Note from the Editor: Priscilla Barlow
This is my 10th year editing the newsletter – this being the 20th issue. For the first two years I co-edited with Dr David Fergus. Over these years we changed from dashing purple and green print to monochrome and eventually to full colour; from 4 pages to 8. We are currently working with our third designer and we progressed from no particular masthead to a book spine, then a view of the Library and now a splendid illustration of books on the GUL shelves; just a wee memory jog reminding us that not everything is digitised - although you might well be reading this online.

Duncan Beaton, who has been a Friend for a decade and a committee member for 3 years, now affords me the luxury of an assistant editor. He is well versed in the intricacies of desktop publishing and already edits the The Friends of the Argyll Papers Newsletter. When I eventually bury my editor’s hatchet, I know the newsletter will be in safe and creative hands.

We continue the now familiar format with Friends news, Library news and articles of bibliographical interest and as always we are well illustrated. To all our contributors who continue to meet our deadlines, I give my thanks.

Priscilla Barlow: psbarlow@sky.com

The David Murray Book Collecting Prize
The David Murray Book Collecting Prize, inaugurated this year, was made available through a generous donation of £500 and was open to all currently matriculated students of the University of Glasgow.

An additional £500 was awarded to the winner to help select a new acquisition for Archives and Special Collections. £250 of this was generously contributed by FGUL with the additional bonus of one year’s FGUL membership.

The winning entry by Edward Cole, whose recently completed PhD focuses on Glasgow Museum’s collections of birds’ eggs, described his own collection of books and other material relating to Scottish waterfalls. His diverse collection, focused in topic but wide ranging in format, encompasses regional and walking guides, maps, postcards and even literature and poetry. The judges were impressed by Edward’s tenacity and enthusiastic passion in building his collection, and also by his very detailed listing of desiderata. Hopefully his prize will go some way towards filling in some of these gaps.

The quality of submissions for the competition was very high. From the entrants, the judging panel invited five students to the Library to make mini presentations about their collections. Meeting them and hearing about the books was great fun. The final selection of an outright winner was incredibly difficult. Since this was the first year of the competition, Susan Ashworth (Head Librarian) took the exceptional decision to award two runners up prizes of £100. So congratulations are also due to Stephen Hall for his entry on the John Smith Collection and Becca Gauldie (not pictured) for A Cabinet of Curiosities. Our overall winner Edward now has the pleasant task of browsing through various booksellers’ catalogues for an acquisition to enhance the Library’s own Murray collection, as partly sponsored by FGUL. He has promised to write an article about his choice for the next newsletter, so watch this space!

Edward Cole (winner) and Stephen Hall (runner up) receiving their cheques from Susan Ashworth and Julie Gardham
Letter from Acting Convenor: Jean Anderson

Since our last Newsletter in January, the FGUL Committee has been busy reforming itself to comply with the OSCR rules (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, www.oscr.org.uk). Committee members have been taking on new roles, some as officers and some as underwriters.

Our new Treasurer, Fiona Hamilton, is compiling an archive of our records, arranging the signatories for our bank account and liaising with our accountants; Johanna Green is looking after our web pages and will assist with events; Freda Tuck remains our Membership Secretary; Peter Davies continues as Secretary; Priscilla Barlow continues as the Newsletter Editor with Duncan Beaton as her understudy. I am acting as the chair for the time being and I would like to thank all of the volunteer committee members for their work.

In early July our editor took time out from Newsletter production to organise a trip to Scotland’s oldest purpose-built library, the Leighton Library at Dunblane and to the University of Stirling Library. It was a great visit and was followed by the Spences Summer Outing. I would like to acknowledge the work done by Priscilla and by Peter in arranging events and talks for the membership during the last six months.

I am sure the events and talks planned for the autumn will be just as interesting. Remember that we are always pleased to have suggestions from our supporters.

We have helped with funding...

In her will the late Professor Christian Kay, a staunch member of the Friends, made a generous bequest to the Library. The 4th Edition of Johnson’s Dictionary of the English Language was proposed as a suitable acquisition in her memory. Purchased by ASC with part-funding available through FGUL, it is now available for research under Sp Coll RX 190-191. A bookplate recognises both contributions to this addition to our major collection in the field.

