Tribute to Roy H Thomson
Chair of the Friends of Aberdeen University Library

He was a member of the Friends of Aberdeen University Library for more than 36 years and Chairman of our Executive Committee for over 17, a truly magnificent record of service during which he led the Committee and the Friends with sound common sense and always with good humour.

Roy Thomson was born at Cults in Aberdeen on 27th August 1933. He was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and then at Aberdeen University where he found two loves which were to last for the rest of his life. The first was the University of Aberdeen and the second, more importantly, was one of his fellow students in Psychology, Nancy Craig. Roy and Nancy graduated with Honours in 1955 and were married in 1956. Roy’s commitment to Nancy, their three daughters, Judy, Sophie and Helen, and their families was total throughout his life.

After University, Roy completed his National Service (1955-57) with the 1st Battalion, the Gordon Highlanders, seeing active service as an Intelligence Officer in Cyprus.

In 1957 he joined Rowntree & Co. as an Assistant Psychologist and stayed with them until 1960 when he joined the family motor business of Thomsons of Cults, first as a Director and then as Managing Director from 1963 until 1986.

That brief summary does little justice to Roy’s life. The list of groups and organisations in which he played a leading role is as wide and extensive as the list of his own personal interests. His lifelong interest in the mountains, hill-walking and skiing led to his being the founder of Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Association. I have already mentioned his service to the Friends of Aberdeen University Library and he also served for a time on the University Court. He returned to Aberdeen University as a mature student and was awarded the Post-Graduate degree of MLitt. (With Distinction) only last summer.

Roy was an instinctive Liberal and his contribution to his party was enormous, both locally and nationally. As local Councillor for Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber he served on Aberdeen District Council for fourteen years from 1974 and was Leader of the Council for part of that time. He was a Past President of the Scottish Executive of the Liberal Democrats and also for many years a member of the Federal Executive. He acted as a trusted agent for Malcolm Bruce, MP, for four successful General Election campaigns.

Roy was a Knight Commander of the Order of St. John, a Past President of Aberdeen Mental Health Association and of Aberdeen Rotary Club. He acted as Marketing Director and was a long-term supporter of Aberdeen International Youth Festival, a past Chairman of Kaleidoscope and of the Aberdeen International Children’s Festival. He was also a Director of Scottish Ballet (Chairman 1983-87) and a Governor of BBC Scotland.

Roy was a quiet self-effacing man, with a complete absence of self-seeking. He could be as tough and determined as anyone when pursuing a point in which he believed strongly, but he preferred to make progress by co-operation rather than confrontation, and by discussion rather than division. By his death the Friends of Aberdeen University Library have lost a valued Chairman and the University of Aberdeen has lost a valued friend.

Graham C. Hunter
Chairman, The Friends of Aberdeen University Library
FRIENDS’ EVENTS
Date for your Diary

THE FRIENDS OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Summer Meeting and AGM

Thursday 27 May

Queen Mother Library Seminar Room
Old Aberdeen

AGM at 7.00 pm
followed at 7.30 pm by

Celebrating Scott’s Poetry:
Walter Scott, ‘The Lady of the Lake’ and the Bernard C. Lloyd Collection
by
Dr Ali Lumsden
Senior Lecturer, Department of English

All Welcome

Light Refreshments will be served after the meeting

----------------------------------------------------------

Autumn / Winter 2010 Meeting

full details to follow

November at 7.30 pm

Old Aberdeen

‘Fearsome Engines’ [printing]
by
Howard Chandler
Professor of Engineering

All Welcome

Light Refreshments will be served after the meeting

Editorial Changes

As from the next issue of the FAUL News you’ll see a new name for your Editor, Georgia Brooker.

Georgia is a member of the Library Collections and Documentation teams and is currently involved in the production of HeadLines, the new electronic magazine covering items of interest to users of the Library and IT services. You may have noticed that I have recently included some of HeadLines articles in our own newsletter for those of you who don’t have easy access to the internet or who prefer the printed word.

Having edited the Friends’ newsletter for well over 20 years, beginning when it was a double-sided cyclostyled sheet of paper, I’ve tried to develop it with a more modern look, plus colour and images, and, I hope, full of items I felt were of interest to you. Since taking early retirement I no longer have the same contacts and access to material – or the time! – and with a new face at the helm in Georgia you will be well served.

Many thanks to all past contributors and, especially, to Mike and Caroline Craig of the Reprographics Unit, who, for almost all of my many years designed, put together and had the newsletter printed.

Georgia is used to providing informative articles on Library matters for HeadLines and will continue this in the newsletter. I know I have left the magazine in good hands and that you will see a fresh enthusiasm and new angles and perspectives. Meantime I shall enjoy the surprises of each issue and look forward to a ‘good read’.

Christine Miller
REPORTS ON FRIENDS’ ACTIVITIES

Autumn / Winter 2009 Meeting

From Castle to Croft to Cowshed: to the architecture of the Cluny Estates,
by Nicola Mills

Cluny Castle

Nicola Mills is a freelance archivist funded by the Cluny Trust to produce a full listing and catalogue of the Gordons of Cluny papers, deposited with the University of Aberdeen. In November, using materials from Special Libraries & Archives and some local collections, she gave a well attended meeting of the Friends a fascinating account of the range of architecture that is found across the vast estates of Cluny. Among the papers are maps, plans and architectural drawings relating to every type of building found on the estates. Nicola told us of the castles, church buildings, utility buildings, farmhouses and crofts that were planned and built on the estates from the 1700s to 1930s.

Gordon of Cluny estates were far-ranging, including a large part of Aberdeenshire (including Midmar and Slains), Buckie, Kintear in Nairn, Killochan in Ayrshire, the southern half of the Western Isles, three estates on Tobago and a section of Manitoba.

Castles

Cluny Estates had about seven castles scattered about Scotland. Cluny Castle was acquired by John Gordon, I of Cluny, after the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion but it did not start out as the family seat. The first of the family to take an interest in the castle was John Gordon, IV of Cluny, the Colonel. He began to restore the castle as a family home, probably in the 1830s. John Smith, an Aberdeen architect whose other work included rebuilding Balmoral, refurbished Cluny Castle. When Colonel John died in 1858 (reputedly the wealthiest commoner in Scotland), his only surviving child and heir, Captain John Gordon, oversaw completion of the restoration work. The lodge and gateway at Cluny were used in the film The Queen (2006) as the gateway of Balmoral.

The castle remained relatively unchanged until 1926 when a fire which destroyed two wings and a chapel necessitated repairs. Aberdeen architect George Bennett Mitchell was consulted, and produced designs for all the fixtures and fittings for the chapel as well as for the staff bedrooms damaged by the fire. Other castles which were on the estate include Midmar bought in 1796 and Kisimul Castle on Barra bought in 1840 and later bought back by the MacNeils.

