



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

27 March 2019

## LIBRARIAN'S KEY EVENTS THIS QUARTER

29 November 2018

Hosted the American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland;

7 December 2018

Chaired the Agency for Legal Deposit Board meeting at the British Library and attended the Legal Deposit Librarians bi-annual meeting also at the British Library;

9 – 12 December 2018

Visited Princeton University Library as part of a panel tasked with reviewing the Rare Books and Special Collections division;

14 December 2018

Hosted the Librarian's Staff Christmas party in the Boardroom;

10 January 2019

Interview panel member for the selection of the University of Aberdeen Librarian;

11 January 2019

Spoke at the University of St. Andrews annual staff day on *Shelf Life: setting a course for libraries*;

14 January 2019

Welcomed Saoirse Ronan to the Library to view the last letter of Mary Queen of Scots and attended the premiere of the MQS film;

25 January 2019

Attended the Robert Burns 'pop-up' at Kelvin Hall, joined by Ben MacPherson, MSP, Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development;

29 and 30 January 2019

Attended the SLIC Board Away Day in Dundee;

31 January 2019

Had lunch with Rebekah Widdowfield, Royal Society of Edinburgh;

6 February 2019

Attended the Scottish Confederation of Research Libraries' Business Committee at Glasgow Caledonian University;

12 February 2019

Hosted the National Library of Scotland Foundation for a tour of the Library's current exhibition followed by dinner;

21 February 2019

Hosted Richard Ovenden, **Bodley's Librarian**, who gave a talk to Library staff on library buildings;

21 February 2019

Presented the awards at the Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Awards ceremony in the Boardroom;

22 February 2019

Attended the Research Libraries UK Board meeting at the London School of Economics;

7 March 2019

Was presented with an Honorary Fellowship by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society at an event at the University of Glasgow;

11 March 2019

Gave a talk at the ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR) at the University of Strathclyde *Getting From Page to Screen in Time for Your Birthday*;

16 March 2019

Hosted a Library –sponsored event at the Aye Write book festival at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow – Kate Williams discussing her book *Elizabeth & Mary – Rival Queens*;

18 – 19 March 2019

Visited the University of Aberdeen to explore possible future collaborations;

20 – 22 March 2019

Attended the Research Libraries UK annual conference at the British Library.



## Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

### Dean-Myatt Collection

The Dean-Myatt Collection contains approximately 5,000 sound recordings, mainly very fragile shellac records. The collection includes Scottish music of various genres, from Gaelic songs, music of the Scottish music hall, Border songs, fiddle and bagpipe music to dialect sketches. Scottish Artists represented in this collection include Jimmy Shand and Harry Lauder alongside non-Scottish artists such as Noel Coward. The collection also has an international flavour and includes Hebrew, Greek and Flamenco recordings as well as folk and dance music from South America, Africa and Asia.



Funding for cataloguing this collection was secured from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, and the project cataloguing post was managed in the Metadata & Maintenance Team. The aim of the project was to describe the original sound recordings in the main catalogue and the digitised images of the shellac record labels in the Digital Object Database (DOD). These images will be further enhanced with the sound recordings which are currently being digitised. Normally material sent for digitisation already has a catalogue presence but this was not the case with this collection. Cataloguing the physical item from the digitised image reduced the handling of these fragile items protecting them from further deterioration. **This was the first time a 'dual-cataloguing' approach has been used for printed hidden collection description, and on the whole this has been successful.** As well as achieving a reduction in hidden collections, the project has also brought other benefits, the project cataloguer has increased their skill set and this knowledge can now be shared with colleagues within the Metadata & Maintenance Team.



## Digital Production – Quarterly Update

Good progress continues to be made in digitisation, with the cumulative figures for the year standing at 159,592 at the end of Q3 against a target of 150,000 (200,000 for the whole year). This includes 16,282 maps scanned in Q3, taking the percentage of all single-sheet maps of Scotland in the Library that have been digitised to 74%. The remaining maps are due to be completed by the end of 2020.

The team continue to focus on digitisation of the MacKinnon photographic collection (in collaboration with the National Galleries of Scotland), India Papers, Scottish Exam Papers, League of Nations material, and the Encyclopedia Britannica of which the first edition was made available [online](#) in December to mark its 150th anniversary.

We recently also completed the digitisation of a selection of [medieval manuscripts](#) as part of the pan-European *Rise of Literacy* project funded by the European Commission. Several of these manuscripts dating from the 14th to the 16th century were produced in Scotland, while others were commissioned by prominent Scots.

At the start of the year we implemented a new working pattern, with four staff working from 7am to 3pm and another four working from 1pm to 9pm. This new pattern has allowed the team to increase its productivity on the V-shaped digitisation systems by keeping them in action for 14 hours per day.

We continue to use the new digitisation workflow tool, with improved functionality allowing us to capture accurate statistics and information showing where every digitised item sits in the imaging workflow. All Library stakeholders can log into the tool at any time, giving them an accurate and real-time snapshot of digitisation activity in the team.

The team has hosted several visiting groups and knowledge exchange sessions in the last few months, including digitisation staff from the Royal Museum for Central Africa Archives & Collection Management, Belgium, the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the Wellcome Collections.



## Digital resources – Global reach: 2017 – 2018

### EXTERNAL SERVICES

#### WIKIPEDIA

1,300 images used in

1,100 articles with

**36,000,000 views**



#### FLICKR [BIT.LY/FLICKRNLS](https://bit.ly/flickrnls)

2,500 images with

**2,500,000 views** (approx.)

flickr

#### INTERNET ARCHIVE

4,850 items in

13 collections

**900,000 views**



#### YOUTUBE [BIT.LY/YOUTUBENLS](https://bit.ly/youtubenls)

201 videos with

**75,000 views**

66,000 minutes watched

YouTube

### INTERNAL SERVICES

#### DIGITAL GALLERY [DIGITAL.NLS.UK](https://digital.nls.uk)

441,863 users with

597,298 views sessions

6.43 pages per session

3:34 minutes average duration on site



#### MAPS [MAPS.NLS.UK](https://maps.nls.uk)

1,249,448 users with

3,308,226 views sessions

3.84 pages per session

3:59 minutes average duration on site



### INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

The most viewed video on YouTube [A riveting squad at work at John Brown's shipyard](#), Glasgow in 1949 with 37,841 views



The top referrer for maps was Facebook with 177,552 referrals, and the English language Wikipedia was the 5<sup>th</sup> referrer to Digital Gallery with 4,841 referrals.

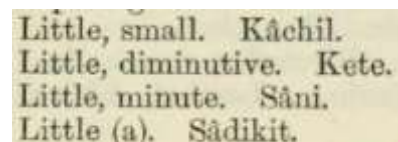


This [poignant image](#) of a soldier sleeping in a WWI trench is the most popular image on Flickr with 132,108 views.



The English Wikipedia [article on Robert the Bruce](#) contains an image of his marriage to Isabella of Mar from the Library's Forman Armorial (produced for Mary Queen of Scots). The image has never been published on the Library's website

The item that has been most viewed from the Internet Archive is an 1852 copy of [A grammar and dictionary of the Malay language : with a preliminary dissertation](#) with more than 50,000 views.



In the forthcoming planning year the Library will extend the reach of its collections by supplying, where possible, more of our digitised resources to 3<sup>rd</sup> party services (Wikipedia, Flickr, YouTube, etc.). In preparation for this work we reviewed the reach of existing resources on such sites as well as the Library's maps and digital gallery sites.

## 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 December 2018 to February 2019 are:

### Staff Engagement Survey Results:

The general trend shows increasing levels of staff engagement. Sectional analysis of the employee experience shows the highest level of engagement is shared by 21% of staff (up 4%), while the lowest bracket of engagement has dropped to 3% (down 1%).

Change management, traditionally a low scoring area in the survey, is being addressed through a new policy on Organisational Change and associated training for all managers this month (March 2019).

### Staff Engagement Activities:

The Staff Engagement Network is developing a series of activities to help enhance social integration at the Library including an end of year celebration which will take place in the Boardroom on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

### Innovation: Fashion Related Collections Case Study

The Creative Industries Community of Interest has been pushing forward a case study approach to using themed collections to engage with specific audiences who are less involved with the Library. This has involved targeting young creatives with an interest in fashion design and careers and collaborations with individuals and institutions on the Scottish fashion scene.

Two strands are currently in play:

- *ReFashioned* – a design competition based around the Better World exhibition theme of social change after WW1. The winning entry will be photographed with a professional model, stylist and photographer in the Library Reading Rooms and the images used for promotional purposes.
- *Lost for Words*, a project commissioning third year Fashion Communication students at Heriot Watt University to produce small publications (zines) promoting the Library's fashion-related collections, and sharing employability guidance, to relevant graduates in 2019. The publications will be exhibited in the Library before the selected version is printed and distributed in May.

