The paradox of medicine in wartime is that although it is conducted in the surgical theatre of war – an environment of devastation and death – it is in these abhorrent circumstances that advances in medical science can often take place.

This new exhibition tells the stories of a small group of doctors, surgeons and nurses, associated with Aberdeen, who used medicine in wartime with courage and innovation. Their journals, letters, instruments and inventions from the Special Collections and Museum Collections at the University of Aberdeen evoke a period in military medical history that was challenging and ripe for change.
The story of medicine in wartime is ultimately one of uplifting human endeavour in times of mankind’s greatest failing.

The case notes of the young ship’s surgeon, Robert Wilson, who performed operations on injured servicemen before the availability of anaesthetic; and the first First Aid guide for soldiers, published posthumously, by Surgeon Major Peter Shepherd, highlight the challenging medical conditions of conflicts in the early 1800s. In later years, an understanding of hygiene, bacteriology and antiseptic surgery by innovators like James McGrigor, Alexander Ogston and Henry Gray dramatically helped improve the survival rate of the British armed forces. The bravery of battlefield medics was matched by the bravery of medical inventors like James Mackenzie Davidson whose research in the dangerous field of radiography gave military and civilian surgeons new devises to use in the treatment of the wounded. Non-surgical practices were also given trials in wartime. Amelia Law’s use of massage (a forerunner of physiotherapy) and a system of nutritional health in rationing devised by John Boyd Orr and practiced in a unique way as a POW by David Lubbock all found wartime to be a moment for development.

The exhibition will also feature a series of works on paper by the artist Julia Midgley, which document surgeons in training and service personnel working to recover from injuries sustained in more recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fascinating series of talks about the individuals featured in the exhibition including a guest talk by Julia Midgley about her project “Art, War and Surgery”. Further details about the exhibition and the accompanying talks will be posted on the Special Collections website.

Jen Shaw

The exhibition runs from 11 November 2017 to 18 March 2018.

Regular Gallery Opening Times:
Mon to Wed: 10am–5pm
Thurs: 10am–7pm
Fri to Sat: 10am–5pm
Sundays: 11am–4pm
Join us for the Friends’ Talks 2017-18. Our free evening talks are open to all and hosted in the Special Collections Centre Seminar Room of the Sir Duncan Rice Library.

To book a space, please contact our honorary secretary, Emma Fowlie, at e.fowlie@abdn.ac.uk or 01224 273385.

Thursday 15 February 2018, 6pm

A 1594 Aberdonian Schoolmaster’s Guide to Politics

Dr Miles Kerr-Peterson, University of Glasgow

In this talk, one of this year’s Special Collections Centre Visiting Scholars, Dr Miles Kerr-Peterson, gives us further insights into the remarkable manuscript he has studied as part of his project: Thomas Cargill’s 1594 translation of the Flemish scholar Justus Lipsius’ bestselling 1589 Politicorum sive Civilis Doctrinae Libri Sex, the Six Books of Politics or Civil Doctrine. The manuscript is very important for various reasons. It not only proves that not all of Cargill’s works have been lost but also demonstrates that the social elite of sixteenth-century Aberdeen was interested in the most up-to-date European scholarship on politics and philosophy. Overall, this talk will explore the intellectual culture in Aberdeen in the age of Reformation and how this fit within wider European political thought.

Thursday 26 April 2018, 6pm

Friends of Aberdeen University Library AGM followed by a talk at 6.30pm: Behind the Scenes of an Exhibition

Jen Shaw, University of Aberdeen

A behind-the-scenes look at how an exhibition is curated. Jen Shaw gives a glimpse into how an exhibition comes about: from deciding on a subject or theme, through to the selection of objects, and finally to the week of installation. Fun, fascinating and, at times, frantic!

Jen Shaw is the Exhibitions Officer for the Special Collections at the University of Aberdeen. After studying History of Art at St Andrews
University, she went on to complete an MA in Museum & Gallery Studies at Manchester University. Her first job was as the Touring Exhibitions Officer in Dumfries. She followed this post with a curatorial position as Keeper of Art at Bolton Museum & Art Gallery and Arts Development work in Cheshire. Following five years living in the USA where she was the Gallery Coordinator for two contemporary spaces in Chicago, she returned to the UK and took up the post in Aberdeen in 2015.

This talk will draw on Jen’s 20 years of curating exhibitions in museums, galleries and other spaces on a range of subjects from Japanese netsuke to contemporary ceramics, and Charles Dickens. She will be looking at the processes involved in getting the idea for an exhibition from the drawing board into a finished design in the gallery, and showing examples of different types of exhibitions and their particular challenges.

