

THE *P'yeer*



NUMBER 38 WINTER 2012

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

'The seasons alter: hoary-headed frosts Fall in the fresh lap of the crimson rose.'

A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare

The Season is changing, though it might seem an imperceptible change after the wet, dreich summer.

The library is changing also with a new Director of Library and Collections to replace Shelia Cannell in the person of Dr. John Scally, previously Director of University Collections for several years. This too might seem an imperceptible change, but it is in fact not so. John's new role he will fill with knowledge and enthusiasm: bringing not only his valuable experience of Edinburgh but a wider vision and perspective from his forages into the outside world. He led a strong field of applicants, some already University Librarians, and we are delighted that his passion and commitment for Edinburgh won through.

We hope to consolidate the Friends as an important part of the

Library's life and are already putting measures and structures in place to ensure this is so.

The University grows, the Library at its hub, and this year has welcomed the Edinburgh College of Art under its mantle, encompassing the Archives it brings and the different, enriching community in which it exists. The students and Staff of ECA are using the Library facilities with relish and the input they bring adds value to the Library's activities.

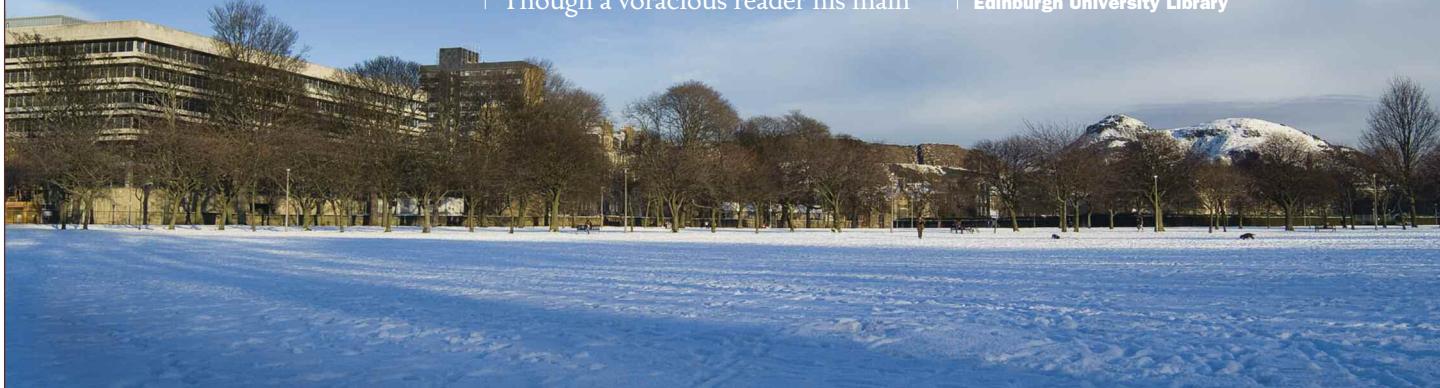
The Friends' Committee has lost one of its members with the sad death, after a short illness, of Professor Henry Walton. Henry was a keen and active member not only of the Friends but also of the University. He was a distinguished psychiatrist with a Professorship in International Medical Education and produced a definitive set of guidelines for medical schools that remain an influence today.

Though a voracious reader his main

interest was art and he left an extensive and unique collection of modern work to the Scottish Gallery of Modern Art. His elegantly dressed figure graced many a University occasion and his Puckish sense of humour enlivened many a Committee. To the Friends he brought an eager and enquiring mind and an interest in the possibilities for Libraries in the modern world. His acquisition and mastery of electronic innovations was legendary and awesome. He will be missed.

So changes of varying kinds float us into the Winter. We have a varied Programme of events over the coming year, including our AGM with its customary wine and mince pies. I hope you will join us and I welcome any ideas, comments or support you wish to give.

Lady Caplan
President, Friends of
Edinburgh University Library





Passing the Library Baton: more of the same, but different

I am very pleased to have emerged from a very searching recruitment exercise during the summer to be appointed to the post of Director of Library and Collections on 1 August this year. It is indeed an honour, and slightly daunting, to follow such a prestigious line of former Librarians and Directors who have led the development of the Library with such skill, flair and foresight. My aim is to build on that success and make the Library one of the best 21st-century libraries in an ancient and world-class University. Before sketching out how that might be achieved, I would like to provide a little biographical information.

