

THE

# Piper



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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

## 'What's Past is Prologue' . . . to the Future!

### *The Tempest, William Shakespeare*

All Anniversaries are cause for reflection. Golden ones even more so; a time of memory, reassessment, regret and sometimes satisfaction. The Friends has passed its 50th milestone so in this issue we have an overview of the journey of an organisation where supporters of the University Library can meet to share interest, enthusiasm and give practical help.

The Friends have given generously to the acquisition of many items for the Library's, Special Collections, as well as purchasing research time both for individuals and organisations. The splendid display cases in the exhibition space in the main ground floor area were gifted by the Friends and provide another continuing legacy apart from materials for the archives.

All these activities have sustained and enhanced the work the University can do. The refurbishment of the Main Library has created an eager influx of new users and the Library is now used more than ever, research being a crucial part of this. The merger with Edinburgh College of Art has given a new and exciting wealth of material for study and pleasure and we will be featuring in detail some of these exciting additions in our next issue. The Friends Website is coming online and will make us visible and accessible as well as keeping members

in touch in a more immediate way.

We have added to the Committee with new members and are delighted to welcome Murray Simpson, Dr Andrew Grout, Professor Ian Campbell and Peter Freshwater.

Ainslie Thin, after years of loyal service, has retired from the Committee and we will miss his experience and wise advice. He was never afraid of quietly challenging accepted ways of thinking and making us aware of the many problems we sometimes face in a world of changing technology and shrinking resources. We hope he has

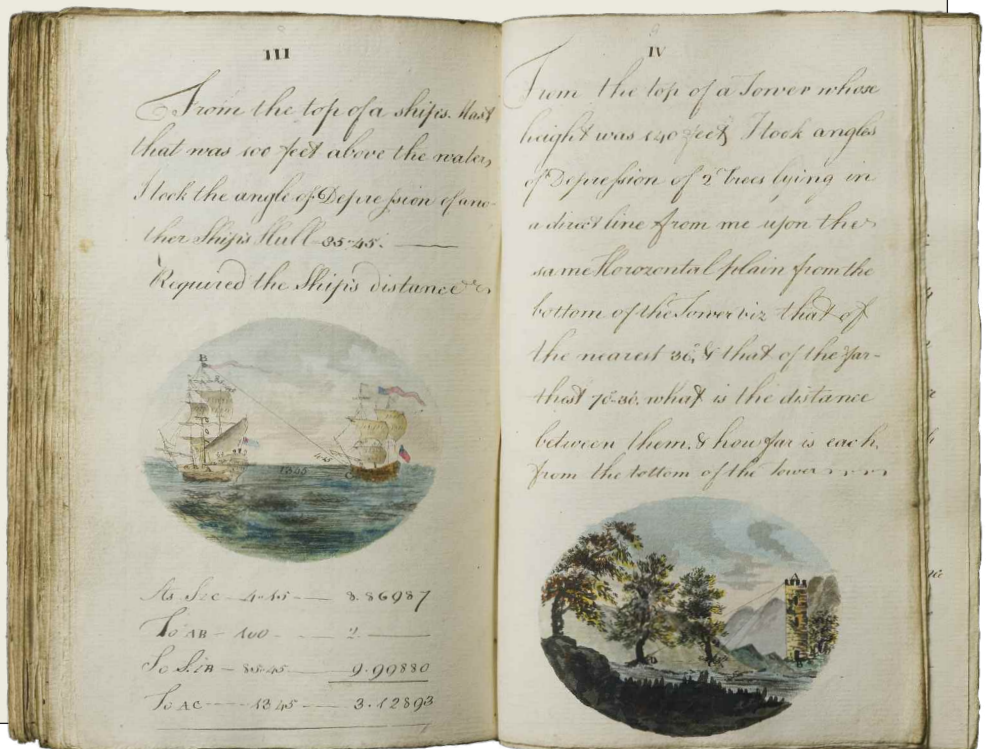
a happy and fulfilling 'retirement' from our ranks.

All anniversaries bring back personal memories for us all. For me it has been handling rare texts like the Holinshed Chronicles that the Friends were instrumental in purchasing, the pleasure of the many delightful Library exhibitions, but most of all being part of a lively and thriving hub of University life which is what the Library has become.