Church Buildings

In 1840 John Gordon was approached about Buckie Church by the heritors of Cluny. Plans exist for Midmar, Slains and Auldearn manses, which were rebuilt in the 1850s. Midmar Kirk was refurbished in 1912.

Utility Buildings

These plans include dovecots and ice houses, farmhouses and crofts; also schools for the Western Isles, Slains and Corrennie. Hotel plans remain for Slains Lodge and Collieston Marine Hotel.

There are two quarries on Cluny land, including Corrennie from where the pink granite is still supplied.

Estate Plans

These include some drawn by established architects. Buckie was a planned new town and the papers contain a map dated 1861. Captain John and later Lady Cathcart built new Buckie with broad, spacious streets and three-bay houses described as having all the details money could buy.

The Cluny Estate papers demonstrate the quiet impact of the Cluny Estates on the architecture of Scotland both in and beyond the North-East.

Colquhoun was purchased in 1884 as a shooting and fishing estate in Ayrshire and was sold in 1954. There were several country houses, Auldearn near Nairn, Buckie House, Kebbity House at Midmar and Hermitage of Braid, now a public park and nature reserve south of Edinburgh. The estate also owned a townhouse in Edinburgh, No. 4 St Andrews Square.

Other plans in the Cluny Estate Papers include:

Church Buildings

In 1840 John Gordon was approached about Buckie Church by the heritors of Cluny. Plans exist for Midmar, Slains and Auldearn manses, which were rebuilt in the 1850s. Midmar Kirk was refurbished in 1912.

Utility Buildings

These plans include dovecots and ice houses, farmhouses and crofts; also schools for the Western Isles, Slains and Corrennie. Hotel plans remain for Slains Lodge and Collieston Marine Hotel.

There are two quarries on Cluny land, including Corrennie from where the pink granite is still supplied.

Estate Plans

These include some drawn by established architects. Buckie was a planned new town and the papers contain a map dated 1861. Captain John and later Lady Cathcart built new Buckie with broad, spacious streets and three-bay houses described as having all the details money could buy.

The Cluny Estate papers demonstrate the quiet impact of the Cluny Estates on the architecture of Scotland both in and beyond the North-East.

The full catalogue of the collection is available online at http://calms.abdn.ac.uk/. Further information about Gordon of Cluny and the working life of an Aberdeenshire Castle is at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/Collection_highlight_autumn08.shtml

Sheona Farquhar
Technical Services Manager
Library Services
Our March meeting began with a moving tribute by Graham Hunter to our late Chairman, Roy Thomson, who died suddenly on 29th November.

There appeared to have been a number of different events in King's College on that night and the group of Friends who met in the Old Senate Room represented the quality rather than the quantity. They were however treated to a fascinating exposition of the literary life of Britain in the 1920s and '30s by Keith O'Sullivan, Senior Rare Book Librarian, Special Libraries & Archives, which he based on the remarkable library amassed by John Bisset Chapman, now included in Special Collections.

John Chapman was born in 1875 in Caithness, son of a stationmaster, educated at Portree and Milne's Institution in Fochabers, from where he proceeded to study classics in Aberdeen, graduating in 1896. He taught classics in Dumfries and Airdrie and published a book on Horace which is still in print, as well as writing Doric poetry. A change of career in the First World War saw him in aircraft building and just after the War this led him to an aircraft factory in Bedfordshire. He then returned to the field of education with London County Council and latterly was District Inspector of Schools for Lambeth until his retirement. He died in 1949 in Fife and there is an obituary in the Aberdeen University Review.

The very strong literary connections which Chapman made in his London years stemmed from his activities as a regular reviewer for literary magazines. While his comments were sometimes pretty trenchant he could obviously spot emerging talent and developed close friendships with most of the significant writers of the period, attested by his large collection of first editions and letters from their authors.

There are over 70 volumes of Aldous Huxley's works in the collection, and over 50 of each of Walter de la Mare, HE Bates and AE Coppard, plus correspondence from Virginia Woolf. He had extensive correspondence with Professor Adolphus Jack at Aberdeen and Professor Edmund Blunden of Oxford. His circle of friends was wide, including the fervent Communist Margaret Warner and others very firmly not holding those political views.

Perhaps his identification of talent was not always perfect, however. His championing of the works of TF Powys has not been widely shared and Coppard indeed made some devastating comments about his writing, even though we have a work of his dedicated to Chapman.

The Chapman library is a splendid illustration of the special literary world of the interwar years, and Aberdeen is fortunate to have it in its collections.

Professor Mike Meston
Friends of the Library committee

One Million Records and Counting…!

The number of records in our Library catalogue passed the one million mark on 18 December when we loaded over 136,000 records for Eighteen Century Collections Online (ECCO). Now anyone wishing to view the full text of these rare and unique materials will find a special link to each individual title in the catalogue so that once you’ve found the item you’re looking for there’s no need to search again.

Improving access to ECCO has only been possible thanks to the generosity of the Friends who made a substantial contribution towards the cost of the records.

And the millionth record – A Letter to Sir George Saville, Bart. Upon the allegiance of a British subject: occasioned by his late bill in Parliament in favour of the Roman Catholics of this Kingdom.

Robin Armstrong Viner
Cataloguing Manager
r.armstrongviner@abdn.ac.uk

Apologies ….

… for the error in the Autumn / Winter News (p9) in which I referred to a book produced by children at Aberdeen’s St Peter’s RC School, on ‘the history of the Snow in Old Aberdeen, illustrating the Kirk’s architecture past and present’. Much could be written on the snow in Old Aberdeen, particularly over this Winter, but the school children were, of course, writing about the Snow Kirk!
The University has appointed Professor Ian Diamond, FBA FRSE, Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), as the new Principal and Vice Chancellor. He succeeded Professor Sir Duncan Rice on 1 April.

Professor Diamond has also chaired the Executive Group of Research Councils UK, the body representing all seven UK Research Councils, from 2004 until 2009.

Announcing the appointment, Sir Moir Lockhead, Senior Governor of Court, said, “Court has unanimously confirmed the appointment of Professor Diamond to lead the institution through the next stage of its mission to be rated among the world’s top universities. The achievements of recent years combined with the commitment and ambition of my new colleagues give us the best possible advantage in firmly positioning the University as a major international centre of excellence in learning and research.”

Professor Diamond is a distinguished social statistician, whose work has crossed many disciplinary boundaries. Prior to joining the ESRC he had an outstanding academic career at the University of Southampton, rising through the ranks from 1980 and becoming Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 2001.

