



friends

Friends of Glasgow University Library

Newsletter

January 2012

## Note from the Editor *Priscilla Barlow*

The newsletter is about communication; we believe this can be a two-way affair. We want to set up a *Readers' Letters* column as the form of dialogue. Through this we invite the Friends and indeed any other

other readers, to suggest projects in which they might be able to participate actively in supporting the library, ideas for future events, air your views and make general comment. Short articles would also

be very welcome. Please send contributions to the Clerk, [Alva.Caldwell@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Alva.Caldwell@glasgow.ac.uk) or the editor, [psbarow@talktalk.net](mailto:psbarow@talktalk.net).

All good wishes for 2012 and for our continued support of the Library.



Sir Alwyn Williams

## Letter from the Chairman *Graeme Smith*

We have received a very substantial donation from Lady Joan Williams to be used to commemorate in some way the life and work of her late husband Principal Sir Alwyn Williams. A ground-breaking and major illustrated publication of the 19th century communicating the new advances in and development of Paleontology is being identified for purchase and presentation to the Library's Special Collections. Sir Alwyn's own academic career was in science and geology, in which field

he became an international expert setting new standards in the discovery and interpretation of fossils.

Once a purchase has been made it is intended to have a special presentation to the University, and Professor Maggie Cusack, Head of the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, will give a Talk on geographic sciences and Sir Alwyn's contribution.

Watch this space.

## AGM Report

The AGM in October was well attended. Membership stands at 174, with new members joining including our first Life Member, a new category open to all. If you wish to receive a copy of the Annual Accounts please contact the Clerk. The society is developing links with the reorganised Colleges and Schools of the University and wishes to partner with them events which also support the Library's objectives.

The society is working to increase awareness of the Library (and of the Friends) in the wider community, an aim in keeping with the Scottish Government's new priority of "Public Engagement". In this respect it is keen to support the adaptation of Level 2, the entrance area, especially to include a significant, suitably equipped Exhibition/Display area and a room for meetings.

G.S.



friends



## Moving Special Collections into the 21st Century

David Weston

generously to the acquisition of many single items to augment the Whistler papers, the Stirling Maxwell collection of emblem books, and the Murray collection, amongst others. However in addition they have been crucial in providing significant funds in securing major collections such as the personal papers of the controversial Glasgow psychiatrist, R.D Laing, the internationally important Scarfe-La Trobe Collection of Spanish plays, and in 2008 a collection of some 450 letters, ephemera and photographs, complementing the Library's existing holdings of Kelvin papers. As well as acquisitions the Friends contributed signally to the development of the display facility we enjoy in the level 12 foyer, which has, since 2005, enabled us to provide a 'window' onto the treasures preserved within the Department. We are much indebted to the Friends for their support and partnership in achieving so much.

The Special Collections team that will carry forward the work of the Department is very strong, acknowledged both within the University community and beyond as providing the highest levels of service to scholarship. It is a pleasure to record my thanks to all of them for their unflinching support.

*David Weston retires as Keeper of Special Collections at the end of January.*

### ***In the introduction to my annual report for 1996 – both my first year as Keeper and the start of the level twelve build - I wrote:***

*'By the time of my second report we shall be settling into our new position on level 12, able, I hope, both to see clearly and to chart confidently our way into the next millennium.'* Now, having just submitted my last annual report, I do so knowing that the Department has very successfully negotiated the transition into the new, digitally dominated millennium, with our ability to serve the academic and scholarly world greatly enhanced. Not only has the new build perched atop the 1968 modernist tower worked well in terms of storage, staff/user interface, and an unparalleled reading room experience, but the power of the internet as a means of direct

communication, un-trammelled by the limitations imposed by the economics of print publishing, has permitted the creation of endlessly informative, scholarly and entertaining virtual exhibitions, monthly featured books and resources, and more recently, blogs. The development of our website which we initiated as early as 1997 has exactly paralleled the expansion and growth of the internet, offering what had hitherto been unthinkable - the ability to put on display items from our collections, together with images and comment, which could be accessed by an international public, 24/7. It is now possible to extend our reading room to embrace all who have on-line access, and with no risk to the original objects.

