



FRIENDS' EVENTS

Date for your Diary

Summer Meeting and AGM

Thursday 21 May 2009

from 6pm in the

Old Town House, High Street, Old Aberdeen

Enlightenment – The Library Paintings of Hugh Buchanan

Enjoy a private viewing of the exhibition of watercolours depicting the great libraries of Scotland and the rest of the UK, including the Divinity Library of King's College. The exhibition coincides with the start of construction of the University's new library and outwith the viewing for Friends is showing from 20 March – 30 May 2009, open Mon-Sat, 9am - 5pm, admission free.

Followed at 7pm by the AGM in the

Seminar Room, Queen Mother Library

Aberdeen University

(Please note that this is a different room from the previous Seminar Room, because of the building works. Please ask at QML Information Desk for directions.)

The AGM will be followed at 7.30 pm by

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

by

Gwen Chessell

formerly Co-ordinator, Medical Learning Resources, University of
Aberdeen

This talk will relate the story and discuss the achievements of Dr Alexander Collie, MA (Aberdeen, 1812) and an early member of the Aberdeen Medical Society (now the Med.Chi.).

Collie became colonial surgeon in the new colony of Western Australia and, before that, was a widely travelled surgeon in the Royal Navy, explorer and naturalist. Despite his early death in 1835 aged forty-two, he made a considerable contribution to the scientific world of his day, and his work was known to such luminaries as Charles Darwin, Sir William Hooker, Robert Brown, Sir John Richardson and many others.

All Welcome

Light Refreshments will be served after the meeting



Alexander Collie

HeadLines

Library and Historic Collections now produces a new electronic magazine, an Ezine, called HeadLines.

This newsletter aims at to keep Library users informed of recent news and developments in Library and Historic Collections. Obviously some items cover more specialised matters but Friends who have access to e-mail and the internet may well enjoy the articles of wider interest.

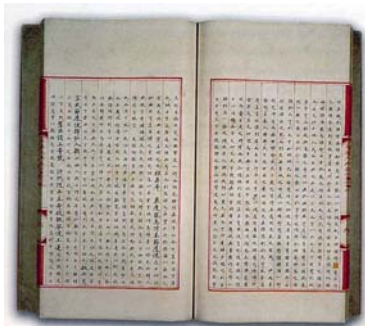
If you are happy to let us know your e-mail address we will be able to e-mail details of future issues to you and, of course, e-mail is also a useful way for us to alert you on other matters.

Contact Sheona Farquhar, Honorary Membership Secretary,
s.c.farquhar@abdn.ac.uk with your e-mail address details so that these can be added to the Friends e-mailing list. HeadLines is available online at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/ezine/>

REPORTS ON FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES

Spring Meeting

The Aberdeen volume of The Ming Encyclopaedia - Yongle Dadian, by David Helliwell, Department of Oriental Books, Bodleian Library, Oxford



Pages from the Aberdeen volume of Yongle Dadian

At a joint meeting held with the Aberdeen Chinese Studies Group on 16 March 2009 David Helliwell of the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford gave a detailed presentation on the volume of Yongle dadian held by the University of Aberdeen Library & Historic Collections

David explained that his knowledge of the volume is due to the fact that James Legge, the first Professor of Chinese at the University of Oxford was born in Huntly. David attended a conference held in Aberdeen in April 1997 to mark the centenary of Legge's death and discovered the volume, which although catalogued was then unknown to sinology.

The Yongle dadian was commissioned by the third Ming emperor (Zhu Di, 1360-1424) in 1402. Directed by the scholar Xie Jin with a team of 47 editorial assistants, the first manuscript was presented in December 1404. The Emperor considered it to be inadequate and appointed a team of two co-directors and a further 2169 scholars to continue the work, which was completed in 1407. The final version had a total 22877 chapters. The text was written on heavy white paper ruled in vermilion, and sumptuously bound in 11095 large volumes,

with hard boards covered in yellow silk. It was finally approved by the emperor in 1408.

David explained how Yongle dadian is different from other Chinese encyclopaedias including its size and binding. Yongle dadian, uses a unique hard-cover version of the so-called wrapped-back binding baobeizhuang so that the volumes could be shelved visible, yet fully protected. As it was too large to print, it existed only in the form of a single manuscript copy.

Unlike previous and subsequent encyclopaedias, Yongle dadian was not arranged by subject. The excerpts were arranged according to the position of their first character in the rhyming dictionary Hongwu zhengyun or 'Correct rhymings of the Hongwu period.' Arranging the Yongle dadian in what was the contemporary Chinese equivalent of alphabetical order made its contents readily accessible.

In 1693 the scholar Xu Qianxue had noted that volumes of Yongle dadian were missing. By 1899 only some 800 volumes remained. Of these 400 were destroyed in the Boxer Rebellion, 200 are now in China, and a further 200 are in foreign collections, most being in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan. The only other volumes in Europe are the four in Berlin.

James Russell Brazier was the son of the professor of chemistry and a student at Aberdeen from 1875 to 1879. He spent the greater part

of his life in the consular service of the Chinese government, which at the time was being run by the British, and at the time of the rebellion was Chief Secretary of the Inspectorate of the Imperial Maritime Customs. Brazier presented the volume to the University in 1922 and is believed to have died in 1924.

The Aberdeen volume contains chapter 11907, which is actually one of the more interesting and important ones. It is the last of three chapters that deal with the character guang, and contains the section on Guangzhoufu or Canton. In 1890, Wen Tingshi copied out the three guang chapters for his personal library, perhaps because his father and another forbear had been officials in Guangdong province. Only one other section of Yongle dadian appears to have been preserved in this way.

