



Thank you

to our many kind Friends who sent gifts in response to my request for support for the new Library and Special Collections Centre. Your generosity has increased our collective contribution towards this very important project and will really make a difference.

The new Library will provide facilities for the University's growing community. The existing Queen Mother Library was built as the Science Library when the University had only 5,000 students, whereas today there are more than 14,000 on campus. The new Library will be an architectural landmark which will be both a showcase for the University's 200,000 historic books and 4,000 archival collections and vital to ensure their preservation. The new building will also open up these collections to new audiences including the school parties and the general public.

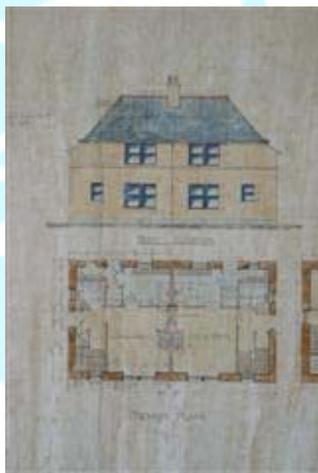
If you have not yet made your donation, there is still time to do so, simply request a donation form from h.armstrongviner@abdn.ac.uk.

With my sincerest thanks.

Roy Thomson
Chair,
Friends of Aberdeen University
Library

FRIENDS' EVENTS

Dates for your Diary



THE FRIENDS OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Autumn / Winter 2009 Meeting

Monday 2 November at 7.30 pm

Regent Lecture Theatre

*From castle, to croft, to cowshed:
On the architecture of the Cluny Estate*
by
Nicola Mills
Freelance Archivist

A talk on the architecture of the Cluny Estate in Aberdeenshire, using archives from Special Libraries & Archives and some local collections.

Spring 2010 Meeting

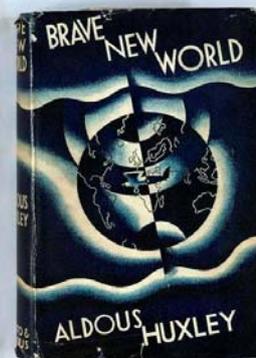
Tuesday 9 March at 7.30 pm

Regent Lecture Theatre

An Inspector called:
John Bisset Chapman and literary Britain
by
Keith O'Sullivan
Senior Rare Books Librarian
Special Libraries & Archives

John Bisset Chapman (1875-1949), a graduate of Aberdeen, spent much of his career as HM Inspector of Schools for Lambeth. However, he formed friendships and acquaintances with many of the leading members of the London literary scene such as Aldous Huxley, Walter de la Mare and H E Bates.

Keith O'Sullivan will discuss both the man and the remarkable collection which resulted.



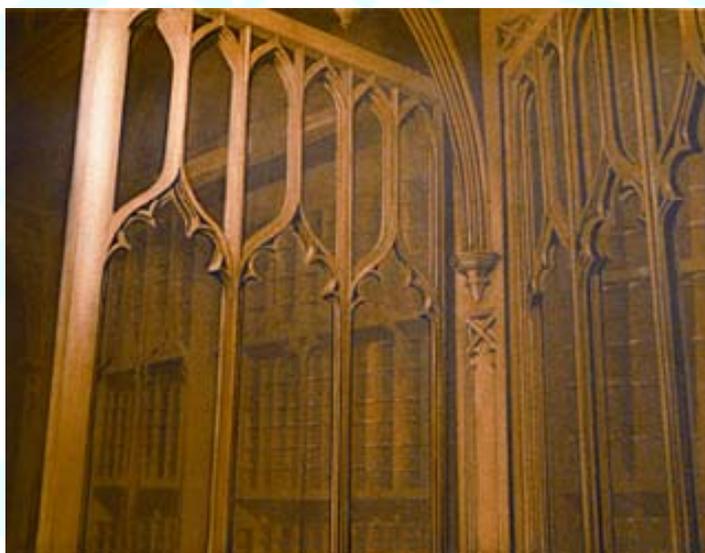
All Welcome

Light Refreshments will be served after the meeting

REPORTS ON FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES

Summer Meeting and AGM – 21 May

Before the AGM Friends were able to enjoy an exhibition in Old Aberdeen Town House.



King's College Divinity Library

Entitlement: the library paintings of the Hugh Buchanan was a selection of magnificent large watercolours depicting great libraries in Britain, including many in Scotland. It came from the Francis Kyle Gallery in London, where *The Times* voted it London's top exhibition.

Our showing included new paintings of Scottish libraries not previously exhibited in London, including one of the Divinity Library in King's College here.

Described as the greatest watercolour painter in Britain today, Hugh Buchanan was born in Edinburgh and educated at *Edinburgh College of Art*. After completing post graduate studies in 1981, he was awarded travel scholarships to the *Middle East*, *North Italy* and the *Balkans*. His work is greatly influenced by light and colour, captured through his unorthodox technique of

'blocking-in' the darkest tones of the painting first.

Buchanan, best known for grand architectural interiors, chose to focus more on fine detail in the exhibition, "After a while it was the books in isolation that began to interest me more and more; and this is where I felt I could break new ground."

In April HRH Prince Charles, The Duke of Rothesay, had made a surprise private visit to Old Aberdeen, which included a visit to the Hugh Buchanan exhibition.

During the course of the morning, Prince Charles, who was accompanied by Marc Ellington of Towie Barclay Castle, had chatted with students and visited a number of Old Aberdeen's foremost historic sites including King's College Chapel, St Machar's Cathedral and The Old Town House, where they inspected recent restoration work carried

out by the University.

At King's College Chapel, Mr Ellington introduced The Prince to Professors Peter Davidson and Jane Stevenson, authors of the recently published book, *The Lost City*, examining the history and evolution of Old Aberdeen (*covered in the last Friends' News*).

