



# National Librarian's Report to the Board

25 September 2019

## LIBRARIAN'S KEY EVENTS THIS QUARTER

### 26 – 28 June 2019

Attended the Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER) conference in Trinity College, Dublin;

### 5 July 2019

Hosted the Research Libraries UK Space Programme's inaugural meeting in the Library;

### 9 July 2019

Welcomed John and Virginia Murray to the Library for their annual visit;

### 9 July 2019

Hosted a dinner for the American Patrons of the National Library and Galleries of Scotland (APNLGS) at Newhailes;

### 10 July 2019

Accompanied the APNLGS visitors to Balcarres in Fife, the ancestral home of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres;

### 11 July 2019

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

### 15 July 2019

Gave a talk at the Art Libraries Society UK & Ireland (ARLIS) conference at the University of Glasgow;

### 6 August 2019

Attended the National Library of Scotland Foundation meeting to give an annual update;

### 21 August 2019

Librarian's Office team saw the Chair in conversation with Brian Taylor at the Edinburgh International Book Festival;

### 21 August 2019

Attended the Visiting Cultural Attaches' reception at City Chambers, hosted by the Lord Provost;

### 22 August 2019

Held a Strategy Symposium in the Boardroom with research library representatives;

### 25 – 29 August

Attended the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) annual conference in Athens, Greece;

#### 4 September 2019

As Trustee attended, with the Chair, the Elizabeth Soutar AGM;

#### 5 September 2019

Gave a talk to the Association of Public Libraries in Scotland on the development of the new Library Strategy;

#### 11 September 2019

Represented the Library at the Scottish Library Information Council Board meeting in Glasgow;

#### 19 September 2019

Visited the National Library of Ireland to speak to their Board about the current and future strategic direction;

#### 20 September 2019

Represented the Library at the Research Libraries UK (RLUK) Board meeting in London, followed by the Joint Committee on Legal Deposit meeting at the British Library;

#### 23 September 2019

Hosted a Strategy Symposium at Kelvin Hall with representatives of Library partners and a cross section of charitable organisations including



## Hidden Collections – Quarterly Update

The Metadata and Maintenance team continue to expose *invisible* hidden collections uncovered through the digitisation programme. The items below were digitised as part of an ongoing programme of imaging Gaelic An Comunn items in the Library collection. This represents effective synchronisation between the Hidden Collections and One Third Digital Programmes, and the value of the Digitisation Cataloguer, who is able to work across both programmes efficiently.



The Team continue to work on the Ruari McLean Collection and Legal Deposit Map Collection.

## Digital Resources: Global reach 2019-20 Q1

In this planning year we will extend the reach of the Library collections by supplying, where possible, more of our digitised resources to external services (Wikipedia, WikiCommons, Flickr, YouTube, Internet Archive etc).

The figures below are from April-June 2019, unless otherwise stated.

### INTERNET ARCHIVE

4,850 items in

13 collections

**327,606 views**



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

201 videos with

**20,000 views**

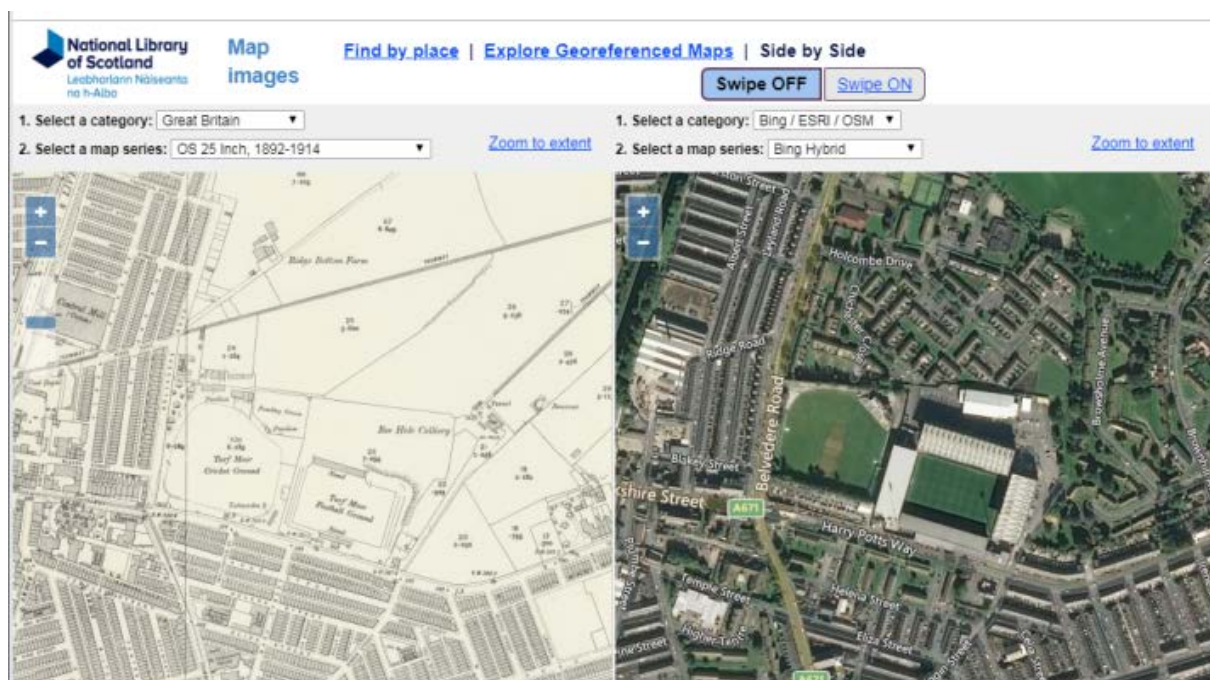
17,000 minutes watched

59 new subscribers



## INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

The 6<sup>th</sup> highest referral for maps.nls.uk came from upthecclarets.com (a Burnley FC fan forum) –generating over 1,000 views from one post highlighting the side-by-side viewer to see the changes in the area around the football ground in 100 years



**Top channels** – *organic search* is when users are directed to nls.uk from a search engine, *direct* is when users follow a link from within the nls.uk domain, for example from maps.nls.uk to the map ordering service, *social* is when users follow a social media (Facebook, Twitter) link

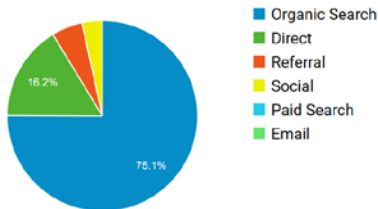
**Top referrals** – users follow links from other websites to the nls.uk domain (for example from Wikipedia)



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

130,909 users with 177,287 view sessions  
6.34 pages per session  
3:20 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



### Top referrals (non-Library)

<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org">en.wikipedia.org</a>	526 users
<a href="https://uk.search.yahoo.com">uk.search.yahoo.com</a>	168 users
<a href="https://sqa.org.uk">sqa.org.uk</a>	131 users

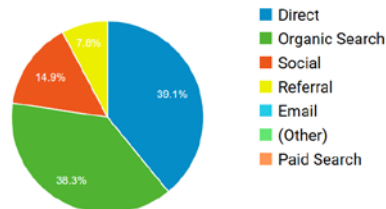
### Location of users

52%	UK (57% Eng, 38% Sco, 3% Wal, 1% NI)
18%	USA
6%	Canada
4%	Australia
3%	India

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

383,479 users with 833,378 view sessions  
4.13 pages per session  
4.29 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



### Top referrals (non-Library)

<a href="https://mappinglondon.co.uk">mappinglondon.co.uk</a>	1,175 users
<a href="https://uptheclarets.com">uptheclarets.com</a>	1,004 users
<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org">en.wikipedia.org</a>	954 users

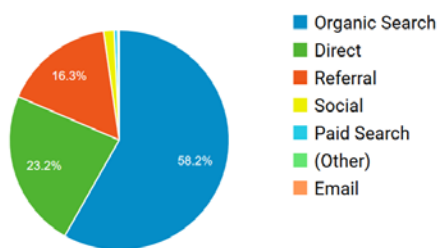
### Location of users

86%	UK (78% Eng, 17% Sco, 4% Wal, 1% NI)
4%	USA
2%	Canada
1%	Australia
1%	India

## MAIN WEBSITE [WWW.NLS.UK](https://www.nls.uk)

189,429 users with 115,276 view sessions  
2.31 pages per session  
1.50 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



### Top referrals (non-Library)

<a href="https://uk.search.yahoo.com">uk.search.yahoo.com</a>	367 users
<a href="https://ecosia.org">ecosia.org</a>	291 users
<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org">en.wikipedia.org</a>	198 users

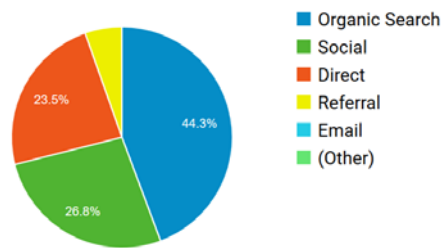
### Location of users

69%	UK (52% Eng, 45% Sco, 2% Wal, 1% NI)
13%	USA
3%	Canada
3%	Australia
1%	India

## MOVING IMAGE [MOVING-IMAGE.NLS.UK](https://moving-image.nls.uk)

44,969 users with 57,296 view sessions  
2.39 pages per session  
4.38 minutes average duration on site

Top Channels



### Top referrals (non-Library)

<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org">en.wikipedia.org</a>	360 users
<a href="https://en.m.wikipedia.org">en.m.wikipedia.org</a>	220 users
<a href="https://rebeccamezoff.com">rebeccamezoff.com</a>	109 users

### Location of users

79%	UK (57% Sco, 41% Eng, 1% Wal, 1% NI)
9%	USA
2%	Canada
2%	Australia
1%	Netherlands

## **Digital Production – Quarterly Update June 2019 - August 2019**

### **Map One Third Digital: Update for the Librarian's report to the Board**

The Library's different digitisation studios in Edinburgh and Glasgow continue to make good progress and have digitised 26,075 items since the beginning of FY19/20. The reduction of throughput in comparison to FY18/19 is primarily due to the completion of the commercial map digitisation contract.

The combined total of Non-print legal deposit and digitised materials now amounts to over 20% of our collections and current projections continue to suggest that we will reach 33% in digital format by around the middle of 2023/24.

The focus of the mass digitisation team over the summer months has been on the Antiquarian Books Scotland (ABS) shelfmark containing around 17,000 books from the 18th to early 20th century which were not received through Legal Deposit and are therefore likely not held at other Legal Deposit Libraries.

In addition, the team digitised a selection of materials from our League of Nations collection in time for the League's centenary celebrations in early 2020. The team also completed digitisation of the medical materials from our large India Papers collection to complement the existing [Medical History of British India](#) feature on our website.

Good progress is also being made on the MacKinnon photograph collection which the Library is digitising in collaboration with the National Galleries of Scotland. The Library has digitised over 80 of the collection's 136 bound volumes (albums and photographically-illustrated books), while the Galleries are focusing their work on the collection's loose photographs.

The Causewayside studio continued to host visitors from a range of institutions, including a large group of international digitisation professionals who visited the Library as part of the University of Edinburgh's Knowledge Exchange Week 2019.

The Library is in discussion with GoogleBooks to investigate and scope a potential project which would see a large number of our bound materials digitised through Google. Initial stakeholder consultation with other libraries such as the BL and the Bavarian State Library in Germany has resulted in very positive and promising feedback. A paper outlining our proposal for a collaboration with GoogleBooks will be submitted to the Library Board in early autumn.

Digitisation of single sheet maps on the sheet fed scanner is progressing well at a rate of about 3,000 maps per month. Digitisation of maps under the contract with CLS is now complete, with a total of 334,513 single sheet maps of England and Wales digitised under this contract. The company are now carrying out geo-referencing work which is expected to be completed by the end of FY19/20.

In the middle of August, the Book2Net 'Dragon' digitisation system was installed in the George IV Bridge studio. Thanks to its highly-versatile V-shape set-up this system can capture fragile and rare materials safely and quickly. It will initially be used for the Mediaeval Manuscripts Digitisation project which is funded through a gift from by Alex Graham, followed by selected items from the Rare Books collection.

