Editorial

This will be my last issue of the Friends of the Library Newsletter. As from August I left the University under the latest restructuring scheme and am now - somewhat earlier than planned but to my pleasure - a lady of leisure. It would be difficult to continue the Newsletter in the way I’ve developed it without being at the hub of what’s going on in the Library, and the Directorate and University generally, and I would be unhappy not to be able to continue it in this way. Thus I felt I should relinquish my position.

Producing the Newsletter is a time-consuming task and the Committee has not been able to find anyone else to take it on its present form. It has therefore been decided that in future the Newsletter will appear as a ‘wrap-around’ to the twice-yearly copy of Directions, the newsletter of the Directorate of Information Systems and Services, which has an increasing amount of news to interest the Friends. The ‘wrap-around’ will continue to announce and report on Friends’ activities and spending and act as a forum for your views.

I was asked to become Editor in 1993 and have thus held the position for over a decade. It was a most enjoyable task and I’m happy to continue involvement with the Friends’ Committee in some degree.

I should like to thank everyone for the privilege of producing the Newsletter for you. I’ve very much enjoyed picking up on snippets and longer items which I hoped would be of interest and trust that you, too, have found the content informative and entertaining. The letters following up various points or expressing your appreciation of my efforts have made it a most rewarding task.

I should also like to thank most warmly Mike Craig, Manager of the Reprographic and Bindery Services, for his unfailing help and advice, and his staff, particularly Caroline Craig, who has been responsible for the design of the Newsletter, always able, too, to come up with an appropriate image or icon to liven up the text. She has also worked most patiently with me on the latter stages of production, and liaised with the printers. Thank you, Caroline. In addition other staff in the Unit have always been willing to help with photocopying as required.

You will be aware that the content of each issue has depended heavily on items from the staff in Historic Collections - both Special Libraries and Marischal Museum. I should like to record my thanks to all of them, especially Iain Beavan, Siobhan Convery, Neil Curtis, Kim Downie, Michelle Gait, Alan Knox, Isobel MacKinnon, and, in the past, Myrtle Anderson-Smith and Jane Pirie, for their willingness and speed in passing articles to me. Also, the various academic and other Directorate staff whom I have asked for material.

Thanks, too, to previous Librarians - Reg Pringle and Colin McLaren - for their unstinting enthusiasm and support for the Friends and the Newsletter.

I shall miss this particular involvement with the Library but know that the Friends will not lose out in the future on what I hope has been a ‘good read’.

Christine Miller, Editor

FRIENDS’ ACTIVITIES

Date for your Diary

THE FRIENDS OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Autumn/Winter Meeting

Queen Mother Library Seminar Room
Aberdeen University Library
Bedford Road, Aberdeen

Thursday 25 November

7.00 pm : Special General Meeting
to discuss the new Constitution

followed by an illustrated talk :
The St Albans Psalter :
the abbot and the anchoress

by

Dr Jane Geddes
Senior Lecturer, History of Art Department
University of Aberdeen

All Welcome

Light Refreshments will be served after the talk

!! Please remember to bring your barcoded Library ticket with you to gain access to QML !!

(see also p5)

Those of you who have been Friends for the last few years will have read Dr Geddes’ articles in previous issues of the Newsletter (Autumn/Winter 2001 and 2003). She told us of her investigations into the story behind the Psalter and the life of Christina of Markyate, a 12th century hermitess living near St Albans Abbey, in Hertfordshire.

It is a narration every bit as exciting as that we heard from Dr Mary Pryor in her talk on ‘The King’s College Sibyls’ after our AGM last year and Dr Geddes is a most enthusiastic and stimulating speaker. We know it will be an enthralling and absorbing evening for you.
Visit to Trinity Hall

On the evening of 12 May members of the Friends and their guests were privileged to be able to visit Trinity Hall, the imposing building which houses the Seven Incorporated Trades of the City of Aberdeen.

The visit was arranged by the Friends’ Treasurer, Graham Hunter, who had a long association with the organisation as Clerk and Assessor. The Incorporated Trades have had a close relationship with the City of Aberdeen for many centuries and, relevant to this visit, also with the University of Aberdeen. The Friends were particularly pleased to have a number of younger guests among the visiting party.

After a personal and warm welcome from the Deacon Convenor, Mr Ronnie Chalmers, the Master of Hospital, Mr Bill Bruce, and from Mr Bill Marr, a short history of Trinity Hall and the Seven Incorporated Trades was provided by the Master of Hospital. We were then escorted in groups on an absorbing tour of Trinity Hall and shown its many treasurers.

The magnificent stained glass windows and the collections of photographs, maps, paintings, glass, silver, ceramics and furnishings illustrated the history of the Incorporated Trades. We also had the chance to see a number of the members’ essay pieces, demonstrating their outstanding skills as craftsmen.

The visit concluded with refreshments, and a vote of thanks for a most enjoyable and interesting evening was given by our Chairman, Roy Thomson.

Professor Derek Ogston
Friends’ Executive Committee

We were encouraged to give a donation to the Incorporated Trades’ charity for this year as a thank you for the tour; £86 was contributed. Bill Bruce contacted our Secretary by letter to say that he was delighted, and that he hopes everyone enjoyed their time that evening - which, of course, we did - an excellent visit.

Our Chairman, Roy Thomson, was also able to report on the event at the AGM.

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Libraries live on!
Building for the future:
the Renaissance of the Library

Report on the Friends’
Spring/Summer meeting

After the Friends’ 41st Annual General Meeting in June members were able to hear about the University Library’s new build plans. Our speakers were Professor Chris Gane (then Head of the Department of Scots Law and Convenor of the Library Users’ Committee, now Vice-Principal with responsibility for library and information services) and Carole Munro, Librarian and Manager, Library Services.

Chris Gane gave a presentation on the conception of the new build. Discussions had previously centred on a Humanities Research Centre, but the current library is running out of space for stock, and teaching and research needs are not what we would wish for our 13,000 students. Similarly, some of our special archives and collections are housed in conditions well below today’s safety and conservation standards. These great treasures of Aberdeen University Library must also be exploited fully and used more for research and teaching.

Several scenarios were looked at in a variety of designs, including a completely new building. The decision has now been taken to look at the expansion and reconfiguration of the Queen Mother Library, changing its current use to become the main bookstore, building a new front of house, and converting some space to hold Special Libraries and Archives. This would all offer a much-improved service to both staff and student users.