Over the period of my Keepership the Friends have contributed

## Whistler Online and Online

On 17 November Professor Emerita Margaret MacDonald talked to us in her lovely informal way about the newly launched catalogue raisonné of James McNeill Whistler's etchings. Following her years co-editing the Whistler Correspondence Edition in the Centre for Whistler Studies Professor MacDonald moved six years ago to tracing Whistler's etchings. She set up a project in which the University of Glasgow collaborated with the Art Institute of Chicago and the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. Funding came from the AHRC, the Lunder Foundation and other bodies including the Chancellor's Fund of the University of Glasgow and of course many museums, libraries, archives, art dealers and private collectors in Europe and America who gave access to their holdings. As Director of the Whistler Etchings Project her colleagues were Margaret (Meg) Hausberg (Honorary

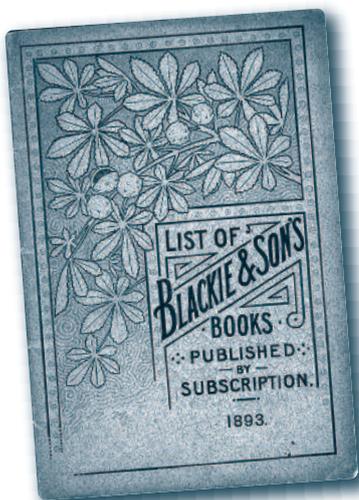
Research Associate, University of Glasgow and author of a catalogue raisonné of Theodore Roussel), Dr Joanna Meacock (Data Editor, History of Art, and Glasgow Co-Ordinator of *The Public Catalogue Foundation*), Dr Grischka Petri (Honorary Research Fellow, History of Art, University of Glasgow and University of Bonn, specialist in Whistler, Strindberg and art and the law) and Graeme Cannon (Computing Consultant, HATII).

The team has found in all 490 etchings by Whistler and the catalogue describes and illustrates the evolution of each etching from the copper plate through different states to the final print. It includes the results of much detective inquiry, said Professor MacDonald, many previously unknown etchings and fresh information on titles, dates, subjects and sitters, techniques and the 19th century art market in all



covering Whistler's etching activity from 1854 to 1901. Professor MacDonald modestly made little of the huge research that has gone into this valuable and prestigious project. Miss Rosalind Birnie Philip whose bequest in 1958 laid the foundation for all this would have been proud of her! See for yourself at [etchings.arts.gla.ac.uk](http://etchings.arts.gla.ac.uk).

R.S.



## Blackie & Son Archive Acquisition

Lesley Richmond University Archivist

**In November, the Friends Committee helped to purchase a significant part of the Blackie & Son Ltd, Publishers, archive to add to the existing holdings in Archive Services.** This new acquisition became available at private auction and a bid for funding was made to the National Fund of Acquisitions which the Friends were able to match. This new acquisition consists of publication catalogues from the 1830s, complete from 1893-1989; complete

authors' correspondence from 1893 to 1989 as well as publicity material, financial records, photographs and the last sheet of paper printed at the old Villafield Press. It completes the existing Blackie & Son Ltd archive held by Archive Services. The publication catalogues will provide the means to research the output of Blackie & Son publications and the authors' correspondence will provide a fuller picture of the relationship between the company and its authors.

Blackie & Son Ltd were major players in Scotland's world famous printing and publishing industry. First established as Blackie, Fullerton & Co in 1809, by John Blackie, senior (1782-1874) the company became a key global player in the twentieth century. Pre-dating William Collins Son & Co Ltd, now HarperCollins, by ten years the

company built a strong reputation in the publishing industry, particularly in relation to the production of children's academic texts.

In the nineteenth century the company moved into the production of a series of extensive, illustrated reference works. After 1918, the company set up a Scientific and Technical Department, and began to publish advanced scientific and mathematical texts. From 1923, the firm published the Flower Fairy books of Cicely Mary Barker.

By 1909, Blackie & Son had offices in London and Dublin, as well as their Stanhope Street premises in Glasgow. In 1929, new printing works, retaining the original name 'The Villafield Press', were built on a 13-acre site in Kirkintilloch Road, Bishopbriggs. The company ceased publishing in 1991.

# Thomas Annan's Glasgow

On 27 October, Dr Sara Stevenson, of the Scottish National Photography Collection, talked to the Friends on the development of Thomas Annan. As Chief Curator at the National Galleries of Scotland she was responsible for building and developing the Scottish National Photography Collection. She is one of the Directors of the proposed Scottish National Photography Centre (the Hill Adamson project). She is currently engaged in research for publication on the first thirty years of Scottish photography and the work of Thomas Annan. Dr Stevenson is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow.

