

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

26 September 2018

## LIBRARIAN'S KEY EVENTS THIS QUARTER

### 21 May 2018

Attended the SLIC Staffing & Remuneration Committee meeting in Dundee;

### 28-29 June 2018

Attended the Legal Deposit Libraries Committee's bi-annual meeting in Oxford, also chairing the ALDL Board whilst there;

### 28 July 2018

Attended the Library's Beano Pop-up event in Glasgow, attended by over 800 people;

### 17 August 2018

Met with Walter O. Evans, collector of African American history, art and culture and principal lender for the Frederick Douglass Treasures display scheduled for October 2018;

### 5 September 2018

With the Chair, attended the Elizabeth Soutar Trust AGM;

### 6 June 2018

Attended the American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland (APNLGS) Board meeting;

### 5 July 2018

Welcomed the editorial committee of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy to the Library;

### 10 August 2018

Welcomed Professor Peter Mathieson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh to the Library for lunch and a tour;

### 18 August 2018

Attended the James Tait Black Award at the Edinburgh International Book Festival;

### 7 September 2018

RLUK Board meeting at the London School of Economics;

### 26 June 2018

Helped launch the Youngwummin display in the Library;

### 24 July 2018

Met informally with the Directors of National Collections at the National Gallery of Scotland;

### 11 August 2018

Hosted the Library's event at the Edinburgh International Book Festival, Val McDermid discussing her latest novel *Broken Ground*;

### 24-31 August 2018

Delegate at the International Federation of Library Associations' annual conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, attending the meeting of Heads of National Libraries;

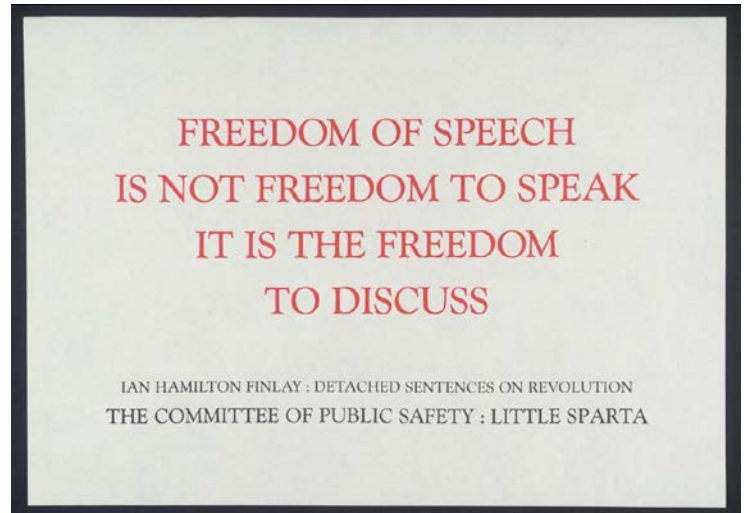
### 13 September 2018

Spoke at the British Council meeting at Kelvin Hall;

## Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

11,483 items from the hidden collections were catalogued during the first quarter of 2018-19. This figure includes 3,334 serial parts, 3,672 manuscripts and 4,476 printed books, papers and posters.

Work has also commenced on hidden map and music collections, items from the Ian Hamilton Finlay Collection and material from the Scottish Institute of Agricultural Engineering and the National Federation of Retail Newsagents. Cataloguing of the Dean Myatt Collection of Scottish music will commence shortly.



A Hidden Collections Programme Board, chaired by the National Librarian, will convene next month. The Board will oversee the various projects and initiatives planned and underway to assess and catalogue the remaining hidden collections.



This collection of public health posters were issued by the Scottish Health Education Unit during the early to mid-1970s and reflect the government's goal of improving the nation's health. The main health messages of the posters are better oral health and hygiene, family planning and the risk to health from smoking. These posters are now accessible to the public through the work of the hidden collections programme.

## Digitisation – Quarterly Update

76,969 items were digitised in the first quarter (including maps, books, and moving image). This is 38% of the annual target, however future quarters will be likely to have lower throughput as the project to digitise aperture cards of maps, which is a highly automated process and a significant contributor to the first quarter's figures, is now complete.

In advance of the delivery of new v-shaped mass digitisation capture stations at the end of August, preparation of the new space in Causewayside Level 6 has been completed. This has involved reconfiguring the layout of the space and the creation of a new dedicated preparation and processing area.

A new Mass Digitisation Service Manager has been recruited to oversee the new service. The successful candidate is moving from the University of Edinburgh where he has been leading the project to digitise over 17,000 unique theses from the University's collections. The studio at the University of Edinburgh operates with the same equipment as recently purchased by the Library, so he will quickly get up to speed.

Two other digitisation posts have also been filled: the Senior Digital Production Operator (afternoon/evening work pattern), and Specialist Digital Production Operator (to digitise rare and fragile materials). Both candidates were existing Library digitisation staff, now moving into more senior and permanent roles. The recruitment of the remaining five Digital Production Operators is underway, with over 230 applications being received. These are being shortlisted for interviews in September.

In June, a new image viewer was launched in the Library's [Digital Gallery](#). The 'Universal Viewer,' which is used by libraries, galleries, museums, and archives worldwide, allows digitised materials to be more easily navigated than the previous 'page turner' software which required each page to be read on a separate webpage. Readers are now able to quickly scroll through thumbnails of all pages, and then zoom in to their selected page. (See page 10 below for more information.)

Over the summer, 2,200 broadsides from our Crawford collection and 40 rare books were digitised as part of the Europeana *Rise of Literacy* project. This European Commission funded project is a collaboration between 12 libraries across Europe, including the National Libraries of the Netherlands, Slovenia, Greece, Portugal, Latvia, and France. Its aim is to tell the story of the rise of literacy in Europe, from early manuscripts and print media to the arrival of grammars and dictionaries, to mass-produced newspapers of the 21st century.

In July, we added a series of works by British poets to our Digital Gallery, which were bound by James Scott of Edinburgh, Scotland's most prolific book binder of the 18th century. The Digital Gallery feature includes high-resolution images of the actual bindings, allowing a close look at Scott's work in order to help identify or recognise the tools he used.

## Library Services Platform project update

The Library Services Platform project to replace Voyager, the current library management system, the [main catalogue](#) and [Summon](#) is entering its final stages. Throughout the summer key staff checked and confirmed that the initial data migration was a success, familiarised themselves with the functionality of Alma (the new library management system), loaded and tested sample data into Primo (the new collections search system) and integrated systems and services including user registration, authentication, printing and email. During September and October staff will be fully trained in Alma and Primo, and a program of workshops, drop-in sessions, documentation and other activities are planned to support Library users to become familiar with Primo. The project is on schedule and Alma and Primo will go live on 22 October 2018.

One of the highlights of the project is that, for the first time, users will be able to search across all the Library's collections to discover digitised, digital, print, moving image, image, and archival and manuscript resources, including content from subscription services. Although some fine tuning is still required, a preview of Primo is available now at <https://bit.ly/PrimoPre>

ExLibris

Alma

General Reading Room - CSS Desk

Requests

All

Print Slip Report

Pick Up Requested Resources (1 - 3 of 3)

☐ Select All

Sort by: Location Name - Asc

Print Slip

Cancel

Request Date

Today (2)

Up to a Week Ago (1)

Request/Process Type

Patron physical item requ... (3)

Location

CB - stack floor 01 - Gene... (2)

CB - stack floor 05 - Gene... (1)

Call Number

GBE.2000.4.28 (1)

HB1.207.4.60 - S.17.f (2)

Pickup Institution

National Library of Scotla... (3)

Destination

Collection & Returns (3)

Material Type

Undefined (1)

Book (2)

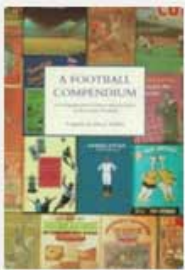
Request Printed

No (3)

Request Reported

No (3)

1

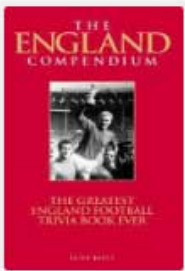


A football compendium : a comprehensive guide to the literature of association football / compiled by Peter J. Seddon ; introduction by Roy Hattersley ; edited by C. McKinley and A.E. Cunningham.

