



We welcome all new Friends to our News and hope that we may look forward to meeting you at one of our events this year.

As Friends you are entitled to 10% off George Washington Wilson items from Queen Mother Library CopyShop and we try to have a selection of these available at our meetings.

### Friends' Membership Cards

You should now all have a Membership Card for the Friends, enclosed either with the papers sent to when you joined, if you're a new member, or sent with the letter you received from the Membership Secretary in February.

Please bring the Card with you when you come to the University Library if you have no other Library membership identification. It will also mean, of course, quicker access when you come to Friends events.

### THE FRIENDS OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

#### Summer Meeting and 44th AGM

#### *Queen Mother Library Seminar Room*

Aberdeen University Library  
Bedford Road, Aberdeen

**Thursday 17 May 2007**

**44th AGM at 7.00 pm**

*followed at approx. 7.30 pm by an illustrated talk :*

**Silent Music:  
manuscripts and scores in Aberdeen University Library**

*by*

**Professor Peter Davidson  
Professor of Renaissance Studies  
University of Aberdeen**

*All Welcome*

*Light Refreshments will be served after the meeting*

**Please remember to bring your new Friends' Membership Card  
or barcoded Library ticket with you to gain access to QML**

### FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES

#### Date for your Diary

We are delighted to be welcoming for the first time as a speaker to the Friends Peter Davidson, Professor of Renaissance Studies at the University.

As well as our rich holdings of printed books and manuscripts, Aberdeen University Library also holds printed and manuscript music going back to the Renaissance. Many of these scores are of music which has lain unperformed for hundreds of years. In his talk Professor Davidson will describe some of these items and reflect on the particular excitement of such historic holdings which can be re-discovered, performed and recorded today.

Hopefully, this occasion will also be a chance for you to hear and obtain (gratis) copies of the CD of *Music From Eighteenth Century Aberdeen*, performed under the direction of Dr Roger Williams, Director of University Music, which has been generously sponsored by the Friends.

#### A nice cup of tea?

Members attending the Friends' meeting in March were 'alerted' to the fact that the refreshments were this time provided by stalwart members of the Executive Committee. In the past we have used the University's catering service but this seemed an unnecessary draw on our funds when we have kitchen facilities next to the Seminar Room in Queen Mother Library and we felt able to provide appropriately for us at this meeting.

We hope Friends attending the meeting approved of our efforts

**An Evening with Jack Webster  
at the Autumn / Winter meeting  
on 2 November talking about  
his new book:  
*Aberdeen – A History***

This scribe has for many years had the pleasure of attending the special lectures arranged by the Executive Committee of the Friends of Aberdeen University Library and has marvelled not only on their consistently high quality but also at the great variety and scope of their subject matter.

At the 2006 Summer Meeting of the Friends Dr. Jane Geddes took us on an exciting trip to the land of Bin Laden (Yemen) and at the Autumn / Winter Meeting our President, Mr. Jack Webster, treated us to a fascinating and very privileged insight into the making of his forthcoming book, *Aberdeen: A History*. The enterprise is likely to bear the author's unmistakable and felicitous personal stamp and is intended to complement previous works on the subject, in particular the more recent 'academic' two-volume publication.

It is therefore not surprising that Jack Webster's book will talk about the people of the Granite City, an approach which will allow the author to draw on his journalistic skills and on his rich knowledge of the special traits and social interactions of Aberdeen's 'aristocracy' as well as the many more ordinary folk, all of them history shapers in their own fashion.

As the evening progressed, the audience witnessed the unfolding of a human panorama in a delightful Webster-blend of well-founded information and anecdotal accounts, all delivered with authoritative confidence and charm and, when appropriate, with a good deal of humour. There can be no doubt that, if copies of the book had been available on the evening, no member of the audience would have gone home without one.

In his Vote of Thanks, Professor Michael Meston bestowed the talk the highest accolade a north-easterner has to offer by declaring it to have been "Nae bad".