He was elected to the UK Academy of Social Sciences in 1999 and as a Fellow of the British Academy in 2005. He has received honorary degrees from the Universities of Glasgow and Cardiff.

Professor Diamond said, “I am delighted to have the opportunity to steer this rising star in the north through the next stage of its mission to be rated among the world’s top universities. The achievements of recent years combined with the commitment and ambition of my new colleagues give us the best possible advantage in firmly positioning the University as a major international centre of learning and research.

“I want this University to compete with the best in the world and together with the outstanding staff of the University I believe we can achieve this.”

We know that Professor Diamond will give our new Library campaign his strongest backing but thank Principal Duncan Rice, also, for his enormous fundraising activities for us over the years.

We know that Professor Diamond will give our new Library campaign his strongest backing but thank Principal Duncan Rice, also, for his enormous fundraising activities for us over the years.

Professor Sir Duncan Rice, the previous Principal and Vice Chancellor, received a Knighthood at Buckingham Palace in December, awarded the honour for services to higher education.

When he left us, Professor Sir Duncan Rice had led the University of Aberdeen for 14 years. Under his leadership the University has grown in standing both nationally and internationally, becoming an ambitious internationally-focused institution, attracting leading professors from many of the world’s greatest universities. This, along with driving forward organisational change, major campus developments, one of the UK’s largest fundraising campaigns and the recently launched reformed curriculum, ensures the University enters its next phase under Principal Professor Diamond from a position of strength.

Friends will remember that over several years Principal Rice honoured the Friends by hosting recruitment evenings for us in his home in Chanonry Lodge, with the chance to enjoy the grounds on a lovely Summer evening.

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.
Laurence Bebbington has been appointed as our new Deputy Librarian.

Laurence worked at Nottingham University from 2001, where he was most recently Faculty Team Leader for Social Sciences, Law and Education, as well as being the University's Copyright Officer. He has gained wide experience over a number of years at a variety of institutions north and south of the border, including as a Research Assistant in the Archives Department at the University of Glasgow; as Assistant Librarian at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow, and when working at Cambridge University's Institute of Criminology, the Department of Information Science at Strathclyde and the Library at the University of Birmingham.

Laurence began work with us in December.

NEW LIBRARY

New Library Building
Chris Banks reports

There has been masses of activity both onsite and in planning over the last couple of months. Rising out of the ground, above the hoardings and now, just reaching above the height of QML can be seen two concrete towers. These will house the stairs, lifts, services and lots and lots of wiring and will form the north and south “cores” to the new library. Also visible for a few weeks, but now submerged under the ground floor “slab” were the reading room area and some of the plant room and storage areas. Indeed there was one point when we could very clearly identify the “Strongroom” space - that inner sanctum of sanctums that will store our most precious and vulnerable items.

Steel has now arrived on site and so not only is the ground floor visible, but also the framework for the first floor. Soon we will begin to get an idea of the scale of the inner architectural feature of the building - the atrium opening.

Less visible to the outside world but just as important and no less a hive of activity, is the fact that a large number of planning sessions are underway. On the assumption that we should be ready to open the building to the public in early September 2011, that gives us just under 500 days to plan and execute some 60 plus mini-projects many of which are being plotted against a procurement timetable. Some of these are not that “mini”, e.g.: how much shelving on each floor, where to place it, how to light it, how to select the books to go on it and how to move them from their existing locations to the new ones. Locks, security, IT equipment, staff distribution, conservation fit-out, furniture decisions and all manner of other things are being worked on at present.

Meanwhile, as we are working towards a library in the making, a couple of colleagues are working on a history of libraries in Scotland - there is something poetic in that! (See item on p 15)

Chris Banks
University Librarian

Construction work in April 2010

Regular updates on the new Library project are on the New Library web page: www.abdn.ac.uk/newlibrary
New Library Funding Update

An artist’s impression of the new building

Harriet Armstrong Viner is Development Executive for the University’s Development Trust and all enquiries regarding contributing to the new Library should be addressed to her:

h.armstrongviner@abdn.ac.uk
(1) +44 (0)1224 272641

Here she explains the significance of donations: "These grants, along with the substantial support we have received from alumni, friends of the University and corporate donors, mean that we are now half way to reaching the fundraising target of £30 million."

Fundraising has gained momentum thanks to three significant gifts totalling £600,000 given towards the new Library and Special Collections Centre.

The Robertson Trust has made a £200,000 funding award towards the Special Collections Centre, on the Ground Floor and Lower Ground Floor of the new building. The Centre will protect the University’s historically significant special collections in a state-of-the-art climatically controlled environment to ensure they are preserved for the enjoyment of future generations, and increase the public’s understanding of its shared history by enabling these precious printed and manuscript collections to be shared with the community.

The Trust’s donation will be used towards the Family and Schools’ Learning Room in the building’s Learning Suite. This custom-designed and welcoming community education facility will enable the youngest learners to participate in a range of stimulating and enjoyable learning activities. The Room will be primarily used by school groups - at both primary and secondary level - and by families who will participate in a range of practical, engaging learning experiences.

The ‘sister’ Learning Room was funded earlier in the year by Aberdeenshire Council.

The Garfield Weston Foundation has confirmed its own donation of £250,000. Their Administrator said, “The Trustees of the Foundation are delighted to support this project and anticipate it will offer real benefits both educationally and culturally to the University and the communities of North-East Scotland.”

The Wolfson Foundation, a long-standing supporter of the University, has also given a substantial donation of £150,000 towards the project. The Foundation awards grants to support excellence in the fields of science and medicine, health, education, the arts and humanities, and this donation is the third significant capital grant it has made to the University in the last five years.

Announcing the generous gifts, Professor Christopher Gane, Vice-Principal and academic lead for the Library project, said, "This is wonderful news and I am delighted that fundraising for the University’s new Library has gained such momentum with the announcement of these significant grants. In addition, construction work on the Library has started in earnest on campus."

“Achieving the vision for our new Library will depend on the generosity of our benefactors and we are extremely grateful and very fortunate to be presented with this huge level of funding, especially in today’s economic climate. We are all experiencing challenging times, however, the support from these organisations will enable the University in turn to make a gift, by preserving and promoting material to intrigue and inspire researchers and our communities today, and to enrich and educate generations to come.

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

The new £60 million project will provide much more than a conventional Library. It will provide an important resource for the whole community, who for the first time will enjoy access to priceless historical collections of books and manuscripts and regular events. A dedicated Special Collections Centre within the building will offer a welcoming cultural venue where a wide range of public audiences can engage with the collections through educational programming, exhibitions and volunteer opportunities.

The building is scheduled to open in September 2011.
The role of architecture in inspiring learning was the theme for a meeting of the Cross Party Group for Architecture and the Built Environment at the Scottish Parliament in November.

