FRIENDS’ ACTIVITIES

Dates for your Diary

THE FRIENDS OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Spring / Summer Meeting

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

Thursday 15 May 2008

AGM at 7.00 pm followed at 7.30 pm by

Northness: Aberdeen’s northern connections
by
Neil Curtis, Senior Curator, Marischal Museum

Aberdeen has had many and varied connections with the Baltic, Scandinavia, the North Atlantic and Canada, including the Scots Colony in Danzig, the Canadian fur trade and the whaling industry. This talk will explore some of these connections through a focus on objects in the University’s museum collections.

Those of you within easy reach of Aberdeen may also be interested to see the current display in Marischal Museum (until 11 May) which also has a similar theme: Material Histories, exploring the links between the North-East of Scotland and the fur trade in Northern Canada.

Friends’ Membership Cards

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

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

Single copies of the postcards which the Friends funded recently, depicting some of the Treasures held in Special Libraries and Archives, are available from the CopyShop in Queen Mother Library at 25p each.
Principal’s Reception at Chanonry Lodge, Old Aberdeen
by kind permission of the Principal
Professor C Duncan Rice
Thursday 12 June at 5.30 pm

Once again the Principal has very kindly extended to us the hospitality of Chanonry Lodge - and garden, weather permitting - for a recruiting evening. The occasion is primarily aimed at potential new Friends and number restrictions mean that regrettably only existing Friends who bring a potential new member can be accommodated.

If you would like to come in this capacity, please let us know by Friday 2 May and tell us the number of guests you’ll be bringing.
Please contact: Sheona Farquhar e-mail s.c.farquhar@abdn.ac.uk or tel: 01224 273773

A model of the new Library building will be available to see in the Old Town House, High Street, Old Aberdeen, immediately before the evening at Chanonry Lodge. Please feel free to turn up at the Old Town House between 4.45 pm and 5.15 pm, when the University Librarian, Chris Banks, will be there to explain our plans and answer any of your questions. There is no need to book for this.

Links with the University of Aberdeen Alumnus Association

Many of you will know of the University of Aberdeen Alumnus Association, for Aberdeen graduates, and we are aiming to have closer ties with the Association in the future.

We will be advertising events reciprocally which should help to swell the numbers and provide added attractions for each group. You may thus have seen new faces at the Librarian’s talk to us in March.

Any Friends of the Library who are graduates of Aberdeen may go to Alumnus meetings as a guest of someone who is already a member.

If you’re interested in joining the Alumnus Association please contact the Secretary:

Mrs Gail Murdoch, e-mail: donald.murdoch@btopenworld.com
tel: 01224 594536

The Friends of Aberdeen University Library

The Friends of Aberdeen University Library is a Registered Charity (SC009969) which was founded in 1982. The aims of the Friends are:

- To encourage the gift of books, prints, manuscripts and other items of interest to the Library and donations of funds
- To help the Library to buy special books, manuscripts and other items of interest which it could not normally afford
- To encourage interest in the Library and the potential of its collections

About the Friends

http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/friends/
Our Autumn/Winter Meeting on 15th November saw a welcome return from our President, Jack Webster, who is, of course, an acclaimed author and journalist and would, we knew, give us a lively evening. This time he spoke to us on Ernst Hanfstaengl (1887-1975), a mentor to Hitler and friend of Winston Churchill, whom Jack interviewed.

He provided us with the story of an intriguing international figure, whose wife once prevented Hitler from committing suicide, and also gave us yet another fascinating glimpse into Jack’s own professional life as author and journalist.

Professor Mike Meston give a flavour of the evening below.

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**Hitler’s Mentor - Ernst ‘Putzi’ Hanfstaengl**

The evening began with a short Special General Meeting, at which a technical amendment to the Friends’ Constitution was approved to comply with new regulations issued by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

We were then delighted and privileged to have our President, Jack Webster, with us to give a fascinating talk with the intriguing title, Hitler’s Mentor.

The mentor in question was Dr Ernst (‘Putzi’) Hanfstaengl, who had moved in the highest society in Germany, Britain and the USA. A semi-aristocrat in Munich, he had studied at Harvard, knew the future President Roosevelt and ran a family business in New York until the 1920s; he was also a high grade pianist.