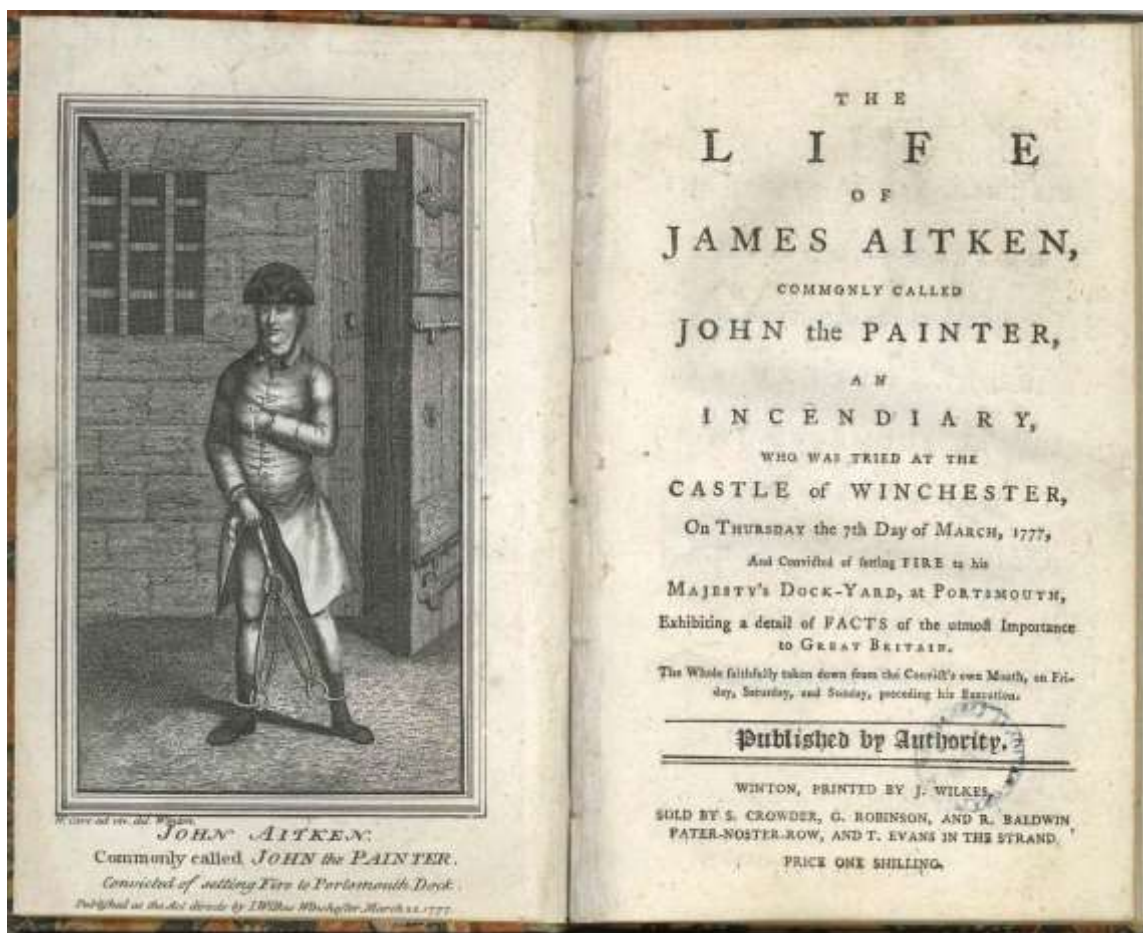
## Rare Books purchases

James Aitken, *The life of James Aitken, commonly called John the Painter, an incendiary*, Winchester, 1777.

This book is the confessions of a Scottish criminal and arsonist James Aitken, who was born in Edinburgh in 1752. He began his career as a painter, but when he moved to London he drifted into a life of crime, burgling shops and homes and committing highway robberies. Fearing arrest, he emigrated to America and got caught up in the unrest preceding the American Revolution. Aitken claims to have taken part in the Boston Tea Party, but he returned to England shortly afterwards where he resumed his life of crime. In 1776 he decided to aid the American revolutionary cause and hatched a plan to set fire to all the British naval dockyards. After a relatively unsuccessful attempt on Portsmouth dockyard, Aitken had more success in Bristol in January 1777, causing major damage to the docks there. He was caught in Hampshire and eventually tried in Winchester, where he was found guilty and condemned to death. Although refusing to acknowledge his guilt in court, Aitken later dictated the events of his colourful life to his gaolers while awaiting execution.

Stuart Bennett \$1,500

AB.1.219.30

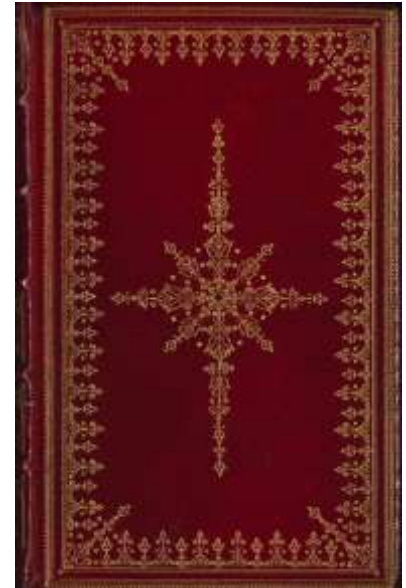


James Maidment (ed.), *A book of Scottish [sic] pasquils, 1568-1715*, Edinburgh, 1868.

One of three copies printed on vellum, this copy is in a superb crimson morocco binding. It was done by Andrew Grieve of Edinburgh, who produced several fine bindings in the mid- to late 19th century. A pasquil or pasquinade is an anonymous lampoon of a person or institution, a tradition which dates back to the Romans and which was popular in Britain in the 16th to 18th centuries. The antiquary James Maidment brought together this collection of satires, from printed and manuscript sources, on various pillars of Scottish society, such as the clergy, politicians and the nobility.

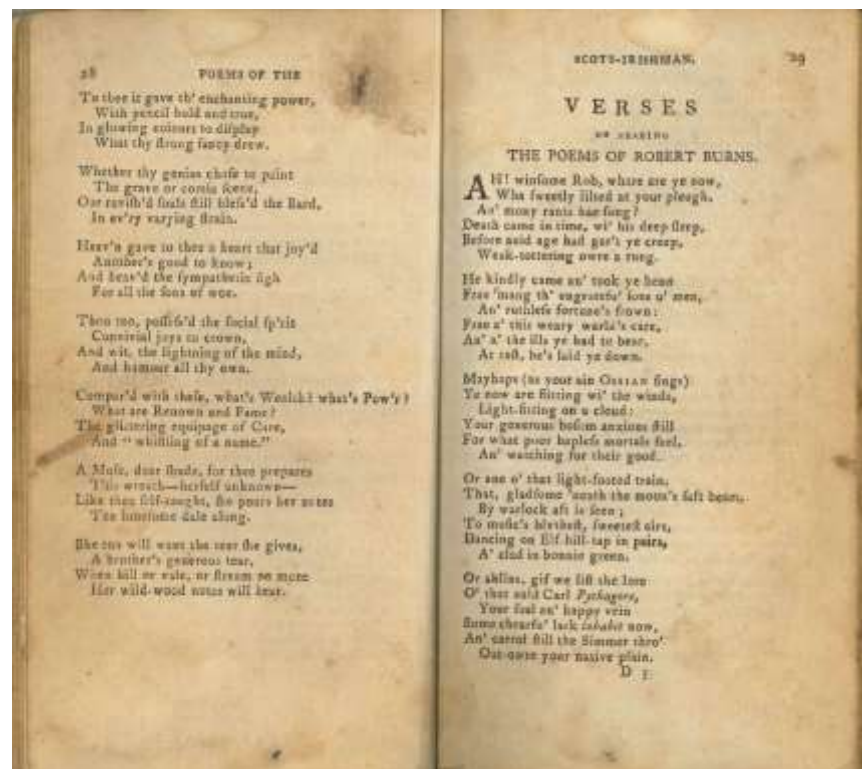
Phillip Pirages \$4,500

Bdg.s.975



[David Bruce], *Poems chiefly in the Scottish dialect*, Washington [Pa], 1801.

A rare compilation of poems by a Scottish emigrant to America, David Bruce (c. 1760-1830). He was born in Caithness, but seems to have lived for a time somewhere near Derry/Londonderry and Coleraine in Ireland. He emigrated to the USA in the early 1780s, and by 1795 he had moved to Washington County in Pennsylvania, south of Pittsburgh. He published poems in his native dialect in the local newspaper, which were often strident in their criticism of taxation and Federalism in America, under the pseudonym of 'The Scots-Irishman'. This book was the first book of verse printed west of the Allegheny Mountains and is of particular interest as it shows that author and his Pennsylvania readership were happy to use Scots as a medium for literary and political expression in their new homeland.