The designs for our new Library were featured, together with plans for Glasgow School of Art buildings and the University of Edinburgh’s Informatics Forum.

The meeting was convened and hosted by Robin Harper, MSP, a former rector of both Aberdeen and Edinburgh Universities.

Professor Chris Gane, Vice-Principal, and Head of the College of Arts and Social Science, and Morten Schmidt, Architects, Schmidt Hammer Lassen, presented our contribution, together with Angus Donaldson, Director of Estates.

Professor Gane said, “We were delighted to have the opportunity to talk to parliamentarians and the architectural and design community about our plans for the Library and the University. It was an important and worthwhile exchange, and we were struck by the remarkable synergies on issues between all three institutions.

There is no doubt that architecture plays a huge role in the international competitiveness of universities and their contribution to the public realm. The need for continued public investment has never been greater.”

Lectures are given by major international practitioners, including Benedetta Tagliabue, whose practice was responsible for the Scottish Parliament building. However, also on the agenda, for the April talk entitled Libraries as Cultural Hubs, was Morten Schmidt, partner in the Danish architectural practice Schmidt Hammer Lassen, discussing its thinking about libraries such as the Royal Danish Library, opened in 1999, and our own new Library building.

Many of you will remember that Chris Banks, the University Librarian, came to us from the British Library, where for many years she was Head of Music Collections. She has continued her musical interests here, as some of you will have heard in her addresses to the Friends, and is a member of King’s College Chapel Choir.

She thus appears on a new CD put together by Dr Paul Mealor, Senior Lecturer in Music. Stabat Mater is a collection of sacred vocal and choral music, recorded last year at King’s Chapel, and it has enjoyed widespread success.

Professor Pete Stollery, Head of Music, added that at a time when the arts might be facing cuts, money and effort is being invested at Aberdeen to ensure the importance of culture and art remains an integral part of both students’ education and the university’s public engagement programme.

Could Friends who have an e-mail address and who have not already done so please let us have your details, if you’re happy with this.

As well as increasing the efficiency of our own records and communications we could also then let the Alumni Secretary know your address and you can be sent details of their events. Although we try to include future events in our own News the fact that we only have 2 issues a year and alert you to the Spring meeting by post means that many of the Alumni events cannot be communicated to you.
Have you seen what’s happened to the Library: a large part has been demolished. A new Library is about to be built: it’s going to be wonderful. All the old treasures will be in the basement and there will be high quality study accommodation on the upper floors.

But anyway, they’ve begun to plan for everything that’s going inside the new library. Turns out they can put most of the material that’s heavily used on floors lower down; that way it’ll be quieter at the top. Just like Edinburgh Uni, they’re going to have well-designed places on every floor for people to work together, so there’ll be no shh-ing in those areas! But they’re expecting that it’ll be quieter over at the back of every floor as well: there’ll be rooms there that you can’t speak in at all. There will be somebody to give you a hand when you’re stuck: you’ll find them on every floor over beside the lifts, next to where the printers and copiers will be. If you have your own laptop you’ll be able to use it with WiFi, and there will be ordinary computers too. They’re planning to have a mixture of different kinds of seating, so you can sit upright, or relax as you please. It’s going to be very grand!

It’ll bi rare fin its deen, er’ll be a café so wi kin gang in fir wir tay, a fancy room for showin a the bonny aal books in athin. It will be great when it is complete: there will be a café so we can have a cup of tea, an exhibition space to show the treasures, and lots of other things.

Fan’ll’t bi deen? Aa canna wight!
When will it be ready? I can’t wait!

…and in answer to this final question, the new Library is set to open for the start of session in September 2011.

Wendy Pirie
Head of Administration and Planning
w.pirie@abdn.ac.uk
'Capturing the Energy'

The Library’s Archives staff have been collaborating with Total E&P UK and a number of other oil industry and government agencies in a project entitled Capturing the Energy, to preserve records which will enrich understanding of this significant energy sector.

Their work has featured as a case study in a new publication from the National Archives, providing a valuable guide to help businesses use their archives to explore new markets, provide legal and regulatory protection, and succeed in today's competitive markets.

Siobhán Convery, Head of Special Libraries & Archives, was a guest at a recent launch reception for Corporate Memory - a guide to managing business archives, where speakers included Sir Stuart Rose of Marks & Spencer plc, Professor Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England and Dame Stella Rimington, former head of MI5 and a professional archivist, who all promoted the value of archives to senior representatives of the business sector.

The event took place last year at the House of Lords, hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Archives and the National Council on Archives. Capturing the Energy was highlighted as an example of the many different ways companies are successfully using their archives, and the benefits of maintaining high quality records. The guide describes the project as an asset for the UK's offshore oil and gas industry which will enhance research and education programmes and capture the history of the industry for generations to come.

Professor Christopher Gane, Vice Principal, expressed the University's delight at this recognition for 'Capturing the Energy', saying,

"We have very much enjoyed working with Total and the other partners on this fascinating venture. The project is especially significant in the way it brings together the skills of Siobhán and other members of our dedicated team of curators with a major offshore operator, and a commitment to preserve, for future generations, information about an industry which shaped not only our local and national economy but also the cultural development of the communities of the east coast of Scotland."

Siobhan Convery
Head Special Libraries & Archives
s.convery@abdn.ac.uk

Priceless Music Manuscript Digitized

In 2008 the University’s Music Department joined forces with Aberdeen Art Gallery and the British Library to bring a priceless manuscript of keyboard music by the English composer William Byrd to Aberdeen.

Dating from 1591, My Ladye Nevells Booke is one of the few sources of English keyboard music to survive from the 16th century. It contains 42 of Byrd’s pieces, copied by John Baldwin of Windsor; most exciting of all, there appear to be corrections in the hand of the composer.

The manuscript was put on display in the Art Gallery, and became the focal point for a series of recitals and lectures culminating in the annual conference of the Royal Musical Association. Some of you will remember that Chris Banks spoke to the Friends about it at one of our meetings that year.

The work was also the subject of an honours course offered to our music undergraduates, with unique first-hand access to the manuscript itself. In the future, though, the manuscript will be freely available to all in digitized form: it has just been added as a ‘virtual book’ to the British Library’s online gallery. This will allow us to run the course again in the future, as well as proving to be an invaluable research resource.

Dr. David J Smith
Senior Lecturer
Department of Music
d.j.smith@abdn.ac.uk

My Ladye Nevells Booke
**Colleges and Castles:**
**two newly catalogued collections**

Special Libraries & Archives continue to work on a number of externally-funded cataloguing projects aimed at opening up collections to researchers for the first time.