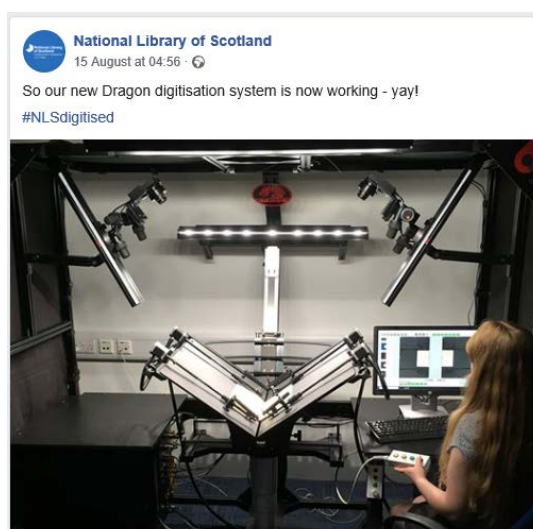
Our contract with Adam Matthew Digital to digitise around 175,000 images from the John Murray Archive came to an end in mid-August, and final preparations are underway to start Adam Matthew Digital's digitisation of materials relating to African missionary work to feed into their *Scramble for Africa* resource.

Video digitisation at Kelvin Hall is progressing well, with over 460 videopacks ingested into our archive in early summer. For the 'Friends of the Scottish Ballet' event on 5 June newly digitised content was made available, including 12 iconic films celebrating 50 years of Scottish Ballet. On 21 June, the Library hosted the *ARA Scotland Digital Preservation Training Day* at Kelvin Hall which was a great networking opportunity and included a talk on analogue tape preservation at our Library.

The *Unlocking our Sound Heritage* project is making good progress, with around 1,000 items now digitised. Staff have been preparing for some tricky formats, such as audio VHS and Emidicta, and for the arrival of four external collections in early August.

The initial training phase for the Alex Graham funded traineeship to digitise shellac records has finished, and digitisation of the Dean-Myatt shellac record collection has formally started.

Digitised collections added to our website during the summer include the first 10 editions of the [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#), [Weekly Casualty Lists](#) for WWI, and several map collections such as the [Administrative Area Series of Great Britain](#) for 1945-68, [WWII maps of Scotland](#), maps of Scotland by the [German Army](#) from 1939-40, and maps of Britain by the [War Office](#) from the 1920s.



## **Collections Protection – Update**

The August Audit Committee received an update from the Head of Estates on the work done to date on improvements to fire risk management. The work completed over the past four months included testing of sprinkler pump performance which has confirmed satisfactory performance. The consultants appointed to undertake design work on the sprinkler system and smoke extract systems at Causewayside have produced an initial report. This has eliminated a number of possible solutions and has narrowed the options down to either a mist or sprinkler system. They have also suggested a number of routes that could improve protection levels. Costs for the various options are awaited and another workshop with Library staff will be held. A Business Case to the Scottish Government will be produced once the final design option is chosen. Further updates will be provided to the Audit Committee in November.

Work has also begun on other elements of work including remedial work on emergency lighting and surveys on the work required for modifications to the mobile racking at both the main sites. A new visitor management system has also been installed at Lawnmarket and Causewayside. A significant exercise is ongoing to convert building plans held in paper format to CAD.

## **George IV Bridge Feasibility Study**

An update was provided on this work at the last Audit Committee in August. It is expected for the procurement will go out to tender in September and that a feasibility study consultant appointed by December, with the work completed by June 2020. Thereafter, an outline business case would be presented to the Board in September 2020. The Outline Business Case report is likely to cover the following topics:

- Summary of the Project;
- Reasons for the Project;
- Expected Benefits/Dis-benefits;
- Business Options – likely to be the options developed by the study consultant;
- Evaluation of the Options to include Costs & Funding, Timescales, Major Risks, Effect on Business as Usual, Deliverability etc. ;
- Recommendations.

Alongside the procurement of the feasibility study, the Library has continued to commission market research work. The plan sees more of this work being undertaken over the coming months to ensure that the expected benefits of the project are tested and are realistic. Alongside this we have been in touch with the Scottish Government's Programme and Project Management Centre of Expertise to ensure we understand their assurance/approval gateways.



## Data Foundry website launched

With more than 166 million words from over 155,000 images of pages, spanning almost 90 years, and with an overall file size of 45 GB, the first 8 editions of Encyclopaedia Britannica are rich pickings for digital research and computational analysis. To enable this, the Library has now made this collection, along with four other digitised collections, available as 'data': in machine-readable form.

As part of the new Digital Scholarship Service, the Library has now launched a website for its data collections, the [Data Foundry](https://data.nls.uk) (<https://data.nls.uk>). This builds on previous work in the Library to make some of our metadata collections available.

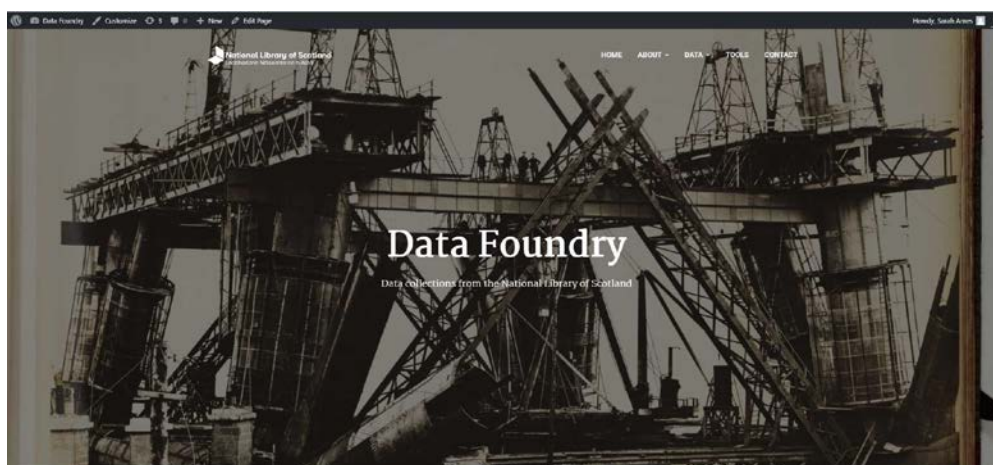
The Data Foundry is a new website through which the Library publishes its collections as data; users can download and explore the Library's data. This enables computational analysis of collections material and opens the collections up to new and emerging forms of research.

Highlights from the launch of the Data Foundry include *Encyclopaedia Britannica*; a collection of Scottish gazetteers; a near-complete run of the nineteenth century newspaper, *The Spiritualist*; Scottish school exam papers; and *A Medical History of British India*.

Collections published on the Data Foundry include:

- Digitised collections (available as XML, plain text, and image files)
- Metadata collections (available as MARCXML and Dublin Core)
- Map and spatial data (available as CSV files)
- Organisational data (available as CSV files)

These collections will be updated regularly, and there are plans to add further collections, such as audiovisual collections data and web archive data, in the future.



## ARLIS 50th Anniversary Conference 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> July

Art librarians from across the UK, Europe and much further afield gathered in Glasgow for the ARLIS UK and Ireland 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference held at the University of Glasgow. Dr. John Scally delivered the keynote on the opening day: *How Olivia Newton John helped the National Library prepare for its centenary* talking to around 130 delegates about the new strategy, the Library's ambitious digitisation plans and work on hidden collections.

<https://twitter.com/GCWOonagh/status/1150699342623334400>

Instead of an after dinner speaker this year, a showreel of film from the Library's moving image and sound collections was screened in the Bute Hall, as suggested by Ann Cameron, Curator at MISC and a member of the conference working party.

↻ ARLIS UK & IRELAND Retweeted

 **Megan Lotts** @MCLotts · Jul 15

Olivia Newton John, "let's get physical" is BLASTING over the conference speakers as part of the opening keynote...#awesome #arlisuki2019 #olivianewtonjohn #thatshowyouopenaconference

💬 1 ❤️ 1 ✉️

↻ ARLIS UK & IRELAND Retweeted

 **Kerry Watson** @biblioberry · Jul 15

@scallyjj @ARLIS\_UK good metadata is "libraries' love letter to the future"... #arlisuki2019 off to a flying start!

💬 3 ❤️ 4 ✉️


↻ ARLIS UK & IRELAND Retweeted

 **leoappleton** @leoappleton · 22h

I can't think of a better way to open a conference than by having Scotland's National Librarian @scallyjj singing Olivia Newton-John songs to the conference plenary as part of his keynote.... 'let's get physical.... and digital!' @natlibscot #arlisuki2019

💬 1 ↻ 2 ❤️ 12 ✉️

↻ ARLIS UK & IRELAND Retweeted

 **laura** @theatregrad · 23h

Entertaining and insightful keynote to kick off #arlisuki2019 from @scallyjj of @natlibscot about the digital shift, unlocking hidden collections and visions for a future national library. I need to visit the Glasgow national library now!

💬 4 ❤️ 6 ✉️

## Exhibition on the Scottish Enlightenment

The Library's latest major exhibition, on the intellectual phenomenon of the Scottish Enlightenment, opened on 21 June. The exhibition is curated by Robert Betteridge and Dr Ralph McLean. The focus of the exhibition is the extensive network of Scottish intellectuals, or literati as they referred to themselves, and the depth and breadth of their contribution to a multitude of disciplines. The exhibition covers philosophy and religion, social sciences and universities, language and literature, art and architecture, science and medicine, and sociability and society. It features materials from the Library's extensive collection of printed books and manuscripts on the Scottish Enlightenment, interactives demonstrating the networks of key individuals and maps of Enlightenment hotspots, in addition to loan items from the National Galleries of Scotland. Robert and Ralph also gave a public talk on the role of Thomas Ruddiman and David Hume as Keepers of the Faculty of Advocates Library in the eighteenth century, and have also provided a number of tours of the exhibition.



## The Library achieves Archive Service Accreditation

Archive Service Accreditation is the UK standard for archive services. Its purpose is to define good practice and agreed standards for archive services across the United Kingdom with the aim of helping archives to manage and improve their efficiency and effectiveness through external validation. It is sector-specific in its content and purpose, but aims to support the move towards integrated ways of working in the management of cultural collections. The standard comprises scrutiny of three areas: Organisational health; Collections; Stakeholders and their experiences.

The Library applied for accreditation in February 2019. This application involved staff (principally Archives & Manuscript Collections, and Moving Image & Sound Collections) liaising with a wide range of internal stakeholders to produce and draw together a suite of documents, particularly formal plans, procedures and policies, which demonstrated the Library's conformance with each requirement of the Archives Service Accreditation Standard.

Following a rigorous analysis of its processes, digital provision and public engagement, we were awarded accreditation on 18 July. The assessment panel comprised representatives of The National Archives, the National Records of Scotland and the Scottish Council on Archives. The standard has 25 requirements; the Library fully met 24 of these, and partially met one of them.

The panel of assessors congratulated the Library on its clear strategic approach, and for focusing its efforts on building audiences for the 'exceptionally significant archive collections' after the investment in recent years in systems and procedures. The Library was also commended for having an open, outward-looking approach, particularly through the Kelvin Hall development which transformed access to its moving image and sound collections, and its growing outreach activities across Scotland.

The photograph shows the accreditation certificate being handed over by Robert Wright, Administrator of the Scottish Council on Archives, to some of the staff of Archives & Manuscript Collections. It seemed appropriate to include in this photograph the first manuscript presented to the Advocates Library: a 13<sup>th</sup> century copy of Gratian's *Decretum* presented by the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Cromartie in 1686.





## Rare Books purchases

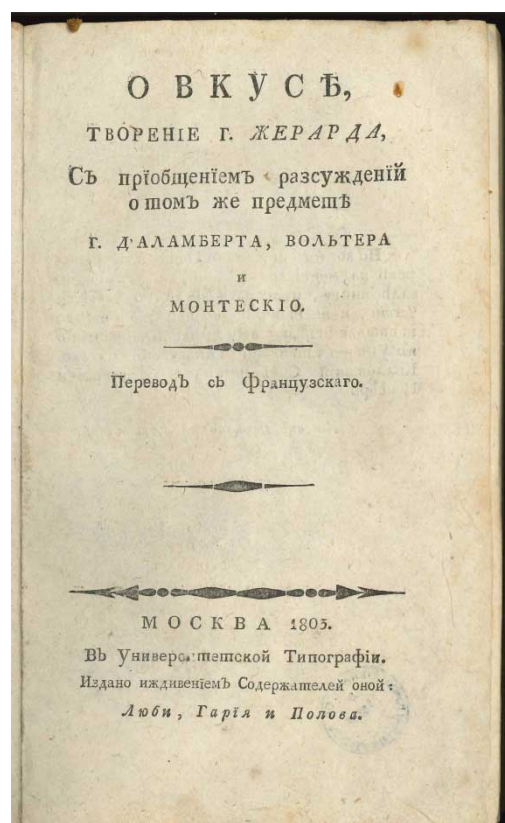
Alexander Gerard

*O vkuse, tvorenie g. Zherarda, s priobshcheniem razsuzhdenii o tom zh predmete [Essay on taste],*  
Moscow, 1803.