*Professor Bill Nicolaisen*

Jack will be back for our Autumn / Winter meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007 to talk to us on the intriguing topic of

'Hitler's Mentor', Putzi Hanfstaengl whom Jack met.

**And Dr Mary Pryor's talk at the  
Spring Meeting on  
15 March entitled:**

***King's College: Dr James Fraser of  
Chelsea, the Library and a Portrait***



In August 1723, an Alumnus of King's College and benefactor to the library, James Fraser, visited the College and was shocked to see the extreme state of decay of the buildings. Mary Pryor's talk followed the results of his visit and the curious commissioning of his portrait.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March the Friends of the Library and guests were again treated by Dr. Mary Pryor to a fascinating account of a major figure in the history of the University as uncovered from the University's art collection. On this occasion Mary spoke about Dr. James Fraser of Chelsea whose portrait hung until recently in the Elphinstone Hall. It was of particular and timely relevance to the gathering since Fraser was a substantial benefactor of the library in the eighteenth century.

James Fraser was the third son of Alexander Fraser, a minister in Inverness and after schooling in Inverness he spent four years at King's College, graduating M.A. in 1664. He then left Scotland and settled in London where he became immersed in the world of books, initially employed as a runner for booksellers taking books to members of the aristocracy and royalty for their inspection. Later he made his living buying and selling books, having acquired a passion for seeking out and acquiring rare volumes.

Through this activity he became a close acquaintance of noblemen and royalty and had regular commissions to obtain books for their libraries. He was given a post by William and Mary with responsibility for books of history and matters of concern to the state. His passion for keeping records led to his nickname of 'Catalogue Fraser'. As early as 1675 he began to gift books to King's College.

In 1693 Fraser took up the post of Secretary and Registrar of Chelsea Hospital where he remained until his official retirement in 1712. His interest in books continued and a number of benefactions to libraries in Scotland are recorded, including the Inverness Session Library, recognised by their commissioning of his portrait in 1720.

On a visit to King's College, his alma mater, in 1723 Fraser was horrified at the state of the buildings with their crumbling nature and the books that he had gifted housed in poor, damp conditions. As a consequence he decided to provide funds for rebuilding the Library, at that time attached to the south side of the chapel. In addition, he donated money to replace the building on the opposite side of the quadrangle and a further gift of valuable books.

James Fraser's generous benefactions to King's College were recognised in five ways: he was awarded a honorary doctorate, a poem in his honour was composed by the Professor of Greek, he was presented with a hand-written copy of the library catalogue, a coat of arms was to be inserted in the fabric of the building (this can now be seen in the quadrangle on the wall of the chapel) and, the focus of this talk, his portrait was to be painted. It was decided that the portrait was to be commissioned in London and Fraser was asked to make the arrangements and send the bill to the College. In the event Fraser had his portrait painted by 'one of the best artists in London' and paid for it himself: the identity of the artist has been elusive. The portrait was hung in the newly built library, but had to be removed in 1760 and placed in the Common Hall because of the poor state and dampness of the Library which was demolished in 1773. Fraser continued to help King's College: between 1722 and his death in 1731 he presented over 900 volumes and founded a Divinity bursary.

At his graduation in 1664 Fraser donated, as was the custom, a silver cup to the

College and a further inscription was added when he received the doctorate. The cup was lost, but remarkably in 2004 it appeared in a London sale and the opportunity was taken to purchase it and return it to the University.

In sharing the results of her researches into the remarkable history of Dr James Fraser of Chelsea, and his outstanding generosity to King's College Dr Pryor kept the gathering of Friends and guests enthralled and on their behalf Graham Hunter warmly

thanked her. The meeting concluded with light refreshments.