A light-hearted and entertaining look behind the scenes of exhibitions.

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**New exhibition in association with the King’s Museum**

**Bright Sun Shining: A Siberian Summer Festival**

An exhibition of photographs of the Sakha summer festival, called Yhyakh, taken by Max Unarov, a photographer from the Sakha Republic in the Russian Far East. The photos will be displayed alongside some Sakha items used at the festival.

The exhibition runs from **10 November 2017 to 30 March 2018** in the **ArtSpace in the MacRobert building** on the University of Aberdeen’s campus in Old Aberdeen.
The research I completed in Aberdeen University’s Special Collections Centre this summer was in service to a forthcoming multi-volumed History of Scottish Theology currently being produced by Oxford University Press. I have been asked to supply a chapter on the theology of a circle of seventeenth-century Episcopalian divines known as the Aberdeen Doctors as well as the Aberdeen divine Henry Scougal for that work. Aberdeen University’s Special Collections Centre holds a number of manuscripts that are indispensable to a thorough examination of the thought of these individuals, including, for example, notes on lectures given by Henry Scougal during his tenure as professor of divinity at King’s College, the personal diary of John Forbes (also professor of divinity at King’s), and three incomplete and unpublished books by Robert Baron (professor of divinity at Marischal College). My time at Aberdeen University during the month of July allowed me to examine these manuscripts and to consult early modern published works by the subjects of my research which are difficult to find elsewhere.

During my time at Aberdeen I was able to form an assessment of the Doctors and Henry Scougal’s theology focused on three aspects of their collective thought: their irenicism, their theology of grace (with related sacramental issues), and their approach to tradition vis-a-vis Scripture. The materials I consulted will allow me to challenge some existing assumptions about the Doctors and Scougal in early literature, assumptions informed by a lack of awareness and familiarity with these individuals’ unpublished writings. I was also able to form an outline of the chapter I’ll be writing in order to communicate my findings, and to start the writing process. The work I’ll be contributing to has a projected publication date in 2018, and it’s my intention to complete my chapter by the end of this year.

I’m incredibly grateful to the Friends of the Library for funding the scholarship prize that allowed me to spend the month in Aberdeen, and to the staff in the Special Collections Centre for their assistance in...
In 1594, New Aberdeen’s Grammar School master, Thomas Cargill, was putting the finishing touches to his meticulous 256-page translation of the renowned Flemish scholar Justus Lipsius’ 1589 Politicorum sive Civilis Doctrinae Libri Sex (as Cargill translated it, the Sixe Bookes of Politickes or Civill Doctrine). Lipsius (1547–1606) was an intellectual giant of sixteenth-century Europe and has been credited with reviving the classical philosophy of stoicism, which had a fundamental impact on politics and society across the continent. His book was the most important political handbook for rulers since Machiavelli’s Prince. Just before Cargill finished his presentation copy, in to his hands came a published English translation by one William Jones: he had been beaten to the mark. This must have infuriated Cargill,
especially as his rival’s translation was inferior; Jones had not even attempted to translate the Latin poetry into verse. Undeterred, Cargill finished his work and handed the manuscript to his patron, the provost Thomas Menzies of Durn. If Cargill hoped this would hence be printed, he was to be disappointed. The manuscript may have been thumbed a few times but otherwise it sat on a shelf. For generations.

In 1829, John Menzies of Pitfodels left his estate and library to the Catholic Church. Cargill’s manuscript passed into the Catholic Archives and continued to be overlooked. In the meantime, almost all of Cargill’s other works were lost or destroyed. We know he also translated the works of the Ancient Greek Hesiod into Scots, he composed Latin poems for Aberdeen Town Council on the founding of Marischal College in 1593 and for King James VI’s deliverance from the Gowrie Conspiracy of 1600. All of these are gone. It was thought that all of Cargill’s efforts were lost, and even the historical rumours that an Aberdonian could have translated Lipsius were dismissed – as recently as 2001. Fortunately, when the older parts of the Catholic Archives were transferred to Aberdeen and its catalogue put online, Cargill’s great lost work was rediscovered.

My project, very kindly supported by a visiting scholarship from the Special Collections Centre of the University of Aberdeen, was to focus on this one manuscript and make a full transcription, which I carried out over four weeks in the summer of 2017. The eventual aim is to publish an edition. Not only will this give us a wonderful Scottish perspective on Lipsius’ political philosophy, but the study of this manuscript can also retrieve for us an understanding of an important lost Jacobean scholar, through its extensive sample of prose and poetry translations. It can also tell us a considerable amount about the intellectual culture in Aberdeen in the age of Reformation, as well as the wider European political thought at the time.

