



Editorial

First, apologies. to those who spotted it I managed both to spell the artist's name wrongly and give a date a century out for the caption for the recently acquired watercolour of King's, in the article on the front page of the last *Newsletter* covering the Principal's Reception for new Friends. And I had no excuse as I'd recorded both correctly in the text at the bottom of the page - the painting is by WP Burton (not Barton) and dates from 1858 (not 1958)!

With this copy you should find the papers for our AGM on Tuesday 8 June in Queen Mother Library, when we hope to see as many of you as possible. And remember that as Friends you are entitled to 10% off George Washington Wilson items from Queen Mother Library CopyShop - we hope to have a selection of these available at the AGM meeting.

You have been mailed separately with a form to return for the visit to Trinity Trades Hall on Wednesday 12 May - please reply by Wednesday 5 May as we have to give them numbers.

Christine Miller
Editor

Boost for New Library Project

In his message to all members of staff in February, Principal C Duncan Rice announced the University Court's agreement that Chris Gane, currently Convenor of the Library Users' Committee, will be appointed Vice-Principal with responsibility for library and information services from 1st August. Professor Gane, who will continue to devote 50% of his time to his position as Professor of Scots Law, will focus on driving forward the project to develop a new library on campus.

We congratulate Professor Gane on his new appointment.

This all ties in most appropriately with the subject of our AGM on Tuesday 8 June (your papers are enclosed with this *Newsletter*).

The Librarian, Carole Munro, who is, of course, also the Friends' Honorary Secretary, will be delivering a presentation on the theme, *Building for the Future: Library new build and refurbishment in the 21st century*, and will update us regarding our own plans to extend the Library facilities. Carole will use photographs from library visits at home and abroad to illustrate her talk, and will discuss some of the crucial 'dos and don'ts' which must be considered in any major library building project.

As the only higher education institution in Scotland not to have benefited from major library new buildings or refurbishment in the last 10 or 15 years, it may be considered that we look decidedly weary compared with everywhere else, particularly the new Robert Gordon University Library building at Garthdee! You will remember that the Friends, together with the University Alumni and the Estates Department, each very generously provided £10,000 four years ago to spruce up the Foyer of QML to tide us over. What we can expect to come out of the present initiative is something much more dramatic, which will address significantly the Library's current acute space-related difficulties. It should also give us the basis for providing

FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES

Date for your Diary

**THE FRIENDS OF
ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

AGM and Spring / Summer Meeting

in

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

on

Tuesday 8 June

7.00 pm - AGM

followed at approximately 7.30 pm by

an illustrated talk :

Building for the Future :
*Library new build and refurbishment
in the 21st century*

by

Carole Munro
*Librarian, and Manager, Library Services,
University of Aberdeen*

All Welcome

Light Refreshments will be served after the meeting

**!! Please remember to bring your barcoded
Library ticket with you to gain access to QML !!**
(see also p10)

teaching, learning and research facilities fit for the 21st century.

We hope that Professor Gane will also be free to join the Librarian at her talk after the AGM to share his thoughts with us.

Collecting Walter Scott ...

Report on the Friends'

Autumn/Winter meeting



Sir Walter Scott, 'from an original sketch by Mr Slater in the possession of Sir Robert Harry Inglis', from 'Centenary of Sir Walter Scott - Portraits, Views Etc.' dated 1871.

Photo: AU DISS: Historic Collections

One November evening, in their series of lectures, the Friends of Aberdeen University Library and their guests were treated to a splendid presentation by David Hewitt, Professor of Scottish Literature in this University, on *Collecting Walter Scott: the University's Bernard C. Lloyd Collection*. The evening was chaired by Professor Michael Meston and the speaker introduced by Mr Graham Hunter.

The Lloyd Collection was acquired by the University of Aberdeen in 2002, with financial support from the University's Macdonald Bequest and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The first two of Professor Hewitt's narrative vignettes therefore appropriately concerned themselves with the collector and the assembling of his collection, and with the reasons for this valuable collection ending up in Aberdeen.

The collector, Bernard C. Lloyd, is an English businessman, originally from Blackburn, who over 30

years put together what he himself terms an 'assemblage' of works by Scott, derivative from Scott and, because of Lloyd's fascination with Scott the person, about Scott, including the commercial aspects of his life. Lloyd himself regarded the collection, with considerable justification, as unique and as 'the most comprehensive ever put together'.

During the time leading up to the purchase he was looking for 'a suitable home' for his collection, regarding as 'the ideal resting place... an environment in which both students and other interested persons could find under one roof a reasonably complete collection of items by and about one of the greatest and most prolific writers in the English language'.

Fortunately, he identified the Department of Special Libraries and Archives in Aberdeen University Library as that 'ideal place', aware of our existing Scott collections, the well-established Walter Scott Research Centre with its international conferences and regular *Scott Newsletter*, and the Department's other Scott-related activities. The story of the acquisition therefore had a Happy Ending.

Professor Hewitt's third 'story' outlined the scope and contents of the collection, highlighting some of its special features, including five ballads and twenty-five letters not yet published, a leaf of the novel *The Abbot*, one of twelve extant unbowdlerised versions of *Sir Tristram* (a poem), and one of four known copies in Latin of Scott's thesis.

The collection's particular strength does, however, according to the speaker, lie in its printed book collection. This includes a complete run of the rare magazine *The Sale-room*, by Walter Scott and others, published in Edinburgh in 1817, and not previously present in Aberdeen University Library. There are also a large number of secondary items, such as publications to which Scott had contributed, which he had signed, with which he is associated in some way and, probably most importantly, books and publications about Scott.

Professor Hewitt's next 'story' attempted to answer the question why Aberdeen University wanted to acquire Lloyd's Collection. In the first place, it was seen as greatly enhancing our existing holdings relating to Walter Scott, in the wider context of one of the best holdings in the world of popular fiction between 1790 and 1830. Secondly, the collection would serve the editorial needs and interests of those scholars who have for some years now been involved in the editing of the Edinburgh Edition of the Waverley Novels, a publication project of which Professor Hewitt is the Editor-in-Chief. This applies especially to meeting the challenges of textual variation, compositors' personal preferences, the complicated printing history and the marketing strategies and form of the novels.

In this connection, Professor Hewitt strongly defended the holding of multiple copies of the same work which, in a narrow approach, permits a detailed, comparative scrutiny of, for example, the use of punctuation marks such as semicolons, and, from a wider perspective, allows the cumulative findings to be interpreted as part of the social history of the time. In this respect, he insisted that it is erroneous to think of separate issues within an edition of a novel and we should be regarding many of the variations as the practical results of the production process, handling multiple ‘gatherings’.

In his final ‘story’, Professor Hewitt drew attention to the wide range of derivative genres in the Lloyd Collection, including translations, operatic and other musical productions of Scott’s works, as well as chapbooks and cartoons and other items of popular culture.



Professor David Hewitt at his talk to the Friends
Photo: Mike Meston

The lecture was followed by a lively discussion, at the end of which Professor Bill Nicolaisen thanked the speaker for an entertaining, instructive and altogether satisfying presentation. The audience made this praise its own by its supportive applause.

An additional bonus that evening was a display of a variety of items from the Bernard C. Lloyd Collection arranged

by the staff of Special Libraries and Archives. Members of the Friends also had an opportunity to inspect the copy of Geoffrey of Monmouth’s *Britanniae utriusque regnum et principum origo* (Paris 1517), recently purchased by the University Library with the financial support of the Friends. Significantly, a very early owner of the book is known to have been John Vaus, grammarian, author, teacher, benefactor to King’s College and the Chapel (died c1539). [Editor: see also p17-18]

Coffee, tea and biscuits were served at the end of the proceedings.

PS: Professor Hewitt distributed photocopies of Mr. Lloyd’s own *Catalogue of the Sir Walter Scott Collection assembled by Bernard C. Lloyd*, from which this report has benefitted.

Bill Nicolaisen
Executive Committee Member
Friends of Aberdeen University Library



[Editor: The 6,000-plus items which make up the Bernard C Lloyd Collection are being catalogued by staff within Special Libraries and Archives. Meantime the preliminary catalogue which came with the Collection is available on a trail basis on the web at:

http://www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/historic/walter_scott/walterscott.pdf

For more details on the Scott Collection see the Autumn/Winter 2002 Newsletter.]

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REMINDER ...