#### **Lady Caplan**

**President, Friends of  
Edinburgh University Library**

Attimery and Longimetry by Thomas Jackson (pps 8-9) from the Laing Collection





## The Friends of Edinburgh University Library: a brief look back over the first fifty years

The inaugural meeting of the Friends took place on 1 November 1962. It established a programme of meetings, one in November and one in May; both were connected to Library exhibitions, one to mark the 200th anniversary of the Regius Chair of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, and one of Benefactors to the Library in Five

Centuries. At the second the Friends launched a draft guide to purchasing policy, limiting the objectives of the Friends to 'those areas of thought and knowledge in which the library is already strong'. It is endearingly 'of its time', and worth transcribing. It was revised in 1974.

The first purchases were made

within these limits, and attracted gifts in kind from members, who were also 'assured that similar gifts in other fields will be equally welcome' (*Report for the period to 30 September 1963*). The *Benefactors to the Library in Five Centuries* catalogue, a short mimeographed booklet which in some ways should be regarded as the Friends' first publication, was to become an important source of reference for the Library for many years. It has only partially been replaced and updated by the Library's online *Gallery of Benefactors* (2001).

By the end of its first year, the Friends of Edinburgh University Library had 616 members (80 life, 523 annual and 13 institutional); these were listed in the annual *Report*, and continued to be so until 2006. It attracted substantial gifts of book and manuscripts from nine members, and smaller donations from ten others. It had made or contributed to six significant purchases, totalling an expenditure of £393, and still ended the year with a bank balance of £1,856. Twenty-five years later, in 1987, membership had fallen a little to 601 (224 life, 371 annual, and 6 institutional). The bank balance, however, had risen to £30,729. By 2006, the latest reported membership had fallen seriously to 348 (263 life and 85 annual). The financial balance had risen to £69,089 and now (2012) stands at £79,985.

During its first fifty years, the Friends have had seven Presidents, five Secretaries who, constitutionally, are the Librarians of the University, seven Honorary Treasurers, five Editors of the *Newsletter* and *The Piper*, and five Honorary Auditors and

FROM THE COMMITTEE OF  
THE FRIENDS OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Some of the Friends may be able to assist the University Library by donating books which they are no longer using. Copies of rare and "fine" books are always welcome, but the Library can make good use of many books which do not come into this category. In many cases also the Library has a single copy of a standard but out-of-print text or textbook and would find it a great convenience to have additional copies.

Here are some of the classes of books that would be found useful.

1. Standard editions of texts and textbooks which are likely to be useful to graduates and post-graduates for many years to come.
2. Standard reference books in good condition.
3. Recent pamphlets, papers and monographs, especially foreign, which are of significant interest.
4. Long runs of scarce or expensive periodicals.
5. Books relating to Scotland or written by native Scots.
6. Books and pamphlets relating to Africa.

It is desirable that books offered should be in good, although not necessarily perfect, condition, with a minimum of underlining and marginal notes. Paperback reprints are unfortunately seldom useful as it is usually impossible to bind them satisfactorily.

The Librarian would be glad to accept offers of suitable books, etc. on the basis that if they are not found necessary for the Library of the University they could be donated to another University, including the new Universities in the course of being established in Scotland.

Enclosed is a form for listing books that are available, together with an envelope in which the list may be sent. A duplicate form is enclosed in case you may wish to give it to someone who is not already a member of the Friends.