My background is in both academia and libraries and that combination, I believe, provides a

valuable insight into both worlds. While studying for a PhD decades ago I worked on a project in Cambridge University Library and was a regular, and probably quite demanding, library and archive user at the British Library, the Bodleian, Cambridge, the National Library of Scotland and numerous national and local record repositories. Pursuing a career in libraries, therefore, was one of two career options that I focussed on, though the first opportunity that came along was in libraries rather than academia. And in libraries I have stayed.

In that respect, I have been immensely fortunate to have worked in various roles in the National Library of Scotland and since 2003 in the University Library, Museums and

Galleries at Edinburgh. I have also attempted to keep alive an academic career, publishing on 17th-century British History, on aspects of the history of the book and doing some teaching and supervision along the way. Before going to university I also trained as a psychiatric nurse and was an adept operative in a chicken factory in Holland, though neither of these skills has been particularly useful in my library career! To summarise, therefore, I think like an academic but act like a librarian.

What, then, will it take to be one of the best University Libraries in the UK, ideally, with a reputation that spans the globe? First and foremost, we have to relax and accept that change is here to stay, whether it is in the digital or physical domain.

Library staff and the users they serve now have change for breakfast. New and challenging areas of business, such as research data management, appear on a regular basis and we brace ourselves and deal with it, more often than not in collaboration with colleagues in Information Services and the wider University. It is part of our world. One month we are sharing information on memory sticks, the next month we all have a Dropbox account. During the 2010-11 academic session we detected a need for a quiet postgraduate study area in the Library and, within a matter of months, we had created it on the refurbished fifth floor. Rather than getting concerned about change, we should be worried if it is not happening! It is an index of success rather than a harbinger of doom.

The Library as place remains vitally important in the midst of





the digital revolution. To students especially, the Library is a popular destination. The Main Library in George Square is busy throughout the semesters, whether we are close to exams or dissertation deadlines or not. This year, Freshers' Week saw the highest number of students using the library. For many of them, it is where they go to learn, to read, to collaborate, to relax, to print out and to prepare for the next lecture, the next seminar, the next essay deadline. In the academic session 2011–12, the total recorded footfall in the Main Library was a few thousand short of two million, whereas in 2008 it was around 900,000. So the Library as destination in the University is ingrained in successive generations of students coming to Edinburgh. The newly opened Kenneth and Noreen Murray Library at King's Buildings suggests that the phenomenon is across the academic disciplines.

Whilst we all agree that digital technology is reshaping libraries in remarkable ways, it is also true that the physical object remains vitally important. Whether it is a book, a journal article, a print-out or a photocopy, we continue to need the physical, the tactile object, to read and, crucially, to retain information. Today's student and researcher is normally seen walking through the library with a laptop (or tablet), a book, a sheaf of printouts and a bottle of water.

That confrontation with the physical is even more apparent in our Special Collections and Archives. The new Centre for

Research Collections on the top two floors of the Main Library has been hugely successful since it opened in 2008. Its two seminar rooms are regularly booked out for collections-based teaching, especially at postgraduate level. The range of project-based collaborations with academic colleagues widens yearly, from Celtic folklore to the origins of Dolly the Sheep. The intensity of their work on conservation of historic collections and digitisation is accelerating. Unquestionably, special collections and archives will grow over the next ten years, especially if we decide that every book printed before 1900 falls into that category.

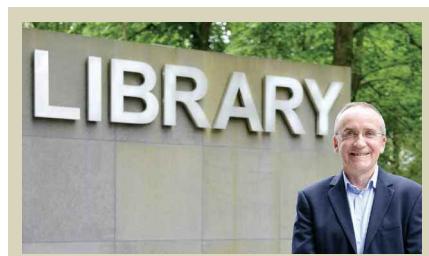
To truly achieve the status of a 'great' library or 'one of the best' you have to look to your collections. At Edinburgh we have been collecting since 1580 when Clement Littil donated his small collection of European theological texts to the putative Tounis College. And the growth has continued since then, whether it is 7,000 electronic journals in Chinese or a recently arrived Darwin special collection from California. The only difference with Littil's donation in 1580, is that today, most, but not all, of our acquisitions are digital. Yet the curation of library content and

Left. Arthur Holmes Geology Medal

Opposite. Shawl Design

making it available for teaching, research and public edification is exactly the same. Our attention, therefore, over the next ten years should be on our collections and the curation of them.