On returning to Munich he was asked by the US embassy about the rising politician Adolf Hitler, of whom he had never heard, although Hitler had then heard of him. Putzi went to one of the original Bierkeller rallies and, as many genuinely cultured persons then were, was greatly impressed. An invitation to Hitler to the Hanfstaengl family villa gave Hitler an access to German high society which he might have been unlikely to achieve otherwise.

Although he never joined the Nazi party, Putzi was tarred with the brush of the failed Putsch and took refuge in Austria, while Hitler hid at the Hanfstaengl villa before being imprisoned.

However in 1933 Hitler was elected Chancellor and immediately took advantage of Putzi’s world-wide contacts (including friendship with Bob Boothby, the MP for Aberdeenshire) by appointing him Press chief of the Nazi party. But Putzi was not always politically correct, was disliked by the likes of Goering and Ribbentrop, and, when he became more aware of Hitler’s true nature, was probably indiscreet in his comments.

In 1937 he was asked to fly to Spain in Hitler’s private plane, ostensibly to obtain better access for German journalists. The pilot however warned him that it was actually a Gestapo plot to kill him and arranged an engine failure very close to the Swiss border to let Putzi escape.

He made his way to London, but made an enemy of Lord Beaverbrook by raising a successful libel action against his newspapers. The result seems to have been that when he was interned on the outbreak of war Beaverbrook had him transferred to Canada under house arrest. However a personal phone call to President Roosevelt quickly had him transferred to Washington as an adviser on Hitler’s mentality and motivations. He was placed under military guard, but the guard was his own son whom Putzi had sent to America on the outbreak of war and who had then joined the US Army.

Putzi returned to the family home in Munich after the war, largely forgotten by Germans, but Jack had been interested in a brief BBC feature about him and succeeded in making contact with him, developing a friendship over several years.

Our President’s most stimulating address was warmly received by the many Friends that evening and a vote of thanks was proposed by Graham Hunter.

Professor Mike Meston – Friends’ Committee
Postscript

Jack Webster’s Aberdeen

Many Friends will know that Jack Webster’s latest publication, Jack Webster’s Aberdeen (Birlinn, 2007, ISBN 978 184158472 price £20), is now available.

In this new book Jack does not attempt to emulate the previous histories of the city but condenses the knowledge and wisdom of past research and his own experience.

From Robert the Bruce to Willie Miller, Isaac Benzie and Raggie Morrison to Cocky Hunter and Ma Cameron, and bringing us up to date with Annie Lennox and Donald Trump, there are fascinating tales of war and peace and everything from school and university to the history of sport, cinema and theatre, stretching from Lillie Langtry to Harry Gordon and Scotland the What?

There are thanks to so many people including the staff in Historic Collections and Graham Hunter, our Treasurer. An enthralling read.

Jack previewed his new book at one of the Music Hall’s ‘Look Who’s Talking’ lunchtime talks in October.

The Life of Lewis Grassic Gibbon

As we all know, Jack’s busy life of research and publication never stops and for those interested in Lewis Grassic Gibbon (the pen-name of James Leslie Mitchell) and his entrancing and immortal Scots Quair trilogy Jack had yet another treat in store for us.

For two performances at the end of March, Aberdeen’s His Majesty’s Theatre put on Grassic Gibbon, fulfilling Jack’s ambition for many years to stage a performance of Grassic Gibbon’s life story.

It took us from the author’s early years in Auchterless and Arbutnott to his later life in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, from the struggle for recognition in his youth to his successful years and premature death at the age of 34.

Not only was Jack himself in the audience but also Grassic Gibbon’s son, who lives in Devon - a rare treat indeed.

The gestation for this most marvellous production is given in the University’s The Aberdeen magazine January 2008 p29, Man of Mearns: Jack Webster pays tribute to his North-east literary hero and the inspiration for his first play.

Marischal Museum Lectures

Enclosed with the Autumn / Winter issue of the Friends’ News was a copy of the brochure for the Marischal Museum Tuesday lecture series, held in the Lecture Theatre at Marischal College Museum. The lectures will continue to be held here until the end of the current series, the final three being:

Tuesday 13 May
Art and history into life: the pageant revival in Scotland
Juliette Kinchin, University of Glasgow
(Society of Antiquaries of Scotland – Free)

Tuesday 27 May
‘The Old Ship Zion’: using the trawler radio band to transmit gospel songs among North-East Scottish fishermen Frances Wilkins
(Elphinstone Institute - £2)

Tuesday 10 June
How old are the stave churches?
Dr Ola Storsletten, The Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research
(Society of Antiquaries of Scotland – Free)

www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/historic/museum/lectures.shtml
Tales from the Stave: Elgar’s other ‘Enigma’
by
Chris Banks, Librarian, University of Aberdeen

Chris Banks enthusiastically took up the invitation from the Friends’ Executive Committee to speak to us at our Spring meeting and you were all keen to come to hear what she had to say.