Dr Miles Kerr-Peterson is a freelance researcher. He completed his PhD at the University of Glasgow in 2016. His thesis explored the life, lordship and career of George Keith, fourth Earl Marischal (1553–1623) and the founder of Marischal College, one of the University of Aberdeen’s two antecedent institutions. His research interests include the political, cultural, intellectual and religious life in James VI and I’s Scotland. Currently a Content Developer for Glasgow Life, he is also the co-founder and chairman of the Friends of the Wembdon Road Cemetery in Somerset.
Beginning in 1770, thousands of Highland Catholics from the Hebrides and north-west of Scotland departed for the colony of Nova Scotia in British North America. From communities like Barra and Lochaber, the settlers poured into settlements around St George’s Bay and Cape Breton Island. In this pioneer setting, small indigent Catholic settlements, named after saints like St Andrew (the Scottish patron saint) and St Ninian (an early missionary among the Pictish people), struggled to organise a Gaelic-speaking institutional framework in a region dominated by Irish and French-speaking clergy.

By 1822, through the efforts of clergymen like Fr William Fraser, the former director of studies in the small seminary at Kilcheran on the island of Lismore, along with some “Whisky Priests” like Fr Colin P. Grant of Glenmoriston, Scottish Catholicism in Nova Scotia was flourishing. By 1844, infighting with the Irish Catholics of the colony led to the ecclesiastical partition of Nova Scotia into separate dioceses for the Highlanders and Hibernians.

In the following decades, the Diocese of Antigonish became one of North America’s most important Scottish Catholic districts, with a strong “tartanarchy” of Highland clergy and culture. By the 1870s, Bishop Colin F. MacKinnon (whose father came from Eigg in the Inner Hebrides) wrote to the Roman Curia that he had more Catholic Scots among his flock in Nova Scotia than existed in Scotland itself.

The religious and cultural links between Antigonish and Scotland were robust. Gaelic texts and ephemera, as well as monies, traversed the Atlantic Ocean. Nova Scotian seminarians studied at the Scots College Rome and the rectors of that seminary served as the diocese’s official agent with the Holy See (a relationship that lasted well into the twentieth century). Kinship and cultural likes were sustained by priests like Fr Archibald Campbell S.J. of Glasgow who organised annual Gaelic missions in the province so that descendants of those Highland immigrants might “hear the sublime truths of their faith in their rich native tongue”. When in the 1930s
Scottish folklorists like John Lorne Campbell went in search of the Gaelic cultural traditions of the Highlands, it was to eastern Nova Scotia that they journeyed (Campbell’s collection of music, *Songs Remembered in Exile*, was published by Aberdeen University Press).

Currently writing a monograph on the history of Catholicism in Nova Scotia, the Scottish Catholic Archives at the Special Collections Centre at Aberdeen will help me construct a profile of the missionary clergy that migrated to Nova Scotia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Correspondence from both priests and settlers to individuals like Bishop John Geddes will shed light on conditions in the settlements and the regular plea for Gaelic-speaking priests. Moreover, the vast material on the Scottish seminaries and colleges will aid the construction of a philosophical profile of priests like Fr William Fraser and our appreciation of how Old World theology like Jansenism facilitated the coexistence of Catholics in eastern Nova Scotia and their Presbyterian brethren.

I am very grateful for having been given the opportunity to work in the Special Collections Centre at the University of Aberdeen and look forward to my visit in October.

**Dr Peter Ludlow** is Vice-president of the Canadian Catholic Historical Association and a historian of religion and culture in Canada. He earned a PhD from Queen’s University Belfast with a thesis on the “two-boat” migration of Irish migrants in nineteenth-century Newfoundland. Dr Ludlow is the author of *The Canny Scot: Archbishop James Morrison of Antigonish* (2015). His work has focused, broadly, on the interconnectivity of faith, ethnicity, migration and settlement within the British Empire.
What is a Scottish Warrior?

A burly man in a kilt with a sword? A cog in the armed machine of an expanding empire? A steadfast soldier in a trench? Why do so many presentations of Scottish history focus on bloodthirsty stories of medieval kings and the exploits of Highland soldiers? These were some of the questions asked by fifteen students from Scotland, England, Germany, Finland, Canada, USA and Trinidad & Tobago on the “Curating an Exhibition” course in the University of Aberdeen’s Museum Studies MLitt programme. Drawing on the University’s varied museum collections, they curated the University’s King’s Museum’s response to the Scottish Government’s 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

To research their topic, students learned from university staff about the depictions of warriors in art, literature and popular culture, and visited the Gordon Highlanders Museum in Aberdeen, the Black Watch Museum in Perth, and the National Trust for Scotland’s Culloden visitor centre. To get an idea of public perceptions, students interviewed people in local schools and pubs, asking them to draw a “Scottish warrior”. Results ranged from the comical to the serious (and frequently featured Irn Bru!)