McBride Rare Books \$2,750

In process, awaiting cataloguing



Alfred & Tony Johannot, *Trente vignettes pour Walter Scott*, Paris, 1832.

A collection of 30 engravings, issued in 10 supplements in their original wrappers, on deluxe China paper. The engravings were used in a 32-volume French-language translation of Walter Scott's collected works published by Furne of Paris in 1830-32. This particular set also has an additional 11th supplement, which is only recorded in one other set (Bibliothèque nationale de France), and a hand-written list linking the illustrations to the particular works of Scott. The engravings were based on watercolours done by Alfred and Antoine (Tony) Johannot, French painters and engravers, who were popular book illustrators of the first half of the 19th century. The separate publication of the engravings testifies to the huge popularity of Scott's novels in France in the 1820s and early 1830s, and to the attraction his meticulous and vivid descriptions of scenes and locations held for book illustrators.

Daniela Kromp 1,560 €

FB.el.160

Caleb Trenchfield, *A cap of gray hairs for a green head*, 5th edition, Glasgow, 1692.

This is a very rare (only two other copies recorded) example of an early Glasgow printing. It is the first Scottish edition of a work originally printed in London in 1671 which is an elderly father's "counsel to his son, an apprentice in London". Robert Sanders, the Glaswegian printer, was active in the book trade from the 1650s to his death in 1694. He was recorded as 'Printer to the Toun' in 1662 and 'Printer to the City and University' in 1672. Inscriptions in the book indicate that the book was probably owned by families in the Hawick area in the early 18th century.

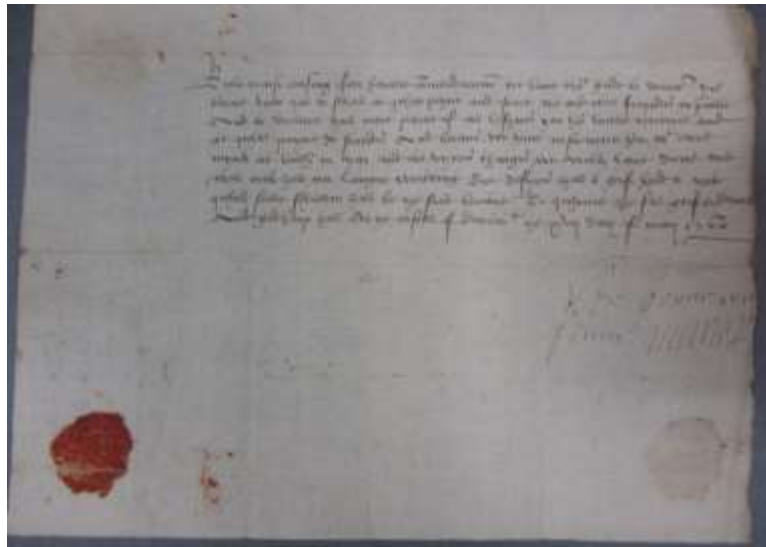
Shadowrock Rare Books \$1,280

In process, awaiting cataloguing

## Archives and Manuscripts – some recent acquisitions

### Acc. 14024: Acquisition of letter of Mary of Guise

A letter of Mary of Guise, written only a few weeks before her death in 1560, was bought at auction in December.



### Acc 14025: Donation of Gaelic-related manuscripts

A collection of nine commonplace manuscripts and song books, partly in Gaelic, of Gaelic song collector Frances Tolmie (1840-1926) and her two nephews Rev. Alexander M.C. Tolmie (1861-1909), minister of Southend, Kintyre, and John Tolmie (1861-1923), formerly of the Register House and a part-time performer of comic songs. This significant acquisition is centred on the family of one of the greatest collectors of Gaelic songs.



Tolmie collection

Acc. 14031. Papers of Jen Hadfield

The papers of Shetland-based poet and artist, Jen Hadfield, were bought recently.

Jen won the T S Eliot poetry prize for her 2008 collection, *Nigh-No-Place*. Her work as a poet, artist and small press publisher is well-represented in this archive of literary and visual riches.



Graham Brown Acquisition

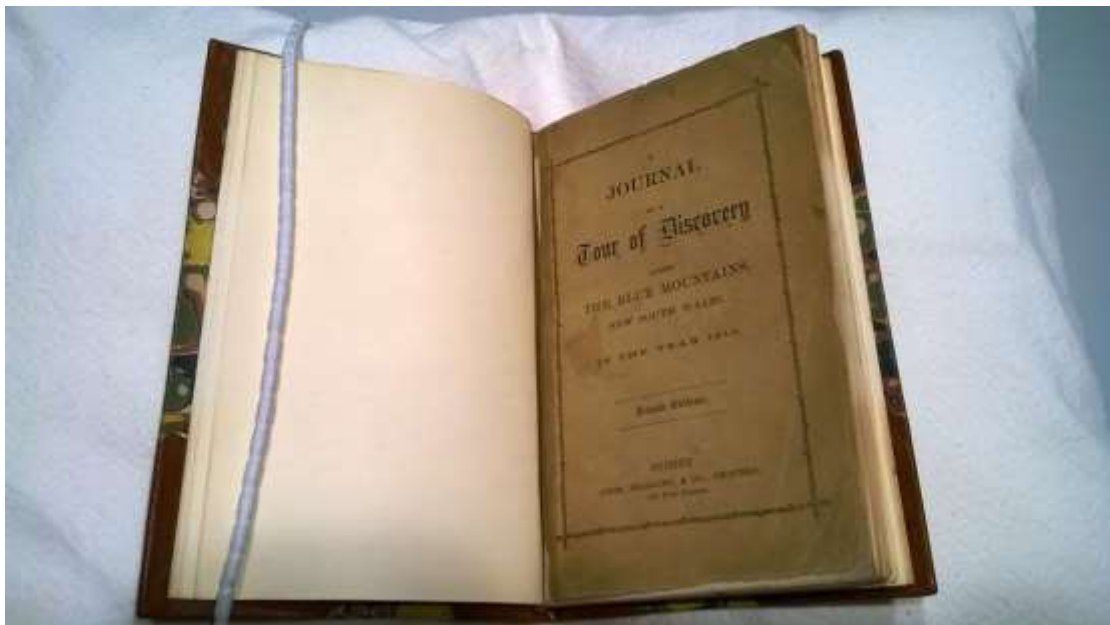
Blaxland, Gregory

*A journal of a tour of discovery across the Blue Mountains, New South Wales, in the year 1813.*

Second edition.

Sydney: Gibbs, Shallard & Co., 1870.

On 31<sup>st</sup> May 1813 Blaxland, with his companions Wentworth and Lawson, finally found a new route through the Blue Mountains of Australia, sighting rich grazing lands from the summit of a peak later called Mount Blaxland. For more than twenty-five years, the settlers had been restricted to the coastal strip, but the discovery of the route opened the country up for farming and development. Lieutenant William Lawson was the son of Scottish parents, from Kirkpatrick near Dumfries. He is credited with droving the first cattle through the new pass. The mountains were a formidable barrier, being 3-4,000 feet in height. This scarce second edition, published by **Blaxland's son**, is an Australian exploration classic. The first edition, privately printed for Blaxland, is virtually unobtainable. The Library holds an example of the third edition published by his grandson.





