

FRIENDS OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Report for the Year to 30 September 2019

The Friends of Edinburgh University Library is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC001518

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of the year membership stands at 181 life members, 75 annual members and 1 student member, making a total of 257.

The Membership Sub-Committee continues to recommend to the Committee how the profile of the Friends could be raised, and membership increased. New membership leaflets have been printed and widely distributed. Two floor-standing banners for display in the Main Library Concourse and other University Library sites have been produced and are now on display, the second one in the KB Café on the Ground floor of the Noreen & Kenneth Murray Library building. A short article on 'Why Join the Friends of EUL' by the President and Hon Secretary has been published in the December 2018 issue of the *University of Edinburgh Journal* and will be offered to other University alumni, staff and student newsletters and bulletins. Members are asked to limit guests' free attendance at meetings to one, the talk at the Annual General Meeting, and then to encourage these guests to join the Friends themselves. Further visits by non-members now attract a donation of £5.00 a time.

PURCHASES AND DONATIONS

During the year the opportunity arose for the University to purchase the geologist Charles Lyell's 294 notebooks, in private hands, which were due to be sold abroad but on which a temporary export bar had been placed. The full market valuation of £1,444,000 was renegotiated to exclude tax and revised to £966,000. The University already holds extensive collections of Lyell's papers and geological specimens, along with many other important geologists' and geological societies' papers. It was decided that all the Friends' purchasing resources for the year should be pledged for the acquisition of the Lyell notebooks. Following a final grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund the target was reached by the end of September with the Friends, corporately and by individual members, magnificently pledging over £40,000. Arrangements to complete the purchase are now in hand. Further details can be found on the University's webpage www.ed.ac.uk/giving/save-lyell-notebooks.

EVENTS

This has been another eventful year for the Friends, whose own events were:

The musical culture of taverns in 18th-century Scotland: a talk by Dr Elizabeth Ford, 24 October 2018

Dr Ford, a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities, gave members a work-in-progress account of her investigation of the 18th-century Scottish composers who met in the howffs and taverns of Edinburgh.

Annual General Meeting, Main Library, George Square, 14 November 2018

After the business meeting, members enjoyed a talk by Dr Louise Boreham on the papers of the Edinburgh architect Sir Robert Lorimer (1864-1929) in the University Library.

The Workes of Ben Jonson: a special event by Dr Joseph Marshall, 11 December 2018

Members were invited to a special event, arranged by Dr Joe Marshall, to view and celebrate the purchase by the Library, with very great assistance from the Friends, of a unique annotated copy of *The Workes of Ben Jonson* (London, 1640) which has added so much to the Library's collections on Elizabethan and Jacobean drama. Also on display was the Library's recent acquisition of the octavo edition of Audubon's *Birds of America*.

John Buchan and the First World War, as seen through the Thomas Nelson Archive: a talk by Dr Paul Barnaby, 26 February 2019

Dr Barnaby, Acquisition and Scottish Literary Collections Curator, gave members a fascinating and enthusiastic account of the wartime activities of the novelist who was a partner in the Edinburgh publishing house of Thomas Nelson, and later Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada and Chancellor of the University.

Victorian publishers' bindings: collecting, cataloguing, curating; a talk by Mr Peter Freshwater, 9 April 2019

Mr Freshwater, Honorary Secretary of the Friends and former Deputy University Librarian, gave members and guests a fascinating and informative illustrated talk on the books now in the Freshwater Collection, highlighting interesting aspects of this particular genre, and suggesting how the Collection might be made even more accessible to potential researchers, especially students in the Centre for the History of the Book.

Visit to the University Law School Library, 11 June 2019

A group of members and guests visited the newly refurbished and recently reopened Law School Library in Old College. After short talks on the planning and rebuilding of the Library by Mrs Elizabeth Stevenson, Law Librarian and Mr Richard Battersby, former Head of Library Academic Support, they were guided round and admired the new facility.

Visit to the University Collections Facility at South Gyle, Edinburgh, 3 September 2019

A group of members gathered for a visit, guided by Dr Joe Marshall, to the recently refurbished University Collections Facility at South Gyle, Edinburgh. This off-campus storage facility has been customised to provide additional storage of the University's extensive library, cultural and heritage collections, and house a wide range of general and research collections of books, journals, archives, manuscripts, historic musical instruments, artworks and museum objects. It is not generally open to visitors.

As well as their own events, members of the Friends were invited to a number of other events associated with the University Library. These were:

Launch of the exhibition Rare Books? Expect the Unexpected in the Main Library Exhibition Hall, 29 November 2018

Members and guests were invited to the preview of this exhibition of an amazing selection of rare books, and of artefacts that turn up in Special Collections, and to take home copies of the beautiful free catalogue of the exhibition.

Launch of the exhibition Conectando: Scottish encounters with Spanish & Portuguese; 4 April 2019

Members and guests were invited to the preview of this most interesting exhibition, celebrating 100 years of the Spanish degree at the University of Edinburgh, which had been compiled by staff, students and alumni of the Department of Hispanic Studies.