Chris worked at the British Library for 20 years before joining the University of Aberdeen last Autumn. At the BL she spent much of her time working with its Music Collections and in this talk for the Friends she illustrated the range of those collections through one work, Elgar’s Violin Concerto in B minor.

Professor Derek Ogston writes:

On the 13th March members of the Friends of the Library and the Alumnus Association with guests met in the Seminar Room of the Queen Mother Library. They were welcomed by Roy Thomson our Chairman, who introduced Chris Banks, appointed as the University Librarian last autumn.

Chris began by outlining her own career with over twenty years in the British Library, much of it working for its Music Collection and latterly as Head of Music Collections. She proceeded to captivate the large audience with an absorbing account of the work of the British Library Music Collection. This was illustrated by the archival material relating to the evolution of a major music score, Edward Elgar’s eloquent violin concerto. In the talk extracts on music manuscript were shown and short recorded passages from the concerto played.

The concerto began its written existence on fragments of paper. In 1909 Elgar started a new sketch book and in it appears part of the work. Some of the early manuscripts revealed large parts of the initial composition erased with only small sections marked to be retained, providing an insight into his method of working. Elgar worked towards completing the violin part of the concerto, rehearsing this with his own piano accompaniment, the full orchestration being completed later.

The progress of the work was further illuminated by quoted extracts from the diary of Elgar’s wife, letters to friends and comments by music critics such as Ernest Newman. Proofs of the nearly-completed score in the British Library showed heavy annotation, some in Elgar’s own hand. Finally the concerto was performed in 1910 with Fritz Kreisler as the soloist and was enthusiastically received.

Further illustrated archival material held in the British Library Music Collection included letters referring to the good ticket sales, the favourable press reception, copies of the programme and tickets, records of the printing costs of the score, and the royalty and copyright payments.

Elgar realised the potential of the gramophone and made a number of recordings of his own music, the most celebrated being the historic recording of the violin concerto made in 1932 with the sixteen-year old Yehudi Menuhin as soloist and Elgar as conductor.

The types of material held in the Music Collection of the British Library were listed – manuscripts, both sketches and scores; printed music; books; letters and papers of composers; sound recordings; journals and newspapers. They were acquired for the Collection by gift, bequest, purchase, loan and legal deposit.

The talk continued with Chris Banks’ vision for the University’s new library and its collections.

She saw the new building providing the opportunity to unite the present stock, the historic archive and the books in store in ideal conditions. Dedicated areas will furnish scope for exhibitions, readings and musical recitals: it is a building that has already been an inspiration to artists and musicians.

This section of the address concluded with a brief outline of the structure of the planned building with its views up through an open atrium.

Chris ended with an explanation of the title of her talk. The manuscript bears the dedication, ‘Herein is enshrined the soul of …..’ The enigma is the identity of the soul – perhaps of his wife, Alice, or some other lady with five letters in her name. We will never be sure!

Professor Mike Meston proposed a vote of thanks for a memorable talk, endorsed by an appreciative audience.
The following interview appeared in Information Scotland, the journal of CILIPS, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland, Vol. 5 (5), October 2007.

It is reproduced here, with updatings, by permission of the Editor of that journal and of Chris Banks.

Career crescendo: interview with Chris Banks, the new Aberdeen University Librarian

Chris moved from the British Library to her new post as the University embarks on the creation of a new £57m library.

Why did you enter the library / information profession?

I came to the profession through the field of music. I took a taught Masters degree in Historical Musicology - a skills-based course which included elements of palaeography, transcription, editing, etc, - before entering the book trade, working for an antiquarian music dealer.

My first foray into librarianship was with the Library of English National Opera and then in 1986 a job came up on the British Library Curatorial Team in Music. This was a cataloguing post which also involved working with manuscripts, exhibitions and reader services.

In 1995 I was appointed Curator of Manuscript Music at the British Library with a remit to implement the integration of the manuscript music collections with the printed collections and the move of the manuscripts to the St Pancras building, where they are now available as part of a holistic music service. In 1999, I additionally became Deputy Music Librarian. In 2003 I was appointed Head of Music Collections.