Staff in the Department have been cataloguing two significant local collections, and these documents are now fully searchable via our ever-expanding Library Catalogue.

Documents from the assorted Aberdeen Colleges of Education contain extensive materials relating to teacher training in and around Aberdeen. They were deposited with Special Libraries and Archives when the Northern College of Education and the University of Aberdeen merged in 2001, and the Hilton Campus vacated in 2005.

This archival material from local teaching colleges dates back to 1874, and such a major institutional archive is a tremendous addition to the University’s historic collections, highlighting the important history of educational training in Scotland, and providing an invaluable record for the current School of Education at the University.

The papers of **Cluny Castle** in Aberdeenshire have also been recently catalogued, preserving local heritage from the 18th century relating to this historic seat of the Gordons of Cluny. The family owned several other estates in the North-East, including Slains, Midmar, Kebbaty, Buckie, and Kinstearry; as well as property in the Scottish Highlands, most notably the Long Island estate of Lady Emily Gordon-Cathcart, spanning the islands of Barra, South Uist and Benbecula. The castle was passed through marriage to the Linzee-Gordons, in whose hands it remains today.

These documents provide a fascinating insight into the running of a country estate in times of significant social change in Scotland and many of you took the opportunity to hear Nicola Mills, the freelance archivist who has been working on the papers, speak to us at our Autumn/Winter meeting in November.

*Andrew MacGregor*
Deputy Archivist
andrew.macgregor@abdn.ac.uk

---

**Celebrating Darwin**

On the day which marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (24<sup>th</sup> November) the University hosted an Evening of Evolution.

The packed event offered talks, an interactive quiz, the chance to take part in a human evolution workshop, displays on Darwin’s interests, the story of evolution as shown in the University’s Natural History Centre and the opportunity to see live pigeons, birds key to Darwin’s works.

But as well as all these a highlight was Special Collections’ loan of a first edition copy of *On the Origin of Species*... universally acknowledged as a landmark work of science, shaping our understanding of how our life evolved.

---

*Charles Darwin*

*Artist painting of Hilton Campus by Jock Bevan - MSU 1421/6/7/5*
Thanks to a Research Resources in Medical History Award from the Wellcome Trust, a project to catalogue the Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society’s rich and unique collection of papers is now completed. Paul Logie was seconded as Project Archivist to catalogue the records of the Society and make them searchable online via the University’s CALM collection management system.

The collection includes the records of Sir James McGrigor (1771-1858) who was instrumental in founding the Society and went on to have a distinguished career as an army surgeon, eventually becoming Chief of the Medical Staff of the Peninsular Army under the command of Wellington. In 1814, he was appointed Director-General of the Army Medical Department, remaining in post until his retirement in 1851. His papers include a collection of case books that document in great detail the diseases and treatment of the men in his care, as well as a series of journals and letter books recording his experiences during the Peninsular War and his time spent as deputy inspector of hospitals for the northern and south-west districts in England.

As a result of this project, the Society’s contribution to the provision of medical training, the championing of radical public health measures and the establishment of hospitals and their services within the community will be brought to the attention of the history of medicine community, to encourage further research into this important and varied collection.

Paul Logie
Wellcome Project Archivist
p.logie@abdn.ac.uk

As a result of this project, the Society’s contribution to the provision of medical training, the championing of radical public health measures and the establishment of hospitals and their services within the community will be brought to the attention of the history of medicine community, to encourage further research into this important and varied collection.

Paul Logie
Wellcome Project Archivist
p.logie@abdn.ac.uk

Meanwhile Hazel has begun cataloguing the collection of Dr James Melvin (1795-1853), a graduate of Marischal College and Rector of Aberdeen Grammar School, who donated his collection to Marischal College in 1856.

Robin Armstrong Viner
Cataloguing Manager
r.armstrongviner@abdn.ac.uk

HeadLines

Library and Historic Collections’ electronic magazine, HeadLines, aims to keep Library users informed of recent news and developments. Obviously some items cover more specialised matters but Friends may well enjoy the articles of wider interest.

HeadLines is available online at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/ezine with the latest issue, 5, dated March 2010.

For those of you who don’t have access to e-mail and the internet we have included some of the items from the latest issues in our online catalogue. This rich resource on the development of algebra, arithmetic, geometry and trigonometry and their teaching at the University can be consulted at Special Libraries & Archives.
Revealing Hidden Collections

A project has been launched to open up Scotland’s important museum collections to a worldwide audience through the internet.

The universities here hold a disproportionately high percentage of Scotland’s nationally important collections – totalling more than 1.8 million items - but only 7.5% of this can be viewed on the web.

Now nine universities, led by Aberdeen, will together open up this scientific and cultural heritage to a wider audience.

Revealing the Hidden Collections will run until June and will see important collections and artefacts electronically recorded, photographed and the details uploaded to the Culture Grid, a national cultural database run by the Collections Trust, the Museums Libraries and Archives Council, and the European Commission.

Our partners are the universities of Dundee, St Andrews, Stirling, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt, Robert Gordon, and the Glasgow School of Art. We are all members of the University Museums in Scotland group, which received £240,000 towards the £318,000 project from the Scottish Funding Council.

Collections in five of the universities, including the entire holdings of the Universities of ourselves and Glasgow and select collections from the Glasgow School of Art, University of St Andrews, and University of Edinburgh have been recognised as nationally important by Museums Galleries Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Project Officer Amy Miller, based here, said, “The University of Aberdeen has some outstanding collections, as do the other universities.

“These are of exceptional importance to the nation but currently less than 40 % are catalogued - on paper or electronically - and less than 8 % of collections can be viewed on the web. The internet is now an important research tool, for school children, academics and those with an interest in a particular subject, but currently they have few ways of discovering what we hold, or of viewing it.”

Some of the first collections to be catalogued in Aberdeen include Marischal Museum’s collection of surgical items from around the world and a hoard of ancient coins discovered on the Upperkirkgate, Aberdeen, during building work in 1886.

Amy Miller added, “We have some really interesting and unusual surgical items including bullet extractors and saws which I’m sure would be of great interest to people not just here in Aberdeen but across the UK and beyond. We also have one of the largest collections of Egyptian Papyrus held anywhere in the country.”

Project Director Dr Alan Knox, Head of Museum Collections at the University, commented, “If people are to get the most out of these outstanding collections, they first need to know what we have and the internet is the perfect tool for making this available to a worldwide audience.”

237-year old ‘P&J’

Keith O’Sullivan, Senior Rare Books Librarian, was contacted by the Press & Journal in January following the discovery by a local pensioner of a 237-year old newspaper in her home.