First and only edition in Russian of the *Essay on taste* by the Scottish minister and Enlightenment philosopher Alexander Gerard (1728-1795), first published in English in 1759. Gerard was a professor at Aberdeen University who drew on the ideas of Hutcheson, Hume, and his Aberdeen contemporaries for his text, as well as including translations of excerpts from works by leading French authors, to produce this canonical text in the literature on taste. The influence of the work spread as far as Russia, as evidenced by this publication, which was translated, as was often the case, via the French translation (*Essai sur le goût*, 1766).

Simon Beattie £1,500

AB.2.219.19



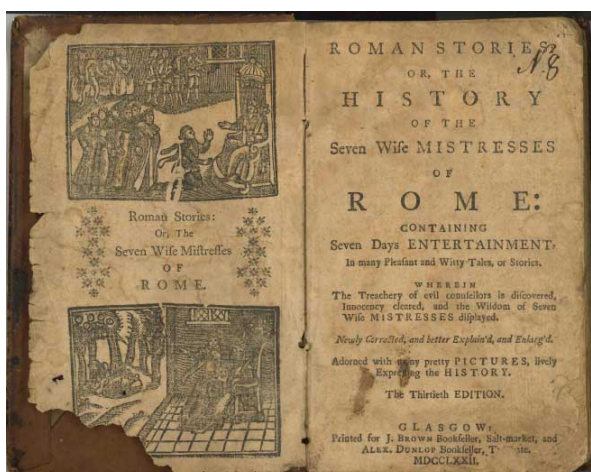
Thomas Howard

*Roman stories: or, The history of the seven wife mistresses of Rome.* 30th ed.,  
Glasgow, 1770.

Very rare Glasgow printing, in relatively good condition, of a popular work of history and morality set in ancient Rome. The work was first published in the 17th century and was aimed at juvenile readers, "to promote sincerity and fidelity, and to discountenance treachery and falsehood." The text is illustrated with rather crude woodcuts.

David Harrison £800

AB.1.219.61





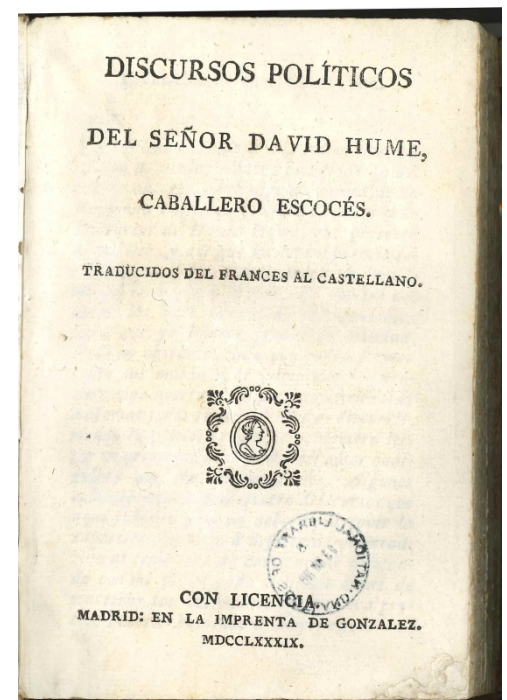
David Hume

*Discursos politicos*, Madrid, 1789.

The first edition in Spanish of Hume's *Political discourses*, first published in Edinburgh in 1752, and the first Spanish translation of any of Hume's works. The translation is based on a French translation of 1754 and includes eight of the original 12 essays in Hume's ground-breaking work on political economy. This is a significant addition to the Library's already extensive holdings of works by Hume, as only four other copies are recorded in major libraries and none of these are in the UK.

Peter Harrington £6,750

RB.s.2974 (purchased with assistance from the Magnus & Janet Soutar Fund)



[James Boswell]

*Ode by Samuel Johnson to Mrs Thrale, upon their supposed approaching nuptials*, London, 1784 [1788]

James Boswell's anonymous and suggestive parody, mocking the alleged designs of Dr. Johnson on a wealthy widow, namely Johnson's close friend and patron Hester Thrale (1741-1821). The poem was apparently written shortly after Mr. Thrale's 1781 funeral and makes insinuations about Johnson's physical desire for Mrs. Thrale. In reality theirs was an intellectual rather than physical passion. The use of quotes from Mrs. Thrale's preface to Johnson's *Letters*, published in 1788, demonstrate that the pamphlet was not printed in 1784, the year of Johnson's death (as stated on the title page), but around four years later. The present copy probably comes from the quantity of loose sheets of the poem bought by a Glasgow bookseller at one of the sales of the contents of the library at Auchinleck House, Boswell's former home, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most of the sheets had been ruined by dirt and damp, but the bookseller was able to piece together a few complete copies. This uncut and unstitched copy is in nearly original condition; no other copies are recorded as being held in Scotland.

Phillip J. Pirages \$11,000

RB.m.786

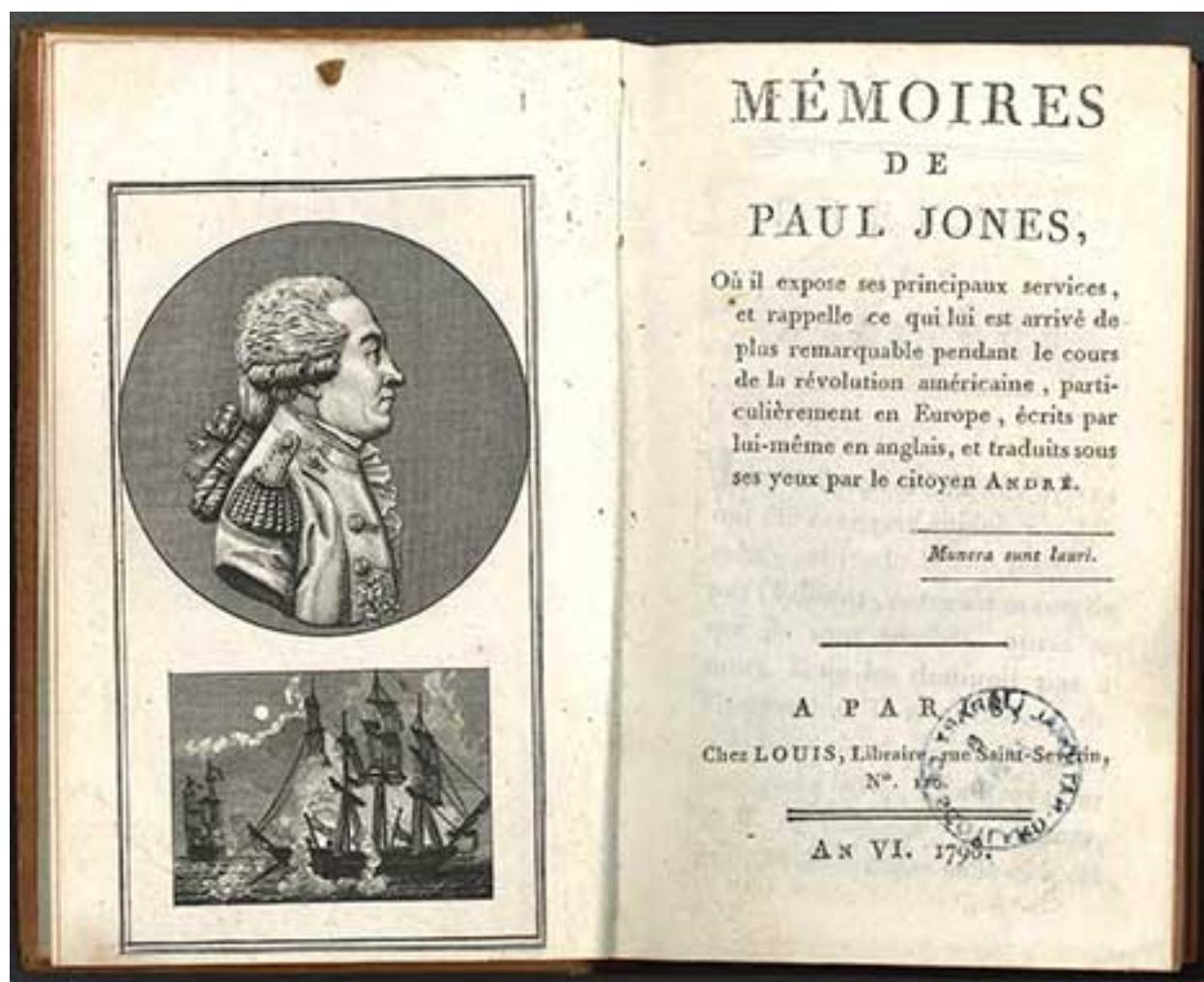
[John Paul Jones]

*Mémoires de Paul Jones*, Paris, 1798.

The first edition of the first biography of John Paul Jones (1747-1792), a Scot who emigrated to America and became the United States' first well-known naval commander in the American Revolutionary War. Jones had a number of successes against British ships during the War, attacking shipping in the Irish Sea, even launching an attack on the Cumbrian port of Whitehaven. He also made an audacious but botched attempt to kidnap the Earl of Selkirk near Kirkcudbright. He later served in the Russian navy in the 1780s and spent the last two years of his life in Paris. Supposedly written by Jones himself and translated by "citoyen André" (Jean-Francois André), the publication of these memoirs reflects the high esteem in which he was held in France, thanks to his exploits against the British navy.

Asher Rare Books €6,500 (purchased with assistance from the Magnus & Janet Soutar Fund)

RB.s.2975



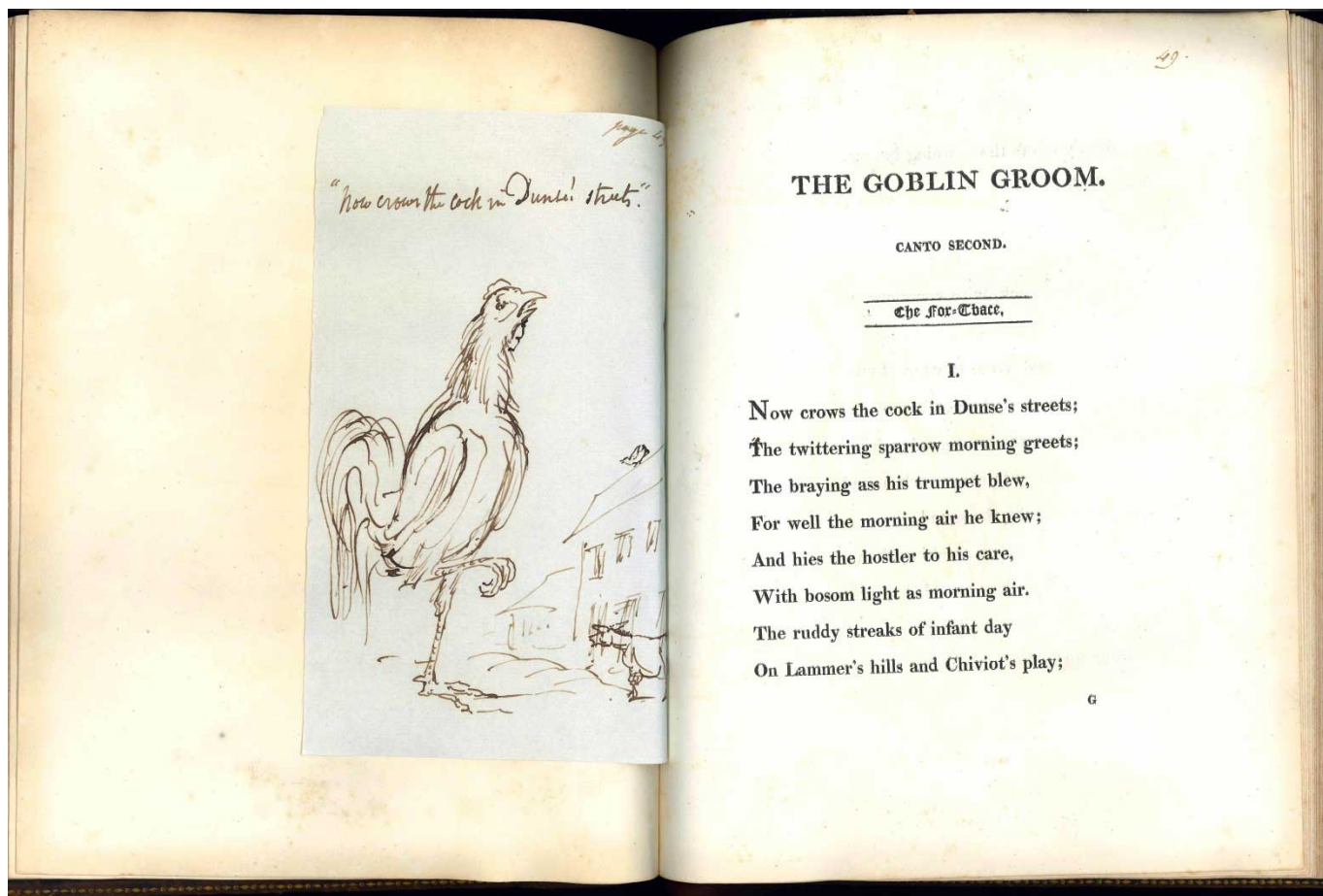
Robert Orde Fenwick

*The goblin groom; a tale of Dunse*, Edinburgh, 1809

A parody of Walter Scott's narrative poem *Marmion*, published the previous year to huge and lasting acclaim. The *Goblin groom* concerns a fox hunt on Flodden Field, site of the famous battle in 1513 and a key location in Scott's poem. It was written by the son of a Northumbrian landowner who does not appear to have had anything else published. This copy has been acquired as it has been extra-illustrated with 24 humorous pen and ink sketches, which have been attributed by a former owner of the book, Richard Brooke, whose identity has not yet been established.