The first part of the exhibition looks at the prehistory and early history of Scotland and how it was “romanticised” in the nineteenth century by Sir Walter Scott and his literary and artistic peers. Scholars and antiquarians in the emerging nineteenth century disciplines of archaeology and history created images of “savage” prehistoric warriors and Picts, and of medieval armies in constant battle. Weapons from the Jacobite Rising of 1745, such as a targe and pistol wielded by John Roy Stuart in opposition to the Hanoverian Crown, are contrasted with the Victorian establishment’s fascination with Jacobite memorabilia, when Queen Victoria carpeted her bedroom at Balmoral Castle in Royal Stuart tartan and Sir Walter Scott wrote that “The Highlands
may become the fairy ground for romance and poetry”. Such ideas were part of the way in which the histories of Scotland and England were contrasted and drawn together as the basis for a story of Scotland’s place in Britain and its growing empire.

The second section follows the role of Scottish soldiers in the British Empire as “overseas soldiers”, with a collection of medals awarded for conflicts across the world to soldiers with the surname “Gordon”. The Highland identity of some regiments was so important that soldiers wore kilts in the trenches despite the impracticality of such clothing in trench conditions. A particularly poignant object is therefore the kilt of Private Charles Alfred Dean of the 4th Gordon Highlanders; still coated with mud from the Somme and showing cigarette holes where he had tried to burn lice from his kilt, it brings home the conditions that soldier endured in the trenches of the Western Front.

The student team who designed the exhibition worked in groups concentrating on each area of Scottish history. They also had responsibility, with the guidance of museum staff, for different areas of the museum exhibition production: design, marketing, editing, layout and installation. As well as displaying objects from the University’s museum collections, they arranged loans of some key items from the Gordon Highlanders Museum. The team brought great creativity to “The Scottish Warrior”, researching objects and stories, sourcing quotes and music, sketching silhouettes of warriors from different periods, and even designing their own tartan for the exhibition.

“The Scottish Warrior” is also set to feature as part of the University’s “Being Human” Festival of Social Science on 6 November 2017 at the Gordon Highlanders Museum, with a panel of curators and writers discussing the image of the Scottish Warrior. Thoughts and reflections by the student curators can be found on our blog at https://uoamuseums.wordpress.com/

Information for visitors
King’s Museum is located in the Old Aberdeen Town House. “The Scottish Warrior” exhibition is open until 26 May 2018, Tuesday–Friday, 1.30pm–4.30pm. Entry is free. Contact kingsmuseum@abdn.ac.uk, 01224 274330.
Book Week Scotland

Book Week Scotland is a week-long celebration of books and reading that takes place every November. **Book Week Scotland 2017 is taking place from Monday 27 November to Sunday 3 December.**

During Book Week, people of all ages and walks of life will come together in libraries, schools, community venues and workplaces to share and enjoy books and reading. They will be joined in this celebration by Scotland’s authors, poets, playwrights, storytellers and illustrators to bring a packed programme of events and projects to life.

**Book Week Scotland Events at the University of Aberdeen**

*All events take place at the Special Collections Centre, Sir Duncan Rice Library, and are free to attend. Booking required via [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)*

**Bookbinding workshop and talk**

*Monday 27 November, 5.30-7.30pm*

Come to the Special Collections Centre for an evening of bookbinding. Learn practical skills from our Book Conservator and make your own mini-notebook in the Glucksman Conservation Centre. Then discover the beautiful rare bindings in the Special Collections with expert guidance from our Rare Books Cataloguer.

**Evening talk: Pride and Pudding: a History of British Puddings, Savoury and Sweet**

*Wednesday 29 November, 5.30-7.30pm*

Food photographer, food writer and designer Regula Ysewijn is the author of *Pride and Pudding: The History of British Puddings, Savoury and Sweet* and in this entertaining illustrated talk she will take you on a journey through the fascinating culinary past of Great Britain. A feast for the eyes as well as the stomach!
Collections Close-up: Education, Salvation, Damnation. Books from the Special Collections Centre, University of Aberdeen
Thursday 30 November, 5.30-7.30pm
A unique opportunity to look at one of the University’s copies of Copernicus’ *De Revolutionibus*, a magnificent seventeenth-century Dutch bible and a collection of rare theatre posters showing entertainments held in nineteenth-century Aberdeen.