Finally, I believe we have to be relaxed about the future of libraries, and our great University Library in particular. If history has shown us anything it is that libraries have a remarkable ability to adapt to change and remain relevant to the people who use them. Yes, of course, technology has altered libraries: the shift from the scroll to the codex was an enormous technological leap. So too was the introduction of moveable metal type in the 1450s and the extraordinary move to mechanical from handpress printing in the early nineteenth century. The introduction of microcards, microfiche and microfilm after the Second World War offered major opportunities to share and acquire new collections and, it seems hardly worth saying, we are in the midst of the internet age. Through all that change, however, we still put up the same sign at the front of the building: 'Library'. And that is unlikely to change any time soon.



John Scally
Director of Library and Collections



Focus on ... The Lady Smith of Kelvin Veterinary Library

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies was founded in 1823 by William Dick, an outstanding practitioner who became Veterinary Surgeon in Scotland to Queen Victoria in 1842. Students he taught went on to found veterinary schools in Glasgow, Liverpool, Ireland, Canada, the USA and Australia.

In 2011 the School consolidated its teaching in a new state of the art building at the University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush Campus.

In July 2011, the Veterinary Libraries at Summerhall and Easter Bush closed and the service moved

to the Lady Smith of Kelvin Veterinary Library in the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies new Veterinary Teaching Building.

The Library is staffed from 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, during semester. However, students can swipe in and use the Library outwith these hours. The Veterinary Teaching Building is staffed from 8am to 10pm, seven days a week and students can swipe into the building and use the Library and any of the other study spaces, such as the Study Landscape and the Teaching Laboratories.

The Library has 97 study seats and five group study rooms, giving a further 50 seats. The Library has wifi and many of the study desks have power points. We have received positive feedback from students, who like the study space. The Library links to the Study Landscape, enabling students to use a variety of physical and electronic learning resources together. The Study Landscape has individual and group-use PCs, whilst a life-size horse and cow are used by students to practice their haltering and bandaging techniques. The Study Landscape



Left. *Anatomia de cavallo*
by Carlo Ruini (1618).



Top. View of the new Easter Bush building.

Below. Views of the new Lady Smith of Kelvin Library.



fulfilled the same day and the level and quality of service the staff provide is excellent. The historical collection previously held in the War Memorial Library at Summerhall was moved to Special Collections, part of the recently redeveloped Centre for Research Collections (CRC) in the University's Main Library. The CRC has the correct environmental conditions for the collection and has a Reading Room with wonderful views over Edinburgh. In 1995, 140 of the oldest and/or rarest items from the War Memorial Library Collection were moved to Special Collections. This initial move included items such as Carlo Ruini's *Anatomia del cavallo* (1618), Jacques de Solleyse's *The parfait mareschal, or compleat farrier* (1696) and George Stubbs's *Anatomy of the horse* (1766).

The Royal (Dick) Veterinary College's (as it then was named) Summerhall building opened in 1916



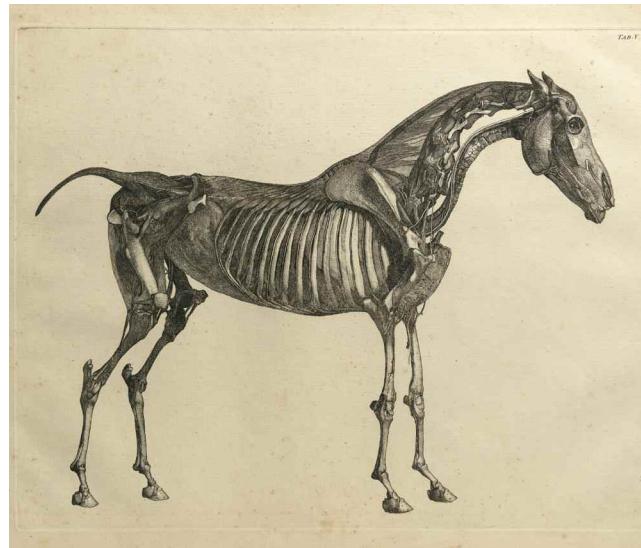
and at that time there were two libraries in the building – the Students' Reading Room and Library and another Reading Room and Library next to one of the research laboratories. In 1922 the Students' Reading Room and Library was dedicated as the War Memorial Library with a plaque listing the names of fourteen of the students and graduates of the College who had died in the Great War. The College felt that their memorial should be 'something living and capable of growth' and decided that