The cost is expected to be a little under £30 millions. The University would be seeking funding from various corporate enterprises and private individuals and Professor Gane commented that he would be making the Friends a first port of call, in line with our constitutional aim. It is hoped that the timescale will be two years to approved contractors and two more years to completion.

Carole Munro gave the second half of the presentation with her views and findings from visits she and the Director had made to look at new and refurbished libraries around the world. Her talk started with images of old style library reading rooms, offering a currently held view that with modern technology, libraries are in decline. But, as she was to show us, this is not the case at all!

She presented various images of how many libraries around the globe have adjusted to today’s library trends. Utilisation of space, sometimes very imaginatively, has created underground areas, and, at New York Public Library, glass-covered
7 days a week), to adapt to changing patterns of student life. Carrels are popular as both group study areas and for individual study, and some users are issued with their own trolleys with their chosen books.

Carole also looked at various ways of delivering items to the users, such as High Density Stores, Free Access and Bar Coding. She covered long-term storage and shared depositories - we have recently sent material to the Collaborative Academic Store for Scotland, which leases space to third parties. The National Library of Scotland took the initiative on this undertaking at Causewayside and a new facility is now planned at Sitchill.

The structure of any new library can now be completely different from the previous format, in that library staff need not be based in the building but can work from a remote station. A very new library in Berlin, named ‘The Brain’, designed by Norman Foster, uses this idea, with several specific sections in the main building, and various groups of staff working in another, attached building; help desk staff come in from the satellite building at set times during the day.

It was a futuristic end to an informative and interesting talk and food for thought on the possibilities for our own Library. The presentations engendered a lively question session with our speakers.

Helen Stevenson
Honorary Minutes Secretary
Historic Collections

Those of you unable to be at the AGM evening but with access to the internet may be interested to read the Librarian’s article in the May 2004 Directions: news from the directorate of information systems & services, on pages 1 and 12: Reducing the Library stock: appraisal, relegation, disposal of Library resources.

The web address for Directions is: www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/news/directs/
Welcome to New Friends

Since the last issue of the Newsletter we have had a healthy increase in new members joining the Friends.

A very warm welcome to you all and we hope to see you at our next Friends’ evenings.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - important!

Please note that if you are informing us of a change of address please give your details to the Secretary, currently:

Ms Carole Munro
Post: Honorary Secretary
Friends of Aberdeen University Library
Queen Mother Library
University of Aberdeen
Meston Walk
ABERDEEN
AB24 3UE
Tel: 01224 273321
+ answerphone facility
E-mail: c.munro@abdn.ac.uk

We do put QML’s address stamp on the mail we send out and a trickle of newsletters or other items are returned that way, but if you don’t tell us we have no way of knowing if you’ve moved - your copy of the Newsletter may never reach you.

New Library Users’ Committee Convenor

Now that Professor Chris Gane has been elevated to Vice-Principal, with responsibility for library and information services in the University, the new Convenor of the Library Users’ Committee is Professor Trevor Salmon, Professor of International Relations.

He is also Session Clerk at Queen’s Cross Church in Aberdeen and earlier in the year was appointed to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland’s Church and Nation committee.

The Library User’s committee is made up of representatives of academic staff & students, and has an advisory role on Library matters.
Access to Queen Mother Library

Those of you who have come to our meetings in Queen Mother Library or used the Library since last Summer will be aware of the new access gates we have installed to quell a series of unpleasant incidents in the building.

As a Friend of the Library you already have a membership card. Always bring this card with you when you visit - it will activate the security turnstiles and allow you to enter and leave the building. If you forget your card please show a suitable proof of identity (eg driving licence) and we will issue you with a day-access pass without a borrowing entitlement.

Regrettably we cannot allow access without your card more than 3 times in an academic year. If you lose it you will be allowed one week to replace it (please ask at the Help Desk).

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Inter-Library Loan Articles delivered directly to your Desktop

Friends of the Library are able to use the Library’s Inter-Library Loan service. If you have Adobe Reader 6 installed on your PC we can now supply articles directly to you electronically by Secure Electronic Delivery (SED).

Secure Electronic Delivery:
- gives you digitally scanned copies to collect when it suits you
- allows you to view and print documents using freely available standard software.

When you make your ILL request indicate that you would like SED - there is no surcharge. However, the British Library Document Supply Centre (BLDSC) usually sends photocopies directly to readers by 1st class mail, so consider the printing costs/time involved for longer SED articles.

When BLDSC have scanned the document, they send you an e-mail with your reference in the subject line and a hyperlink to your document. Thus there is no attachment and nothing to interfere with firewalls or clog up your inbox. The document is held on the BLDSC server as a secure PDF file.

To read and print, use the full version of Adobe Reader 6 - available as a free download from: www.adobe.com Then print directly from the BLDSC server.

You may make only one paper copy from the electronic version and are not permitted to store electronically any items delivered by SED.

Once the electronic copy is available from the server you have 14 days before it is deleted. If for any reason you’re not able to access the file in time contact ILL on tel: 272581 or e-mail: inter-library-loans@abdn.ac.uk

Noreen Wilson
Supervisor (Inter-Library Loans)
n.d.wilson@abdn.ac.uk

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Our own unsung Hero

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Editor Christine Miller for all the time and effort she has expended on the Newsletter over the years.

It’s been a long and meticulous journey for us both, but I think she would agree, a rewarding one at the end of the day.

I wish Christine all the best in her new role as a lady of leisure.

Caroline Craig

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Miss Pat Mugliston

In the Spring / Summer Newsletter we gave a tribute to Pat Mugliston, a member of Library staff for almost 40 years, who died in January. Some of you may have seen the article in The Press and Journal in October detailing her bequests.

In her will Pat bequeathed more than £2 million to friends and charities – primarily animal charities, as well as £10,000 to each of her cats, for their ‘provision and comfort’. To those who knew Pat this will come as no surprise.

One of the organisations she also remembered was the Friends, having been a faithful supporter since our inception in 1962. St Andrew’s University Library was similarly named as a recipient, Pat being a graduate of St Andrews.

We are most grateful indeed for Pat’s generous bequest.

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Braille Printer

As part of our compliance with Disability Discrimination legislation and to make life easier for some of our users with a visual impairment we now have a Braille printer, currently located at Hilton Library.

We convert Word documents into a format which the printer can handle, at a cost of 5p a sheet. Guidelines are available so that readable Braille can be produced.

Any Friends wanting to use the service should contact:

Iain Cameron
Documentation Manager
Edward Wright Building
Tel: (27)3370
i.cameron@abdn.ac.uk
A New Library Catalogue

Without a single trumpet to herald its arrival the new Library Management System (LMS) went live on the appointed day.