Flash Fiction Competition, Winners Announcement!
Friday 1 December, 5.30-7.30pm
The winners of our annual competition of 500-word “flash fiction” stories, inspired by one of four images from the Special Collections. This year the theme of Book Week Scotland is “Nourish” and two of our four images have been chosen to fit with that theme. The competition closes on 1 November 2017. See our website at [www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/special-collections/) and Facebook page for the announcement of the winner on Friday 1 December.

Flash Fiction images
May Festival at the Special Collections Centre

As part of the 2017 May Festival, three events were held in the Special Collections Centre. All events were sponsored by the Friends. The audiences were welcomed and guided by Jen Shaw, Exhibitions Officer.

Bookbinding Workshop and Talk with Brannah Mackenzie and Jane Pirie

The bookbinding workshop and talk concentrated on edges and endpapers to complement the exhibition “Cover Stories: What bindings say about books”. Brannah Mackenzie, Book Conservator, showed the audience how to make a mini-notebook, using hand-binding techniques and paper inspired by the endpapers of the books on display. Jane Pirie talked about what you can tell about a book from its binding, the sewing, covering, techniques and, of course, edges and endpapers.

Samples of endpapers:

![Endpaper Samples]

Collections Close-up featuring three “Curator's Choice” exhibits with Michelle Gait, Jan Smith and Jane Pirie


SB ff55121(458) Ham

William Hamilton who was British envoy to the Spanish court at Naples lived by the “laming fields” of Mount Vesuvius. He described the eruptions from 1764-67. This book contains hand-coloured plates depicting the eruptions by the artist Peter Fabri.

Govard Bidloo, *Anatomia hvmani corporis*. Amsterdam: Someren, 1685. SB ff611084 Bid

and

William Cowper, *The anatomy of humane bodies, with figures drawn after the life*. Oxford: Walford, 1698. SB ff611084 Cow

Bidloo, a celebrated Dutch anatomist, published his wonderful work on anatomy at great expense, as it
contained over 100 copper plate engravings. The work did not sell and the plates were sold to William Cowper, an English anatomist. Cowper then published his own book on anatomy with Bidloo’s uncredited plates. Both works were on display.

**Avicenna. Canon medicinae. Strassburg: Adolf Rusch, after Feb. 1473.**

This is one of the earliest printed books to be made and is a printing of the medical works of the Persian polymath, Ibn-Sīnā or Avicenna. The book has many hand-scribed initials but is incomplete and misbound. This presented an opportunity to see how the book was constructed and to trace its interesting provenance.

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**“Dark Ingredients”, a talk by Keith O’Sullivan**

Keith O’Sullivan, Senior Rare Books Librarian, delivered an illustrated lecture to some 35 attendees on the University’s rich holdings in Gothic literature, from classics by Clara Reeve and Mary Shelley to M. R. James’s celebrated ghost stories.

The talk began with an outline of the history and characteristics of “the Gothic” – a highly complex term in both historiography and literature. The strong presence of Gothic writing in Aberdeen University Library’s holdings was then discussed, from *The Old English Baron* to *Frankenstein, Northanger Abbey* and *Melmoth the Wanderer*, alongside the prodigious output of Lane and Newman’s Minerva Press. Finally, the lecture focused on the ghost stories of M. R. James, in particular a detailed analysis of one of James’s best-known tales, “Oh Whistle, And I’ll Come To You, My Lad”.

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Thanks to you

Your generosity and support makes it possible for more people to learn and research using the University of Aberdeen’s outstanding historic collections. Gifts and bequests given over the years mean that the Friends manage a large trust fund worth around £500,000. As a registered charity, we take care that every penny we spend goes towards our core aims of enhancing the University’s library collections and promoting their use.

In 2017, we have launched a new Postgraduate Bursary Award scheme, which supports student-led research focusing on our collections. We awarded bursaries, each worth £3000, to six scholars setting out on promising new PhD projects: Stephanie Dropuljic in Law; Eloise Grey in Scottish History; Scott Jarmusch in Organic Chemistry; Kirsty Kernohan in Anthropology; Lisa Nais in English Literature; and Ellen Packham in History of Science.

Through our Collection Development scheme, we have also helped the Library to acquire new materials relating to Chinese Archaeology, Scandinavian Studies and English language teaching. We have supported the Special Collections Centre Visiting Scholars scheme, and have sponsored library-related events at the May Festival and joint events with King’s Museum, the Dickens Fellowship and the Centre for Early Modern Studies.

It is a joy to be part of these exciting projects and events – but we couldn’t do it without you.

Professor Hazel Hutchison
Chair of Friends of Aberdeen University Library

The Friends’ new website:
www.abdn.ac.uk/library/using-libraries/friends-of-the-library-129.php