On arrival at St Machar's Cathedral, Dr Alan Falconer, the Minister of St Machar's, had pointed out a number of the building's important historic features, including its magnificent 16th century heraldic ceiling, unique in Scotland.

Prince Charles then visited the Hugh Buchanan exhibition and before departing he and Mr Ellington were given refreshments at Chanonry Lodge, home of the Principal of the University of Aberdeen, Professor Sir Duncan Rice, and where recruitment evenings for prospective Friends have been held over the last few years.

***Finding Alexander Collie: colonial surgeon,
naturalist and explorer: from Inch to
Aberdeen to Australia***
by **Gwen Chessell**



***Dr Alexander Collie, MA
(Aberdeen, 1812)***

Gwen Chessell, formerly Co-ordinator, Medical Learning Resources here, gave a captivating lecture on the 18th century physician, Alexander Collie, following our Annual General Meeting.

Little known outside the Medical-Chirological Society in Aberdeen (now the Med.Chi), of which he was an early member, Collie's travels can be traced through a promontory, a river and a town named after him. Gwen explained that she discovered Collie while researching her previous book in Western Australia.

Collie was born in Inch in 1793 and began studying at King's College at the age of sixteen in 1808. In 1810 he decided to become a surgeon

and in 1812 travelled to London to study at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals. Collie's letters to his brother, George, who supported him during this period, survive and stress that he was careful not to waste George's money on laundry!

After passing the Royal College of Surgeons' exams Collie sought a posting with the East India Company but was unsuccessful, joining the Royal Navy instead. Initially assistant surgeon on *HMS Doris* he went on to study military surgery in Edinburgh in 1816-17. November 1817 found him completing his education in the third of the major centres for the study of medicine, Paris.

After serving on *HMS Gannet*, whose duties included escorting the body of George IV's estranged Queen Caroline to her native Brunswick for burial, and preventing smuggling in the Irish Sea, Collie joined *HMS Blossom* in January 1825. He had the opportunity to study the flora, fauna and native populations of the Pacific islands and the entire west coast of North and South America en route to the Arctic, where his ship was due to rendezvous with Franklin's second voyage (the two expeditions came within 150 nautical miles of each other).

HMS Blossom was not a happy ship and Collie sought to return to Aberdeen or be posted to a military hospital. In the end he accepted another commission

on *HMS Sulphur* which was to establish a British colony in Western Australia. Collie hoped to be appointed Colonial Surgeon to the new colony but had to wait until 1832 for this, although he became the Government Resident in Albany.

By this stage his health had started to deteriorate. He had first experienced symptoms of tuberculosis in 1815 but the harsh climate of Western Australia accelerated the disease's progress. In 1835 Collie asked for a leave of absence but died, aged 42, before the ship carrying him home had left Australian waters.

Gwen concluded her talk by highlighting Collie's influence and connections. Three species are named after him: a bird, a buttercup and a fish and, in spite of his early death, he made a considerable contribution to the scientific world of his day. His work was known to such luminaries as Charles Darwin, with whom he corresponded, Sir William Hooker, Robert Brown, Sir John Richardson and many others. He corresponded with the Linnaean and Zoological Societies, describing how a Joey gets into its mother's pouch. He was known also for providing medical care for the native populations of the Pacific island and worked with the Aborigines in Western Australia, forming such a close bond with one man, known as Mockery, that Collie asked to be buried alongside him.

Robin Armstrong Viner
Cataloguing Manager
Library & Historic Collections

New Library Building



An artist's impression of the new Aberdeen University Library from Bedford Road

Update from Chris Banks, University Librarian

The official notices are below and detail the appointment of the contractor and the news that the building design and construction have been recognised as energy efficient. Before that, a few words from me:

If you haven't visited QML recently then you'll notice some significant changes when you next come! The most obvious is the fact that the old unnamed road leading from Bedford Road to Elphinstone Road is gone. We are building the new library at the entrance to Bedford Road. The hoarding round the site will give visitors some idea of the scale and extent of the new building and the very large hole right beside QML is only the beginning: for the last few weeks the contractors have been drilling 81 massive holes into which 1.2m diameter piles are being sunk – they should all be in place by the time you read this. The piles go down through the sand, silt, and occasional very

large boulder, to the bedrock below and they will support the 9 storey building that is to rise up from the site. This time in two years we will be up and running for business. In the meantime there are lots of books, archives and manuscripts to be sorted out for the move.

Colleagues have been working hard on determining the layout of the stock, staff and activity in the new building and everything is now coming together into some firm proposals which we are beginning to test on academic staff and students across the University. Our plan is to ensure that the organisation is very logical so that those using the building can easily find their way to the materials that interest them, and to relevant help and support from Library staff.

For those with access to the internet, you can see a film of the demolition of the single storey wing, and the initial excavation of the site here: <http://abdn.ac.uk/newlibrary/demolition.shtml>. Two webcams are set up on site and can be watched live: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newlibrary/webcam/webcam.shtml>

Pihl UK constructors of the new Library

The University has appointed construction company Pihl UK Ltd as main contractor for our flagship new Library. The

contract is for construction of a building of 9 floors, including a lower ground floor, and landscaping.

Professor Christopher Gane, Vice-Principal and academic lead for the project, said, "The new Library will open up our collections to all of the wider communities that we serve, as well as making a stunning addition to the architecture of Aberdeen. A building designed to the highest architectural standards deserves the very highest standards in its execution, and that is why we are delighted to welcome Pihl UK onto the library team."

Angus Donaldson, Director of Estates at the University, added, "The Library contract award is a hugely significant milestone in the ongoing development and enhancement of the University estate and the facilities we are able to offer our communities. This stunning building sets a new benchmark in terms of physical and design quality. In these uncertain times for the construction industry in general I am sure that an award like this will be a very welcome boost."