**Author:** Seddon, Peter J.  
**ISBN:** 0712310754  
**Imprint:** Boston Spa : The British Library 1995.

**Location:** CB - stack floor 05 - General Collections  
**Call Number:** GBE.2000.4.28  
**Requests:** 1

2



The England compendium : the greatest England football trivia book ever / Clive Batty ; illustrated by Bob Bond.

**Author:** Batty, Clive.  
**ISBN:** 1905326076 (hbk.) :  
**Imprint:** London : Vision Sports 2005.

**Location:** CB - stack floor 01 - General Collections  
**Call Number:** HB1.207.4.60  
**Requests:** 1



## 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.

In the internal audit of Human Resources earlier this year it was recommended that we review whether TCL, as a programme, was the best means to achieve this end. The review will be completed by December 2018 and a report plus recommendations submitted to LLT.

In the meantime, the work on culture change will continue with:

- preparations for the next staff survey, due to run 1-31 October 2018;
- Management Forum (September and November);
- cross-departmental innovations (e.g. video production team; research network; communities of interest; staff engagement network); and
- delivery of learning and development activities aligned with the new performance appraisal/planning process and taking career aspirations into account.

## Reinventing the National Bibliography of Scotland for the 21st Century

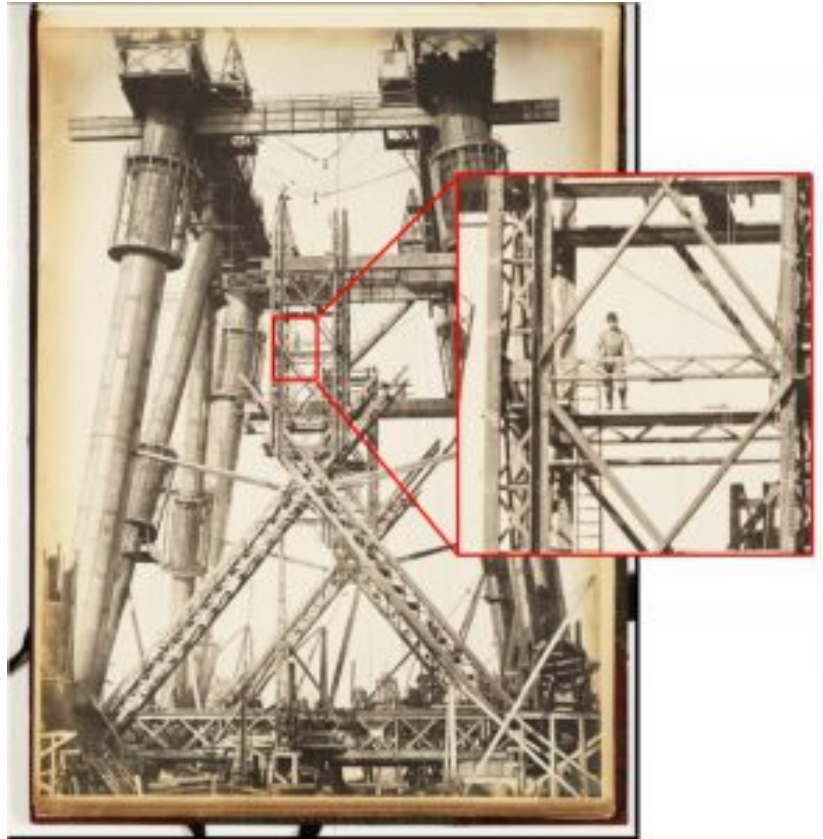
On 29 August Helen Vincent, Head of Rare Books, Maps and Music, gave a paper entitled *From Scottish Bibliographies Online to National Bibliography of Scotland: Reinventing a National Bibliography for the 21st Century* at the IFLA annual World Library and Information Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The paper, co-authored by Helen, Alexandra De Pretto (Data and Systems Librarian) and Paul Cunnea (Acquisitions and Description Manager) explains in detail the drivers and vision behind the new National Bibliography, the opportunities and challenges the Library faces in developing it, and the advocacy and stakeholder engagement involved. The paper is available at <https://library.ifla.org/2275/1/244-vincent-en.pdf>



## New tools for the Digital Gallery

In July a new interface was introduced to the Library's [Digital Gallery](#), providing users with a new suite of tools to better research, use, share and enjoy more than 730,000 images. The tools give the ability to easily zoom in and out and pan across images, examine them at an extraordinary level of detail, flip through the pages of digitised books and manuscripts, and download images to use, re-use and share with others. Behind the scenes of the interface is an open-source application called [Universal Viewer](#) which uses IIIF ([International Image Interoperability Framework](#)), a standard method for describing, delivering and sharing images over the web. It is in use in research and university libraries, museums and galleries all over the world. The Library became a [Founding Member of the IIIF Consortium](#) in 2016.



## Lawnmarket Walking Group is two years old

The Lawnmarket Walking Group celebrates its second birthday on 28 September. The group has been walking for 30 minutes most Wednesdays and has covered almost every inch of the Old Town within a 15-minute radius of Lawnmarket.

There are 30 members of the group, which is not only a great way to get a healthy break away from work in the middle of the day, but also an opportunity for colleagues who might not usually meet in the course of their work to catch up.

There are plans to expand the walking group to other Library buildings before the end of the year.



## Fulbright National Library of Scotland Scholar 2018-19

Our Fulbright National Library of Scotland Scholar 2018-19 is Dr Gregory Baldi.

Greg is Associate Professor of Political Science at Western Illinois University at the Macomb campus. Greg received his PhD in Government from Georgetown University. His research focuses on the development of political and social institutions in Western Europe, especially the United Kingdom and Germany. Greg's interest in Britain was sparked by a variety of sources, including a youthful exposure to Elizabethan literature, Victorian history, and the first Clash album.



He has received past research grants from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the American Consortium on European Studies (ACES) and his previous publications include articles in *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, *West European Politics*, and *German Politics and Society*. His dissertation *The Politics of Differentiation: Education Reform in Postwar Britain and Germany* was co-winner of the 2011 Ernest Haas award for best dissertation in European politics from the American Political Science Association.

Greg will be working with Library collections on a project examining the history of the Scottish National Party. He will also be involved in outreach activities including a public lecture in November on German-US-UK relations at the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Greg's term with the Library runs from 1 September to 31 December 2018. He will be hosted by General Collections in our George IV Bridge building.

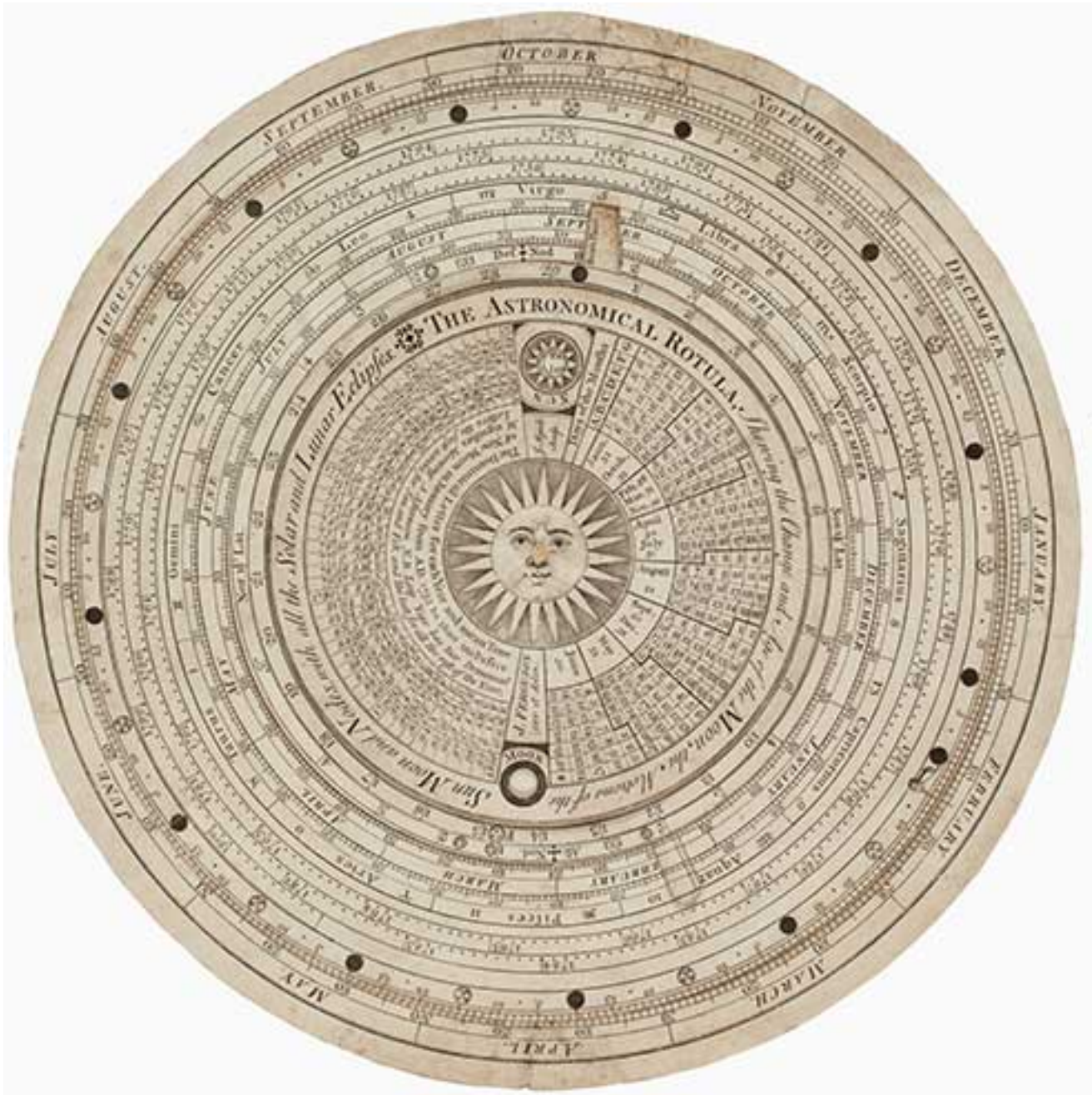
## Frederick Douglass collection on loan to the National Library