## General Collections – recent acquisitions

### Web Archiving – churches and religious sites

February saw the culmination of a web-archiving project in the General Collections team to comprehensively identify, list and archive websites relating to Christian churches in Scotland. From denominational level to individual church, this involved 4,500 potential sites, with 2,700 actually being found and archived. Further to this work, 117 sites for other religious groups in Scotland were also added including sites for Baha'is, Brahma Kumaris, Buddhism, Hinduism, ISKCON, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

— Previous    Displaying 1 to 10 of 2190    Next —				
Target Name	Target URL(s)	License Status	Crawl Frequency	Scheduled for crawl?
24-7 Prayer Scotland	<a href="http://24-7scotland.com/">http://24-7scotland.com/</a>	NOT_INITIATED	Annually	true
2gether Renfrewshire	<a href="http://2gether-renfrewshire.org.uk/sitemap.xml">http://2gether-renfrewshire.org.uk/sitemap.xml</a> <a href="http://www.2gether-renfrewshire.org.uk/">http://www.2gether-renfrewshire.org.uk/</a>	PENDING	Annually	true
Abbey Church of Scotland	<a href="http://www.abbeychurch.org.uk/">http://www.abbeychurch.org.uk/</a>	PENDING	Annually	true
Abbeygreen Church	<a href="http://www.abbeygreen.org.uk/">http://www.abbeygreen.org.uk/</a>		Annually	true
Abbeyhill Baptist Church	<a href="http://www.abbeyhillbaptist.co.uk/">http://www.abbeyhillbaptist.co.uk/</a> <a href="http://www.abbeyhillbaptist.co.uk/sitemap.xml">http://www.abbeyhillbaptist.co.uk/sitemap.xml</a>		Annually	true
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Abbotsgrange Parish Church	<a href="https://abbotsgrangechurch.org/">https://abbotsgrangechurch.org/</a>	NOT_INITIATED	Annually	true
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ABC Saints	<a href="http://abcsaints.blogspot.com/">http://abcsaints.blogspot.com/</a> <a href="http://abcsaints.blogspot.com/sitemap.xml">http://abcsaints.blogspot.com/sitemap.xml</a>		Annually	true
Abdie & Dunbog linked with Newburgh Parish Churches	<a href="http://www.abdieandunbog-newburgh.org.uk/">http://www.abdieandunbog-newburgh.org.uk/</a>		Annually	true
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### Folio Society editions

A recent display case featured books produced by the Folio Society, which are beautifully bound, lavishly illustrated and supplied complete with slip-cases. The display included just some of the 46 recent reissues received through legal deposit, such as *Atlas shrugged* by Ayn Rynd, *We* by Yevgeny Zamyatin and *The expedition of Humphry Clinker* by Tobias Smollett.

### A controversial match

We continue to make significant sports purchases, including an unusual piece of ephemera about the football match Scotland played on 15 June, 1977 at Chile's National Stadium in Santiago. This was called Scotland's match of shame as Chile was then a military dictatorship and the stadium had been used to imprison and torture opponents of the regime less than four years before the match was played. Protests were made, songs written and petitions set up but the game went ahead as the SFA saw it as important preparation for the 1978 World Cup in Argentina, Scotland won 4-2. The item we have is a flyer "Oh flower of Chile ... don't play with Chile, boycott the butchers" placed at PB8.208.772/17 which called on Scotland fans to stop the blood match.

## Archives and Manuscripts – Outreach

*Seachdain na Gàidhlig*: 6 November 2018

As part of the Library's participation in *Seachdain na Gàidhlig*, the Edinburgh Gaelic week, Ms Almut Boehme and Dr Ulrike Hogg welcomed visitors to a hands-on Gaelic manuscripts and music workshop.

Work with secondary schools: 26 November 2018

Dr Ulrike Hogg hosted a workshop on mediaeval manuscripts for Highers pupils from an Edinburgh school. This was the first manuscripts showing we have offered for secondary-school pupils at a higher level. They proved to be a very interested and engaged audience.

Work with universities

As an important element of the Library's collaboration with universities, we continue to host manuscripts workshops and seminars for tutors and students. On 18<sup>th</sup> February Dr Ralph McLean and Dr Ulrike Hogg received a group of students from Edinburgh University led by their lecturer Dr Ben Molineaux. The students were shown manuscripts showcasing the Scots language from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, which complements their university course on the History of Scots. Among the highlights of the collections shown was the Bannatyne Manuscript, which is the earliest known source for a multitude of Scots verse; letters in Scots by Queen Mary and King James VI; the poetry and songs of Robert Burns; and manuscript entries from Jamieson's *Etymological Dictionary of the Scots Language*.

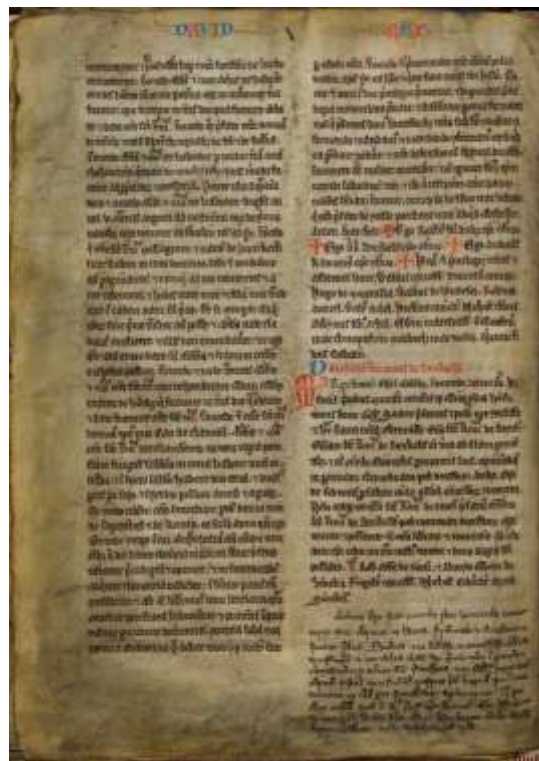


Above: The Bannatyne Manuscript, written in 1568, is one of the most important sources of Older Scots poetry. It was recently shown to students of the history of the Scots language.

## Mediaeval chartularies project:

The Library has continued to play a major part in the Royal Society of Edinburgh-funded project on Scottish mediaeval chartularies, a collaboration with the University of Glasgow that was already mentioned in a previous report. Two further workshops for professionals took place in the Library, involving a number of Library colleagues across several divisions as well as colleagues from other archives. Three seminars for postgraduate students were also held in the Library; these were well attended by a number of international participants. A further workshop and a major symposium were held at the Library in March.

*Right: A page from the Dunfermline Chartulary, one of the volumes studied in the project.*



## Mary, Queen of Scots

As a result of the public interest in Mary, Queen of Scots, sparked by the recent film about her, a number of high-profile events and visits took place in the Library:

On 7 November, Kenneth Dunn and Dr Ulrike Hogg showed and explained Mary's last letter and other manuscripts to Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop.

On 29 November, Dr Ulrike Hogg showed a similar selection of manuscripts to a group of visitors from Universal Films, the makers of the film *Mary Queen of Scots*, and from VisitScotland.

On 14 January, Kenneth Dunn and Dr Ulrike Hogg provided a special manuscripts viewing for the actress Saoirse Ronan, who plays Mary in the recent film, and members of her family and team. This showing included Mary's last letter.

On 8-9 February, Dr Anette Hagan and Dr Ulrike Hogg were on hand during a display of selected rare books and manuscripts concerning Mary, Queen of Scots. During these two days more than 1,000 visitors popped in to see this display.



## Robert Burns pop-up event

On 25 January 2019 at the Kelvin Hall, the Library, in co-operation with the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, brought together two of Burns's manuscripts to display for the first time – 'Holy Willie's Prayer' from the Library and 'The Ordination' from the Mitchell. Dr Ralph McLean and Kenneth Dunn were on hand to answer questions about 'Holy Willie's Prayer', written in 1785 to expose the hypocrisy of the Church elder William Fisher. Gordon Yeoman and Sarah Wilmott prepared and installed the manuscript for the event. The manuscript which was on display for four hours was seen by over 200 visitors, including Ben MacPherson, MSP, Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development.

21. *Holy Willie's Prayer*  
*Argument* — And send the Gody in a pet to pray-  
*Pope*  
Holy Willie was a rather oldish bachelor Elder in the parish of Mauchline, & much & justly famed for that polemical chattering which ends in tiffing Orthodoxy, & for that spiritualized Bawdery which refines to Liquorish Devotion. — In a sepioral proceß with a gentleman in Mauchline, a M<sup>r</sup> Gavin Hamilton, Holy Willie, & his priest, father Auld, after full hearing in the Presbytry of Ayr, came off but second best; owing partly to the oratorical powers of M<sup>r</sup> Rob. Aiken, M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton's Counsel, but chiefly to M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton's being one of the most irreproachable & truly respectable characters in the country. — On losing his Proceß, the Muse overheard him at his devotions as follows —  
O thou that in the heavens does dwell!  
Tha, as it pleases best thyself,  
Sends a're to heaven & ten to h-ll  
And no for any gude or ill <sup>It's for thy glory!</sup>  
They're done before thee. —



## Getting Started in Special Collections Workshop

The Special Collections Assistants team have recently begun to offer a 'Getting Started in Special Collections' workshop, which is aimed at educating and assisting new and inexperienced users with Special Collections material. The workshop which will be offered every two months, is designed to show readers how to best utilise the Library's various finding aids to discover the rich variety of material within the collections, and help them begin their own research. The team involved also endeavours to educate readers on how best to handle different Special Collections items. The objectives of the workshop are to widen access, encourage more users to explore Special Collections and in doing so hopefully eliminate the image that they are exclusive, intimidating and not available for everyone.

The feedback so far has been very positive with attendees commenting that the workshop was fun, informative and helped them to understand the best methods to search for material on our catalogues.