Dye-versity Project

A most interesting talk on the Dye-versity Project - Research into Glasgow’s 19th century dyeing manuals - was delivered on the 21st February 2017 by Dr Anita Quye. Her enthusiasm for the subject enthralled the audience of 20, who were invited to give tactile feedback via textile tokens. Dr Quye is Senior Lecturer in Conservation Science within the History of Art at the University’s School of Culture and Creative Regulator, (Office of the Scottish Charity Trust). She has collaborated in the authorship of two books and a number of articles on the preservation and analysis of dyestuffs and resins used on fabrics and pottery.

Abstract

Nineteenth century printed books called dyeing manuals, were practical guides for dyers in the textile industry. Many manuals included dyed textiles called ‘patterns’ which claimed to be made with the dyeing methods and named dyers described in the text. These patterns show Victorian fashion colours. They chart the rise of synthetic dyes, from the marketing of the first successful one, Perkin’s mauve - 1857, through 1859 when they were accepted on an industrial scale, until the end of the century when 90% of dyes were synthetic.

If the patterns are dyed with what the authors claimed, they are important evidence for Victorian textile industries.

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My curiosity about synthetic dyes called aniline or early synthetics was for colour preservation and analysis of articles on the University has many connections with the University of Glasgow Library. It was originally established in 1916 as the Princess Louise Hospital for Limbless women. It was founded by the people of Glasgow to support limbless sailors and soldiers returning from World War I. The Leighton Library, located in the Princess Louise Hospital, was a place of social and cultural activity for the community.

Abstract

Erskine Hospital is a charity that is well known to many friends of the library as the University has many connections with the charity which has supported over 85,000 veterans in its century of existence.

It was originally established by the people of Glasgow to support limbless sailors and soldiers returning from the Great War. Erskine began in 1916 as the Princess Louise Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers and it was the University’s Regius Professor of Surgery, Sir William MacFarren, who led the efforts to mobilise support. The University was involved again in 2016, providing heritage support in their centenary year.

The University Library received an award of £66,000 from the Wellcome Trust to help Erskine gather, catalogue, digitise and share their archive. In a project that lasted for 3 years, Orla O’Brien was appointed as Project Archivist and created almost 5000 catalogue records for the University of Glasgow Story website since its prototype First World War Roll of Honour was launched in 2006. She has been Principal Investigator on several Wellcome Trust Research Resources grants.

Outside work, Moira has been married to Frank for 20 years. They enjoy long walks with their children, Peter and Joan, accompanied by the University of Stirling Library. It is a place of intellectual and cultural activity for the community.

Artificial limbs of all shapes and colours were produced for the battle-scarred residents of Erskine Hospital.

Erskine Hospital Project

Moira Rankin and Dr Jennifer Novotny gave the 21st March 2017 talk on the Erskine Hospital Centenary Project partnership formed three years ago to catalogue and preserve the records of Erskine Hospital. Moira Rankin is Senior Archivist, University of Glasgow Library. She joined the University as an Assistant Archivist in 1995 and since 2012 has managed the Archives team at Thruso Street. Dr Jennifer Novotny is Research Assistant in History, University of Glasgow School of Humanities.

Abstract

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Artificial limbs of all shapes and colours were produced for the battle-scarred residents of Erskine Hospital.
On the 31 March 1847, John Smith, Youngest (1784-1849) of Cutherbrun, bookseller, stationer, publisher and councillor, proposed to the University of Glasgow's Senate, It is my intention to present [...] for the use of the Library of the University of Glasgow, [...] a collection of Tracts chiefly relative to the civil, ecclesiastical, commercial, and political affairs of the City of Glasgow [...] illustrating not only the local history of the city, but many important points in the manners, customs, amusements and feelings of the inhabitants of the West of Scotland generally.

The complete document can be consulted in GU Special Collections: MSGen1222

On the 15 March 1849 a total of 199 volumes from historic printing clubs and societies, 208 volumes of tracts and 3 bundles of loose papers were bequeathed (class marks BG33 and BG34, and the Ephemeris). This was John Smith’s working library and possibly the oldest bookseller archive (Collection + Ephemeris) in Scotland.

Of the many areas covered a few are noted here: (The call numbers refer to the Library Research Annex)

Smith, being a Commissioner of the Police, gathered material (e.g. BG33-e.20, BG34-h.10 and BG34-l.5), covering the rules and regulations of this force from 1800 to 1817 and later. The significance being that the first modern force of preventative policing was founded in Glasgow in 1800. Smith was a typical early nineteenth-century Tory, yet, he read and collected radical literature, e.g. there is a run of the first ten issues of Politics of the People (1848) (BG33-e.18), a socialist Christian weekly edited by Charles Kingsley and J. M. Ludlow. The collection contains contrasting political view points having a selection of the Robb Nott loyalist pamphlets from Birmingham together with Parliamentary reform literature.