David concluded by explaining that the Aberdeen volume is valuable not because of its content but as one of the few examples of this kind of object in the UK. It was in a rather bad state of repair and bore signs of extensive water damage. It has however been conserved by the paper conservators at the University of Dundee.

After his presentation Friends were able to view the volume and reproductions of the individual pages made while the item was being conserved.

*Robin Armstrong Viner
Cataloguing Manager
Library and Historic Collections*

Friends' Autumn/Winter meeting

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New Library Project Update

Chris Banks, the University Librarian, gave a fascinating preview of the new Library at our meeting in November. Beginning with the flythrough now available on the University web pages Chris explained how the new building embodies the concept of a library without walls, enabling resource discovery to delivery.

The University already has an ambitious outreach programme including the Word and Sound festivals and the composition prize. Library and Historic Collections also has an excellent record of engaging with schoolchildren in the city and shire and regularly contributes material to exhibitions in Scotland, the UK and around the world. In March last year an audience development plan was commissioned and work on this has continued since, using focus groups to identify further opportunities.

Chris explained how the new Library will enable Library & Historic Collections to work with a wide range of audiences. Two collaborative spaces adjacent to the Special Collections Reading Room on the lower ground floor will allow curatorial staff to help schoolchildren explore books, manuscripts and objects from the University's museum collections. Seminar rooms on other floors will allow the Information Consultants to assist teachers in developing their students' information skills and preparing them for their University careers.

The ground floor of the new Library will be community focused with the new exhibition gallery at its heart. The café at the front of the building will be used for events and receptions while the spaces created around the gallery will be suitable for concerts and seminars. The business community will also be able to use the suite of rooms on the seventh floor with their views to the sea for business breakfasts and meetings.

The new exhibition gallery will give Library & Historic Collections its first dedicated exhibition space and the opportunity to showcase its treasures. These include 200,000 rare books in 40 named collections and 4,000 manuscript collections in 25

different languages, as well as major photograph collections. Physical access will be matched by online access and Chris stressed how much is already available through the internet.

During her presentation Chris searched the George Washington Wilson Photographic Archive through the website. She also demonstrated the Turning the Pages software used for the Aberdeen Bestiary. This allows the viewer to magnify different parts of the image and view the explanatory text associated with it. Chris explained how this will ensure that such rare and unique items are preserved as well as increasing the number of people able to view them.

The new Library will be technology rich. University members and, wherever possible, the public will be able to access Library & Historic Collections' growing collections of electronic books, journals and other online resources. Assistive technology booths will be provided for students with disabilities and PC clusters for teaching.

Chris also discussed the new Conservation Suite which will stretch north on the lower ground floor from the Library. This state of the art facility is being made possible thanks to an individual gift of \$3m towards the cost of construction. The Heritage Lottery Fund is also being asked to support this centre of excellence for North East Scotland which will be used to conserve the University's paper collections. It too offers opportunities for community education and engagement.

Finally Chris spoke of the new Library as an elegant addition to the city skyline looking toward the Crown Tower of King's College Chapel. Remarkably this stunning building, which will bring a new sense of community to the western side of the Old Aberdeen campus, will not be visible from the High Street.



Principal Rice and University Librarian Chris Banks point out features of the new Library to Chancellor of the Exchequer and Aberdeen alumnus Alistair Darling at the London reception held to increase awareness of the Library project.

[Courtesy of the University Newsletter]

Heritage Lottery boost for new Library



Initial work on the new £57 million Library, scheduled to open in 2011, began in the Spring.

Part of our ambitious project will create a

Conservation Studio to provide a centre of expertise in paper and book conservation, primarily for the University's precious and historically significant Special Collections.

The Conservation Studio received a crucial first-round pass in the bidding process for a significant Heritage Lottery Fund grant and although not a guarantee of funding, passing stage one of the application process gives the project a much higher chance of receiving a grant. The application was in competition with other supportable projects, so a first-round pass is an endorsement of outline proposals.

Fully developed proposals were submitted in record time earlier in the year. Although the chances of receiving a grant are high the second-round application will still be in competition for funding, and no money is set aside at this stage. An announcement is expected from The Heritage Lottery Fund in June.

Professor Chris Gane, Vice Principal (Culture and Communities), said the new Conservation Studio would allow the University to exploit its collections for the benefit of the whole community.

When news of the first-round pass came he explained, "The University's collections comprise one of the most significant manuscript, printed book and archive collections in the United Kingdom. Amassed over 500 years, our holdings consist of over 200,000 printed books dating back to the 15th century and 4,000 irreplaceable archival collections.

"Many parts of our collection have long been unavailable due to their fragility, and work is needed to treat, repair and conserve them. The new Library will provide a prominent and public venue for the display of our cultural heritage, enabling the collections to be made available to the wider community through outreach activities, events and exhibitions.

"The construction of this purpose built Studio will give us the ideal space and conditions to carry out the essential conservatory work on the collections, which is why the news from the Heritage Lottery Fund is so welcome."

News regarding the second-round is keenly awaited.

Funding Boosts

US philanthropist Dr Loretta Brennan Glucksman is making the personal gift of three million dollars towards the purpose-designed specialist conservation studio adjacent to the new University library.

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

Petro-Canada, a Canadian oil and gas company with its UK operational headquarters in Aberdeen, has pledged £100,000 to our campaign. Its regional manager said, "We feel passionate about helping to provide inspiring facilities for students who represent the future of our industry and of others. Ultimately it will give Aberdeen an iconic cultural facility and represent a dramatic new addition to the architectural heritage of the city". (pp6-8 in the Magazine).