## Partnerships with Glasgow Museums and Into Film – Schools Workshops

The Moving Image Archives' regular Primary school workshops on the 'Trickery of Movement', delivered in partnership with Glasgow Museums, are now being promoted via Into Film's school network of Film Clubs. As a result, the demand for the early animation workshops has increased with four delivered in 2019 so far.

The MIA Learning & Outreach team supported a Teachers Training session, facilitated by Glasgow Museums at Kelvingrove Art Gallery, with Museum Champion Teachers in using film as a resource within the classroom.

Continuing the Library's relationship with Glasgow Museums' Learning team, we joined together to run the GoMA Saturday Art Club for children aged 3 – 12 in both the Gallery of Modern Art and Kelvin Hall on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Over 100 children took part in the creative activities to make their own animations inspired by the Films of Margaret Tait currently on display in GoMA until April 2019. <http://www.whatsonglasgow.co.uk/event/004824-saturday-art-club/>



Saturday Art Club Animation Creations 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## Community engagement, research and development

The Library has been collaborating with Glasgow Film Festival to support visits to the Moving Image Archive for a Primary School, a Secondary School and two community groups to explore the Identity of Maryhill on screen for the event taking place at the Seamore Cinema 'Our Maryhill' on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019: <https://glasgowfilm.org/glasgow-film-festival/>

The Library hosted the fourth, and final, creative conversation and screening event in February 2019. The screening, in partnership with Japan Desk Scotland, was of Japanese craft documentaries and took place at Kelvin Hall.

In December 2018 the Library hosted 220 children and young people attending creative film masterclass events in Kelvin Hall as part of the Scottish Youth Film Festival.



## Outcome of Community Heritage RSE proposal

The Library has partnered with St Andrews University and Ergadia Heritage in a successful RSE funding application. This is to fund a series of 12 Scotland-wide roadshows to support the development and direction of the new Scottish Community Heritage Alliance. The Alliance is a grass-roots organisation bringing together groups throughout the country who are interested in, or taking steps to safeguard their local heritage, be it buildings, collections, history or intangible heritage, and bringing them together with national-level stakeholders. Jennifer Giles represents the Library in this partnership.

The road-shows, which will mostly be held outwith the central belt, will allow discussion and opinions to be gathered locally to determine how such a network might develop and what would be of benefit to communities. The Library will be able to attend these events to promote our collections, encourage collection development and discuss in person how our collections might be used remotely, as well as to promote use of the Scottish Local History Directory (<https://www.slhf.org/scottish-local-history-directory>), which the Library has partnered in developing with the Scottish Local History Forum and LocScot (Local Studies Librarians). The roadshows will conclude with a community heritage conference in St Andrews University, presenting the results of the roadshow discussions and also academic research on what constitutes community heritage.

## User experience research

A small task group from Reader Services have been carrying out some user experience (UX) research since November 2018. The aim of the research is to find out more about how readers use the General Reading Room (GRR) and associated spaces, what's important to them about these spaces and what services or facilities they would like us to develop.

There are three elements to the study. Firstly, a 'graffiti wall' using a whiteboard was situated outside the reading rooms to capture instant comments from readers about what they like/don't like about the reading room. This proved very popular with readers being full by the end of each day after which it was photographed and wiped clean for the following day. At the end of the exercise, the comments were grouped into themes and the responses displayed on the board in the form of speech bubbles.



The second element which has just been completed was a series of observation studies of the GRR and associated spaces. Staff spent 15-20 minutes each day over a period of time noting down where readers were sitting, where they asked for help, the activities that were taking place within a space and whether items from the collections were being used. The data from this is currently being analysed.

Lastly, a series of exit interviews with readers is planned for March and will be conducted by **Reader Services' staff**. This short survey will focus on what readers like/don't like about particular spaces and what they think is missing in terms of research space requirements. The information gathered from all of these activities will be brought together and used to inform short-term developments and longer-term planning for the reading room spaces.

## University of Stirling occult history students

A group from the University of Stirling came to see a selection of 20<sup>th</sup> century books on the occult on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019, including rare works by Dion Fortune, Aleister Crowley and Austen Osman Spare. They were particularly interested in books about hollow earth theory and a selection of popular occult books and magazines from the 1960s and 1970s. They were amazed at the breadth and depth of our collections and hope to make further use of them and will return for a similar event next year.

## Loans

Fernand Léger – Tate Liverpool, 23 November 2018 – 17 March 2019

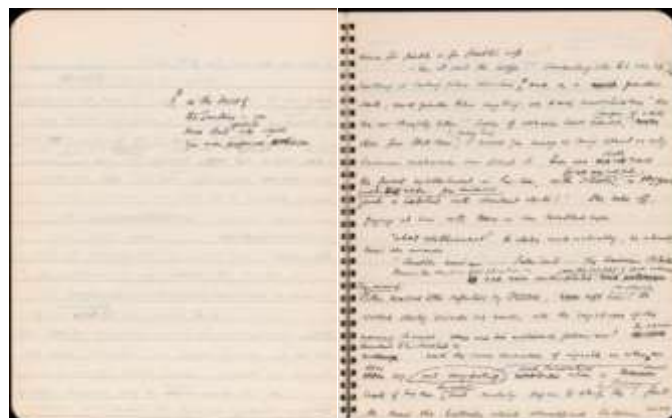
Two issues of *Broom: An International Magazine of the Arts 1922* are currently on display as part of the [Fernand Léger Exhibition at Tate Liverpool](#).

‘Made during an important transitional period in Léger’s career, [the magazine covers] demonstrate one way in which Léger translated his singular vision to printed media...’



## A.J Cronin' 'Keys to the Kingdom' to National Museum of Scotland until January 2029

Parts of the manuscript of A J Cronin's 'Keys to the Kingdom' have been a part of the permanent exhibition 'Scotland: A Changing Nation' at the National Museum of Scotland since opening in 2007. Manuscript notebook Acc.9873/15 was installed in January 2019 by Exhibitions Conservator Gordon Yeoman and will remain at the Museum until 2029. The Museum has agreed to change the opening page every 6 months to ensure there is no risk of light damage occurring.





The Cheviot, the Stag & the Black, Black Oil - V&A Dundee, September 2018 – September 2023

To mark the centenary of the First World War and Armistice Day, the War Memorial scene was revealed in November 2018 at V&A Dundee. Conservator Shona Hunter orchestrated the safe move and handling of The Cheviot, the Stag & the Black, Black Oil set for the scene change while the V&A Dundee galleries were closed to the public.



[https://sketchfab.com/models/3521a770137f4328a300163f1c4ea05b?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=model-shared](https://sketchfab.com/models/3521a770137f4328a300163f1c4ea05b?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=model-shared)

The striking 'Monarch of the Glen' scene will be on display in the Scottish Design Galleries until autumn 2019.

Modern Couples: Art, intimacy and the Avant-garde - Barbican Art Gallery, 10 October 2018 – 27 January 2019

The 70,939 visitors who attended the Modern Couples exhibition at the Barbican were able to see 'Vier Dramen: Orpheus und Eurydike' by Oskar Kokoschka on loan from the Library's collections. This was an ambitious exhibition to have been a part of, with loans from many other national and international lenders and collections.

Vier Dramen: Orpheus und Eurydike; [Der brennende Dornbusch](#); [Mörder](#), [Hoffnung der Frauen](#). Shelfmark: T.78.a



## Lights, Camera Action! Project #RescueMe: Improving accessibility through advocacy

In August 2018, the public were asked to vote for one of three collections, each scheduled for repair in the conservation workshop. Most of the time conservation is carried out ‘behind the scenes’. However, advocacy is an increasingly important part of our role. The ‘candidates’ were put on display in the Library’s entrance hall, allowing the public to examine them pre-treatment. The winner was “Geological charts”, which pipped the other collections to the post... or rather, the social media platform.



In due course, the other items (some 20<sup>th</sup> century booklets and a volume of historic pamphlets) will also be treated by our conservation team.

The geological charts were flagged for treatment during a condition survey. The Maps Curator explained that the collection had been donated by the National Museums of Scotland in 2010. Three of the most interesting and badly damaged charts were selected for inclusion in the

#RescueMe project. Tightly rolled up, they were too distorted and springy to be placed inside a plan chest. Without treatment, they would have become torn as a result of the planar distortion. The treatment involved cleaning, spot-testing, humidification, washing and pressing. In addition, the disfiguring tape stains were reduced, and the tears were repaired with Japanese tissue. The treatment process was documented with a GoPro camera and the resulting clips were shared on Twitter.

The smallest chart was displayed (11 Feb – 4 March), along with a selection of photographs and hand tools. It's hoped that the project will become a regular feature at the Library. For further information, please refer to the Library's blog: <https://blog.nls.uk/project-update-rescueme/>, and look out for an article about the project in the current edition of Discover Magazine.

