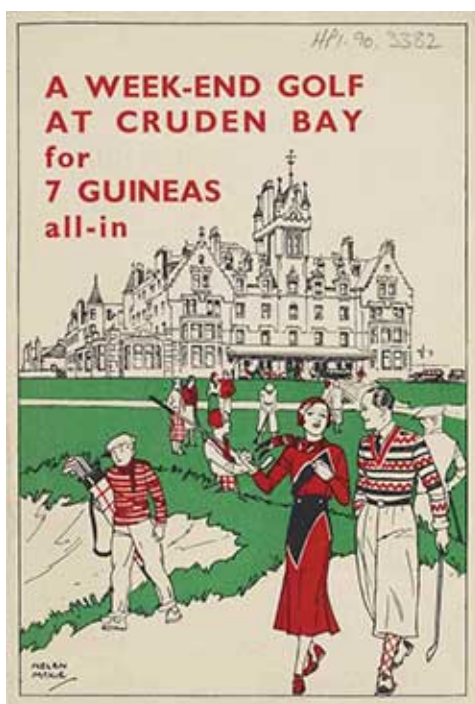
The Library was delighted to welcome the Chargé d'Affaires representing the Embassy of Bolivia on 28 September. She came to deliver in person 35 books which have been published as part of the Biblioteca del Bicentenario de Bolivia, Bolivia's Bicentenary Library. This project is dedicated to reprinting 200 classics from Bolivian literature, history, and culture to coincide with the country's bicentenary in 2025 (which will of course also be an important year for the National Library of Scotland). You can read more about the project here:

<http://www.bbb.gob.bo/>



Wisconsin students visit the land of romance

We were delighted to welcome a group from the University of Wisconsin Experience Scotland program to the Library on the 27 September to look at material about tourism and Scotland. The group met with curator Ian Scott, Curator, (Sport, Leisure and Newspapers) to look at 20th century tourist literature from our collections to see how Scotland has been promoted to the world. The phrase “Scotland, land of romance” is a constant in tourist literature and we explored the reasons why. We have previously hosted visits for Experience Scotland students on the topics the Edinburgh Fringe and Harry Potter.



Age Scotland : 75 Years

Access and Outreach and General Collections have worked with Age Scotland and Elizabeth Bryan over the last year, helping them to engage with the Library's collections as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

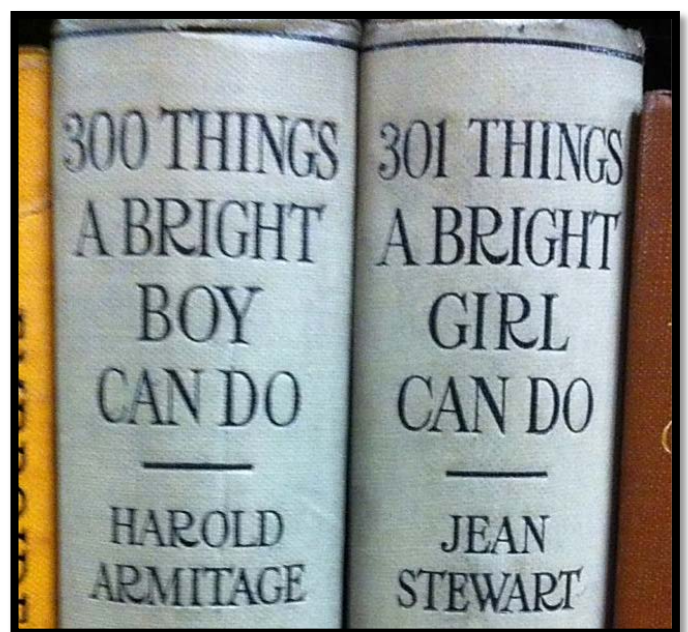
Groups of History Detectives made several visits to study Age Scotland's publications, such as their annual reports and newsletters, including material dating back to their predecessor organisations. Current and past Chief Executives also visited and were filmed with the material. In addition, we will be acquiring them some older publications from them that we are missing.



Their work contributed to various local projects, throughout Scotland and culminated in a publication and a film. A reception was held in the Scottish Parliament on 2 October, at which the Library was thanked for its contribution by Lord Foulkes, Chairman of Age Scotland's Board of Trustees.

Joy of Spines at Spirit of Moray Book Festival

The Joy of Spines was on the road again, this time in Elgin for the Spirit of Moray Book Festival. Over 1,500 people have now seen this 360-slide PowerPoint celebration of the Library's collections. The show was performed to a full house at Elgin Library by Graeme Hawley.



General Collections – recent acquisitions

Sylvia Plath's *A winter ship*

We have recently added a copy of Sylvia Plath's first publication "A winter ship" published in 1960 by Edinburgh based Tragara Press to the collections. It consists of a single folded sheet housed in a green card folder. Plath sent a letter to Alan Anderson owner of the Tragara Press on 11th June 1960. "I am writing on my own behalf to say how delighted my husband and I were with the proofs of "A winter ship". I'm sending back the one we like best with the border round it. ... Would four dozen copies be too much of a burden for you?" Around 60 copies were produced. Subsequently Plath would only publish "The colossus" and "The bell jar" before her death in February 1963.

The Tragara Press was founded by Alan Anderson in the early 1950s and was active until 2009. It was probably Scotland's longest running and most prolific private press. It took its name from the famous Punta Tragara hotel on the island of Capri. "A winter ship" is one of the few Tragara Press publications not already in the Library's collections. The Tragara Press has its own pressmark in the Library "Trag."