Professor Derek Ogston

**Aberdeen** magazine.com

Intelligent conversation from the University of Aberdeen



### **Pertinent Gleanings from the University's *Magazine***

The new *University Aberdeen Magazine: intelligent conversation from the University of Aberdeen* always gives good coverage of our campaign for a new building and the February issue was no exception, with nearly 20 pages given to varying aspects of 'The Library Project'.

Magnus Linklater regards it as a chance to be one of the most significant public commissions in Scotland and around that his article, *The Shock of the New*, searches for the country's architectural soul'. In *An Island of Civilisation* our Principal and Vice-Chancellor, C Duncan Rice, tells of his determination to capitalise on Aberdeen's unique location and academic excellence.

The Danish architect, Morten Schmidt, is from Schmidt Hammer Lassen, the firm chosen to be the architects of the new building. He has designed many fine buildings across Europe but never in the UK until now and he talks about his award-winning work and why libraries are 'cultural hearts' in *Space to think*.

We also learnt in the *Magazine* that there was to be a function in March organised by Richard Malloch, head of the Hearst (Newspaper) Corporation, to bring to the attention of Alumni in the US news of the Library Project. With the completion of the Hearst Tower, a dramatic 46-storey glass and steel building in New York City, he hopes to use our own building 'as a tangible way to show that architecture really can make a difference'.

And those of you who attended our meeting in June 2005 with Siobhan Convery, Senior Curator in Historic Collections, as our speaker on the archives in the University Library, will have been interested to read the 'Q & A' interview with her, also in the *Magazine*.

# Library AudioPODS

If you have a computer with internet access you can listen to a new set of 'podcasts' or audioPODS that are available on the library website. These have recently been developed by the library's Information Advisers. You can take a virtual tour of Queen Mother Library or listen to information about library resources and facilities.

Library AudioPODS are audio files (similar to podcasts) about some of the library's services and resources which you can download to your computer, iPod/MP3 player or mobile phone (where enabled). You will soon have lots of Library AudioPODS to choose from.

Accompanying each audio file is a copy of the text, and for the tours, relevant floor plans (indicating stops on the tour) for users to download and print off. Those of you with MP3 players can download the audio files via the MP3 links. If you have a new generation player that can display graphics and links to web pages, download the files via the M4a links. Find out more from the library web pages at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/audiopods.shtml> .

The screenshot shows the University of Aberdeen Library & Historic Collections website. The header includes the university logo and the text 'Library & Historic Collections'. Below this is a 'Quick Links...' menu with options like 'About the Library', 'Catalogue', 'Opening Hours', 'Subject Resources', 'Guides and Help', 'E-Journals', 'Exam Papers', and 'Library Home Page'. The main content area is titled 'Library AudioPODS' and contains a list of links: 'About Library AudioPODS', 'How to download an AudioPOD to your player', 'How to listen to an AudioPOD on your computer', 'List of Library AudioPODS', 'LibCast magazine', and 'More information on media players'. Below the links, there is a paragraph explaining that Library AudioPODS are audio files about library services and resources, and that they can be downloaded to a computer, iPod/MP3 player, or mobile phone. It also mentions that each audio file includes a copy of the text and relevant floor plans. A final paragraph notes that MP3 files can be downloaded via MP3 links, while M4a files can be downloaded via M4a links for newer players.