## Public Engagement: Collections Care Division

On 29<sup>th</sup> January Shona Hunter, Conservator, presented a lecture in the Boardroom of the Library about the conservation, long-term loan and 3D modelling of the original stage-set for John McGrath's play "The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil". Attended by approximately 40 people, the audience included members of the public and conservation professionals from the local area. It was a good networking opportunity and fostered some lively discussion. The lecture was originally presented at the Icon Book and Paper Group Conference



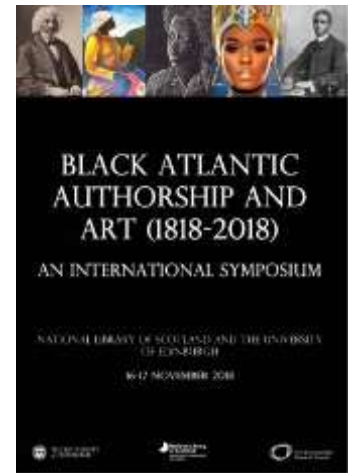
"Unexpected fame: Conservation approaches to the preparatory object", held at Oxford University in October 2018.

Further discussion took place the following day, when Shona and Clara Molina Sanchez (Director of Spectrum Heritage) led a student seminar at Glasgow University. The invitation had been extended by Dr Maria Economou, Senior Lecturer (Heritage and Informatics Studies). Shona and Clara were impressed by the interactive classroom and by the student's enthusiasm and insightful questions.

In addition, Shona and Clara will present their paper about the 'Cheviot' project at the forthcoming conference "2+3D Photography: Practice and Prophecies", which is due to take place at the Rijksmuseum in May 2019. Their abstract was accepted in January, having been submitted in December.

## Black Atlantic Authorship and Art (1818-2018) – an international symposium with University of Edinburgh

As part of the Frederick Douglass 'Our Bondage & Our Freedom' project the Library partnered with the University of Edinburgh to host this two-day symposium. Presentations given by scholars, curators and researchers from around the UK and the US included Frederick Douglass as philosopher, Harlem Renaissance literature and visual culture, and American women's prison zines.



### Frederick Douglass events, tours & outreach

From October 2018 to February 2019 the Library ran a series of well-attended, and sometimes over-subscribed, events and tours tying into the Treasures display *Strike for Freedom: Slavery, Civil War and the Frederick Douglass Collection in the Walter O. & Linda Evans Collection*.

School pupils, teachers, members of the Grassmarket Community Project and Open Book group, and attendees of the Library Social programme came to workshops and sessions delivered by Prof Celeste-Marie Bernier, Beverley Casebow and Dora Petherbridge. Walking tours, display tours and talks for the general public also proved popular and generated responses such as this:

**“The lecture was a wonderful experience, and personally very informative and emotional. I noticed that some in the audience were visibly shaken by the graphic and stark reality of the slave trade. Celeste was impassioned and lucid and her lecture was erudite, poignant and educational. Why weren’t Frederick and others not part of my school curriculum?”** Eddie, Ayr.

### Setting a trend with HWU

Elaine Simpson and Andrew McDougall have been working closely with Heriot Watt University 3<sup>rd</sup> year fashion communication students to help publicise the Library’s fashion collections (long print runs of all of the major fashion and style magazines, textiles and industry journals, histories of designers, costume and fashion photography). The students are currently working in groups to design three zines on the subjects of visual inspiration, textiles and structure, and business and research. The final zines will be distributed at the various fashion graduate shows in Scotland this summer. This work is part of the Library’s work to engage with both the creative industries and younger audiences.

### Scottish co-working network

The Scottish Co-working Network is a new network of business hubs within Scotland’s public libraries offering dedicated space for start-ups and small businesses. They have been enabled by SLIC. Elaine Simpson (the Library’s Business and Enterprise Partner) attended the official launch of the Scottish Co-working network business hubs, and has since visited the hubs in Edinburgh and Dunfermline, where posters and leaflets are now on display advertising our business e-resources.



## ConnectED business breakfast in the Boardroom

The ConnectED business networking group held a business breakfast event at the Library on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Structured networking activity was followed by an explanation of Library resources and a tour of the George IV Bridge building.

## Visit to Perth College to promote eResources

Fiona Laing and Veronica Denholm delivered a presentation to an audience of lecturers, students and library staff at Perth College of Technology (UHI) to showcase the Library's varied collection of e-resources that could greatly benefit their research.

## Reaching out to local government

In order to demonstrate the value of the Library's e-resources to Scottish Local Government policy makers, Fiona Laing produced a blog post for the Local Government Information Unit ([www.lgiuscotland.org.uk](http://www.lgiuscotland.org.uk)).

## Newspaper scoping project

Jennifer Higgins joined the General Collection team on a nine-month secondment to investigate the digitisation of Scottish newspapers. The project will undertake a range of assessments to establish the scope of what is likely to be a significant piece of future work for the Library, and will also assess the potential for a digitisation project that could include other partners in Scotland. She will submit her report to the One Third Digital Programme Board in September.

## Edinburgh Gaelic Week

The Library participated in this annual Edinburgh-wide event, which was held during the week of 5-10 November 2018. The Library held two show-and-tell events showcasing our Gaelic treasures, one with manuscripts and music, and the other with modern collections, which was accompanied by a tour. In addition we had a stand at the Gaelic Fair held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November.



## Event with the Fulbright Scholar

A round table discussion on the Scottish National Party in the 1960s and 1970s was held in the Library on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018. It was moderated by Dr Gregory Baldi, Associate Professor of Political Science at Western Illinois University and the National Library's 2018/19 Fulbright Scholar. The invited participants were Isobel Lindsay, Ian Macdonald, Karen Macdonald, David Rollo and Stewart Stevenson, MSP as well as Fiona Laing, Sarah Moxey and Chris Taylor from the Library. An audio recording of the discussions was created along with a transcript and list of material consulted and this will be added to our collections.



## What Scotland Means To Me

The 'What Scotland Means To Me' celebration event took place in Kelvin Hall on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2018. The youth film competition, funded through the Librarian's Innovation fund, ran for six months during the Year of Young People 2018 in conjunction with the Scottish Youth Film Festival, inviting young people to create a one minute film on the theme 'What Scotland Means to Me'.

The independent judging panel, formed of award winning Scottish Film Industry talent of Kevin Guthrie, Tim Courtney, Raisah Ahmed along with a National Youth Arts Advisory Group Ambassador, created a shortlist of 14 films and identified the winners. The winning films can be viewed online here: <https://www.nls.uk/film-competition>.

The winning film in the 12 years and under category *From Dancing Dundee*, was made by friends Sen and Lucy as they dance their way around Tayside and provide an insight into their view of Scotland. Lucy said: "we really like our highland dancing so we made it about dancing - dancing by the river, on the hill, on the beach and the V & A." Sen said: "I enjoyed everyone's film, it felt good to win and we're totally surprised."



*Sen and Lucy, Age 12 and under winners, with judges Kevin and Tim*



*Production still, from St Thomas Aquinas School group, Age 13 and over winners*

The 13 years and over category was won by Glasgow's *St Thomas Aquinas Acrostic Account* where a large group of S2 pupils shared their comical thoughts about what Scotland means to them, using individual pieces to camera. Art and Design Teacher, Rachel Munro, commented: "I'm so pleased for the kids, lots of them have never been to anything like this, they worked so hard on it and we were giddy up to the point whether we won or not, so that was the most wonderful bonus."

Feedback from participants was very positive with a genuine excitement in completing the challenge of creating their own short film and leaving their legacy of 2018 for future generations to see. Head teacher, from shortlisted Elgol Primary School on the Isle of Skye, Iain Murray said: "It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to work in partnership with parents through the process to plan and produce both the film and the soundtrack. The children thoroughly enjoyed the process and gained experience of working with a wide range of technology."

Actor, Kevin Guthrie, from the judging panel, said: “I was really blown away by the filmmaking skills and storytelling. The calibre, the standard, the imagination, the tools that people used to make their films was inspiring.” Director, Tim Courtney, from the judging panel, said: “It was so nice to see such a range of diversity on the screen, to see people from all walks of life making film.”

Ann Cameron, Interim Head of Moving Image and Sound Collections at the National Library said: “Running this competition has been such a great opportunity to add contemporary young people’s perspectives to our moving image collections. We were amazed and entertained by the eclectic range of diverse and inclusive films we received for future generations to enjoy.”

## Stuart and Cumberland Papers: An online resource

The Library has recently acquired the Stuart and Cumberland Papers from the Royal Archives, Windsor Castle. Published by Gale-Cengage and forming part of State Papers Online, this archive contains 245,000 folios, and brings together two distinct but historically related collections: The Stuart Papers, the papers of the exiled James VII, and his heirs; and the Cumberland Papers, the papers of William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, second son of George II and military commander of the British Army.