A significant loan of manuscripts and photographs from the Walter O. and Linda Evans Collection arrived at the Library in August. The material relates to the most famous freedom-fighter in US history, Frederick Douglass (1818-1895), and will be exhibited in the Treasures display 'Strike for Freedom: Slavery, Civil War and the Frederick Douglass Family,' which opens on 4 October 2018.

Douglass, self-emancipated author and activist, was born into slavery in 1818. In 1846 he travelled to Edinburgh and became 'Scotland's antislavery agent.' 'Strike for Freedom' is part of a wider Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded project. The Library was delighted to welcome Walter O. Evans, renowned collector of African American history, art and culture to Scotland as he brought his Douglass collection over from the US himself.



## Maps Acquisition: James Ferguson's 'Astronomical rotula'



*The astronomical rotula shewing the change and age of the moon, the motion of the sun, moon and nodes, with all the solar and lunar eclipses by James Ferguson is a rare survivor. It depicts a spiral of years from 1752 to 1800 and shows the ecliptic with its twelve signs through which the sun travels over the course of the year. By rotating the discs the days of the new and full moons can be calculated. The five volvelles spin around an axis of original thread, paper and glue.*

A self-taught astronomer from Keith, Banffshire, Ferguson began work on the rotula as early as 1739, as a result of his calculations of eclipses. He had a version engraved in Edinburgh in 1742, and published an accompanying broadsheet giving instructions on its use. This rotula is a later edition, printed in London, probably around 1752, dated from the years on the spiral. Again, Ferguson wrote instructions to explain its use, with worked examples, editions of which are in the Library's collections.



## Archives and Manuscripts – recent acquisitions

### Letter of James Hogg, 1817 (Acc.13957)

The Library recently purchased a letter of the Scottish author and poet, James Hogg. The letter, which mainly concerns agricultural and farming matters was written in 1817 at a time when Hogg was contributing literary works to the fledgling *Blackwood's Magazine*. The letter demonstrates that the 'Ettrick Shepherd' had not entirely left his roots behind him, and that even though he was making in-roads to the literary world, he was still greatly concerned with working on the land.

Acc.13957 Ettrick Lake July 7<sup>th</sup> 1817

Sir I received your line only this day in a packet of 15 letters and have no time in answering it. What is the cause of the hemp or dead hairs in wool?

Ans. They are chiefly cherished by the sheep being exposed in cold and shelterless situations and always increase with the age of the animal a deprivation of succulent for a length of time has the same effect both these bring up the kindly moisture of the body and materially effect the fibre of the fleece.

Query 2<sup>d</sup> If two sheep of the same quality were to be kept for a season the one mended and the other not supposing them both to keep free of disease until clipped which of the two would have the finest fleece?

Ans. - Individuals might be equal, and either might predominate; even among six or seven it might be hard to determine; but let them remain for some seasons and the thing is decided. Even the first season a whale pout over head is coarser and more hairy than when mended. V.B. Grease is not necessary whale oil mixed with butter, tallow, or hog's lard, is greatly preferable.



**Letter of David Hume to Rev. Robert Traill, 1755 (Acc.13962)**

The Library was successful in obtaining this letter of Hume at a recent auction at Sotheby's, London. The purchase was made with help from the Friends of the National Libraries. The unpublished letter, written in 1755, and the only known correspondence with Traill, concerns Hume's recent reading of a sermon by Traill where he confronts Hume's disparaging remarks about the Scottish clergy. Written in Hume's convivial manner he warmly praises Traill's sermon, but notes that it would do little to convert him to Christianity. Hume writes that he is also keen to meet Traill should he come to Edinburgh, and that he should meet his friends in the Church of Scotland with whom he also enjoys cordial relations. Traill, who would go on to hold the Chair of Divinity at Glasgow University, has drafted his equally friendly reply to Hume at the end of the letter.

Acc. 13957 Eltham Lake July 7<sup>th</sup> 1817

Sir I received yours line only this day in a packet of 15 letters and lost no time in answering it. Query 1<sup>st</sup> What is the cause of the hemp or dead hairs in wool?

Ans. They are chiefly cherished by the sheep being exposed in cold and shelterless situations and always increase with the age of the animal a deprivation of succulent for a length of time has the same effect both these elongate the kindly matter of the body and materially effect the fibre of the fibre.

Query 2<sup>d</sup> If two sheep of the same quality were to be kept for a season the one mended and the other not supposing them both to keep free of disease until clipped which of the two would have the finest fibre?

Ans. - Individuals might be equal, and either might predominate; even among ox or mutton it might be hard to determine; but let them remain for some seasons and the thing is decided. Even the first season a whole parcel over head is coarser and more hairy than when I mended &c. &c. Fat is not necessary whole oil mixed with butter, tallow, or hog's lard, is greatly preferable.

## Letters of David Livingstone to his publishers, [1857]-1865 (Acc.13953)

In June the Library acquired eight letters of Scottish explorer and missionary David Livingstone which add further information to the publication history of Livingstone's travel books. They complement material already held in the John Murray Archive and contribute to our understanding of the publication of *Missionary Travels* (1857) and *Expedition to the Zambesi* (1865), of how Livingstone saw himself as an author and of how he wished the native people he encountered on his travels to be depicted in print. Particularly outstanding is the draft of an unsent letter to *The Times* in which Livingstone attacks publisher George Routledge for advertising a supposedly official rival account of his travels. Livingstone compares such unscrupulous publishers to hyenas 'low, dastardly, hideous brutes – much given to cowardly filching.' A toned-down version of the letter appeared in *The Times* on 31 January 1857.



## Twenty-four of Osbert Lancaster's *Daily Express* cartoons (Acc.13961)

Between the 1930s and 1970s Osbert Lancaster contributed daily cartoons to the *Daily Express*. Anthologies of these cartoons were published by John Murray in a 'Pocket Cartoons' series. A very large number of the original drawings for these cartoons are already held by the Library as these were kindly donated by Mr John R. Murray in 2011. However, some are missing – many having been given away by Lancaster as gifts. These recently acquired cartoons fill gaps in our holdings. Two were formerly the property of Sir Max Aitken, Chairman of the *Daily Express*.