The Aberdeen Magazine is available at on the web at <http://www.aberdeenmagazine.com/>

Fame and Publicity

The Library features prominently in the University's December 2008 *Aberdeen Magazine*.

Chris Banks, University Librarian, has a Q&A feature in which we not only learn what inspired her to move to Aberdeen - where she's been overwhelmed by the light and skies here - but also why she discounted a career as a performing musician. She tells us of the elements of public engagement planned for the new Library and our conservation and preservation programme, her particular favourites from Special Collections, which other libraries around the world inspire her (the British Library, the Royal Library in Copenhagen, the Beinecke at Yale and Imperial College, London), her other hobbies and interests and the revelation that she plays the didgeridoo.

For the full interview see pp 16-17 of the Magazine.

The new Library project has benefited from the most generous gift of £300,000 from the University's Alumni Annual Fund (UK), to celebrate its first decade and the Fund aims to increase this over the next few years and name an alumni area within the building. This matches in very well with the Friends' own pledge and aspirations for publicity in the new building.

The Aberdeen Magazine is available at on the web at <http://www.aberdeenmagazine.com/>

King's College celebrated in new book

Professor Derek Ogston, a longstanding member of the Friends and Executive Committee member, and co-author Margaret Carlaw are generously donating all profits from the sale of their recently published book to the fundraising campaign for the new University library.

King's College, Aberdeen: History, Buildings and Artistic Portrayal charts the history of King's College through a series of photographs, illustrations and paintings from down the centuries.

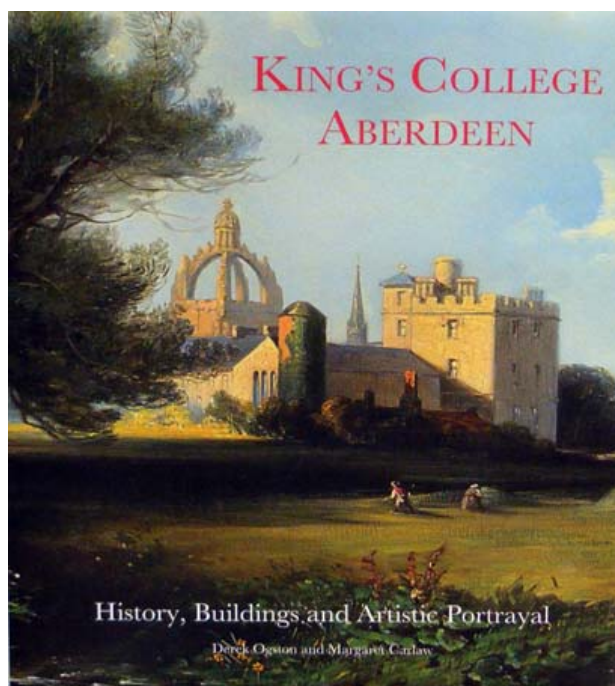
The first section of the book describes the history and development of the King's College buildings from their foundation by Bishop Elphinstone in the early 16th century to the present day. The second part includes images of the College by a number of artists.

Derek Ogston is an Emeritus Professor of Medicine and former Senior Vice-Principal at the University of Aberdeen. Margaret Carlaw currently farms in the Scottish Borders and formerly pursued a career in education in Aberdeen.

The book is available for purchase from the University's online store at <http://www.abdnpayments.co.uk/store/>

Alternatively, please contact the Alumni Relations Office on 01224 273277.

Also available for sale from the Copyshop, QML.



Remembering ...

Dr Tom W. Graham (1945-2008) Head of Reader Services Aberdeen University Library 1972-80

We were saddened to hear of the death in November of Tom Graham, whom many older Friends will remember.

Increasing emphasis upon subject specialisation within the University Library saw Tom come to Aberdeen in 1972. His new post, Sub-Librarian i/c Reader Services (Arts and Social Sciences) was one of the first professional appointments of the new University Librarian, Mike Smethurst, and was created to strengthen Reader Services.

Tom came to Aberdeen at a time when libraries in America were moving to the emphasis on serving the reader rather than simply preserving stock and his enthusiasm for this aspect of the Library was evident throughout his dealings with University staff and students. Hence his encouragement of subject specialisation and subject arrangement of stock, with a group of staff responsible for all aspects of a particular area, from selecting, to cataloguing, processing and dealing with queries on that material and the many information resources then appearing.

He took command and steered a new Division at a time which not only saw great financial restraints on the Library in every sphere, but also the excitement of a new way of looking at our collections and

the readers who use them, while recognising also the skill and expertise of Library staff.

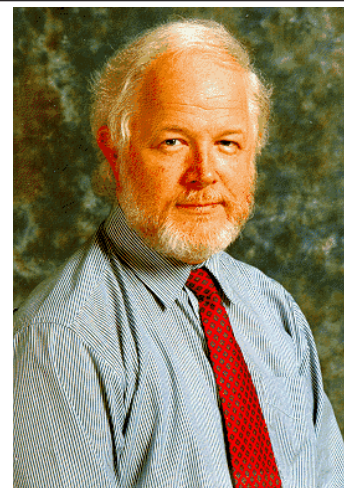
Tom was promoted to Senior Sub-Librarian in 1979 and resigned in 1980 to take up the post of Deputy Librarian to Philip Larkin at the University of Hull. Aberdeen's Annual Report for that Session recorded the Library Committee's gratitude for the hard work and enthusiasm which he devoted to the development of Reader Services during his period in Aberdeen.