Antiquates Ltd. £450

AB.8.219.10



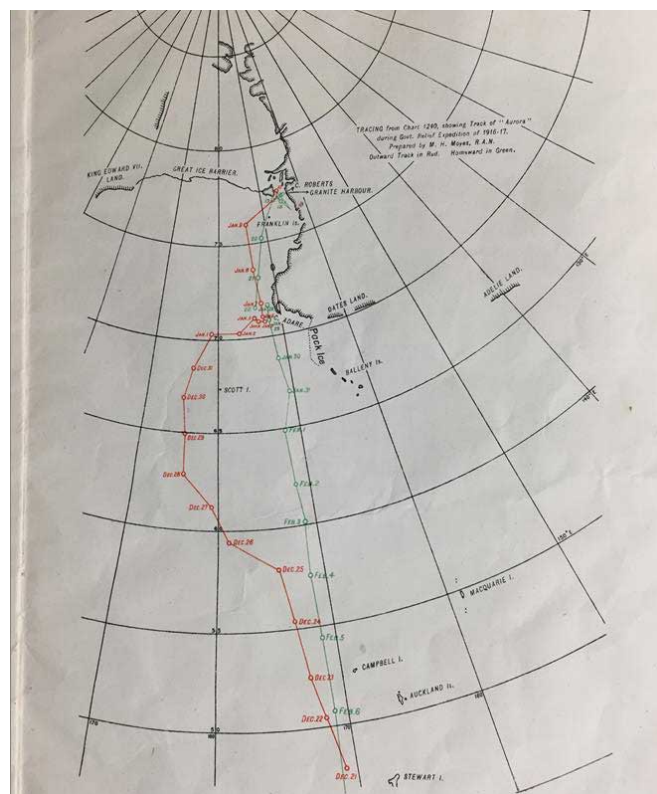
## Graham Brown Acquisition

'Aurora relief expedition' Report of voyage by commander

20 December 1916 to 9 February 1917.

Although the story of Shackleton's 'Endurance' expedition is well known, the harrowing experiences of his men based at McMurdo Sound awaiting the trans-Antarctic crossing party are less well documented and often overlooked in the heroic narrative. Their ship, the Dundee built 'Aurora' was icebound and swept off shore before disembarkation was completed. With a damaged rudder she eventually drifted north out of the ice and limped back to New Zealand for repairs.

This rare report, of which only 2 other copies are known in the UK, charts the 'Aurora's' return to Antarctica to rescue the stranded men. Funded by the Australian government, for whom the report was written, John King Davis was appointed captain in Shackleton's stead, as they had lost faith in him having been forced to pay for both the original fitting out and subsequent repairs of the 'Aurora' due to the expedition's poor financial management.



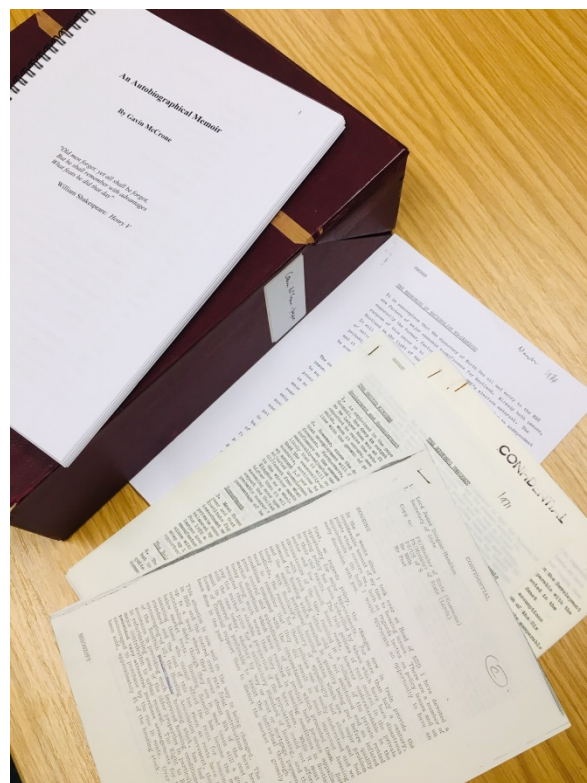


## Archives and Manuscripts – some recent acquisitions

### Acc.14067: Papers of Professor Gavin McCrone

The Library recently acquired the personal papers and privately-printed memoirs of Gavin McCrone, senior civil servant and economist. McCrone was appointed Chief Economic Adviser to successive Secretaries of State for Scotland during the 1970s and 1980s, also managing two Scottish government departments with responsibility for transport, housing, and the environment. He then taught at the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, continuing his research into European monetary policy and Scotland's role in the European Union, and later wrote a regular column on UK politics for the *Scotsman*. His 2013 Birlinn bestseller, *Scottish Independence: Weighing Up the Economics*, aimed to equip readers with an impartial account of the issues in advance of the 2014 Referendum.

Professor McCrone is well-known for his 'McCrone Report,' a background briefing on the economic implications for Scotland of the potential revenue from North Sea Oil, prepared for incoming Scottish Office ministers after the February 1974 UK General Election. Professor McCrone's generous donation will enable researchers to study the original version of his famous Report, included in this collection, in the context of his unpublished professional writing and academic lectures on the economics of Scottish devolution for the first time.



### Acc.14091: Letters of Francis Napier, 10<sup>th</sup> Lord Napier

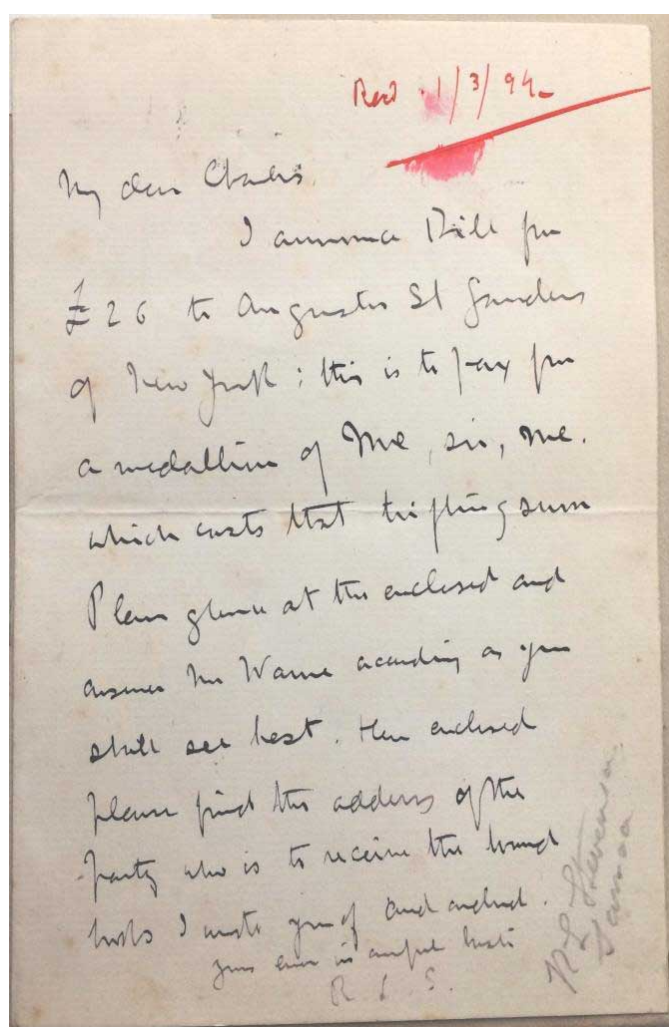
We recently acquired, by purchase, a significant collection of letters from the diplomat and Scottish colonial administrator Francis Napier, 10<sup>th</sup> Lord Napier of Merchistoun, to his wife, Anne Lockwood, dating from the 1840s to the 1880s. The collection includes a series of near-daily love letters written in the months before and after their marriage, discussing the course of Napier's early diplomatic career as well as the couple's preparations for their life together, and a later series of letters dating from Napier's return to Scotland in 1872, having served successively as British Minister to the United States, Russia, and Prussia and as Governor of Madras and temporary Viceroy of India. The later letters shed light on the political upheavals in Edinburgh and London caused by the Third Reform Act of 1884, along with Napier's controversial role as chair of Gladstone's enquiry into the condition of crofters in the Highlands and Islands. The evidence gathered by the Napier Commission set in motion a century of land reform legislation for rural Scotland and laid the groundwork for the 1886 Crofters' Holdings



Act. This acquisition enhances the Library's important holdings of the papers of nineteenth-century Scottish diplomats and politicians, as well as extensive materials relating to the sensitive crofter issues of the 1880s in the Sutherland Estate archives.

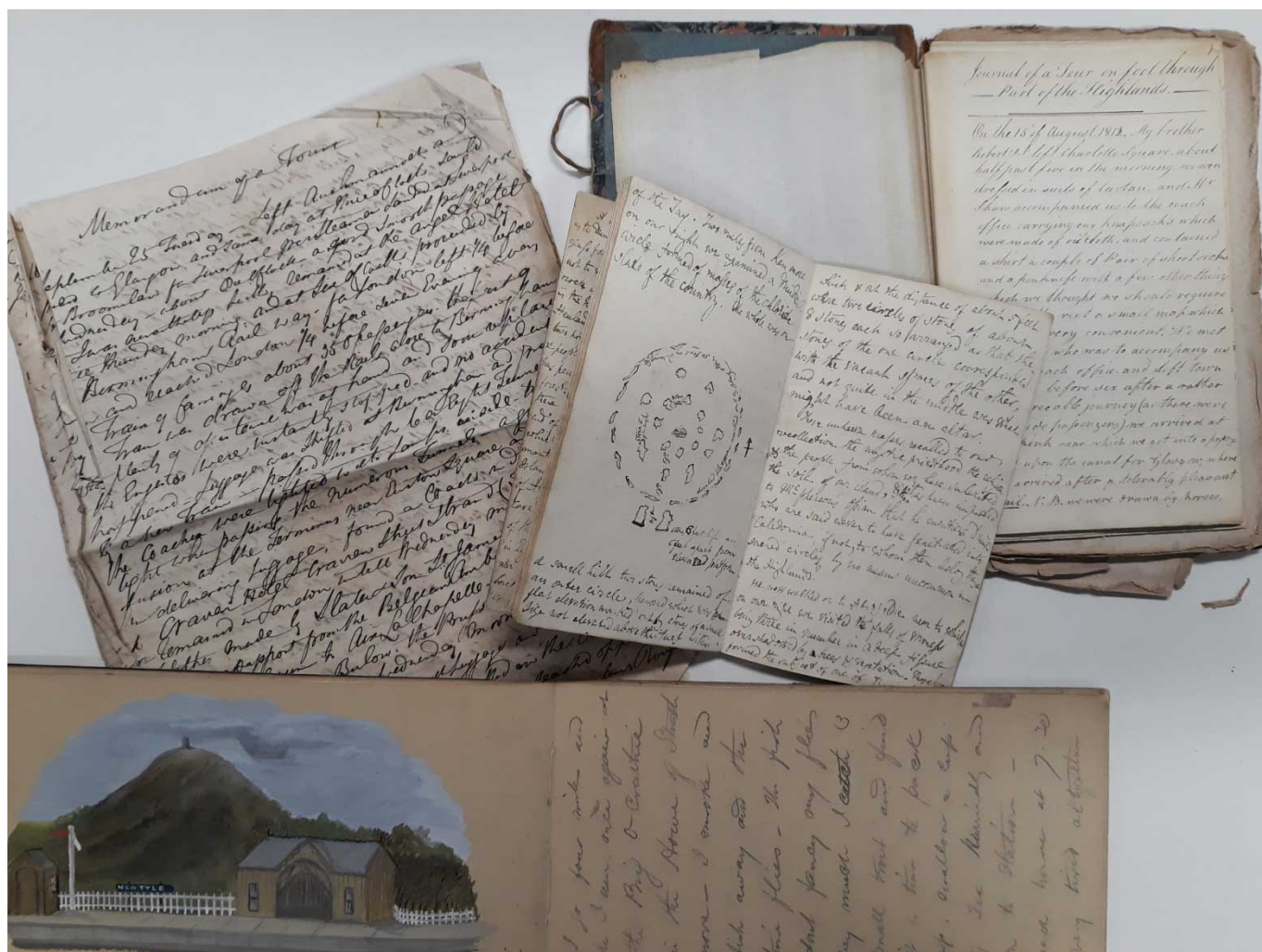
### Acc.14073: Unpublished Robert Louis Stevenson letter