My last big move took me out of music librarianship to become Head of Reference and Research with additional responsibility for the budget for electronic resources. I moved from managing a team of 13 to a large staff of 95.

What do you consider to be your biggest achievements in your career so far?

I think these have been in the areas of opening up collections to wider audiences, both from the resource discovery point of view (working in partnership with higher education) and also through activities intended for wider audiences: exhibitions, public events and via the broadcast media.

The BBC Radio 4 series Tales from the Stave, presented by Frances Fyfield, reached large audiences through the unlikely route of talking about one manuscript and examining it from the physical, biographical and cultural perspectives. Inter alia the programmes helped to illustrate just why we keep such historic documents and what else, aside from the main intellectual ‘content’, those documents might reveal.

What prompted your wish to move to the academic sector ... and to Scotland?

My last task as a Head of Music Collections at the British Library took me to Aberdeen and while there I asked for a tour around the Library. Not long after that it emerged that the job opportunity was there. I was very interested in the chance to move on to something bigger, and to be involved in such a landmark building project - a chance that few librarians get in their lives. I find the prospect enormously exciting: we are creating a national resource, one which will enable us to open up our historic collections alongside our main library resources.

I have friends in Scotland and I adore the countryside. Everyone has been incredibly friendly and welcoming. I love Old Aberdeen and the way it has a collegiate feel and also that it is so close to a bustling and culturally alive city centre. On top of that I have exchanged a three-tube commute in each direction for a three minute walk!

What do you expect the biggest difference will be between working at the British Library and working at the University of Aberdeen?

I’m sure it will be different in all sorts of areas - not least that students can borrow material! There will be the opportunity of working closely with the academic staff on developing the Library’s collections so that they are immediately relevant to the research and student communities.

What do you consider will be the biggest challenges in your new post?

I thought the greatest challenge would be building up a new network from scratch but that happened really quickly. A big challenge will be working with the fundraising team on raising the remainder of the capital for the new building. Resource discovery is also very important in enhancing access to the heritage collections.

What will be your main priorities in your new post?

These are multifaceted. Getting to know the institutional priorities and who the key players are is important. As for the new building, we will be bringing together two elements of the collections which have been separate - Historic Collections and the main Library collections and their associated staff and functions. Engagement with the wider community is another priority: the ground floor of the new building is designed as a public space and will have a wider role to play.
What do you think are the current major threats to - and opportunities for - the academic sector of the profession?

For some there can be a general perception that everything relevant is available on the web, that it is full-text and that libraries are no longer ‘places’ - a challenge for an institution building a new one! We know that many students will start their research with the web and that alarming numbers don’t necessarily feel the need to know about library catalogues.

There is the gap between aspiration and funding: electronic resources and digitisation programmes are expensive; increasing and varied demands on library spaces brings a cost; ensuring that we remain relevant and don’t stand still has all sorts of resource implications and we mustn’t lose sight of ensuring that our unique items are discoverable. The technology brings opportunities - it is there to help us open up collections, especially for those not physically able to get to them.

How would you encourage someone considering entering the library and information profession today?

I love it that no two days are alike: that there are some really wonderful and talented people (worldwide) in our profession; and that the opportunity to be entrepreneurial in a public ’not for profit’ environment

Under the title Green light we are also given the nail-biting background to the last minute appearance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling (a Law graduate from Aberdeen), at a London reception to share the University’s ambitious plans for the new Library.

Morten Schmidt, from the Danish architectural firm which won the international competition, schmidt hammer lassen, explained how the new building should “radiate” knowledge to the surrounding world. His bywords were light, height, flexibility and space. As well as being the University’s intellectual hub and a place for staff and students to mingle and connect, the Library is also to be a multi-faceted cultural centre for both the academic community and the city of Aberdeen.

Everyone at the London reception drank happily to realising the dream of a “Library fit for purpose in the 21st century”.

The December issue of Information Scotland included an article on the University of Edinburgh Library’s rebuild project’ in the context of the current ‘great wave of university library transformation’, which included Aberdeen in its listing. In the article the Director of Library Services there, Sheila Cannell, made several very telling, pertinent – and comforting! – points.

She feels that the digital library can be an isolating experience for students and researchers because it delivers the information and resources they require directly to them; but the physical library can counterbalance this by providing a lively intellectual environment for ‘conversation’. Students report that when they come to the library they revert to a work and study mindset, helped by being surrounded by books, which they see as the collective wisdom of past generations of scholars.