**Visit to Trinity Hall,
home of the Seven
Incorporated Trades
of Aberdeen**

We have arranged an evening visit to Trinity Hall, courtesy of Dr William Guild's Trustees, on:
Wednesday 12 May at 7 o'clock sharp

All Friends - and guests - are invited, although we need to know numbers *by Wednesday 5 May*. You should have received a form in a separate mailing. Please assemble in the Upper Entrance Hall (at the top of the steps).

The visit should last about 2 hours and a donation to Trinity Hall's charity for 2004 would be appreciated.

Trinity Hall lies at the junction of Holburn Street and Great Western Road, Aberdeen. It is the third such Hall to be occupied by the Seven Trades. The original, created from the former Trinitarian Friary (hence the name), was acquired in 1631. The first purpose-built Trinity Hall dates from 1857 and is now incorporated into the Trinity Centre shopping mall in Union Street.

The current building re-uses the traceried windows of its predecessor and the dramatic interior contains many antique furnishings and artefacts used in all three Halls. These include a beautiful table and bible from the original monastery, one of the most important collections of antique chairs in Scotland, banners carried by the Weavers at the Battle of Harlaw and many old paintings.

Our Treasurer, Graham Hunter, was Clerk and Assessor at Trinity Hall for 26 years, during which time he found the interior of the building and its contents fascinating and offered to arrange for other Friends to share his enjoyment.



The King's College Sibyls

Those of you who heard Dr Mary Pryor's riveting talk on the detective work involved in uncovering the full history of the Sibyls paintings in King's College at our Friends' meeting after last year's AGM will be interested to know that Mary was invited to Athens in December to give her presentation to an international history conference, 'European History: Ancient to Modern'. The Sibyls aroused much interest!

Nearer home Friends had the chance to hear her talk - the second time for some - at Aberdeen Art Gallery in March, as part of 'The Portrait Talk(s)' series. Mary's talk was entitled, *George Jamesone: Portraits and Propaganda at King's College*, and you may have seen it announced on our website.



***Executive
Committee Meetings
since the last issue of the
Newsletter
- a summary***

We are working on the wording and style of a Membership Card for you, which could also act as an entry card into Queen Mother Library. At the moment only those of you who are also borrowers can get in the easy way and ideally we should like one card to incorporate everything.

The Librarian has kept us up to date with developments re space and storage - a common theme for the Library over decades. The stock at Hilton Library (School of Education) will be transferred to Old Aberdeen next Summer when the School moves to the main campus and this will exacerbate the acute space problems experienced within Queen Mother Library. Carole Munro will include these and other aspects in her talk at the AGM.

The Committee regularly receives requests for funding from Historic Collections and other departments within the University for help with purchases. Acquisitions to which we have agreed to contribute in this way are given in each *Newsletter*, and the article, 'Conforming to Type ...', on p17-19 shows you the importance of the Friends' financial help in adding relevant and significant material to our collections.

Our Constitution has been updated by 3 members of the Committee with legal knowledge. The objectives of the Friends have been widened and clarified and there is now a change in the method for authorising expenditure requiring an urgent decision. The Constitution also now takes account of changed membership fee details and adjustments required by the Inland Revenue Charities in Edinburgh. It will be submitted for your consideration and discussion at the AGM, when the position of the Vice-President will also be discussed.

In addition, of course, we have been busy arranging the various Friends' activities - David Hewitt's 'Collecting Walter Scott ...' evening in November, the visit to Trinity Hall on 12 May and the AGM and Librarian's illustrated 'Building for the Future' talk on 8 June.



Honours for our Treasurer



Graham Hunter, MA, LLB, MUniv, at his latest graduation
Photo: John M McIntosh

Congratulations to our Treasurer, Graham Hunter, on his conferment of an Honorary Degree of Master of the University (MUniv) at the winter graduations at Marischal College in November.

Born in Huntly, Graham gained an MA from Aberdeen in 1958 and completed his legal studies in 1960. He practised first in Stornoway and Inverness before returning to Aberdeen, where he was a solicitor and advocate for the next 40 years.

He taught law at the University for more than 20 years, for courses in both the diploma in legal practice and LLB degree, while maintaining his fulltime professional position as a solicitor and partner with Ledingham Chalmers.

During this time Graham was also the honorary vice-president and legal agent to the Lonach Highland and Friendly Society, clerk to the Seven Incorporated Trades in Aberdeen for 26 years and secretary and treasurer to the financial board of Christ's College, Aberdeen, for three decades.

As well as his official roles he also played a significant part in the success of the North East comedy trio, 'Scotland the What', contributing material and as manager from 1969.

He has been a strong supporter of the University, not only through long service to the institution and in helping to foster links between the University and the local professional and business community, but through his contribution to the work of the Friends, latterly on the Executive Committee and most recently Honorary Treasurer.

Since his formal retiral Graham has been working voluntarily in Special Libraries and Archives on the papers of Ledingham Chalmers and in recognition of this has been appointed an Honorary Curatorial Assistant.

After the graduation ceremony Graham said how delighted he was with both his honorary degree and the occasion. "I enjoyed the ceremony enormously - it was very moving. The Mitchell Hall holds fond memories for me. My parents met and later graduated here in the '20s and I met my wife here, too, spending our Saturday evenings at the dances in the Hall."

In the absence of both the Chancellor and Principal, Graham was also asked to give the Graduation Address. Graham was one of four leading figures from the worlds of literature, law and art honoured by the University of Aberdeen at the ceremony. He joined one of the biggest names in contemporary literature, Louis de Bernières, (*Captain Corelli's mandolin*), the award winning artist, Callum Innes, and another retired local solicitor, George Ross.



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 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.

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

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

TRIBUTES



Dr Harold Watt, MA (Hons), 1921 - 2003

It was with regret that we learnt that Dr Harold Watt had died in December, a Friend to the Library in both senses of the word since 1963.

Dr Harold Murray Robertson Watt was born in Aberdeen on 12 June 1921, the son of Theodore Watt, MA, a master printer, and gained an Honours MA from Aberdeen in 1942.

He spent the latter war years, 1942-46, as a pilot, serving in South Africa and the UK, rising to Flight Lieutenant.

From there he studied at the London School of Printing, 1946-47, and became joint managing director of Aberdeen University Press in 1948, and managing director in 1958.

In spite of its name AUP was never, in fact, connected with the University and it was later, of course, to have a somewhat chequered history when taken over by Pergamon Press, now itself defunct. To this day we have a regular stream of enquiries transferred to the Library by people following up AUP titles.

Dr Watt always had the University's interests at heart and was a member of the University Court from 1970, and Vice-Convenor of the Business Committee of the General Council from 1971.

Previously living in Cults, he died suddenly in Great Eversden, Cambridgeshire, on 8 December, aged 82.



Mrs Elizabeth Fowler d. 2003

Betty Fowler had first worked in an Aberdeen veterinary surgery but moved to join her daughters and their families in Canada. Her post there was with the Library of Calgary University, and it was a result of this that she applied for a position in Aberdeen University Library on her return to Scotland.

She joined us as a Library Assistant in the Processing Department in 1970, where she remained until her retirement in 1979. Accessions numbered 22,000+ when she started, and by 1978/79 had risen almost 50%, with date labels introduced as a major innovation.

After her retirement Betty maintained contact with several Library staff, while continuing to travel to Canada every year until quite recently. Her last years were spent in Cranford Nursing Home, in Aberdeen, where she died in October. Several of her former colleagues were present at the funeral service in St Andrew's Cathedral.



Addendum

Ernle Beyts

We are grateful indeed to record that Ernle, erstwhile Science Library Cataloguer and then the Librarian at Marischal College (1965-81) and a long-standing member of the Friends, left us a bequest in his will. Ernle died in September and several members of Library - and University - staff attended his memorial service in the Quaker Meeting House in Aberdeen.

A tribute appeared in the Autumn/Winter 2003 *Newsletter*.

TRIBUTES



Miss Patricia Susannah Mary Mugliston,
MA, 1925-2004

We were saddened to hear in January of the death of Pat Mugliston, a stalwart Assistant Librarian in the Library's Cataloguing Department at King's College and then Queen Mother Library for almost 40 years.

She was a faithful supporter of the Friends since its inception in 1962, attending most of our meetings and events over these many years.

Pat was the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs Rowland Mugliston, growing up in her father's charge near Winchester. She graduated from St Andrews University in 1947 and worked in Ewell Public Library in Surrey before moving to Aberdeen University Library in 1949 - on an annual salary of £230.

Her knowledge of Hebrew, Semitic, Aramaic, Greek and Cyrillic scripts was an invaluable resource at a time when Classics and Biblical studies were still taught in depth at the University. She built up much respected expertise, especially in her particular field of theology - also a personal interest - and in Russian and other languages, a great asset for the Department of Russian at Aberdeen which opened in the '60s.