From Hull Tom moved to become University Librarian at York in 1984 and then at Newcastle-upon-Tyne from 1997, where, under his leadership, the Library's reputation for innovation in developing electronic information services and providing high quality academic services was to become outstanding.

He had a distinguished career as a practitioner and library manager and made a significant contribution to the library and academic communities at a national level as a major figure in the broader development of British university libraries. He had a range of professional interests across several areas of library management, not least the integration of library services into teaching, learning and research, which he had initiated with us in Aberdeen.

The obituary from Newcastle University Library commented on his personality in a way which will resonate with those of us who knew him at Aberdeen:

“Tom will be greatly missed by his



colleagues and many friends in the University – not only for his leadership, intellect and good judgement, but also for his warmth, kindness and humour; he was a man who had many stories which he recounted with a great sense of fun.” (Wayne Connolly, Deputy Librarian, University of Newcastle).

He had been a mentor before his time, as shown in his dealings with Library staff here, always kind and helpful, with a ready smile and recognition for everyone. This was evident, too, when he returned to the Library for conferences or meetings in Aberdeen, or when members of staff here met him at a library function elsewhere in Britain. In spite of his rise he always had time for a word, and showed genuine interest in the individual and Aberdeen University Library.

Tom had gone to school and university in Glasgow, graduating in history, before taking his library qualification at Strathclyde University. His PhD (Glasgow, 1992) was on the relations between the Papacy and the Scottish Church in the 16th century and he continued to maintain a connection with Scottish historical work. Also

important to him throughout his life was the Iona Community, his interest in music, as a talented musician and singer, including being a member of the Edinburgh Festival Chorus and Scottish Opera Chorus, and his passion for hillwalking.

He died of cancer on 30 November, survived by his wife, Moira, who, again, some Friends may remember, and his two sons.

Tom was one of a long line of ex-University of Glasgow Library staff who received a thorough training and grounding there under the tutelage of Ogilvie MacKenna, 1951-78, before embarking on successful professional careers in academic libraries up and down the land.

Others from whose ideas and experience Aberdeen University thus benefited were Mike Smethurst (leaving Aberdeen to become Director-General, Humanities and Social Sciences, at the British Library and ten years of senior management there), Helen Greer (Head of Reader Services after Tom and who died in office), Margaret Coutts (also Head of Reader Services, who left us to become Director of Information Services and Librarian at the University of Kent in Canterbury and who is now Librarian and Keeper of the Brotherton Collection, Leeds University – married to Colin McLaren, Archivist and subsequently University Librarian) and, most recently, Carole Munro, Head of Reader Services, Deputy and then

Librarian here.

We owe much to these succeeding generations of Mr McKenna's protégées.

Incidentally, our own Miss Margaret MacKenna, Head of Cataloguing here for many years, was sister of Ogilvie.

New Arrival in Historic Collections: Keith O'Sullivan

Dr Iain Beavan retired as Head of Special Libraries and Archives in March after over 3 decades with the University Library and we now welcome Keith O'Sullivan, who recently took up the post of Senior Rare Books Librarian in the Autumn. Here he introduces himself.

My academic background is in English literature and history, with an undergraduate degree from London and my Master's from Sussex. My professional background, after a library degree at Aberystwyth, was nurtured by various posts at Oxford University, and is in Special Collections.

Prior to coming to Aberdeen I was Canterbury Cathedral's Librarian for six years. I oversaw the creation of a new theological library, a joint venture between the Dean and Chapter and a local university to create a major research centre within the city. I was also curator for a dozen major exhibitions on subjects as diverse as the history of the book, maps and botany.

My reasons for coming up to Aberdeen are many. I was certainly inspired by the University's

breadth of ambition: a multi-million pound new library with rare books and archives at its centre. The principle of serving a diverse, expanded audience - both University members and a wider public - is one with which I could easily identify, having worked at Canterbury. Aberdeen as a city, and the post itself, also provide an exciting and much broader canvas. The collections here are over four times as large as Canterbury's and rich in subject areas of particular and growing interest to me, especially literature of the Romantic and Victorian periods. I wanted to both return to an academic community and re-locate to an urban centre 'somewhere in the north'; this has been emphatically achieved! Thus far I've been struck by Aberdeen's architecture, the clear light, the lack of humidity, and (occasionally) the cold: snow is an occupational hazard here, I have discovered this winter! Intellectually, it has already been rewarding in that I have been working with the University's rich resources in areas completely new to me, such as Jacobitism.

I look forward to the many opportunities the post offers in the years ahead to extend our teaching, conference and exhibition programmes, and to collaborate with other institutions.

Keith M C O'Sullivan
Senior Rare Books Librarian
Library & Historic Collections

Editor: Keith recommended that the Friends purchase the 1746 General Wade map detailed further on page 12.

Scott's Waverley Novels

Those of you who were Friends in 2003 may remember when reading about the donation of the Bernard C Lloyd Walter Scott Collection that Professor David Hewitt, Emeritus Professor in Scottish Literature, is Editor-in-Chief of the Edinburgh edition of Scott's Waverley novels.

After 20 years publication of the series has now been completed by Edinburgh University Press and the full collection of 28 complete and critically-edited volumes of the novels are now available to modern readers for the first time.

This Edinburgh Edition of the Waverley Novels (EEN) is a monumental scholarly undertaking designed to give the world – for the first time – a fresh and authoritative text of the novels as Scott initially intended them to be read.



Professor David Hewitt

Professor Hewitt led an international team of editors returning to the first editions and beyond these to the successive (often heavily and repeatedly revised) galley- and page-proofs and ultimately to the original manuscripts to arrive at a text now presented free of all later revisions, corruptions and misreadings. It has led to the correction of many thousands of textual variants and errors, and aims to recapture for today's readers something of their original magic.