W Aird Buist, Regional Manager for Pihl UK Ltd, said, "We are delighted to have been appointed to deliver the new University Library, which will be an elegant and iconic addition to an established world class University. This gives us the opportunity to enhance the educational experience for those within the University and wider community. Working with the University of Aberdeen and the project team, we truly believe we can provide the construction link in the creation of this outstanding facility."

The new Library will also house our distinguished collections of rare historic manuscripts, books, and archives. For the first time, these treasures will be widely accessible for research and learning, including a programme of exhibitions, educational and cultural events.

Pihl UK Ltd moved onsite in July and the new Library is scheduled to be open for students, staff, local communities and other visitors in September 2011. The £57 million project is the largest capital fundraising project ever undertaken by the University.



Demolition work begins on QML

Building (after Heaney)

Between the fingers of these hands
Our keyboards rest; our plans
advance.

Under these windows, a clear
rumbling sound
As diggers delve the age-long
learning ground:
Our future, building; we look
down!

John Easton

*Principal Information Assistant
Arts and Humanities
QML*

National Environmental Award

The design of the new Library has received a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) award, which recognises the UK's top examples of sustainable design.

The building has been designed to maximise energy efficiency in order to reduce the impact of its construction and operation on the environment and has been assessed as BREEAM Excellent, the highest national rating in the Bespoke BREEAM Design and Procurement category (version 2006). It will provide the highest standards in sustainability, disabled access, acoustics, material choices, safety and security.

Professor Christopher Gane is delighted with the sustainable award and said, "The University's new Library has been designed to maximise energy efficiency in order to reduce the impact of its construction and operation on the environment and we have worked closely with the design team and the BREEAM Assessor. We are pleased to have achieved the rating of Excellent for the proposed new Library design, proving that beautiful visuals and outstanding performance can be combined to great affect."

Some of the Library's key design features include:

- A high performance facade, maximising daylight whilst minimising solar gain and heat loss
- Efficient systems for heating, cooling and ventilation using the existing University Combined Heating and Power systems
- A rainwater system which collects the rainwater which is then used to flush WCs
- A building management system to monitor plant items and energy consumption
- Low carbon technologies and passive renewables to reduce energy demands and reduce the carbon footprint
- Roof-mounted monocrystalline solar collectors, with 130m² of panels providing 15,000 kWh/year of electrical output. This is predicted to save 8,500kg/ year of CO₂.

Angus Donaldson, Director of Estates here said, "The design of the new Library has been developed within the framework of the BREEAM system with the aim of achieving an Excellent rating. The University recognises the need to incorporate opportunities for sustainable development into our construction projects and this is the second University new building to go through the BREEAM process and be successful in achieving an Excellent rating.

"The new Library showcases the ability of the University to develop buildings where sustainable issues are given high priority throughout the design process. The design elements of the library are setting a high benchmark for future construction projects undertaken by the University."

Martin Townsend, Director of BREEAM at BRE Global, added, "Achieving BREEAM Excellent for the new Library is a real achievement. The building scores particularly well in the Transport, Water and Management sections of BREEAM and will be an excellent demonstration for staff, students and visitors alike of a design which incorporates high sustainability principles."

Heritage Lottery Award for Conservation Studio

A grant of £875,000 will help the University become a centre of expertise and learning in conserving rare historic books and manuscripts.

The Heritage Lottery Fund made the award towards the construction of a conservation studio as an important addition to the new Library. The Fund commended the high quality of the application and the project, as well as recording its excitement about the very significant benefits the project will deliver to a wide range of audiences.

The construction of the conservation studio will enable the University to make great strides in its approach to the conservation of its important collections, with a systematic and sustainable programme of preservation and conservation delivering benefits for current and future generations of users.

The studio will also play a crucial role in opening up the collections to as wide a range of audience as possible and will serve as a centre of conservation excellence for the region.

The University is the custodian of extensive collections of historic books, manuscripts, maps and other items. A major purpose of the new Library is to provide ideal conditions to showcase these priceless items, and make them more accessible to students, researchers and the wider public through exhibitions, readings and other public events.

Announcing the award, the Heritage Lottery Fund's

Manager for Scotland, Colin McLean, said, "The University of Aberdeen has the most amazing collection of books and archives which bring to life over 500 years of Scottish history. With the help of Heritage Lottery funding, they will now be able to share with everyone what was previously enjoyed by academics and students. By enhancing presentation and access and strong education programmes, people of all ages and backgrounds will be able to learn from and enjoy this fascinating collection of treasures."

Professor Christopher Gane expressed the University's delight at the award, saying, "This is wonderful news for the University and for all our communities. Amassed over 500 years, our holdings comprise over 200,000 printed books dating back to the 15th century and 4,000 irreplaceable archival collections. They are among the most significant manuscript, printed book and archive collections in the United Kingdom.

"Many parts of our collection have long been unavailable due to their fragility, and work is needed to treat, repair and conserve them. The construction of this purpose built studio will give us the ideal space and conditions to carry out the essential conservatory work.

"Our magnificent new Library will give us, from autumn 2011, a prominent and public venue for the display of our cultural heritage, and enable our collections to be made available to the wider community as never before."

The conservation studio will provide a specialist facility to undertake, promote, and teach the latest techniques in conserving material originally created many hundreds of years ago. The studio will also promote interest and learning in the art of conservation for many groups in the community, and become a centre of expertise in book and paper conservation providing services to archive holders across the North East of Scotland and beyond.

As you will have read in the last *Friends' News*, the project has also received a gift of \$3 millions from US philanthropist Dr Loretta Brennan Glucksman, a long-standing supporter of the University. The studio will be known as The Glucksman Conservation Studio.

All Friends will have received a letter from our Chairman earlier this year extolling the virtues of the new Library and encouraging you to support it. Many of you had already done so and others responded as a result of Roy Thomson's appeal.

Below our appeal is set in context by a member of the Development Fund staff

Investing in our Future

The University's Development Trust is working to raise £30 millions towards this £57 millions new Library building project. It has attracted a high level of interest from companies, charitable trusts and individuals.