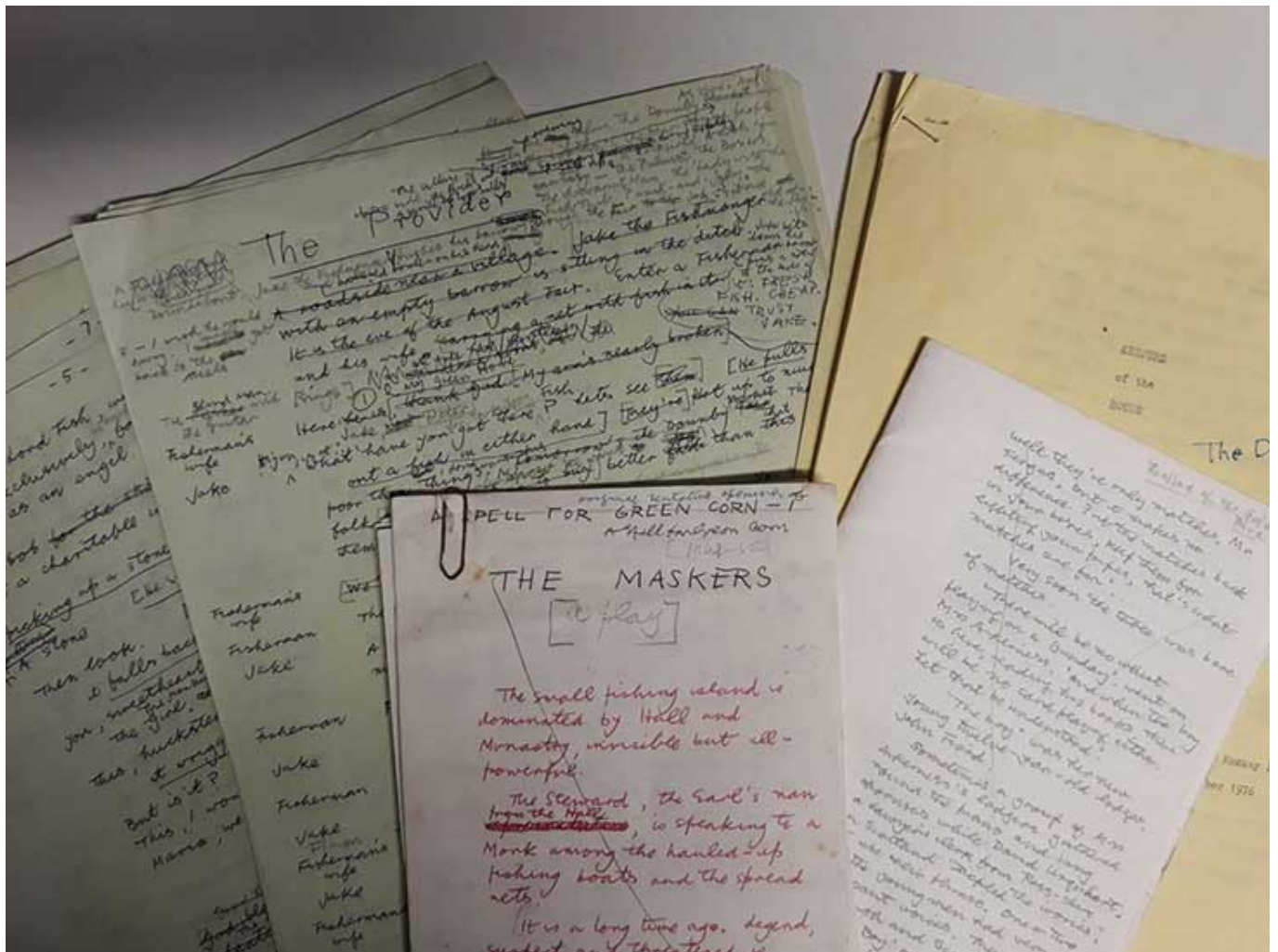


## Further manuscripts of George Mackay Brown (TD.3750)

During the summer the Library bought a further significant batch of manuscripts of Orcadian writer George Mackay Brown. Acquired at auction, the collection comprises published and unpublished items, including poetry, drama, short story prose fiction, reviews, and television scripts.

These items vividly represent the scope of Brown's work, and the ease with which he excelled across numerous forms and media. These papers range across much of Brown's career, from 1962 to the months prior to his death in 1996.

Highlights include the manuscript, 1987, of an early version of 'The Golden Bird'; manuscript, 1961-2, of 'A Spell for Green Corn'; and numerous plays from the early 1960s. An annotated television script for 'Orkney Tapestry' and a notebook of poems and prose are also included in this batch of papers which strengthens the Library's holdings of Brown material.



## Beano birthday bash at Kelvin Hall



Over 800 people came along to Kelvin Hall on Saturday 28 July for a one day pop-up exhibition to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the publication of The Beano. On display was the Library's copy of The Beano issue no.1 (one of perhaps only a couple of dozen in existence) alongside some other special Beano items from our collections. These included summer annuals, recent editions, and an edition from 1952 which showed Dennis the Menace's first appearance on the front cover (Dennis didn't take the regular top spot until 1974, when he knocked Biff the Bear off the front page).

We were delighted to also have on display original artwork from the DC Thomson archive, loaned to us for the occasion. The original drawings of Dennis, Minnie the Minx, and the Bash Street Kids were a real attraction for visitors.

Not only was the footfall impressive, but the length of time spent and the diversity of attendees was very encouraging. Many visitors spent well over an hour in the exhibition space and at related activities in Kelvin Hall. These activities included a prank workshop (which had to close for twenty minutes when it ran out of pranks), an animation station with an animator in residence, a whoopee noise listening post (archival fart noises courtesy of DC Thomson and extraordinarily popular with all ages), and a football session for kids.



This was a tremendous day and a great introduction to our premises for a brand new audience, with many attendees visiting for the first time, lured to our space by the simple appeal of seeing their own history cared for and given a platform.

## **Visit by the Editorial Committee of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy**

On Thursday 5 July the Library was visited by the editorial committee of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

At the invitation of the Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh, The Most Rev. Leo Cushley, this influential group of liturgists held their half-yearly meeting beyond the usual locations of Rome and of Washington DC for the first time.

On their one half-day set aside from their business discussions, the editorial committee visited Edinburgh Castle, then the Library.

Curators from Rare Books and from Archives & Manuscripts showed the party some mediaeval and early modern liturgical and doctrinal items from our collections. These helped to demonstrate the survival, albeit limited, of some pre-Reformation Scottish manuscripts and texts.



This photograph shows the Librarian with Archbishop Cushley, four other Archbishops, one Bishop, an enclosed Benedictine Nun, other members of the editorial committee, and Library staff. It is reckoned this is the first occasion in the Library's history that such a distinguished group of members of the Catholic hierarchy and liturgical experts have visited.

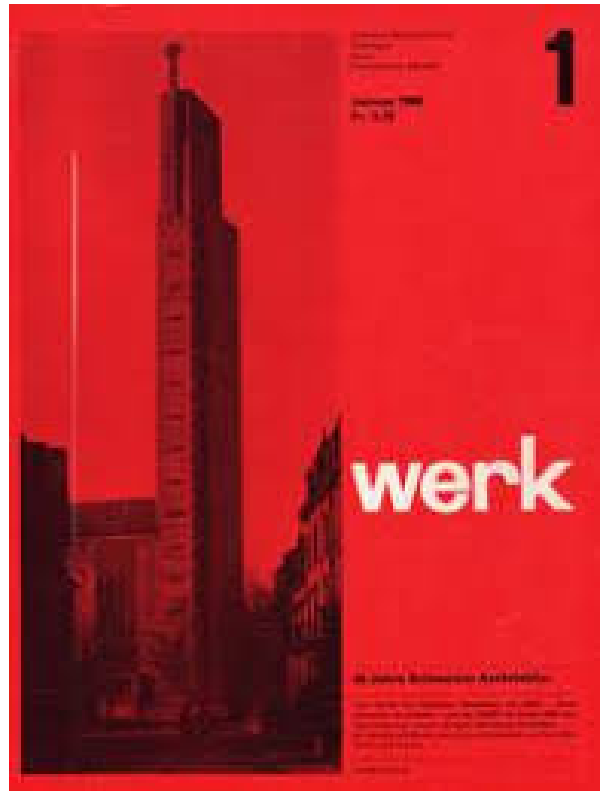


## General Collections - Recent notable acquisitions

### Reiach and Hall Architects donation

Reiach and Hall is a leading architectural firm based in Edinburgh's New Town which has worked on many public projects in Scotland including schools, hospitals, museums and galleries. Over the decades they have built up a substantial working library of books and journals. Increasingly they found the firm's architects were using digital resources so they recently offered us this library.