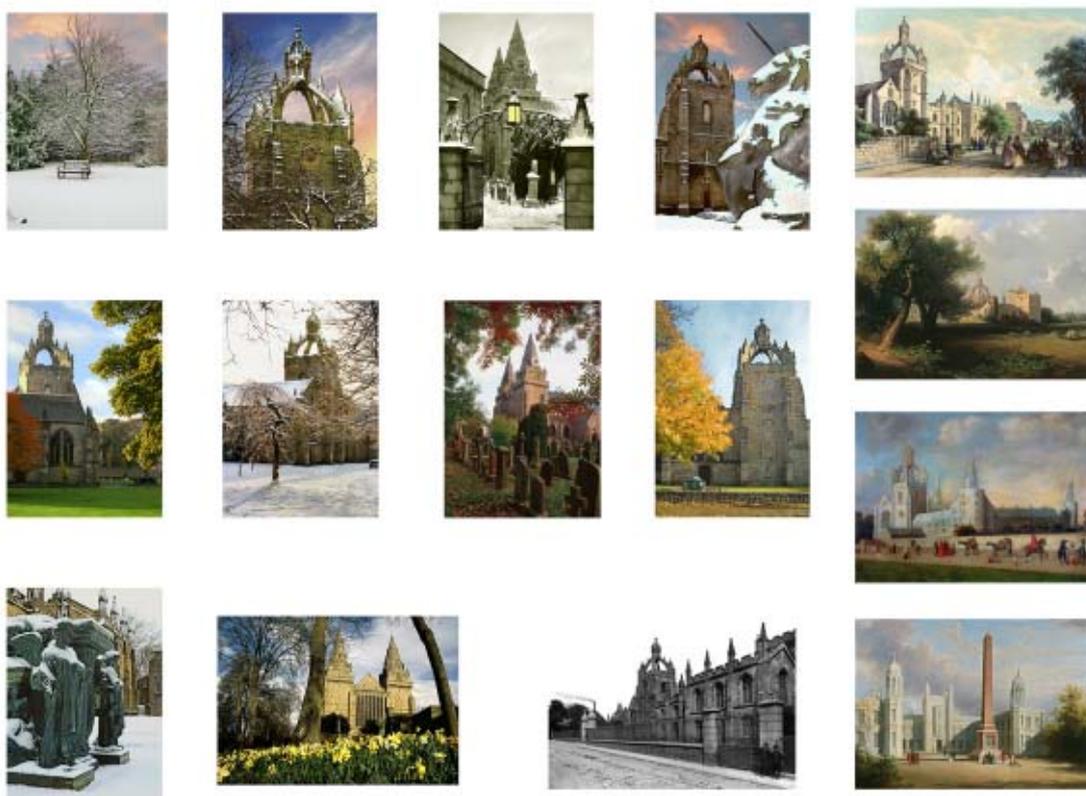


## New to QML Copyshop

A range of original images in full colour, and GWW in black & white

All A4 size, mounted and sealed in cellophane bag

Introductory offer £15



**Dr Leslie John Macfarlane  
(DLitt 1986, LLD 1990)**

The Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor C Duncan Rice, sent a message to all staff informing them of Leslie Macfarlane's death. In it he said:

'It is with great sadness that I would like to advise that Dr Leslie John Macfarlane, Historian of King's College and of its founder Bishop Elphinstone, died on 9 September. He had been ill for some weeks and a patient in Woodend Hospital. He was 92.

Dr Macfarlane had a long and fulfilling career. He was a distinguished scholar of the Middle Ages and author of an essential work on Scottish medieval history, *William Elphinstone and the Kingdom of Scotland*.

It is for his research and writing that Dr Macfarlane is most widely remembered. As his research on the University's founder, Bishop Elphinstone, began in the 1950s, a series of articles appeared and it was possible for visitors to King's College to use a new guidebook he had prepared. He revised the guidebook in the 1990s, and the new version was published in time for the University's 500th anniversary celebrations in 1995.

Dr Macfarlane's contribution to Scottish history was recognised by the award of honorary degrees from both Aberdeen and Edinburgh universities.

He was a very popular, well-respected and loyal member of staff who will be sadly missed by all his friends and colleagues, and a dedicated and beloved teacher who will never be forgotten by Aberdeen students, like myself.'

---

Dr Macfarlane had been a Friend of the University Library since its inception, having been a member of

the University staff since 1953, and we are grateful to have had his interest and support over so many years.

His daughter Mary-Clare wrote to the Friends from Edinburgh and noted that, 'He spent many happy hours in the library and using the special collections.'