After serving his lowly apprenticeship in the 1850s to a printer in Cupar young Thomas Annan moved to Glasgow to apply the new technology of photography which he would have come across at St Andrews. All photographers were making money from customers coming into studios, including his, but he innovated by taking his camera out firstly to the country houses around Glasgow and increasingly to the work places and streets of the city and houses of the workers. His knowledge of chemicals



in printing, his experiments in long exposure and all-weather conditions bore fruit. As a result he was able to record the old Closes and Wynds of the centre of Glasgow, helping those who were determined to ensure better and healthier housing for the communities so closely packed together. He started the internationally renowned Annan photography dynasty.

The digitisation of Annan's work lets us see, through computer

magnification and analyses, much more of the social life and conditions of the times than previously witnessed. Unrecorded work by Thomas Annan is still being discovered, including street scenes and construction relating to the arrival of railways in the city centre. It is thought he also photographed more factories and mills than previously understood, and attic searches for more examples of his photography are the order of the day.

G.S.

## 11. David Weston Committee member (ex-officio) 1996-

David was born in Glasgow and raised in William Hunter's birthplace, East Kilbride. Studies in Theology at Glasgow University took him increasingly into the area of Semitic languages, and he taught first-year Hebrew at King's College, Aberdeen while researching Ugaritic and Phoenician epigraphy. A period as a Graduate Trainee in Glasgow University Library, which included three months in Special Collections, brought contact with early printing, and he produced a catalogue of the Hebrew books in the Ludwig Blau Collection. After Librarianship and Information Studies

at Sheffield University, David again joined the staff at Glasgow, first as a Senior Cataloguer in the areas of Theology, Oriental languages, Philosophy and History, then since 1979 in Special Collections. He became Keeper in 1996 and Assistant Director of the Library in 2006. Professionally he has been closely involved with emblem literature, manuscripts (especially Hunter's), preservation, and early photography. His personal interests are wide-ranging but mainly revolve around the foci of linguistics, oriental cultures and music.

### PROFILES



## friends Visit the University Archives

A small group of Friends visited the recently refurbished University Archives in Thurso Street on Saturday 17 September. The Archivist, Lesley Richmond and the chief cataloguer, Alma Topen, treated the Friends to a truly magnificent exhibition including a privileged visit to the overwhelming stacks. A display had been arranged in the main study area including fine colourful samples from the Stoddard Templeton, the Gilbert Scott plans for the new Gilmorehill, a wealth of fascinating business records and early photographs of Paisley Mills. Particularly delightful was a collection of 19th century dance cards.

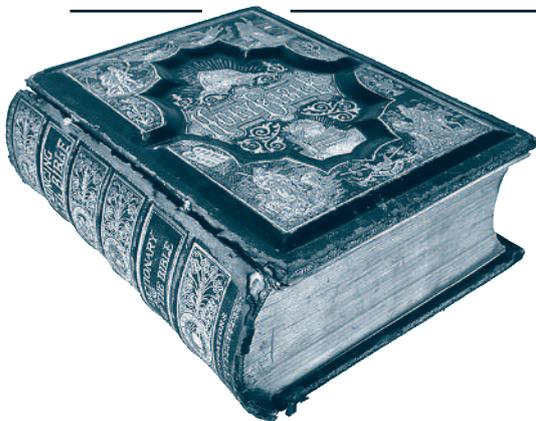
In the stacks we were made aware of the vast holdings of University records dating from 16th century, business records including Wylie and Lochhead's Funeral Records

and many pertaining to the ship building industry. Of great interest was a multitude of plans for ship '736', later launched as the QE II. Lesley told us the story of the copy of the 15th century Papal Bull granting the foundation of the university in 1451. Amongst the treasures which themselves provide a comprehensive social history, were the note signed by Charles I on his only visit to Scotland, promising £200 towards the new college in High Street (the Archive also holds Cromwell's document guaranteeing fulfilment of this promise); notices posted on campus forbidding use of pea shooters on pain of rustication or expulsion.

A real bonus on the visit was the



super afternoon tea, served in the custom-built kitchen/dining area, with cakes baked by the obviously multi -talented Lesley whose vast historical knowledge was so impressive. It was a truly splendid outing. A later visit was arranged for those Friends who could not attend.



### Divine Write: the King James Bible and Scotland

*Exhibition at the Mitchell Library:  
9 September 2011 to 14 January 2012*

On 7 September some Friends Committee members were guests at the Mitchell Library for the opening of this important exhibition which commemorates the 400th anniversary of the printing of the King James Bible in 1611. Drawing principally on the Library's Euing Collection, it was opened by Councillor George Redmond, Chair of Glasgow Life, and our Chancellor, Sir Kenneth Calman. Sir Kenneth spoke of the three 'heroes' of the exhibition: the 1611 edition itself (two of the Library's seven copies are exhibited); King James (he reminded those present that in 1615 James made his only visit to Scotland and that was to Glasgow and our University); and William Euing, underwriter and marine insurance broker. During the 19th century, Euing (1788-1874) created an important and extensive private library in West George Street. In addition to his avid book-collecting Euing had a passion for music – to which end he formed a

glee club which met in his house at 6.00 a.m.! The majority of his collection of some 18,000 volumes was bequeathed to the University in 1874.