Alasdair Gray silkscreen prints

We recently added a set of six silkscreen prints of images from Alasdair Gray's novel "Lanark" together with a print of an image of "Prometheus" from Gray's 1984 book "Unlikely stories, mostly" to the collections. The prints are signed, numbered and dated by Gray. Lanark is now widely regarded as the most significant Scottish novel published in the second half of the 20th century and these prints are an important addition to our extensive print and manuscript collections of Alasdair Gray's work.

Joanna Robson's *Vasilla*

We have just acquired the latest limited edition work by Edinburgh-based book artist Joanna Robson. Entitled *Vasilisa and the Witch's Fire*, the piece illustrates a scene from a well-known Russian fairytale from black lasercut card.



Unlocking our Sound Heritage

Unlocking our Sound Heritage (UOSH) is a UK-wide project that will help save the nation's sounds and open them up to everyone. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by the British Library, with 10 hubs across the UK. The National Library of Scotland is delighted to be the hub for Scotland and the first to be up and running and have already started to digitise and catalogue our first collection. We have set up a digitisation studio at our site in Kelvin Hall alongside the Library's Moving Image Archive. As part of the 3 year project we will be working with 16 different collection partners, to bring in 5,000 sound recordings from their archives for digitisation and sharing.

[Jeni Park](#), Hub Project Manager will lead the project for the National Library of Scotland and manage; Cataloguing Co-ordinator, [Rob Smith](#) and Audio Preservation Engineer, [Conor Walker](#) and a Rights Officer to be recruited in early 2019.

Starting in January, we will be undertaking an ambitious volunteer programme, working with 75-100 volunteers (in Glasgow and through a remote volunteering programme to other parts of Scotland) to help us achieve our project goals, by helping us to digitise, contextualise and curate the content on the recordings and be our "ears" for the project.

Making collections is often not enough to attract new audiences, so we will also be leading a varied engagement & learning programme including an artist-in-residence programme, resources for schools, and research & curation workshops.



"This is an incredible opportunity to begin revealing whole or parts of Scottish collections that may have otherwise remained hidden. Capturing the recordings we are working with in a high quality digital audio format is our current best means of ensuring we do not lose the voices, stories, or sounds that have played a part in the history of Scotland. It also means that we will be in a better position to let a much wider community listen to and engage with these recordings; to hear about how people used to live (or speak!) in their local communities, and enrich our understanding of the past." Jeni Park, Hub Project Manager, UOSH.

You can keep in touch with our progress through the www.nls.uk, and through the Scotland's Sounds network www.scotlandssounds.org; [@Scotlandssounds](https://twitter.com/Scotlandssounds).

Archives and Manuscripts – recent acquisitions

Acc.13966: Acquisition of letter of Sir Walter Scott, 1822

The Library recently purchased a letter of the Scottish author and poet, Sir Walter Scott. The letter sent to the Reverend George Tough relates to George IV's visit to Scotland in 1822. Tough, a talented mechanic and clockmaker presented George IV with an orrery (still in the royal collection today) but did not appear to receive an official thank you for his gift. Scott assures him that he will do what is in his power to draw it to the attention of the George's Private Secretary, Sir William Knighton. The Library possesses the biggest collection of Scott manuscripts in the world and continues to add Scott materials to its collections when they become available.

Acc. 13966

Dear Sir

I have your letter and I venture to say that you have no reason whatever to apprehend that you have done or sent any thing which could be otherwise than very acceptable to His Majesty. The negligence concerning the Orrery could only arise from some confusion in the inferior department which was likely enough to take place in such a bustle. I shall have occasion to write Sir William Knighton soon and will learn from him what is His Majesty's pleasure. It may be some time before I have an answer for your communication as His Majesty's private secretary has more than enough to do & I am not afraid of intruding on him save when it is absolutely necessary I remain

Dear Sir

Your most obed^t. Servant

Walter Scott

Abbotsford
Saturday

Acc.13970: Charles Stuart, Baron Stuart de Rothesay – four journals of ‘Travels in Germany and the Imperial Hereditary States During the Years, 1795, 1796 and 1797’

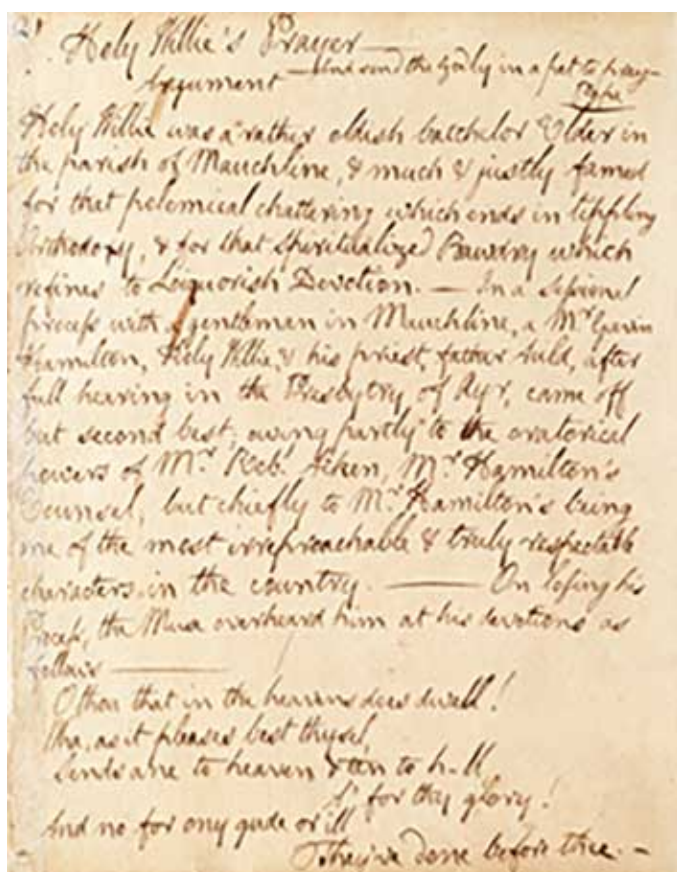
Aged just 16, Charles Stuart set out alone to further his education by travelling in Europe prior to attending Oxford University. Due to the Revolutionary Wars, the usual routes through France and Italy for wealthy young aristocrats on the Grand Tour were out of bounds. Instead, this resourceful young man travelled through the German states of Lower Saxony and Bavaria before heading east to Hungary and Poland, countries then considered unsafe for tourists. Over two years, he visited the libraries of Bavarian monasteries and convents, was arrested and briefly imprisoned in Semlin for his outspoken political opinions, and refused entry to the Ottoman Empire due to passport irregularities. Stuart's journals are delightfully illustrated with watercolours and hand coloured prints purchased on his travels. His passports and an annotated map showing his route are pasted in.