**Opposite.** Paper relating to the first FoEUL Committee Meeting

**This page.** Oriental manuscripts: Ragamala Paintings

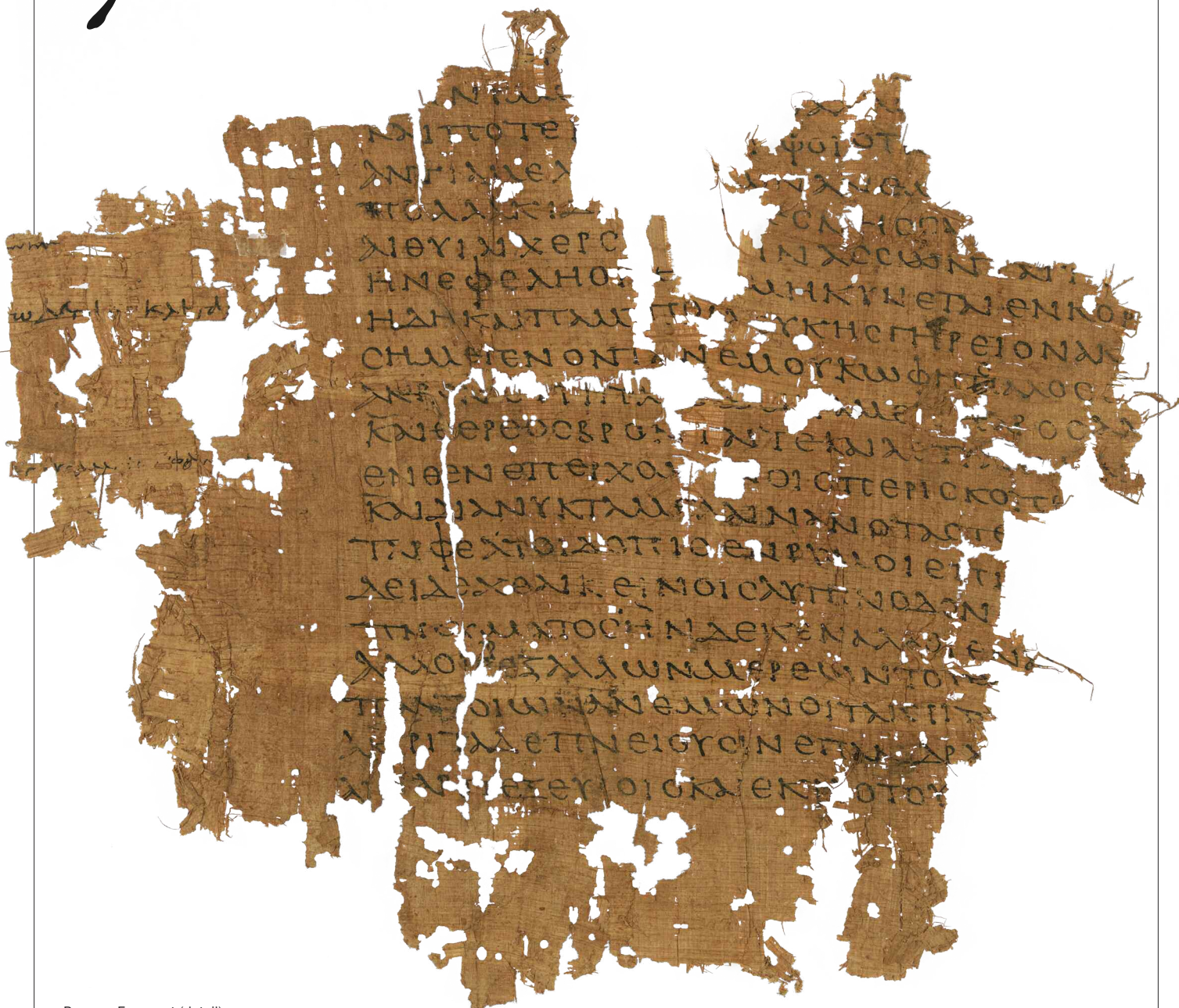


Independent Examiners. It has also had administrators in the persons of the secretaries and personal assistants of the Secretaries. FoEUL has held many meetings, often addressed by scholars, experts, and authors of international repute, and has organised visits by members to other notable libraries and collections in the Edinburgh area. Until recently these have been recorded in the annual report, and sometimes reported in the *Newsletter* and *The Piper*; they still make fascinating reading.