'a library would be most fitting' (*The Veterinary Record*, 1922, p.449). In the 1960s the lending collection was moved into new premises in the building but the historical collection remained in the War Memorial Library.

The Field Station Library opened at Easter Bush in 1962 and held books and journals on large animal medicine. In 1970 it was joined on site by the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine Library, which held material relating to all aspects of veterinary medicine and animal

Left. *The parfait mareschal or compleat farrier*, by Jacques de Solleysel (1696).

Below. Anatomy of the horse
by George Stubbs (1766).



production in the tropics.

Colleagues in the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies are very proud of the history of the School and this is very much in evidence in the Teaching Building. For example, the memorial plaque from the War Memorial Library at Summerhall is now in the Lady Smith of Kelvin Veterinary Library, close to the portrait of William Dick, the founder of the Veterinary School, and the stained glass windows from the stairway are displayed in the atrium of the new building.

It was sad to leave Summerhall, which had been the home of the 'Dick Vet' for almost one hundred years, but the facilities in the new building are exactly what's needed for veterinary learning and teaching in the 21st century and the library staff are delighted with the space and facilities of the Lady Smith of Kelvin Veterinary Library.

Fiona Brown
IS User Services Division



Forthcoming Exhibitions in 2013

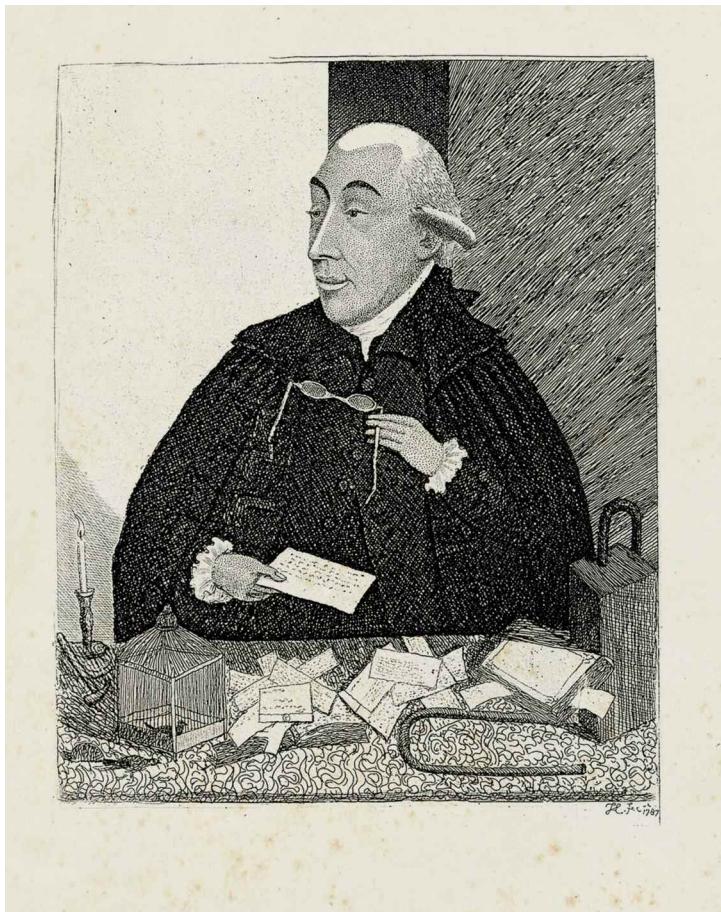
Masterpieces III

5 April – 6 July 2013
Main Library Exhibition Gallery

Acting as a sequel to Masterpieces I and II, shown in 2009 and 2011, Masterpieces III continues to explore and expand the concept of a 'masterpiece', but this time takes an unusual turn by approaching it from the perspectives of science and medicine. Is there beauty in science? What are the aesthetics of scientific innovation? Can a statement be beautiful? Structured around the themes of 'science as innovation', 'science as art', and 'science as statement', the exhibition brings together a wide range of pinnacles of scientific and medical endeavour – from the first woodcuts depicting a baby in the womb to innovative surgical tools, breakthrough medical substances, early scientific films, design books on prosthetics and a host of other objects.