What a tour de force! Congratulations, David, and to your team.

For further details see www.euppublishing.com/series/eewn or any good bookshop.

Friends QML CopyShop Offers

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

Single copies of the postcards which the Friends funded, depicting some of the Treasures held in Special Libraries and Archives, are available from the CopyShop in Queen Mother Library at 25p each. Book of Hours, Book of Isaiah, Vicentius Placcius, Aberdeen Bestiary, Tam o' Shanter and Hortus Sanitatis



Vicentius Placcius



Book of Isiah



Book of Hours



Aberdeen Bestiary



Hortus Sanitatis



Tam O' Shanter



BEQUEST

Lt. Col. Edmund Eric Jones

Lt. Col. Edmund Eric Jones, LL.B, M. Litt, Ph.D. died at Grantown-on-Spey on 17 September 2008, aged ninety-five. In the terms of his will he left a generous bequest to the Friends for which the Executive Committee are extremely grateful.

In its obituary, the Press and Journal described Edmund Jones as

‘ a modest man of action who rode in the Grand National, and whose life read like the pages of a twentieth century adventure story.’

The Press and Journal did not exaggerate.

By the time he enrolled as a mature student aged fifty-five in the Law Faculty of Aberdeen University in 1968, Edmund Jones had already completed two distinguished careers. He was born in Warminster on 7 March 1913 and, after school, he followed in his father’s footsteps by joining the Indian Army as a regular soldier. He served in Shanghai and Burma but returned to Britain at the outbreak of World War II. He became a Staff Officer, served throughout the war and retired from the army after the war as a Lieutenant Colonel. He used to recall how he was one of the men who scouted the terrain in France two days before the D-Day Landings.

On three occasions during his time as an Army officer, he borrowed a fellow officer’s horse and rode in the Grand National. He used to say that he finished the course once!

After retiring from the army he started a new career in advertising and joined the advertising agency S. H. Benson Ltd in London which later became part of Ogilvy & Mather. Several distilleries were among his clients and during this time he became an Honorary Distiller and a Freeman of the City of London. He retired from the world of advertising in 1968 as a Director.

He had always been a keen sportsman and hillwalker, and, in 1960, he moved with his wife, Mildred, to live in Aboyne. He did a lot of hill and mountain climbing, played golf and cricket and helped to found the Aboyne Rugby Club.

Having matriculated at Aberdeen University in 1968, he graduated LL.B in 1971. He went on to complete his legal apprenticeship and was enrolled as a solicitor and Notary Public in 1974.

In 1973 he entered the Politics Department of Aberdeen University to study for an M. Litt. and graduated in 1976. Next he enrolled as an Open University student and graduated Ph D in 1990. The subject of his thesis was “The Effect of International Law and International Institutions on the place of War in Society in the Twentieth Century’.

Sadly his first wife, Mildred, died in 1992 and in 1997 he married Anne

and moved to live in Grantown-on-Spey. He and Anne travelled the world during the eleven years of their marriage. They honeymooned in Egypt and visited America, Australia, China, Morocco, New Zealand, South Africa and Europe.

Professor Frank Lyall of Aberdeen University Law School acted as Edmund Jones’ Regent during his legal studies and as his Supervisor for his Ph.D. Professor Lyall regarded him, not only as one of his students, but also as a friend. He remembers him as a man of great humour, energy and enthusiasm, and also as a man of great kindness and generosity.

The Friends are very grateful to have been one of the beneficiaries of that generosity.

Graham Hunter
Honorary Treasurer

Links with the University of Aberdeen Alumnus Association

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

Alan Towns, c/o University of Aberdeen

tel: 01224 594536

alumnusassociation@abdn.ac.uk

Thanks to you ...

University of Aberdeen Oral History Archive Digitisation

Programme of analogue-to-digital reformatting of approx 225 hours of oral history tapes **£1,369.61**

Equipment costs will be met by Special Libraries and Archives **£603.57**

The University of Aberdeen Oral History Archive was begun in 1985 as part of the University's Quincentenary Project. Interviews with former students, staff and other individuals connected with the University were originally intended to aid historians working on monographs commemorating the Quincentenary, celebrated in 1995, but the considerable historical value of the first interviews encouraged the University to extend the project.

The archive comprises interviews with nearly 200 individuals, containing personal information about each person and reflecting on the history, structure, constitution and development of the University. The interviews provide unrivalled glimpses into the lives of those connected with the institution, from remarkably detailed memories of graduates of the 1920s and '30s, describing landladies, digs and food, through to ex-Principals and Heads of Department recounting their first hand experiences of university government at the highest level.

The interviews bring unique personal perspectives to the impact on the University of two world wars, the rapid expansion of the 1960s, reductions in funding in the 1980s and events such as the Quincentenary in 1995. They detail changes in the social history of Aberdeen and the surrounding area, together with developments in, for example, medicine, psychology, education, law and music, set in a wider educational and social context. Anyone interested in individual personalities or the history of the University discovers facts and anecdotes to add to the University's more formal records, statistics and other written works.

The collection has been transcribed, catalogued and is available to search on-line using the CALM archives database at <http://calms.abdn.ac.uk/searchingthearchives/>

The Archive contains over 200 hours of interviews recorded to analogue tapes but there is a growing concern with magnetic tape as a preservation or access medium. To enable long-term accessibility in an appropriate playback format, and to ensure that the interviews are preserved for future researchers in an archival format which meets current standards, it is now necessary to digitise this analogue archive.