Pat catalogued many thousands of new books and recatalogued many thousands of old ones. Over the years she saw the traditional 5" x 3" originally hand-written sheaf catalogues superseded first by microfiche in the '70s and then by an increasingly sophisticated computerised catalogue system from the late '80s onwards.

Her distinctive round, clear script can always be taken as the mark of an authoritative record and is recognisable in the sheaf catalogues, still kept in Special Libraries, where they are a vital resource for older items.

Throughout her decades with us she remained a key figure and as the Library reorganised itself into a subject-centered reader-focussed service in the late '70s and '80s her fund of esoteric knowledge also became available directly to students and staff.

Her retiral party in 1988, a joint one with Joan Mitchell, the Librarian's Secretary, who had herself been with the Library for 30 years, was a jolly occasion, enlivened by anecdotes from both of them, remembering an age which even then seemed worlds before.

In Pat's retirement, after the death of the former University Librarian, Mr H Drummond, she succeeded to what was a labour of love for both of them, indexing *The Leopard* and the *Aberdeen University Review* for Special Libraries and Archives.

Pat continued to live in Cults, enjoying also the house she had in St Andrews and visits to Hampshire.

She had a great rapport with children, collecting in her home all kinds of toys, books, etc to amuse young visitors - and herself. And she seemed never to be without a cat, or 2, or 3, some of them boarders, some fostered, some adopted.

She had wide knowledge and interests, both intellectual and practical, and was a generous and faithful friend to those she met in these various spheres. This included attending the Ballater Art Class exhibitions, where Joan Mitchell exhibited, hosting informal evenings of recorder playing and taking bookbinding classes. Within her last year she had taken up African drumming and went out on the bus every week to Stonehaven to attend the classes.

Pat had taken up walking more seriously since her retiral and had walking holidays abroad, often in the company of former colleagues. More locally, she combined her love of walking with her interest in stones, be they standing stones, gravestones or follies.

Pat had always been friendly and helpful to colleagues and maintained friendships with former colleagues, and their growing families, over many years. Meeting and keeping up with Library staff at many lectures and similar in Aberdeen, she last joined a Library occasion in October for a 30-year reunion.

She was fiercely independent, but never sparing of herself for others, and will be remembered for her kind and generous nature and her sense of fun.

At the service for her in St John the Evangelist's Church in Aberdeen a tribute was paid by former Deputy and Acting Librarian, Tom Hall.



A New Library Management System

In 2001 the Directorate undertook a strategic review of the Library's MIS requirements. The Library's MIS requirements were dependent on three separate items of software: Dynix, supporting most core library services, including

Final Stages
library services, including



Last year, the Directorate of Information Systems and Services evaluated a number of Library Management Systems (LMSs) to replace our current software. The exercise involved staff from all sections and all grades and after stringent analysis we have now purchased the Ex Libris ALEPH 500 Library Management System. Implementing the new system has been a major part of the workload for key staff throughout this year and we expect to go live in August.

In 2001 the Directorate undertook a strategic review of the Library's management information systems requirements. The Library's services were dependent on three separate items of software: Dynix, supporting most core library services, including catalogue access and collection management; SAILS, used for serials; and ILLOS, to manage Inter-Library Loans.

It was clear from the review that our current system was at a crossroads, not just in terms of the evolution of the software components themselves, but also in its inability to provide the integrated and extended capabilities required by modern information services. Not least of these is the ability to handle the now essential hybrid provision of traditional print materials alongside access to electronic information.

Thus in early 2002 we established a project team to take forward the procurement of a new LMS for summer 2004. The Directorate and other staff involved in the exercise saw preliminary presentations by the leading LMS suppliers, a Bid for Funding, and a year later the evaluation of suppliers' tenders, further demonstrations and site visits. This all culminated in the award of a contract to Ex Libris at the end of last year.

The new system includes two sophisticated Ex Libris pieces of software:

- ALEPH 500 is the core of the system, supporting Acquisitions, Cataloguing, Circulation, Inter-Library Loans, Serials and of course, access by users to the On-Line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), via standard web browsers
- MetaLib/SFX allows users to search simultaneously across both electronic and other resources - library catalogues, reference databases, e-journals, digital repositories, subject-based Web gateways, and much more - to find and access information relevant to their areas of interest.

The Ex Libris system is a market leader in the field of library automation, with over 800 sites in 50 countries. It is implemented in many of the world's most prestigious higher education, national and research libraries (including Harvard, the British Library and University College London). With Aberdeen University's library holdings acknowledged as among the largest and most prestigious in Scotland, the use of a state-of-the-art LMS is essential to support teaching, learning and research, and for extending user access to resources held elsewhere. In addition to streamlining the management of our own resources, Ex Libris will provide a significant increase in the services available to library users.

System implementation is now underway; we have procured new hardware and are discussing and developing the many aspects involved in transferring data and procedures from the present system to ALEPH.

We are also reviewing current procedures, taking advantage of this opportunity to reconsider service policies, in particular circulation: loan periods and allowances, journal issues and fines.

[See also p9: Library Surveys]

If all goes to plan we shall be going live with the new Ex Libris system in August, in time for staff to familiarise themselves with it and resolve any teething problems before the start of the new academic Session.

Carole Munro, Librarian, and Manager, Library Services
David Bell, Manager, Applications Support Division

Success for Student Applicant Days

In March the University once more opened its doors to prospective students on two student Applicant Days. Both events were a great success, with visitors attracted from throughout the UK. Over 200 attended the BSc day, and 500+ the MA day, with most students accompanied by parents.

All had the chance to see round the Libraries and took up the opportunity, with special seminars and tours, led by the Information Consultants, to introduce them to our facilities and services. They were most impressed with the range of electronic resources, particularly 'ebrary' (*see below*), and the fact that we have one of the highest ratios in Scotland of stock acquired relative to each fulltime-equivalent student. The generosity of our loan periods and allowances was another feature which appealed to them, together with the help available throughout a large building the size of QML, with Enquiry points on 4 Floors.

We hope to see our efforts rewarded in applications for the coming Sessions.

Library Surveys

A brief survey was carried out in January to find out what staff and students thought of two basic Library issues - loan periods, covering normal, 3-day, Heavy Demand and journals; and fine rates. The questionnaire was conducted electronically and 1,779 people responded.

The responses suggest reviews are necessary and we are looking closely into what students and staff had to say. Their comments will be incorporated into our planning for the new Library Management System, to be implemented in August, and subsequent action for the next academic Session.

In the next *Newsletter* we shall have results of the students' views of the Directorate's services from our annual survey.

Gilian Dawson

Information Consultant: College of Arts and Social Sciences

g.d.dawson@abdn.ac.uk

'ebrary' : adding to our Electronic Resources

We are most grateful to the University's Alumni Development Trust which has given the Library funding to take out a subscription to a collection of copyrighted electronic books. The **ebrary** service allows web-based access to the full text of print originals online, for reading and, within the copyright restrictions imposed by the publisher, saving and printing.

Our subscription is to the Academic Complete collection, which includes the subject areas of Business & Economics, Computers, Technology & Engineering, Humanities, Life & Physical Sciences, Social & Behavioural Sciences, and Law.

In all, there are over 12,000 books available from a range of prestigious scholarly and professional publishers such as Cambridge University Press, Elsevier, Johns Hopkins University Press, McGraw-Hill, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley, covering virtually every subject.

The URL for an introduction and instructions for the service is: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/library/ebrary.shtml>

Access (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) is available to University staff and students at:

<http://site.ebrary.com/lib/aberdeenuniv>

The URL for our main ebooks collections is: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/library/e-books.shtml>

Jonathan McAslan

Serials & Electronic Resources Manager

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Access to Queen Mother Library



Those of you who came to the Autumn/Winter meeting in Queen Mother Library, and anyone else who has 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.

The beginning of the Session, when everyone was confronted with the new system, required a member of staff on duty throughout the day, on rota, to enrol users without ID cards as they came in (and the many hundreds whose new card would not register). This was necessary for the first few weeks of term and involved front-of-house staff from all subject floors in QML. Extra assistance is still required regularly as new users visit or regulars forget their card.

It was particularly gratifying, therefore, to hear the Library Users' Committee, made up of academic and administrative staff and student representatives, commend us at its meeting in October for the direct assistance we gave users, together with other measures we took to ensure the minimum of hiccups as users and Library staff all became familiar with the system.

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).