Perhaps the only sound to be heard was a collective sigh of relief from the team headed by Anne Beavan, Library Applications Support Officer, who masterminded the complex operation. Perhaps a simple switch was thrown or a computerised instruction sent but, quietly, Cataloguing, Acquisitions, Serials and Circulation all moved to the new system on 10th August. Only the public Catalogue shyly hid itself for a few days while making sure it was fit to be seen.

Now the ugly duckling of the system is proudly displaying its awesome powers. While it will be the showpiece of the system, it merely fronts the background components, which provide you with information from the ordering stage of an item to its arrival on the shelves.

As previously, the new catalogue, is on the Web, at:  http://www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/library/catalogue.shtml  Here you will also find help with the new system, with links to Frequently Asked Questions and a Fact Sheet on how to use the catalogue.

Obsessed as we are in Aberdeen with blue sky, the front screen boasts a dramatic view of the Crown of King’s.

Users are invited to log on, although this is not compulsory and a guest button is provided for non-members of the Library. As a Friend, please use your Library number here. A PIN is also required and if you have never had one please telephone our main Issue Desk on 01224 273330 to get one. Those who had one for the old system should be able to use it here.
The first screen offers a range of Basic Search options, with more options in the Advanced screen. Both options carry out keyword searches. If you wish to look for the title of a book or author when you know the exact details, use the Browse type of search, which is near the top of the screen.

A results list will appear in date of publication order, with the newest showing first. You can change the order by clicking on the word *title* or *author* at the top of the list.

To find out more about an item you have two choices:

1) If you click on the number on the left hand side or on the title, it will display the bibliographical details, with a link at the bottom
   Click on *All items* to display information about its exact location and availability (ie its holdings).
2) If you click on the name of the Library on the right hand side you will go directly to the holdings information, which also displays brief details about the item. The number in brackets beside the library eg (6/1) means that we have 6 copies or volumes, one of which is on loan.

The catalogue is thus more sophisticated than its predecessor, performing more elaborate searches: it can limit searches to types of resources, such as books or maps; it can restrict its searching to a single library, such as the Medical Library; it can look for every book published in eg 1522 or in Ellon (try this in the Browse option). And for members of the University, it can link to electronic resources, now a major feature of our holdings.

As I write it is still vacation and few have realised that the new catalogue exists. It will be fun once term starts!

*Gillian Dawson*
*Information Consultant*
*g.d.dawson@abdn.ac.uk*

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*Those of you interested in the new Library Management System instituted over the Summer vacation can read more about it online in the article by Susan McCourt, Principal Information Consultant, in the May 2004 Directions, p6-7, All change for the Library Management System.*

*Follow the links at: www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/news/directs/*
Congratulations to the new Library Drivers

12 staff from Library Services have gained their ECDL passport this year.

ECDL is the European Computer Driving Licence, a scheme run for the past 3 years by the IT Training Unit within DISS. The course helps to promote a rounded, overall competence in Information Skills across seven modules, and is widely used as an assessment criterion in industry and the public service sectors.

More than 160 staff enrolled from the University as a whole. Of these, 26 from DISS have now achieved their ECDL passport. 12 of whom were from the Libraries - Queen Mother, Taylor and Medical - with 10 more staff working through the modules. Those working full time on the Issue Desk in QML found it particularly difficult to fit in the necessary practice and revision during their working day. Many could only make progress by working through the modules in their own time at home. The Library owes a special debt to them.

Funding other than for re-sits has been provided by DISS, together with monies from the Library’s Helen Greer Fund. This was set up in 1983 by the family of a previous Head of Reader Services and its remit is specifically to help staff at non-professional grades, primarily for training and development, an area in which Helen took a particular interest.

In light of the success of so many of the entrants to the first level ECDL, the IT Training Unit now offers training for the Advanced ECDL and several Library staff hope to enrol on this.

Further afield ...

One of the best preserved examples of a late 19th century public library is the focus of research by students on the MSc in Information and Library Studies at the Robert Gordon University.

Four students received £500 from the James G Olle Student Scholarship to fund the work, which will look at the shift from parochial to public libraries in Forfarshire during the 19th century, together with the role of benevolent philanthropy by the ‘lairdarchy’. An interactive website, including photographs, will also be produced.

“The research represents an opportunity to gain further knowledge of Edzell Library, which is, perhaps, a unique survivor from the 19th century,” said the Project Supervisor, Dr Peter Reid, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Information Management.

“The Library & Information History Group has been interested for many years in preserving the physical artefacts of Edzell Library and it has been suggested that it is the nearest thing we have to a museum of public librarianship in the UK.

“These investigations will not only bring the collection to the notice of a wider audience but in so doing will also encourage attempts to ensure its survival for future generations.”

and even further ...

The World’s Biggest Book ....

The world’s largest book, Bhutan: a visual odyssey across the last Himalayan kingdom, has been donated to the Bhutan National Library by a Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientist, Michael Hawley.

The book, primarily of photographs, is 5’ high, 7’ wide and weighs over 20 stones (ie over 1.5 metres high, over 2 metres wide and weighing over 60 kilogrammes).

A copy costs more than US $10,000 to purchase and Dr Hawley took two copies with him to Bhutan, the second for the only accredited college in the country. Dignitaries, government officials, school teachers and students gathered at a hotel to view the books. Funds raised from sales are to be donated to Bhutan’s Education Ministry.
And for the future?  
The BBC report below let us know

[Story from BBC News July 2004]

So far robots have disappointed us in their ability to mix and help people in their everyday lives and, other than in industry and research, they have been used mainly for entertainment.

However, a group of robotics researchers, led by Professor Angel del Pobil at University Jaume I in Spain, is working on a robot librarian which could deliver the promise of a helpful robot. The prototype has cameras, sensors and grippers so that it can locate and collect a book. The hope is that one day teams of service robots could work in libraries.

The main issue with deploying service robots outside the factory to work in areas surrounded by people has been one of safety. Mixing robots and humans in an unstructured, uncontrolled environment, with all kinds of obstacles to negotiate, could have unpredictable results.

Professor Pobil thinks libraries are the best place to start introducing robots into public spaces, or at least to start showing that the technology is possible and works. “A library is a semi-structured environment,” he says. “You can meet other humans, but it is not like an airport or somewhere similar. So we think it is a good environment in which service robots can work in a human environment, but still a controlled one.”