The journals join Baron Stuart de Rothesay's papers of his diplomatic career already in the Library's collections.



Talk to the James Boswell Society, Auchinleck, 24 October 2018

Dr Ralph McLean provided a talk to the James Boswell Society entitled 'James Boswell and the National Library of Scotland' at their annual meeting and dinner. The Society meets at Auchinleck House, the former home of the Boswell family. The talk focused on Boswell's time as a member of the Faculty of Advocates' Library and the use that he made of its collections, while also addressing the importance of Boswell's manuscript material that has been added to the collections over the years. As part of the event Ralph was installed as the President of the Society until October 2019.



Burns Scotland Symposium, Boardroom, 2 November 2018

On Friday 2 November the Library will hosted one of four symposia on Robert Burns as part of our commitment to our partnership with the University of Glasgow and their AHRC funded project Editing Robert Burns for the 21st Century. As the project now moves on to editing the correspondence of Burns for newly commissioned Oxford University Press volumes, this symposium focused on the National Library of Scotland's collection of Burns's manuscripts. As part of the symposium Dr Ralph McLean presented a paper on the major Burns collections and how they can help inform the forthcoming volumes of correspondence. A small number of the Library's Burns manuscript treasures were also on display.

Research collaborations - Welcome to four new PhD students

We are delighted to welcome four new PhD students to the Library as part of our collaboration with the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium and the Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities. The PhDs are based around National Library collections or key knowledge and activities. The students have a PhD supervisor at the Library as well as at their university.

Rebecca Oliva will investigate how the National Library and other organisations can use artificial intelligence to look for content in digital collections that contain sensitive information. Rebecca will be supervised by Dr Yunhyong Kim at the University of Glasgow, Lee Hibberd, Steve Rigden and Fred Saunderson at the Library. Funding is through the Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities (SGSAH), the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC), and the National Productivity Investment Fund.



Rebecca Oliva



Matthew Lee

Matthew Lee is researching 'Private reflections and public pronouncements: Caribbean slavery in the Scottish consciousness, 1750-1834', under the supervision of Dr Catherine Jones at the University of Aberdeen, and Dr Ralph McLean and Robert Betteridge from the Library.

Charlotte Lauder's PhD topic is 'The People's Friend? Recovering Scottish popular magazine culture', under the supervision of Professor Kirstie Blair at the University of Strathclyde, and Dr Graham Hogg and Ian Scott from the Library.



Lara Calton



Charlotte Lauder

Iara Calton is researching 'From water to steam — The transition from renewable energy to coal during Scotland's Industrial Revolution', with Historic Environment Scotland, the National Library and University of Glasgow. Iara's supervisors are Dr Simon Naylor at Glasgow, Dr Miles Oglethorpe at HES, and Chris Fleet at the Library.

Charlotte, Iara and Matthew are all part of the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium PhD programme. SCHC is a partnership between the National Library, National Museums, Galleries and Historic Environment Scotland. The Royal Botanic Gardens will be joining SCHC shortly.

A full list of our collaborative PhD students can be found on the Library's academic research webpage - [PhDprofiles](#)

Paper Conservation Trainee Starts Work

The Library has created two paper conservation internships as part of the programme of Alexander Graham Traineeships for young people. The first paper conservation trainee is Claire Hutchison, and she began her nine-month placement at the Library on 29 October. It is intended that she will focus upon the conservation of some particularly unstable types of paper objects, such as newspapers. Newspapers are a priority because the Library has a large and significant collection, but many items are beginning to deteriorate, due to the inherent instability of the paper. A strategic approach is therefore urgently needed to decide how to conserve them, to plan their digitisation where appropriate and to take preventive measures to ensure their long-term preservation. Claire will be investigating the approaches taken by other Libraries, testing a range of treatment options, and devising and implementing the first phase of a treatment plan.



The paper conservation trainee, Claire Hutchison (right), shown here with our digitisation conservation intern, Gemma Mathieson (left)

Publicising the conservation and digitisation of the Cheviot stage-set

The Library owns the stage-set created for John McGrath's play *"The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil"*, by the contemporary Scottish artist, John Byrne. The stage-set has recently gone on display in the Scottish Design Gallery at V&A Dundee, and prior to this it was the subject of an innovative 3D digitisation project, which created a set of high quality 3D models allowing the stage-set to be viewed from every angle.