The Stuart Papers range from 1579 to 1823, although the majority date from 1714 to 1797, and are an essential resource for Jacobite research, whilst the Cumberland Papers offer the Government perspective through the **Duke’s predominantly military papers dating from 1742 to 1764**. Papers included range from: instructions on how the young James Francis Edward Stuart was to be raised; the Earl of Mar issuing orders to his commanders in 1715; and “A List of Rebell Prisoners in the Tolbooth of Inverness 8 day of July 1746 years” recording Jacobite prisoners, where they were from and the battles in which they fought.

This online resource complements the Library’s significant holdings of Jacobite material, notably the [Blaikie Collection](#), but also the large number of contemporary books, pamphlets and archival materials held by the Library that record the history of the Jacobite movement and its opponents and the opinions and motivations of those who followed or resisted it. The Scottish contribution to the Jacobite cause, particularly in the risings of 1715, 1719 and 1745 is well represented and the purchase of this electronic resource enhances the Library’s position as a major centre for Jacobite research.

This resource is available at: <https://auth.nls.uk/eresources/goto/290> (summary page at: <https://auth.nls.uk/eresources/browse/290>)



## Digital Map News

### Lovat Estate Maps - collaborative digitisation project

In the last few months, the Library has successfully collaborated with a team of volunteers, based in Beauly, to scan and put online an important set of estate maps owned by Lovat Highland Estates. The maps were very difficult to consult before, being held in a busy and small estate office in Beauly.

A large A0-sized flatbed scanner was hired to scan the entire estate archive, and an initial set of 7 maps by Peter May (1724/33-1795), and 64 maps by George Brown (1747-1816), were put on the Library's maps website last November under *Estate Maps > Inverness-shire*:

<https://maps.nls.uk/estates/#inverness-shire>. We hope when all the maps are added in the next few months, there should be over 360 Lovat estate maps on the Library's website.



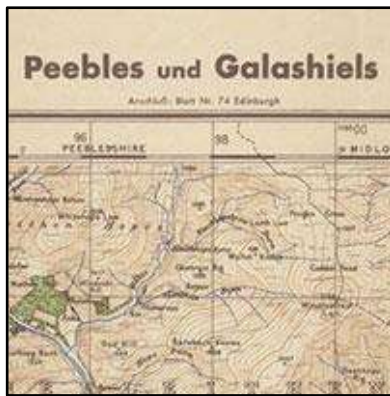
Volunteers scanning the Lovat Estate maps (left) and a detail of a 1757 estate map of Castle Dounie (right)

The Lovat Estate maps cover a wide geographic area in the parishes of Kirkhill, Kilmorack, Kiltarlity, and Urquhart and Glenmoriston, west of Inverness, and range in date from the mid-18th century, through to the mid-20th century. Surveying at this time often went hand-in-hand with agricultural improvement, and the wider transformation of rural society. Estate maps such as these are therefore uniquely important today for the insights they give into this era of profound cultural change in Highland society, as well as for their detailed documentary record of the 18th century landscape.

### New online Scottish map series

With our internal map digitisation programme now ramping up on single-sheet maps of Scotland, we are actively putting online several interesting and varied Scottish map series. These include all our [detailed geological maps of Scotland](#), dating from the 1850s to the 1940s. The maps are beautifully coloured, and provide an important insight into the development of the science of geology during this time, dominated by Scottish geologists. They also show the important, economically valuable areas of geology in Scotland, along with its mining and exploitation. The maps include underlying solid as well as superficial drift geology as well as several [horizontal and vertical sections](#).





Another new online addition has been the [German Army's \*Karte von Schottland\*](#) in 1941. This is essentially a set of British Ordnance Survey Popular edition maps (1921-30), captured by the German Army and reprinted with updated German titles, marginalia and legends. The maps formed part of the major intelligence-gathering project by the German Army as part of 'Operation Sealion', Hitler's preparations for a possible invasion of Great Britain.

We have also put online an important [War Office series at 1:25,000](#), covering all of Scotland, rapidly completed in the early years of the Second World War. The underlying topographic detail was photographically reduced from the latest available Ordnance Survey six-inch to the mile maps, and then usually overprinted with contour lines, enlarged from the latest Ordnance Survey one-inch to the mile maps. The series provides a useful and quite detailed update of selected landscape features at a time when little field surveying work was taking place.

View these and other new maps website additions at: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html>.

### Stornoway map conservation and collaborative digitisation project

The Library recently received external funding from the Aurelius Trust to conserve a significant map of Stornoway dating from 1800. The map is owned by Western Isles Libraries, and the project forms part of a wider collaboration to put online several early maps of Stornoway and environs, owned by both the Library and Western Isles Libraries. The conservation work focussed on the earliest surviving detailed map of Stornoway, which not only shows buildings and streets in the town, but also new planned developments to the south-east. The map was virtually impossible to consult before, being tightly rolled and with a very shiny laminated surface, but now, following careful and intricate conservation work, it can be easily read, digitised and preserved for the future. Following the work too, a watermark became newly visible, confirming that the paper had been made at the Whatman paper mill in Kent.

- The detailed conservation work by Claire Thomson, Conservator can be read at:

<https://blog.nls.uk/conserving-the-map-of-stornoway-by-james-chapman-ca-1800/>



Images of the various stages of the conservation work. Original map (left) and removing the backing (right)



Top section of the map after washing (left) and infilling with Japanese paper (right)

- View the conserved zoomable 1800s map of Stornoway at:  
[https://geo.nls.uk/mapdata3/189530621\\_1/openlayers.html](https://geo.nls.uk/mapdata3/189530621_1/openlayers.html)

## Stornoway and environs historic maps, 1780s-1960s

Gàidhlig

Zoomable maps   Georeferenced overlays   Georeferenced side-by-side

**Browse maps**  
 Scroll the panel below to view the maps

This viewer allows you to explore a selection of historic maps of Stornoway and environs, dating between 1785-1964. The core of the collection is seven manuscript maps from Stornoway Public Library, supplemented by several printed and manuscript maps from the National Library of Scotland. Also included are maps by Ordnance Survey and an Admiralty/Hydrographic Office chart.

The maps provide many insights into the development of Stornoway over the last two

We are grateful to the Aurelius Trust for supporting this project.

The draft website displaying this and a selection of other early maps of Stornoway:  
<https://geo.nls.uk/maps/stornoway/>



## New maps website tools

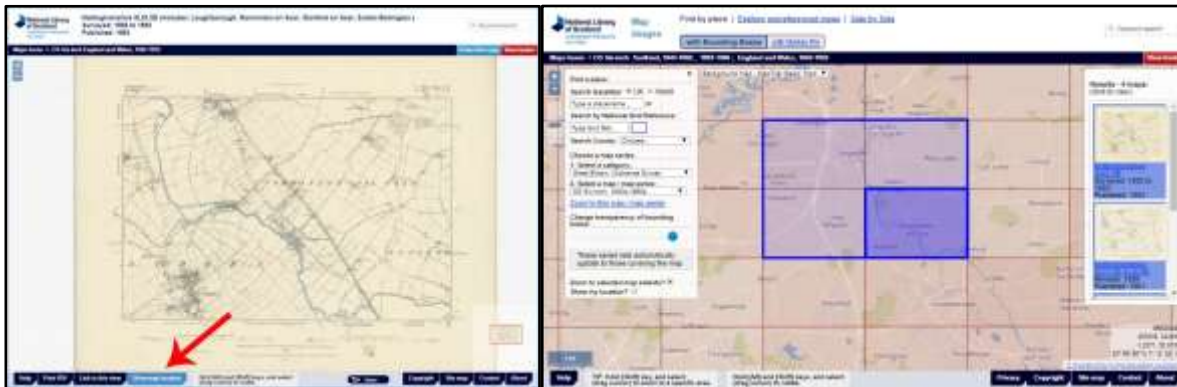
We are constantly making improvements to our popular *Map Images* website in response to user feedback. One of these recent enhancements has been to our 3D georeferenced overlay viewer, adding a new slider to interactively control vertical exaggeration of relief. This has been useful and popular, allowing mountains and hills to be enhanced and seen more clearly. Our extensive and growing collection of georeferenced maps can now all be viewed in 3D in an even more engaging and enjoyable way.



New vertical exaggeration slider (before to the left, and after to the right) for Ben Lawers ridge north of Loch Tay, overlain with Bartholomew 1900s mapping:

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/3d/>

Another new function has been to add a 'Show map location' tab to all our series maps. When selected, the boundaries of the selected map are now shown on a map backdrop. As we have recorded the bounding boxes of all our online maps, this powerful tool allows the real-world location of each specific map to be visualised.