The 1773 copy of the Aberdeen Journal and North British Magazine, a predecessor title to the modern Press & Journal, was found by Mrs Dorothy Robertson in her wardrobe as she cleared out her house in Garthdee. Mrs Robertson has now donated the newspaper to the Press & Journal offices on Lang Stracht. The four-page weekly is dated May 10, 1773 and has no illustrative matter, but is filled mostly with notices of sales of land.

Keith said the paper was a valuable find. The Library has a copy of every issue of all versions of the Press & Journal since the first edition of the newspaper appeared in December 1747, making ours probably the most comprehensive run available in Scotland. However, copies from the 18th century, especially ones in good condition, are becoming increasingly rare.

[With grateful thanks to the Press and Journal]
**20th Century Radicalism**

Whilst the focus of this new exhibition in Special Libraries & Archives is the 20th century, the Department already has a web presentation, *The Voice of Radicalism*, which traces the changes in democratic rights in North-East Scotland from 1800 to 1930. Materials available include political articles from newspapers, prints, squibs, ephemera and song sheets.

Special Libraries & Archives holds a wealth of 20th century material relating to social and political movements for democracy, equality and justice. Papers, literature and correspondence survive to chart the activities of local political parties, trades unions, pressure groups and activists.

Aberdeen played its part in the radical politics of the century. There were publishers like James Leatham, active Labour and Communist party organisations and numerous trade unions, with a central Trades Council organising matters. Aberdeen activists joined the 1926 General Strike and during the Spanish Civil War nineteen men fought against Franco’s fascists. Aberdeen groups have also been involved in post-war national protests against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the introduction of the Poll Tax.

Andrew MacGregor  
Deputy Archivist  
andrew.macgregor@abdn.ac.uk

**1862 Library Rules**

In a file previously catalogued only as “Administration – Rules 1862”, a member of staff in Special Collections & Archives Collections has rediscovered some of the more authoritarian Library regulations from yesteryear, giving us a fascinating flashback into a life of Victorian academia.

These include:

- **Part 1**: Any person wishing to consult books in the library must be admitted to the Reading Room by the side door, and the book or books acquired must be brought to him there by a librarian.

- **Part 2**: The name of the consulter and of the books which he uses for consultation shall be entered in the reading room book. And he shall be responsible for the book until their return has been... [text obscured] in the reading room by a librarian.

- **Part 3**: Until better accommodation for consulting books shall have been provided the librarian shall exercise discretion as to the books of plates and valuable books to be allowed in each case for consultation.

Other rules included:

- No consultation of the library catalogues without the consent of the librarian.

- The annual inspection “shall take place at the close of the winter session, and shall in ordinary circumstances, be finished within fifteen days.”

- A fine of 1 shilling per volume is imposed for late books

The rules in full are at Reference MSM 360 in Special Libraries & Archives

Laura Castle  
Collections Assistant  
l.castle@abdn.ac.uk
Manuscript Mystery Solved

Dr. Richard O. Byrne, an architectural conservator from Staunton, Virginia, recently approached Dr. Ben Marsden, Senior Lecturer in History of Science, enquiring about an anonymous manuscript he had purchased in 1981 when in Canada.

Dr. Marsden is an expert on the renowned Scottish engineer and inventor James Watt (1736-1819), and the gentleman contacted him because he suspected that the manuscript was a set of notes on natural philosophy (physics) by one of Watt's arch rivals, Jabez Carter Hornblower.

Part of the evidence was a sketch of a steam engine made in 1810 and believed by the owner to be an early work by Hornblower. A similar image later appeared in the Pantologia (1813) of Olinthus Gregory, a friend of Hornblower. But Dr. Marsden was able to discover that the sketch was actually a copy from an earlier printed work edited by David Brewster.

Dr. Marsden was also able to ascertain the sources of other text and images in the manuscript by consulting rare works in Special Libraries, and this confirmed to him that the manuscript was not the work of Hornblower but a set of student lecture notes taken at the University.

An image of a ‘Newtonian Reflector’ was helpfully signed and dated 'William Watt 1810' and further investigation in the Special Libraries & Archives Reading Room showed that a William Watt, of Banff, was a student at King's College between 1806 and 1810.

The image attribution confirmed that the manuscript was a set of natural philosophy notes from Watt's third year of study taught by Robert Eden Scott, Professor of Natural Philosophy. Our archives actually have a near duplicate copy of notes from another student who attended Scott's class, dated 1807-1808 (Reference MSK 287).

Dr. Marsden explains further:

“Special Libraries staff brought me some lecture notes from a similar time at Aberdeen University; I found they were almost identical. A quick check of the class lists for our colleges indicated that there was a student in one of the Nat. Phil. classes by the same name - which clinched the issue.

The owner is overjoyed and has now very generously agreed to send over the manuscript so that it can be digitised for our collections, and perhaps put on display. It was actually rather a fun bit of detective work!”

Richard O. Byrne was delighted to have the mystery resolved and wrote:

“It took 25 years of poking to finally talk to the right person who could unlock the mystery of the 307 page manuscript. Dr. Marsden’s impressive knowledge of early 19th-century technology and its related literature is to be admired and cherished by your University. The manuscript needs to be shared or find a new home where it will benefit from more than my curiosity.”

Dr. Ben Marsden and Andrew MacGregor
Deputy Archivist
andrew.macgregor@abdn.ac.uk

History of Libraries in Scotland

And still on the literary theme, two members of staff are potential contributors to a book on the History of Libraries in Scotland which should ensure that the history of Aberdeen University Library is not forgotten in the wider picture. Iain Beavan, now retired, and Elaine Shallcross, Information Consultant in QML are both involved.

The Committee of a new project has asked Elaine to submit an abstract based on her research into the University’s Theological Library for possible inclusion. The one volume 'History' will supplement the work achieved through the Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland and the Edinburgh History of the Book. The objectives of this project are a book on the history of libraries in Scotland, to be published by Edinburgh University Press, together with materials and an online portal of library history resources available in Scotland.

Elaine has also been encouraged to submit her Masters dissertation on the History and Development of the Theological Library, 1700 to 1900 for publication as a book.
Ancient Papyri presented to University

The Bishop of Aberdeen presenting Principal Rice with the facsimile

The Bishop of Aberdeen has presented the University with a facsimile of papyri dating from the 3rd century and given to him by Pope Benedict XVI.

The Right Reverend Peter A Moran, presented Professor Sir Duncan Rice, Principal and Vice Chancellor, with a facsimile of the ancient document, gifted to him in Rome in 2008.

It comes from a collection of papyri, probably discovered in Egypt, which appeared on the antiquities market in the 1950s. They were purchased in 1955-56 by two main collectors, Sir Alfred Chester Beatty and Martin Bodmer. The Chester Beatty papyri went to Dublin and the Bodmer papyri to a small museum at Cologny, on the outskirts of Geneva.