The Library's conservators have been involved in the care and display of the stage-set since its acquisition by the Library in 2009, and they played a key role in the 3D digitisation project and the preparation and installation of the stage-set at V&A Dundee. These activities posed many interesting challenges because of the scale and complexity of the object, and they are therefore of great interest to other conservation professionals and to the general public.



One of the Library's conservators, Shona Hunter, wrote a paper about the conservation challenges for an Institute of Conservation conference with the theme of 'Unexpected fame: Conservation approaches to the preparatory object'. Her paper was extremely well-received, generating a lot of discussion on Twitter, and she is going to repeat it in January as part of the Library's programme of public talks. Shona also gave a joint paper with the company responsible for the 3D digitisation work at Historic Environment Scotland's 'DigiDoc' conference, and this again was very popular and repeats have been requested by V&A Dundee and the Hunterian.

Doors Open Day

The Causewayside Building took part in this year's Doors Open Day. It was a roaring success. Attendees were offered a tour of the Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries, Acquisitions and Description, the Digitisation Suite, the Maps Reading Room, as well as a visit to the stacks. Estates and Conservation took part, and also catered for those who turned up without booking on a tour.

Around 85 people took part in the tours, whilst a further 9 spoke to Estates and Conservation but did not take part in the tour.

Feedback from attendees was extremely positive, and such was the success of the event that staff are hoping to take part again next year if the opportunity arises.



Social Media update

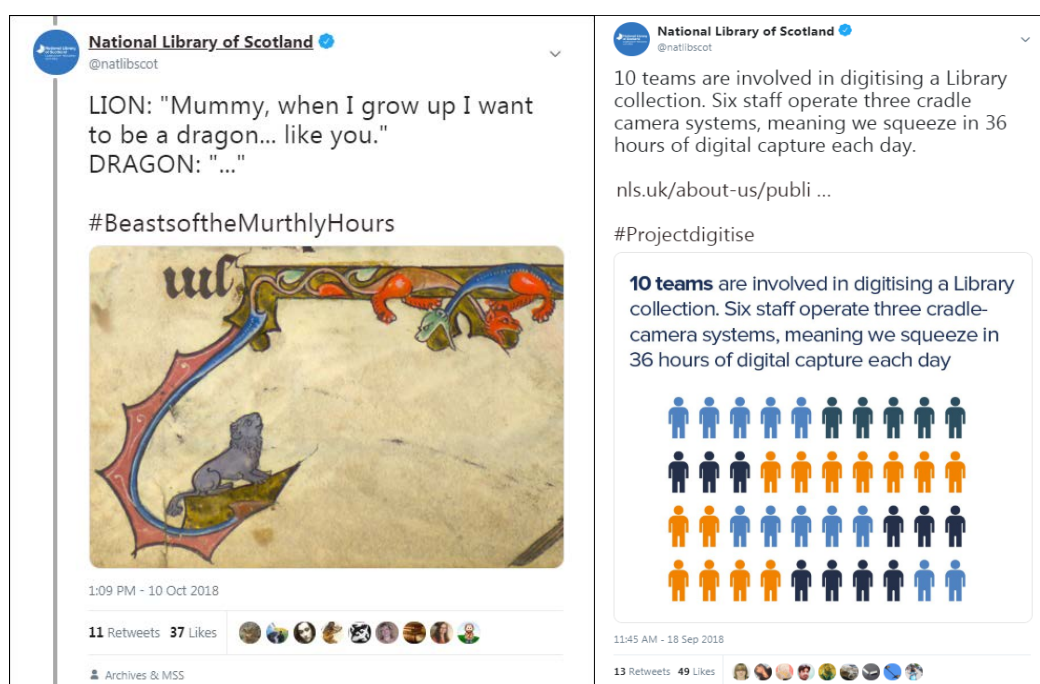
Since September the Library recorded 197,000 engagements across all of our social channels (a fraction of the 880,000 total of the previous period which saw a highly successful Julia Donaldson post on our Facebook page) and our follower numbers increased by 2% (Facebook) 14% (Twitter) and 5% (Instagram).

Highlights for this period included a collaboration with the Scottish Poetry Library on a video of a Scots poem for National Poetry Day. The poem chosen was *Doctor Wha* by James Robertson and was read by a selection of people including the poet, our Scots Scribe and a school-aged child. We're pleased to report that this video gained over 20,000 views and a reach of over 100,000 across our channels.

Two of the most positively received social activities in this period were #BeastsoftheMurthlyHours (where we deconstructed animal illustrations in the Murthly Hours prayerbook in a day-long thread) and #ProjectDigitise, which ran for a week and gave a behind-the-scenes view of all the teams and processes involved in digitisation at the Library.

We have invited our Collections Care team to guest curate our Instagram channel amid the expectation that increasing engagement on Instagram means concentrating on single topics and a 'behind the scenes' view, rather than operating like we do on Twitter and Facebook and covering much of the Library's collections and services. We will report back on the results from this approach.

In November we are covering the *A Better World?* exhibition and a marketing campaign launch on 16 November. We also created a mini social campaign for the Gutenberg Bible special showing at George IV Bridge on 22 November. In December we will promote the Christmas shopping day on 6 December (also at George IV Bridge) and we will also run a month-long social advent calendar campaign.