National Award for Library staff member, via the Robert Gordon University

At a ceremony at Elgin Public Library in October *Elaine Shallcross*, Information Adviser in the User Services Division of the Directorate, was awarded a medal by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland (CILIPS - previously the Scottish Library Association).

Students now graduated from the Robert Gordon and Strathclyde Universities were invited to join CILIPS Council members for a buffet lunch. Alistair Campbell, the then President of CILIPS and Libraries and Museum Manager of Moray Council, presented medals to the six best students on these postgraduate library and information studies courses for 2002 and 2003. The medals, engraved with the winner's name and year of award, also sported a new logo which reflects the name change from SLA to CILIPS.

On receiving her award Elaine spoke briefly, thanking the Council for rewarding her achievement and commented that she was proud to receive such recognition from her professional body.

Elaine had earlier gained a BSc (Hons) in geology from the Queen's University of Belfast, before spending 11 years at the Taylor (Law) Library working part-time while bringing up her family. Latterly she also undertook the postgraduate RGU course, studying through the Virtual Campus there. Distance Learning courses delivered in this way are supported by the

Department of e-Learning, which itself recently won a national award. Part of Elaine's testimonial for the Department appears on RGU's Virtual Campus Home Page and she also features in the promotional video.

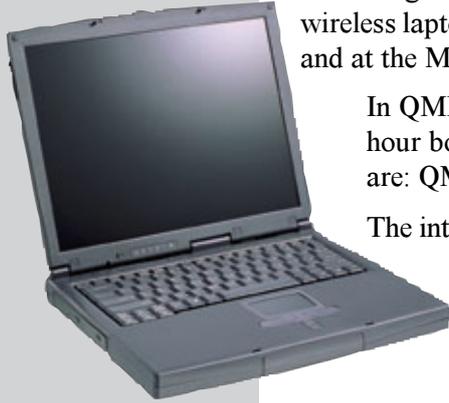
In the Taylor Library Elaine progressed from Information Assistant Grade 1/2 to Information Officer Grade 4 and became fulltime at the start of this Session. She was then promoted to her present position as Information Adviser, providing information consultancy services to users of the Directorate's systems and services. She contributes information, advice, liaison and information skills teaching, and has particular responsibility for the provision of information and documentation on library-based services.

While pursuing her MSc in Information and Library Studies Elaine also registered as a candidate for chartership of CILIP. This involves following Aberdeen University Library's 12-month CILIP-approved training programme. She is now working on her submission - providing information to CILIP on the knowledge and skills developed since gaining her information studies qualification, together with a portfolio of evidence of continuing professional development. She hopes to submit this before the end of the year to become a Chartered Member of CILIP (MCLIP), after which she will be expected to show evidence of professional training and development throughout her career.

Elaine joins a team which includes **Claire Molloy** as the second Information Adviser; Claire achieved her CILIP chartership last year. And, coincidentally, we had another of RGU's Virtual Campus distance learning students on placement with us in February. A postgraduate Canadian student opted to do her practical period in Aberdeen rather than in Canada. The heavy snow and generally wintry conditions were quite familiar to her.



Laptops for Loan in the Library

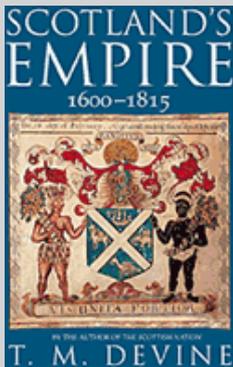


Following last Session's successful pilot in Queen Mother Library, we now also provide a wireless laptop loan service for students in Taylor Library and European Documentation Centre and at the Medical Library at Foresterhill.

In QML, 6 laptops are available, and 4 each in Taylor and Medical Libraries, all with 2-hour booking slots throughout Library opening hours. Currently average loans per week are: QML - 74, Taylor Library - 61, and Medical Library - 4.

The introduction of laptops has been much appreciated by users, with very few problems.

Thanks ...



In his latest book, *Scotland's Empire, 1600-1815* (London: Allen Lane, 2003), Professor Tom Devine, Director of the Arts and Humanities Research Board in the University's Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies, acknowledges, "My thanks are due to the Library staff in general but particularly to the team who man the Inter-Library Loan Desk. Their prompt, good-humoured response to my many requests has been much appreciated."

The staff referred to here are Noreen Wilson, Helen Skinner and William Donald, whom any of you requesting material from other libraries will have dealt with in the Inter-Library Loans Section in QML.

A Reminder - all Friends of the Library are eligible to become members of the Library on payment of an annual fee of £25 - reduced to £15 for Aberdeen graduates. This allows you to have up to 10 items on loan at a time. Life Members (£150) have borrowing rights automatically.

[Copies of Professor Devine's book are in QML on Floor 1 at the shelfmark: 909.0971241 Dev]

All in a Cataloguer's Day ...

Coming back one day to find the Cataloguing Manager surrounded by pieces of bone I discovered that you never know the challenges faced by cataloguers.

A new acquisition for the Medical Library was a 'disarticulated human half-skeleton', to be used in teaching at Foresterhill. I was assured by Les McMorran, our Cataloguing Manager, that AACR2, the cataloguing standards by which we work, does indeed provide for everything, and skeletal bones can be accommodated in the chapter headed, 'Three-dimensional artefacts and realia'. Helpfully, there was an accompanying leaflet with the skeleton.

The 'bones' are, in fact, made of nylon - but very realistic - and the item can be borrowed on Short Loan. If you're curious enough to want to see the entry in the catalogue go in under title: 'Disarticulated human half-skeleton'.

Les commented that he'd wondered whether to commandeer the item to add to his current skeleton staffing.

George Bruce's Library

As those of you who remember the item in the last *Newsletter* will know, last year we fell heir to the printed works from the personal library of George Bruce.

This Fraserburgh-born poet and 1932 University alumnus died in 2002 in Edinburgh, where he worked for many years as BBC Scotland arts producer, also contributing much to the Edinburgh International Festival and to the Scottish arts scene generally.

The family asked that we keep the titles we wanted and offer the rest for sale. This was done over the winter, via secondhand bookdealers. We raised a grand total of £2,500, and George Bruce's family are discussing with the University's Development Trust as to how his name should be remembered.

The University Library was also invited to the October launch of a work in memory of the poet, *Through the Letterbox: Haikus by George Bruce*. Illustrated by the Scottish artist Elizabeth Blackadder and collected and edited by Lucina Prestige, with Haiku music by Maxwell Geddes, it is published in Edinburgh by Renaissance Press.

George Bruce also features in the University of Aberdeen Writers Festival in May, 'Word 04'. Bruce's performance at Word 01 at the age of 92 was one of the highlights of the festival that year. This year his life and work are celebrated in a word and music event, *Through the Letterbox - a tribute to George Bruce*. His haiku will be read by the Festival's Artistic Director, Alan Spence, Professor of Creative Writing at the University and himself a haiku poet, accompanied by Maxwell Geddes.

The performance will take place on Sunday 16 May at 3.30 pm in Marischal Museum, Broad Street, Aberdeen, and the event is free, although you are recommended to book your place in advance (tel: 01224 273874 or word@abdn.ac.uk).

As part of 'Word Extra' there is an accompanying exhibition at Marischal Museum throughout May: *Through the Letterbox - Haiku by George Bruce with illustrations by Elizabeth Blackadder*.

'This charming exhibition combines the work of the George Bruce with the illustrations of Elizabeth Blackadder. It features haikus with accompanying illustrations, together with portraits and writing memorabilia. Bruce's haikus, posted through the letterbox to a dear friend, are wise, poignant, full of gentle humour and love. Elizabeth Blackadder's fluency of brushstrokes and singular use of colour make her the perfect artist to illustrate them.'

Marischal Museum is open
Monday - Friday 9-5 and Sunday 2-5.



Help for Grozny : a run of success

Those of you who read the article in the last *Newsletter* ('Tales from the Caucasus') about Keith Nockles' participation in the Great North Run in Newcastle in September may remember that Keith, then Site Services Manager at the Medical Library at Foresterhill, was running to raise money for Partnerships for Health Information, and specifically to help the Grozny Clinical Centre for Infectious Diseases in Chechnya.

Keith finished in under 2 hours and his sponsorship allowed him to raise just short of £600, which has gone towards installing a telephone line for the computer in the Resource Centre in Grozny.

Keith has since moved to a similar medical services post in Leicester University Library.



Aid for Iraq

The Medical Library has been able to offer journals surplus to our requirements to Basra, after the devastation there last year.