The robot is a mobile manipulator, which means that it is a vehicle, with three wheels. It has an arm with seven joints, two fingers which form a gripper, and two micro cameras on its wrist. Four sensors built into its gripper sense the force it is applying.

When it receives a request for a book, its voice recognition software matches the titles with the book’s classification code in the database. It can then search the database to identify which bookshelf range to go to. Because the database will only give an approximate location, the robot will navigate its way to the bookshelf, using its infrared and laser guidance system, and scan books within a 4-metre radius.

“Once it is in there, it starts using its cameras. By moving the arm with the cameras, it takes an image of the bookshelf,” said Professor Pobil. “It can read the labels and the position of the book using its image processing and optical character recognition software.”

When it finds the book, it has to grasp it and take it off the shelf, which is not a simple as it might seem. For this, the team had to develop special fingertips for the robot, like nails, with one nail longer than the other.

“For me that was the hardest part. All the other things were current state of the art technology,” said Professor Pobil. “It is mimicking the way we manipulate our hands. We have constant feedback from tactile sensors, so it is moving very slowly. In the first experiments, the books really got damaged because it was pressing too hard. Now it touches gently.”

He said it was a “real possibility” that teams of robots could, in about five years’ time, realistically perform searching and fetching tasks. They could even do their work at night, working on library inventories, identifying missing books, or mapping libraries. However, he does not imagine that at any stage they will be replacing librarians and demanding payment for overdue books.

A separate team in Japan is working on a similar robotic librarian, but their project is more concerned with developing robots which can be controlled remotely over the web to scan and read books.

But Professor Pobil believes there could be room for some sort of future collaboration to create a more complete system. This would mean, albeit some years down the line, that someone in Britain could go online and request a book in a US library at 3 o’clock in the morning. A robot in the US library could fetch the book and, as directed by the web user, turn to the correct pages and scan the text and images. This would save the expense of digitising reams of material in libraries worldwide.

But much of this is, unfortunately, still some way off. Currently, libraries are more concerned with attracting people to their shelves, and offering them the chance to browse.

“If it actually kept a record of what it digitised on demand, it would be a good way to approach the digitalisation problem as it would be demand-led, so that someone else could also look at it,” said a spokesman for the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. “The problem with all of these futurologies is that something like that would require investment in hardware.”
Paper Recycling in Queen Mother Library

QML is participating in the University’s paper recycling initiatives

Following the pilot scheme in the University Office - where half a tonne of paper is being recovered each month - we now have recycling bins (themselves made of recycled paper) in the Ground Floor photocopying area of QML and desk-top paper trays (again recycled) in each staff office in the building.

We know that, despite the promise of the ‘paperless society’ the Library generates a huge amount of waste paper from mail, photocopiers, printers, bindery, notices etc.

Now cardboard, photocopier and printer paper, magazines, envelopes and shredded waste can all be collected, destined for the new recycling store in the loading bay, which Hannays empties weekly. It will be interesting to see whether this weekly uplift proves sufficient.

We are delighted that Queen Mother Library can now make its own contribution to the greening of the Library and the University and will be monitoring the results of this new venture with great interest. The other Library Sites, which are not stand-alone buildings and which have portering staff, have been participating in recycling facilities for some time.

Jennifer Beavan
Reader Services Manager
j.a.beavan@abdn.ac.uk

Reminder … Friends on the Web

The website for the Friends is informative and attractive and should interest both current and potential members as well as informing visitors about the University Library and its unique resources.

You can now see copies of the Newsletter online, beginning with the Spring/Summer 2003 issue, and in the News section you’ll find announcements of any additional Friends’ meetings or last minute changes. There is also coverage of exhibitions and displays at Marischal Museum and elsewhere whose showing falls between the appearance of our biannual issues of the Newsletter.

Click on live links and also view splendours such as the Aberdeen Bestiary and the Burnett Psalter. Additionally you can view a selection of images from the George Washington Wilson collection or browse through the Thomas Reid Papers. A live link to the University Library also allows you to search the catalogue.

Do let us know if you have any comments or suggestions for the site.

NB: Don’t forget that as a Friend you have a 10% discount on all George Washington Wilson or related products.

Try it for yourself at: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/friends/

Directions

Directions, the Directorate’s newsletter to staff and postgraduates at the University, appearing in May and November, always has a variety of items of interest to Friends.

For those of you with access to the internet, issues of Directions are available at: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/news/direc/

For those without, some of the most interesting library-orientated articles relating to Historic Collections are also covered in this Newsletter.

The issue for May 2004 also detailed:

• Education on file - material of historical significance from the archive of the University’s School of Education (previously the Northern College of Education and its antecedents), now in Special Libraries and Archives

• Medical Archives in Special Libraries and Archives - the Wellcome Institute’s grant to catalogue our key 19th and 20th century medical history holdings (see also the article in our own May 2004 Newsletter)

• People power at Marischal Museum - reporting creative results from visits by groups of adults and 1760 children to current exhibitions and artefacts.
Welcome to our first ever Records Manager - Phil Astley

In April the University appointed its first ever Records Manager, Phil Astley, based at Queen Mother Library as a member of the Directorate of Information Systems & Services. Phil’s previous post was as the Highland Council’s Archivist for Caithness and Sutherland.

The post was created in response to the impending implementation of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, which becomes law on 1st January. The Act introduces a general statutory right of access to all types of ‘recorded’ information of any age held by Scottish public authorities, into which category the University falls.

This will have significant implications for how the University manages its records, whether they are in paper or electronic format.

Firstly, we are under an obligation to produce a ‘publication scheme’, essentially a guide to the information that we will proactively make available, such as Court and Senate Minutes, certain financial information etc. The University has formally adopted the Universities Scotland Model Publication Scheme, approved by the Scottish Information Commissioner in March.

Secondly, the University will have to deal with individual written and e-mail requests for information within a timeframe of 20 working days from receipt of the request. Individuals already have the right to access their personal data, held on computer, and in some paper files, under the Data Protection Act 1998. This is known as the ‘subject access right’. The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act will significantly broaden this entitlement, allowing individuals to access all other types of non-personal information which we hold, subject to a limited number of exemptions.

Good records management is therefore essential if we are to know what records are being created, where they are at any given time and to enable us to retrieve them quickly and efficiently.

However, legislative compliance is only one of the benefits of a robust records management programme, as there are also significant corporate advantages. The most obvious of these is the reduction in staff time and physical space required for managing and exploiting records. Business processes will also be streamlined, allowing Schools, colleges and the University as a whole to become an ‘information-rich’ organisation, able to maximise and exploit the knowledge it contains.