As part of this programme, no more interviews will be recorded in analogue format. The machine hitherto used ceased to function and financial help from the Friends will allow it to be replaced with industry-standard digital recording equipment.

Zawacki, Teodor. *Speculum Senatorum ac officialum Regni Polonia aulae regiae & Iudicum Trib. Regni.*

**Krakow, heirs of Jacob Sybenycher, 1623
£1,500**

A contribution also came from within the University's College of Arts and Social Sciences
£450

The book was described by the bookseller as an 'extremely rare practical handbook to the offices of the Polish State and their functions, with a summary of its legal system'.

Professor Robert Frost, Head of the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, together with other members of the History Department, recommended its purchase, saying that it 'would be an outstanding acquisition.'

This extremely rare work, of which there are no known copies in the UK or the USA and only six located in Europe, comes from the library of the Earls of Macclesfield. It is of cardinal importance for an understanding of the constitution of the political system of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which was remodelled between 1569-72.

The driving force behind the creation of a new parliamentary union was Jan Zamoyski, who had earlier published an influential classic work. It is the most comprehensive contemporary guide to the constitution and function of the Senate, written at a time when the system was still functioning well and Poland-Lithuania was the dominant power in northeastern Europe. As such, its constitution was of great interest to politicians elsewhere in Europe and the fact that Zawacki published his guide in Latin demonstrates that he was seeking a European audience.

The Polish emphasis on the role of senators aroused great interest and not a little controversy in contemporary European politics. An earlier work by a Polish writer, was promptly banned by Elizabeth I's government, although it circulated sufficiently for Shakespeare to have put some of its words into the mouth of Polonius in Hamlet. There was particularly

close interest in such works in Scotland at the time of the Unions of 1603 and 1707.

Zawacki's work is therefore of great interest not only to researchers into the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, but also to students of early modern political systems in general. At this time there were strong contacts between Scotland (and in particular the northeast of Scotland) and Poland-Lithuania, with tens of thousands of Scots migrating or travelling to the Commonwealth as soldiers, religious exiles and traders.

There is strong interest currently in the University in these links, and in Poland-Lithuania, with two experts in the History department, Professor Robert Frost, who is currently writing the Oxford History of the Polish-Lithuanian Union 1385-1815 for OUP, and Dr Karin Friedrich, who is an expert on 17th and 18th-century Poland and Polish Prussia.

The acquisition of Zawacki's work adds to a small but important collection of contemporary works on the politics and history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth already held in the Library and Historic Collections. These include another recent acquisition of a facsimile edition from 2004 with Polish translation of Zawacki's Catalogus.

The Library has been building up its collections in Polish history of the early modern period over the last five or six years. As well as a growing stock of secondary works, it subscribes to the Polish biographical dictionary (currently c 40 volumes) and has purchased the *Volumina Legum*, a new edition of the complete laws of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, originally published at the end of the 18th century.

Dr Iain Beavan,

Historic Collections

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.

Wildey, Thomas. A map of the King's roads, Made by his Excellency General Wade in the Highlands of Scotland, from Sterling to Inverness, with the Adjacent Countries &c London: [Thomas Jefferys Sr.?), Jany.4th.1746 [ie ca 1749] £2,000

Contributions also came from:

The National Fund for Acquisitions £1,500
Special Libraries and Archives £500

This is a broadsheet map of the roads through the Scottish Highlands built by General Wade after the 1719 Jacobite Rising.

After abandoning the march on London, the Jacobite Army had retired to the Highlands to besiege Stirling Castle. While this Army was comparatively mobile, the Hanoverian Army, with its baggage and artillery train, depended on the roads to pursue the Highlanders.

The map is dedicated to Henry 'Hangman' Hawley, Royal Commander in Scotland, who was soundly defeated by the Jacobites at the Battle of Falkirk, a fortnight after this map was first published.

This example is a second state (edition) map, with the Battle of Culloden now marked, together with the battle lines of the opposing forces.

It is a superb addition to, and enhancement of, the University's existing MacBean Stuart and Jacobite Collection. The University has one of the largest Jacobite collections in the UK, identified as one of the University's distinctive treasures and is specifically identified in the present collection development policy as a 'priority' for

'continuing development' and further accrual.

The print will be used alongside other holdings from the MacBean Collection for research both in Early Modern Studies and well-established programmes of undergraduate teaching on the period, for example courses on 'Scotland's New Horizons, 1620-1800', and 'Culture and Identity in 18th Century Scotland'. As with all Library holdings, the map will be catalogued and available for use by students, staff and visiting researchers in our dedicated Historic Collections reading room, under supervision.

In addition it will certainly feature in exhibitions and public lectures planned for the new Library building. Displays and talks will draw attention to University holdings, but also serve a wider purpose, to alert the wider local community to aspects of Scottish heritage.

The map is a good, clear print, with as far as is known original outline colouring. The National Library of Scotland's Map Library has attested that this copy is of superior quality to their own. It is generally in good physical condition and the costs of 3-4 hours work to restore it to as pristine a state as possible will be



General Wade's Map of the King's roads, 1746 met internally.

Keith O'Sullivan

*Senior Rare Books Librarian
Historic Collections*

Schleiermacher, Friedrich.
Kritische Gesamtausgabe,
edited by Hans-Joachim
Birkner Berlin: W. de Gruyter,
1988- £2,500

The purchase of the remaining published volumes of Section 1 of this work was requested by Dr Jutta Leonhardt-balzer, of the School of Divinity and Religious Studies and most strongly supported by Professor Chris Gane on behalf of the School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, one of the strongest academic groups in the University and ranked as No 1 or 2 in the UK.