The donation tells the story of post-World War II public architecture and design, not just in Scotland but in Europe, North American and Asia. It includes volumes on the design of galleries, swimming pools, new towns and theatres. The donation includes lengthy runs of many of the world's most respected architectural and design periodicals including 'Werk,' 'Domus Dossier,' 'Architectur + Urbanism' and 'Arkitektur DK.' It also includes grey literature and limited circulation items about architecture in Scotland, including works on the building of theatres in Denny and Edinburgh; conservation in Edinburgh's New Town; and Scottish housing projects for students and the disabled. This very visual donation is a fantastic resource for anyone interested in 20th century architecture and design.

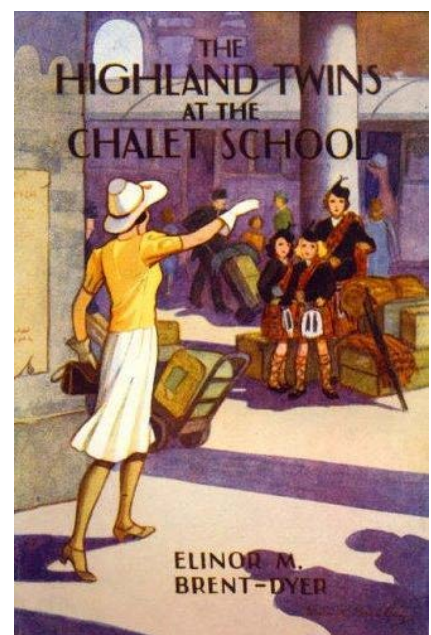


### Chalet School first editions

In June we purchased four first editions of Elinor M. Brent-Dyer's 'Chalet School' series that the Library did not have – including *The Highland Twins at the Chalet School*, from 1942. Author Val McDermid often cites the 'Chalet School' series as being the books that introduced her to libraries and reading.

### Ian Hamilton Finlay

Although we already have a large collection of material by Ian Hamilton Finlay, in July we found for sale two works that were not in the collection – *Arcadian Gliders* by Ian Hamilton and Steve Wheatley (London: White Lies Press, 1981) and *Souvenirs: 100 postcards*. The former is a booklet of instructions on how to construct a glider from the nine glider template illustrations included.



## Entropie Books

We have purchased all artist's books produced by Entropie Press in St Andrews. These beautiful publications are exemplary of the best of fine printing and binding in Scotland. They also represent Scotland's rich contemporary poetry scene.

### *Standardizing welfare : an address by Lord Leverhulme to the students of Sheffield University, September 24th, 1917*

This purchase from Hebridean Books is an excellent example of an inexpensive acquisition that adds interesting Scottish content to the collections. The book contains a lengthy speech by Lord Leverhulme on his aims for Port Sunlight. In his speech on the topic of 'Welfare work in factories' he covers in considerable detail his thinking about health and safety, clothing, and education in factories. It is accompanied by extensive appendices of photographs, information and reports on the operation of Port Sunlight. A year later Leverhulme bought the island of Lewis and the southern estates of Harris, where he planned to implement his ideas and to create a major fishing centre in the renamed village of Leverburgh in South Harris, a plan that was intended to improve the local economy but which ultimately failed.

## Post-war 'humour' and theatre programmes

We recently received a large donation of *London Opinion* and *Men Only* journals from the 1940s and 1950s – these were primarily 'humorous' journals featuring risqué stories and cartoons, with the odd 'tasteful nude' portrait or pin-up. The period covered is extremely interesting as much of the content is preoccupied with the Second World War.



The same donor also gave the Library a fabulous collection of Scottish theatre programmes from the 1930s to the 1950s and beyond. These relate to theatres in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Ayrshire and smaller towns in the central belt. They are particularly strong on variety shows, which we lack, such as fantastic appearances of Laurel & Hardy at the Glasgow Empire in 1947 and 1952, and summer seasons in Ayrshire during the 1930s.

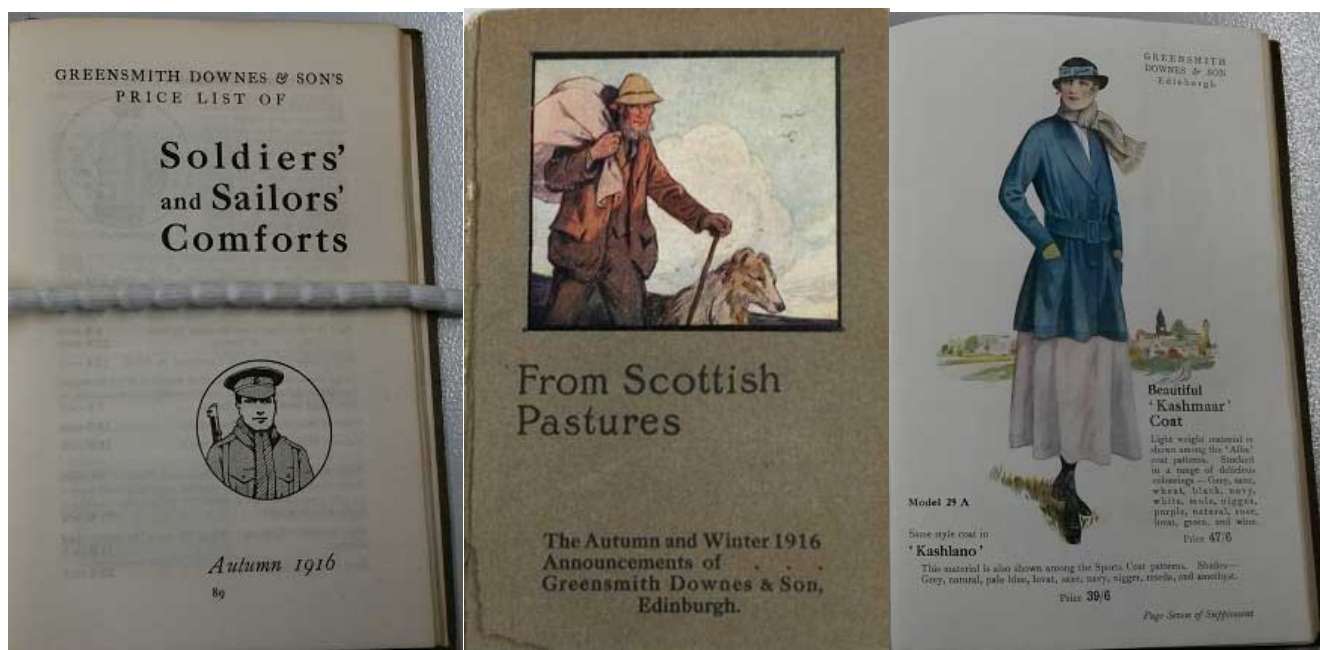
## Festival Flyer collecting

August in Edinburgh is, of course, dominated by the Edinburgh Festival and General Collections and Acquisitions have spent the month collecting some of the masses of ephemera generated in support of the thousands of shows performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.



## Autumn-winter fashion

Another recent purchase was *From Scottish Pastures*, a catalogue of Scottish woollens for sale by Edinburgh retailer Greensmith and Downes. We purchased the edition for Autumn and Winter 1916, beautiful and poignant, and full of superb illustrations.



## Football programme collecting continues

We are always on the lookout for football programmes, especially those for significant events. In the last three months we have found and ordered over forty Scottish Cup/Scottish League Cup/Scottish Junior Cup programmes for the collection.



## Conservation public engagement project

The Conservation team launched a project in August 2018 to encourage public engagement with conservation work. They installed a display in the front hall of the George IV Bridge building, featuring three items that required conservation treatments. They were:

1. A selection of 20th century booklets representing the 300 items in the 'conservation queue' waiting to have their rusty staples removed and replaced with sewing thread.
2. A selection of geological charts and maps concerning geology and the work of Scottish mineralogist Robert Jameson (1774-1854), that required cleaning, flattening and Sellotape removal.
3. A volume of 20 historical pamphlets that needed to be separated, cleaned and flattened.



**National Library of Scot...** ✓

@natlibscot

Following

Today we launch #RescueMe - giving you a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at @NLSColl\_Care's conservation process. Vote for your favourite item below and we'll show you the treatment process from start to finish 🧐

Voting closes Saturday 8 September.