In June the Library bought an unpublished letter of Robert Louis Stevenson. Sent from his home in Vailima, Samoa, in September 1893, Stevenson writes to "My dear Charles" [Baxter], stating that he has made a bill out to Augustus Saint-Gaudens of New York for £26. With typical Stevenson humour he adds "this is to pay for a medallion of ME, sir, Me. which costs that trifling sum". The letter is docketed as received on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1894.



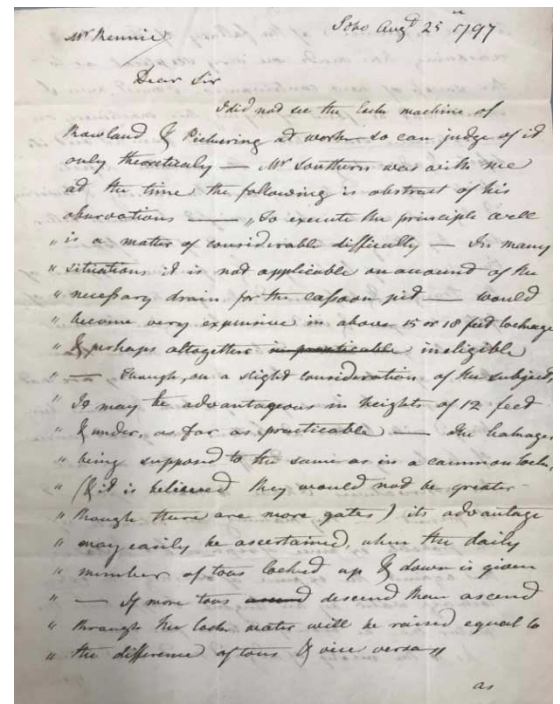
## Accs.14069-10471 & 14084 Travel Journals

One of the Library's collecting strengths is travel writing, and we have a rich collection of manuscript Grand Tour journals, tours of Scotland, and papers relating to the publication of travel books in our publishing collections. The Archive & Manuscripts Division continues to acquire journals of Scots travelling abroad and tourist journals describing tours of Scotland to augment our existing holdings. In the past few months a number of tour journals have been purchased through booksellers. These include: 'memorandum of a tour', 1838, by Robert Campbell of Auchmannoch which describes a journey through Belgium and Germany (Acc.14069); a journal recording the first part of an 1812 pedestrian tour of Scotland possibly by 18 year old Peter Ramsay of Edinburgh (Acc.14070); an anonymous tour of Scotland dating from around 1835 which includes illustrations of a druidical monument near Kenmore (Acc. 14071); and an 1885 tour narrative illustrated by paintings including the Tay Bridge (Acc.14084). Both the 1838 and 1885 journals include interesting insights into tourists' train travel in Britain and on the continent.

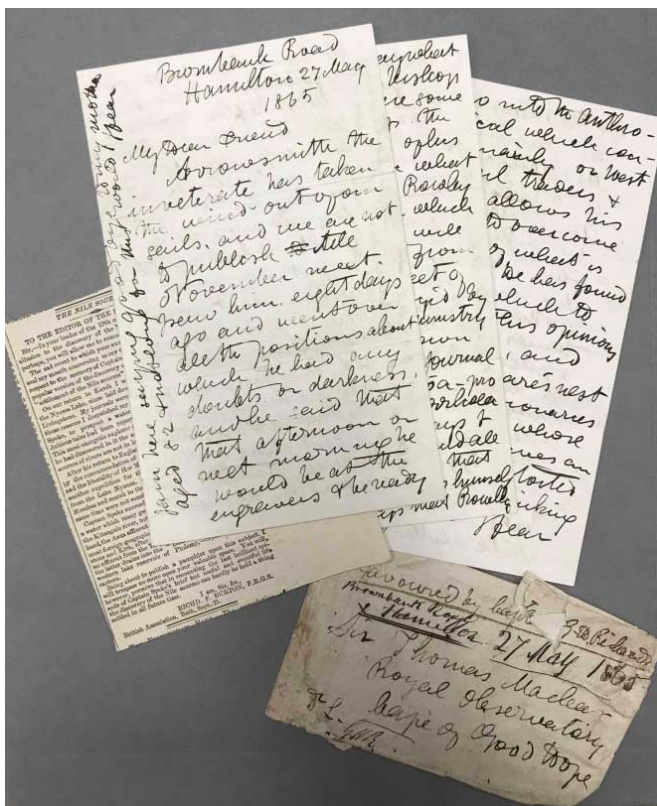


## Acc.14074: Letter of James Watt to John Rennie, 25 August 1797

Earlier this year, and with the generous support of the Ronald W Clark Trust Fund, the Library acquired a letter to John Rennie from his friend and mentor, James Watt. In the letter, Watt expresses his views on a prototype canal lift designed by Rowland and Pickering. Rennie had been asked by an English canal company to provide an independent report into this new machine, and in his letter Watt gives detailed observations from his assistant, and expresses his own scepticism of it. The letter is noteworthy as it offers insight into the working relationship between two of the most significant engineers of the age, and adds to the Library's already significant holdings of the papers of John Rennie.



## Acc.14079 : Letter of David Livingstone to Sir Thomas Maclear, 27 May 1865



The Library recently bought a letter of missionary and explorer David Livingstone to Sir Thomas Maclear, astronomer at the Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope. Having returned the previous summer from the Zambesi expedition, an expensive and ultimately unsuccessful attempt to open a route into the African continent, Livingstone wrote the letter while in Scotland visiting his dying mother. In it, he describes some of the challenges of producing his book, 'Narrative of an expedition to the Zambesi and its tributaries', publication of which had been delayed until the autumn of 1865 by his publisher John Murray. The letter is highly critical of fellow explorers in Africa, and he is particularly scathing in his views of Sir Richard Burton, with whom he had come to blows over the source of the Nile.



### Acc.14076: Letter concerning slave plantations in Jamaica

We recently acquired a letter of Jane Murray writing from the family's plantation of Hopewell located in the region of St Andrews, Jamaica, to her son in Scotland regarding the management of the estate. The letter refers to the production of sugar, and life in Jamaica, but it also comments on enslaved people at the plantation. This acquisition is one of a number of manuscripts relating to slavery which will be worked on by the Library's AHRC funded collaborative PhD student (with Aberdeen University), Matthew Lee, who will help to catalogue and make more accessible the hidden slavery collections in the Library's holdings. Matthew is supervised by Dr Ralph McLean and Robert Betteridge.

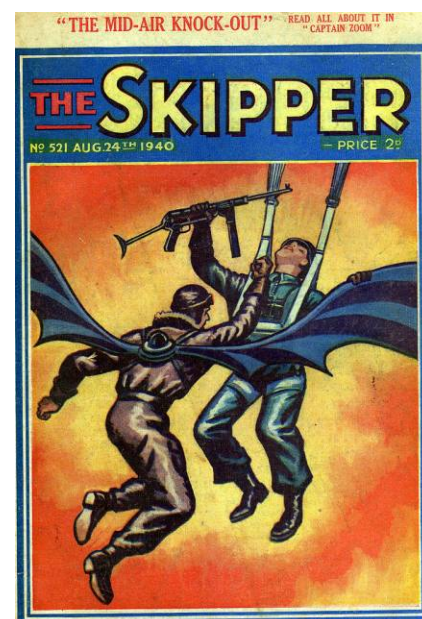


## General Collections – recent acquisitions

### The Skipper

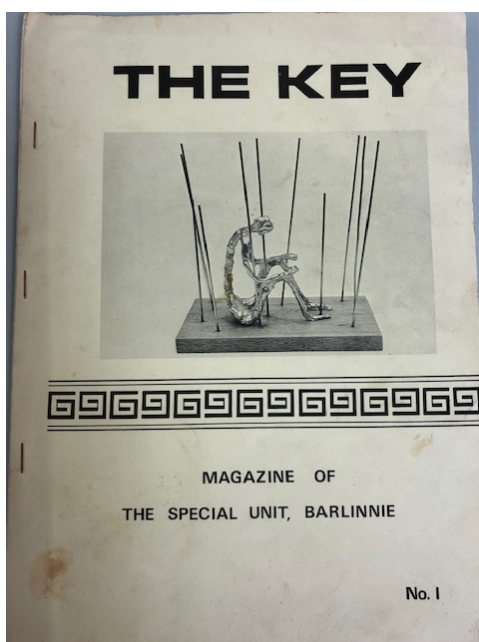
We recently bought issues 1-14, 100, and 488-544 of “The Skipper”, a weekly story paper for boys known for its striking covers such as this example from August 1940.

“The Skipper” was published by Dundee based publisher D. C. Thomson from 1930 to 1941 when it was cancelled due to wartime paper restrictions. It was one of the “big five” story papers published by Thomson alongside “The Rover”, “The Wizard”, “The Hotspur” and “The Adventure”.



### The Key

We recently accepted a donation that throws light on a controversial chapter in Scottish prison history. “The Key: magazine of the Special Unit, Barlinnie” issue 1 contains writing and drawings by prisoners in the Special Unit including Jimmy Boyle and Larry Winters. The Special Unit was a small therapeutic community of prisoners with a focus on group and individual therapy and drug counselling which aimed to rehabilitate some of the most violent prisoners in Scotland. Only three issues of “The Key” were published. The first, the one we received, was published in 1974. The third and final issue appeared in November 1975.



### Another Place Press

Another Place Press is a new publisher based in the north of Scotland that specialises in publishing landscape photography books. As part of our goal to collect the totality of publishing in Scotland our Acquisitions department recently contacted this publisher to request their publications under the terms of the Legal Deposit Act. They were happy to send all of the titles that they had published so far to us. Scotland has a vibrant and diverse publishing scene that ranges from large commercial publishers to smaller niche publishers such as Another Place Press, and identifying new publishers as they emerge is a key part of what we do.



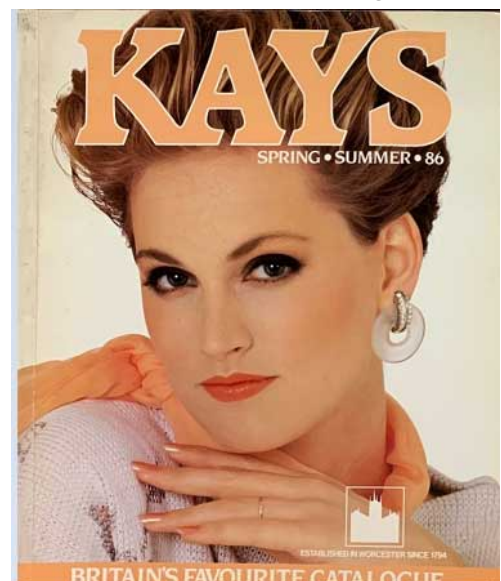
## Women's Football

We added this postcard of a women's football team in Edinburgh in 1918 to the collections whilst the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup was taking place. It has already been popular on our social media accounts. Other than the year and location we don't know anything else about the image.