In 2006 Mr Frank J. Hamma III purchased from the Bodmer Museum, Bodmer papyruses 14 and 15. These date from the early years of the 3rd Century and contain the Gospels of John and Luke, commonly referred to as P75. He subsequently formally gifted them to Pope Benedict XVI and they were added to the manuscript holdings of the Vatican Library.

In October 2008 the Roman Catholic Synod of Bishops held its three-year General Assembly, which 250 bishops attended. Pope Benedict presented each participant with a boxed facsimile of two leaves of the papyrus, along with a book explaining both the history of the papyrus itself and some aspects of its significance for the study of the transmission of the texts of the Gospels.

Bishop Moran presented his copy to the University and it is now housed in the University collections.

Professor Chris Gane, Head of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, said, “We are delighted to receive a facsimile of this important document, which further reinforces the University’s ancient links with the Church. It is a significant piece of history to add to the University of Aberdeen’s extensive collections.”

Laurencekirk Station Attraction

This project involved supporting young people from Mearns Academy in Laurencekirk to develop heritage information panels for the waiting room at Laurencekirk Station, to mark its re-opening last year.

S3 pupils studying history at the school identified and researched initial themes for the panels. Their suggestions were passed to the English Department where the text was developed by a group of ten pupils, supported by Alison Parfitt, Education and Access Officer at Marischal Museum. Alison made three visits to the school, with e-mail correspondence and further editing as the text progressed.

The finished text was passed to the Academy’s Art Department, where another group of pupils used photography, portraiture and mixed media collage to explore local themes. The collated work went to a designer who composed the final panels.

A collaborative project initiated by Aberdeenshire Arts Development, it was supported by Network Rail and the University of Aberdeen. The project was a great opportunity to work with secondary school pupils, a traditionally hard to engage audience for museums, and resulted in some lively panels which celebrate the rich heritage of the Mearns.

Alison Parfitt
Education and Access Officer
alison.parfitt@abdn.ac.uk
Paintings made Public

The Public Catalogue Foundation, a registered charity, is cataloguing all oil, tempura and acrylic paintings in public ownership in the United Kingdom. The aim of the project is to make these works of art more accessible to the public. The PCF have been publishing colour catalogues on a county-by-county basis since 2004, with each catalogue containing item-level records and digital images of the artworks.

The catalogue for Aberdeen is currently being created and the curator is working alongside a professional photographer and the PCF County Coordinator to create and collate photographs and data for our collection of oil and acrylic paintings. Aberdeen University currently owns over 400 such artworks.

All images and catalogue information will be put online in the future.

Shona Elliott
Assistant Curator (Collections)
Marischal Museum
s.elliott@abdn.ac.uk

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. A virtual exhibition of the exhibitions can still be seen at: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/virtualmuseum/

Marischal Museum’s annual Lecture series continues and the brochure for the current academic year was included for you with the Autumn / Winter issue of News. The days and venues of lectures vary so please check the brochure. Any changes appear on the website: www.abdn.ac.uk/museum/lectures or contact the Museum: Tel: 01224 274301

Lectures still to come this season are:

**Tuesday 11th May**
**Artistic identity and the sculpture of the Irish high Crosses**
Professor Roger Stalley
Trinity College, Dublin
Free - Regent Building Lecture Theatre
(Society of Antiquaries – Scotland)

**Tuesday 25th May**
**Walking culture and outdoor access**
Professor Tim Ingold and Dr Jo Vergunst
University of Aberdeen
£3 – MacRobert Building Room 028
(Elphinstone Institute)

Once more the University celebrated the power of the written word in its Word Festival, now reaching its 10th year.

Held on the weekend of 14-16 May, the Festival again used the talents and resources of the Library and Special Collections & Archives staff and material.

Jack Webster, our President, appeared in the Festival Marquee on Elphinstone Lawn to share his vast knowledge of Aberdeen’s history. *Jack Webster’s Aberdeen* was published in 2007 – a fascinating read covering all aspects of local life.

Our Bernard C Lloyd Walter Scott Collection featured in various ways. A talk by David Hewitt and Alison Lumsden, Centre Directors of the University’s Walter Scott Research Centre, had original items on display. [There was an article about the Collection in the Friends’ Newsletter when we first acquired it in 2002.] Ali Lumsden is also our speaker at the talk on Sir Walter Scott following the AGM on Thursday 27 May.

And in the ‘Lady of the Lake’ exhibition in Old Aberdeen Town House, marking the 200th anniversary of the publication of Scott’s poem, the bulk of the song sheets, illustrated editions, paintings and engravings on show were courtesy of the Collection. (This exhibition is on until the end of May.)
THANKS TO YOU ...

Professor Robert Frost, Professor of Early Modern History at Aberdeen, was one of those who recommended the purchase of the 1623 publication on the offices of the Polish state by Zawadzki, *Speculum Senatorum ac officialum Regni Poloniae* to which the Friends contributed £1500 in 2008 (see the Spring/Summer 2009 issue p12).

Professor Frost has now been awarded a prestigious British Academy Wolfson Professorship as one of four academics, selected from a field of 176, to undertake a major research study, co-ordinated by the British Academy and funded by the Wolfson Foundation, providing funding of £150,000 over three years.

He will investigate the Polish-Lithuanian Union, 1386-1815, and the lessons which can be learned for current and future European political unions.

Professor Frost said, “Historians tend to study nation states and unions are often overlooked, yet modern Europeans can learn much from unions in the past. It will not be until 2013 that the Anglo-Scottish Union will have outlasted the Polish-Lithuanian Union, which also included much of what is now Belarus, Ukraine, and, for a time, parts of Latvia and Estonia.

He added, “The funding will enable me to make more widely known this remarkable political creation. Few people outside eastern Europe know anything about the Polish-Lithuanian Union because of the dominance of Russian and German perspectives on the European past. Yet Poland-Lithuania was one of the great European states whose citizens developed a radical vision of decentralised power that is still of relevance today, when Poland and Lithuania have recently been welcomed into the European Union.”

The Chief Executive of the British Academy said, “These are major awards reflecting the very best research in the UK. They encompass a wide range of intriguing topics. We look forward to the outcomes of their work.”

Thanks to the Friends, Zawacki’s tome will help Professor Frost in his research.

---------------

**Jacobite Recruiting Slip £2,500**

*The Friends of Aberdeen University Library £1,500*  
*Aberdeen University Special Libraries and Archives £1,000*

The University Library does not hold a copy of this recruiting slip. Like the 1749 Willdey map purchased last year with generous help from the Friends, the acquisition of this item will enhance our MacBean Stuart and Jacobite Collection. This is one of the largest Jacobite collections in the UK, identified as one of the University's distinctive treasures, and specifically identified in the present collection development policy as a ‘priority’ for ‘continuing development’ and further accrual.