The exhibition offers a unique opportunity to see many of the key works which led to the creation of the King James Bible, including two different states of the original 1611 edition of the King James Bible; almost all of the pre-1611 English Bibles; Medieval Latin Bibles produced by hand before printing was invented; the first published Greek text of the New Testament; the first complete Scottish Gaelic New Testament; and the original Rheims-Douai Bible, the Catholic rival version to the King James Bible.

If you can't manage along you can always visit the on-line version at: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/specialcollections/virtualexhibitions/divinewritethekingjamesbibleandscotland/>

*David Weston September 2011*

## Dates for your Diary

Talks in the Library, Henry Heaney Room, level 12

### Thursday 23 February: 6pm

Dr Richard Jones: *Chemical Analysis of Medieval Manuscripts*

### Tuesday 24 April: 6pm

Dr Hilary McCartney: *The First Photographically Illustrated Book on Art(1845)*

### Wednesday 16 May: 6pm

Visit to The Centre for Textile Conservation and Technical Art History, Robertson Building, Level 3, 89 Dumbarton Road, G11 6PW starting at 6.00p.m.

### September: Vet School Visit

See *Snippets*

**Thursday 25 October : AGM** - talk still to be arranged.

### Thursday 22 November: 7 pm

Dr John Reuben Davies: *William Wallace*  
MacKenna Room, Level 7 of the Library

**Note starting time and venue**

## Friends Fund SWAP Prize Giving

*Professor Carole Hough*

The Scots Words and Place-names (SWAP) project, funded by JISC and based at the University of Glasgow, is very grateful to the Friends of Glasgow University Library for their generous donation towards the SWAP Scots Schools Competition prize-giving which took place on Saturday 3 September.

The prize giving was held in levels 3 and 4 of Glasgow University Library, with an exhibition of Scots material from Special Collections in the Henry Heaney room on level 12. The ceremony was hosted by the University Rector, the Rt. Hon. Charles Kennedy MP, and attended by several FGUL members, by representatives of SWAP's project partners at Scottish Language Dictionaries and the Scottish Place-name Society, and by the finalists themselves, alongside their parents and teachers.

The schools competition was run with the help of Learning and Teaching Scotland, using their Glow schools intranet to make the competition available to every school pupil in Scotland. As a result entries came from all over the country – from as far north as Shetland to the most southerly Borders, from Greenock and Oban in the west to Fife in the east. The poems, stories, essays and songs submitted in the five age categories were of a very high standard and the finalists' entries, as well as photographs from the day, are available to view at:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/research/fundedresearchprojects/scotswordsandplace>

## News Snippets

In August the Friends received their first application for Life Membership. The honour falls to a member from Cambuslang, South Lanarkshire, who generously added a gift-aided donation.

A legacy of £1,000 has been received from the estate of Professor Edwin Morgan. This will be applied towards the poetical interests of the late Makar. The Chairman and committee would welcome your ideas.

As part of the 150th Anniversary of the Vet School a visit of the Friends and their guests will take place on Saturday 8th September to the state-of-the-art School at Garscube Estate (with transport available from University Avenue) where there will be a special talk given on the School's history and its James Herriot Library. All welcome, but sorry no cats, nor dogs! This date will be confirmed.

Two of our committee members were present at the launch of the 'Friends of The Hunterian', in the gallery in November. Professor Gaimster and Kirsty Wark addressed the guests who enjoyed the opportunity for an evening wander round the gallery.

Our chairman, Graeme Smith has published his latest book *Alhambra/Glasgow*. Available at bookshops or order online at [www.glasgowalhambra.co.uk](http://www.glasgowalhambra.co.uk)

## Friends of Glasgow University Library

### Chairman

Graeme Smith

### Hon. Secretary

Dr Peter Davies

### Committee Members

Priscilla Barlow

Sheila Craik

Susan Dunsmore

Margaret Paxton

Ronald Singleton

Dr Helen Cargill Thompson

David Weston (ex officio)

(Keeper of Special Collections)

### Accountant:

Lesley Paddison

### Clerk:

Alva Caldwell

### The Friends of Glasgow University Library

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