We have also made use of dynamic queries to bounding boxes by creating a 'Zoom to selected map extents' feature in our Find by Place viewer. This makes it easier to visualise the complete geographic extents of selected maps on screen.

In January-February 2019, the Library commissioned a detailed Maps Website User Survey, through an external company, and when the results are available, we will use them to guide longer-term development work.



## **What's Your Story induction**

For the third year running, the Library hosted the induction weekend for the What's Your Story programme. Run by the Scottish Book Trust, this year-long programme mentors seven promising young writers (14-17 years old) as they develop their writing talent. The induction weekend at the Library is designed to inspire the young writers at the outset by showing them the vastness of the written and published world. Combining collection handling sessions, exhibition and Library tours, reader registration and catalogue induction, the two-day event is a great way to learn about the next generation of authors and illustrators. A page of lonely hearts adverts from a newspaper from the 1970s served as this year's unlikely short story prompt. Graeme Hawley and Nicole Brandon (Scottish Book Trust) hosted the induction event, with valuable contributions from Ian Scott, Elaine Simpson, Helen Vincent, Moray Teale, and Front of House colleagues.

## **Visit of Matt McDowall's sport students**

Matt McDowell, Lecturer in Sport Policy at University of Edinburgh brought around 40 students for an event in the Boardroom and tours on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Ian Scott and Fiona Laing showed the students our e-resources on sports management, our huge printed collections on the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow covering the planning, cultural and other aspects of the Games: important historical Scottish sports titles; specialisms within the collections plus some fun things such as our roller derby posters and football fanzine collections etc. This was a practical event to encourage the students to use our collections for dissertation research. We hope this can become an annual event and will encourage greater use of our sports collections.

## **Black Rood Event**

The winner of the 2018 Research Slam, David Williams, returned to the Library on 23<sup>th</sup> January to give a full presentation of his research topic about the Black Rood of Scotland. Audiences at the Slam a year ago had been fascinated by his three minute pitch about the strange movements of the relic over the centuries, with many returning to hear his hour-long account of his search for the truth of a lost treasure.

## **Old Town visit**

On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 we hosted a group from the Edinburgh Old Town Association to look at material from the collections including material on the Scotsman newspaper and the early days of the Edinburgh Festival and Fringe.

## **Rebel Roots**

On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018 we were pleased to host an event for the youth project Fast Forward (Positive Lifestyles) part of their Rebel Roots strand. Fifteen young people looked at collection items about youth subcultures from teddy boys to grime in an event in the Boardroom co-hosted by our General Collections and Education Teams.

## Social Media status

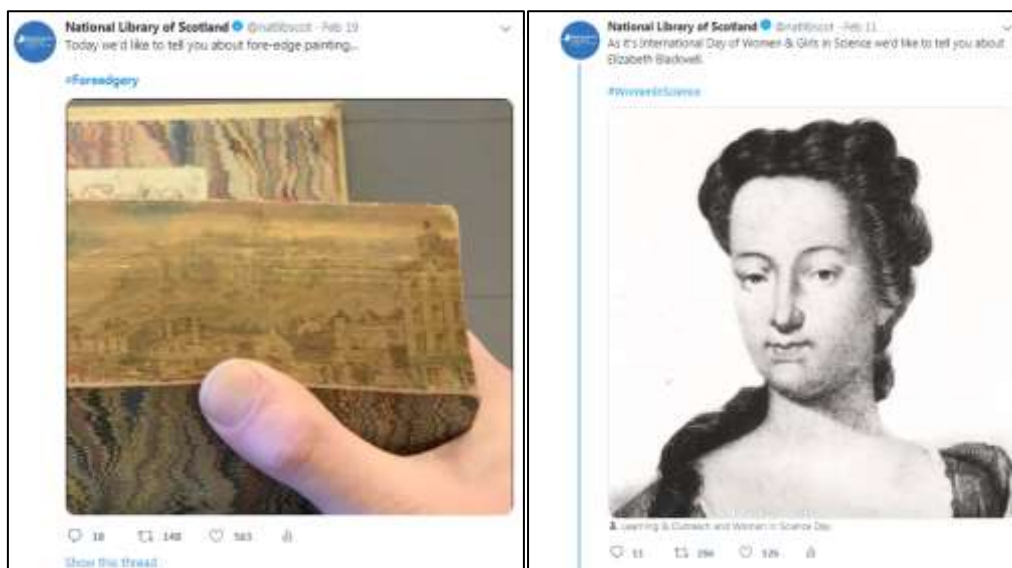
Since December the Library recorded 582,000 engagements across all of our social channels and our follower numbers have increased by 10% (Facebook) 11% (Twitter) and 28% (Instagram).

Highlights included communicating our digitisation of the Encyclopaedia Britannica on its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018. We posted a thread with facts about the encyclopaedia combined with illustrated examples; we collaborated with the current Encyclopaedia Britannica twitter account and engaged with our audience, who had many questions and queries.

Other highlights were our continuing exploration of threaded posts to tell stories. These included our #Foreedgery posts (where we explained fore-edge painting and displayed videos of Scottish examples from our collections) and our Elizabeth Blackwell thread for #WomeninScience day.

In February we invited Louise Annan (from Glasgow University Library) to present her Instagram work to our social media group. We are focussing on developing content and working together to grow this channel and Louise's experience and advice was much appreciated. Also, following feedback from our social media group, we are sending them a monthly calendar of relevant hashtags and anniversaries. This has helped the group to gather content ahead of time.

In the coming months we are working on supporting our 80s website project (going live in May) and our Northern Lights exhibition (opening in June).



## Sharing 50 years of the history of Scottish Ballet

The National Library of Scotland is partnering with Scottish Ballet, to digitise the company's video archive.

*Scottish Ballet* holds recordings of its productions on video dating from 1971, in four obsolete formats: Betacam SP, SVHS, VHS and U-Matic tapes. These are fragile and time-limited formats. Each viewing shortens the life of the tape, and they deteriorate over time whether viewed or not. Some of the older tapes are in serious danger of passing the tipping point, in 5 to 10 years' time, at which they will have deteriorated too far to be run even just once for digitisation. At that point, they will be unrecoverable.

This unique archive is coming to the National Library of Scotland as a donation, with a dowry of £76,000, raised by the two organisations in a joint development campaign, mostly from charitable trusts. This will fund a fixed-term Video Preservation Technician post, the purchase of equipment, and digital storage.

The archive tells the story of the creation and development of Scottish Ballet. The footage includes 60 hours of the work of Peter Darrell, **Scottish Ballet's eminent Founder and first Director**. Digitising the material will preserve it for posterity, and allow it to be shared with the public for the first time in 2019, as Scottish Ballet celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As part of our national collection, the footage will be available to view at the Moving Image Archive, at George IV Bridge, and also on the websites of the two organisations where rights allow.

This acquisition will strengthen the Moving Image Archive's holdings in the creative industries. There is currently no ballet footage in the collection, so this fills a real gap.



Peter Darrell's *The Tales of Hoffmann* first performed in Glasgow at the King's Theatre in 1972

<http://www.glasgowtheatreroyal.org.uk/performance/scottishballet/ballet-gallery/>

## *So you want to be a curator?* A career development workshop for collaborative PhD students

As part of the National Library's involvement with collaborative PhD schemes, particularly the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium and Scottish Graduate School for the Arts and Humanities, the Library ran a career development workshop for PhD students.

The workshop was organised by the Library's Organisational Development Partner, Andrew McDougall; Associate Director of Collections and Research, Robin Smith; and Collections & Research Specialist, Chris Taylor.

The workshop gave an insight into curatorial and specialist roles at the National Library of Scotland illustrated by examples of different personal journeys to curatorship. It considered knowledge, skills and competencies required in activities such as selection of collection materials, cataloguing, collection management, outreach and exhibitions. We discussed the curatorial job market and career development.

Twenty-one students attended the workshop. Most students were from Scottish universities but several travelled from the North East of England, and one attended from University of Sussex.

Very positive feedback was received from the students.





## Business and Intellectual Property Centre for Glasgow

Business information support for new and existing businesses in the West of Scotland could be substantially improved through a potential tri-partnership agreement between Glasgow Life, the National Library of Scotland and the British Library. The three organisations are in exploratory discussions about a partnership model for the delivery of a Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. The BIPC would broadly follow the model adopted by the British Library BIPCs in England but in the case of Scotland be supported by the extensive and locally accessible business collections held at the National Library of Scotland. The close proximity of the National Library of Scotland at Kelvin Hall to the Mitchell Library and the vast range of supporting electronic content held by the former would significantly enhance the resources available to Scottish businesses and play a key contributing factor to such a partnership.