The recruiting slip is dramatic in content. It will be used alongside other holdings from the MacBean Collection in 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, it will be catalogued and available for use by students, staff and visiting researchers in our dedicated reading room, under supervision. In addition it will be featured in exhibitions and public lectures planned for the New Library.

This is an exceptionally rare item, a recruiting slip under the authority of Prince Charles Stuart (the ‘Young Pretender’ or ‘Bonnie Prince Charlie’), dated 26th September 1745. The printed slip is 6” by 3.5”.

Keith O’Sullivan  
*Senior Rare Books Librarian  
Special Libraries & Archives*
Ruddiman Baroque Violin

Many of you will know of the University of Aberdeen Alumnus Association, for Aberdeen graduates, and our closer ties with the Association.

Their annual Summer outing in June is a guided tour of King’s Campus, led by Professor Peter Davidson, Honorary Curator of Aberdeen University’s Manuscript, Rare Book and Museum Collections from the Renaissance and Baroque periods.

If you are interested in joining please contact the Secretary:
Alan Towns, c/o University of Aberdeen
tel: 01224 594536
alumnusassociation@abdn.ac.uk

It becomes a second playing instrument for the Music Department, joining another Ruddiman violin and an 18th century cello and harpsichord (both from Aberdeen) to produce a unique ensemble of period instruments from one city.

With the ensemble now completed with the purchase of the Ruddiman, the University’s Music Department will now be able to form an ensemble dedicated to exploring the 18th century Scottish repertory in our collections. The ensemble will take a central part in education and public events in the new Library as well as (potentially to a great extent) expanding the scope of Scottish studies at Aberdeen.

The Friends’ contribution will go towards performances of rare music from Special Libraries’ collections on the instrument played on the violin. The instrument itself was purchased by the Music Department.

University of Aberdeen: from Library endowments £10,000 from the New Library budget £10,000
[new exhibition cases will be transferred later to the Library’s exhibition gallery]

This exhibition will draw on Aberdeen’s library, archive and museum collections to examine the lasting influences of Jacobitism in Scottish identity and internationally. It will explore its overseas aspects and its imaginative impact and imagery, from the exiled Jacobite Courts in Paris and Rome to the Scottish Diaspora after the 18th century Risings. It will show how ideas of Scotland are not bounded by physical boundaries and that world-famous images of Scotland – the Highlands, exile, loss and romance – owe much to the Risings and their aftermath.

It is hoped that the launch event will include a discussion session by leading authorities on themes explored in the exhibition. Similarly the University hopes to hold outreach and learning opportunities for schools in conjunction with the display – a school education pack, poetry workshop and one exploring the Jacobites’ visual legacy.

Collections Book
Friends of Aberdeen University Library £2,000
University of Aberdeen £20,000

This book will draw on Aberdeen’s book and manuscript treasures, showcasing approx. 200 items. The Friends’ contribution will fund the digital capture of 200 high quality images of treasures from the collections for reproduction in the Collection Book, to be published Spring 2011, with an initial print run of 1,500 large quarto volumes.

Each image will be accompanied by a short essay from specialists from the University community, including Iain Beavan, Siobhan Convery, Keith O’Sullivan and Peter Davidson. None of the contributors will be paid and all proceeds from the sale will go to the New Library project.

Thus the book will show the richness, variety and antiquity of our collections and be an effective way of promoting them amongst scholarly communities and potential donors. However, it will also be a very accessible volume for everyone, to learn about and appreciate the Library’s collections.

Links with the University of Aberdeen Alumnus Association

Many of you will know of the University of Aberdeen Alumnus Association, for Aberdeen graduates, and our closer ties with the Association.

Their annual Summer outing in June is a guided tour of King’s Campus, led by Professor Peter Davidson, Honorary Curator of Aberdeen University’s Manuscript, Rare Book and Museum Collections from the Renaissance and Baroque periods.

If you are interested in joining please contact the Secretary:
Alan Towns, c/o University of Aberdeen
tel: 01224 594536
alumnusassociation@abdn.ac.uk
In the news again …

Derek Ogston

Friends will remember from the last issues of the newsletter that Professor Derek Ogston CBE LLD FRSE, a former Senior Vice-Principal of the University and longstanding member of the Friends’ Executive Committee, has been much in evidence. He created the University’s annual Ogston Music Prize and his newest publication, together with Margaret Carlaw, is King’s College Aberdeen - history, buildings and artistic portrayal, which draws together pictures of the building over the past four centuries, tracing how it has changed and how the way in which it is portrayed has changed.

Local Friends may also be aware that King’s College Chapel has been celebrating 500 years since its consecration in October 2009 with a series of church services, talks, recitals and a special inaugural day including tours of Old Aberdeen.

One of the contributors to the lectures on the Chapel was, again, Derek. He gave a stimulating and most enjoyable talk in December on the Chapel as portrayed through the centuries, based on his new publication.

Derek followed earlier talks by Dr Jane Geddes, a frequent enthralling speaker at Friends’ lectures – on the furnishings at the time of the Consecration, its organ, ambo and stalls, and Professor Peter Davidson – on the Restoration to the 1800s, the Jacobite Chapel, museum and library.

Following the publication of King’s College, Aberdeen, the Old Town House held a display of paintings of Old Aberdeen, one of the best preserved townscapes in Europe, capturing distinguished landmarks such as King’s College and, in particular, the famous Crown Tower. The exhibition formed another part of the celebrations to mark the Chapel’s 500th anniversary.

Professor Ogston said, "It was timely, during the celebrations marking the quincentenary of the consecration of King's College Chapel, to mount an exhibition of pictures of King's College executed by artists over the centuries. Additionally, it provided an opportunity for the public to view rarely seen pictures in the University's and private collections."

The exhibition Images of King’s: the artistic portrayal of King’s College, Aberdeen, from October to December, displayed a selection of the works featured in the book.

Reminder … Friends on the Web

Friends Web site

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

Friends of Aberdeen University Library

Executive Committee

President
Mr Jack Webster

Chairman
Mr Graham Hunter

Honorary Treasurer
Mr Robin Armstrong Viner

Honorary Secretary and Membership Secretary
Miss Sheona C Farquhar

Members
Mrs Chris Banks (University Librarian)
Professor Chris Gane
(Vice-Principal (Culture and Communities))
Dr Hazel Hutchison
Professor Michael C Meston
Miss Christine Miller
(editor Friends’ news)
Professor Derek Ogston
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)
1.00-10.00 pm (Taylor and Medical)

Special Libraries
Monday - Friday 9.30 am - 4.30pm