Saving Charles Lyell's Notebooks event, 14 June 2019

Members were urged to attend the event *Saving Charles Lyell's Notebooks: Foundations of the Earth Sciences* which was addressed by Professors Charles Withers, University of Edinburgh, and James A Secord, University of Cambridge, in the Adam Lecture Theatre, Old College. This was related to the campaign to raise funds to enable the University to acquire Lyell's notebooks (see under **Purchases and Donations** above).

Fulbright Lecture by David Miliband, 19 June 2019 Members were invited to attend the 2019 Fulbright Lecture, hosted by the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, to hear David Miliband speak on 'The New "Arrogance of Power": Global Politics in an Age of Impunity'. However, owing to the short note notice given of the invitation, and the popularity of the lecture, some members were unable to obtain tickets. A video and a transcript of the lecture can be seen and read via the IASH web site at <http://www.iash.ed.ac.uk/news/2019-fulbright-legacy-lecture-david-miliband>

Launch of the exhibition *Body Language: Movement, Dance and Physical Education in Scotland 1890-1990*, 25 July 2019

Members and guests were invited to the preview of an exhibition that celebrated the archival collections of Dunfermline College of Physical Education (the first college in Scotland for female students of physical education, founded 1905), the Margaret Morris Movement, and Scottish Gymnastics.

Members were also invited to attend the regular lunchtime seminars in the Centre for the History of the Book.

PUBLICATIONS

The Piper: Newsletter of the Friends of Edinburgh University Library

Numbers 50 (Autumn 2018) and 51 (Spring 2019) of *The Piper* were duly published and sent out to members. Number 50 focused on the history and design of the Main Library building which celebrated the 50th anniversary of its opening, and on the need to expand the membership of the Friends. Number 51 focused on the refurbished Law School Library in Old College and on Victorian publishers' bindings in the Freshwater Collection. We again congratulate Mrs Fiona Graham, Mr Mark Blackadder and the staff of the Library's Digital Imaging Unit on producing a beautiful and readable newsletter. A recent issue of *The Piper* can be seen in full colour on the Friends' website (see below).

University Library Calendar

The Friends regret the non-publication of a 2019 Library Calendar and the decision to suspend publication of calendars for the time being. It is to be hoped that Library and University Collections will resume the production of calendars in due course.

The Friends' website and Facebook page

The Friends website at www.friendsofeul.wordpress.com continues to grow under the care of Dr Andrew Grout, to whom we are very grateful for its development and maintenance. It includes some recent issues of *The Piper* in full colour. Members are encouraged to visit the website regularly and to contribute to the blog at the foot of the home page, especially with comments on how they would like to see the website develop even further.

The Friends' Facebook page (at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofEUL/>) attracts little attention and very few likes. Members who use Facebook are urged to visit it, like it and contribute to it frequently for current information on Friends' activities. We are grateful to Ms Danielle Howarth for setting up this facility, but its management and use now need to be reviewed.

FINANCE

The Friends ended the year with a bank balance of £20,294, an increase of £1,966 on 2018. The Friends are very grateful to those members who gave donations over and above their financial obligations. Their generosity has created a very useful additional income stream. The investments showed a market value of £68,043 compared with £69,631 in 2018. As ever, there is still a need to increase annual income by increased membership. As usual, a short report and statement of accounts, both independently examined, were submitted to OSCR (the Scottish Charity Regulator) and made available on the Friends' website.

COMMITTEE

During the year the Friends' Committee met three times, on 2 October, 22 January and 21 May. The Membership Sub-Committee met at other times in advance of the Committee meetings, to which it reported. Issues raised were, and will continue to be, discussed at Annual General Meetings. During the year Lord Cameron of Lochbroom retired from the Committee, and we thank him greatly for the wisdom and sound advice that he brought to the Committee's deliberations. Dr Murray Simpson retired as Honorary Treasurer, and we thank him most warmly for his excellent management of the Friends' finances during his time in office; we welcome Mr Richard Battersby in his place. At the end of the year we learned that Dr Joseph Marshall would be leaving the Library in October to take up a new position as Associate Director of Collections Management at the National Library of Scotland. We offer him our sincere congratulations on his appointment, and we thank him too most warmly for all his support for the Friends during his time at EUL.

Committee Members at 30 September 2019

Joyce Caplan, Lady Caplan (President)
Mr Richard Battersby (Honorary Treasurer)
Professor Ian Campbell (Talks & Events Officer)
Mr Peter Freshwater (Honorary Secretary)
Mrs Louise Gardiner
Mrs Fiona Graham (Editor of *The Piper* and Talks & Events Officer)
Dr Andrew Grout
Dr Ann Matheson
Professor Tom Mole
Professor Steven Yearley

Ex Officiis:

Mr Gavin McLachlan, Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the University
Mr Jeremy Upton, Director of Library and University Collections
Dr Joseph Marshall, Head of the Centre for Research Collections

In Attendance:

Ms Danielle Howarth (Student Representative)
Mr David McClay (Development & Alumni Services)

Administrator

Ms Alason Roberts

Independent Examiner

Dr Neil K Dickson, AICB ACIE

Peter Freshwater
Honorary Secretary