Freedom of Information legislation and records management are two linked and very ‘live’ issues with which staff are necessarily now becoming familiar; awareness-raising initiatives such as dedicated web pages and training have been instigated over the last few months.

The new Records Management Policy, which provides a framework for implementation, was approved by the University Court in June. A University-wide records survey is now about to get under way, which will seek to establish:

- which functions within the University create which records
- what these records are used for and by whom
- how long they are currently kept and how long they should be kept
- who might need to use the records in the future.

As almost everyone in the University creates and/or uses records in the course of their working day, records management will increasingly become an issue that is ‘owned’ by all staff, both influencing and benefiting our working practices.

The process of introducing records management to an organisation as large and diverse as the University is no small task and has involved close liaison with all departments and sections within the University, both academic and support, but particularly, of course, with Special Libraries and Archives. This was greatly facilitated by already knowing our new Archivist, Siobhan Convery, well through the close knit community that is archivists in Scotland. [Friends had a profile of Siobhan in the Autumn/Winter 2003 issue of the Newsletter.]

Phil Astley
Records Manager
p.astley@abdn.ac.uk
Those of you who were Friends in 1993 may remember a fascinating talk on William MacGillivray by Bob Ralph, of the Zoology Department, then Curator of the University’s Natural History Museum. MacGillivray (1796-1852), Regius Professor of Natural History at Marischal College 1841-52, was the founder of the Natural History Museum.

William MacGillivray was one of the most outstanding natural historians of the 19th C, celebrated as the father of Scottish ornithology and pioneer of the ecological approach, credited with writing the first ecology paper in the UK in 1833. He began studying medicine at Aberdeen - walking to college from Harris, where he was brought up by his uncle - but he abandoned a medical career and, in spite of lack of social connections, was determined to become an ornithologist. His research and writings were to cover the whole spectrum of the natural sciences but he increasingly concentrated on birds and became renowned as a wildlife artist, working in conjunction with the colourful American ornithologist, Audubon, on his famous tomes, The birds of America. Special Libraries & Archives holds a number of his notebooks and journals.

While in Australia researching his biography of the scientist, Dr Ralph discovered a portrait, believed to have been painted by MacGillivray’s daughter, Anne. The portrait was presented to the University by MacGillivray’s great-grandson, Paul Truman, from Sydney, and brought back from Australia in 2001 by Margot Wright, Senior Curator, Conservation, Marischal Museum (see the Spring/Summer 2001 Newsletter). It was unveiled earlier in the year by the Provost and Head of the College of Life Sciences and Medicine, Professor Steve Logan.

To mark the unveiling Historic Collections staff brought together material from across the University’s collections: an exhibition of manuscript material from the Archives gave an insight into MacGillivray the teacher and field naturalist, and plant specimens from the University’s Herbarium illustrated his botanical interests. There was also the opportunity to see some of the birds John James Audubon sent to MaGillivray in the Zoology Museum.

The painting joined the University’s art collection, in the care of Historic Collections, and had been undergoing conservation before being hung in the Zoology Museum. Dr Martyn Gorman, current Curator of the Museum, said, “It is fitting that MacGillivray’s portrait will be displayed in the Museum which he founded and which is still so enjoyed and valued by our undergraduates and the public alike.”

The Museum, in the Zoology Building on Tillydrone Avenue, is open Monday-Friday 9-5, and we hope to have an update from Professor Ralph and a tour by the Museum on a Friends evening in March. (details to follow)

Professor Ralph’s book, William MacGillivray (London: HMSO for the Natural History Museum, 1993) is available in the History and Philosophy of Science Collection on QML Floor 2 at shelfmark: Sc 574.092 McG.

There is also one of Aberdeen City Council’s plaques on the wall at the Town House end of the High Street in Old Aberdeen, remembering MacGillivray’s connections with Aberdeen.

And a new plaque to Thomas Reid, the Enlightenment scholar and philosopher, who taught here, is under the arch into King’s College Quad. Friends may remember that in 2003 we gave £700 to allow the Directorate’s Web Design Unit to web-mount the Thomas Reid database, now accessible at: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/cssp
Hardy Perennial:
Thomas Hardy, LLD (Aberdeen)

[Details are taken from Dr Martin Ray's work in Aberdeen in the 1980s and '90s. See also his article in The Aberdeen University Review (LV, 1995-96, p 58-69) and Dr Bulloch's short article, also in the AUR (XV, 1927-28, p141-142) on 'Thomas Hardy and Aberdeen'.]

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928), the novelist, was the son of a master stonemason and trained to be an architect in London before turning his attentions to writing. He had no university education yet received four honorary degrees, his first academic distinction being Doctor of Laws from Aberdeen University in 1905.

Dr JM Bulloch has noted that Hardy, ‘was intensely pleased with the honour that was conferred on him on this occasion, with the friendliness of Aberdeen, and the beauty of the town’, and in Hardy’s subsequent letters to him, he “never failed to revert to the memory”. In the letter dated Oct. 6, 1918, Hardy wrote, “To me old Aberdeen bears and always will a curiously romantic aspect. I suppose I shall never see it again.”

Before this he had never visited the city but commented that he had, “… always observed with admiration the exceptional characteristics of the Northern University, which in its fostering encouragement of mental effort seems to cast an eye over these islands that is unprejudiced, unbiased and unsleeping.”

He always spoke favourably of Aberdeen and in 1911 gifted to the University his manuscript of An Imaginative Woman, when he was distributing his manuscripts among various public collections. It had been published in 1888 and is often regarded as one of his best short stories.

Written on 31 leaves, it is bound in three-quarters brown morocco and measures 10.5” (26.5 cm). Still in its brown paper cover, with the title written in blue pencil, it is extensively revised, especially on the opening few leaves and at the end. Clearly the first draft of the story, it was not the copy from which the serial was set to print.

The manuscript is now kept in Special Libraries and Archives at shelfmark: MS 617

Also now in Special Libraries is a holograph manuscript of the verses written by Hardy for the Quatercentenary Number of Alma Mater, published in September 1906. The manuscript and covering letter had been presented to the Library by Mr Theodore Watt, then editor of Alma Mater. The poem was later published in the 1915 edition of the Aberdeen University Review:

ABERDEEN — (April, 1905.)