Equally important are runs of annual reports related to Bible societies, such as the Glasgow Bible Society from 1813 when Smith first subscribed to the Society (BG33-h.18); the Society for Promoting the Religious Interests of the Poor of Glasgow and its Vicinity (Glasgow City Mission) from 1827 to 1845 (BG33-h.2). Reports on the Education of Imbecile Children.

The outstanding item is a fine collection of material concerning the Scottish National Institute for the Blind from 1827 to 1845 (BG33-g.1); Reformed Church Mission) from 1827 to 1845 (BG33-h.2).

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The outing was voted an enjoyable and enlightening success.
**A special date for your diary**

The Friends of Glasgow University are proud to announce that they have contributed to the funding of a concert by Russkaya Cappella to mark the centenary of Russian teaching in the University of Glasgow. It is intended that part of the programme will be drawn from the impressive collection of Slavonic music materials held in the Music Department Archives. The event takes place on Tuesday, December 7 in the University Chapel at 7.30.

**From the Library Blogs**

**ARCHIVES**

**Posted by Katie McDonald**

To mark the bicentenary of Jane Austen's death, we take a look at her love of music and investigate its influence on her written works.

"Without music," Jane Austen wrote in Emma, "life would be a blind man..."

Austen's passion for music is apparent throughout many of her novels, and is reflected in countless of her heroines and characters... "I must have music, or I can't live..."

The Library was one of 11 special collections to feature in future editions of the Newsletter.

Research outputs are anticipated. The two Wellcome Trust funded projects, based on William Hunter's Library and Alexander Haddow's Zika archive are now up and running.

Reports of these projects will feature in future editions of the Newsletter.

The Library was one of 11 institutions across the UK which took part in the research project Library Futures.

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**Posted by Sam Maddrad**

29 June 2017 was the 85th anniversary of the birth of the critic, educator and poet Philip Hobsbaum. To mark the occasion, we are publishing a catalogue of the Group Papers (MS Hobsbaum C). His entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography suggests: Hobsbaum was perhaps most notable...as a 'servant' to the 'makears'... The impact of his workshops brings together Hobsbaum's relationship with students from all over the world, and elsewhere was acknowledged by the Nobel Prize winner Seamus Heaney, who commented that Hobsbaum emulated energy, generosity, belief in community, [and] trust in the parochial, the imper, the unprinted...

This series of papers, within the Hobsbaum Collection, brings together Hobsbaum's files for all three groups and continues to contain work from writers including Martin Bell, Alasdair Gray, Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes, James Kelman, and Peter Redgrove. Hobsbaum won a scholarship to Cambridge and studied under F R Leavis at Downing College, an idea which he brought with him from Cambridge was that of circulating copies of the work to be discussed.

He decided, once a small nucleus of writers had grown together, to keep a mailing list and to send out a sheet of poems weekly to everyone on it. Hobsbaum 'proclaimed to be interested not in what someone had written previously but in what they might write later... And noted that the use of the sheets led to [a] much closer and more analytical discussion... conduc-ted on 'a basis of frankness... As a result, it provided a direct encouragement to write...'

...Criticism is, surely, not a matter of pronounce-ment but of discussion...
We have very welcome news that the University of Leeds has kindly donated The Children’s School Text Book archives of Blackie & Son, 1882-1976 archive to GUL. This helps expand GUL’s holdings of this famed publisher. At the end of 2011 the Friends helped the Library to buy the business archive of Blackie & Son. Dr Glenda White’s researches into David Stow which formed a talk to the society in 2013, are now online in a website which she launched during 2016. You can see it at www.davidstow.org.uk/ It also includes a contribution from Sheila Craik.

There are three sister Friends societies in Scotland:

Aberdeen: Currently chaired by Professor Hazel Hutchinson and the Honorary Secretary is Ms Emma Fowile.

Edinburgh: Currently chaired by its President, Joyce, Lady Caplan, an educationalist and bibliophile. The Administrator is Ms Alason [sic] Roberts, a Cataloguer in EUL.

St Andrews: There is no conspicuous online info on current events or committee members within the local society.

Our illustrated book, The University of Glasgow Library: Friendly Shelves, continues to be on sale at the University Gift Shop and at the library reception desk, and available through our website www.friendsofgul.org