Buke of the Howlat at the Findhorn Festival

To coincide with a modern adaptation and performance of 'The Buke of the Howlat' - the 15th century Scots poem composed by cleric Richard Holland and dedicated to the Countess of Moray - at the Findhorn Festival in Forres at the end of September, the Library had a facsimile display of the corresponding 16th century Bannatyne manuscript at the Falconer Museum. Dr Michael Dempster, the Scots Scribe, was also on hand to chat to members of the public about the use of Scots in the poem and how the language has evolved.



WWI Digital Roadshow

At the beginning of October, the Library's learning team hosted a 'Lest We Forget' digital roadshow in collaboration with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Oxford University. Members of the public were invited to bring along their objects to create a digital archive of First World War artefacts to preserve memories of the Great War for future generations and, during Scotland's Year of Young People, to give students in particular skills training in archiving and digitisation.

We were pleased to welcome a wide range of volunteers from Heart of Midlothian football club, Broughton High School, North Berwick High School, and Hutchesons Grammar School in Glasgow. Robbie Mitchell and Elaine Brown from Reader Services also took part to capture stories and share knowledge of Library resources. The event was featured in *The Herald* newspaper the following day. The free-to-use digital archive will launch in November 2018 as the UK marks 100 years since the end of the First World War.

Iolaire Centenary

A series of events have been organised to mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of HMY Iolaire, one of the most tragic events to affect Scotland's Western isles. A number of commemorative events have already taken place and more will be held in the run up to the Iolaire Community Remembrance Event on Monday December 31, 2018. The tale of the Iolaire disaster and its after effects is the subject of a special learning resource on the Library's website and An Lanntair, the multi-arts venue in Stornoway will be flagging it up to visitors between October and January.

Rare Books – recent purchases

[Robert Bull], *Directions for managing the iron-plow, the new constructed drill-plow, and ventilator*, [Edinburgh], 1762

A promotional brochure for Robert Bull's "smith and wright-work manufactory" at the foot of Leith Walk which produced agricultural implements. Only one other copy of this brochure is recorded. It is one of the earliest printed documents relating to the increasing mechanisation of agriculture in Scotland which would enable food production to increase to meet the demands of the growing urban populations. Included with the brochure is an engraved "Bill" of items for sale at Bull's works.



James Burmester £2,500

IN PROCESS [awaiting full cataloguing and shelfmark]

Heinrich Oswald, *Schottischer Robinson oder des Schottländers, Jakob Flinton's Abentheuer und Reisen*, Meissen, 1827.

A German 'Robinsonade' written and published by Friedrich Goedsche, who used the pseudonym 'Heinrich Oswald'. The protagonist in this two-volume novel is a Scot, like the original Robinson Crusoe, Alexander Selkirk. The hero, Jacob Flinton, is born and raised in Glasgow before leaving to live in London to train as a surgeon. Once in London he is forced to flee an abusive uncle and then sets forth in a series of hair-raising escapades around the world, including being sold into slavery, before finally retiring to a quiet life in England. The work is illustrated with 12 plates. No other copies are recorded in the UK.



Antiquariat Inlibris Gilhofer €1,650

IN PROCESS [awaiting full cataloguing and shelfmark]



[Advertising poster for *The Artist* periodical, Edinburgh?, 1897]

The Artist was published monthly in London by Archibald Constable & Co. It included art news and reports from exhibitions around Britain. The April 1897 issue included an article by Scottish journalist Neil Munro (1863-1930), 'The year's art in Scotland'. This lithographed poster advertising the April issue was produced, presumably for the Scottish market, by the printers McLagan & Cumming of Edinburgh, from a design by the young English artist and book illustrator Richard J. Williams. The year 1897 marked something of a watershed in Munro's career, as he chose to cut back on his journalistic work to concentrate on writing novels.

Quaritch/Swann Galleries £260

IN PROCESS [awaiting full cataloguing and shelfmark]

[Johannes Marinissen], *Ordonnantie, gemaakt by bailliu, burgemeesters, schepenen en raden der stad Vere, op den loon van het St. Jans Gilde, in het werken der Schotsche koopmanschappen &c. Veere, [1770-71]*.

This is the only recorded copy of two ordinances relating to the Dutch sea port of Veere, and in particular to the St. Jans Guild, whose members worked as mainly as dock workers loading and unloading ships carrying peat, wood and sacks of various kinds of goods. From 1441 to 1799, Veere had a special staple contract with Scotland, granting the city a monopoly on all Scottish goods. The second ordinance reproduced in the volume gives the text of documents concerning Scottish shipping and goods coming in from or via Scotland.

Asher Rare Books €1,250

AP.2.218.36

Adriaan Vlacq/ Ezechiel de Decker, *Arithmetique logarithmetique*, Goude [Gouda], 1628.

A French translation of a work on logarithms, inspired by John Napier of Merchiston, and printed in the Netherlands. Napier's work had been further developed by the English mathematician Henry Briggs, proposing the idea of base 10 logarithms in which the logarithm of 10 would be 1. Briggs published his tables in his 1624 work *Arithmetica Logarithmica*. His work was in turn improved on by the Dutch surveyor and mathematician Ezechiel de Decker, who further extended Briggs's tables from 1 to 100,000 to 10 decimal places. De Decker worked with Gouda-based publisher/translator Adriaan Vlacq on the interpretation and translation of Napier's and Briggs's works. Vlacq arranged for their work to be published in Latin and in this French translation.

Acquired with funding by the Elizabeth Soutar Charitable Trust.