I looked; and thought, “She is too gray and cold
To wake the warm enthusiasms of old!”
Till a voice passed: “Behind that granite mien
Lurks the imposing beauty of a Queen.”
I looked anew; and saw the radiant form
Of her who stays in stress, who guides in storm;
On the grave influence of whose eyes sublime
Men count for the stability of time.

[Footnote] “And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy time.s”
   Isaiah xxxiii. 6

The letter accompanying the holograph reads:

MAX GATE,
DORCHESTER,
30/7/1906.

DEAR SIR,
I send herewith my very poor contribution to the special number of “Alma Mater,” and hope that it may reach you in time.
Yours very truly,
T. HARDY.

With thanks to Dr Martin Ray, Senior Lecturer and Deputy Head of the School of Language and Literature
The Gilber and Margaret Hamilton Papers

The previous issue of the Newsletter included Ishbel MacKinnon’s article on work now starting on some of our medical archives. She has now received an additional set of papers which link in with this but also have local interest in their own right.

The papers of Gilbert Frewin Hamilton (1913–74), recently gifted to Special Libraries and Archives, include manuscript and proof copies of the Anatomy of the Human Body (London: Faber, 1959) with related correspondence between the co-authors and publishers.

This is a splendid addition to the papers of Robert Lockhart and of the University’s Anatomy Department, presently being catalogued under the Wellcome Institute’s Research Resources in Medical History grants scheme, for they also contain much material relating to this highly regarded and much-republished medical text.

Of more general interest, the gift also includes several volumes of Alma Mater, 1927–33, which very usefully fill gaps in our second series of the publication, printed material relating to the Students’ Representative Council’s Jubilee celebrations in 1935 and an annotated Arts class photograph, 1930-33.

The advertisement for Co-op Tea was folded inside the Jubilee Celebration booklet and some Friends may themselves have experienced the resultant ‘joy of living’!

As students, both Hamilton and his wife Margaret Monro (MA Aberdeen 1934) were involved with the editorial committee of Alma Mater and the Students’ Representative Council. Margaret was a school languages teacher in Aberdeen and in her retirement developed a passionate interest in Indian music and song. Her personal diaries have been retained by the family meantime, but transcriptions of frank and entertaining entries relating to the demise of Alma Mater are promised for the future.

The papers have come to us in two instalments (ACC 78 and ACC 83) and will be catalogued under the manuscript reference MS 3750.

Ishbel MacKinnon
Archivist, Special Libraries and Archives
i.mackinnon@abdn.ac.uk

The Walker Collection on view

Some of you may remember the article in the Spring/Summer 2003 Newsletter about the large collection of prints and drawings gathered by James F Walker, a former Senior History Master at Aberdeen Grammar School, and most generously donated to us by a descendant, David Walker, after a decade on loan to Special Libraries.

The items were put on show for the first time as an exhibition entitled, ‘The Walker Collection: a selection of prints of 19th century Aberdeen’, shown in Special Libraries & Archives from May.

Friends, of course, were privileged to have a preview of one of the paintings, WP Barton’s 1858 watercolour of King’s, at the Principal’s reception for us in June last year.

Dr J Michael Smethurst, CBE

Just as we went to press we heard the sad news of the death of Mike Smethurst, aged 70, after a short illness.

Mike was, of course, President of the Friends for many years, both during his time here as University Librarian (1972-86) and continuing until 2001, while on the professional national and international stage and into his retirement. He was a most supportive President, particularly in the formative years of our organisation.

A fuller tribute will appear in the next Newsletter but Friends may like to look back at the tribute on his retirement from our Presidential post (Autumn/Winter 1961 Newsletter) and on the occasion of his CBE Autumn/Winter 1996 Newsletter).
NEWS FROM HISTORIC COLLECTIONS:

Marischal Museum

Lemur – Live!

In September James Boyle, chairman of the Scottish Executive’s Cultural Commission and former Chair of the Scottish Arts Council, cut the virtual ribbon on a new online resource.

This virtual museum, exhibiting the University’s outstanding historical and scientific collections, is now live to a worldwide audience. Previously lack of display space and the fragility of the objects have made access difficult but they are now available to anyone with an internet connection.

LEMUR - the Learning with Museum Resources project - is a pioneering online database, made possible by a £240,000 grant from the Higher Education Joint Information Systems Committee. The launch marked the end of 3 years’ hard work. The database gives access to thousands of the finest objects in the University’s collections, the sixth most important museum collections in Scotland, and which include include Marischal Museum and the Natural Philosophy Collections.

Dr Alan Knox, Manager, Historic Collections, said, “We are very proud to be launching Lemur. It is exciting to see the collections being used in teaching this way. The University has wonderful collections and we continue to find new ways for everyone to enjoy and learn from them.”

The database has thousands of images and text, drawn together to create a digital collection on the World Wide Web. The database was designed by a team of curators, IT specialists, academics and the University photographer, collaborating to collate the latest information on the objects, museum catalogues and donors’ archives, together with scholarly and other views. Academic staff from Physics, History of Art, Cultural History and the History and Philosophy of Science worked together to establish the database, update catalogues, create captions and develop new teaching packages.

The resource is unique in the UK and targeted for use by academics across the world, as well as schools and the public. A variety of search and display options make it easy and quick to navigate, producing a new style of undergraduate teaching in the University and elsewhere. Records of every case and object in Marischal Museum are shown, featuring virtual access, ‘behind the scenes’ and interactive panoramas, with actual examples of the use of these resources in teaching.

Neil Curtis, Curator at Marischal Museum, said, “The Lemur project shows the importance of the University’s collections and some of the imaginative ways in which people can have access to them.”

Marischal Museum’s website is available at:
www.abdn.ac.uk/virtualmuseum
and the searchable database at:
www.abdn.ac.uk/museumsearch

[A fuller article on the project appeared in the Newsletter for Spring/Summer 2001 when the work first started.]
From Aberdeen to Standoff

In the previous two Newsletters Neil Curtis, Senior Curator at Marischal Museum, told us the story of the sacred horned head-dress repatriated to its Canadian Blood Tribe. He also discussed some of the issues surrounding the whole question of repatriation of artefacts scattered throughout the world.

In the article below Neil continues the story, recounting his invitation this Summer to Canada to participate in the repatriation ceremony itself. In accordance with the beliefs of the Blood Tribe no photographs were taken.