The display was accompanied by an information panel, which explained that although all the items featured were scheduled to be treated, the public could vote for the item whose treatment they would most like to follow. Votes could be cast using the post box next to the display, or online using the voting buttons set up on Twitter, Facebook and Surveymonkey.

The display and casting of votes finished on 8 September, and the winner was item 2, Robert Jameson geological charts and maps. The treatment is being showcased with blog posts and tweets, using the hashtag **#RescueMe**, with plenty of photographic and film footage. Once the conservation treatment is complete the items will go back on display, along with before and after photographs.



## Rare Books – recent purchases

**Alexander Cumming, *A sketch of the properties of the machine organ, invented, constructed, and made by Mr. Cumming, for the Earl of Bute*, London, 1812 (RB.s.2955)**

Alexander Cumming (1731/2-1814), a Scottish watchmaker, inventor and 'mechanician' carried out experiments on the measurement of air pressure under the patronage of the 3rd Earl of Bute. He also assisted in the construction of barrel and finger organs for the Earl, including a barrel organ for his residence at Highcliffe Castle in Dorset. The book describes the organ and includes a complete 'Catalogue of the music on the various barrels.' This copy comes from the library at Highcliffe and was later owned by the American composer Bernard Herrmann (1911-1975), best known for his work scoring the films of Alfred Hitchcock.

John Drury £3,250

**G.A. Ellis, *New Britain: a narrative of a journey ... to a country ... inhabited by the people of British origin*, London, 1820 (RB.s.2954)**

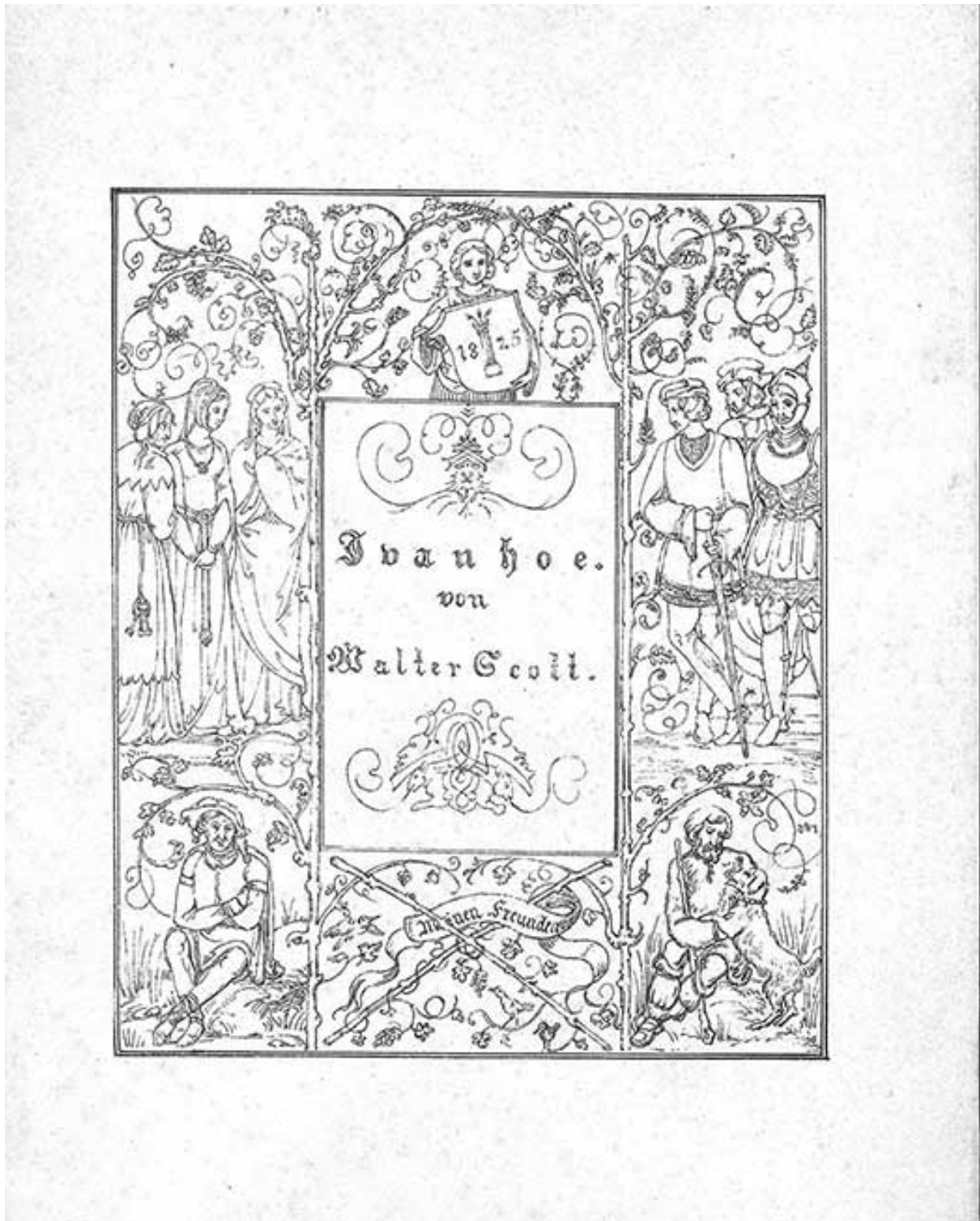
A rare Utopian narrative describing an imaginary ideal state on the plains of Missouri in the American Mid-West in 1818. The author describes his journey to and stay in the socialist settlement of 'New Britain,' founded by Scottish people who had left their homeland seeking religious freedom.

William Reese Co., \$3,500

**Robert Louis Stevenson, *Strannaia istoriia Dokora Dzhikilia i Mistera Khaida [Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde]*, St. Petersburg, 1888 (RB.s.2953 )**

First edition in Russian of Stevenson's classic tale, published in Russian only two years after the first English-language editions. The work was translated by Alexei Suvorin (1834-1912), a prolific journalist, publisher, theatre critic and playwright, and immediately attracted serious critical attention in Russia as an 'entirely original work of English humour.'

Simon Beattie £1,200



A portfolio of prints by the German-Italian artist, poet, composer and puppeteer Count Franz Pocci (1807-1876). The prints were Pocci's first significant artistic work. Only a few copies appear to have been printed for distribution to family and friends and the illustrations did not feature in any German-language editions of *Ivanhoe*.