Recently **Alasdair Locke**, executive chairman of the Abbot Group Ltd and one of Scotland's most prominent entrepreneurs, has made a personal gift of £500,000.

He is supporting the campaign because, "The new library at Aberdeen is a major infrastructure project designed to serve all sections of the community. It is particularly pleasing to have the opportunity to contribute in this way and invest in Aberdeen's future for the benefit of all."

US philanthropist **Dr Loretta Glucksman** (LLD '05) has donated \$3 million to create the Glucksman Conservation Studio.

Other supporters include the **Craig Group, Elsevier, Hess, PetroCanada, Talisman** and a range of other companies.

In addition, over 3,000 individual donors to the Alumni Annual Fund, many of whom are staff and graduates, have made a massive contribution to the project. These gifts have brought the project total to well over a third of the fundraising target and will support the construction, content and activities of the new Library.

The opportunities to be part of this project are limitless. It is a fantastic example of a campaign where every gift counts. Everyone can be involved in whatever way is most significant for them.

The Development Trust team are always happy to discuss the project with individuals, trusts and organisations. Whatever the size of your group we can arrange visits, tours and updates as the building

progresses.

The Alumni Annual Fund raised over £300,000 during 2008-09, achieving a record breaking cash total and the highest participation rates in the fund's ten year history. The new library project is a key beneficiary of the fund.

For more information please contact **Sharon O'Loan** on 01224 274114 or e-mail her at: s.oloan@abdn.ac.uk

Harriet Armstrong Viner

Development Executive

External Affairs

Development Office

[Editor: If you would like to read more about Dr Glucksman there's an interview with her in the latest issue of the University's 'Aberdeen Magazine' p36-39]

Publicity at the University's Word Festival

The 9th Word Festival, the University's Writers Festival, in May, saw Library and Historic Collections staff and Friends Committee featuring at several points.



The opening event launched **Silver: an Aberdeen Anthology – a celebration of the Granite City** in verse from Barbour to Blackhall via Byron, Hardy and Heaney. Joint editors are Alan Spence, Professor of Creative Writing and Artistic Director of Word, and Dr Hazel Hutchison, lecturer in English here and the

latest recruit to the Committee of the Friends. Congratulations, Hazel.

Hazel said, "This has been a really exciting project for both Alan and myself. Most people have no idea how much has been written about Aberdeen through the ages. We've been thrilled and inspired by the range and quality of work that we've found during our research for the book. Our only problem has been knowing what to leave out. Hopefully this collection will let people experience more of the city's rich cultural heritage – not just from the past, but also in the present."

As well as featuring other well-known poets such as Seamus Heaney, Iain Crichton Smith and George Mackay Brown, the new book also includes new work by local writers and centuries-old verse about Aberdeen.

Hazel explained, "I think perhaps the best find we made was a little bit of verse in Old Norse dating back to 1153. It's four lines from the saga *Morkinskinna* by the Icelandic poet Einarr Skulason, and is about Prince Eysteinn's raid on Aberdeen, which was known to the Norsemen as Apardion."

The volume is published by Polygon at £9.99 and is available at bookshops in Aberdeen.

Also featuring in the Festival was Keith O'Sullivan, our Senior Rare Books Librarian, who talked about some of the literary treasures in his care in **Special Libraries Collections & Archives**, including original books and manuscripts by Scott, Dickens and Hardy.

Many Congratulations to ...

Summer graduations in Aberdeen saw two leading lights of the Friends Executive Committee honoured.

Roy Thomson, our Chairman, achieved a Master of Letters (MLitt) in Political Sciences with Distinction, 54 years after first graduating in psychology here in 1955. Roy has always been involved in politics – he is currently Convenor of Aberdeen South Liberal Democrats and the Scottish representative on the party's UK executive. An electronic version of his thesis entitled, *The Scottish constitutional convention, with particular reference to the decision on the electoral system to be used by the Parliament of Scotland*, is available in the University's digital repository at <http://digitool.abdn.ac.uk/>.



Roy Thomson after receiving his MLitt.

Jack Webster, our President, was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters on Thursday 16 July from the Robert Gordon University for

his contribution to journalism and Scottish culture. In 1996 Jack was voted Bank of Scotland Columnist of the Year and UK Speaker of the Year and Friends have had the privilege and delight of hearing him speak at several of our meetings. Jack can now add this latest degree to his Honorary M.Univ. (Master of the University), awarded to him by the University of Aberdeen in 2000.



Jack Webster after receiving his D.Litt. at RGU

Our congratulations go to both of them.

The Ogston Music Prize



A gifted Aberdeen University student was awarded a highly prestigious prize in recognition

of her exceptional musical ability. Kay Ritchie scooped the Ogston Music Prize, which recognises outstanding musical performance.

Now in its second year, the award was given by Professor Derek Ogston CBE LLD FRSE, a former Senior Vice-Principal of the University of Aberdeen and now contributing stalwart work to the Friends' Committee.