The Friends' publications, perhaps more modest than those of

other Friends' organisations, have given pleasure to members and have opened Library resources not usually seen on open shelves. Apart from the *Benefactors to the Library* exhibition catalogue (1963) already mentioned, the first two, a facsimile reprint of Vincent Lunardi's *An account of five aerial voyages in Scotland* (1976), and *Thomas and Jane [Carlyle]* (1980), were also the first two of four in the Drummond Books series. They were followed by Charles Finlayson's *Clement Litill and his Library* (1980), which was published jointly with Edinburgh Bibliographical Society to mark the 400th anniversary of the

lawyer Clement Litill's bequest of books to the town of Edinburgh that became the University Library's first foundation collection. Two more Drummond Books, *The Tounis College* (1985), and *Sons of Scotia, raise your voice* (1991) followed, along with the texts of talks, *Under the influence: Douglas Dunn on Philip Larkin* (1987), *Brought to book*, also on Philip Larkin, by the bibliographer Barry Bloomfield (1995), and *The Library as I knew it: two talks given to the 25th anniversary meeting*, by George Shepperson and Jean R. Guild (1988). The Friends' annual Christmas card has always been very popular. A complete set of these



Papyrus Fragment (detail)

provides illustrations from a wide range of the Library's rare book and MS collections.

The objectives of the Friends have always been 'to act as a channel for gifts of books and manuscripts to enhance the Library's collections; to purchase, or contribute to the purchase of, rare and valuable items which the Library could not otherwise acquire; and to promote the reputation of the Library and its collections.' The encouragement of purchases and of gifts has always

been paramount. Until recently, the Friends' acquisitions have been listed in their *Report for the year*.

The first major purchase to which the Friends contributed was in its second year, 1963/64, of the second Halliwell-Phillipps collection of early editions of Shakespeare and other Elizabethan and Jacobean plays, from the town of Penzance, to which the collector had gifted it. The Friends' decision to contribute a very large proportion of its funds 'was a powerful factor in inducing the

University authorities and others to grant the substantial sums which were required' (*Report for the year to 30th September 1964*), and was acknowledged by Professor John Dover Wilson in his memoirs. Indeed, the Library's Shakespeare, Jacobean and Restoration drama collections has been a constant thread in the Friends' acquisitions. The most recent spectacular purchase was in 2010 of a fine copy of Raphael Holinshed's *Chronicles* (1587) from Bernard Quaritch in London



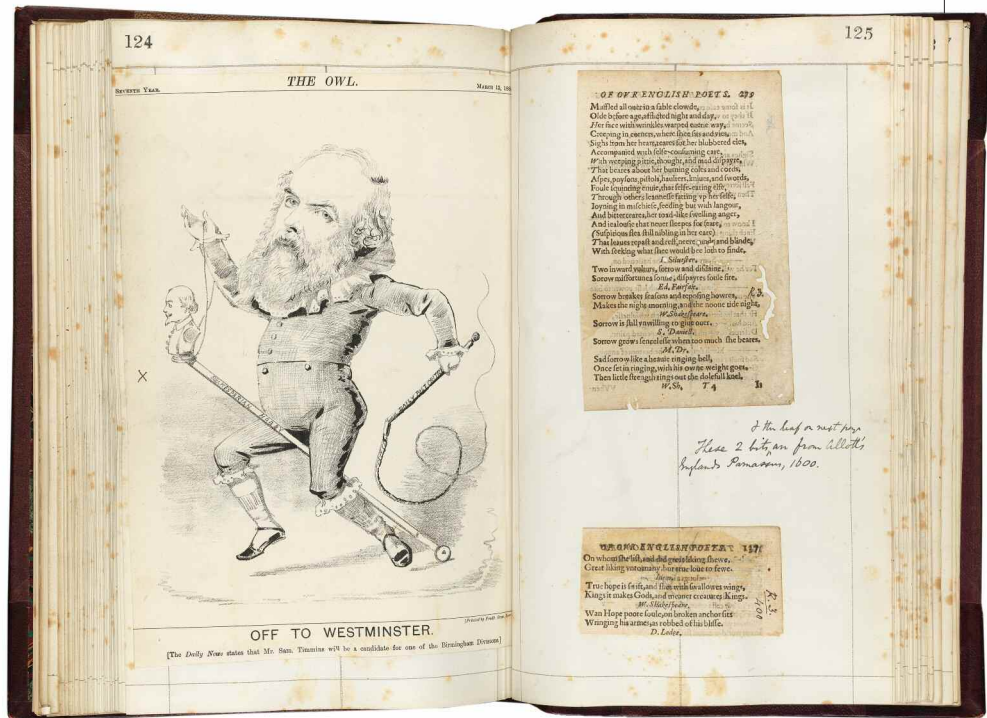
**Top.** Shakespeare Scraps, vol VI (pps 124-125) from the Haliwell Phillips Collection

**Bottom.** Map of Edinburgh from Holinshed's Chronicles (after p1868)

who had purchased this work at the sale of the Earl of Macclesfield's collection in 2007.