Over the last twelve months several departments within the Polwarth Building at the Foresterhill hospital site relocated to the new Children's Hospital and elsewhere. The Library thus received huge quantities of journals from sections clearing out their offices, plus stock from staff retiring.

Hearing that suitable material could be sent to Basra, Deirdre Bailey, then an Information Officer at the Medical Library, checked through the donations. She selected mainly items published in the last 3 years or so, journals covering nutrition, anaesthesia, pediatrics, surgery, general medicine, together with copies of the *British Medical Journal* and *The Lancet*. All material sent was surplus to our requirements.



Iraq

Deirdre liaised with the coordinator, at Dr. Gray's Hospital in Elgin, and amassed a large quantity of boxes to put everything in. She packed up as many as possible within the short time we had, sending two or three every day over the next few weeks. They were taken to Elgin using the hospital transport system and the consignments then collected by the RAF for flying out to Iraq.

Some of the staff passing on their journals to us had asked if their copies could be sent to countries in severe need and it was thus especially satisfying to be able to inform them that their material was going to Basra. Also to see that the box being unpacked in the photograph which appeared in the media was, in fact, one Deirdre "had made up earlier".



Burns' Binding Accolade

Those of you who have been Friends for a little while will be aware that Mark Ramsden joined the staff of the Enterprise and Business Unit in the Library two years ago (see the *Autumn/Winter 2002* Newsletter).

Mark is a 3-times winner of the National Library of Scotland's Elizabeth Souter Bookbinding competition, open to anyone in Europe, and has had his bindings exhibited in the British Library and in the Museum of Bookbinding in Brussels.

At the end of last year he was commissioned by John Henderson on behalf of the Scottish Executive to bind a book to be given as a gift. It was to be presented at a Burns supper in America in January and the recipient was Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The only stipulation was that



The Complete Poems and Songs of Robert Burns, with slipcase, bound by Mark Ramsden, 2004

the book be about Robert Burns and Mark chose to work with a modern edition of *The Complete Poems and Songs of Robert Burns*.

He used the colours in the Burns tartan, of green, black, grey and a hint of red, as a starting point for the binding, to create a modern image with a suggestion of the shape and texture of tartan, together with bold blocks of colour reminiscent of Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

The regular 'Booklist' column in the 'University Newsletter' for October 2003 (No.22 p11) revealed Mark's personal choice, ranging from *Under Milk Wood*, through *Alice in Wonderland*, to the Goldstones' *Out of the Flames*.

More at the website:
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newsletter/booklist.shtml/>



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Continuing Sustainability

Those of you who enjoyed the diversity in the previous *Newsletter* may be interested to know that biodiversity continues, this time at the top of Marischal College, in the form of a high-rise bird box for Marischal Museum.

One of the largest [mechanical!] cranes in the North of Scotland was at Marischal Museum during the autumn, when the biggest and highest bird box in the area was lifted into position. The nest box for Peregrine Falcons was hoisted over 40 metres to the top of the Mitchell Tower. Planning permission had to be obtained to have the box installed on Marischal College, which is a Grade A listed building.



Dr Alan Knox, Manager, Historic Collections, said, “The Mitchell Tower is an ideal site for Peregrines. Adults and young birds are seen here almost daily in autumn and winter, perching high on the tower or flying over the nearby streets, but most shoppers don’t see them because they don’t look up. We’re keen to encourage wildlife around the University and we’d like to give the birds a safe place to nest.”

The box is made of oak, with a weatherproof lead roof to withstand the wind and rain high on the exposed tower. It was fitted facing the quadrangle, just above the parapet and is not visible from ground level. However, if Peregrines occupy the box, a webcam will be installed so that the activities of the birds can be seen live on home computers.

The University is working closely on this project with the North-East Scotland Raptor Study Group. Jon Hardey, the Group’s Chairman, said, “The recent British Trust for Ornithology survey has shown that Peregrines are in decline in the North-East. The University’s work to provide a secure nest site for Aberdeen’s Peregrines is excellent. The Peregrines are an asset for the city and will give many people hours of enjoyment.”

Dr Alan Knox
Manager, Historic Collections
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As well as the University’s contribution to biodiversity at Marischal and in (on!) and around Queen Mother Library (see the ‘Wildflowers and Oystercatchers’ article in the Autumn/Winter 2003 Newsletter), QML is also participating in the University’s paper recycling initiatives.

Using desk-top trays and dedicated recycling bins the University Office has been sending paper for recycling for nearly 2 years; half a tonne of paper is recovered each month. The procedures were thoroughly tested before being applied in other buildings on the King’s campus, with QML one of the first in line.

In February the University’s pioneering work in sustainable development and higher education was the major focus of the ‘Sustainability Learning in Action’ conference in London. Attended by the Principal, fellow university principals and Education Secretary,

Charles Clarke, the conference addressed the many green initiatives which Aberdeen University has developed, several of which have set the standard for the ‘greening’ of universities across the UK.

To assist the University in achieving its objectives over the last 3 years it has been one of 18 higher education institutions awarded special government funding.

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Curtis’s Botanical Magazine

new cards for sale



For sale in QML Copyshop
along with another series of cards, with images taken from the Cruikshank Gardens

NEWS FROM HISTORIC COLLECTIONS

Introducing Siobhan Convery, Senior Curator in Historic Collections



Siobhan Convery

I decided upon a career as an archivist after graduating in 1992 from the University of Glasgow with a degree in French and Classical Civilisation.

Following some invaluable work experience at the University's Archives there, I obtained a place on Liverpool University's archive training programme, graduating in 1994.

My first job took me north to Aberdeen and an 18-month contract with the then District Council, where I and a second archivist were appointed to develop a computerised catalogue to some of the City's key documents.

The end of the contract in 1996 coincided with local government re-organisation and new responsibility for the former Regional Archives. This resulted in the offer of a permanent post and the formal expansion of my duties to include cataloguing of collections, running a busy public searchroom and answering the many enquiries which came to us from elected members, officials and the public.

I was privileged in my time there to work with what is renowned as the finest medieval burgh archive in Scotland. Not only did I gain tremendous experience of using records from the earliest period in our documentary history, I additionally discovered new and fascinating facts about Aberdeen and the North East every day.

I had a demanding and stimulating job with the City Council but was delighted to join the University in May last year as Senior Curator in the Historic Collections division of the Directorate, with responsibility for the University's rich manuscript and archive holdings.

The Department looks after not only the University's own archives but also the archives of local families, individuals, estates, institutions and businesses, all of which illuminate the history and culture of the North East of Scotland.

My immediate focus is to provide online access to collection-level descriptions of our holdings; with some ¼ million items across the collections, that is a major challenge in itself.

The role of the Archives in a modern university is an evolving and demanding one. At its heart is the duty to preserve, manage and provide access to the collections. But it is also increasingly important to engage in new and imaginative ways of interpreting and promoting them, thereby providing high quality teaching, learning and research resources.

I believe there's never been a more exciting time to be involved in Archives - and it is my duty and privilege to ensure our collections continue to delight and inspire researchers for years to come.

Siobhan Convery
Senior Curator, Historic Collections
s.convery@abdn.ac.uk



The Music of James Scott Skinner: Website Launch

You may remember Pat Ballantyne's earlier articles in the *Newsletter* on the Lottery-funded project to digitise Historic Collections material associated with the 'Strathspey King' supremo, James Scott Skinner (Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter 2002).

In September the multi-media website of *The Music of James Scott Skinner* was launched with panache by Historic Collections in Elphinstone Hall.

Produced in collaboration with colleagues in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Angus Councils, and with funding from the New Opportunities Fund, all were represented at the event.

The site is now recording well over 3,000 hits per week - a sure sign of its popularity.

The Music of James Scott Skinner website:
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/scottskinner/>

is a learning and research resource aimed at anyone with an interest in Skinner, Scottish dance, Scottish traditional music and its history, and the North East of Scotland. It will greatly assist research into the traditional music and teaching in these areas.

The multimedia website features a searchable database of several hundred images of manuscripts and printed music, letters, published texts, photographs, videos and archive audio excerpts, with commentaries to place them in context.

Also included are 80 examples of recordings of Skinner playing his own fiddle music and a video of dances performed as he taught them. He was one of the very first recording artists in Scotland and his recordings had a worldwide market.

A complete section of the site is devoted to dance; Skinner was an extremely successful dancing master for 30 years, teaching all over the North of Scotland, and produced two dance manuals.

The section includes excerpts from Francis Peacock's *Sketches*, various dance manuals and a late Victorian essay on Highland dance, in the style in which it was then practised.