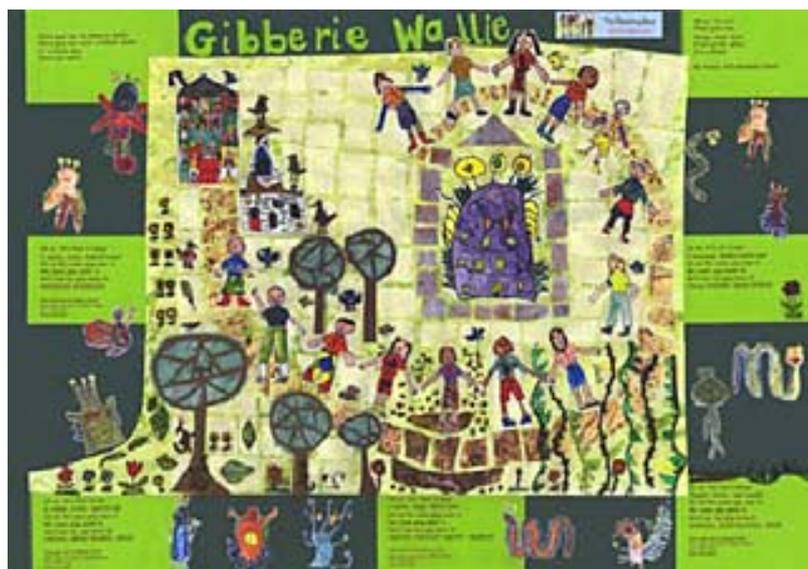
Dr Paul Mealor, Senior Lecturer in Music here, said, "The Ogston Music Prize showcases the high calibre of musically gifted students at the University of Aberdeen. We are extremely grateful to Professor Ogston for creating this esteemed prize and look forward to continuing to reward the abilities of musically gifted students in years to come."

Professor Derek Ogston added: "It is a pleasure and privilege to be associated with such fine young musicians."

As mentioned in the Spring / Summer edition of Friends' News all proceeds from the sale of the book *King's College, Aberdeen – History, Buildings and Artistic Portrayal* by Derek Ogston and Margaret Carlaw will go to the new library. The book, price £20 is available for purchase from the CopyShop in Queen Mother Library or from the University's online store at

[https://
www.abdnpayments.co.uk/
store/](https://www.abdnpayments.co.uk/store/)

A Journey Through Old Aberdeen



An exhibition of work by school children depicts the history of Old Aberdeen and is being showcased at the University.

A Journey Through Old Aberdeen features animated films, stories, illustrations and photography, capturing the rich heritage of Old Aberdeen. The first exhibition was held at the University's Old Town House earlier in the Summer.

The exhibition is part of a collaborative project between Marischal Museum, Aberdeen's Reading Bus, Station House Media Unit and Aberdeen City Council's Arts Education Team.

Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Museums Galleries Scotland, First Light and the University, the project aimed to help youngsters to learn more about the history of Old Aberdeen and provide enjoyable and inspirational learning to stimulate their personal development.

The pupils have worked closely with North East artists, writers, storytellers and animators to produce the resulting artwork, using the historic environment of Old Aberdeen and the rich museum and archive collections held by the University.

Eight primary schools in the area and St Machar Academy are involved. Their work is presented in a wide range of media including illustration, literature, animation, 3D sculpture and woodcarving.

An animated film, entitled *A Bird's Eye View of Tillydrone*, was created by Primary 7 pupils from **Riverbank School**, and a story and illustrated poster entitled *Unicorn Hunt*, by Primary 3 pupils from **Sunnybank School**. Primary 4/5 from Sunnybank researched a wishing well located very close to their school and created their own *Gibberie Wallie* story, with an eye-catching poster.

Primary 5/6 from **Kittybrewster School** explored the legend *The Monster at Brig o' Balgownie* through the University's geology collections and their response is a published book called [Rock Raptor](#). **St Peter's RC School** Primary 7 also produced a published book, writing about the history of the Snow in Old Aberdeen and illustrating the Kirk's architecture past and present.

Alison Parfitt, Marischal Museum's Education and Access Officer who helped to organise the project, said, "*A Journey through Old Aberdeen* has helped teach youngsters about the fascinating heritage of this historical corner of Aberdeen in a creative and unique way.

"Pupils first began sharing their work with the public in May when their art was showcased in the MacRobert Building, and in public spaces across the University's King's College Campus. We then moved the exhibition to the Old Town House in Old Aberdeen to accommodate the growing and diverse body of artwork being produced by these schools; it will also be available online. "The pupils have a real sense of pride in the exhibition they have created and it is a fantastic opportunity for them to show how they have used their creativity to tell the story of Old Aberdeen's heritage."

The launch was attended by MSPs Richard Baker, Maureen Watt and Nanette Milne, Frank Doran MP, and the University Rector, Stephen Robertson, one of our Friends, together with some of the pupils.

Between now and March 2010 more schools will exhibit work in museum and public spaces throughout the University.

Re-uniting the Parts of our Museum Collections



RECOGNISED COLLECTION OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Look out for the forthcoming search facility within the <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/> and see what treasures you can find within the University's collections!



Historic Collections has been awarded £40,000 towards a £53,000 project to demonstrate the rich connections between our 7 museum collections, and between the collections and holdings of Special Libraries & Archives. The grant will also support an inventory of our large herbarium, and cataloguing of the British flowering plants, to make these collections more accessible.

Donation

An unexpected donation to the Friends came via Special Libraries and Archives recently from Mr David Walker, for the “excellent help” from the Department that he had received during his research.

Although we are sure the staff there always provide a high standard of service to everyone the donation surprised and delighted them and the Friends Committee send them our congratulations.

The money comes from a Scottish Parliament fund administered by Museums Galleries Scotland to support museum collections recognised as nationally significant. Additional support for the project is coming from the College of Life Sciences and Medicine and the Directorate of Information Technology (DIT). The University's museum holdings are the 6th largest in Scotland and were recognised as nationally significant in 2007.

Sarah Redmond, Senior Documentation Assistant in Historic Collections, tells us more ...

The University currently cares for around 300,000 historic artefacts, and its unique collections, relating to anatomy, zoology, geology, ancient Egypt, contemporary Scottish art, scientific instruments, and the international herbarium, are of importance in wider world culture as well as the history of the North-East of Scotland.

In the past, these collections have been recorded in varying formats and to varying standards. Over the past 18 months work has been underway to merge disparate electronic information about our collections into one software system. This has helped us to meet a growing demand for access to the wealth of information about the collections from staff, researchers, students and the wider public by enabling information to be retrieved with just one search. It will also aid museum staff in managing the collections, enhancing exhibitions and workshops, and making enquiries easier to answer.