Francis Edwards £2,500

Manuscripts curator takes Spark to opposite ends of the country.

On 11 September, Dr Colin McIlroy gave a 50 minute talk titled "Muriel Spark 100: A Journey Through her Personal Archive" at Elgin Library, as part of the Spirit of Moray Book Festival 2018. Travelling to the other end of the country, Dr McIlroy chaired a panel discussion in Surrey at Cuckfield Bookfest on 6 October. Along with fellow panellists Professor Patricia Waugh, Durham University, and Dr Simon Cooke, University of Edinburgh, the discussion covered the use of voice, genre, satire, and espionage, in Spark's fiction.



Map visits, talks and workshops in Australia and New Zealand

Digital Maps Curator Chris Fleet was invited to the GeoCart'2018 conference in Wellington, New Zealand, 5-7 September, to give a keynote talk and deliver a half-day workshop on putting historical maps online. The invitation reflects the interest there is in our maps website, and the status of Chris as a leader in his field, as well as our use of open-source web-mapping technologies. Chris was invited on to meet with staff and give talks in the National Library of Australia in Canberra, and the State Library of New South Wales in Sydney. Many useful contacts were made, along with ideas for future collaborations.



The banner features a dark background with a landscape image. At the top left is the logo for the New Zealand Cartographic Society Inc. and ANZMapS. To the right, navigation links include 'GeoCart'2018', 'Map Design Workshop', 'ANZMapS Workshops', and 'Societies'. The main title 'HISTORICAL MAPS ONLINE' is in large white letters, with 'ANZMapS GeoCart'2018 Workshop' below it. A red box on the right contains the event details: 'Pipitea Campus Victoria University of Wellington, 4 September 2018, 09:00 - 13:30'. Below the title, it says 'Welcome to Historical Maps Online' and 'A workshop presented by the Australian and New Zealand Map Society'. The text describes the workshop as part of the GeoCart'2018 proceedings, held on September 4 at Victoria University, featuring Chris Fleet from the National Library of Scotland. It covers open-source tools for putting maps online and creating online map collections. The workshop precedes the ANZMapS Map Conservation workshop.



The screenshot shows the National Library of Australia website. The header includes the library's name and a search bar. Navigation links include 'Collections', 'Using the Library', 'News', 'What's on', 'Visit', 'About us', and 'Support us'. The main content area is for 'BARTHOLOMEW'S AUSTRALIA: MAPPING AND THE IMPERIAL AGENDA', categorized as 'TALKS / LECTURE'. It features a historical map of Australia from 1892. A 'Plan your visit' sidebar lists 'Getting here', 'Opening hours', 'Facilities for visitors', and 'Parking'. The event details show it is on '10 September 2018, 6pm-7pm' at 'Theatre, Lower Ground 1' and is 'Free'. A 'BOOK NOW' button is visible.