Other collections, which have benefited repeatedly from the Friends' purchasing power, include the Library's foundation collections of Clement Litill and William Drummond of Hawthornden; letters of Thomas and Jane Carlyle; the papers and early printings of the modern Scottish poets Hugh MacDiarmid, Norman MacCaig, George Mackay Brown, Helen B Cruickshank, Edwin and Willa Muir, and Maurice Lindsay (most of whom were Edinburgh University alumni); the University's historical collections of lectures, correspondence and research papers by academic staff and students; collections on missionary and colonial trading organisations in Africa and America; the history of medicine, veterinary medicine, and physical and natural sciences; landscape and urban architecture; and Islamic, Sanskrit, and Arabic and Persian studies.

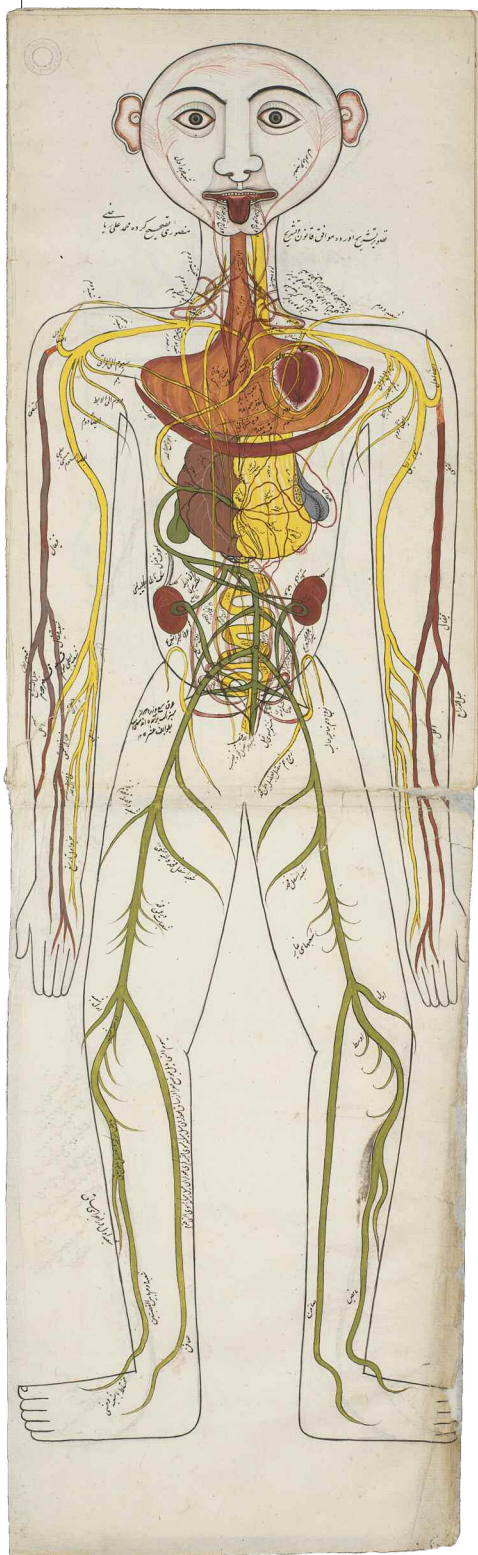
Unusual acquisitions have included Sir John Dalrymple's late 17th private archive of printed and MS pieces on making soap from herrings; and a complete set of *Picture Post* in 80 volumes which delighted economic and social historians. In response to a Fourth Centenary appeal in 1980, many members, along with other University alumni, contributed quantities of memorabilia of their student days to the University Collection. Separate appeals, suggested by individual members in the mid 1980s – when the Library was struggling desperately to cope with the first