## Vintage catalogues to add to the catalogue

We recently purchased good copies of vintage home shopping catalogues from the 1980s. These once ubiquitous publications were commonplace in people's homes, replaced regularly each year with the latest edition. Very few have survived because of their disposability and lack of inherent value. But decades later, these catalogues are a price and fashion index, and a structured record of the clothes people wore, the objects that they had in their homes and gardens. Because access to these publications depended on membership of a home shopping club, they were not received through legal deposit. We previously only had one, a Peter Craig catalogue from 1989, in our ephemera collection (currently on display in the 80s Treasures exhibition). We now have a representative selection from the decade, which includes: Argos catalogue, autumn/winter 1979, autumn/winter 1982, and spring/summer 1987, and Kays catalogue, spring/summer 1983, autumn/winter 1985, spring/summer 1986, and autumn/winter 1988.



## Archives and Manuscripts – Outreach

### Visit from the Isle of Harris Distillers

On 29 July we were visited by Simon Erlanger, one of the founders of the Isle of Harris Distillers (established in 2015), and his Distillery Storyteller, Mike Donald. We showed a selection of items from the Library's collections which inform research on emigration from the Outer Hebrides.

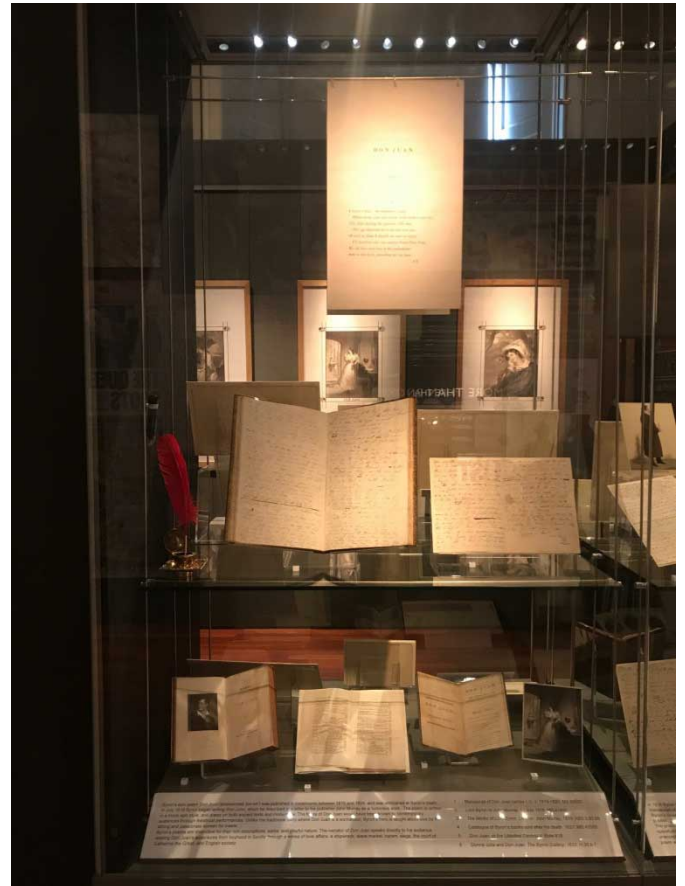
Organised by Non Jones, Development Officer, the visit included a “show and tell” display arranged by Jennifer Giles, Dr Anette Hagan, and Dr Heidi Egginton which drew from collections across the Library's printed, rare book, and manuscript holdings. This featured a number of Gaelic books and pamphlets printed on Hebridean emigrants' presses in Nova Scotia, nineteenth-century posters promoting emigration to the United States, manuscript letters of Flora MacDonald, and the handwritten memoirs of the Revd. Donald Gillies, one of the last residents of St. Kilda, describing life on the islands before the evacuation in 1930. Joined by modern published materials including reports of the Highland Distress Fund, 1930s speeches in the House of Commons, and North American emigrants' Gaelic society magazines and Mòd programmes, the display revealed how themes around emigration from the Highlands and Islands echo across the centuries in our collections.

As part of their social and community engagement programme, the Harris Distillers are developing an outreach project on the Scottish Diaspora to address the issues surrounding population decline in the Hebrides. The National Library had previously supplied the distillery with an exhibition copy of a rare map of Lewis and Harris showing St. Kilda, now displayed on the wall of the distillery's visitor centre at Tarbert. After this visit we gave the visitors a DVD of period footage compiled from our Moving Image and Sound Collections to take home to Harris. We hope there will be many more opportunities to inspire their research and storytelling work with materials from our collections in the future.



### Lord Byron public events

To mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Don Juan, and to coincide with the related Treasures Display 'Such Seductive Poetry' (18 April-27 July), three public events were held in the Library: Professor Tom Mole, Director of the Centre for the History of the Book at the University of Edinburgh, spoke about Byron's epic poem Don Juan (14 May); Byron expert Sir Drummond Bone spoke on the topic 'Byron: nationalist? Citizen of nowhere' in a lecture sponsored by the Byron Society (15 July) and, to tie in with the Library's 1980s project, Dr Emily Bernhard Jackson discussed how the Byronic image inspired New Romantic musicians like Adam Ant (25 July). These three talks all gave different insights into Byron's works, the poet himself and his influence beyond the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



### Selwyn College alumni visit

On 5 June we welcomed to the Library a small group of alumni from Selwyn College, Cambridge, who now live in Scotland, with Shona Winnard from their Alumni Office. Beverley Casebow, Learning and Outreach Officer, provided a tour of the Library. Kirsty McHugh, Curator of the John Murray Archive & Publishers' Collections, organised a display of some of the treasures from the John Murray Archive and its related collections including photographs by travel writer Isabella Bird and manuscripts of works by Patrick Leigh Fermor. The group were engaged and enthusiastic and it was a pleasant and rewarding afternoon.

### George Eliot letters viewing

In May, Beverley Casebow, Learning and Outreach Officer, and Kirsty McHugh, Curator of the John Murray Archive & Publishers' Collections, organised a session at the Library for a book group from the North East of England to look at the correspondence between Mary Ann Evans ('George Eliot') and her publisher John Blackwood. The group were thrilled to be able to handle archive material and tried their hand at deciphering the handwriting. One of the group gave the following feedback: *'Our book group has been studying George Eliot. Library staff kindly arranged for us to see and read correspondence between Eliot and her publisher which gave us a very immediate and intimate sense of Eliot as an author and a woman. We greatly appreciate the courteous and helpful service offered by staff – a memorable day.'*

## **African Studies in Edinburgh**

In June, Alison Metcalfe hosted a visit from members of ELIAS (European Librarians in African Studies) to show them items from Archive and Manuscript Collections relating to Africa, around the theme of the challenges of finding African voices within colonial-era collections. Approximately 20 librarians visited the library, many of whom were in Edinburgh for ECAS2019, the 8<sup>th</sup> European Conference on African Studies, which ran at the University of Edinburgh from 11-14 June.

Alison is a member of SCOLMA (UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa), and was part of the organising committee for SCOLMA's 2019 conference, 'Decolonising African studies: Questions and dilemmas for libraries, archives and collections'. SCOLMA's conference was held at the University of Edinburgh to coincide with ECAS2019, and included speakers from the National Archives of Zimbabwe and the University of Khartoum, as well as from across the UK and Europe. Around 60 delegates heard papers on approaches to decolonising library and archive collections, whether through new collecting policies, re-thinking how collections are described, or repatriating records to their place of origin. The day ended with a lively round table discussion on some of the issues raised in relation to the collections of major libraries and archives in the UK and internationally.

## **Course at London Rare Books School**

In late June Malcolm Anderson, Special Collections Assistant, attended a course on Early European Bookbinding between 1450 and 1830 at the London Rare Books School, hosted by the Institute of English Studies at the University of London. The course was delivered by a leading expert in early bookbinding techniques, Professor Nicholas Pickwoad.

Professor Pickwoad provided a huge wealth of information and examples through his seminars in conjunction with hands-on visits to the Wellcome Library, Dr Williams Library and the UoL Senate House Special Collections Library. The experience provided a unique opportunity to quickly acquire an understanding of various early binding techniques and will benefit identification, cataloguing, collections care and many other important efforts in the understanding and preservation of rare books and bound manuscripts.



## Rebel Roots Project

Over the past year we have been working in partnership with Fast Forward, a Scottish youth work charity based in North Edinburgh, on an HLF-funded project called Rebel Roots. The project aims to engage young people, aged 16-25 years, with youth sub-cultures – fashion, dance, music, and design – from the 1960s to the present day. As well as exploring the history of youth sub-cultures, the project has focused on breaking down generational barriers, improving confidence, and supporting the young people to be more aware of their roots and the connections to the place where they live.

Staff from the Library's learning team were involved in appointing the Project Coordinator in autumn 2018, and the first visit to the Library took place in December. Ian Scott, Curator, General Collections, showed printed material highlighting fashion and music trends over the past 60 years.

In April, Alistair Bell ran a 'Scotland's Sounds' workshop for the young people, exploring album covers and artwork, and creating their own album cover. In July, the group visited the Moving Image Archive to work with Emily Munro, and to view films of young people from past decades. This visit also included a creative element, making collages which will be featured in the final display to showcase the project to supporters, parents, and stakeholders.

In October, Chris Read from Fast Forward, will be presenting the project to other youth organisations as part of a partnership workshop with the Heritage Lottery Fund at the Library.





## US choir visit and performance

We welcomed the Byrd International Singers to the Library on Friday 2 August to view the *Scone Antiphoner*, also called the Carver Choir-book, dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, which belonged to Robert Carver, a canon of Scone Abbey; it is one of very few pre-Reformation choir books to have survived. The group were in Scotland to perform some of the settings in the choir book at St Giles as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and, as part of their visit to the Library, a special performance took place on the stairs ahead of the choir's evening concert. The group was ecstatic to be able to view the manuscript and the visit pulled together colleagues from across the Library working to create a memorable experience for all.



## Frederick Douglass online learning resource

The Learning Team is working with Edinburgh secondary school, St Thomas of Aquin's, with Edinburgh University's Professor Celeste-Marie Bernier, and General Collections curator Dora Petherbridge to develop an online learning resource delving further into the narrative of abolitionist and freed slave Frederick Douglass. By looking at related items in the Library's collections, the learning resource aims to highlight other important slave narratives. These will form a focus for the learning activities and will be fed back to the SQA Higher History syllabus through the work of St Thomas of Aquin's history teacher Katie Hunter.



## 1980s retrospective hits the news

The Library's 1980s retrospective hit another gear at the end of July with a full week of retro 80s related activities at Kelvin Hall, followed by a launch of treasures, a film show, and a second tranche of new content on the Back to the future 1979-1989 website. Media coverage for the Library's 80s work was especially good in the run up to the Kelvin Hall events, with a full page article on page 3 of *The Herald* on Saturday 20 July, and a media call on the launch day on 23 July at Kelvin Hall. A number of staff in roller boots caught the mood of the day, with coverage appearing in *The Scottish Sun*, and on the 6.00 evening news on STV. BBC Radio Scotland featured three interviews with Graeme Hawley during the week, all of which promoted the Library's collections and activities to primetime audiences.



The Kelvin Hall retro week was a tremendous success, with a fourfold increase in visitors that week. A range of attractions drew three generations of people together and introduced scores of new people to our collections at Kelvin Hall.

The “Analogue Attack” room became a key focal point for visitors in terms of interactive learning and discussion. While young people were amazed to learn about the mysterious art of rewinding a cassette, older visitors were highly engaged in discussions about the last 40 years and the impact these “old” technologies had had on their lives. The object handling space also provided an excellent trigger for conversations about the important work that the Moving Image and Sound Collections do with regard to saving sound and vision that is currently held on tapes, films, and VHS.

1980s collection material from the Moving Image and Sound Collections was put to excellent use during the week, with a new film-reel on the big screen showing Johnny Cash's visit to Fife in 1982, Princess Diana's visit to the Keiller marmalade factory in Dundee in 1983, the Edinburgh Festival in 1986, the Glasgow Garden Festival in 1988, and a curious visit to an Inn Bru





factory: a double bill of archive footage called *Fierce Women*, featuring Liz Lochhead and also *Red Skirts on Clydeside* (about the Glasgow rent strikes); and curated footage of Glasgow in the 1980s.

Special film screenings of *Gregory's Girl*, *Local Hero*, and *Highlander* also took place in the Kelvin Hall auditorium, drawing great numbers to our space once more.