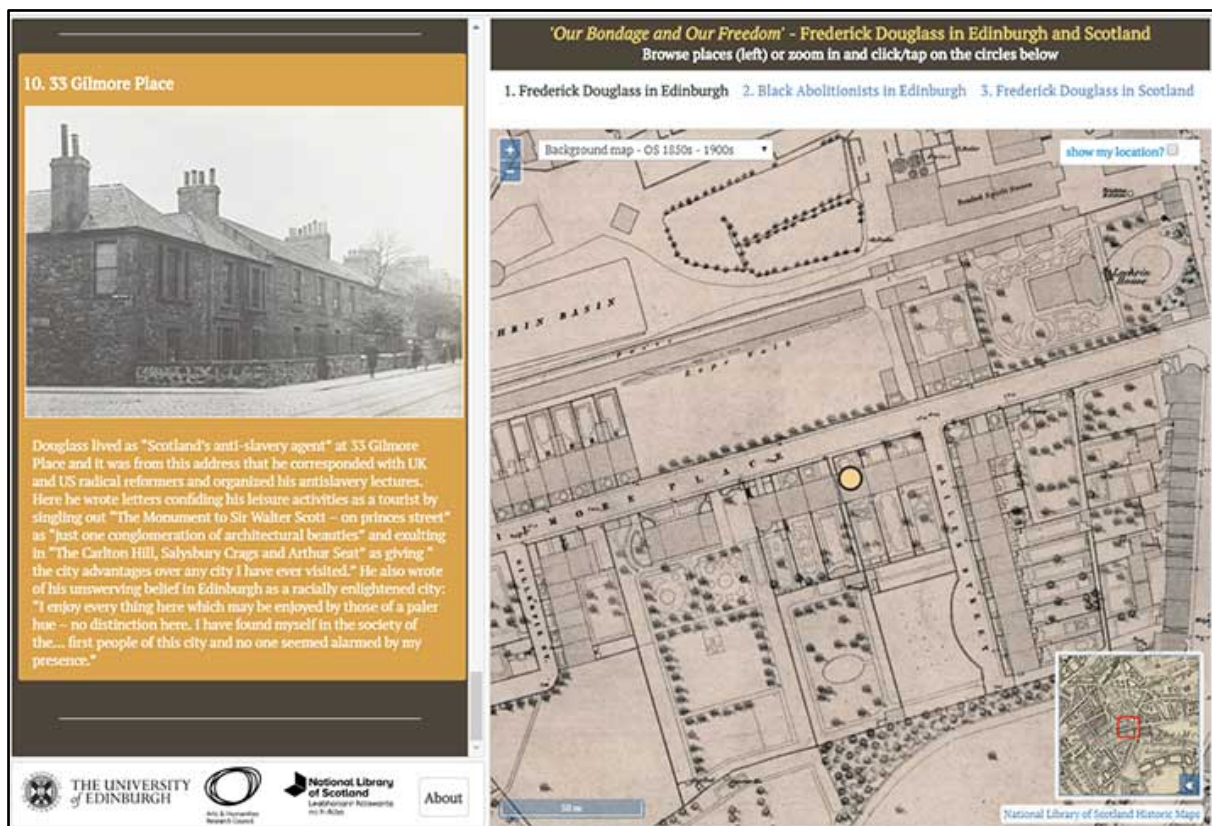


The screenshot shows a Twitter post from the State Library of NSW (@statelibrarynsw). The tweet reads: 'Wow! A big crowd for our Map lecture tonight featuring Chris Fleet from the National Library of Scotland. [digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/Deliv ...](https://digital.sl.nsw.gov.au/delivery/Deliv...)'. The tweet includes a photo of a lecture hall with a large historical map on the wall and a speaker at a podium. The tweet was posted on '1:21 AM - 11 Sep 2018' and has '3 Retweets' and '11 Likes'.

Frederick Douglass in Edinburgh and Scotland - map viewers

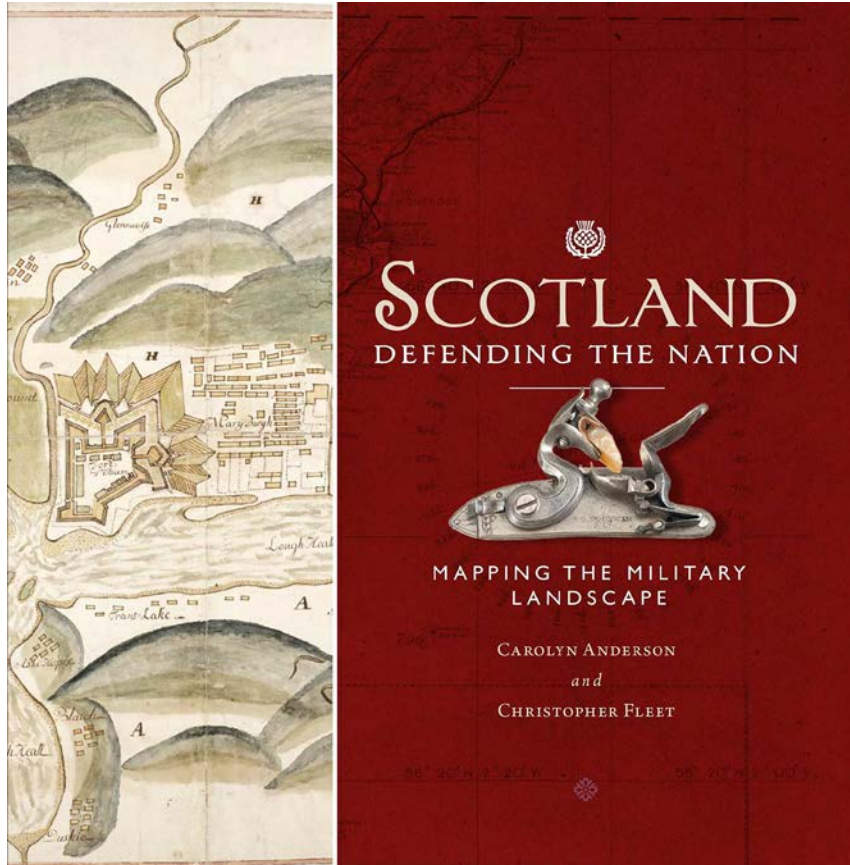
These interactive map viewers support the *Strike For Freedom* treasures display which opened in October in George IV Bridge. Douglass first visited Edinburgh in 1846 and these maps show the places where he lived, held meetings and gave speeches during his antislavery campaign in Edinburgh and Scotland, as well as the sites where other black abolitionists gave speeches in Edinburgh. The content for the viewers was gathered by Edinburgh University academics, with the map interfaces built in the Library using our georeferenced historic maps as background layers:

- [Frederic Douglass in Edinburgh map viewer](#)
- [Black Abolitionists in Edinburgh map viewer](#)
- [Frederic Douglass in Scotland map viewer](#)



New book - *Scotland: Defending the Nation - Mapping the Military Landscape*

This book, newly published in October, uses maps drawn principally from the Library's rich map collections. It is a co-publication between Birlinn and the National Library of Scotland, co-authored by Map Curator Chris Fleet. The book explores Scotland's unique and fascinating military history, using six centuries of military maps of Scotland to provide insights into this history. The maps begin in the 1450s and come through to the latest digital mapping. Many of these maps are striking and informative, and this is the first time many have appeared in print. There is [further information](#) on our website about the book.