**Left.** Oriental manuscript: Tashrih-i Mansuri  
by Mansur bin Muhammad bin Ahmad

**Right.** Oriental manuscript: Mahabarata



rounds of slashing Government higher education budgets and to digitise the Library catalogue – urged members to contribute to the purchase of an additional computer terminal with which to access the new online catalogue of the Library, and to create a fund for the purchase of extra copies of textbooks for students. Each one raised a few hundreds of pounds. A special appeal to members in 2009 raised a substantial partnership fund to purchase state-of-the-art display cases for the refurbished Main Library Exhibition Room.

Bequests and gifts of books by some individual Friends have created new collections. The bequest in 1979

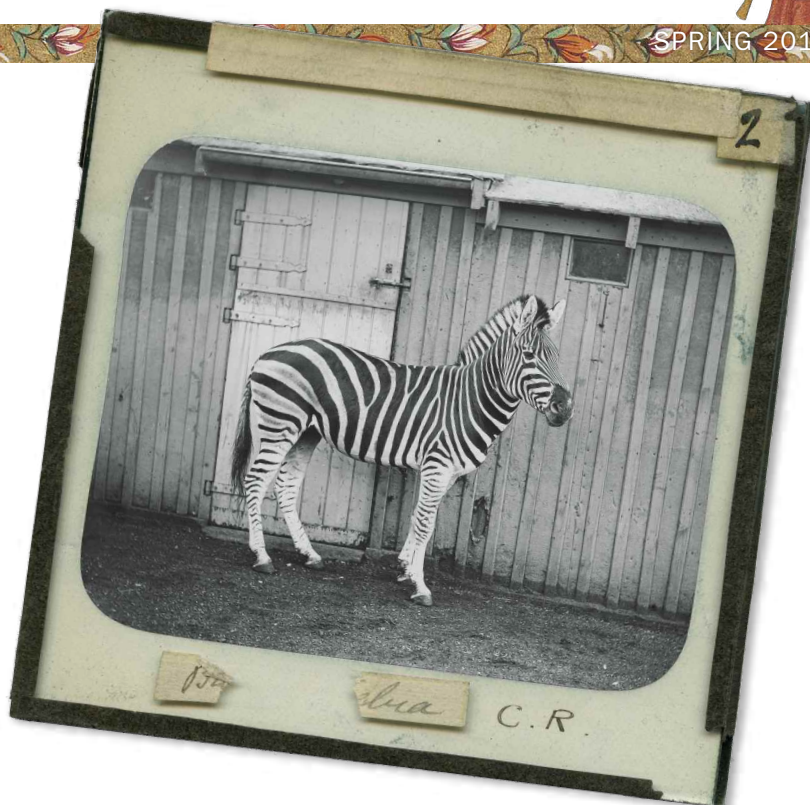
by Kenneth Ryrie, of Thurso (MA 1942) of 1,500 volumes included over 500 early Penguin and Pelican Books published between 1935 and 1985; they formed the basis of the Library's now extensive Penguin Collection, which was extended and expanded with the active help of many other members of the Friends. It is now the largest collection of Penguin Books in Scotland, and one of the most significant in the UK. In 1982, after the death of Alan F Stark (BL 1933), his family presented over 1,500 volumes from his personal library; they included notable illustrated editions and private press books, and the collection is held in the CRC. Professor George Shepperson has



Image of zebra from the Roslin Glass Slides

gifted many collections of books and personal papers on Africa, and has encouraged many others to do the same. Through Mr Michael Strachan, the Library acquired the archives of the Ben [shipping] Line; they were later joined by the shipping archives of Christian Salvesen, and of Salvesen's South Georgia whaling station. Collections of literary papers that the Friends helped to initiate include those of John Wain, Fred Urquhart and John Middleton Murry. Dr John Watt donated a complete set, with other books, of the works of the novelist L A G Strong.