Iona Ballantyne dancing 'Seann Triubhas' at the launch, with other Aurora Dancers behind

While looking for dance-related material for the site, two unsigned notebooks compiled by Skinner and his own dancing master, 'Professor' William Scott, were discovered.

The notebooks were probably part of *A Guide to Fashionable Dancing*, published c1884 by Charles Middleton of Keith. As well as various quadrilles and country dances they include simple dances such as 'Long Live the Queen Country Dance', composed by Skinner in 1868 for Queen Victoria's tenants at Balmoral.

Adding an extra dimension to the website are dance video clips, performed by the Aurora Dancers of Aberdeen, interpreting most of the dances in his manual, *The People's Ballroom Guide*, which Skinner published in 1905.

It is fascinating to see how some dances, still well known today, have developed over the last century. Although Skinner described the 'Highland Fling' in enough detail for Aurora to perform it, we had to turn to DR Mackenzie's *Guide to the National Dances of Scotland* for the other Highland dances. That guide was intended as a manual for teachers and so includes such useful aspects as metronome speeds and foot positions.

Historic Collections has strong holdings of early 18th century Scottish music, including Skinner's own manuscript version of *The Harp and Claymore Collection*, with pages covered with his notes and instructions.

The published edition shows how particular pieces of music evolved and changed from the manuscript versions, with examples available on the website. In some cases the music can be read and listened to at the same time, with dances in his manual then watched on the specially commissioned video.

Pat Ballantyne
Project Officer
p.h.ballantyne@and.ac.uk

[A report on the collection, the website and the launch also appeared in the University 'Newsletter' October 2003 No.22 p11, on the web at: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newsletter/story15.shtml>]

Some of you investigating the site may have completed the short online questionnaire asking for comments and suggestions.

Winner of the prize draw, for a digitally re-mastered CD, *James Scott Skinner (The Strathspey King)* with original recordings from 1905-1922, was a gentleman from Peebles, who is learning to play tunes from Skinner's

Scottish Violinist, and was therefore thrilled with his prize.

The runner-up received a George Washington Wilson Calendar. He lives in Australia and judging by his surname has Scottish ancestry. Two very satisfied surfers!



Following the success of the Bobby Watson event last year, the Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust held a Skinner weekend in the same format at the Woodend Barn in Banchory in March, 'A Tribute Concert and Exhibition to Scott Skinner'.

On the Saturday, Pat Ballantyne gave an introductory talk and Aurora conducted dance workshops, teaching Skinner dances which feature on the website.

The following afternoon/evening saw a concert featuring Skinner's life, concentrating mainly on his time as a dancing master. Naomi and Iona Ballantyne performed two of the Highland dances from the site, and the Cults Quartet, who (as the Cults Quintet) played the music for the formal dances on the video, performed music from it.

Again, the weekend was a great success.



Conforming to Type? - acquiring material for Historic Collections

Decisiveness and expeditiousness are not qualities necessarily immediately associated with rare books librarians, but on occasion they are required. Far from being static, Aberdeen University's printed and archive collections are steadily added to (in accordance with agreed acquisitions policies) by gift, deposit and purchase.

Most of Historic Collections' own acquisitions funds are expended on newly published monographic or periodical titles, to enhance a number of the University's high-priority collections (eg the MacBean Stuart and Jacobite Collection and our support collections on print and scribal cultures). However, the Department also buys out-of-print and antiquarian printed material and manuscript items, which appear in specialist booksellers' and dealers' catalogues. Less frequently, we attempt to purchase important material at auction.

Such catalogues bring with them two well-recognised and rather obvious administrative problems. The first relates to budgetary management. There is no easy way of predicting what will turn up when, which means that if the University is determined to acquire an item, then the Department has to have funds, either from its own resources or elsewhere, on which it can call. Historic Collections cannot, of course, carry the entire price of such material from its recurrent book fund, but is in the very fortunate position of being able to apply to a number of independent bodies to assist with purchase, including the Friends of Aberdeen University Library and the National Acquisitions Fund.

The second challenge relates to immediacy. The antiquarian market is extremely active. Dealers' catalogues need to be checked quickly - ideally on receipt - and decisions reached equally speedily if Aberdeen, or any other university, is serious about adding to its collections in this way. Thus it is not surprising that we regularly discover that material has already been reserved by, or sold to, other institutions by the time we have contacted any particular dealer. However, there is a good working level of cooperation amongst Scottish higher education institutions. We have not infrequently been contacted by the National Library of Scotland to forewarn us of items coming up for sale which we may have missed, and we can draw the attention of our local authority archive colleagues to material that would be of central importance to them.



A number of our more recent printed acquisitions have had strong associations with staff of either King's or Marischal

College. **William Laurence Brown (d.1830)**, previously Professor of Moral Philosophy at Utrecht, was appointed Principal of Marischal College in 1796. He was the author of numerous works, copies of most of which are held in Historic Collections. The first edition of his prize-winning *Essay on the Natural Equality of Men*, Edinburgh, 1793, is distinctly rare, but Aberdeen University was fortunate in being able to acquire a copy last summer.



Robert Rennie (sometimes Renny) was recommended for the professorship of natural philosophy at Marischal in late 1810, but for unknown reasons, a few months later he turned it down. Renny's reputation did not exactly commend itself to William Knight (a subsequent holder of the post) who dismissed Renny as 'the author of a work on peat moss, remarkable for its pomposity and mistakes'. But contemporary scientists can now better assess Knight's comments by examining Rennie's *Essays on the Natural History and Origin of Peat Moss*, Edinburgh, 1807, also acquired last year.



Arguably the most important of our recent purchases has an early 16th century context. It is a small quarto edition of **Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Britanniae utriusque regum et principum origo*** (Paris: Jodocus Badius, 1517).



Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Britannia utriusque*

This is by far the earliest edition of Geoffrey of Monmouth, chronicler and historian, which Aberdeen University possesses. The purchase of this influential text, produced by one of the foremost Parisian 16th century printers, will further enhance our already outstanding early-modern holdings. Indeed, it is slightly surprising, given our acknowledged strengths in 16th and 17th century Continental books, that we have not, until now, owned an early edition of Geoffrey of Monmouth.

Conforming to Type... *continued*

However, within the context of Aberdeen University and its antecedent colleges, there was a further - and compelling - reason for the purchase. An early owner of the volume was **John Vaus**, whose distinctive signature appears on the title page.

Vaus (c1484-c1539), grammarian, author, teacher and benefactor to King's College, is one of the central figures in the early history and development of the University of Aberdeen. He was a very early (perhaps the initial) appointment as Latin grammarian to the then recently created King's College, where he had graduated in the first years after its foundation.

It is generally accepted that after graduation, about 1505, Vaus was sent to Paris by Hector Boece, first Principal of King's, to continue his studies. When he returned, which, from the evidence of our purchase now suggests 1517 or later, he took up the post of Humanist, where he is believed to have remained until his death. Whilst in Paris - and clearly impressed by the potential of printing - Vaus made contact with some of the printers there, including Badius, who, in 1522, undertook the publication of Vaus' grammatical commentary. Vaus thus stands with his friends and colleagues, Boece and Bishop William Elphinstone, as having adopted a positive attitude towards the then new technology, and a preparedness to exploit it; indeed, it has been claimed that he was the first of the trio to do so.

In 1509-10, Elphinstone had turned to Walter Chepman in Edinburgh to produce the *Aberdeen Breviary*, and Hector Boece's Latin *Lives of the Bishops of Aberdeen* was published in Paris by the same press as that used by Vaus, and in the same year, 1522. However, Aberdeen University owns a single leaf fragment of a grammatical work (no other copy is known) conjecturally entitled, *Rudimenta puerorum in artem grammaticam*, believed printed for or by Walter Chepman and Andrew Myllar of Edinburgh about 1508. The leaf, found amongst a collection of grammars owned by John Vaus, has been attributed to him. [Even if not by Vaus, the fragment (in Scots) is very important in the early history of printing in Scotland, as printing as such did not begin in Scotland until 1508, and was first limited to Edinburgh.]

Aberdeen University is fortunate still to own over thirty 15th and 16th century texts which belonged to Vaus, and which demonstrate his interest in classical language (including grammar) and literature, and indicate his assimilation of the scholarship of the time. Our acquisition of this edition of Geoffrey of Monmouth extends our appreciation of the breadth of his book ownership - if not his actual reading.