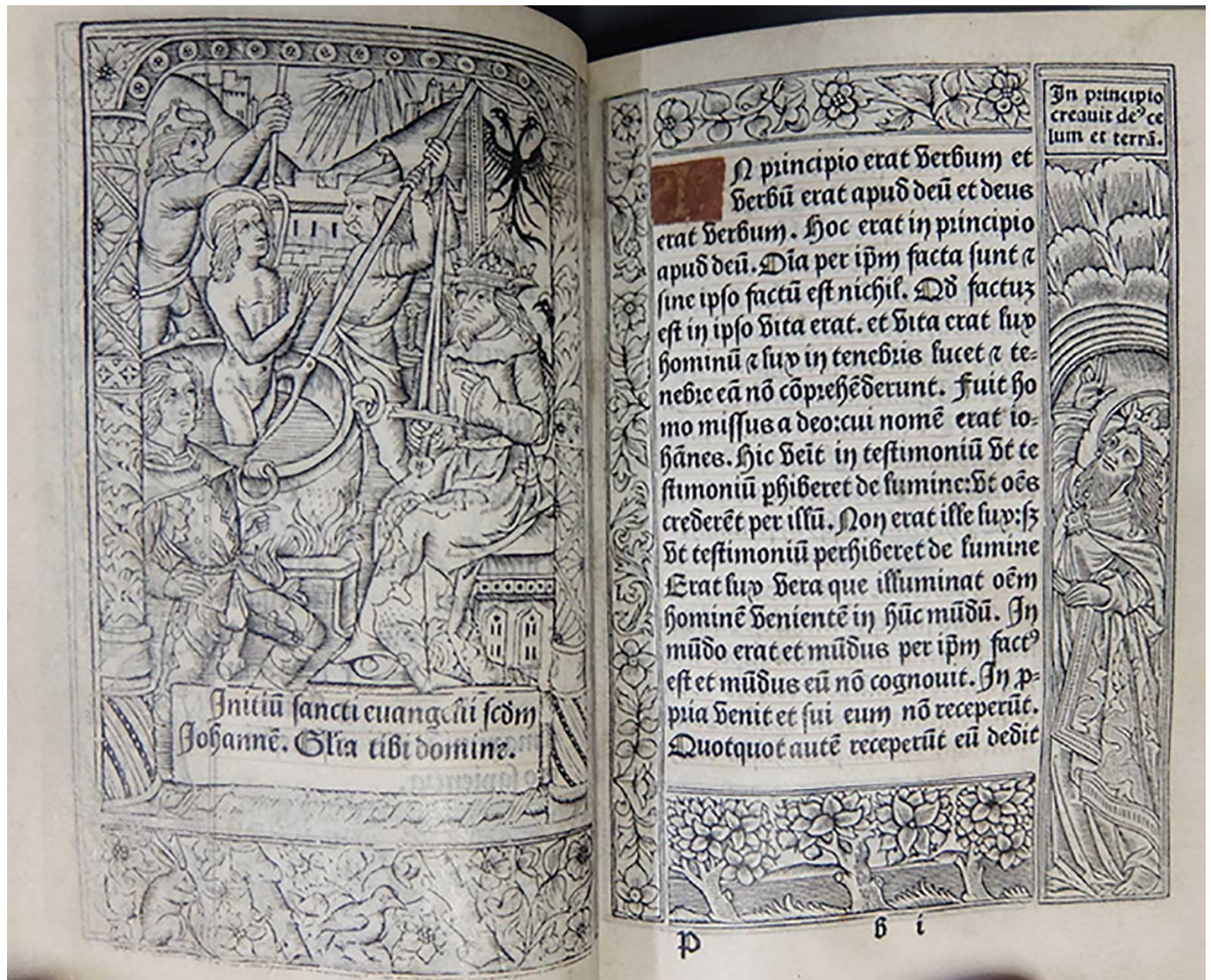
New online maps - Ordnance Survey National Grid 1:10,560 maps for Scotland, 1950s-1960s

In October we added 2,800 new online maps which cover extensive parts of Scotland in the post-War period. They show excellent detail of the urban and rural landscape, including farms and settlements, roads and railways, rivers and watercourses, administrative and field boundaries, woodland and land use, as well as contour lines. Buildings are simplified in urban areas but many street names are also shown. They are especially useful for more remote rural areas, where this is the most detailed scale of OS mapping. This online addition includes all our out-of-copyright maps at this scale, published over 50 years ago. By this time the series covered most of Scotland, apart from the central and western Highlands, as well as the Northern and Western Isles.

- OS National Grid maps of Scotland [home page](#)
- View the map sheets with a [clickable map](#)

Library hosts Incunabula seminar

On Wednesday 24 October the Library hosted a seminar in the Boardroom entitled Incunabula: people, places, products and their relationships. The event was organised by Anette Hagan and Robert Betteridge at which 13 papers, including one by Robert Betteridge on the Library's collecting of incunabula during the War years, were presented to 40 attendees. Those contributing to the seminar included colleagues from UK university libraries, the British Library and from several European countries including Hungary, Italy and Norway. To accompany the seminar the Library mounted a display of its incunabula including the unique copy of a Paris Book of Hours printed by Philippe Pigouchet in 1493. The seminar was supported by the Librarian's Innovation Fund which allowed the Library to provide bursaries to several of the speakers and a lunch for attendees.



Paris Book of Hours

Annual Library Appeal 2018

The Library's Annual Fundraising Appeal this year celebrates the 250th anniversary of Encyclopaedia Britannica, which falls on 10 December 2018. Founded in Edinburgh, this publication has become iconic the world over and the Library holds copies of all of the rare early editions.

We will be seeking funds for conservation, digitisation and publication online of all of the out-of-copyright editions of Britannica as well as a new website and learning activities around the forthcoming Scottish Enlightenment exhibition. Find out more here: <https://www.nls.uk/support-nls/britannica>

We'll be promoting the appeal in the following ways:

- Direct Mail
- Onsite print marketing
- Web Appeal page on the website
- Google ad words
- Social Media, E-newsletters and Discover Magazine

The Appeal has raised over £10,000 in its first two weeks (a significant increase on last year's appeal) and is an important way for the Library to communicate its charitable status to a wider audience.