Edinburgh 300: Cradle of Chemistry



2 August – 2 November 2013
Main Library Exhibition Gallery

Inspired by the tercentenary of the School of Chemistry, the exhibition offers a fascinating journey into the birth and development of Chemistry as a modern independent science at the University of Edinburgh. Founded in 1713, this is one of the oldest Schools of Chemistry in the world. To-date, there have been 14 holders of the Chair, including notable figures of Science and the Scottish Enlightenment such as

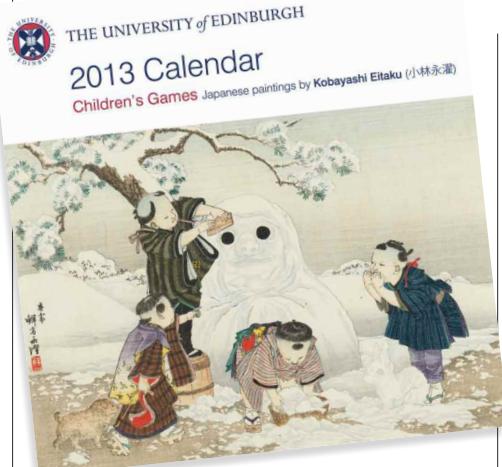
Left. Image of Joseph Black by John Kay 'lecturing on The Elements of Chemistry'.

Below left. woodcut from: *De Corporis Humani Fabrica* by Andreas Vesalius (c.1543–55)

William Cullen and Joseph Black (discoverer of carbon dioxide).

The exhibition will showcase impressive objects and materials, ranging from the first uses of balances in analysis to main achievements and discoveries such as strontium, carbon dioxide, chemical structure and many more. Moving beyond the charting of the School of Chemistry's contribution to science, the exhibition will also consider its impact on economic issues of both Scottish and global significance.

A Feast of Japanese Art on offer



Do take advantage of the wonderful offers of Christmas cards and calendar all with beautiful illustrations from a recently acquired volume: 'Children's Games' Japanese paintings by Kobayashi Eitaku.

This rare series of twelve colour woodblock prints illustrate Japanese children's games throughout the year. As the editor of the book remarks: 'These innocent children's games often give an insight into the fast-decaying customs, which their elders have in town long discarded, and even in the countryside are beginning to forget.'

The paintings are by the Japanese artist Kobayashi Eitaku (1843–1890), one of the foremost painters of the Ukiyo-e School of the Meiji period. This School is renowned for its

production of 'pictures of the floating world' characterised by impermanent, fleeting beauty and the realm of entertainments. They combine Japanese and Western-style elements.

These items can all be purchased at the AGM; from CRC, in person or by phone: tel: 0131 650 8379 (CRC reception) or from the University shop. If you are not in Edinburgh they can be ordered by email from: friendsofeul@ed.ac.uk or by phoning CRC reception (see above).

2013 Calendar: £10

2012 Christmas card: 50p per card: or 10 cards for £4.50; 20 cards for £8.00

SPECIAL OFFER:

1 calendar and 20 cards for £16.00

Come and join us!

For a membership form, telephone 0131 651 3814 or email: FoEUL@ed.ac.uk



The Piper is the newsletter of the Friends of Edinburgh University Library, and is published twice a year.

ISSN 0963-4681

The Piper is the newsletter of the Friends of Edinburgh University Library, and is published twice a year.

Scottish Charity Number:
SC001518

Articles are copyright
© the Friends of EUL
and individual contributors.

Managing editor:
Fiona Graham

Photography:
Edinburgh University Library
Digital Imaging Unit

Design:
Mark Blackadder

Print:
University of Edinburgh
Printing Services