Friends' Membership Cards

Please bring your Membership Card with you when you use the University Library if you have no other Library membership identification. This will also mean quicker access when you come to Friends events.



Staff Retirals

Good wishes from University Librarian, Chris Banks, and her staff went to two well-respected colleagues on their departure from Special Libraries & Archives. Chris writes...

March saw the retirals of two longstanding members of Library staff: **Richard Turbet** and **Iain Beavan**. Both had served the University in various capacities for over 30 years, and worked most recently with the University's rare book collections, and both were instrumental in my own decision to move from London to Aberdeen.

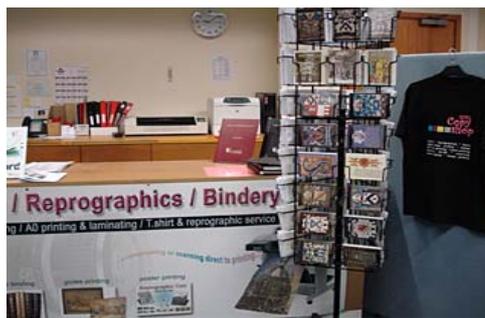
I met Richard for the first time some 22 years ago when we both attended a conference in St Andrews. Our common involvement in music librarianship ensured that we were in frequent touch, and our Library shelves attested to the fact that Richard's main research interest is the music of William Byrd. It was with some surprise, therefore, that I recently read that his desert island discs would include Duane Eddy and Steve Reich!

We wish Richard well as he moves south to Norfolk, and we welcome the fact that Iain will continue his researches on our collections.

We thank them both for their respective contributions to research and to our understanding of the collections in our care.

Chris Banks
University Librarian

QML's New Look CopyShop



The new Copy Shop means that customers can walk-in, browse and shop in comfort and privacy.

The new layout makes it easier for visitors to browse through an extended stock, including various books which have not recently been available through us. We have also improved our display of goods and services.

We have also co-located the Reprographics Unit, which now occupies the old Copy Shop space. This means that staff are on hand to answer any queries.

This is an exciting move and will raise the profile of an important part of the service we offer.

Do come and visit the new facility.

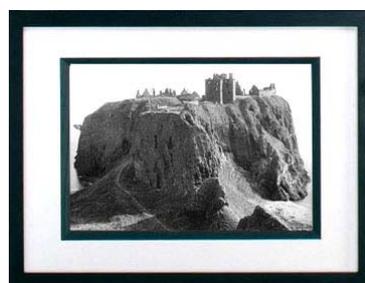
Open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday, QML Ground Floor.
Tel: 01224 272578

Mark Ramsden
Acting Manager
Binding & Reprographics Services
m.ramsden@abdn.ac.uk

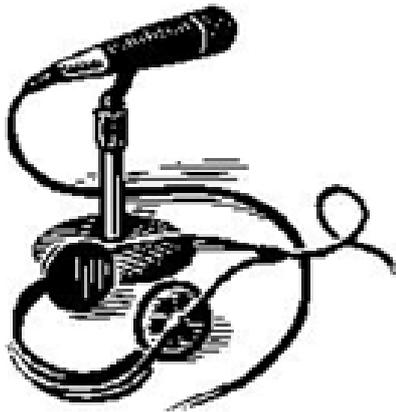
Friends QML CopyShop Offers

Remember that as Friends you are entitled to 10% off George Washington Wilson items from Queen Mother Library CopyShop.

Single copies of the postcards which the Friends funded, depicting some of the Treasures held in Special Libraries and Archives, are available from the CopyShop in Queen Mother Library at 25p each.



Soundscape



Do you listen to the sounds around you as you go about your business on campus? Does the sound of the creaking door in your corridor irritate you or fascinate you?

For many years I've been interested in how people relate to their aural environments. In my music, I use recorded sound to create soundscapes, consisting of real and transformed sounds. Recently I've become interested in finding new ways to preserve the sounds I record - in virtual museums, as well as in pieces of music and sound art.

Earlier this year I sent an e-mail to all staff working in QML and *Special Libraries & Archives* asking them to identify sounds, whether these were loved, hated or anything in between. The response was excellent, with examples ranging from the *creaking, groaning and finally the bang when moving the compactus shelving in QML basement* and the *beeping of security alarms being set and unset*.

I have now recorded these sounds and preserved them, to be displayed in an internet-based museum, where they can be accessed long after QML has disappeared, *Special Libraries &*

Archives has moved and the new Library is built. Hopefully, it will become part of the Library itself as a historic document in sound.

If you've the appropriate equipment you can hear the sounds via:

www.petestollery.com/library.

I will also make an electroacoustic fanfare using the sounds, which will form part of the opening ceremony for the new Library. I like the ecological aspects of this - recycling what was once there to welcome in the new.

And once everyone is firmly settled in the new Library, I'll e-mail again and document the new soundscape of the Library alongside the old one.

Professor Pete Stollery
Head of Music
School of Education

John Easton, published poet and Principal Information Assistant for the Arts and Humanities subject floors in QML, responded to Professor Pete Stollery's appeal for sounds from QML with his own acoustic impressions...

The deep flat **sound** of metal docking, many hundred times each day – the turnstiles are at work and so are we! Across six floors, the **sound** of students swotting – a cough, a sigh, a mopping of the brow (yes **QML** is tropical!) coming back from the depths of thought, and the odd distraction: **sounds** on the stairs, in corridors, of heels too fast to think in time to, **sounds** of people on the phone, expounding last week's lecture loudly. Suggest a different school of thought. *We can close our eyes but not our ears*. The **sound** of the oystercatchers (here again to nest) on the asphalt roof of the boiler room, through the glass from 262, Religious Education, calling their chicks back from danger, a-way a-way a-way, there are herring gulls and hawks that eat you. *We close our eyes but our ears can hear*. Scurry back down to the Lower Ground Floor, where the books are reached by steering wheels that turn only left or right. (And the brakes make a **sound** that's in no way hydraulic!) An external reader – he might be your father – is leafing through the lines of old. Auchnagatt Station, Abbey of Deer, on the way to Peterhead. He drove the last freight-train thirty-nine years ago. *He can close his eyes and he is there*.