---

***Donations from  
Dr Catherine H Guy***

We were surprised and delighted recently to receive a donation to the Friends from Dr Catherine H Guy, a Life Member of the Friends since 1986.

Dr Guy lives in Australia, in Jindabyne, New South Wales, but also still has links with the University. She writes: 'I have a grand-nephew now at the University, keeping up the family tradition. My grandfather graduated about 150 years ago aged 18 – the first of a few!'

The Executive Committee would like to thank Dr Guy most warmly for her gift. It is gratifying to be appreciated by Friends and a pleasure for us to be able to thank them here.

---

***The Glenbuchat Ballads – a trove of  
previously unpublished Scottish  
ballads***

Special Collections has been a source enabling the publication of *The Glenbuchat Ballads* by the University's Elphinstone Institute in association with the University Press of Mississippi.

Sometime in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, probably 1818, the Rev Robert Scott, minister of the parish of Glenbuchat in Aberdeenshire, compiled a collection of traditional ballads which had remained unpublished. Most of the ballad collections produced during the Scottish Romantic Revival were eventually included in Francis James Child's seminal work, *English and*

*Scottish Popular Ballads*, 1882-1898. The Glenbuchat manuscripts, however, were not included.

The manuscripts, containing 68 ballads in four folio volumes, were not included and only came to light in 1949 when they were donated to Special Collections by one of Scott's descendants. The Rev Scott did not give the precise locations of where he had collected the ballads, or name the performers, but the texts are unique and appear to have been drawn from oral sources. They thus reveal much about the nature of traditional music at the time.

*The Glenbuchat Ballads* were originally prepared for publication by David Buchan, one of the leading ballad scholars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and whom many Friends will remember from his student and later staff years at the University. On his death in 1994 his former student, James Moreira, completed the work and wrote the annotations and detailed introductory essay for the volume.

---

*The Glenbuchat Ballads* edited by David Buchan and James Moreira.

Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi and The Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, July 2007. ISBN 1578069726

Price £20 + £5 p & p (post free on orders received before 1 Jul 2007) from:

The Elphinstone Institute,  
University of Aberdeen,  
MacRobert Building, King's  
College, ABERDEEN, AB24  
5UA, Scotland;

Tel: 01224 272996  
[elphinstone@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:elphinstone@abdn.ac.uk)  
[www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone)

## Thanks to you ...

We felt able to agree to Professor Peter Davidson's request for funds up to £1,200 to help with the production of a CD on 'St Cecilia Music'. This is based on unique music scores held in Historic Collections, Special Libraries & Archives

Those of you able to come to our AGM on 17 May will have chance then to hear Professor Davidson talking about his research on the music for the CD, which will be available free to Friends.

You should all have received copies of a selection of the new postcards which the Friends sponsored after a request from Professor Davidson. They depict some of the treasures held in Special Libraries and Archives and we hope you were pleased with the quality and subjects. They were designed and produced by the Library's Reprographic Unit and are available for purchase from the CopyShop in Queen Mother Library @ 25p each



Vicentius Placcius



Book of Isaiah



Book of Hours



Aberdeen Bestiary



Hortus Sanitatis



Tam o' Shanter



### *Note – change to*



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

## Friends of Aberdeen University Library

### Executive Committee

#### President

Mr Jack Webster

#### Chairman

Mr Roy H Thomson

#### Honorary Treasurer

Mr Graham Hunter

#### Honorary Secretary

Miss Christine A Miller

#### Honorary

#### Membership Secretary

Miss Sheona C Farquhar

#### Members

Professor Michael C Meston

Professor Bill Nicolaisen

Professor Derek Ogston

Mrs Wendy Pirie

(Acting Librarian)

Miss Eilidh M Scobbie

Mrs Helen Stevenson



### 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)  
1.00pm - 10.00pm (Taylor and Medical)

### Special Libraries

Monday - Friday 9.30 am - 4.30 pm

The Friends of Aberdeen University Library