In July last year, the University repatriated a horned head-dress from the collections of Marischal Museum to the Horn Society of the Blood Tribe (Kainai Nation) in Canada. This became the biggest media event for Marischal Museum in many years, the ceremony covered by the BBC and reports appearing in papers as widespread as the Aberdeen Press & Journal, the London Times, the Boston Globe, the Museums Journal and the online 24-hour Museum. The only exception to a very positive coverage was an opinion piece in the Sunday Telegraph describing the museum as ‘Britain’s Maddest Museum’!

The story has continued to appear as an example of a successful repatriation, with Marischal Museum now being seen as having expertise in this increasingly prominent issue for museums; most recently on the BBC Scotland discussion programme Taking Issue and at various conferences around the UK. Likewise, the University’s procedure for responding to requests for repatriations, available online at: www.abdn.ac.uk/marischalmuseum/collections/policy is being used as a model for other institutions facing such requests.

Earlier in the year we mounted an exhibition titled, Going Home: museums and repatriation, to discuss the repatriation of the head-dress and to raise some of the issues behind other demands, such as that for the return of the Parthenon sculptures to Greece from the British Museum. Again, feedback was very positive, with comments such as, ‘So glad to see this as a discussion - I knew very little about procedures and cases of repatriation’, and, ‘A great story of “right over might”, tolerance and understanding.’ University of Aberdeen students of History, Anthropology and Law have also been able to discuss this contentious issue with a thoroughly explored case study.

Part of the repatriation agreement included a promise by the University and the Blood Tribe to work together in the future. While some of this can be done by phone and e-mail, I was very fortunate to be invited to the Sundance with my family this summer.

As guests of Randy Bottle, who led the group who had come to Aberdeen, we stayed with his family next to the circle of about 50 tepees erected near the settlement of Standoff on the Blood Reserve for the ako-katsiman (‘the time of all people camping together’). At the heart of this is the ceremony known as the ookaam, the Sundance, but it is also a time for socializing. Children played in and around tepees and pick-up trucks, fine horses were gathered in a corral, while a sweet stall flew a British flag as a reminder of the 1877 Treaty between the Kainai Nation and the British Crown.

We arrived in time to see the women’s society, the motoki, starting the ceremonies. Most of their ceremonies took place privately in a lodge surrounded by the tepee circle, but we all saw a race between the women and a mounted rider (the women won) and received the food handed out to everyone. Rather like a harvest festival, this largely consisted of tinned fruit, sliced bread, pot noodle and the like, known as ‘white food’!

Over the next two days people came and went as they prepared for the transfer of sacred bundles, while the Horn Society erected a spectacular double tepee at the centre of the circle. Most of the tepees were made of plain canvas but some were decorated with brightly-coloured designs. Duane Mistaken Chief (who had visited Aberdeen and painted some of them) explained the stories which these represented. Rather like heraldry, these designs are the property of particular people to whom they are transferred in public ceremonies.

Our last day saw the Horn Society starting to transfer bundles, filling the circle with the horses, blankets, shawls and money given by the people who were receiving a bundle to those who had cared for them in previous years. For most of the day the members of the Horn Society were hidden from sight within the tepee, but as dusk fell the fire inside the tepee started to cast the silhouettes of people, some wearing horned head-dresses. Eventually, lit by the car headlights, they emerged.

It was thrilling to see the head-dress that had been in Aberdeen and an honour to be invited to dance behind it. This I did, though somewhat self-consciously and stiffly in the midnight cold! This was the first time that the head-dress had been brought out since its return, completing the group of four which are at the heart of the ookaam. The evening ended with the distribution of food, this time the more traditional fried bread (rather like a cross between butties and doughnuts) and delicious hot Saskatoon berry soup.

With a history of repression and marginalisation, the Blood Tribe are now combining contemporary developments, such as oil extraction, modern social services and professional employment, with the maintenance of traditional beliefs.
Would YOU like to help?
Museum Volunteering Opportunities

Some of you may be interested to follow up an invitation to do volunteer work in the University’s museum collections. The work will include sorting and re-housing specimens, documentation and helping with displays.

The University’s six departmental museum collections are of national and international importance and, together with Marischal Museum, represent the sixth largest museum collection in the country.

The departmental collections are:
- Anatomy Museum
- Geological Collections
- Herbarium
- Natural Philosophy Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments
- Pathology and Forensic Medicine Collection
- Zoology Museum

More details on all the Museums are on the web at: www.abdn.ac.uk/museums/

The collections are used for teaching and research at all levels. The Zoology Museum has major galleries with changing exhibitions open to the public; material from the other collections can be seen in smaller displays across the campus.

We are now coming to the end of the project, part-funded by the Scottish Museums Council, to provide a strategic and integrated approach to the management and development of the collections. The aim was to draw together the various departmental museums, promote their collections and provide curatorial support to the Honorary Curator of each.

Curatorial practice and procedures have now been reviewed and plans for future development submitted to the University’s Museums, Collections and Galleries Committee. We are now implementing improvements in collection management and access, with volunteers supporting Honorary Curators and Curatorial Assistants.

If you are interested in pursuing the opportunities available in the departmental museums contact:

_Claire Smith_
tel: 01224 274309
e-mail: c.l.smith@abdn.ac.uk

and language. An important strand in this has been the effort that people have put into maintaining the Sundance, with the return of the head-dress from Aberdeen being the culmination of many repatriations from museums in North America. The University has played its part in this: the man now caring for the head-dress noted that it is ‘in good shape’ and the link between Aberdeen and the Kainai will continue to be remembered and developed.

I hope that our collaboration will now extend beyond the museum as we learn from each other about issues such as land rights, the role of traditional languages in schools and how to work with the oil industry for social benefit. These are all issues of research interest in the University and with clear relevance to the North-East of Scotland.

In 2005 I look forward to welcoming friends to Aberdeen again, not just to receive objects for the Museum collection, but also to continue to learn from each other how to answer the challenges of the contemporary world, while maintaining our own traditions.

_Neil Curtis_
Senior Curator, Marischal Museum
neil.curtis@abdn.ac.uk
Marischal Museum
Exhibitions

Sword and Power

Until 30 November Marischal Museum is showing a new exhibition, Sword and Power: symbolism and mythology of world swords in the temporary exhibition area in the East wing of the Museum.

It gives a rare opportunity to see some of the Museum’s collection of swords from around the world.

Swords from as far apart as Sudan, Afghanistan and Malaysia will be on display, together with two historic swords. One of the Scottish swords is reputed to have been worn at the raising of the Jacobite standard at Invercauld in 1715.

Another highlight is the chance to see two Japanese swords, recently cleaned and conserved, revealing details of their construction and with the maker’s name on one. This is an interesting example of the continuing care and investigation of the collections by the Museum’s Conservation Department.