THANKS TO YOU

Description of the regalia of Scotland

Friends of Aberdeen University Library £700

Friends of the National Libraries £700

Aberdeen University Special Libraries and Archives £100

The Friends will be aware that the Library holds the Bernard C Lloyd Collection, described by Dr Alison Lumsden, co-Director of the Walter Scott Research Centre, as being probably the finest relating to this author anywhere in the world. Following correspondence with Dr Lumsden and also with Professor David Hewitt, Editor-in-chief of the Edinburgh edition of the Waverley novels, Keith O'Sullivan, Senior Rare Books Librarian, asked for Friends' assistance in purchasing a very rare first edition.

The item is *Description of the regalia of Scotland*, printed by James Ballantyne in Edinburgh in 1819. It is an account by Scott of the rediscovery of several important articles of Scottish Regalia, including the sceptre, crown and sword of state, and was produced in May of that year as an exhibition guide for the public.

The articles had been ceremoniously delivered to the Commissioners of the Treasury in 1707 and were ordered to be locked in an iron chest in the Crown Room in Edinburgh Castle. The chest was not reopened until 1818, by which time it was deemed that "all political reason for withdrawing

from the people of Scotland the sight of the ancient symbols of her independence had long ceased to exist." Scott was among a quorum of ten commissioners assembled to witness the opening of the chest.

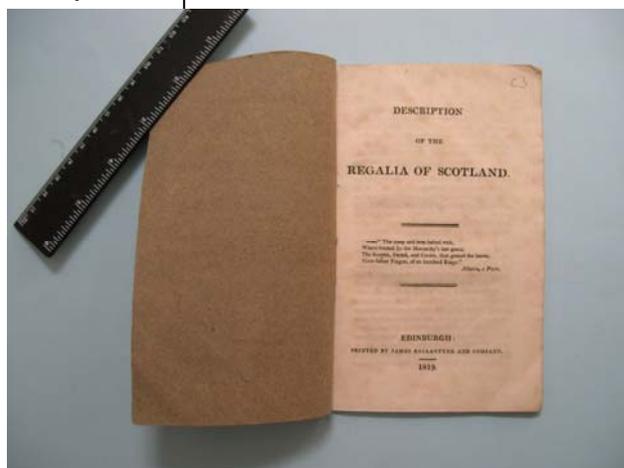
In a letter to William Dundas written just after the event, Scott remarked "I have never been more pleased since the Battle of Waterloo than with this discovery. Who may get the merit of it I know not, but I think I should have had my full share of blame had the research been unsuccessful."

The Bernard C Lloyd Collection currently lacks a first edition of the *Description* and, continued, selective acquisition for the Bernard C. Lloyd Collection is identified as a priority in the Library's Collection Management Policy. This copy came from the library of the late Earl of Perth and is in fine, original condition in original wrappers.

The *Description* has potential relevance for established programmes of undergraduate teaching on the period - for example our history courses on 'Scotland's New Horizons, 1620-1800', and 'Culture and Identity in 18th Century Scotland' - as well as for the established English MLitt module, 'The World of

Walter Scott'. In addition, the acquisition of this text, just prior to the 10th anniversary of the Scottish Parliament, has a certain poignancy. It will feature in exhibitions and public lectures planned for the new Library and is in keeping with an objective to alert the wider local community to aspects of Scottish heritage.

As with all Library holdings, the *Description* was catalogued and is now available for use by students, staff and visiting researchers in our dedicated reading room, under supervision.



Images of Scott's *Description of the regalia of Scotland*

Keith O'Sullivan
Senior Rare Books Librarian
Special Libraries & Archives

Ferguson of Kinmundy Manuscript Items

Friends of Aberdeen University
Library £840

Special Libraries & Archives
£1,160

The items are part of a wider donation, the Ferguson of Kinmundy papers, which have been deposited in Special Libraries & Archives by Nigel Trewin, Emeritus Professor of the School of Geosciences, Geology and Petroleum Geology. These Kinmundy estate and family papers are a valuable addition to our archives but Professor Trewin had previously removed two items and sent them to Maggs Bros. Ltd., booksellers, in London for valuation and with a view to selling them. Special Libraries & Archives have now been given the larger collection of papers and indicated an interest in the whole collection; thus Professor Trewin withdrew these items from Maggs and gave the University an opportunity to purchase them.

The two items both belonged to William Ferguson of Kinmundy, Aberdeenshire (1823-1904). Ferguson attended classes at Marischal College before embarking on a successful career in business, holding a partnership in London and Liverpool banking firms as well as the chairmanship of the Great North of Scotland Railway Company. He maintained a lifelong interest in local politics, had strong literary and scientific interests, was a member of many learned associations and produced many papers on religion, the railways, and scientific subjects. He was given an

honorary degree by the University of Aberdeen in 1895.

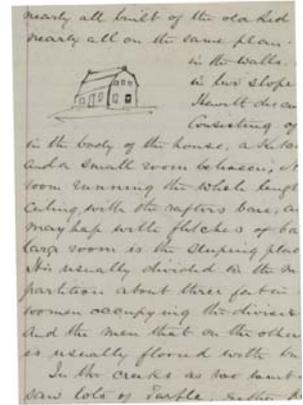
William Ferguson of Kinmundy: unpublished MS of a trip to America

Ferguson undertook two trips to America, one in 1856 and a further one a year later. He travelled largely out of personal interest but also to pursue his and others' business interests.