One student spoke about his time at Edinburgh in a way that I’m sure many of us would recognise. “The Library is a bit of an emotional rollercoaster. You go through all these periods in your university career, with ups and downs, and the library is just that constant thing that’s always there, and you’re always there, whether you’re having a good day or a bad day, or a quick day or a slow day. It’s just such a big thing in a student’s life. It’s the focal point.”

Edinburgh, like us, seeks to show new ways to make accessible and promote its Special Collections. “For some students a highlight of their student career is the chance to view and handle a rare and beautiful object.” Again, we, too, hope to emphasise this part of the University’s collections and many of us will empathise with this response.

So we’re doing the right thing planning for a new Library! But unlike Edinburgh, we’re not anticipating transferring Careers, Counselling and Disability services from the new student ‘Hub’ building to the Library.

Byrds and Banks …

William Byrd and Richard Turbet will be names familiar to many of you, Richard being a member of the Library staff and author of the definitive work on Byrd, the greatest English composer of the 16th century.

Richard has been on the staff for 30 years, primarily involved in cataloguing work, more recently the Stationers Hall and Sir Walter Scott Collections, both in Special Libraries. To celebrate this landmark and his 60th birthday, the University Department of Music put on a special concert in King’s College Chapel in February.

Richard was asked to choose a programme of Byrd’s music, which was prefaced by a new short work written especially to mark the
occasion by Pete Stollery, Head of the Department of Music and Professor of Electroacoustic Music and Composition. This piece, entitled ‘b3:dz’ (pronounced “birds”), for organ and digital sound, was projected over 8 loudspeakers and drew on various Byrd and bird pieces to wish Richard a Happy Byrdday.

Also included in the concert was a selection of Byrd’s compositions from the manuscript now known as My Ladye Nevells Booke, completed in 1591. The work, consisting of 42 compositions for keyboard by Byrd, was in private hands until 2006 when, after an arduous and sustained campaign of fundraising, it was purchased for the nation and housed in the British Library.

Leader of this successful fundraising was our own University Librarian, Chris Banks, when she was Head of Music Collections there. Her final duty in this post was a seminar on My Ladye Nevells Booke in Aberdeen’s Department of Music.

Rounding this off so well was the fact that at Richard’s concert Chris sang items from the manuscript with other members of the University’s vocal ensemble.

As a postscript to this, Aberdeen Art Gallery will host the first showing in Scotland of the My Ladye Nevells Booke manuscript from 10 May 2008 to 02 Aug 2008.

It is one of the most beautifully written music manuscripts to survive from the late 16th century and is still preserved in its original ornate binding. Chris Banks has been invited to talk about the manuscript at a reception and concert given by the Friends of Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums.

500 Years of Printing in Scotland

Showing on the top floor of Provost Skene’s House in Aberdeen until 25 October is a fascinating exhibition entitled The Local Word and Image: 500 years of printing in Scotland which Friends in the North East may be interested in visiting.

The display examines the history of printing in Aberdeen. Edward Raban, Aberdeen’s first printer, was appointed in 1622 and worked for both the city and King’s and Marischal Colleges.

Edward Raban, Aberdeen’s first printer

Many of the most important printed books and documents on display have been brought together from a variety of different sources for the first time.

A Historic First for Aberdeen …

Apparently, in 1923, without much fanfare, the first woman was elected to the Council of the Scottish Library Association, the professional body for library staff in Scotland. The lady so honoured was Miss Maud S Best, sub-librarian at Aberdeen University Library.

Since than, of course, Michael Smethurst, whom many of you will remember, held the same position in the 1970s, but it is gratifying to think that we were at the forefront of such an accolade.

Aberdeen University’s Writers Festival: Word 2008

Items in this year’s Word Festival may have particular interest for Friends - if you’re quick!.

The Festival takes place from Friday 9th - Sunday 11th May, on the Old Aberdeen Campus and at some venues in the city centre. For the first time most events have an admission charge but in fact the two significant for us don’t.

Tickets should be booked in advance from Aberdeen Box Office on: 01224 6441122 or online at: www.abdn.ac.uk/word/tickets

Friday 9 May at 4.30 pm
The Linklater Lecture
David Hewitt on Walter Scott
King’s College Centre

Friends will remember the stimulating evening we had a few years ago when we heard David Hewitt, Regius Professor of Scottish Literature, Regius Professor of Scottish Literature, speak to us on the marvellous collection of Scott manuscripts, publications and memorabilia which the University had recently bought and which has now been catalogued for Special Collections.