It is rare that Aberdeen University is presented with an opportunity to acquire a text so closely associated with one of its earliest teachers. So far as we can tell, the last time the University was able to acquire a volume owned by Vaus was in 1943. Its acquisition provides a further dimension to our appreciation of this early teacher at King's and the influences upon him, which in turn may well have been reflected in his teaching.

References to, and discussions of, John Vaus appear frequently in scholarly literature from 1896 onwards and a revised entry for him has been prepared by Dr Leslie Macfarlane for the *New Dictionary of National Biography* (due this year).

This copy of Geoffrey of Monmouth appeared in the catalogue of Sokol Books in early October 2003. Its significance to Aberdeen University did not escape the National Library of Scotland, who contacted us urgently to notify us of its availability. (We had, in fact, already concluded the sale with the bookseller.) And Dr Leslie Macfarlane, biographer of William Elphinstone and historian of the early years of King's College, has confirmed the considerable importance and significance of the purchase.

The book was priced at £2,750. Although this amount could have been carried by Historic Collections' book fund, it would have made an appreciable dent in it. The Department is *hugely appreciative of the unqualifiedly positive approach of the Friends' Executive Committee*, which agreed to underwrite the purchase price.

Aberdeen University has internationally important early-modern collections and this volume fits perfectly into that broad class. It is precisely the type of item which helps individuate this ancient institution, and further enhances our research resources.



THE JACOBITES HOPES, OR PERKIN RIDEING IN TRIUMPH.



The Jacobite Hopes, or Perkin Rideing in Triumph. This is a woodcut illustration from a Jacobite broadsheet, likely published in 1719. It depicts a group of men, some on horseback and some on foot, carrying flags and banners. The scene is set outdoors, possibly a public square or a street, with a large wheel visible on the right side. The illustration is surrounded by columns of text, which are likely the lyrics of a song or a poem related to the Jacobite cause.

The Jacobite Hopes ...

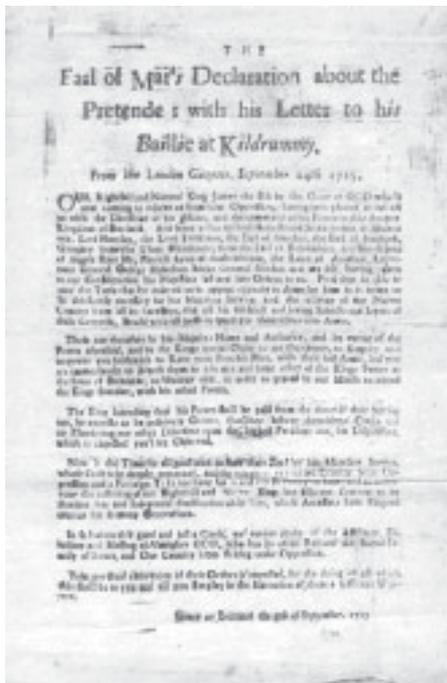
Conforming to Type... *continued*

In late autumn last year, Christie's published its catalogue of the then forthcoming auction sale of the library of the Earl of Perth. The Department's attention was immediately caught by several lots, each containing important tracts, broadsides and proclamations bearing on the 1715 and 1745 Jacobite rebellions.

We took advice from our agents in London, who examined the various lots on our behalf and advised us on anticipated hammer prices. After consultation with rare books colleagues in the National Library of Wales, we then issued instructions to bid for Lot 182, containing eight rare (some, apparently hitherto unrecorded) items.

In the days before the sale, we made a submission to the National Fund for Acquisitions (administered from the National Museums of Scotland) to provide financial support up to 50% of the purchase price of the Lot, up to an agreed maximum. We acquired the Lot at the auction at a final price of £3,385. Once more the Friends beneficially stepped in, to share the purchase price.

Most notable amongst the items in the Lot are two broadsides. The first was engraved, probably in London in 1715, and is entitled *The Jacobite Hopes, or Perkin Rideing in Triumph*. It depicts the Old Pretender in a chariot drawn by '2 asses, 2 tygers and 2 dragons', within a larger procession of 'Jesuits, Monks and Friars', trampling 'property', 'moderation', 'toleration' and 'liberty' underfoot.



The Earl of Mar's Declaration ...

The second is a satirical letter, extremely poorly printed, entitled *A Leter [sic] from Mr, [sic] Forrester Briggadeer of his Majesties Forces, to his Grace the Earl of Mar*, in which the Rebel's actual defeat at Preston in November 1715 is described in victorious terms.



Subsequent opportunities have arisen for libraries, institutions (including Aberdeen University) and collectors to acquire items which went under the hammer at Christie's sale. Many lots were bought up by the 'trade', then split up into individual volumes, and offered for sale through the antiquarian market.

Amongst Jacobite-related items acquired this year are:

- **James II, *La tres-gracieuse declaration de Sa Majesté a tous ses affectionnez sujets, leur commandant de l'assistir contre le Prince d'Orange & ses adherans*, Le Havre, 1692**

- **Thomas Savage's uncommon pamphlet, *A Summary Account of the Marches, Behaviour and Plunder of the Rebels*, London, 1746**

- and the print, *The M—r—ys; or, The Thistle Blown*, 1743, which demonstrates a typically 18th century robust approach to satirical humour.



The M-r-y; or the Thistle Blown



Other outstanding printed collections in Aberdeen University have not been neglected. The single-sheet programme of the *Bath Catch-Club, Ladies Night, Friday December 30 [1809?]* might appear a slightly odd purchase. However, closer study reveals that the performances were to include extracts (quoted on the printed sheet) from *The Lay of the Last Minstrel* and from *Marmion*. This fits very neatly into our Bernard Lloyd Walter Scott Collection, which includes many contemporary playbills and other printed announcements relating to performances and dramatisations of Scott's writings.



Wellcome boost for Medical Archives in Special Libraries and Archives

*Wellcome
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in Special
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and
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SL&A has received funding from the Wellcome Institute's 'Research Resources in Medical History' scheme to catalogue six key collections which form the nucleus of our holdings in late 19th and 20th century medical history.

The collections submitted for cataloguing reflect the University's expertise, from the late 19th century, in the allied fields of anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and pathology. Once catalogued, they will provide researchers with the opportunity to explore the unique contributions made by significant members of this community to their professions; and to trace the developing role of these relatively new disciplines in medical education.

However, there is also much of local interest to be gleaned from the collections, which include the papers of Aberdeen's favourite physician, Mary Esslemont (1891-1984) and Robert Lockhart (1894 -1987), long-serving Chair of Anatomy and Curator of the University's Anthropological Museum.

The project began in February and will run for 18 months, through to August 2005:

We are already part-way through cataloguing records of the Anatomy Department, which includes records of the University's Anatomical and Anthropological Society, 1912-63, the Anthropological Museum, 1912-70s, and a fine series of anthropometrical records taken by the Department from the late 19th through to the late 20th century. This series, which is one of the earliest and finest of its kind, is likely to be of significant interest to academic researchers, but has already also provided much light relief for the cataloguer, as correspondence reveals the minute planning involved in obtaining bespoke instruments for anatomical measurements and some alarming results witnessed by their practitioners:

In a letter dated 21 October 1927 Frederick G Parsons (1863-1943), of St Thomas' Hospital, London, enquires of Robert W Reid (1851-1939), Professor of Anatomy, "... are your students' heads getting higher and shorter than they were say ten years ago?" and reveals that, "Mine are, at a most astonishing rate."

Cataloguing is being undertaken on our new archive management database, CALM, and once completed, will be searchable via our web site (<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/historic/>), with paper copies available for consultation in the Reading Room.

For further information about the Wellcome Institute's Research Resources in Medical History scheme see:

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/en/1/homgrarm.html>

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The Greig-Duncan Folk Song Collection - performance edition and award

With the publication in December 2002 of the eighth and final volume of the Greig-Duncan Folk Song Collection, of which she was co-editor, Dr Katherine Campbell has been able to work on the Performance Edition of the collection, as a British Academy Research Fellow with the University's Elphinstone Institute.



Dr Katherine Campbell in Special Libraries and Archives working on the Performance Edition.

Photo: Reprographics, QML

The new work is a selection in one volume of about 150 songs from over 1,900 in the 8 published volumes. The songs chosen concentrate on the singers from whom Gavin Greig and the Rev James Bruce Duncan collected in the early 1900s. Virtually all from the North East, recent fieldwork and archival research have provided new biographical data and there are photographs of some of the singers.

It is hoped that everyone using the volume will gain a sense of immediate contact with the singers and with the singing context of the time. The original manuscript music was largely in Greig and Duncan's own hand and it has been reset in the Performance Edition to make sight reading easier, with some keys also changed to help performers.