The Friends can look back over their first fifty years with pride at having made notable contributions to the Library's collections and



services. Individually, many of their acquisitions look small; collectively, they are impressive. Now, as much as ever, the commitment of the Friends' support is a powerful partnership tool for further purchases. More members are needed to help bring in

funds and to spread the word about the Library, its collections and its services.

**Peter Freshwater**  
Editor, University of Edinburgh  
Journal and formerly Deputy  
University Librarian

## Friends of Edinburgh University Library Events Programme 2013

**Tuesday 23rd April,  
4.00–5.30pm**

**5th Floor Seminar Room, Main  
Library, George Square, Edinburgh.**

Gordon Wright, ex-Publisher,  
'A career in publishing and  
photography – The Gordon Wright  
Archive at the University Library.'

**Wednesday 26th June,  
2.30–4.30pm**

**Visit to The Lady Smith of Kelvin  
Veterinary Library  
Easter Bush Campus,  
Bush Farm Road, Edinburgh,  
Midlothian, EH25 9RG.**

There is parking available outside the  
Veterinary Teaching Building. Please  
go to Reception at the Royal (Dick)  
School of Veterinary Studies on  
your arrival.

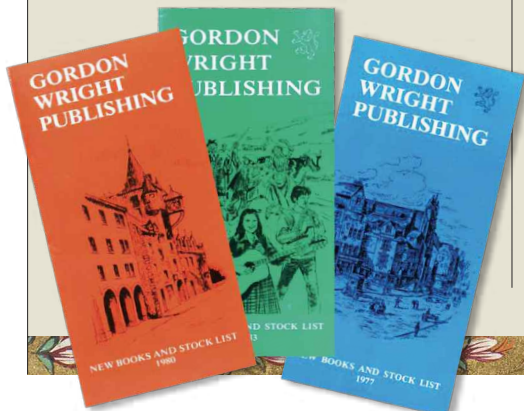
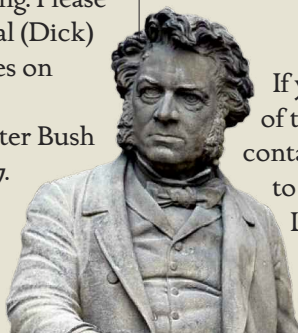
Buses servicing the Easter Bush  
Campus: LRT 15A, 67 and 47.  
For further help, contact  
LRT on 0131 555 6363  
or [www.lothianbuses.com](http://www.lothianbuses.com)

**Wednesday 23rd October,  
4.00–5.30pm**

**Venue will be confirmed in due  
course.**

Talk from Dr Joseph Marshall and  
Elizabeth Quarumby Lawrence, 'The  
Edinburgh College of Art Rare Books  
Collection.'

If you wish to attend any  
of the events above please  
contact Louise Tierney  
to book your place, email:  
[Louise.Tierney@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Louise.Tierney@ed.ac.uk)  
or phone: 0131 650 3381





# Fascinating Discoveries

The Edinburgh College of Art has recently merged with the University of Edinburgh and as a result dedicated staff have been looking after, and making available, the vast ECA collections which, perhaps surprisingly, contain not only a variety of works of art, which we

would anticipate, but also rare books and manuscripts.

As well as paintings, sculptures, casts, textiles, jewellery and items of silversmithing, this amazingly diverse collection contains over one thousand rare books – including even one incunable, (pre 1489) – and

archives which house letters from Ben Nicolson, Basil Spence and Peter Blake.

A work of Barbara Hepworth's – thought to have been lost; an album documenting Lord Elgin's expedition to China in the 1860s during the Opium Wars, and landmark publica-

tions of architecture, including works of Piranesi and archives that tell the story of the people and the creativity, these are all part of the exciting discoveries.

Dr Joe Marshall was delighted to announce that a grant from the Scottish Funding Council has made it possible to create three new posts of archivist, cataloguer and curator. Discover more on this fascinating story in the next issue.



Barbara Hepworth drawing

## Come and join us!

For a membership form, email: [friendsofeul@ed.ac.uk](mailto:friendsofeul@ed.ac.uk). Find out more about the Friends on the newly

updated website at: <http://friendsofeul.wordpress.com>. And a plea to all members: please provide the Friends'

administration with your email address which would help greatly with communication.



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