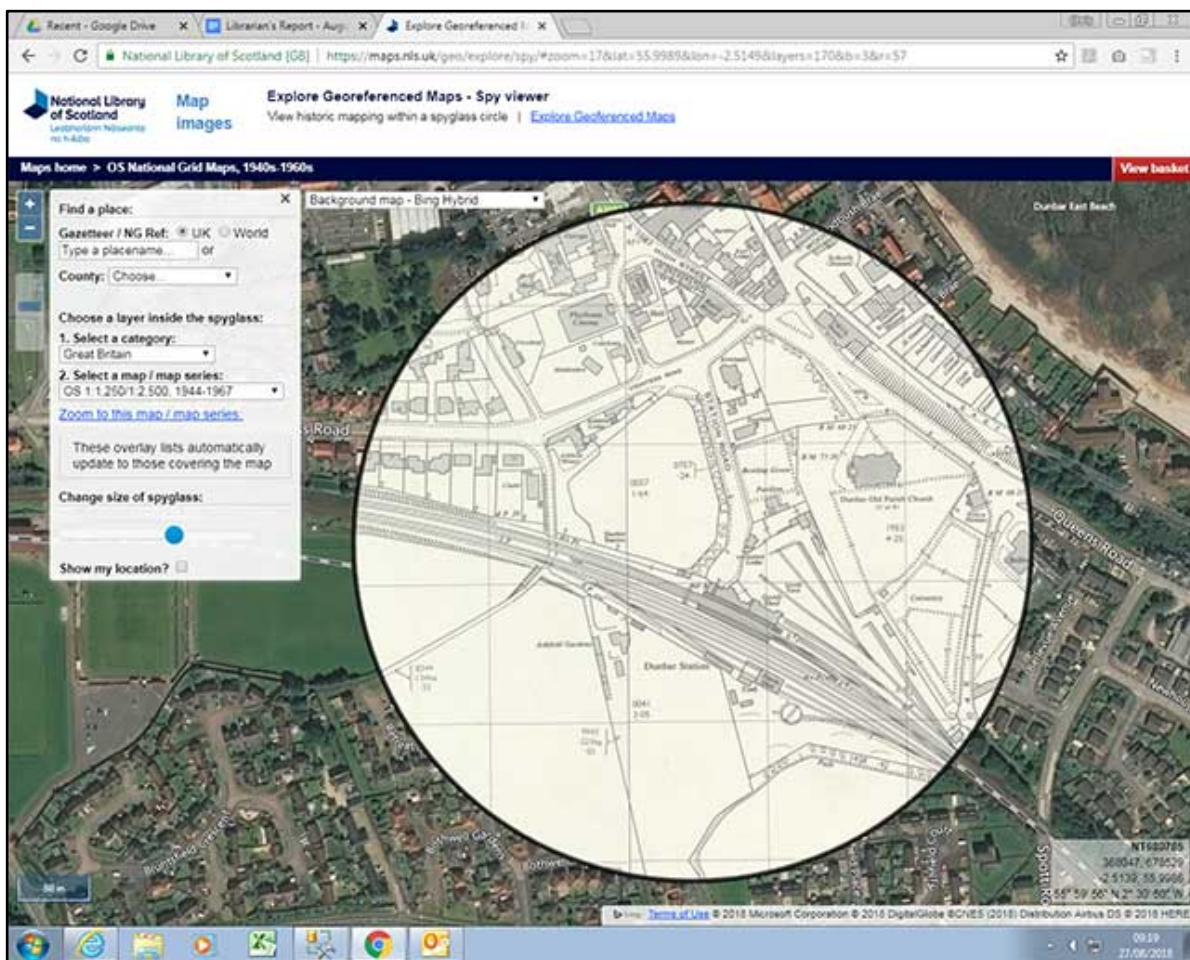
Daniela Kromp 1,500 Euros



## New detailed Ordnance Survey 1940s-1960s maps of Scotland go online

In June the Library added a further 5,921 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale maps to our maps website, covering large areas of the Central Belt, the Borders and parts of north-east Scotland. These maps show excellent detail of man-made structures such as houses and settlements, as well as roads, railways and industrial works. The rural landscape of fields, woodland, lochs, rivers and streams is clearly depicted too. These are the earliest OS maps to comprehensively show house numbers, of great value to family and local historians. The new maps complement the more detailed 1:1,250 scale maps of larger urban areas, scanned last year. We are now scanning National Grid 1:10,560 scale maps of Great Britain which will provide comprehensive coverage of all areas.

- Search OS National Grid maps of Scotland: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/national-grid/index.html>
- View georeferenced layer: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=7&lat=56.4531&lon=-3.7688&layers=170>



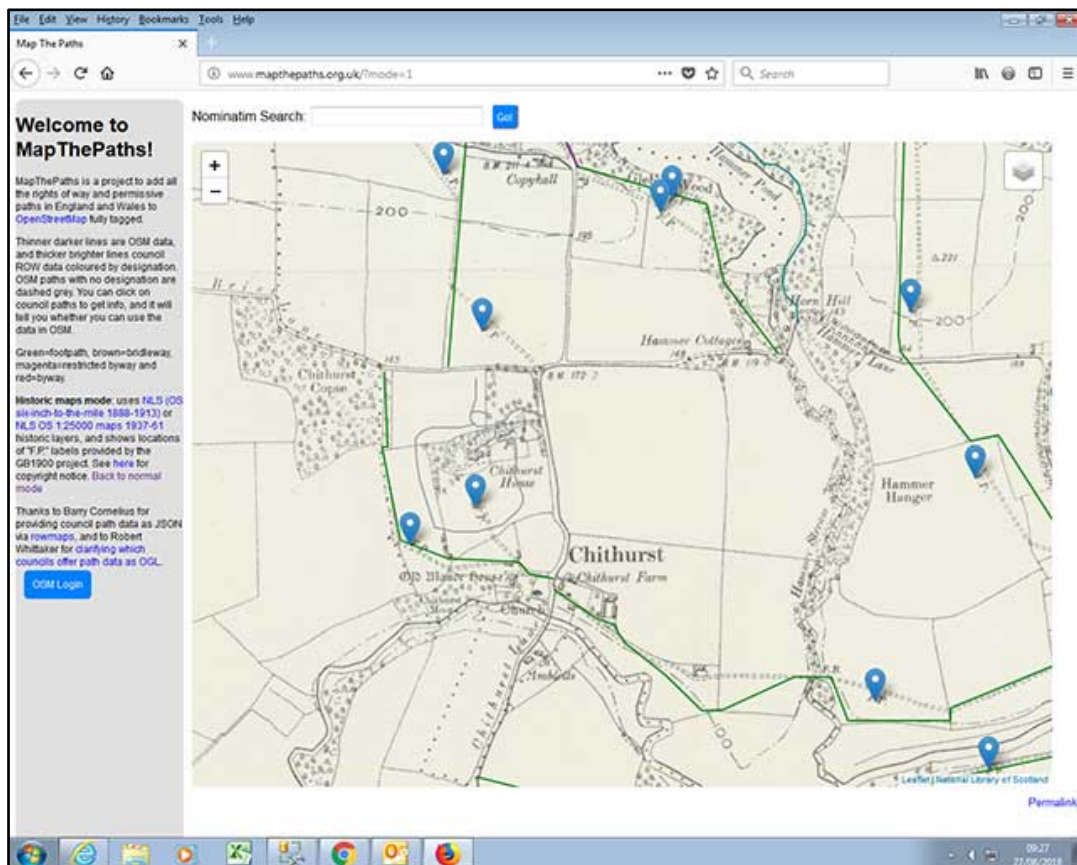
Comparing Dunbar in the 1960s (on the newly digitised National Grid maps) to the present day using the Spy viewer.

## New 1900s gazetteer assists modern and historic footpath recording projects

Our GB1900 Project, which transcribed all 2.52 million names from maps of England, Scotland and Wales from a century ago, was formally completed in July. These names include the location of 387,000 footpaths, recorded by volunteers transcribing 'F.P.' abbreviations from the original maps ( <https://geo.nls.uk/maps/gb1900footpath/> ).

These locations are now being actively used in two related projects. First, the OpenStreetMap community are using them to add the locations of modern footpaths to their [modern OpenStreetMap layer](#). Secondly, these locations and maps are being actively used by The Ramblers in their [Don't Lose your Way](#) project to ensure historic footpaths will not be lost.

These small pilot projects show the great value to transcribing and thereby extracting information from historic georeferenced maps and making it available, something the Library plans to do much more extensively in future.



*MapThePaths*, showing blue markers for GB1900 footpath abbreviations and green OpenStreetMap footpaths.

## Conservation workshops for dementia group

The Library periodically hosts a 'Library Social' event for a group of dementia sufferers and their carers, focussing on a particular aspect of the Library's collections. These events are organised by the Library's Learning and Outreach Officer, Beverley Casebow.



Beverley approached the Conservation team to ask if they might be interested in helping deliver a workshop. There was so much enthusiasm for this from the team that two workshops were organised. The first, in late 2017, was about the history of bookbinding, and was illustrated using examples from the Library's collections. The participants were invited to construct a simple book to take away, and this reminded several of the participants of their own experiences learning book-binding at school.



The second workshop took place in May 2018 and featured the Library's photographic collections. A brief introduction to the breadth of the mountaineering and exploration collections was given by the Photographic Curator who was in post at the time, Blake Milteer. The ways in which photographs deteriorate and can be conserved was explained by the Photographic Collections Conservator, Ioannis Vasallos.

Again, there were lots of examples from the collections to look at, and they prompted animated discussions about the participants' own travels. The participants also enjoyed mounting a Polaroid photograph of a mountain scene.

The group visited the Library's conservation studio as part of each workshop, and this also proved very popular.



## Social Media status

In the period since May 2018 we recorded 880K engagements across all of our social channels and our social media follower numbers grew by 24% (Facebook), 11% (Twitter) and 21% (Instagram). During this period we collaborated with the National Galleries of Scotland to publicise the acquisition of the Mackinnon photographic collection. Our joint series of threaded posts proved popular and generated a large amount of engagement. Planning these posts also helped us allocate content to make sure our audiences weren't being shown duplicate material.