Another project at the Elphinstone Institute involves recording young singers performing songs from the Collection. Dr Campbell is herself a keen traditional singer, as well as having an impressive array of published titles on Scottish traditional song and music, particularly the fiddle.

(see last year's Newsletters for articles on celebrations in Aberdeen to mark the completion of the publication of the Collection.)

Postscript

As we went to press it was announced that the full set of *The Greig-Duncan Folk Song Collection* has been awarded the prestigious Saltire Society / National Library of Scotland Research Book of the Year prize. A wonderful tribute to the work of the editors and everyone else involved.



Sir William Allan for Historic Collections

With financial assistance from the National Fund for Acquisitions and the National Art Collections Fund, Historic Collections was recently able to buy the painting *The Ballad of Old Robin Gray* by Sir William Allan (1782 - 1850).

Professor David Hewitt, School of English and Film Studies, Dr John Morrison, School of History and History of Art, and Dr Alan Knox, Historic Collections, attended the purchase for the University of Allan's work at the autumn sale at Gleneagles.

The picture extends the 19th century Scottish Romantic works already owned by the University, although these are mainly landscapes. The importance of this painting lies in Walter Scott's influence on the artist. Scott was instrumental in persuading Allan to paint scenes from Scottish history or based on Scott's literary recreation of Scotland's past. Painted in 1826, *Robin Gray* was based on an imitation folk song by Ann Lindsay, edited by Walter Scott in 1825. For much of his life, William Allan was the only practising history painter in the country.

As those of you who were at Professor Hewitt's talk to the Friends in November or have assiduously read your *Newsletter* over the last year or so will know, the University is the main centre for the study of Scott. Historic Collections holds the largest collection of Scott material outside the National Library of Scotland and the Library has one of the best collections of 19th century popular fiction anywhere.

Allan features strongly in several courses in History of Art, and this is the first of his works acquired by the University.



David Hewitt, John Morrison and Alan Knox with 'The Ballad of Old Robin Gray'

Photo: Reprographics, QML





NEWS FROM HISTORIC COLLECTIONS : Marischal Museum

‘Going Home: Museums and Repatriation’

Those of you who read the article in the last *Newsletter* (Autumn/Winter 2003, ‘Head-dress goes home’) may also have had chance to see the exhibition in Marischal Museum over the winter put on by Neil Curtis, Senior Curator. Last Summer the University repatriated a sacred horned head-dress to the Blood Tribe in Canada and the exhibition explained the story of this repatriation.

The horned head-dress with an eagle feather trailer was identified by members of the Blood Tribe during a visit to Aberdeen in 2002, after which they submitted a request for its repatriation. For many years the tribe had three head-dresses and had been searching for the fourth, known to have been lost and which was thought to have gone overseas. The University considered their request carefully and the head-dress was handed over in July last year.

This new exhibition told how the head-dress was collected by an Aberdeen woman in the 1920s and how it came to be repatriated. It also included the only opportunity to see a photograph of the head-dress, as the University agreed not to publish photographs, an act which would be seen as dangerous and offensive to the Blood Tribe. The exhibition also displayed other items given by the same donor to Marischal Museum.

Repatriation is an important issue which now faces museums. The exhibition included the first showing outside Glasgow of a copy of the Lakota Ghost Dance shirt, repatriated by Glasgow Museums in 1999. Glasgow benefited greatly from the repatriation, receiving this copy and learning much more about the Lakota Sioux.

The display also explored some of the other requests for repatriation which have been rejected, such as the Parthenon Sculptures (the Elgin Marbles) and Benin bronze heads. It showed objects from Scotland, raising the question as to whether repatriation is only an issue facing objects collected from overseas.

The exhibition concluded with a display of the variety of opinions which appeared in newspapers last year and invited visitors to leave their own comments to add to the exhibition. It posed the question, ‘Where is an object’s home?’ and Neil had welcomed comments from visitors on the question of repatriation.

This gesture was most successful, with many interesting comments, the vast bulk of which were very supportive of repatriation. While some were very straightforward, many showed the complexities of the issue.

"You cannot rewrite the past - or even apologise meaningfully for actions taken long ago. Accept what you have and celebrate the diversity it demonstrates."

"People from all around the world need to know what are or were the customs of others. But to the question of where is an object's home, I would answer: in their original countries! It's good to have a view of other cultures and arts, but I think that it is not a reason to "stole" [sic] the patrimony of other people."

"Museums, whether by fair means or foul, from past collectors display what there is. All of humanity is connected to each other and nothing truly belongs to anyone, but to US as a people."

"Give Them Back Their Artifacts especially the Mummies!"

[A fuller discussion of the issues of repatriation is given in Neil Curtis' article, ‘Repatriation: a threat or an opportunity?’, in the University ‘Newsletter’ October 2003 No. 22 p7-8, available on the web at:
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/newsletter/review_a.shtml]

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 ie 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 were listed on the brochure enclosed with the Autumn/Winter *Newsletter* and are on the Museum's website at:

[www.abdn.ac.uk/marischalmuseum/
services/lectures/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/marischalmuseum/services/lectures/)

Those for May and June are:

Tuesday 11 May

**Decoding structure:
an architectural approach to
'standing archaeology'**

Professor Charles McKean,
University of Dundee
*Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
North-East Section : Free entry*

Tuesday 18 May

**Beyond words:
the work of Scottish Language Dictionaries**

Christine Robinson
Scottish Language Dictionaries, Edinburgh
*Elphinstone Institute
Entry £2.00 incl tea and biscuits*

Tuesday 15 June

**Faience in Bronze Age Britain and Ireland:
scotching a myth**

Dr Alison Sheridan, National Museums
of Scotland
*Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
North-East Section : Free entry*

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.

Neil Curtis

Senior Curator

Marischal Museum

neil.curtis@abdn.ac.uk

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Directions, the Directorate's newsletter to staff and postgraduates at the University, appearing in May and November, always has a variety of items which may be 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/directs/>

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

Issue No 13, November 2003, also covered new items for Marischal Museum's collection of ethnographic material from the Rev Fred Bowie (a missionary in the new Hebrides at the turn of last century), including a collection of shells given by the missionary to his nephew, John Bowie, when a young boy, and the Rev Bowie's collar in its carrying case. These were presented by John Bowie when, along with other relatives, he visited the Museum recently to celebrate his 80th birthday.

There's news, too, of letters from Robert Laws, the famous Aberdonian missionary, to his daughter in Edinburgh in the 1890s; and papers from the late Don Withrington, Reader in History.

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Thanks to you ...

[More details of these items are covered in the article on p17-19 *Conforming to Type? - acquiring material for Historic Collections.*]

Geoffrey of Monmouth

Britanniae utriusque regum et principum origo

Paris: Jodocus Badius, 1517

The Friends met the full cost of acquiring this for the Library: £2,750

The volume is now in Special Libraries at the shelfmark: pi 94201 Geo
The Friends were able to see it for the first time at the evening lecture by Professor David Hewitt on the Walter Scott Collection..



Lot 182 of the Earl of Perth's Library

Total cost: (including commissions & fees): £3501.22

The National Fund for Acquisitions offered a grant of £1597.50

The Friends were asked for the balance: £1903.72

The Lot contains 8 rare (some, apparently unrecorded) proclamations and broadsides on the 1715 (Jacobite) rebellion. They further enhance the Library's MacBean Stuart and Jacobite Collection, generally accepted as one of the University's pre-eminent collections.



Knight, David *Scientific Travellers, 1789-1874*

Contribution from the Friends: £995.00

Allan Stewart, Manager, Planning and Projects within DISS, commented: 'This is a similar collection to the magnificent Literature and Science, 1660-1834 [on QML Floor 2, in the History and Philosophy of Science collection, at shelfmark: Sc 820.9356 Haw], the purchase of which was assisted by the Friends.

Scientific Travellers brings together rare writings by scientists (natural philosophers and natural historians) who roamed the world ... If the Friends could see their way clear to helping with this purchase too, it would make possible a purchase that has been described by an expert in the field as 'a magnificent collection!'



Reminder ... Friends on the Web



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

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QML, Taylor and the Medical Library

Monday - Saturday 9.00 am - 10.00 pm

(Taylor and Medical Libraries open at 8.45am Monday-Friday and close at 8.00pm on Fridays)

Sunday 1.00 pm - 10.00 pm

Education Library and Annexe store (at Hilton)

Monday - Friday 8.45 am - 9.30 pm

Saturday 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

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