Professor Hewitt is also Editor-in-Chief of the Edinburgh edition of the Waverley novels, the first scholarly edition of Scott’s fiction, published in 30 volumes by EUP. This massive achievement has revolutionised ideas of Scott and his work and the theme of the lecture will be: A Reformed Scott.

Saturday 10th May at 11.00 am
The Beast is Beautiful
King’s College Centre

A chance to have yet another enthralling session with Dr Jane Geddes, from the History of Art Department, and a regular speaker at Friends’ evenings over the last few years.

Dr Geddes will be one of a distinguished panel chaired by Alan
Taylor, editor of the Sunday Herald, which will discuss the Aberdeen Bestiary, one of our greatest treasures, the richly illuminated medieval manuscript cared for by Special Collections. The panel will discuss this collection of moralising stories about animals - the Bestiary’s meaning, source and creation.

Friends may also be interested to know that Siobhan Convery, Archivist in Special Libraries and Archives, who spoke to us so inspiring a few years ago on her work here, features in the Word ‘Schools Festival’, 6 – 8 May.

She is leading a ‘Written Treasures Workshop’ for Primary 5 – 7s on the art of making books. They will learn about scribes, illuminators and printers, try using a quill and discover hidden treasures from the collections.

QML Copyshop
A range of images in full colour taken from the original paintings, and GWW in black & white
All A4 size, mounted and sealed in cellophane bag
£17

Thanks to you …

Dr Iain Beavan, Head, Special Libraries and Archives, asked for funding from the Friends to allow his Department to purchase two volumes of importance. The works will distinctly enhance Aberdeen’s early modern collections and provide research resources for members of the University’s Centre for Early Modern Studies. Professor Jane Stevenson (Latin) and Professor Peter Davidson (Renaissance Studies) both gave the volumes a high recommendation.

The cost of purchasing these works was shared with the National Fund for Acquisitions.

Philip Sidney The Countess of Pembroke’s Arcadia  London, 1613   £1,300

A poet, courtier and soldier, Sir Philip Sidney’s writings and specifically Arcadia, are central to early modern English and European literary studies. However we have no early editions of the work, a noticeable gap in our otherwise very early strong modern holdings. Our earliest edition currently is dated 1662 and we have 18th century editions but for research scholars are reliant on 19th century reprints and more recent scholarly editions.

Ironically, over 350 years ago, Marischal College owned a copy of this 1613 edition, bequeathed in 1624, but lost by 1720. We have no reason to believe that this latest volume is our missing one!

Jean-Jacques Boissard De divinatione  1615   £1,300

The Library has several 16th and 17th century editions of Boissard’s works but not this particular text. What is particularly important and significant is the quality and range of the illustrations, thus of value to History of Art within the University and more generally for Renaissance studies and research. The engravings by Jean-Theodore De Bry and his father are held in high regard and found in many public collections.

The book also includes depictions of the Sibyls, the 17th century paintings in Marischal Museum and which have been the subject of considerable art-historical research. None of us who were at Dr Mary Pryor’s talk to the Friends a few years ago will forget that enthralling evening.
Donations

Jennifer Beavan

We are delighted and most grateful to have been receiving from a former member of staff regular donations to the Friends.

Many of you will recognise the name and many more would recognise the face of Jennifer Beavan, a member of the Library staff for the more than 30 years of her professional life. Jennifer always worked in a ‘front-of-house’ post, ideally suited to her friendly manner and years of knowledge and experience of the whole Library system and its idiosyncracies.

Latterly Jennifer was Head of Reader Services in QML but over the years she had a remit also for many aspects of behind-the-scenes work, which the Library depended on for its smooth running such as staff training, implementing disability and health and safety legislation, and planning the Ground Floor information and circulation points.

Her ready wit and vast knowledge of literature, history, cinema and almost anything else which was required of her made Jennifer a bedrock of the University Library for years and she left a very obvious gap on her retiral two years ago.

Sadly, since then, Jennifer’s ill-health has caught up with her but she is always keen to hear the latest news of the Library and the many staff she knew here.

We much appreciate Jennifer remembering the Friends in this way and send her our very best wishes.