Schleiermacher is one of the most important theologians of the 19th century. His critical thought processes made him foundational for many theological disciplines, not only systematic theology but also exegesis. The study of his writings is of both historical and methodological interest for theology and philosophy and the *Kritische Gesamtausgabe* is the first complete collection of his writings. He is the subject of current PhD research at Aberdeen.

Special Libraries and Archives Projects

A fifth successive award from the Wellcome Trust's *Research Resources in Medical History* scheme will enable us to catalogue the records held by Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society. This is an important collection which complements the University's own extensive medical holdings which date back to the 15th century.

Following a generous grant from the Trustees of the Cluny Estate, an archivist is cataloguing the Cluny Castle Papers. Previously unavailable for consultation, listing this collection provides researchers with a unique primary resource for learning about local, economic, landscape, architectural and agrarian history.

The catalogues to these, and all our other archive collections, can be searched online using the CALM database at:

[http://calms.abdn.ac.uk/
searchingthearchives](http://calms.abdn.ac.uk/searchingthearchives)

Marischal Museum Update

The displays at Marischal Museum are now closed while Aberdeen City Council converts the front of Marischal College into its corporate headquarters, although a virtual version of the exhibitions can still be seen at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/virtualmuseum/>.

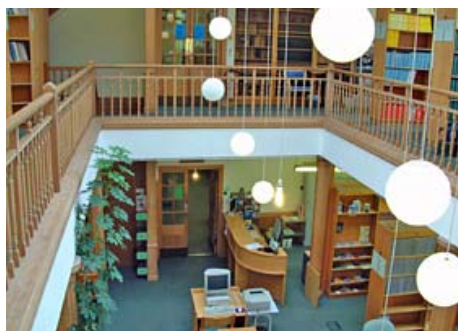
Meantime the museum continues to be very active. The University's museum collections recent official recognition as being of national significance has generated funding for a major documentation project. This has also helped to secure a *Cultural Engagement Grant* for the popular service to schools, and also a project which focuses on Old Aberdeen, in conjunction with local schools and Aberdeen's *Reading Bus*. The latter follows last terms' project on slavery. You can see the results of this in a recently published book at <http://www.readingbus.co.uk/Books/>.

And then we were five: Rowett's Reid Library joins the University

In July 2008 the Rowett Research Institute at Bucksburn merged with the University.

The staff and collections of the Rowett Research Institute's *Reid Library* have been added to the University's *Library and Historic Collections* and work is continuing to enable straightforward access to both collections.

The Reid Library has significant resources in human and animal nutrition which complement our own medical and medical sciences collections. Library materials can be delivered to all University Library sites through our Inter-branch service.



Corrections

In the Autumn / Winter 2008 issue of the News I noted that Tom Hall, a previous Deputy and then Acting Librarian here, had recently given a lecture for the 'National Trust' in Edinburgh on his volunteer librarian work in Trust properties, having been awarded the Trust's George Waterston Memorial Award for this in 2000.

Throughout the piece I should, of course, have referred to the Trust as the National Trust for Scotland, thus not confusing it with the English organisation.

I also reduced Tom's time with us – his dates should have read 1966-88.

Apologies to Tom and the National Trust for Scotland.

And secondly, I was premature in announcing that Robin Armstrong Viner is now the Honorary Secretary for the Friends, taking over from me. This has to be voted on at the AGM.

Editor: Christine Miller

Award for Information Consultant, Gilian Dawson



Library & Historic Collections Information Consultant, Gilian Dawson, has won the 2008 Grampian Information Individual Award in recognition of her significant contribution to the information profession. This was specifically because of her personal interaction with school libraries and librarians, both within Aberdeen City, Shire, and Moray over the last 20 years.

Gilian has fostered and maintained active links with the schools' librarian community and hosts an annual Continuing Professional Development session in the Queen Mother Library for them.

She runs information skills sessions for Year 6 pupils (and occasionally Years 4 and 5) from around 20 secondary schools throughout the area, bringing pupils in to QML to introduce them to the academic library environment and to assist with their Advanced Higher project work. In the past year alone Gilian has helped over 1,000 senior pupils in this way.

Recently she was invited to run information skills sessions in schools as far afield as Fraserburgh and Elgin and has had very good feedback from both pupils and teachers.

Her most recent ventures have included awareness sessions for the school teachers themselves, again to very wide acclaim.

Volunteer for Hebrew Transliteration

For the last 6 months the Cataloguing team has been delighted to welcome Dinah Shoshan, a volunteer whose skills in reading Hebrew have allowed us to run a small pilot project to improve the cataloguing of our Biesenthal Collection.

Around a third of the books in this collection, said to represent all that was published in Hebrew between the invention of printing and the 1870s, are entirely in Hebraic text. A printed catalogue by D. R. G Beattie, *Catalogue of the Hebrew books in the Biesenthal Collection*, was published in 1979 but most of the records in our online library catalogue do not currently include the Hebrew titles.

Dinah has been busy transliterating the titles from the original script into the Roman alphabet - a difficult and time consuming process. You can see some examples of this in the catalogue. What you can't see is that Dinah has also been adding the names of the authors, the titles and any other important notes from each book in Hebrew text. We're working on making this information available and fully searchable so that in future you'll be able to locate these books using their original language and script.

Interested in helping out on similar projects? You can find out more on Special Libraries and Archive's volunteering web page at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/volunteering.shtml>.

More information about the Biesenthal Collection is available at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/>



Aberdeen's Lost City found again

A book about the rich history of Old Aberdeen featuring first time reproductions of illustrations drawn from the University of Aberdeen's library and museum collections was published in October 2008.