The exhibition is not just a glorification of the swords as weapons, it is an examination of their symbolism and mythology. Swords are a part of many traditional stories, worldwide, some of which are retold in the exhibition.

Hilary Murray, designer of the exhibition, said, “The most awesome thing about these swords is the skill of the smiths who made them. I hope our visitors see the swords not just as ‘sharp, pointy things’, but as supreme examples of the swordsman’s craft.”

University Teaching
Prints Collection

Marischal Museum is also showing a small exhibition of some items from the University Teaching Prints Collection - from GB Tiepolo, A Carraci, Walter Geikie, Sir DY Cameron, Norman Ackroyd, James Furneaux, Steven Campbell, to the latest (2003) by Claire E Roberts.

King’s Chapel Jugs

Also on display, currently in King’s Chapel but to be shown later in Marischal Museum, is one of the four broken pottery jugs recently uncovered by masons re-pointing the West wall of King’s College Chapel.

Their purpose is still only conjecture but the ancient medieval pots may have been paint pots for painting the heraldry - they sat at the same level as the three heraldic plaques - holes for birds’ nests or any number of other speculations.

They were originally small squat jugs, c15cm in diameter, of a type made in the Aberdeen area between the late 14th and 16th centuries and are therefore probably contemporary with the building of the Chapel in the early 1500s.

Carefully placed behind the stones, some trimmed to accommodate them, the pots had been set on their sides, with the rims and handles removed and bases facing into the interior of the wall.

Dr Jane Geddes, of the History of Art Department, was asked for her comments on the find but the exact reason for the pots remains a mystery. We may be able to ask her if she has learnt any more when she speaks to us at our meeting in November.

Lectures for All

Marischal Museum’s lecture series on a wide range of topics relating to archaeology, North-East folklore, anthropology and Ancient Egypt, continues until June on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. The lectures have reverted to the venue of Marischal Museum Lecture Theatre through the arch and in the door at the far end of the quad, then up the stairs to the 1st Floor.

Advance booking is not necessary - please pay any charge at the door.

The lectures are listed on the brochure enclosed with this Newsletter and are on the Museum’s website at:

www.abdn.ac.uk/marischalmuseum/services/lectures/

A reminder:
Admission to Marischal Museum is free, via the main doors at the back of the Quad.

Opening hours are:
Monday-Friday 10 - 5 pm
Sunday 2 - 5 pm

And if you can’t get to Marischal Museum keep an eye open for the small exhibition cases in Queen Mother Library, the Senior Common Room and the Elphinstone Institute. These are changed regularly and often reflect the themes of our main exhibitions.
Some of you may have seen the University's new Aberdeen magazine, its first issue being March 2004. Its aim is to cover the whole range of University activity - the arts, history, medicine, politics, business and science - and our Biesenthal Collection and libraries generally merit two mentions.

Tucked away at the end is a colour article on the importance of Special Libraries' extensive collection of Hebraica and Judaica. Special emphasis is given to a copy of the Jewish Bible, handwritten by Isaac the Scribe, an exiled Spanish Jew, in 1493, and with richly decorated images of birds, flowers and fabulous beasts.

Dr Iain Bevan, Head of Special Libraries, is aware that the bible, together with the rest of the Biesenthal Collection, occupying over 60 metres of shelving, offer scope for much more publicity for scholars and the interested layman to become more familiar with these marvellous treasures.

Elsewhere in this inaugural issue is an article on Vartan Gregorian, President of the Carnegie Corporation in the United States, which continues Andrew Carnegie's philanthropic work there.

Libraries have a special place in Dr Gregorian's heart. He rescued the New York Public Library from the brink of closure in 1981, creating a public-private partnership which attracted well over £300M over 5 years, revitalising the entire library system, refurbishing the buildings and safeguarding the library's future.

It is obvious from the interview that he is in no doubt at all about the continuing importance of libraries and librarians. "There are more libraries in America than there are branches of McDonalds - and we probably have more customers," he said in the interview. If electronic books take off he expects people to borrow new books on chips, or download them from the library via the internet. Librarians, he believes, will have a vital role to play in the future of society, serving as intermediaries between the reader and information.

Today, he feels, we still want information but we’re being swamped with data. "The people who will help us to solve that problem are librarians."

A comforting thought …
THANKS TO YOU …

The Fraser Cup

The Friends contributed £3,000 towards this purchase, sharing with the National Fund for Acquisitions (£15,000) and the National Art Collections Fund (£12,000). The Cup was offered at a £5,000 discount.

This is an inscribed, 2-handled silver-gilt cup, marked 1660, with a later inscription. 6” (15.3 cm) high, it weighs 1 lb 2.5 ozs (654 g) and was made by ‘TA’. Though worn, it is in good condition. A former Chief Curator of Metalwork at the Victoria and Albert Museum, who inspected the Cup for us, described it as ‘a striking, handsome and substantial object’.

The Cup’s early history is unknown but it came to our attention in 1949 when a copy was made for the University by How. In 1972 it was sold by D Lavendar and purchased by the selling owner in 1985.

The Cup falls within the scope of Marischal Museum’s Collecting Policy and your Executive Committee agreed that it was a chance for the Friends to make an exciting purchase for the University, with direct links to an earlier benefactor to the Library.

It will feature in temporary displays within the University and we hope that the Friends will be able to have a preview at one of our future meetings. Our aim is to put the Cup on permanent display in the new Library when completed, but it could also be used in the fundraising.

This would be particularly appropriate in view of James Fraser’s financial gifts to the University. Fraser (1645-1731) enabled the College to rebuild two sides of King’s Quad, including a new Library and better accommodation for professors and students, and between 1722 and 1730 presented over 900 volumes to King’s College Library, a significant proportion of which are still in Historic Collections.

Lincoln Cathedral
Printed music collection [on microfilm]

The Friends met the full cost of £1,750, itself a 50% reduction on the published price of £3,500.

This request came from Dr David J Smith, Assistant Director of University Music, Lecturer and BMus and MA Music Programme Director in the School of Education (at Hilton), and Convener of the Music Research Group in the University, with backing from Richard Turbet, the music specialist in the University Library.

Both were aware of the invaluable nature of this collection, not only for their own research but also as an important resource for final year students. The sum required would have been virtually the whole allocation for University Music for the Session so that without the Friends’ help the purchase would have been impossible.

Reminder … Friends on the Web

Friends Web site

http://www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/friends