On 1 August, the Back to the future 1979-1989 [website](#). re-populated with 24 new essays on topics including the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, Smash Hits, denim crazes, the invasion of Grenada, the discovery of the Antarctic ozone hole, state funerals, animals on the rampage, anti-apartheid activity in Scotland, Apple computers, Scottish football in the second half of the decade, and the 1984 Olympics. Guest-written essays from Ian Rankin and Dame Evelyn Glennie added additional colour relating to hi-fi culture, and London's classical music scene.

## Back to the future: 1979-1989

**1979 and 1989 are key years in recent history that book-end a fascinating decade of change. Through a series of essays, films, and other resources, this website takes you back ... to the 1980s.**

## ISECS 2019 conference in Edinburgh

Edinburgh hosted the 2019 International Society for Eighteenth Century Studies conference, held once every four years, and attended by over 1,500 delegates. As part of the Library's contribution to the conference (in addition to the recently opened exhibition on the Scottish Enlightenment) a panel session was held in the Boardroom for delegates and members of the public on the Library's connections to the Enlightenment. Dr Ralph McLean provided a talk on the how the exhibition was created, while postgraduate students Matthew Lee (Aberdeen/National Library of Scotland), Alastair Noble and Sydney Ayres (Edinburgh) spoke about their engagement with the Library's collections and the extent to which they informed their own research. Some of these collection items were on display in the Boardroom for the event.



### **'Food from the Past'**

Olive Geddes was the key-note speaker at the recent Slow Food Edinburgh 'Food from the Past' event at Café St Honore in Edinburgh's Thistle Street Lane. In her talk she discussed the history of food in Scotland, when products and recipes first appeared, and our how our food habits have changed over time.

Cooks' Alliance Chef Neil Forbes introduced the menu which was based on recipes from the National Library of Scotland's Archive and Manuscript Collections. After canapes of oysters, diners enjoyed Beef à la Mode with Fricassée of Mushrooms. Dessert was Spring Fruit Cream, a rhubarb based dish from an early nineteenth century recipe.





## **Survey of Visitors to UK Archives 2018**

The Special Collection Reading Room participated in the Archives & Records Association Survey in the autumn of 2018. Survey data was collected over a period of nine weeks and participation was sought from readers using the Archives and Manuscript Collections. Our responses were benchmarked against the 106 archives who participated. Of the 97 readers who completed the survey, 79% had used our archive previously. The majority of respondents used the collections for academic research (84%) with the remainder working on projects relating to presentations, forthcoming publications, work-related research, and local and family history. This contrasts with the national average which places family history as the most common use of UK archives. Visitors to the reading room stayed for an average time of 4.2 hours and rated our staff and services very highly. Comments were generally favourable, with an overall mark for the archive of 9.1 out of 10.

<https://www.archives.org.uk/what-we-do/archive-surveys.html>

## **Asia Chronicles and Directories research project**

The Library has supported an international project that has opened up research into the history of globalisation in Asia by digitising content to fill gaps in an important dataset. The Asia Chronicles & Directories Project will be released in December. The project sprang from a conversation at the IIF Vatican conference that Dr Scally had with Eric Decker from Basel University. Decker was working at the Institute for European Global Studies on a research project investigating the flows of information and movement of people in Asia in between 1863 and 1942 as described in a publication series called “Chronicles & Directories” (a comprehensive source of information for business and trade activities in Asia). The project is called “Global Information at a Glance: Power, Law, and Commerce through the Lens of Asia Directories” and is led by Professor Madeleine Herren. The project uses manual and automatic methods to extract different categories of information, such as table of contents or datasets on foreign residents living in Asia at the time. One of the aims is a quantitative analysis covering the whole corpus, and they built a digital collection of the whole set of “Chronicles & Directories” ranging from 1863 to 1941, with Jan Usher, Social Sciences Curator in General Collections, working with the project to identify gaps that the Library could fill. The digitisation is now complete.

## Policy internship

The Library recently hosted its first intern under the UK Research and Innovation Policy Internship Scheme for doctoral candidates. Emily Gibbs, University of Liverpool, worked with Fred Saunderson, Rights and Information Manager, between May and August 2019. Emily prepared two policy briefings for the Library during her placement, one looking at how collections are assessed for sensitive content and a second exploring the provision of law enforcement access to electoral registers.

For the first briefing, Emily investigated methods of assessing collections for sensitive content at the Library as well as at fifteen large or national archives, through discussions with data protection officers or other relevant individuals at those institutions. She also undertook desk research into applicable practices at 312 local archives, as well as council and university archives, and investigated legal and ethical requirements. Emily's briefing makes three core recommendations for the Library, on methodology and guidelines for assessment, on provision of consistent guidance to users, and on adjusting the practice of applying data protection stickers to collections. Emily's two-page policy briefing is supported by a 126-page report with full details of her research.

At the time of writing Emily was still preparing her second policy briefing, which focuses on how the Library may provide access to electoral registers for law enforcement purposes. The Library often receives access requests from the police, but electoral law limits how we can respond. The Library has twice obtained legal advice on this matter, so further informed policy and procedure development will be timely.

Both briefings prepared by Emily will be submitted to the Library Leadership Team for information, with an explanatory covering paper by Fred Saunderson, and will be used by the Library in developing relevant policy and procedure. Once complete, both briefings and supporting reports will be available for all staff.



## Two new Library interns

### Google Arts and Culture intern

After a recruitment drive that drew more than 170 high-quality applications and a challenging and fun selection day with six extraordinarily talented candidates, we offered Lauren McCombe the position of Google Arts and Culture intern. Lauren will work with us to explore and select existing content from our past exhibitions and publish at least three digital exhibitions on the Google Arts and Culture service. <https://artsandculture.google.com/> She will also gather observations and metrics about the processes and resources required to prepare the exhibitions and their reach, use and impact. Lauren will share what she learns with Library staff and the wider Scottish library sector.



### Usability intern



This year the Digital Department is launching new and redeveloping existing digital services including the Data Foundry, Digital Gallery, *join the Library*, e-resources service. Usability testing of these services as they develop is key to ensuring that they meet users' goals efficiently and effectively. To support us in this work we have recruited Helen Wiles as our usability intern. Helen will learn about usability testing and research, experiment with usability tools, and help us establish a framework to embed usability testing as part of the iterative development of services. She will also carry out usability tests on several services.

The internships are for 6 months, full-time and are the first of their kind for the Library. The

Google internship is funded with support from the National Librarian and Scottish Library and Information Council innovation funds, and the Usability intern is funded by the Digital Department.

## Graham Brown Research Fellow



Our 2019 National Library of Scotland Graham Brown Research Fellow has arrived.

Dr Simon Naylor is Senior Lecturer in Historical Geography and Head of the Human Geography Research Group at the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow.

Simon's research focuses on the histories of science, technology and exploration. He is interested in the significance of places and landscapes for the development of scientific ideas and techniques. His most recent work has examined the development of the science of meteorology in the 19th century.

His previous publications include articles in 'Notes and Records of the Royal Society', 'British Journal for the History of Science', 'Nature Geoscience' and 'Journal of

Historical Geography'. He has edited and contributed numerous chapters to books. He is the author of the book 'Regionalizing Science: Placing Knowledges in Victorian England.' (Pickering & Chatto, 2010).

Simon will use the Fellowship to conduct research into the relationship between mountains, mountaineering and science in Scotland, focusing on weather study and the meteorological observatory on Ben Nevis. Simon will be with us until November and will be participating in our public programme.



## PhD student placement to create new web resource for Stevenson maps of Scotland

Over the summer, the Library hosted Rachel Dishington, a PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, for a three month placement as part of her AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership PhD. Doctoral students on this programme are supervised collaboratively by universities and museum, library, archive or heritage organisations and are encouraged to develop specialist professional and technical skills through placements at their partner institutions.

Rachel created a [map-based web interface](#) showing the locations covered by over 2000 maps and plans of Scotland from the Library's Stevenson archive. The web interface will allow this material to be viewed, searched and filtered digitally for the first time, greatly increasing its accessibility and providing new understanding of the overall composition of the collection. Users can [search geographically](#), [search by keyword](#) or [browse a full list](#) of the places, subjects and people featured on the site.

The archive contains records from the engineering firm established by Robert Stevenson (1772-1850), celebrated lighthouse engineer and grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson, in the early-nineteenth century. Stevenson and his descendants worked on projects all over Scotland, from designing harbours and lighthouses to surveying routes for railways to remodelling the streets of Edinburgh.

The site includes contextual material explaining the history of the Stevensons and their work, as well as resources on geocoding and setting up a map interface that can be used to replicate the workflow for other datasets.

We plan to conserve and scan the Stevenson maps soon, and Rachel's work will form an excellent search interface for this new online image content.



## Further Education Engagement

Staff from Access and General Collections have been working together to increase National Library engagement with the Further Education sector. Graeme Hawley and Jo Stevenson visited the College Expo at Perth College on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, with Freddie Alexander and Elaine Simpson attending on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. Although attendance was lower than anticipated due to industrial action, staff felt the event had been a success with quality connections made with FE staff and exhibitors.

Library staff spoke with about 50 FE staff and a number of concrete outcomes emerged, including one publication and several interesting revelations. Jo Stevenson has written an article for CAIRN, a new FE journal, highlighting the Library's resources and how they can be utilised by college staff and students, to be published later this year. In terms of learning points, a high proportion of delegates believed that there was a cost to joining the Library, and were surprised that access to our collections is free. It also became apparent that explicit information on how to join the Library was missing from current leaflets. As a result of these discussions, Marketing have produced a small postcard with step-by-step instructions on joining the Library.

On 13th August, Jo Stevenson and Elaine Simpson represented the Library at the Creative Learning Conference at Forth Valley College (Stirling Campus). The new postcards were included in goodie-bags given to approximately 200 delegates, and will hopefully lead to a spike in registrations from this sector. Library staff spoke to around 65 FE staff members on using our resources, as well as gaining around 25 subscribers to the e-newsletter and Discover. Again, delegates were surprised access to collections was free and were highly enthusiastic about using the Library in future.



## Health at Work Week, Monday 20-24 May 2019

The Library's second Health at Work Week took place from 20-24 May. The aim of this week, organised by the Health at Work Group, is to promote healthy living and provide strategies to help improve the health of staff.

There were a variety of activities on offer throughout the Library's buildings ranging from Tai Chi classes to Indian Head massages and talks on healthy eating, mindfulness and stress relief. Prospect organised an Independent Financial Advisor who gave staff advice on improving their financial health and reducing stress.

A group of Library staff walked along the Innocent Railway Tunnel from Arthur's Seat to Portobello one evening and some of the team at Kelvin Hall went for a lunchtime walk to Kelvingrove and Glasgow University and back along the river Kelvin, see picture below.



The week culminated with a Health Fair in the Boardroom which included representatives from a variety of organisations including Volunteer Edinburgh, Playlist for Life and the Charity for Civil Servants. The highlight of the event was Sustrans' pedal powered cinema. Staff (and some members of the public) took turns cycling to power health related films, which were put together by the Moving Image and Sound Collections at Kelvin Hall.

As a result of the popularity of the yoga and Pilates classes during last year's Health at Work week, the Library Leadership Team agreed to provide funding for a block of six classes (of both yoga and Pilates) for staff to trial over a number of weeks during spring/summer 2019. The trial was a success and the Health at Work Group are now looking at whether there is interest from staff in paying to continue these classes.



## Philanthropically Funded Projects

### Alexander Graham Fragile Formats Trainees

In November 2017 Alex Graham pledged support for six trainees to spend time at the Library learning the skills to preserve our most fragile materials.