In July we invited our fashion communications intern to temporarily curate our Instagram account and produce a series of posts highlighting her discoveries within our collections. Also in July was #WorldEmojiDay, for which we tweeted Scottish versions of emojis. This also led to our new Scots Scribe, Michael Dempster, joining in and adding many new Scots based emojis to this popular thread. Michael has provided us with suggestions for Scots words and advised us regarding the language. Going forward we will record him talking about (and in) Scots for short posts.

We have procured Sprout Social as our new social media content management system. It has a unified inbox which makes it much easier to quickly respond to comments and enquiries as well as a superior calendar system, enabling us to schedule content much more efficiently. It also has an improved reporting system, which is helping us to record our metrics.



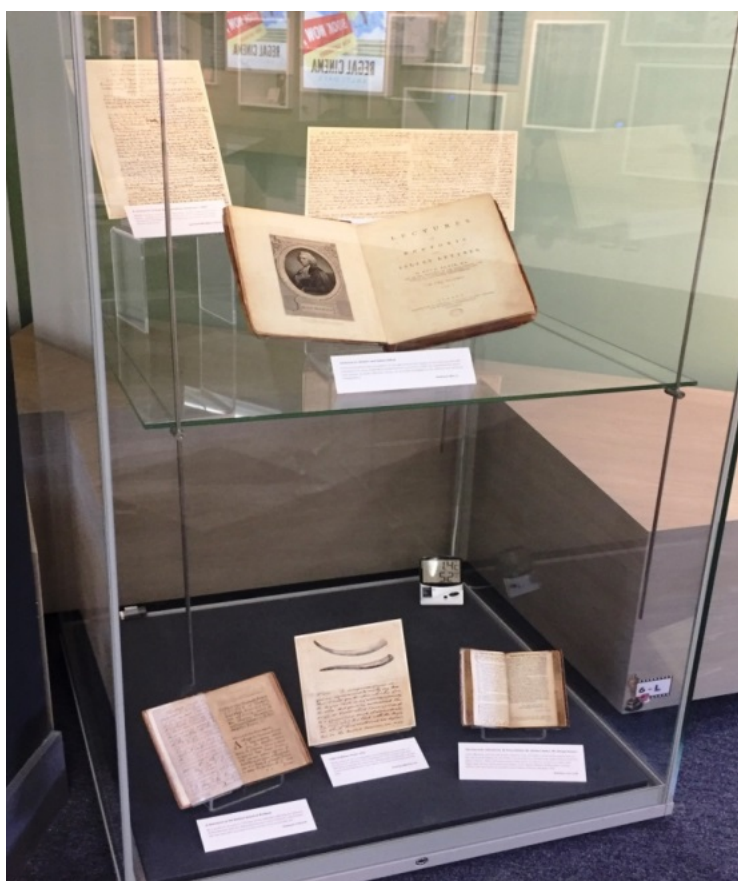
## Confederation of European Research Libraries (CERL) Internship in Rare Books

Annually, CERL offers up to three Internship and Placement Grants, to the value of 1,000 Euros each, to allow qualified librarians and scholars to work on CERL projects in CERL libraries, or in CERL offices, and to be trained on CERL databases. The Library was among five institutions offering placements in 2018 and was chosen by CERL along with Cambridge University Library and Yale University Library to host an intern. The Library matched CERL's 1,000 Euros to extend the project to two months and from 21 May to 20 July Dr Krisztina Rábai, Assistant Professor in Medieval and Book History at the University of Szeged, Hungary, worked with the Library's recently catalogued collection of incunabula, adding data to CERL's Material Evidence in Incunabula. This database allows scholars to track the movement of incunabula across Europe and the wider world from the 15th century to the present. 278 of the Library's collection of approximately 600 holdings of 15th-century books are now included in the database.

## National Library of Scotland engagement at the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society Conference at the Kelvin Hall

From 17-21 July the [31st annual conference of the Society](#) was held at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow, where the key themes were the tercentenaries of William Hunter and Hugh Blair. The National Library of Scotland contributed a display of Manuscripts and Rare Books showcasing our collections relating to these two Enlightenment figures and others such as James Boswell and Alexander Carlyle. The items, selected by Robert Betteridge and Ralph McLean, were displayed in the Moving Image Archive's display area while the conference took place.

Three curators also contributed papers to the conference: Robert Betteridge gave a talk on 'James Boswell's borrowing from the Advocates Library'; Ralph McLean spoke on 'Good Sense, Good Writing, and Useful Morality: The *Spectator* and Hugh Blair's *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*'; and Kirsty McHugh delivered a paper entitled 'In the Footsteps of Pennant and Johnson: Reverend James Bailey's 1787 Highland Tour'.



## Touring display, 'Going to the Pictures, Scottish memories of cinema'

Our new touring display, 'Going to the Pictures, Scottish memories of cinema', started its tour in East Renfrewshire this summer, visiting Barrhead Foundry, Clarkston Library and Giffnock Library from June until the end of August. The display was accompanied by outreach activities for visitors, including workshops for primary school pupils about the history of cinema, and a reminiscence screening which was facilitated by the venue.



The displays have also been supported in the last month by two presentations at Barrhead and Giffnock libraries. These presentations demonstrated the wide range of digital resources freely available to their users and were delivered by a General Collections Curator and our Outreach Officer. Both of the sessions were very well attended and covered both school and branch librarians from across the Authority's libraries. Feedback was very positive and we look forward to continuing to support these librarians in using our resources as well as taking this forward with other local authorities in a similar coordinated approach.

The website for East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure now includes a detailed link to the National Library's e-resources in its [Research and Information section](#). Through promotional work with other local authorities, links to National Library resources are now included in over half a dozen local authorities webpages.



## Learning and Outreach

Dr Michael Dempster, the recently appointed Scots Scribe, has been collaborating with the Scots Opera Project on a Scots and Gaelic translation of Purcell's opera 'Dido & Aeneas.' It was performed in Irvine at the beginning of August and featured in a recent BBC Radio Scotland 'Classics Unwrapped' episode, where Michael got a chance to talk about his involvement.



**BBC Radio Scotland** ✓

@BBCRadioScot

Follow

On [#ClassicsUnwrapped](#) tonight Jamie MacDougall presents a special session featuring Scots and Gaelic interpretations of music from Henry Purcell's opera Dido and Aeneas.



9:01 pm - 26 Aug 2018

On Wednesday 5 September, members of the Learning and Events teams met with staff from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Oxford University on the planning for the 'Lest We Forget – Keep Their Stories Alive' digital roadshow which will take place in the Boardroom on Wednesday 3 October. The roadshow marks the centenary of the end of WWI by inviting the public (with a particular focus on young people) to bring in their WWI-related personal artefacts to be archived by the CWGC/Oxford University team and find out about related items in our collections as well as family history resources. The digitised items will then be added to the [Europeana 1914-1918](#) website. The event also aims to empower and train 'Digital Champion' volunteers and provide them with both the tools and the confidence to organise their own 'Lest We Forget – Keep Their Stories Alive' events within their own local community. More information about the UK-wide project can be found at: <https://www.cwgc.org/lest-we-forget>

## Library surpassing climate change targets



The Library has exceeded the Scottish Government's 2020 climate change target and our actions have been recognised with a gold pledge award from Zero Waste Scotland. We invited Marissa Lippiatt, Head of Resource Efficiency at Zero Waste Scotland, to view selected environmental items from our collection with our National Librarian, John Scally (both pictured). The Government set climate change targets in 2009, and since then, we have reduced our carbon emissions by 62% – 20% more than the 42% target. Energy use has been cut by 52%, far surpassing the 40% target.

To achieve these targets we established a set of carbon initiatives and put a programme of work in place involving all staff. This included replacing infrastructure throughout our buildings with more energy-efficient equipment, replacing all lighting with LEDs, and ensuring all staff were aware of their energy use and how to reduce it.

## Library shortlisted for Energy Institute Award

The Library's entry for the EI Awards 2018, Safeguarding the collections for current and future generations through the reduction of carbon emissions, has been shortlisted for the Environment Award in the Energy Institute's 19th annual awards competition.

This international competition received over 120 entries from across 29 countries. The EI Awards showcase organisations, projects and individuals of excellence in the energy sector, and the judges were particularly impressed with the high level of commitment, innovation and potential demonstrated in the Library's entry.

The EI Awards ceremony will take place on 22 November in London.