The book, titled *The Lost City: Old Aberdeen*, charts the architectural, historical and educational importance and beauty of the area known as Old Aberdeen.

“Lost” to the people of Aberdeen until 1891, Old Aberdeen had been a separate Burgh for more than 400 years. It is now truly immersed in the modern city landscape and this book relates the splendour and historical importance of some of the buildings, churches and University structures in the area.

Written by Peter Davidson, Professor of Renaissance Studies in the University of Aberdeen, and Jane Stevenson, Regius Professor of Humanity at the University, the book includes archival material taken from the University museum and library and gives a fascinating expert insight to the area from the Professors' historical viewpoints.

The backdrop for the book is Old Aberdeen's cobbled streets, the University's 500 year history as a renowned seat of learning, and the varied architecture of the area itself. Contemporary photography in the book is provided by David Langan and the volume is edited by Marc Ellington, a trustee of The National Galleries Scotland, and Daniel MacCannell, a widely published author and winner of the Jack Nicholson Prize.

The aim of the book is to re-awaken local interest in this historically significant area of Aberdeen and reinforce the importance of this distinct and well preserved area within the city.

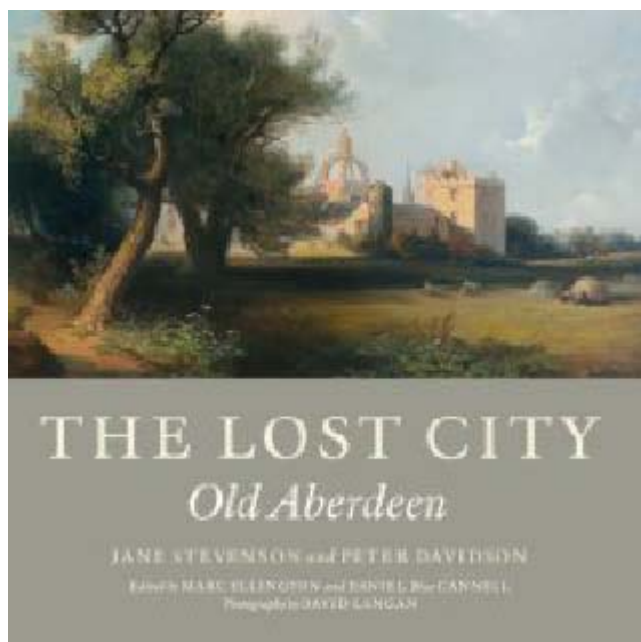
Speaking at an event to mark the launch of the book, Professor C Duncan Rice, Principal and Vice-Chancellor at the University, who contributed an introduction to the book, said:

“The University takes very seriously its responsibility as an important tenant of the Lost City. Over the past few years we have put much effort into protecting our oldest buildings and improving our more recent ones, and the aesthetic context in which they sit.

“The biggest new project is our plan to create a glorious new library – a modern counterpart to the Crown of King's for the landward side of the campus. This new addition will draw many more to visit Old Aberdeen in the years ahead.”

Petro-Canada, the oil and gas operator which recently contributed £100,000 towards the fundraising campaign to create the new University of Aberdeen library, pledged its support for the production and launch of the book.

The lost city :Old Aberdeen by Jane Stevenson and Peter Davidson ; photography by David Langan with Marie Shaw and Eric Ellington ; edited by Marc Ellington and Daniel MacCannell. Edinburgh : Birlinn, 2008. ISBN 1841587389



The Friends Executive Committee

Dr Hazel Hutchison

We are delighted to welcome Dr Hazel Hutchison to the Friends' Committee.

Hazel came to Aberdeen as a Lecturer in the Department of English in the School of Language and Literature. She has already used Special Collections and our extensive 19th century material both for her own research and as part of her teaching work with students and we know she will bring a fresh academic perspective and enthusiasm to the Committee.

Hazel grew up in Glasgow and studied in Edinburgh before moving to Aberdeen to work as a journalist on the Press and Journal. In 1995 she joined the university community as a postgraduate student working towards a PhD on the American novelist Henry James. Since 2001 she has been a lecturer in Victorian literature in the School of Language and Literature.

She is the author of a book about James's reaction to the religious debate of the late 19th century: *Seeing and believing: Henry James and the spiritual world* (Palgrave, 2006), and continues to have an interest in James and his contemporaries. However, she admits that her literary interests have a habit of straying outside the Victorian period. She has also written a book about essay skills aimed at encouraging students to develop their writing potential: *Teach yourself writing essays and dissertations* (Hodder, 2007), and she is presently working on a research project about American writers in Europe during the First World War.

Dr Hutchison is currently completing a joint project with Alan Spence, Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Aberdeen, to compile a book of poems about the city of Aberdeen. The volume, *Silver: an Aberdeen anthology*, will be published by Birlinn Press in May. It includes works from 1153 to the present day, and features well-known literary names including Byron, Thomas Hardy, George Mackay Brown and Seamus Heaney alongside local authors, many of whom have strong links with the University. Research for this volume has involved exploring the University's print and manuscript collections where many of these poems have been waiting patiently for rediscovery. The book. Dr Hutchison is also an associate director of the Centre for the Novel based in the School of Language and Literature. She lives in Old Aberdeen and is involved in various musical groups around the city playing her violin.

A warm welcome to Hazel.

Reminder ... Friends on the Web


**Friends
Web site**

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

Friends of Aberdeen University Library

Executive Committee

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Miss Eilidh M Scobbie

Mrs Helen F 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