The first of those trainees, Claire Hutchinson, completed her internship in July 2019. Over the course of nine months at the Library she surveyed 2,000 newspaper volumes and treated 539 of them. Two hundred of those had previously been too fragile to issue to readers, but are now accessible again. This is one of the things of which Claire is proudest:

*"I don't think that the emotional connection that people have to newspapers is really valued – and I felt that I had an ethical responsibility to stop their condition from deteriorating further, and to enable people to use them.*

*At first, I found the level of responsibility and trust quite overwhelming; this was my first time working on a project of my own. I was worried I could not handle the newspapers without damaging them and had a limited understanding of their components. But I was amazed when my decision making was trusted. By now I have the knowledge, skills and conviction to recommend particular methods of treatment for the newspapers.*

*My peers doing conservation roles at other organisations were amazed that I'd been given the newspapers to work on. Very few have had an opportunity to work with such a fragile format – it's been invaluable to my career.*

*In addition, I have gained considerable experience managing a workload; learned the value of compromise and collaboration in a large institution; and am now comfortable communicating my work to non-professional audiences.*

*Being a part of the [conservation] team at the National Library of Scotland is something special to me. Watching and learning from a team as exemplary as theirs has been incredibly inspiring.*

*All in all, fab."*



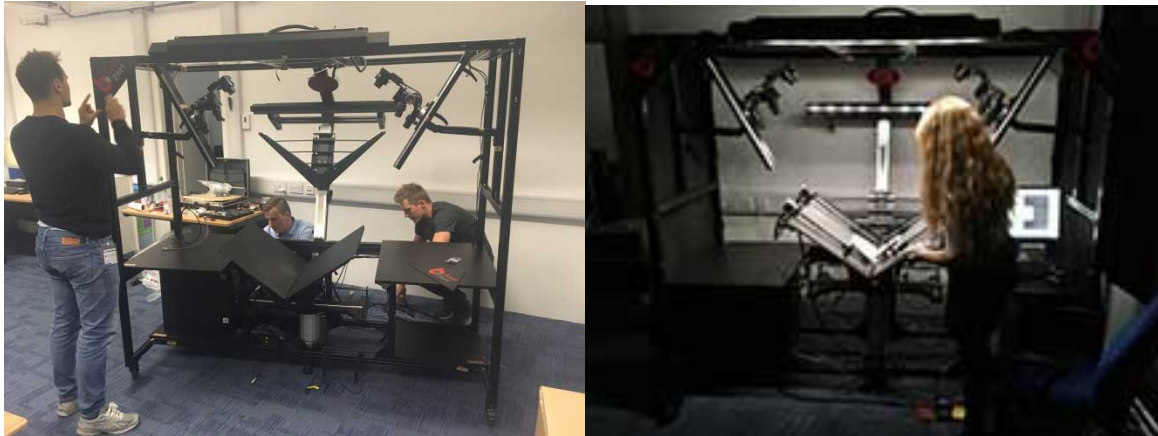
Claire at the ICON2019 conference



## Mediaeval manuscripts

After a rigorous procurement process, a custom-built cradle for the Library to digitise its heritage collections was delivered in August.

Training on how to use the specialist equipment has begun, and it is hoped that the Digitisation Operative will be able to start capturing the 200+ mediaeval manuscripts within the Advocates Collection very soon. This is the second project funded by Alex Graham, which is due to be completed in autumn 2020.



## Conservation of music manuscripts

A project to conserve twenty volumes of music manuscripts was completed in the summer, funded by Lady Lucinda Mackay.

The manuscripts span a hundred years of Scotland's musical heritage, with the earliest item dating from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The manuscripts conserved included trumpet minuets, flute duets, bagpipe marches, musical farces and operatic arias. These manuscripts once belonged to a variety of people across society – from well-to-do Scottish families, to a quartet of Fifers in the Morvern Company of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment (the Black Watch), to a renowned London comic singer and actors of the 1810s.

Lady Lucinda has supported the Library in a number of different ways over many years, and in recognition of her support a performance of the music on the conserved manuscripts took place at the end of May. Over thirty of her friends came to the Library for tea and to hear the music being performed by two young musicians from Glasgow. Most were previously unfamiliar with the Library's work and reported enjoying the opportunity to get to know us.

## StoryCon Conference

The Library continued to show its support for young writers and illustrators in Scotland with a Keynote address to the StoryCon Conference on Saturday 22 June. StoryCon is run by the Scottish Book Trust for 13-19 year olds. The programme is put together by the current group of young writers who are being sponsored through the What's Your Story initiative, which the National Library supports by hosting an induction weekend every year. The young writers chose Graeme Hawley to give the opening address on the theme of "Why create?" Graeme threaded together a tale of the Library's unsung collections with thoughts about story-telling in our own lives to an appreciative audience of over 100 people. The organisation of the whole conference and the delivery on the day was a model in how to engage young people from a very diverse range of backgrounds. We will be hosting the next induction weekend in January 2020.



## LOCSCOT newspaper discussion day

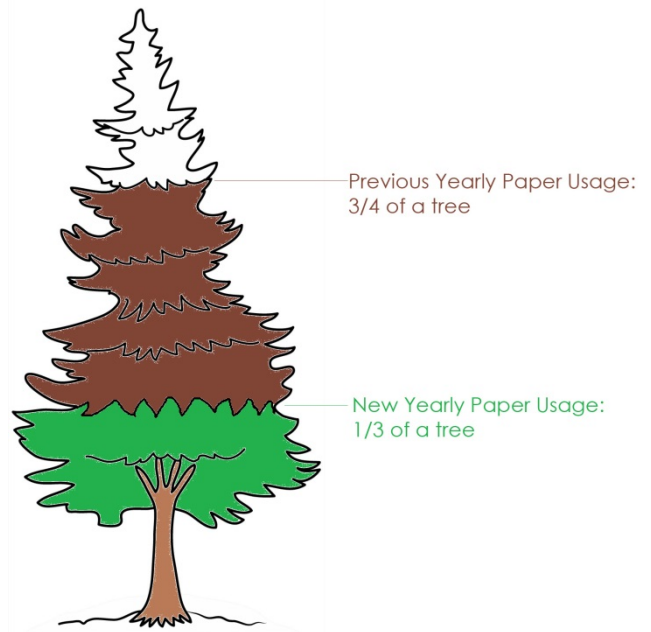
LocScot (Local Studies Librarians) and the National Library of Scotland co-hosted a discussion on the accessibility of Scotland's historical newspapers on 19 June. Jennifer Higgins, Newspaper Digitisation Scoping Project Officer, presented the results of the recent survey of local newspaper collections which she has undertaken. The survey had gathered information about where titles are held, and also canvassed views and thoughts on how a possible future digitisation strategy and access plan might look. This was followed by a group discussion of the results and consideration of future access routes to newspaper collections, and how this could benefit other library partners. Various potential access models were discussed, including models which incorporated tiered access, such as making older newspapers available to all, but more recent digitised newspapers available on library premises. The response of this stakeholder group, which represented around half of Scotland's local authorities, was largely positive and indicated that they wish to continue to participate in discussions and planning. The information gathered will be incorporated into Jennifer's final report, which is due to be presented later this year. The morning concluded with a presentation by Dr Helen Williams, Honorary Secretary of the Scottish Printing Archival Trust, on her research on newspaper production methods in the 19th century and the connections between local methods, people and place.

## Maps Reading Room paper saving initiatives

In the Maps Reading Room we receive an average of about 2,000 email enquiries per year and up to 500 permission enquiries. Each of these is printed off, sometimes multiple times as an enquiry progresses. At team meetings each member of staff gets a full set of minutes and agenda. Our total usage amounts to around 5,250 sheets of paper per year, or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a tree.

At a recent team meeting, one of our members of staff, Rosemary Hall, proposed that we make a concerted effort to reduce paper usage. The team as a whole agreed that this was an excellent idea, and discussed ways in which it could be achieved.

As such, a plan was put in place. By only printing one page per enquiry, completing and storing permission forms digitally, and no longer printing meeting minutes (using our projector instead), we will reduce our yearly paper usage by over half. With the upcoming implementation of a new enquiry system, we hope to reduce our paper usage even further in the future.



## Life-time Achievement Award

Hot on the heels of winning the Library and Information Professional of the Year Award, Fiona Laing, Official Publications curator in the General Collections team, has now been awarded the 2019 Government Information Group Life-time Achievement Award. This was in acknowledgement of her many achievements during a long career working with government information in the form of Official Publications, and specifically highlighted her outreach and training work, and long standing contributions to national professional groups and committees. In making the award, the GIG Judging Panel said that her contribution to official publications far exceeded the criteria for their Life-time Achievement Award.

<https://swopforum.wordpress.com/2019/08/14/announcing-the-gig-award-winners-2019/>



## Unlocking Our Sound Heritage

The Unlocking Our Sound Heritage team have been filling the Moving Image and Sound Collections with the sounds of the countryside. Listening to peesweeps, cushiedoos and other Scottish birds, courtesy of a collection brought in for digitisation from the Scottish Ornithologists' Club in Aberlady.



Cataloguing has at times been challenging because not all of the birds have been identified. There is a lot of cross-listening between the recording and Xeno-Canto. More challenging has been trying to decipher the handwritten notes (in fountain pen) made by the recordists in the field. It has been very much a team effort and has developed our palaeography skills.

The project's Rights Officer was also very impressed with this collection, clearing 306 recordist's rights in around 30 minutes. Good paperwork is a thing of beauty.

We had already identified that this collection would be a wonderful resource for one of our learning & engagement opportunities. We are currently advertising for an Artist in Residence to use the collection as inspiration to create new works with community partners. They will be working with members of the public to raise awareness of sound, sound archives and the need for preservation of sound.

The collection itself contains some wonderfully artistic tape covers; this one in particular caught our attention.





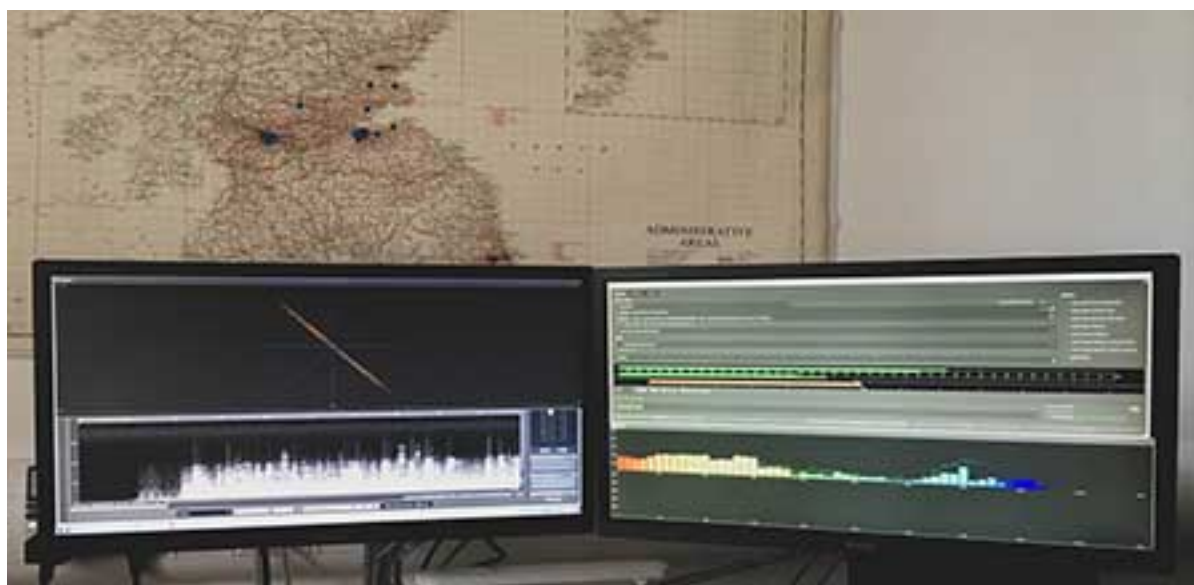
The team has also collected, from the University of Glasgow's Archives and Special Collections, a very diverse collection including recordings of a 6-week time capsule of Sub City radio station programmes, recordings from Upper Clyde Shipbuilders including the UCS work-in, the Caterpillar Project, Scottish Theatre Archive and other recordings from academic staff.

The team has also finalised the work required on the 'Against all the odds: women in the Communist Party in Scotland 1920-91' collection, which will be proposed for online listening on the British Library Sounds website, launching March 2020.

The project launched its first remote volunteering opportunity, based in Leith Library. It gives local people a chance to contribute to the content research and cataloguing of oral history, recorded with Leith residents in the 1980s, making sure we capture every local nuance of dialect and colloquialism.

The project also delivered a very comprehensive event for PhD students from the Scottish Graduate School of Arts & Humanities (SGSAH). Over six days, they were given an in-depth introduction to sound archives, their use & importance, with all of the aspects that the project comprises: digitisation, cataloguing and rights clearance. In return, the students undertook some oral history summaries for us. Feedback was very favourable and the students challenged the team with questions, ideas and concepts.

Shortly, some of the team will be travel to Aberdeenshire to collect two large collections. One from Aberdeenshire Museum Services comprising the recordings of north east traditional music by the late John Junner, the other from Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums comprising a mix of oral and civic history.



Every collection contains wonderful treasures and we cannot wait to hear what comes next.