His first trip in 1856 was published as, *America by River and Rail or Notes by the way on the New World and its People* in 1856 (AU has a copy, Lib R 91(73) Fer). The book has recently been republished by Applewood Books in their *Travels in America* series - 253 American travel books from the collections of the Library of Congress.

The journal records Ferguson's impressions of his travels along the North American East Coast, to the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan, and through Montreal and Quebec. His travelogue is rich in detail and pays specific attention to his own interests of religion, the development of the railways and geology. The work provides insight into the culture and concerns of pre-civil war American life.

In 1857 Ferguson made a further trip to the east coast of America and Special Libraries & Archives had the opportunity to purchase this unpublished MS of his second journey, entitled *Journal of My Work in America Spring 1857*.



We do not know why the second volume was unpublished and it appears to be unknown to the scholarly world.

The MS journal is similar in its approach and the subject matters Ferguson covers but contains additional types of information, including notes on people he encountered and more on personal conversations. The journal also contains some sketches of the landscape and news-cuttings.

This MS travelogue is a wonderful addition to the archives. Travel journals are one of the Department's stated collection strengths, specifically those written by individuals from North-East Scotland. We also have particularly rich archives relating to North America which this MS complements. The journal is even more important because it is an unknown diary new to scholarship, by a previously published author.

Admiral Robert Fitzroy CB, FRS: Testimonial Fund papers

William Ferguson was involved in many learned associations and had extensive interests and contacts. He was Secretary and Treasurer to the Admiral Fitzroy Testimonial Fund.

Robert Fitzroy (1805-1865) was a naval officer, hydrographer, first head of the Meteorological Office, MP and colonial governor of New Zealand. He is most famous for being Captain of the ship the *Beagle* with its famous passenger Charles Darwin. In 1839, the three-volume *Narrative of the surveying voyages of His Majesty's ships Adventure and Beagle between the years 1826 and 1836* was published; Fitzroy was largely responsible as editor and author of the first two volumes, Darwin for the third.

Fitzroy died having exhausted his entire fortune on public expenditure and on his death it was necessary for his friends to pay off his debts. When this came to light, in order to prevent his wife and daughter living in destitution, a Testimonial Fund was established. Charles Darwin contributed £100 of his own money and was the joint highest individual contributor to the Fund.

The papers relate to the setting up of the Fund (ms and printed), lists of subscribers, letters to other Fund committee members and to potential subscribers. A second Secretary in London received the monies from Darwin so that there is no correspondence with Darwin in these papers, although his name is contained in the list of subscribers.

The papers are a great addition to the archives and like the MS Journal of America are an important and integral part of the Kinmundy Papers. Fitzroy was a prominent individual and the link with Darwin is interesting. The papers are important to British maritime

and scientific history and will complement the University's related collections.

Siobhán Convery and Andrew MacGregor
Head of Special Libraries and Archives and Deputy Archivist.
Special Libraries & Archives

Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) - Machine Readable Cataloguing (MARC) records £13,160

Library and Historic Collections gained access to ECCO in 2005. It provides academic staff and students at the University with electronic access to the full text of nearly 140,000 titles (over 150,000 volumes), including English-language titles and editions published 1701-1800, foreign-language titles printed in the United Kingdom 1701-1800, and important 18th century works from the Americas.

ECCO has proved very popular. In the last academic year academic staff and students logged into ECCO well over 5,000 times and carried out over 70,000 searches. However, at the moment users are currently only able to find titles on ECCO through its own search interface. This means that academic staff and students looking for 18th century titles must know that the title is from the 18th century, that it was published in England (or is included in ECCO), realise that we have access to ECCO or select it from a list of resources for their subject and understand how to search and retrieve records on ECCO.

Uploading the MARC records for the individual titles in

ECCO to the University's online Library catalogue will allow users to search for and identify the titles they need through a single interface. For the first time they will be able to choose between the 18th century originals held within Special Libraries & Archives, facsimiles and modern editions held elsewhere in our collections, and the full text online through ECCO.

Adding the MARC records to our online catalogue will also support research and teaching. It will help researchers and Library and Historic Collections staff to identify the copy-specific information which makes titles held within Special Libraries & Archives rare and unique. It will also enable comparison between editions held within Library and Historic Collections and those included in ECCO.

Finally purchasing the MARC records for the catalogue will encourage the use of ECCO, and maximise the value for money obtained from our subscription. It will ensure the long term preservation of our 18th century books by offering a substitute to academic staff and students who do not need the copy-specific information which makes the volumes rare and unique.

Library and Historic Collections will raise one-third of the purchase price from endowment income or other sources and provide and prioritise the staff time required to prepare and upload the records.

Robin Armstrong Viner
Cataloguing Manager
Library and Historic Collections

HeadLines

As we mentioned in the last *News*, Library and Historic Collections produces an electronic magazine, an Ezine, *HeadLines* aims to keep Library users informed of recent news and developments here. Obviously some items cover more specialised matters but Friends may well enjoy the articles of wider interest.

HeadLines is available online at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/ezine> with the latest issue, 4, timed for the beginning of the new academic year.

For those of you who don't have access to e-mail and the internet we have included some of the items from the latest issues in this newsletter.



Links with the University of Aberdeen Alumnus Association

Many of you will know of the University of Aberdeen Alumnus Association, for Aberdeen graduates, and we now have closer ties with the Association. If you are interested in joining please contact the new Secretary:

Alan Towns, c/o University of Aberdeen tel: 01224 594536
alumnusassociation@abdn.ac.uk

Reminder ... Friends on the Web



<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/friends>

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QML, Taylor and the Medical Library

Monday – Saturday: 9.00 am - 10.00 pm
(all close at 8.00pm on Fridays)

Sunday: 11.00 am - 10.00 pm (QML)
1.00-10.00 pm (Taylor and Medical)

Special Libraries

Monday - Friday 9.30 am - 4.30pm

The Friends of Aberdeen University Library